

The Ghost Train Journal



Photo Credit: Turner Railroad Collection/Connecticut Historical Society



Work has begun on the restoration of the museum's Central Vermont Railway #4052 center cupola caboose. Shown here members inspect the interior of the caboose. The caboose should be moved into the roundhouse during the next few months. (R.A. LaMay Photo)



March 5, 2007 at 12:30PM history took place when the first P&W revenue train departed Willimantic, CT in over 20 years. See story inside. (R. A. LaMay Photo)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

- 4/1/07 - Monthly Membership Meeting - Windham Memorial Hospital - 7PM
- 4/15/07 - Monthly membership meeting - Windham Memorial Hospital - 7PM
- 4/22/07 - Spring Train Show - Windham High School - 10:00AM - 3:00PM
- 5/5/07 - Museum Opens for 2007 Season - Come to Heritage Metal Fest 9AM - 5PM

Connecticut Eastern Chapter, NRHS, Inc.
 Connecticut Eastern Railroad Museum
 PO Box 665
 Willimantic, CT 06226

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P&W Freight Trains Roll Again to and from Willimantic, CT.

By Robert A. LaMay

On March 5, 2007 history took place when a pair of freight trains exchanged cars and departed for their respective destinations. NECR train 608 arrived in command of a pair of ex CN leased locomotives. A pair of P&W locomotives arrived light to retrieve 20 cars from the NECR train and take them to Plainfield, CT. The exchange took place just north of the South Windham, CT. The two trains sat side by side for some photo ops and then departed at 12:30PM for their respective destinations. The P&W train was the first revenue train from Willimantic in well over 20 years.

Cars are usually exchanged between the two railroads at New London, CT. The wooded trestle at Winthrop Cove was taken out of service to have some major redecking work done. In order to continue interchanging cars the interchange point was moved from New London to Willimantic. Until this and other trestle work is completed the interchange will continue to take place.



P&W train MFS5 moves across Rte. 138 just south of Baltic, CT. on 3/5/07. (R.A. LaMay Photo)

In the very near future there should be more P&W trains coming to Willimantic, CT. in the form of auto racks so please watch future issues of GTJ for more information.

Came across this on the internet a few weeks ago and felt it was funny enough to include in the newsletter.

One day an engineer calls the dispatcher and asks him for the time. The dispatcher responds by asking him which railroad he worked for. The engineer is a little ticked and snaps "What difference does that make?" "Well," the dispatcher draws, "if you work for the BNSF it's 2PM; if you work for the UP it's 14 :00 ; if you work for the NS or CSX the big hand is on the 12 and the little hand is on the 2; and if you work for Amtrak it's Monday!"



During early Feb 2007 members of the museum took the tarp off the #4052 to see assess what needed to be done during the restoration process. (Photo by R.A. LaMay)

Remember the Blacksmiths!

Don't forget our opening day, Saturday, May 5, 2007. from 9AM to 5PM. Numerous regional demonstrators will be at the museum featuring various metalworking techniques. This includes blacksmithing, pewtersmithing, and Repousse, etc. Watch future issues of GTJ for more information on demonstrators and entertainment. For more information please contact Steve Melady at 860-228-2185 and Rich Cizik at rcizik5519@earthlink.net This is the museum's opening day, so come on down for some good old home style blacksmithing and some great entertainment.

The next scheduled meeting of the Connecticut Eastern Chapter, National Railway Historical Society will be at the Windham Community Memorial Hospital located at 112 Mansfield Ave., Willimantic, CT on

Sunday, Apr. 15, 2007 @ 7:00 PM

Please note – monthly business meeting will be held on May 6, 2007 at the same location at 7:00 PM. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Chapter Leadership

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Don't forget – Come and see what's hot on opening day at our museum from 9AM to 5PM. Heritage Metal Festival – Saturday May 5, 2007 (Photo by R.A. LaMay)



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Remember When.....?

Sometime during 1955 a pair of Central Vermont Railway locomotives approach Bridge St. Notice switchman is about to open switch for the train to interchange cars. (Photo by Charles Brown)



Inquiring Minds want to Know.....

(what's happening down at the museum.)

- Activity continues on the turntable bridge with much discussion surrounding the size and length of the ties that will be placed on the bridge. Prices have been obtained from Permacrete in Portland, CT. Look for a fully tracked turntable some time this spring.

- Restoration of the Central Vermont 4052 caboose will start in earnest this year. With the completion of the turntable, the caboose will be moved into the roundhouse for a complete restoration. If you are interested in helping with the project please contact Mark Granville mfgranville@charter.net.



Spring Train Show April 22nd

The Spring Train Show will be held April 22nd at Windham High School. The show run from 10:00 am to 3:00pm. All members are asked to come and help. Set up for the show will be the Saturday (4/21) before the show at 1:00PM. Please get the word out, as this show is one of our top money makers for the year. Help is needed early Sunday morning (7:00 am) assisting vendors with carrying their materials into the high school and then at 3:00pm to help break down the tables. Please contact Joe Sokol at 860-872-2240 or (joseph_sokol@msn.com).



SEE YOU AT THE SHOW

Production of the Ghost Train Journal

This issue of the Ghost Train Journal was delayed because our editor, Bob LaMay, underwent successful open heart surgery. Bob is continuing his recovery and may need several months before he re-assumes his position as editor of this newsletter. In the interim we will try to produce the newsletter in a timely fashion, but please be patient. As of the last time I spoke with Bob, he is coming along well, and has even ventured out to take a couple of photographs of the P & W over the line from Plainfield to Willimantic. We all wish Bob a speedy recovery and can't wait to get him back at the helm of the Ghost Train Journal.

Bill Robinson - Secretary



More photos of the first P&W run to Willimantic *Tom Nanos photos*



Clockwise from above: MFS-5 at Scotland Dam; Approaching Versailles on the return trip; MFS-5 heads towards Willimantic as light engines, and Bob LaMay moves after getting his shot of the train over Merrick Brook; Heading along the Shetucket River, just under the Scotland Dam

