

Annual Report

Fiscal Year

2015



The Connecticut Electric Railway Association, Inc.

58 North Road, PO Box 360

East Windsor, CT 06088

www.ct-trolley.org

The Connecticut Electric Railway Association, Inc.

Corporate Officers

| | | |
|----------------------------|---|-------------------|
| Chairman of the Board | - | Fred Stroiney |
| Vice Chairman of the Board | - | Ted Coppola |
| President | - | Galen Semprebbon |
| Vice President | - | Lawrence J. Bryan |
| Treasurer | - | Steve Taylor |
| Corporate Secretary | - | Tim Lesniak |

Board of Directors

| | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| John Arel | Tim Lesniak |
| Lawrence J. Bryan | James Miller |
| Jonathan Charow | Galen Semprebbon |
| Stephen F. Mitchell | Fred Stroiney |
| Ted Coppola | Stephen Taylor |
| Sara Garthwait | Brian O'Leary |

Department Heads

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| Visitor Experience Coordinator | - | Carol Zenczak |
| Chief Motorman | - | Jonathan Charow |
| Membership Secretary | - | John Carter |
| Recording Secretary | - | N. Hodgdon |
| Safety/Security Officer | - | Bert Johanson |
| Volunteer Coordinator | - | Larry Lunden |
| Gift Shop Manager | - | Carol Zenczak |
| Track Superintendent | - | David Coppola |
| SC&ET Superintendent | - | John Arel |
| Information Technology Manager | - | Hugh Brower |
| Website Editor | - | Joseph F. Smith |
| Buildings & Grounds Manager | - | (Open) |
| Railway Operations Superintendent | - | Bob Sorozan (January to October) |
| Car Shop Forman | - | John Pelletier |
| Library Curator | - | (Open) |

Cover:

December 30, 2015: After putting their car away in Kelly Barn on the last operating night of the year, the crew walks back to North Road Station. Photo: Aiden Nies.

Chairman's Report

Frederick J Stroiney - Chairman, Board of Directors

"Forget about the Past unless it Improves Our Future"

As I write this, my final Chairman's Report since I am retiring from the position today, I thought the above would be an appropriate caption to start with.

In about the past 10 years that I served on the Board of Directors (BOD), much of the time has been as your Chairman. It may be hard to believe, I really enjoyed it. Every person I have worked with, a volunteer, member, or part of our staff, has had the success of our Museum as her/his first priority.

My main goals as your Chairman have been to diversify the BOD and to stabilize the operation of the Museum so that we could move forward. I believe I have accomplished those goals although more "Community" vs. "Internal" directors would benefit the Museum.

Now is the time to move forward, not just as a fun organization but as a business dedicated to preserving/restoring our collection, enhancing our campus/main line, and by educating those who want to know about the Trolley Era that we are so passionate about.

In 2015 our events were so successful that we are on a very strong footing to move forward. It

was a pleasant diversion during the BOD Meetings to have Galen Semprebon and Tim Lesniak debate over whether Rails to the Dark Side (Galen) or Winterfest (Tim) was more successful. Of course Carol Zenczak, our Visitor Experience Coordinator, believes that Easter Bunny Fun Day & Pumpkin Patch were the best. I say they were all great and I thank the above named individuals and the many volunteers that helped in their success.

This year all four of our special events were upstaged by our 75th Anniversary Celebration. Thanks to Ted Coppola & his Committee, it could not have gone off more smoothly. Even though it was 90 degrees plus, everyone enjoyed the weekend, especially our founders' families and the long time volunteers.



Chairman Fred Stroiney in our booth at the Eastern States Exposition September 22, 2015.

As a final comment, I go back to what I placed at the beginning of this report. We need to move forward & only use the past as a guide. We are now more of a business and need to be to survive and improve. I plan to help the new Board of Directors, Officers, & Staff be successful. I hope you will also. Let's move forward so future generations will have the opportunity to know & understand about the Trolley Era and what it did to make our country great.

President's Report

Galen Semprebson - President

I would like to start out by thanking everyone who made 2015 the successful year that it was. The museum continued to operate at a professional level, and the progress made all around the museum in 2015 has made a real difference.

Work on the track in 2015 centered around the Northern Barn. The old track was removed, and over 2½ feet of fill was added to raise the track out of the mud. Ties and heavier rail was installed, and the track completely ballasted. This was funded in part by a grant from the Amherst Railway Society, and as always, our thanks go out to them for helping to support the museum for many years. Once the track was ballasted, we took advantage of the dry building to not only bring up 101 and 1850 from the wet woods barn, but also to store some trolley compressors and motors along the inside wall of the building that were previously stored outside. Thanks go out to Dave Coppola who helped lead this project to a successful completion and everyone else who helped on this project.

Work on buildings in 2015 have mainly centered around maintenance and improvements to the Visitor Center building. We are pleased to report that the bird problem has not returned except on very rare occasions when a bird or two get trapped inside the Visitor Center. Larry Bryan has taken on the role of helping to shepherd various improvements and repairs required within the Visitor Center, and a big thanks go out to him on his efforts.

Work on the trolleys continued in 2015. The first priority of the car shop is the maintenance of the operating fleet. This year, Cars 4, 355, 836, 2600, 5645, 16 and 451 were maintained in service. Car 451 has continued to be the most maintenance intensive car in the fleet, and work continues on solving some of the recurring issues with the car. In addition to maintenance, the restoration of Connecticut Company closed car #1326 continued. A lot of work was accomplished this year including the new canvas roof on the car, and the body is nearing



In 2015 George Barreto and his daughter Chelci led the project to give our LIRR MP54 No. 4153 a much needed coat of paint complete with the infamous "Dashing Dan" logo. Show here is Chelci and the much better looking coach.

completion. Work also continued on Brooklyn single truck car #169. #169 is being worked on to allow it to be put inside the Visitor Center on display. Work also continued on the Northern Ohio Traction and Light private car The Northern. This is the winter project when it is too cold to

work in the shop. A big thanks goes out to John who leads the shop, and to everyone who helps out in the shop including Kelly, Fred, Bruce, Pat, Dale, and all the others.

2015 also saw our 75th year with a yearlong celebration culminating in our weekend celebration in August. Everyone had a lot of fun with the trolley parade, banquet dinner and other festivities. As part of the weekend festivities, the library was dedicated to William and Grace Wood in celebration of all they did for the museum through the years.

In 2015, the library received some much needed attention and had some significant historical donations. A group of volunteers began working in the library to organize, sort and arrange the library. We are moving closer to the point when the museum library and archives will be an organized accessible resource. The Wednesday work sessions occurred through the spring and summer and up to the point that special events take over the focus. We are planning to start up the work in the spring again once things warm up a bit.

The museum received a significant volume of material from the estate of William Wood during 2015. Multiple van and pickup truck loads were brought to the museum which included museum records, historical photos, videos, books, and other historical artifacts. We are thankful for Williams's dedication to the museum and that he cared for and preserved this material for future generations.

The special events in 2015 were tremendously successful. Easter Bunny fun day started the year with a great day, and a lot of happy folks visiting. We had a busy October with Pumpkin Patch and Rails to the Darkside creating the Halloween spirit for kids and adults. Rails to the Darkside ran for 9 nights and we had our busiest night ever with 992 visitors since the event was resurrected. We surpassed 2014 Winterfest, and I was sure that Rails would be the biggest money maker for the museum.

Winterfest was to prove me wrong. With great weather, Winterfest once again grew significantly in attendance from the previous year and surpassed Rails as the number 1 money maker. I would like to personally thank everyone who made Winterfest such a great event. I for the first time since 1992 requalified and operated trolleys during the event, and had a lot of fun.

I tried to touch upon the events that occurred throughout the year. However, we had a lot of other things happening throughout the museum, so please read the department heads reports for more detail within each department.

Thanks again to each and every one of our hundreds of volunteers who helped in every facet of the museum from operations, maintenance, administrative, special events, and all the other various projects that help keep the museum running on a daily basis. Together we have made 2015 one of the most successful years that the museum has seen, and I look forward to 2016 being even more successful.



Westbound Signal at Hancock Siding.

Treasurer's Report

Steve Taylor - Treasurer

The Association had a great year in 2015, a great year to celebrate our 75th anniversary. Net Income, before depreciation \$23,906.

Rails to the Darkside brought in \$71,495, which was \$15,421 up from last year, +27.5%. Weather was good to us this year.

Receipts for Pumpkin Patch were \$18,006 down from last year \$-3853 / -17.6%.

General admissions were up +11.9% compared to last year at \$46,934

Winterfest income was \$88,159 which was +22.4% over last year. An increase in group sales, we are a great place to get your group together and celebrate the holiday season.

The biggest growth overall to our special events is that we are now a Destination for groups, and this trend continues to be true.

Gift shop sales were \$26,980, which was up +9.5% to last year.

Membership is down -1,985 or -11.4%. Library Passes down -600 or -13.8%

These numbers are important because this is where many of our volunteers come from. We all need to work on improving these numbers so that we have more hands to do all the work we do to maintain our museum to the high standards we have set for ourselves and our guests expect from us.

We had a bad year on Birthday parties we were down \$1026 from last year. -10.7%

Welcome back 1326, back on track, and the repairs to the dining car are done should help us this year even more.

The guest operator program did move down the track this year, +4.6%. Please continue promote the program these people are our future operators, as we continue to grow we will need more people.

On the expense side, our electric was up \$4,501 or +16.7%. This was mostly because we had many more people come visit us. It has been a mild winter, this has saved us -11.2% on our heating bill.

Because we continue to be good with our money things continuing to happen around the museum, repairs to buildings, cars, and moving the museum into the future. Things are starting to happen, we need you to be involved to help us reach our goals.

Get involved today.... Some big things are coming and we need your help to shape where we go tomorrow.

What will you be doing this year?

This will be a great year, 2016, as the museum continues to grow into a great experience for our guests.

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you, to all of the many, many volunteers that made 2015 a very successful year.

(Next time you come...bring a friend... you know they will have fun.)

75th Anniversary Celebration

Ted Coppola – Event Chairman

Getting a production to the stage requires hundreds of man and woman hours to make the show a reality. The following is summary of the behind the scenes activities that were undertaken to produce the museum’s 75th anniversary as well as some highlights.

Volunteers that were interested in participating in the anniversary project gathered in early February 2015. A consensus was formed that the main theme was to be the Connecticut Electric Railways Association’s founders. The group met and discussed planning and options every two weeks. By mid-March, the main events were also formulated. The central activities would take place during August 21 thru the 23th. As a prelude to the August weekend, there would be two Friday evening movies, one in June and one in July.

The August weekend would be three days of varied events and a Saturday night dinner.

The volunteers were divided into sub committees

to tackle the many logistics ahead of us. The Sub Committees, their members and their responsibilities were:

Media Group (MG) Sub Committee

Ken Holloway, Fred Stroiney & Joe Smith

- 1) Responsible for getting information to press and broadcast organizations.
- 2) Responsible for formulating and printing handouts and banners.
- 3) Invitations to special guests and members of state and local government, transit services.

Food & Hospitality (F&H)

Margaret Hoffman & Matt Mazur

- 1) Responsible for locating facilities and catering for Banquet dinner.
- 2) Locate and recommend lodging and other nearby venues for our guests.
- 3) Generate RSVP invitations and establish reservation/cutoff dates.



75th Anniversary Chairman Ted Coppola reviews the “Parade of Trolleys” portion of the anniversary event with members of the Operations Department.

Period Presentation (PP) Sub Committee

Dave Coppola & Kae Gould

- 1) Arrange for antique automobiles and fire engines to participate.
- 2) Coordinate volunteers and clothing for reenacting 1910 period dress and activities.
- 3) Contact local theatre groups for both wardrobe and volunteer help.

Historical Presentation (HP) Sub Committee

Bill Heim, Brian O'Leary, Larry Bryan & Karl Stieg

- 1) Get list of original founders.
- 2) Looking for photos & family relatives of these gentlemen.
- 3) Prepare static photo exhibits for VC lobby and Founders recognition.
- 4) Prepare film/slide presentations for Saturday banquet dinner.
- 5) Recommend films for Friday movie nights.

Special Equipment Runs (OP) Sub Committee

Marc Foley & Roger Pierson

- 1) Coordinate motormen for special equipment runs and as Visitors Center docents.
- 2) Generate scripts for on-car and off-car narratives.
- 3) Identify right of way landmarks (buildings, crossings, other) to be included in narratives as well as for signage.

Merchandizing (ME) Sub Committee

(Responsible for formulating and procuring special 75th memorabilia.)

Lynn Mrowka, Sully Mrowka, Carol Zenczak & Barbara Gorman

- 1) Free give-away items for attending visitors, particularly items to entice the younger visitors to return.
- 2) To be purchased memorabilia.
- 3) Special giveaways and drawings.

The groups continued meeting every two weeks thru April. In May, the pace increased to weekly. Henry Stieg was one of CERA's founders. Karl Stieg (Henry's son) was spending a large amount

of time compiling the names of the founders from his father's early museum documents. Sadly in late May, Karl passed away.



Board of Director Member Jim Miller (L), family and friends at the 75th Anniversary banquet.

Planning and procurements to support the anniversary and improve the museum's appearance and appeal were under way. Dress rehearsals were performed in early August to "iron out" event timing.

Friday evening (21 August) opened the festivities with static displays and films of the museum's early days. Saturday continued with operations servicing our guests to and from vintage airplanes stationed at Skylark airport. The right of way had additional placards posted on museum buildings and artifacts to add details and nomenclature to pieces as the streetcars breezed back and forth on the mainline.

At noon, mainline operations were temporarily halted to allow for the "Parade of Trolleys". During the next hour, a dozen of CTM's running fleet were individually paraded pass the Isle of Safety and stopped in front of the viewing stands. When each trolley stopped, a narrated history of the car was told.

At 1PM the action shifted to the grand stands for the dedication to CERA's founders. Several dignitaries, including our East Windsor First



Car No. 836 in the Parade of Trolleys during Saturday's 75th Anniversary Events.

Selectwoman Denise Menard and State Senator Tim Larson, made acknowledgements towards the museum and its founders. A large cast metal plaque with the founder's names was unveiled and presented to commemorate those who gave us this golden piece of history that lives on today.

At 2PM, the museum's library was dedicated to William and Grace Wood. The NRHS and CTM wishing to express their deepest thanks for the Wood's continuous devotion to both organizations.

The climax of the day was a sit down dinner at LaNotte in East Windsor with a Larry Bryan narrated slide show of the museum's early days. Don Snelgrove was in attendance and added many details to the "who's who" in the images.

Sunday 23 August was Period Re-enactment day with volunteers dressed in nineteenth century attire. There were also antique automobiles on display.



Operations Department members with First Selectwoman Denise Menard and State Senator Tim Larson.



Hugh Brower (L) & Steve Taylor giving a tour of the Visitors Center Hall during the 75th Anniversary weekend.

Visitor's Experience

Carol Zenczak - Manager/Visitor Experience Coordinator

2015 started with snow, frozen solid, still covering the walkways for Easter Bunny Fun Day. With a lot of work and a little sunshine, we welcomed more than 250 children and their families to a fun filled day. That was followed by a very busy spring welcoming, among others, visitors from the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania and also The Motor Coach Society, who were in the area for their annual convention. We organized a photo shoot one evening that was attended by over 40 photographers. The night was enjoyed by both photographers and operators and plans are being made to have another night with maybe including period dressed models. We were part of Connecticut Open House Day, welcoming visitors who wanted to check us out, to half price admission. Mother's Day brought us 41 moms who were treated to free admission and Father's Day

brought in 24 dads who were treated to the same.

Those volunteers who gave the museum over 100 hours of their time were honored with the Presidential Volunteer Award followed by a very nice buffet dinner in June. The summer months saw our volunteers busily planning for our 75th Anniversary Celebration, a monumental task. They had no control over the weather with temperatures hitting 95 degrees on that special day. We're sure that is what kept the crowds away but for those that attended it was a day they will not forget. Remembering and honoring all who started the museum was a lesson in what can be accomplished when you put your mind to it. To see the hours and hours of back breaking work that the founders did to start this museum was an eye opener to many of us. For those that had the pleasure of attending the dinner, who

will ever forget watching those old slides and seeing some of the “elders” recognizing themselves from years ago?

The autumn months mean Rails to the Darkside, Pumpkin Patch with Winterfest right behind. The weather was on our side for all our main events and we had attendance for all like never before. RTTDS volunteers scared over 4500 victims and once again we thank Shaker Pines Fire Dept for their participation. Of course being able to ride Car 4 during Winterfest in 65 degree weather makes one wonder what kind of weather we will have next year.

In addition to what was already mentioned, we had 32 birthday parties, 2 large Christmas parties, 4 Road Scholar groups and numerous school and summer camp visitors. The 49th Fighter Squadron visited while in the area for their reunion, and a Cub Scout group had their family event at the museum for the second year, meaning we must be doing something right.

Needless to say, it was a very busy year and as always, THANK YOU to everyone who made our 75th year the success it was!



Xian Clere at the controls of No. 355 Westbound on April 25th during our first night time photo shoot.

Gift Shop

Carol Zenczak – Gift Shop Manager

The gift shop is still one of the favorite stops for all the children that come and visit the museum. We continue to stock inexpensive toys that families can afford, along with T-shirts and engineer hats being some of the most bought items. Magnets of the trolley cars they rode on and post cards are also good sellers. Post cards not necessarily being used to mail to family and friends but we hear quite often they will be added to scrapbooks as a memento of their visit. We added a couple wooden toys with the museum's name on them this year and to help

celebrate our 75th anniversary, we had hats with the anniversary logo embroidered on them and small anniversary pins.

The outlook for 2016 is to bring in more items with our name and logo printed on them and also to bring in more Connecticut souvenirs. Finding both of those are easy enough but finding them in the price range that our visitors will buy is another problem. More books and DVD's about trolleys is another area we hope to expand.



President Galen Semprebon preparing No. 16 for her job as the cast car during Rails To The Darkside.

Car Shop Report

John Pelletier - Car Shop Manager

The function of the car shop is to provide the museum with adequate operational cars, presentable display cars, and functional work equipment. It has become obvious; that to meet these needs in the short and long term; volunteers will need to be trained. In the past year the shop started to involve more personnel in the maintenance and repair of equipment. Some are not only being introduced to electric rail technology, but also to the industrial arts.

This year saw a new canvas roof and trolley boards installed on 1326. In addition to much new woodwork both inside and outside the car. Also 169 (1894 single truck, Brooklyn rapid transit) had new support beams installed and bumper support completely rebuilt. Car 2600 had its line switch removed and is being repaired and overhauled.

Both 18 (electric locomotive) and 101 (heavy duty box motor) were cleaned up and evaluated for return to service as work equipment. It is hoped that these heavy duty machines will enable the museum to take on much needed maintenance and upgrade projects.

When it becomes too cold to work in the shop, the shop volunteers move to the Visitor Center to work on The Northern (Niles coach like trolley, large green thing) This year we hope to get the pantry ready for varnish and a new deck on the rear platform.

Much has been learned in the last few years about the art of electric rail equipment repair. Air governors, door motors, brake stands, and

more need regular service and overhaul; this will be a continuing challenge for the shop. The only solution will be more skilled labor. The shop family will need to grow to meet these needs. This will be a priority in the coming year.



No. 836 encountering ice on the trolley wire heading Eastbound out of Hancock Sidinq on Dec. 30, 2015.

Safety & Security

Bert Johanson – Safety and Security Officer

Security

2015 saw a big improvement in our building alarm system with the installation of new Honeywell Vista panels in all museum buildings with security systems. The new panels are intergraded with the swipe card system to eliminate false alarms. Over the past year new panels were installed in the museum office, Visitor Center hall, Kelly Barn, North Road Station, Car Shop and fire museum buildings. The project will be completed in 2016 when the Woods Barn panel is installed.

CCTV

During 2015 we received a donation of two high definition DVR's, this will enable us to replace some of the older inexpensive units we purchased to get the system up and running. We also replaced three older analog cameras with HD units. During 2016 we will replace other older cameras as equipment becomes available.

Safety

All the annual inspections required by our insurance carrier have been performed such as fire extinguisher inspection and housekeeping. We have seen problems with fire extinguishers disappearing from buildings and streetcars. As these units are rather expensive we need everyone's' cooperation to be sure extinguishers are not removed from a building or vehicle.

Fire Alarm

The sprinkler system in the Visitor Center was serviced in 2015 by an outside contractor to replace defective backflow valves. The system was also tested with the Tolland Alarm Center and continues to perform in a satisfactory manner.

In conclusion, I wish to express my appreciation to Bill Babbitt, John Arel and Hugh Brower for all the hours they contributed to the projects completed in 2015

Membership Secretary's Report

John Carter – Membership Secretary

As of December 31, 2015, the total current membership of the Association was **576**.

| | |
|--------------------|------------|
| Voting Members | 340 |
| Non-voting Members | 220 |
| Junior Members | 12 |
| Honorary Members | 4 |
| Totals | 576 |

The Association gained **75** new members.
The Association has **35** member Libraries.

Web Site

Joseph F. Smith - Web Editor

Our CTM websites slogan for the 2015 season could very well have been; **"The Year of Visitor Photos"** - very germane to our overall goal of public participation. Our philosophy has always been to have campus visitors and website viewers engage in providing website content. This is a rather unique position among the many websites that provide only billboards for their brand - although that is not to say that we do not provide plenty of that too! Additionally or in conjunction, our goal is to attract first time visitors to campus and to re-energize the mind-set of previous guests that making a return visit might be fun and more entertaining the second (or third) time around :-)

The slogan-hunch originated during the "Easter Bunny Fun Day" event when we received nine family photos of youngsters enjoying the April occasion with us - a quantity far in excess of anything we had experienced in the past! Keeping this early-on outburst in mind, we set up a small (we thought) photo contest for "Pumpkin Patch" and received forty three family oriented photos - a totally unexpected measure by our book. With these numbers some CTM visionaries contemplated; "Why not again for 'WinterFest' " - and so we did, with the result that thirty six original photos were submitted with many exceptional enough (both PP and WF) to be used for future event advertising purposes.

Our April "Night Photo Shoot", attended primarily by knowledgeable, experienced photographers, provided many outstanding photo caricatures of the trolley experience as night fell upon campus and these were displayed onsite for all to enjoy technique and content. Photographs continued to come in as the Connecticut Fire Museum, through the efforts of CFM President Bert Johanson, expanded their segment of the site many fold with photos and material - all with excellent commentary.

Some may realize that our website content changes on an almost daily basis in season and, in the past, if you missed the viewing you missed some fine

photographic work and/or interesting articles. Toward the end of this summer season a decision was made to try to make some of the finer and more interesting material available over a longer period of time - at least for our members (that is not to say that you shouldn't check out the website often ;-). Members can now find many special photographic projects sited in a special-form for easy reference in the "Members Photo Section". Also situated in this section will be our previously public-side "News-Page" containing approximately a quarters (3 to 4 months) worth of material that may be viewed for original content and with most associated links intact.

We never seem to "throw-out" photos or material that had once been displayed online (OCD?) and because of that we recently exceeded our server's space allotment and have had to purchase a larger "data-block" to contain all of our history. That being admitted and having read of our design philosophy (above), share your trolley relevant photos, articles, musings and experiences with all of our viewers. Be a contributor to our overall knowledge of "All Things Trolley" - making our website more comprehensive and engaging! We appreciate that many of you have memorable material or reminisces just waiting for a platform. AND, now we have just expanded that arena for all of us...



Winner of the 2015 Winterfest Photo Contest.

Volunteer Coordinator Report

Larry Lunden - Volunteer Coordinator

This year we added 50 new volunteers to our ranks bringing the number of Museum volunteers up to 214, of which 186 are active in helping in all aspects of the Museum's operations.

This year we had a celebration and recognition of the volunteers who work so hard to keep this museum running. We participated in the President's Volunteer Service Award, a program of the federal government to honor those who support the nation's non-profit organizations. 37 of our volunteers qualified for the awards based on the number of hours they served. We had a ceremony and dinner at the museum, with 49 people at the dinner. Hopefully we will continue this program in future years.

Retirement is a time for people to find a new life after work, and this year we benefitted greatly from it. Three experienced line workers retired from Eversource, and came to volunteer in the SC&ET department. Bill Stolba, John Kurlick, and Dan Benusis are now working with SC&ET Superintendent John Arel and Al Goff to address many of the issues we have. They quickly replaced a rotting pole in Kelly yard, and more work is planned for the spring. We are very lucky to get workers with such specialized skills.

This being our 75th year, we had a wonderful celebration. Under the direction of Ted Coppola, a team of 19 volunteers put on a weekend to remember. Several of the inactive volunteers came to contribute their memories to the festivities.

We have participated in the United Way Year of Caring program for many years. This year the amount of interest we have had is on the wane. They require that we provide projects for at least 20 people on one day, but this is beyond the interest of our leaders. As a result we will not qualify to participate until our leaders get some bigger projects.

We are continuing to use volunteer.unitedwayinc.org, Createthegood.org, and www.volunteersolutions.org web sites to recruit volunteers. Links to all of them are on the volunteer page of our web site. Please check them out for the latest opportunities we have.

Anyone who is interested in volunteering at the Museum is encouraged to contact me. I will put you in contact with the department heads that will be happy to have your help.



Bill Stolba (in bucket) & (L to R) John Arel, John (Kurlicie) Kurlick and Al Goff work on replacing a pole in Kelly Yard.



Reviewing the manual operation of the switch at North Road Station during Requalification Day 4/18/15.



Tatiyana and Carol in the Gift Shop during Winterfest.



Kae Gould at North Road Track 2 on a mild Winterfest evening.

Maintenance of Way Department

Dave Coppola - Track Superintendent

As we all know, 2015 was a significant year for the Connecticut Electric Railway, celebrating 75 years of existence. The collective effort of the departments and their volunteer groups is what really pulled the anniversary event together. Needless to say, the busily planned year still allowed for a lot of progress on new and continuing jobs of the Connecticut Electric Railway Maintenance of Way Department (MOW). In fact, the combined efforts for the 75th Anniversary may very well be the reason so many MOW projects were successfully completed!

The 2015 year began quite promptly compared to most years due to the daunting task of clearing the line of snow and debris from the prolonged New England storms in early spring. This actually turned out to be a benefit to the crew, as the snow's weight caused trees and brush to hang low towards the trackside, making for a prime opportunity for brush cutting and tree removal which would need to be performed later on in the season. The weather soon changed as the operating season began, allowing the MOW department to dive into the list of proposed projects for the year. Of these would be a larger on-going project, the removal of old ties along the CERA right-of-way. Old ties were gradually loaded onto a flatcar to be organized into two piles (good for relay and good landscaping). Given that 2014 saw 400+ ties replaced, the task of hand loading the ties will continue for some time to come, progressing as volunteer crews permit.

By end of spring, the increasing summer heat lessened the opportunities for productive work out on the mainline. Work now had shifted to relaying Track #2 in Northern Barn. Track #1 had been re-laid several years prior using relay ties, light rail from when the barn was originally erected and dirt roadbed. Rebuilt quickly to store more equipment undercover, Track #1 was only

suited for storage of streetcars and smaller rolling stock. With the idea of making Northern Barn an operational area (overhead wire still to be installed), the decision was made to upgrade the entire second track of the barn. This huge



Roger Pierson painting at the West end of Hancock Siding.

undertaking would include removal of all old track and components beyond the barn lead switch, re-grading the roadbed, replacing all ties, re-railing trackage with heavier 80 pound rail and filling the newly laid track with fresh stone ballast. These combined upgrades would now allow for railroad equipment to enter the barn safely on well supported track. By mid-summer, Chicago Elgin and Aurora #303 and Centerville Albia and Southern Ry. Co. #101 were eased up the finished track to their new place of residence. Looking back at the time spent on the job, Track #2 took little over the month of May to complete. The only unfinished task is the final raising and leveling of the lead trackage from the barn opening to the switch; however, this may be done once improvements of the same degree are made to Track #1.

As the barn track was completed, preparations for the 75th Anniversary Celebration were

coming into full swing and the MOW department had their own share to do for the event. In previous years, large amounts of bulk material (i.e. rail lengths and switch frogs) had begun to be organized and designated for specific projects (such as Track #2 of Northern Barn), while smaller track materials (i.e. tie plates and joint bars) are still being found mixed in earth beneath other bulky items. For several weeks, known areas buried with small parts were cleared and collected, allowing for a much safer and neater presentation. As clean up continued, the organization of switch stands and heavier parts began down near the Broad Brook section house. This made the backside of the Visitor Center more presentable for the public as well as now offers an impressive display of switch targets when seen from the outbound streetcars. To add new life to the right-of-way, switch stands and targets received new paint, station numbers were re-stenciled on line poles and station signs were constructed and promptly installed along the

right-of-way, all in time for the anniversary celebration.

Unfortunately, the close of the anniversary marked the slow down for the MOW department. End of the year special events and colder weather began to divert attention elsewhere. Despite the shortened season for MOW work, the department knocked quite a few jobs off the projects list, all of them having positive impacts for the museum and its visitors.

Lastly, looking into the 2016 year, the early spring has given the MOW department a head start. Major trees and brush have been cut back along the trackside, Kelly Yard has seen several new ties installed (new switch timbers arrived late 2015), new drainage is under way, and old tie removal has begun for yet another year.

Special thanks go out to the volunteers of the department, who come and lend a hand time and time again for the organization.



Relayed Track #2 at the Northern Barn on May 22, 2015.

Social Media Report

Chris Shaw

2015 was another successful year on the social media front. Our main social media platform is Facebook. On January 1st we had 2,424 likes on Facebook. As we ended out the year that has grown to 3,018 likes. We will continue to add features to the page as the year progresses, and will continue doing Trivia throughout the year, as well as periodic updates of the goings on at the museum. Our most popular posts tend to be updates with pictures, as well as relevant news and trivia. To help continue to grow our fan

base, I would encourage the membership to share the events we post and updates on their timelines. This increases views, and will help drive people to the Facebook page to like it. Our twitter account currently has 147 followers and has had 4,366 tweet impressions over the last 28 days. The Twitter page is updated automatically through Facebook. That's all for now, so until next time, keep liking and sharing our page and posts, every little bit helps!

2015 Statistics

During our scheduled 149 day operating season:

- We hosted 23,664 visitors.
- 1,648 passenger trips were operated with 33,873 passengers carried.
- 32 charter groups visited.
- 32 Birthday Parties were hosted.
- Over 18,349 volunteer hours were donated.
- 623 community service volunteer hours were donated.

The Association owes a debt of gratitude to all of our volunteers that helped make 2015 a very successful year for the Museum. Whether they directed traffic, sold snacks, setup displays, cleaned up, performed maintenance and repairs or were on the front line with our visitors as Motomen or Conductors each one of them contributed greatly in making our 75th year the success that it was.

2015 Annual Report Connecticut Electric Railway Assoc., Inc. Editor / Design - L. J. Bryan

| Photograph Credits | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| Aiden Nies | Pages: Cover, 5 & 12 |
| Dave Coppola | Pages: 18 & 19 |
| Frank Rossano | Pages: 8, 9, & 10 |
| George Barreto | Page: 4 |
| L. J. Bryan | Pages: 3, 7, 11, 13, 16 & 17 |

CERA 2015 Annual Report

Form **990**

Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax

OMB No. 1545-0047

2015

Open to Public Inspection

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Under section 501(c), 527, or 4947(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code (except private foundations)
 ▶ Do not enter social security numbers on this form as it may be made public.
 ▶ Information about Form 990 and its instructions is at www.irs.gov/form990.

A For the 2015 calendar year, or tax year beginning 01/01, 2015, and ending 12/31, 20 15

B Check if applicable:
 Address change
 Name change
 Initial return
 Final return/terminated
 Amended return
 Application pending

C Name of organization CONNECTICUT ELECTRIC RAILWAY ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED
 Doing business as The Connecticut Trolley Museum
 Number and street (or P.O. box if mail is not delivered to street address) Room/suite
P O Box 360 58 North Road
 City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code
East Windsor, CT, 06088-0360

D Employer identification number
06-6070002

E Telephone number
860-627-6540

F Name and address of principal officer: Galen Sembrebom
19 Ryan Drive, Ellington, CT 06029-3654

G Gross receipts \$ 308,797

H(a) Is this a group return for subordinates? Yes No
H(b) Are all subordinates included? Yes No
 If "No," attach a list. (see instructions)

I Tax-exempt status: 501(c)(3) 501(c) () ◀ (insert no.) 4947(a)(1) or 527

J Website: ▶ www.ct-trolley.org

K Form of organization: Corporation Trust Association Other ▶

L Year of formation: 1940 **M** State of legal domicile: CT

H(c) Group exemption number ▶

Part I Summary

| | | | | |
|------------------------------------|--|---|--|--|
| Activities & Governance | 1 | Briefly describe the organization's mission or most significant activities: <u>Trolley Museum-education, restoration, preservation.</u> | | |
| | 2 | Check this box <input type="checkbox"/> if the organization discontinued its operations or disposed of more than 25% of its net assets. | | |
| | 3 | Number of voting members of the governing body (Part VI, line 1a) | <u>3</u> | <u>12</u> |
| | 4 | Number of independent voting members of the governing body (Part VI, line 1b) | <u>4</u> | <u>12</u> |
| | 5 | Total number of individuals employed in calendar year 2015 (Part V, line 2a) | <u>5</u> | <u>14</u> |
| | 6 | Total number of volunteers (estimate if necessary) | <u>6</u> | <u>231</u> |
| | 7a | Total unrelated business revenue from Part VIII, column (C), line 12 | <u>7a</u> | <u>0</u> |
| b | Net unrelated business taxable income from Form 990-T, line 34 | <u>7b</u> | <u>0</u> | |
| Revenue | 8 | Contributions and grants (Part VIII, line 1h) | <u>Prior Year</u> <u>167,862</u> | <u>Current Year</u> <u>37,361</u> |
| | 9 | Program service revenue (Part VIII, line 2g) | <u>213,225</u> | <u>242,802</u> |
| | 10 | Investment income (Part VIII, column (A), lines 3, 4, and 7d) | <u>505</u> | <u>1,354</u> |
| | 11 | Other revenue (Part VIII, column (A), lines 5, 6d, 8c, 9c, 10c, and 11e) | <u>14,966</u> | <u>13,434</u> |
| | 12 | Total revenue—add lines 8 through 11 (must equal Part VIII, column (A), line 12) | <u>396,558</u> | <u>294,951</u> |
| Expenses | 13 | Grants and similar amounts paid (Part IX, column (A), lines 1–3) | <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> |
| | 14 | Benefits paid to or for members (Part IX, column (A), line 4) | <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> |
| | 15 | Salaries, other compensation, employee benefits (Part IX, column (A), lines 5–10) | <u>51,447</u> | <u>52,267</u> |
| | 16a | Professional fundraising fees (Part IX, column (A), line 11e) | <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> |
| | b | Total fundraising expenses (Part IX, column (D), line 25) ▶ | <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> |
| | 17 | Other expenses (Part IX, column (A), lines 11a–11d, 11f–24e) | <u>280,006</u> | <u>274,955</u> |
| | 18 | Total expenses. Add lines 13–17 (must equal Part IX, column (A), line 25) | <u>331,453</u> | <u>327,222</u> |
| Net Assets or Fund Balances | 19 | Revenue less expenses. Subtract line 18 from line 12 | <u>65,105</u> | <u>-32,271</u> |
| | 20 | Total assets (Part X, line 16) | <u>Beginning of Current Year</u> <u>2,032,078</u> | <u>End of Year</u> <u>1,993,325</u> |
| | 21 | Total liabilities (Part X, line 26) | <u>286,385</u> | <u>279,903</u> |
| | 22 | Net assets or fund balances. Subtract line 21 from line 20 | <u>1,745,693</u> | <u>1,713,422</u> |

Part II Signature Block

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this return, including accompanying schedules and statements, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete. Declaration of preparer (other than officer) is based on all information of which preparer has any knowledge.

Sign Here

Signature of officer: Frederick Stroiney, Chairman
 Date: _____
 Type or print name and title

Paid Preparer Use Only

Print/Type preparer's name: _____ Preparer's signature: _____ Date: _____
 Check if self-employed PTIN: _____
 Firm's name ▶: _____ Firm's EIN ▶: _____
 Firm's address ▶: _____ Phone no.: _____

May the IRS discuss this return with the preparer shown above? (see instructions) Yes No

CERA 2015 Annual Report

Form 990 (2015)

Page 9

Part VIII Statement of Revenue

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part VIII

| | | | (A) Total revenue | (B) Related or exempt function revenue | (C) Unrelated business revenue | (D) Revenue excluded from tax under sections 512-514 | | |
|---|--|---|--|---|---|--|---|--|
| Contributions, Gifts, Grants and Other Similar Amounts | 1a | Federated campaigns | 1a 0 | | | | | |
| | b | Membership dues | 1b 19,180 | | | | | |
| | c | Fundraising events | 1c 0 | | | | | |
| | d | Related organizations | 1d 0 | | | | | |
| | e | Government grants (contributions) | 1e 0 | | | | | |
| | f | All other contributions, gifts, grants, and similar amounts not included above | 1f 18,181 | | | | | |
| | g | Noncash contributions included in lines 1a-1f: \$ | 0 | | | | | |
| | h | Total. Add lines 1a-1f | ▶ 37,361 | | | | | |
| Program Service Revenue | | | Business Code | | | | | |
| | 2a | Winterfest Seasonal Rides & Exhibits | 712110 | 88,159 | 88,159 | 0 | | |
| | b | Youth Rails to the Dark Side Rides & Exhibits | 712110 | 71,495 | 71,495 | 0 | | |
| | c | Collection Viewing, Rides, Exhibits | 712110 | 46,934 | 46,934 | 0 | | |
| | d | Children Pumpkin Patch Rides & Exhibits | 712110 | 18,006 | 18,006 | 0 | | |
| | e | Children Fun Day & Parties Rides & Exhibits | 712110 | 13,756 | 13,756 | 0 | | |
| | f | All other program service revenue | | 4,452 | 4,452 | 0 | | |
| g | Total. Add lines 2a-2f | ▶ 242,802 | | | | | | |
| Other Revenue | 3 | Investment income (including dividends, interest, and other similar amounts) | ▶ 1,354 | 1,354 | 0 | 0 | | |
| | 4 | Income from investment of tax-exempt bond proceeds ▶ | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| | 5 | Royalties | ▶ 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| | 6a | Gross rents | (i) Real | 0 | 0 | | | |
| | | | (ii) Personal | 0 | 0 | | | |
| | | | b | Less: rental expenses | 0 | 0 | | |
| | | | c | Rental income or (loss) | 0 | 0 | | |
| | d | Net rental income or (loss) | ▶ 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| | 7a | Gross amount from sales of assets other than inventory | (i) Securities | 0 | 0 | | | |
| | | | (ii) Other | 0 | 0 | | | |
| | | | b | Less: cost or other basis and sales expenses | 0 | 0 | | |
| | | | c | Gain or (loss) | 0 | 0 | | |
| | d | Net gain or (loss) | ▶ 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| | 8a | Gross income from fundraising events (not including \$ 0 of contributions reported on line 1c). See Part IV, line 18 | a 0 | | | | | |
| | b | Less: direct expenses | b 0 | | | | | |
| | c | Net income or (loss) from fundraising events | ▶ 0 | | 0 | 0 | | |
| | 9a | Gross income from gaming activities. See Part IV, line 19 | a | 0 | | | | |
| b | | | Less: direct expenses | b 0 | | | | |
| c | | | Net income or (loss) from gaming activities | ▶ 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| 10a | Gross sales of inventory, less returns and allowances | a | 26,980 | | | | | |
| | | b | Less: cost of goods sold | b 13,846 | | | | |
| | | c | Net income or (loss) from sales of inventory | ▶ 13,134 | 13,134 | 0 | 0 | |
| Miscellaneous Revenue | | Business Code | | | | | | |
| 11a | ----- | | | | | | | |
| b | ----- | | | | | | | |
| c | ----- | | | | | | | |
| d | All other revenue | | 300 | 300 | 0 | 0 | | |
| e | Total. Add lines 11a-11d | ▶ 300 | | | | | | |
| 12 | Total revenue. See instructions. | ▶ 294,951 | 257,590 | 0 | 0 | | | |

Form 990 (2015)

CERA 2015 Annual Report

Form 990 (2015)

Page **10**

Part IX Statement of Functional Expenses

Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations must complete all columns. All other organizations must complete column (A).

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part IX

Do not include amounts reported on lines 6b, 7b, 8b, 9b, and 10b of Part VIII.

| | (A) Total expenses | (B) Program service expenses | (C) Management and general expenses | (D) Fundraising expenses |
|---|-----------------------|---------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| 1 Grants and other assistance to domestic organizations and domestic governments. See Part IV, line 21 | 0 | 0 | | |
| 2 Grants and other assistance to domestic individuals. See Part IV, line 22 | 0 | 0 | | |
| 3 Grants and other assistance to foreign organizations, foreign governments, and foreign individuals. See Part IV, lines 15 and 16 | 0 | 0 | | |
| 4 Benefits paid to or for members | 0 | 0 | | |
| 5 Compensation of current officers, directors, trustees, and key employees | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 6 Compensation not included above, to disqualified persons (as defined under section 4958(f)(1)) and persons described in section 4958(c)(3)(B) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 7 Other salaries and wages | 46,924 | 46,924 | 0 | 0 |
| 8 Pension plan accruals and contributions (include section 401(k) and 403(b) employer contributions) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 9 Other employee benefits | 1,754 | 1,754 | 0 | 0 |
| 10 Payroll taxes | 3,589 | 3,589 | 0 | 0 |
| 11 Fees for services (non-employees): | | | | |
| a Management | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| b Legal | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| c Accounting | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| d Lobbying | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| e Professional fundraising services. See Part IV, line 17 | 0 | | | 0 |
| f Investment management fees | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| g Other. (If line 11g amount exceeds 10% of line 25, column (A) amount, list line 11g expenses on Schedule O.) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 12 Advertising and promotion | 18,402 | 18,402 | 0 | 0 |
| 13 Office expenses | 11,958 | 10,724 | 1,234 | 0 |
| 14 Information technology | 719 | 719 | 0 | 0 |
| 15 Royalties | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 16 Occupancy | 94,667 | 85,200 | 9,467 | 0 |
| 17 Travel | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 18 Payments of travel or entertainment expenses for any federal, state, or local public officials | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 19 Conferences, conventions, and meetings | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 20 Interest | 15,199 | 15,199 | 0 | 0 |
| 21 Payments to affiliates | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 22 Depreciation, depletion, and amortization | 55,825 | 55,825 | 0 | 0 |
| 23 Insurance | 11,071 | 11,071 | 0 | 0 |
| 24 Other expenses. Itemize expenses not covered above (List miscellaneous expenses in line 24e. If line 24e amount exceeds 10% of line 25, column (A) amount, list line 24e expenses on Schedule O.) | | | | |
| a <u>Visitor Experience & Event related</u> | 43,296 | 43,296 | 0 | 0 |
| b <u>Restoration & Repairs - Trolley & Rolling Stock</u> | 19,814 | 19,814 | 0 | 0 |
| c <u>Track & Signal Repairs</u> | 2,521 | 2,521 | 0 | 0 |
| d <u>Misc. Volunteer Expenses</u> | 1,483 | 1,483 | 0 | 0 |
| e All other expenses | | | | |
| 25 Total functional expenses. Add lines 1 through 24e | 327,222 | 316,521 | 10,701 | 0 |
| 26 Joint costs. Complete this line only if the organization reported in column (B) joint costs from a combined educational campaign and fundraising solicitation. Check here <input type="checkbox"/> if following SOP 98-2 (ASC 958-720) | | | | |

Form **990** (2015)

CERA 2015 Annual Report

Form 990 (2015)

Page **11**

Part X Balance Sheet

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part X

| | | (A) | | (B) |
|--|--|-------------------|-----------|-------------|
| | | Beginning of year | | End of year |
| Assets | 1 Cash—non-interest-bearing | 22,867 | 1 | 3,508 |
| | 2 Savings and temporary cash investments | 273,934 | 2 | 309,549 |
| | 3 Pledges and grants receivable, net | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| | 4 Accounts receivable, net | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| | 5 Loans and other receivables from current and former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, and highest compensated employees. Complete Part II of Schedule L | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| | 6 Loans and other receivables from other disqualified persons (as defined under section 4958(f)(1)), persons described in section 4958(c)(3)(B), and contributing employers and sponsoring organizations of section 501(c)(9) voluntary employees' beneficiary organizations (see instructions). Complete Part II of Schedule L | 0 | 6 | 0 |
| | 7 Notes and loans receivable, net | 0 | 7 | 0 |
| | 8 Inventories for sale or use | 10,748 | 8 | 11,564 |
| | 9 Prepaid expenses and deferred charges | | 9 | |
| | 10a Land, buildings, and equipment: cost or other basis. Complete Part VI of Schedule D | 2,407,128 | | |
| | b Less: accumulated depreciation | 1,174,441 | | |
| | 11 Investments—publicly traded securities | 0 | 11 | 0 |
| | 12 Investments—other securities. See Part IV, line 11 | 0 | 12 | 0 |
| | 13 Investments—program-related. See Part IV, line 11 | 0 | 13 | 0 |
| | 14 Intangible assets | 0 | 14 | 0 |
| | 15 Other assets. See Part IV, line 11 | 436,017 | 15 | 436,017 |
| 16 Total assets. Add lines 1 through 15 (must equal line 34) | 2,032,078 | 16 | 1,993,325 | |
| Liabilities | 17 Accounts payable and accrued expenses | 5,261 | 17 | 3,740 |
| | 18 Grants payable | 0 | 18 | 0 |
| | 19 Deferred revenue | 0 | 19 | 0 |
| | 20 Tax-exempt bond liabilities | 0 | 20 | 0 |
| | 21 Escrow or custodial account liability. Complete Part IV of Schedule D | 0 | 21 | 0 |
| | 22 Loans and other payables to current and former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, highest compensated employees, and disqualified persons. Complete Part II of Schedule L | 0 | 22 | 0 |
| | 23 Secured mortgages and notes payable to unrelated third parties | 281,124 | 23 | 276,163 |
| | 24 Unsecured notes and loans payable to unrelated third parties | 0 | 24 | 0 |
| | 25 Other liabilities (including federal income tax, payables to related third parties, and other liabilities not included on lines 17-24). Complete Part X of Schedule D | | 25 | |
| | 26 Total liabilities. Add lines 17 through 25 | 286,385 | 26 | 279,903 |
| Net Assets or Fund Balances | Organizations that follow SFAS 117 (ASC 958), check here <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> and complete lines 27 through 29, and lines 33 and 34. | | | |
| | 27 Unrestricted net assets | 1,530,463 | 27 | 1,504,749 |
| | 28 Temporarily restricted net assets | 215,230 | 28 | 208,673 |
| | 29 Permanently restricted net assets | 0 | 29 | 0 |
| | Organizations that do not follow SFAS 117 (ASC 958), check here <input type="checkbox"/> and complete lines 30 through 34. | | | |
| | 30 Capital stock or trust principal, or current funds | | 30 | |
| | 31 Paid-in or capital surplus, or land, building, or equipment fund | | 31 | |
| | 32 Retained earnings, endowment, accumulated income, or other funds | | 32 | |
| 33 Total net assets or fund balances | 1,745,693 | 33 | 1,713,422 | |
| 34 Total liabilities and net assets/fund balances | 2,032,078 | 34 | 1,993,325 | |

Form **990** (2015)