



NEW ENGLAND
RAILROAD CLUB
YEAR IN REVIEW
2023



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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Michael Tetler



Dear New England Railroad Club Family,

As my time as president draws to a close, I'm filled with gratitude and excitement. Reflecting on our first full two years back since COVID, it's amazing to see what we've accomplished together. Remembering Albert Einstein's words, "In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity," I can't help but think how aptly this describes our journey.

Our Rail Tech Conferences didn't just happen; they represented a triumph of our collective commitment to the Club and a return to the heart of our activities. Our golf outings at the Ferncroft? They were more than just swings and putts; they were where we rekindled friendships and forged new ones.

At our dinner meetings, ideas blossomed and our passion for railroading grew even stronger. And let's not forget the joint event with the New England Association of Rail Shippers in Portland – a real highlight, showing just how much we can achieve when we work together.

2023, our 140th year, wasn't just a number. It was a celebration of our rich history and the exciting future ahead. As I hand over the reins to John DeWaele, I'm confident we're in great hands.

With the holiday season upon us, it's the perfect moment to pause and reflect on the year's hard work and the invaluable support of our families who stand behind us. This season, let's take time to appreciate the moments when our focus turns away from our work, our careers, and our Club. Here's to creating more memories, embracing new challenges, and continuing our journey of growth and success.

Thank you for letting me be your president. It's been an honor to serve the Club and its members. Here's to continuing to show up, to plan ambitiously, and to achieve great things.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Mike Tetler". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Michael Tetler President, New England Railroad Club



2023 Meetings

ANNUAL MEETING/
MECHANICAL NIGHT

RAIL TECH CONFERENCE/
ENGINEERING & TRANSIT NIGHT

SCHOLARSHIP GOLF CLASSIC

EXECUTIVE NIGHT

ANNUAL MEETING

WESTIN WALTHAM • WALTHAM, MA

On Thursday, January 19th, the Westin Waltham hosted the 140th Annual Meeting (Mechanical Night) with guest speaker Chad Thompson, Vice President of Product Management at Wabtec Corporation.

The event kicked off with members gathering in the lounge area pre-meeting for the traditional sponsored networking reception. Dinner was then served in the lower function room.

After dinner, Chad took to the podium to discuss some of the innovative technologies, both digital and mechanical, that Wabtec is developing for the rail industry. Included in these were locomotive modernization programs, new locomotive platforms (including next-gen hydrogen tech), advancements in braking, and more. He highlighted a program repowering a group of 1970s EMD SD40 locomotives with modern, fuel-efficient, Tier-4 GE engines for client CSX. At the time of this publication these locomotives are in-service on the CSX system.

The event was well attended despite the typical New England winter weather resulting in a stormy ride home on the dreaded Route 128.



RAIL TECH CONFERENCE

DCU CENTER • WORCESTER, MA



The 2023 Rail Tech Conference was held on March 16, 2023, at the DCU Center in Worcester. Over 150 members attended the day's events, which included the exhibitor pavilion, professional seminars, networking reception, Engineering & Transit Night Dinner, and the keynote presentation. 28 companies, Operation Lifesaver, and the UMass Lowell AREMA Student Chapter set up displays in the exhibitor pavilion.



The conference featured our first-ever "conference kick-off presentation" and we were pleased to welcome Abdellah Chajai, Chief Executive Officer for Keolis Commuter Services as the speaker. Three conference

seminars filled the afternoon, highlighting 360 Railroad Project Delivery in Programs – United States and International; Roadbed and Subgrade Inspection and Monitoring Using Geophysical Methods; and Advances in Railcar Tracking, Fleet Management, and Monitoring Technologies. Thank you to our

presenters Vinay Mudholkar, John Read, Oleg Valishin, and Robert Pickel, Jr. for taking the time to bring our membership up-to-date on these timely topics.

Keynote Speaker for the event was Brian Solomon, noted railway historian and author of more than 30 books about railroads and locomotive power. Brian led the members on an interesting and informative journey showcasing the history of railroads in New England, from the very first lines constructed in the 1800s up to today.



At the Engineering & Transit Night Dinner, Club President Michael Tetler presented Lenny McGee with a special recognition award for his tireless work promoting the Rail Tech exhibitor pavilion.

Lenny's enthusiastic support and dogged outreach to the industry led to sell out pavilions every year. His contributions will be missed as we plan for the next Rail Tech.

2023 marked the last year of the annual Rail Tech in Worcester. Moving forward, the Rail Tech will now be every other year, with the next event planned for 2025.



SCHOLARSHIP GOLF CLASSIC

FERNCROFT COUNTRY CLUB • MIDDLETON, MA

On Thursday, May 11, industry professionals from New England gathered at the Ferncroft Country Club in Middleton, MA, for the annual scholarship golf classic. The day started with registration and lunch at the clubhouse, before we headed out to tee off. Golfers enjoyed perfect spring conditions on the course and the weather cooperated with just a tiny passing drizzle in the afternoon. As golfers finished, we enjoyed cocktail hour on the outdoor deck overlooking the course before moving inside to the ballroom for a lobster dinner.

Supporters for the scholarship fund came out in full force for this event, with 21 sponsors supporting us. Also, with the help of a few key Executive Board members, the 50/50 raffle turned out record results. With the tremendous support we receive for this sell-out event each year, we can, make these scholarships available to students.

Mark your calendars and be on the look out for registration for the 2024 outing, which will again be held at the Ferncroft Country Club on Thursday, May 16, 2024.

EXECUTIVE NIGHT

HOLIDAY INN PORTLAND BY THE BAY
PORTLAND, ME

Special Joint Meeting with NEARS

On October 5th, the New England Railroad Club raised a glass and celebrated another successful year at our Executive Night Dinner. This year, we partnered with the North East Association of Rail Shippers (NEARS) to have a joint event together in beautiful downtown Portland Maine at the Holiday Inn Portland By The Bay! We had a full house, with 108 guests mingling during the cocktail hour with over 200 attendees from the NEARS event. We even had a few folks who attended both events during the week. To help our guests travel to the meeting several members of board of directors worked with the MBTA, Amtrak, and NNEPRA to add a special coach on two trips of the Downeaster that was reserved for the Railroad Club.

Our guest speaker was the honorable Bruce Van Note, the Commissioner of the Maine Department of Transportation. He was witty, entertaining, and also informative, as we broke bread and enjoyed each other's company. It was great to have everyone come out to this event and to celebrate our 140th Anniversary!

This event was a great success, and our feedback from NEARS was very positive. Two organizations that feel the pulse of rail shipping in New England came together with great teamwork and communication, like a good team should. NEARS has already reached out and said that they would love to partner up again. They will be in Pittsburgh in fall 2024, but back in New England at the Marriott in Mystic Connecticut, in the fall of 2025.



NEXT TRAIN



2024 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

JANUARY 19, 2024

Annual Dinner on Board the Cape Cod Dinner Train

MARCH

To Be Announced*

MAY 16, 2023

Annual Scholarship Golf Classic at the Ferncroft Country Club

NOVEMBER 2023

Executive Night- To Be Announced

**Rail Tech Conference 2025 in Mystic, CT with NEARS*



Each year the New England Railroad Club is pleased to present college scholarships to deserving children and grandchildren of club members in good standing. Our scholarship program is the one of the primary ways we look to “give back” to our club members. Scholarships are awarded based on academic merit and community achievement as evaluated by the Selection Committee made up of academic professionals from the University of Massachusetts. Each year we have been fortunate to have an excellent range of applicants and the Selection Committee has consistently noted the challenge in picking the awardees.

2023 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Anneli DiVirgilio
Anna Woolslager
Daniel Casper
Skylar White

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Anneli DiVirgilio

Framingham State University

I am currently a freshman at Framingham State University, majoring in Environmental Science and Policy and minoring in Biology. I plan to use my degree to perform research on plants, animals, and ecosystems worldwide.

My passion for exploring the outdoors is evident in my work, and I hope to one day be able to say that I have visited and/or worked in every single country.

I'm honored to be a 2023 scholarship recipient, and I would like to thank the New England Railroad Club for their generosity in helping me fund my college career.





Anna Woolslager, MS

Metropolitan State University of Denver



Anna grew up in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, and received her Bachelor of Science in Public Health from Temple University. During Anna's undergraduate career, she grew an interest and passion for nutrition and dietetics while working at a nonprofit organization, where she assisted in community nutrition education/cooking classes for families living in Philadelphia.

In 2021, Anna decided to move to Denver, Colorado, to begin her graduate studies at the Metropolitan State University of Denver, where she graduated with a Master of Science in Nutrition and Dietetics in May 2023. Anna is currently completing her dietetic internship program with the Metropolitan State University of Denver and plans on becoming an RDN in the Spring of 2024.

Anna's passion for cooking, recipe development, food culture, preventative health, and interest in helping people foster healthy relationships with food drove her to pursue this career path. Anna also enjoys traveling, camping, hiking, reading, skiing, crafting, and spending time with friends and family.



Danny Casper

Penn State University

I would first like to say thank you to everyone who awarded me this scholarship and to the entire membership. I am very humbled and grateful for winning this award. It means a lot to my family and me, and I am thankful that the committee chose me for this scholarship.

My first semester at Penn State University studying statistics and economics went even better than I had hoped. I set aside a decent chunk of my time every day for my homework and studying, which resulted well for me. I finished with all A's and B's and look to repeat this strategy next semester.

I am thoroughly excited to branch out more next semester as well and hopefully meet some new possible future relationships, connections, and friends by joining more clubs.

I am enjoying my focus on economics and statistics at the university. I am enjoying the topics in my classes, which makes studying and reviewing easier and more exciting. Again, I would like to thank the scholarship committee and everyone in the membership for recognizing me with this award.



SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Skylar White

St. Lawrence University



Excerpt from Application:

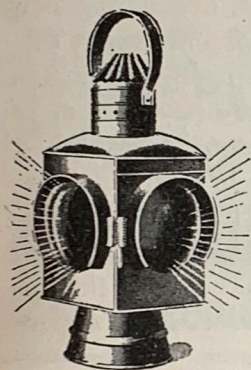
Currently, I'm pursuing my bachelor's degree in English and Environmental Studies at St. Lawrence University in Canton, NY. Even though I'm from Idaho, I have deep roots in the East because my mom grew up in Albany, NY and I have lots of family in the area. Now that I'm going to school in the North Country, I'm exploring my connection to the natural beauty of New York, and to my family history. I biked the Albany County Rail Trail recently and was enchanted by how vibrant and lush it was. I'm also learning more about the family business, Riegel Rail Solutions, than I ever have, and fond early memories of looking at trains with my grandpa have come flooding back.

Because I've only been on SLU's campus for one semester, I haven't gotten to make as much of an impact on campus as I hope to in the future, but I'm already a strong advocate for sustainability on campus, sexual violence and misconduct awareness and response, and I'm hoping to secure an position on the board of the Hill News, our university's newspaper. As for future career goals, I want to use my writing skills to enact change, and the best avenue I see for that is journalism. I hope to pursue a career primarily in environmental journalism, and I am planning on writing for a local environmentalist publication this summer called the Mountain Journal.

Thank you for this opportunity and your consideration of my application for the New England Railroad Club Scholarship.

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From the January–December,
 1898 issue of Proceedings

President

John Medway

Supt. Motive Power, Fitchburg R.R.

Mr. Copp—Mr. Graham's remarks
 about box cars remind me of the
 theory a certain painter had in my
 boyhood of varnishing passenger
 cars. He thought it would be an
 excellent idea to lay the car over
 on the side and varnish the car to
 avoid sags and runs.

Mr. Graham—Mr. President, I was
 not talking about varnish, I was
 talking about paint. I know how
 to put varnish on car, because I
 have varnished them. I was talk-
 ing about box cars, flat, cars, and
 gondola cars.....Now, why is it not
 feasible to take a box car and dip
 it into a tank (of paint) and lift
 it out and then shift it out of the
 way? With the new air hoists they
 can lift anything nowadays...

The President—Mr. Chamberlain,
 can we hear something from you?

Mr. John T Chamberlain— Mr.
 President, a fellow told me that
 Graham was crazy, and I don't
 think he has got over it yet.



Photo: Michael St.Louis

WHAT'S NEW?

2023 NEWS & HAPPENINGS

2023 was, without a doubt, a non-stop year in New England Railroading. Of course, 2023 also represented the Club's 140th year! Many organizations come and go for many of us who have been part of this industry. The fact that the New England Railroad Club is looking down the tracks at our 141st year is truly something remarkable and a testament to the strength of the Club and its members.

PASSENGER RAIL HAPPENINGS

Freight or passenger, no matter where your focus lies- the region is undergoing an intense transformation. The MBTA's South Coast Rail project, which returns regular passenger service to New Bedford and Fall River, MA, for the first time since 1958, is well underway and closer to completion than shovel in the ground. Stations have been built, track has been installed, and signal installation and testing is underway. Test trains will be rolling across the territory this spring, with an anticipated service start in the fall of 2024.

Also, in Passenger Rail news, the New York Metropolitan Transit Authority (LIRR) completed the East Side Access project. The project, which has been in the works since the mid-1970s, directly connects all 11 LIRR lines to Grand Central Station.

FREIGHT RAIL HAPPENINGS

Parts of the St. Lawrence and Atlantic Railroad received significant track rehabilitation due to \$9.6M in FRA funding, along with a match from the states of Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont, as



Freetown Station on the South Coast Rail Project. Photo: MBTA



LIRR trains arrives Grand Central via the East Side Access. Photo: MTA

NEWS & HAPPENINGS

well as the railroad. The jointed rail was replaced with CWR and new ties, which will allow for heavier car loading.

Sadly, progress sometimes leads to a disruption in all things comforting. The Bay Colony Railroad operated its final train on December 15, 2023. Established in 1982, the Bay Colony operated several lines across Southeastern Massachusetts and Cape Cod. The last Bay Colony mainstay was based in Dartmouth, where they operated the Watuppa Branch and occasion service in Millis, MA. The Bay Colony will always have a special place in my heart, as this small railroad taught me so much about this amazing industry.

All in all, rail service is blooming in New England!

The New England Railroad scene looks bright, and 2024 is another landmark year. With so many changes in 2023 and a promising outlook for 2024, the New England Railroad Club and all our members are proud to be part of the New Year.



St. Lawrence & Atlantic map. Genesee & Wyoming RR

*#1706 leads the last run of the Bay Colony Railroad at the Paskemanset River on the Watuppa Line.
Photo: Michael St. Louis*



**BAY COLONY
RAILROAD CORP.**



South Station to the Bourne Bridge
A Special Meeting & Dinner on the
Cape Cod Central Dinner Train

Book Your Tickets Before They Are Sold Out!

for a first-ever New England Railroad Club event!

141ST ANNUAL MEETING

Friday, January 19, 2024

On Board the Cape Cod Central Dinner Train

Departing South Station, Boston, at 5:45pm for a three-hour roundtrip to the Bourne Bridge and return

Tickets on sale soon at www.nerailroadclub.com
\$175.00 for standard dining car seating • \$225.00 for dome car seating
Ticket cost includes gratuity

New England Railroad Club
Founded 1883



We would like to recognize the companies who helped sponsor the Club's 2023 meetings. Through their support we have been able to continue to offer our membership additional activities and events, like our popular networking receptions, while continuing our sponsorship program.

ANNUAL MEETING



ATLANTIC TRACK



**DAGLE ELECTRICAL
CONSTRUCTION CORP.**



RAIL TECH CONFERENCE



**DAGLE ELECTRICAL
CONSTRUCTION CORP.**



2023 MEETING SPONSORS

SCHOLARSHIP GOLF CLASSIC



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A close-up photograph of a person's hands. The person is wearing a dark suit jacket with three buttons visible on the sleeve. They are holding a grey handheld device, possibly a scanner or a data collector, and using it to scan a white document or card. The background is blurred, showing some indistinct shapes and colors.

ANNUAL DUES AND NEW MEMBERSHIP *Updates*

The membership of the New England Railroad Club is comprised of professionals who work in the various fields associated with the railroad industry. They include the construction, operations, maintenance, and management of railroads, railways, or rail transit systems, as well as engineering, sales, marketing, procurement, legal, and all forms of consulting. The Club also accepts college students of engineering or business majors who are looking to pursue a career in the rail or transportation industry. Currently the Club has more than 300 members nationwide.

Applicants for membership are admitted by a majority vote of the Executive Committee. New Student

Member Applications are accepted with copy of a valid Student ID. Annual dues are waived for student members who provide a valid Student ID.

Starting January 1, 2024, dues pricing will increase, reflecting the new rates voted on by the Executive Board. The increase ensures that the NERRC will continue to provide scholarships and maintain events for our membership as we have done in the past 141 years.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support. We look forward to serving you in 2024.

2024 DUES INVOICE

2024 DUES PRICING

REGULAR MEMBER	\$80.00
RETIRED MEMBER	\$50.00
NEW MEMBER (with Application)	\$90.00

A \$10.00 Donation is automatically deducted from the dues to be allocated to the scholarship fund. **Additional donations to the scholarship fund are always most welcomed, encouraged and appreciated.**

Please review your mailing address label, and advise the secretary of any necessary changes. **If you wish only to receive electronic mailings**, indicate so in the check box below, or please go to our website at the following address: www.nerailroadclub.com, click on the "contact us" tab, and send an email with subject "**e-mail only**".

Please mail dues payment to the following address:
New England Railroad Club, Attn: Stephanie Lavino
Dagle Electrical Construction Corp, 68 Industrial Way, Wilmington, MA 01887

Name _____

Company _____

Address _____

City _____ State/Zip _____

Telephone _____

E-mail _____

Please let us know about topics, speakers
or issues you want to hear about or any
other ideas to improve the Club.
Thank you for your continued support.

2024 NEW MEMBER APPLICATION

New members are encouraged to participate in all programs and activities of the Club that include four meetings per year, a scholarship program, and the New England Rail Tech Conference. Scholarships are awarded each year to the children, grandchildren and spouses of members in good standing. Please submit the following information, along with a check for \$90.00 payable to the New England Railroad Club and mail to:

New England Railroad Club, Attn: Stephanie Lavino
Dagle Electrical Construction Corp, 68 Industrial Way, Wilmington, MA 01887

All membership applications need to be approved by the Executive Board at an Executive Board meeting. New members will be announced during the next dinner meeting.

Name _____

Company _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State/Zip _____

E-mail _____ Telephone _____

Sponsored by (Club member) _____

Sponsor Company _____

Suggestions for topics, speakers, programs _____

I would like to help the Club by _____



*"May the road rise up to meet you,
may the wind be ever at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon
your face and the rain fall softly
on your fields. And until we meet
again, God hold you in the hollow
of his hand.' - Irish blessing*

IN MEMORIAM

Leonard "Lenny" McGee

Boston & Maine Railroad Train Dispatcher

It was with sadness that the New England Railroad Club learned of the passing of Leonard J. "Lenny" McGee this past November. Lenny was a long-time member of the club, and an avid supporter of the Rail Tech Conference and the exhibitor pavilion. He participated every year as an employee of Oldcastle/StarTrack. Lenny volunteered to help with the conference every year, reaching out to companies throughout the country to encourage them to join in as an exhibitor at the event. Not only did Lenny manage to sell out the display spaces each and every year, his efforts also resulted in more people joining the club than any other member. We will always remember him for contribution to the railroad industry and the club.

From Lenny's obituary:

Lenny McGee was born in Lowell, MA on December 31, 1937 to the late Leonard and Dorothy (Silk) McGee. He was predeceased by his wife, Carole A. (Mahoney) McGee, also from Lowell, who he shared nearly 64 years of marriage.

Lenny was raised in Lowell, MA and graduated from Lowell High School, and was proud of serving his country in the US Navy. Lenny held many positions from auto mechanic, landscaper, and tool salesman, but was most proud of his days as a train dispatcher for the Boston & Maine Railroad and Pan Am Railways. Retirement from the railroad saw Lenny return to the workforce as a Sales Rep for StarTrack Concrete Grade Crossings.

He is survived by two sons, a daughter, six grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, as well as several nieces and nephews.

From the January–December, 1941 issue of Proceedings

President—E. G. Ringberg
Supt. of Shops, Boston & Maine R.R.,
Concord, N.H.

By 1941, issues of Proceedings were full of advertisements for the latest technological advancement in the industry - diesel locomotive motive power. Baldwin Locomotive Works, ALCo, and newcomer General Electric all showcased their latest and greatest offerings. Always looking for ways to reduce costs on marginal branch lines, New England's railroads embraced locomotives like the GE 44-tonner, which offered significant savings over steam engines. These little locomotives soon showed up from the northern tip of Maine to the southernmost corner of Connecticut. New Haven, Boston & Maine, and Maine Central were buyers. Shortlines followed suit and 44-tonners and other similar "centercabs" became the primary motive power on the Aroostock Valley, Hoosac Tunnel & Wilmington, Grafton & Upton, Claremont & Concord, and many industrial operations. When the larger roads no longer needed the little engines, New England's shortlines were eager accept "hand-me-downs", and they continued to ply branch lines through the 1970s, 80s, and 90s. Today, a few of the locomotives can still be found in service at industrial operations, tourist railroads, and museums.

44TONS PACKED WITH EARNING POWER



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YOUR PRESENT
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HERE'S money-saving motive power! This 44-ton diesel-electric will haul 224 tons 35 mph on level track, or 357 tons 5 mph up a 2% grade—for less than half as much as a steam locomotive.

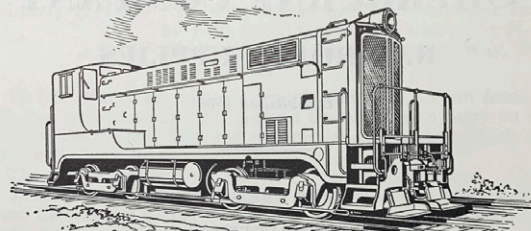
It meets every I.C.C. requirement for road and switching service, and provides these important advantages: all-welded cab, underframe, and trucks—four heavy-duty, high-capacity traction motors—simple control connecting two motors permanently in parallel—differential pole exciters. When suitably equipped, two or more locomotives can be operated from one control position.

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GENERAL  ELECTRIC

121-2

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