



Amherst Railway Society
P. O. Box 2351
Amherst, MA 01004-2351
www.AmherstRail.org

The next meeting of the Amherst Railway Society will be 8 pm EST Tuesday, November 15, 2011, at the Amherst Regional Middle School Auditorium

Amherst Railway Society Railroad Hobby Show – West Springfield, MA January 28-29, 2012

**“Hurricane Irene vs. New England
Central RR Disaster and Recovery ”
by Charles Hunter**



Charles Hunter is Asst. Vice President of Government Affairs for RailAmerica, Inc.

Based in St. Albans, Vermont, Charles works with elected officials and departments of transportation across the US and Canada on policy, planning, and grant work with RailAmerica's partner states and

delegations, with a focus on the eastern seaboard and the gulf states.

During 2010, while working with the State of Vermont, he was successful in securing a \$55M High Speed Rail grant to upgrade the New England Central Railroad.

With 30 years of rail industry experience, Charles had held various operating and management positions during his career, including trainmaster, dispatcher, V.P. & G.M. of the St. Lawrence & Atlantic RR and G.M. of the New England Central RR & Connecticut Southern RR.

A native Texan, Charles lives with his wife, Mary, in St. Albans, VT

From the Treasurer

All donations to the Amherst Railway Society may be tax deductible. As Amherst Railway Society Inc. is a 501 C(3) tax exempt organization, your donations (of either cash and/or property) may be deducted on your Schedule A, Form 1040 of your Federal income tax. Consider the Amherst Railway Society in your estate planning. Your gifts can be restricted or non-restricted (you can pre-determine how you want your donation used). Upon request, and proper documentation of course, the Treasurer will issue you a letter to be used as justification for you tax deductions

**Robert A. Buck died Wednesday,
Oct. 12, 2011**

after a two month illness. He was the son of Marjorie A. (Tucker) Buck and James E. Buck, grandson of Alice (Demond) and Arthur Tucker, whose hardware business Robert carried on for 33 years. His mother was descended from the first white settlers of Warren which was established in 1741.



2007 photo by JB Mentzer

He leaves his wife, Sylvia G. (Walker) Buck; sons: Kenneth J. and Russell D. Buck, and grandsons: Adam and Jonathan Buck.

He was born Oct 12, 1929, in Warren where he resided all his life, but his lifelong love of railroads lured him to travel, beginning with a 10,000 mile rail trip in 1953, followed by family camping trips every summer to National Parks and the abandoned railroad road beds in the mountains of Colorado.

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Bob Buck (From Page 1)

He operated Tucker's Hardware store for thirty-three years, holding Open Houses many years, one year awarding a 14 day vacation for two to a local girl, another year winning for himself an automobile in a hardware jobber contest. In 1981, he sold that business and opened Tucker's Hobbies shop in his ancestral home on Bacon St.

He served on the Warren Board of Fire Engineers, the fund raising committee for reconstruction of the church kitchen and Sunday School rooms of the Federated Church of Warren, as a field consultant for the Salvation Army and for several years, on Warren Parks and Recreation Commission which won a federal grant for construction of a baseball field. He fought successfully to preserve the small town character of Warren and surrounding towns by serving on citizens action groups such as "STOP IT" (an organization to stop the state siting of a hazardous waste treatment facility in Warren) and "Never in New Braintree" (to stop the state locating a prison in New Braintree.)

He was a charter member, and President and Program Manager of Amherst Railway Society for many years. He co-founded their Annual Railroad Hobby Show, which began as a three hour event in a classroom at UMASS and eventually moved to two large buildings at the Big E, operating over two days and attracting more than 25,000 visitors every year. It is considered the largest railroad show in the northeast. Over \$300,000 in profits from the Show has been donated to railroad historical societies and museums for restoration projects and scholarships.

He was honored by the Amherst Railway Society for his 31 years of leadership at a dinner in April 2007 and by the Eastern States Exposition for his years of service as show director at that location. His interest in trains, from life size to tiny scale models, has made him friends all over the country and a few abroad, as well. The hobby is one he passed along to his sons and grandsons. It led to his helping to found the Quaboag Valley Railroaders which set up an operating scale model layout at the old school in East Brookfield.

His other compelling interest was in classical music. He has held a season ticket to the Springfield Symphony Orchestra since 1952. (This story is the text of Bob's Obituary, published before the funeral)

Attendance last year averaged 80 people per meeting

September 2011 (81) "Rail Transit in the Pioneer Valley " by Dana Roscoe
 October 2011 (74) "Freight Car Futures" by Dan Bigda

Remaining meetings this year

(November 15, 2011) "New England Central and RailAmerica" by Charles Hunter
 (January 17, 2012) "Museum Trains in Germany and Denmark" by Joshua Redenz
 (March 20, 2012) "American Locomotive Heritage Museum" by Richard Steinbrenner
 (April 17, 2012) "Boston & Maine Operations---Sept. 1950" by George & Kathy Melvin
 (May 15, 2012) "A Decade of Railroads ----the 1990's" by Buddy Winniarz
 (June 19, 2012) "A Slice of the Cheshire" by Jim Dufour

From the Trip Director:

20 Nov Cheshire, CT Cheshire High School Ram Band Fall Train Show
<http://www.cctgg.org/showdates.htm>
 3-4 Dec Marlborough, MA New England Model Train Expo
<http://www.hubdiv.org/fallshow/index.htm>
 7 Jan 2012 Conway, NH MBRRE Steam in the Snow on the Conway Scenic
<http://www.massbayrre.org/events.htm#excur>
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