



Media Guide

2023 Railroad Hobby Show

January 28 & 29, 2023

Eastern States Exposition

West Springfield, Massachusetts

The Railroad Hobby Show is sponsored by the Amherst Railway Society

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Websites

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The Amherst Railway Society exists to give as many people as possible the opportunity to experience and learn from the railroad and model railroad hobbies. Because we believe that enthusiasm for railroads and model railroads makes a positive difference in people's lives.

- it builds community
- it excites learning
- it unleashes creativity
- it teaches important technical skills

This fundamental belief is what motivates us, guides us.

History of the Railroad Hobby Show

In the early 1960s, the fledgling Amherst Railway Society started a railroad themed “bring & buy” swap meet on the University of Massachusetts campus. It was an instant success. Over the next few years, the group moved to increasingly larger floor space, added railroad and model railroad vendors to the meet, and built a small modular model railroad for display.

Then, fate intervened. In 1982, the university space the group normally used for the swap meet was unavailable because of building renovations. So the small group decided to take a big risk and move the swap meet to the New England Building at the Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield, Massachusetts.

The show ended up being a huge success - and that was the start of the Railroad Hobby Show as we know it today.

The annual Railroad Hobby Show now occupies four buildings on the Eastern States Exposition fairgrounds, draws 25,000 people, and is one of the most respected railroad shows in the country. Twice, the show has received the Walther’s Showmanship Award in recognition of our efforts to promote interest in railroads and model railroads in North America.

A Short History of the Amherst Railway Society

In the mid-1950s, a small group of University of Massachusetts students and faculty members realized that they shared a common interest in railroads. So they started meeting regularly to share railroad knowledge, photographs, and stories.

Those regular meetings continued for decades in rented meeting space - until 2016, when the group decided they needed more space to meet the needs of a growing organization. That was the year the organization bought their own property in Palmer, Massachusetts, a town with an extensive railroad history.

Today, the Amherst Railway Society is an all-around railroad organization sponsoring a model railroad group, a railroad photography special interest group, a railroad library, and rail-fan trips in partnership with the Massachusetts Bay Railroad Enthusiasts. Plans are in place to begin construction of an outdoor garden railroad in the Spring of 2023.

Philanthropy

The Amherst Railway Society is also a funding organization. Since 1991, the society has donated \$814,373 to railroad preservation and restoration projects all over the country.

Photos

The Amherst Railway Society maintains an extensive photo library. If you need supporting photos for an article, please contact Greg Maas at: webmaster@amherstrail.org.