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The Valley Railroad Circus Train & Big Top Show . . .

Coming to Essex Station July 23, 24, 30, & 31!

Essex, CT, June 29, 2011 - - This summer marks Essex Steam Train & Riverboat's 40th Anniversary, and the highlight of the season-long celebration is *The Valley Railroad Circus Train & Big Top Show* - - **Saturday & Sunday, July 23, 24, 30 & 31.**

The Valley Railroad Circus Train & Big Top Show begins as soon as families park their cars . . . OFF-SITE, at the The Lee Company parking lot on Bokum Road in Essex. That's where the Circus Train will arrive with great fanfare to welcome passengers and transport them to the circus grounds at Essex Station. The vintage Circus Train will be pulled by a Diesel Locomotive and will include 3 Passenger Coaches, a Circus Billboard Car, 2 Flat Cars carrying 6 Circus Wagons, and a Caboose. The Ringmaster will accompany circus goers on a short train ride to the circus grounds for the thrill of an Acrobat Show in the "Big Top Tent". The Circus Midway will be bustling with "Punch & Judy" Puppet Shows, Clowns, Carnival Food and Rides. Imagine how the little ones will delight at the Petting Zoo when they see a real live Camel and Z-Donk (half Zebra/half Donkey)!

"The Valley Railroad Circus Train & Big Top Show is *one* summer event your family won't want to miss," says Bob Bell, President of The Valley Railroad Company. He continues, "Families will have a unique opportunity to actually participate in the circus by riding the Circus Train with the Ringmaster, to and from the event!"

Tickets are \$25.00 a person and available in advance at www.essexsteamtrain.com. There will be 12 Circus Train **departures** from The Lee Company parking lot every half hour from 9:30 AM until 3:00 PM. Trains will also return from the Circus Grounds to parking every half hour.

Directions to OFF-SITE Parking at The Lee Company, 55 Bokum Road are:

- **Route 9 North** to Exit 3 - Left off Ramp. Left at Traffic Light onto Route 153. Proceed Straight to next Traffic Light and turn Left onto Bokum Road. Follow signs to Circus Train Parking.

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Circus Train / Off-Site Parking Directions (cont.)

Route 9 South to Exit 3 – Straight off Ramp ACROSS Route 154. At Blinking Light, turn Right onto Route 153. Proceed Straight to next Traffic Light and turn Left onto Bokum Road. Follow signs to Circus Train Parking.

- **Interstate 95 North** to Exit 65 – Left off Ramp at Traffic Light. Proceed straight to THIRD Traffic Light and turn Right onto Bokum Road. Follow signs to Circus Train Parking.

For more information regarding **The Valley Railroad Circus Train & Big Top Show**, visit www.essexsteamtrain.com, e-mail valley.railroad@snet.net, or call 800-377-3987.

The Valley Railroad Company

Incorporated in 1969, The Valley Railroad Company opened the Essex Steam Train & Riverboat to the public 40 years ago, in 1971. The *only* steam train and riverboat connection in the United States, Essex Steam Train & Riverboat continues to flourish as a Connecticut icon and vibrant tourist destination, attracting over 140,000 visitors a year. Tour goers enjoy a 2.5 hour narrated journey through the scenic Connecticut River Valley. Special events include: *The Eagle Flyer*, *Day Out With Thomas*, *The Valley Railroad Circus Train & Big Top Show*, *Murder Mystery*, *Fright Train*, *Santa Special*, *North Pole Express* and *Your Hand on the Throttle*.

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Photo Caption: Entertainment at *The Valley Railroad Circus Train & Big Top Show* includes Clowns & a Ringmaster. CREDIT: KIM TYLER