

ESSEX STEAM TRAIN & RIVERBOAT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Essex Steam Train & Riverboat Kicks Off Season with Neighbor Appreciation Weekend!

ESSEX, Conn., April 9, 2007 - *Essex Steam Train & Riverboat* will open its 2007 season on **Saturday, May 5th**! The 2 ½ hour Steam Train and Riverboat excursions will operate:

- **Weekends:** May 5 - June 17, 2007
- **Daily:** June 18 - September 3, 2007

Departure times are 11:00 AM, 12:30 PM, 2:00 PM and 3:30 PM (train only).

Neighbors Ride Free on Opening Weekend!

In conjunction with opening weekend, *Essex Steam Train & Riverboat* will celebrate its 3rd Annual “*Neighbor Appreciation Weekend*”. Residents in 5 towns along the *Valley Railroad* line, including Old Saybrook, Essex, Deep River, Chester and Haddam, will **ride free . . . Saturday and Sunday, May 5th and 6th**. (Adult residents must present **picture identification at the ticket window**).

Essex Clipper Dinner Train Tours

To enhance the excitement on **Saturday, May 5th**, visitors are invited to tour the *Essex Clipper Dinner Train*. Residents will experience a rare, behind-the-scene view of the *Colonial Hearth* kitchen car – built for the U.S. Army in 1953 to prepare hot meals for soldiers traveling aboard Troop Trains. Plus, the beautifully restored Pullman Cars, *Wallingford* and *Meriden*, will demonstrate the elegance of the *Essex Clipper’s* “special occasion” dining experience.

Robert Bell, President of *The Valley Railroad Company* says, “The *Essex Clipper* is the crown jewel of our traveling museum, and we’re delighted to share this local treasure with neighbors who’ve supported *The Valley Railroad* for 36 years. He continues, “A train-crew member will be on board to explain the history of the *Essex Clipper* cars and to answer any questions.”

For 2007 train/boat schedules, fares, reservations, and additional information, call **800-377-3987**, or view our website at www.essexsteamtrain.com.