NNEC SPRING TOUR: Saturday, May 21, 2016
Hillsboro, NH, beginning at 9:30 am (rain or shine)

In Hillsboro we'll see five stone arch bridges constructed without mortar. A couple of the locations require a short walk and boots (and bug spray) are recommended. We will also take a look at two sections of a large penstock leading from Pierce Lake to a hydroelectric site on Saw Mill Rd. The morning will end with a short stop in the pre-industrial village of Hillsboro Center.

Directions: We will meet at the Shaw's grocery store in Hillsboro (276 W. Main St. across from Oshram-Sylvania). Park close to Main St. From Rt. 149N take a left onto Main St. at center of town. Proceed a mile or so and Shaw's is on the left side of road before Rt. 202. From Rt. 202 coming from Antrim, take a right onto Main St. and Shaw's is second right. From Rt. 202 coming from Henniker, take a left at the intersection with Rt. 9, 31, and Main St. Shaw's is second right. From Rt. 9 and 31 go straight at intersection with Rt. 202 and Shaw's is second right after intersection.

About noon we'll leave for Contoocook to be there for lunch at 1:00 PM, stopping by the dam on the way. Pick up a flyer and see it on your own.

Directions Head east from Hillsboro on Rt. 9; 3.8 miles after crossing Rt. 114 in Henniker turn left onto Rt. 127 by the Dunkin Donuts. In half a mile, stop at the dam, read the sign get a brochure and look around. After the dam, stop and see Rowell Covered Bridge (on your own).

In another 3-4 miles you'll end up in Contoocook ("Tookey"). Turn right at the stop sign and then immediately left into "Municipal Parking". Park for the rest of the day; get out and walk through the covered bridge. Choose 1 of 4 restaurants across the granite bridge and meet back at the far end of the bridge at 2:00 PM. The Covered Bridge Restaurant has the best view.

Having seen so many covered railroad bridges, now we're actually going see and learn how one is restored. Dane Malcolm, a railroad historian and photographer, was on the job each day asking questions and taking pictures. This will be a don't-miss tour. Revisit www.contoocookdepot.org; click on the History tab and then the Photo tab at the bottom for a preview. We will also study the restored railcar and station.

There won't be time for the telephone museum; the free admission day will have passed anyway. Also, from past experience, we'll run overtime here with our many questions and contributions from all of you railroad and bridge experts.