

TRANSFER

Vol. 17 No.3 SHELburnE FALLS Trolley Museum Newsletter FALL 2008

DEDICATED TO PRESERVING THE HISTORY OF THE SHELburnE FALLS & COLRAIN STREET RAILWAY

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Work on improving appearances and safety at the trolley Museum is continuing. John Pelletier has painted both sides of the caboose. Normally, at Moonlight Magic, the unpainted side of the caboose is presented to the visiting public, this year they got to see the caboose and it's fresh, new paint. John has also continued work on the metal work for the roof walks and painting the interior and installing cabinet hardware.

Peter Johnson and John Greene have overseen the work of community service workers from the Franklin County Sheriff's Department. This crew was kept busy during the summer string trimming and mowing. When the mowing season ended, they started clearing brush along our North driveway, making our piles of rail and ties more readily accessible and improving the general appearance of the property.

Dave Dye has completed putting skirt boards on the freight house, which will make it less likely that vagrants or vandals will cause trouble there. He has begun the same work on the Agway building.

Progress on building restoration and track work was held up by repairs needed to the two trucks that we use to do this work. Thanks to Dave Dye, Jerry Besser and Dave Goff for tackling those projects.

Our highest profile tenant, The Children's Museum, has closed up shop and is no longer paying rent for the newly renovated studio space. We have been unable to find a replacement tenant, even though we have reduced the rent to \$400 per month. This has put a bit of a dent in our budget, as we still need to make monthly payments on the loan we took out to do the renovation. We didn't project full occupancy in our budgeting, but we didn't expect that this space would remain empty this long. If you are able to make a year-end contribution or increase your membership level at this time, we would greatly appreciate it.

Planning and design for the car barn is continuing. The car barn fund is now over \$3300, but we will need much more to be able to make substantial progress on a new car barn to protect our car number 10, and any other cars to join her. I know that many people are facing financial difficulty. However this might be a good time to build a new building as material costs should be coming down. Please consider a contribution to the Car Barn Fund when you renew your membership.

Sam Bartlett

WEB PRESENCE

In the trolley days there was a web of trolley tracks connecting communities all over the country. To get people to come ride their trolley lines, trolley companies made glossy brochures extolling the virtues of the scenic, cultural and entertainment attractions along their route. These were expensive to publish and distribute but every new passenger was another nickel earned. Today, a different web connects homes and businesses all over the world. The Shelburne Falls Trolley Museum has a presence on the web at www.SFTM.ORG. I hope that you have seen it already. One way you can help to improve our presence on the web without even leaving the comfort of your chair is to visit sites such as www.daytripperwestma.gather.com and www.attractions.uptake.com where you can write a review about the Trolley Museum. Then others who are searching for similar activities will more easily find our Museum. Next time you're waiting for something else to download, find one of these sites and tell people what you think about our Trolley Museum.

Be sure to add a link to www.SFTM.org if appropriate. Or do a Google search for things related to our Trolley Museum (family fun activities New England) and look for other sites like these. The more people that write reviews about the Trolley Museum (hopefully positive ones), the more likely other people who haven't heard about our Museum will be to find us on the web and come and visit us. Every new family who finds us on the web and comes to visit us will earn us about \$20 in revenue on average. Anyone want to start a SFTM Facebook site?

AN INTERESTING PROPOSITION

Fitchburg and Leominster Street Railway trolley car No. 60. Recently, the owners of a camp in central Massachusetts contacted us to see if we wanted to accept a donation of a trolley body. This car is FLSR No. 60, a two-truck 38-foot wooden 1902 Wason closed trolley car. Several of us went to inspect it this fall and found a car that is in remarkably good shape for having sat as a lakeside camp for over 70 years. The car is partly enclosed by a building and has a roof over it, which has preserved it from much of the deterioration that our car No. 10 received while sitting out in an open field. It has received some modifications which have damaged it somewhat and both vestibules have been cut off. The running gear, electrical gear and seats were all removed when the car was moved to this camp in the 1930s.

(Cont'd on Page 4)

DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS - 2008

Officers:

President - Robert Bartlett
Vice President - David Dye
Clerk - David Bartlett
Treasurer - Betsy Wholey Osell
Chair of Board - David Dye
Assistant Treasurer - Peter Johnson

Directors:

Harvey Allen
Gerald Besser
Alden Dreyer
David Goff
John Pelletier
Shirley Pelletier
James Wholey

CONTACT US

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TRANSFER is a publication of the Shelburne Falls Trolley Museum Inc., produced for the enlightenment and entertainment of our members and special friends. Spring, Summer, and Fall issues are planned for each year. Comments, contributions, and letters to the editor are welcomed.

David C. Bartlett - Editor
dbartlet@crocker.com

GUEST BENEFITS FOR MEMBERS

Individual and Junior levels (IN)(\$15) and (JR)(\$10) - card is valid only for named member. No additional guests.

Family (FA) level (\$25) is as follows: your card covers rides for up to two adults and all related children under age 18. There are **no** additional guest privileges for the Family membership.

Beginning at the **Friend (FR)** level, additional guests may accompany you whenever you ride the trolley: -

Friend (\$35) - 2 guests, plus family.

Contributing (CO) (\$60) - 4 guests, plus family.

Patron (PA,BP,SP,GP,LM,HL) (\$100 and higher) - no set limit to number of guests you may bring when you come to SFTM.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

As of this writing, SFTM has 154 current active memberships. Most membership levels cover two or more members, so our total membership is probably well more than twice the number above. We now have 6 Life Members.

Welcome More New Members

Tracy Cook - Rutland MA
John Henson - Florence MA
Ted Chelmow - Northampton MA
Harold Schmidt - New Haven CT

More Car barn Fund Donors

Bill Townsend - Florence MA
Harvey Allen - Amherst MA
Arthur Ellis - Pittsburgh PA
James Lowe - Mesa AZ

Errata

The sharp eye of SFTM member Arthur Ellis caught a mistake in the Summer 2008 issue. Reference was made on the back page to a *Colrain* Electric Street Railway. It should have been the *Conway* Electric Street Railway. Thanks, Art.

SIGNING UP FOR eTRANSFER

As a convenience to our members, and as an attempt to control costs, TRANSFER will be made available on line as a pdf file. This will give you the option of filing your copies of TRANSFER on your computer, in case you want to refer back to them at some later time.

If you wish to receive your future TRANSFERS by email, here's how to do it:

Send an email to: dbartlet@crocker.com

In the **Subject** line, please enter **eTFR**.

In the **body** of your message, please enter **your name**.

That's all there is to it. Your address will be entered on a mailing list, and the future issues will come to you by internet instead of by snail mail.

VOLUNTEERING - HOW TO DO IT

Simply contact the Museum (see **Contact US** on this page). Indicate what your interests are - operating, painting, building stuff, selling, or what. We will get back to you and get you plugged in. We need you!

ONE THAT GOT AWAY

In the summer of 1998 a saddle-tank steam locomotive (think “Thomas”, but not blue) was donated to SFTM. Coincidentally, its number was the same as the trolley’s - No. 10. The donors, Max Miller and SFTM member Joe Pagano, gifted it to us with the hope that SFTM would preserve it and ultimately restore it to running order. Early on, several locomotive restoration experts surveyed the loco, pronounced it definitely restorable but in need of expensive work. Joe Pagano was a regular at painting and making minor repairs to the loco and he also had leads on potential funding sources. Most of the Museum’s other resources were busy putting up the electric overhead so that the nearly-completed trolley Number 10 would soon be able to do its thing.

Then Joe moved away, the caboose arrived, the need to purchase the freightyard reared its head, and the steamer fell into the category of “we’ll get to it later, as soon as we get enough helpers and money”.

We did buy the yard. We did build up a well-received operating trolley museum, but those helpers and that money eluded SFTM. Meanwhile the steamer was very popular with many visitors, especially the younger ones who only knew Thomas, and had never seen a real steam locomotive. However it became apparent to SFTM that not only the cost of rebuilding the steamer but being able to comply with ever-stricter federal regulations regarding steam locomotive operation, to say nothing of “what would the neighbors say”, made it apparent that at best, this loco would remain as a painted up but static display.

And this past summer some painting had begun. But that was as good as it got. It seems that in the long-ago paperwork establishing the basis for the original donation, there was a clause which stated that the donors had the right, if after ten years substantial progress in rebuilding the loco into operating condition had not occurred, to transfer the ownership to any other museum which might have the potential to pull off the job. It turned out that the donors had been approached by a museum in Connecticut which felt it could do the job. The donors appeared at a Board meeting, invoked the takeaway clause, and within a few weeks, loco Number 10 was resting in Willimantic CT, under its new owners.



Roller bearings and a down-grade work wonders in moving loco to where a tow cable can reach it.



Up she goes onto the low-bed trailer



Photos – D. Bartlett

Ready to couple onto the tractor and head down the road to Conn. Eastern Railroad Museum. Good luck.

The SFTM operating schedule for next season has been slightly tweaked. In order for some serious tie-replacement work to be done, the start of the season has been moved to the end of May. This will allow time to open up a stretch of the main track for several weeks so that work can be done. Lacking lots of big machines and plentiful labor, projects like this go rather slowly; even more so under traffic.

MEMBERSHIP VALUE INCREASE

The Directors have approved a fare increase for 2009. This means that the value of your membership benefits goes up as well, since the membership fees remain unchanged!! So none of the following applies to our active memberships.

For the general public, All-Day passes will cost \$3.00 at age 13 and older. The fare for children ages 6 through 12 will be \$1.50. We didn't have the heart to increase fares for the 5-and-under kids – they are still free when accompanied by an older person

THIS JUST IN!

*Gazette and Courier Greenfield Mass.
February 8, 1902*

Street Railway Progress

It seems likely that the \$25,000 which the promoters of the Northfield-Millers Falls road think the town should raise, will be subscribed. The promoters of the road had thought the most feasible plan would be to enter the town (Northfield) by way of Plain Street and Maple...Some Northfield people maintain that the South Main Street route would be better.

The situation at Whately is unchanged. Mr. Hahn and other Boston capitalists who are interested in the Laurel Park-Whately Street route, are canvassing for stock, and the Whately people have hopes that this road will go through. The Deerfield and Northampton directors are favorably inclined to it, as its construction might terminate the deadlock as respects the through line from Greenfield to Northampton.

Thanks to Shirley Pelletier for her archive-mining.

What is most striking about this car is the interior detailing that it received when it was built in Springfield 106 years ago. On some of the glass you can find decorative etchings, the posts between the windows have marquetry (pieces of wood veneer forming decorative patterns) and filigrees are stenciled on the ceiling panels. It would appear that this car might have been used primarily for touring officials, dignitaries, and potential investors, and probably not for Joe the Passenger. It was not uncommon for larger trolley systems to have such cars.

Unfortunately all of this has been covered over with paint. Fortunately, the paint seems to strip off fairly easily. So work on this car's interior could be fairly rewarding, with a reasonable amount of work generating the great reward of a beautiful interior.

It will cost around \$5000 to move this car to the Trolley Museum. Bringing it back to running condition would cost hundreds of thousands of dollars, and is not being considered at this time. However, this car would make a perfectly suitable static display because of the quality of the interior workmanship on this car. Once the interior was restored, while work was continuing on adding the vestibules, the interior could be used as a interpretive space, with additional historical information about trolley cars in the area.

The board of directors is currently considering whether we should accept the donation of this car, since it will be an expensive proposition. And we don't yet have a car barn to stored it in. This is your Museum, so we would be glad for your input; if you think this is a good idea (or not) please let me know. If you would like to show your financial support for this project, we are accepting donations. If you indicate it is for FLSR No. 60, and we decide not to accept this car we would return your donation.

Sam

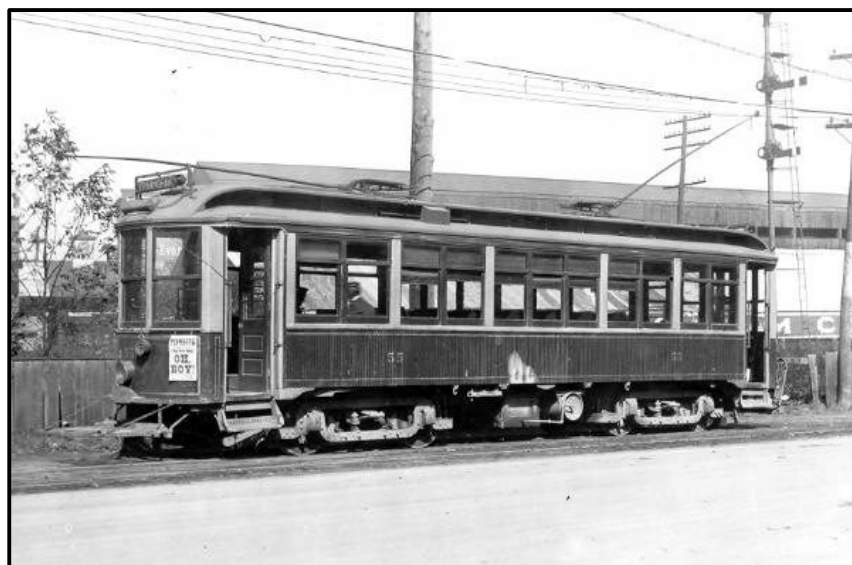
ICE STORM

What ice storm? The big one of December 2008 was a total non-event in Shelburne Falls. A couple hundred feet in elevation made an enormous difference.



Photo by Ted Roy

Fitchburg & Leominster Wason Car No. 60 in its present state in Ashburnham MA. SFTM VP Dave Dye ponders on its condition.



A Middlesex & Boston Street Railway car from the same era.

2009 OPERATING SCHEDULE

**BEGINNING ON MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND,
OPERATING EVERY SATURDAY, SUNDAY, AND
HOLIDAY, THROUGH THE END OF OCTOBER.
HOURS OF SERVICE - 11 AM TIL 5 PM.**

**ADDITIONAL SUMMER SERVICE:
JULY AND AUGUST -
MONDAYS - 1 PM TIL 5 PM.**

LOCAL SPONSORS FOR 2008

**Christopher's
Village Restaurant
West End Pub**

For Rent:

The recently renovated ADA-compliant studio space behind the Visitors Center is available for rent. It would make a nice office, studio or store. It is 19'x30', high ceilings, wood floors, insulated and heated, plenty of parking. ADA restrooms adjacent, sink in the studio, broadband available, \$400/mo includes water, snow removal, and electricity. Heat is extra. Call 413-624-0192

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

Please check the date on your mailing label below. If the date is **12/31/2009**, then you are good to go with SFTM til then.

If your date is **12/31/2008**, it is time to renew.

SFTM heavily depends on its memberships for its continuing success. Everything you give goes into the care and feeding of Trolley No. 10 and the land and buildings it operates on. The entire staff at SFTM is one of volunteers only, so nothing you give goes to pay them.

Why do they do it? Only Freud and his disciples can unlock the answer to that. But with your continued support, there will be the resources available to them to build a bigger and better SFTM.

Renew today. Help keep the lights on and No. 10 rolling down the line!!

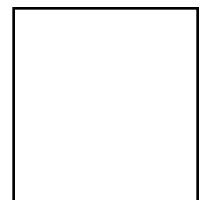
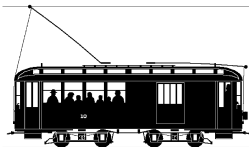
VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Stan Perry - Shelburne Falls MA!!

Shelburne Falls Trolley Museum

**PO Box 272
Shelburne Falls MA 01370-0272**

413/625-9443 www.sftm.org/



SHELBURNE FALLS TROLLEY MUSEUM - 2009 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

YOUR NAME(S) AND ADDRESS (PLEASE PRINT).

Keep it simple - if your address is correct on this mailing, then we only need your **name** filled in.

Check here if **address change** ____

MEMBERSHIP LEVEL - check one. (Remember - SFTM memberships and donations may be tax- deductible!!!)

- | | | | |
|---|------|--|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Junior (under 18) | \$10 | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron | \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual | \$15 | <input type="checkbox"/> Bronze Patron | \$200 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family | \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> Silver Patron | \$350 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friend | \$35 | <input type="checkbox"/> Gold Patron | \$500+ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contributing | \$60 | <input type="checkbox"/> Life Member | \$1000+ |
| Additional Contribution - Car barn Fund? | | \$ | _____ |

Send this form with check payable to: **Shelburne Falls Trolley Museum, Inc.**

Mail to: **David C. Bartlett - SFTM**
44 Ashfield Rd.
Shelburne Falls MA 01370

The Shelburne Falls Trolley Museum, Inc. is an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. Keep this in mind if your employer has a donation-matching program.

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BALLOT - SFTM 2008 Shelburne Falls Trolley Museum
Annual Meeting February 10, 2009
Ballot for Elections Part 1 - Directors

Under the current By-Laws the Board has been divided into three classes, with only one class to be voted on each year. The term for incumbents is for three years. Candidates may be assigned to other classes.

The Nominating Committee has presented the following slate of candidates who are all willing to serve on the Board of Directors. You may vote for no more than 4. If you wish to vote for a writein candidate, write the name below and mark X in box.

*Incumbent **Candidate

- Robert (Sam) Bartlett (Class 3)***
- David Dye (Class 3)***
- Peter Johnson (Class3)***
- Shirley Pelletier (Class 3)***
- Write-in**_____

(See reverse side for Officer ballot, and other information)

Ballot Information

The By-Laws of SFTM allow all memberships in good standing to vote on Directors and certain Officers at the Annual Meeting. If you are not attending the Annual Meeting and you wish to cast your vote, please detach and mail the ballot below in time to reach Shelburne Falls by February 6th to:

David C. Bartlett - SFTM
44 Ashfield Road
Shelburne Falls, MA 01370

Otherwise ensure that it is received by David Bartlett prior to the Annual Meeting on February 10th. If you wish your vote to be secret, write SECRET on the postal envelope and put your ballot inside another unmarked envelope inside the postal envelope. The postal envelope must have your name and return address to allow for proper counting of votes

Only paid-up (and Life or Honorary Life) members are allowed to vote. One vote per family or other group membership. Please check the expiration date on your mailing label. If it does not read 12/31/2009 or later, then your membership will need to be renewed when you submit your ballot. Please renew at you earliest convenience. Your support is urgently needed. Thank you.

Notes on Directors' Terms:

- Class 1 - Up for reelection at Annual Meeting 2010, then every three years.
- Class 2 - Up for reelection at Annual Meeting 2011, then every three years.
- Class 3 - Up for reelection at Annual Meeting 2009, then every three years.

BALLOT - SFTM 2009

Shelburne Falls Trolley Museum

Annual Members Meeting Feb.10 2009
Ballot for Elections

Part 2 - Certain Officers

The Nominating Committee has presented the following candidate(s) who is(are) willing to serve as the *President* of the Shelburne Falls Trolley Museum. If you wish to vote for another candidate, you must obtain prior approval from your candidate. Then write his/her name below and mark X in box. Please vote for only one person below.

- Robert G. "Sam" Bartlett***
 Write in _____

The Nominating Committee has presented the following candidate(s) who is(are) willing to serve as the *Vice-President* of the Shelburne Falls Trolley Museum. If you wish to vote for another candidate, you must obtain prior approval from your candidate. Then write his/her name below and mark X in box. Please vote for only one person below.

- David Dye***
 Write in _____