
SHALL WE RIDE NO. 10 AGAIN NEXT WEEK?

YES, DAD. IT BEATS RIDING IN OUR BUGGY!



TRANSFER



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SHELburne FALLS Trolley MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2007

A BALANCING ACT

I worked during my college summers as a fireman on the steam locomotives at the Conway (NH) Scenic Railroad. Proper locomotive firing is a balancing act in two ways. Physically you are scooping and throwing five tons of coal a day on a bouncing deckplate. And thermodynamically you need to keep plenty of boiling water in the boiler, but the incoming water is cold. Too much feed water and you lose steam. Not enough water and the crown sheet overheats and the boiler explodes! You try to put in water on the downgrades, when you don't need steam. You try to put in coal on the uphills, to get a better draft from the working engine's exhaust. The perfect balance comes when you reach the top of a grade with a hot fire and low (but not too low) water, so you can put in more water on the downgrade, to keep the pressure from getting so high that the safety valve 'pops'.

The Shelburne Falls Trolley Museum's Board of Directors has been trying a similar balancing act. We need to put money into the buildings to protect our investment, to meet certain building codes, and to make the rentable spaces more attractive. If we improve the space enough, we'll get more money back from rental income, to help us pay off our mortgage, which is \$1000 each month. We put in most of the money we had saved in the last few years, along with some additional money we raised and some money we borrowed from the bank. We wanted to keep some of our savings as a buffer against unforeseen expenses, planning to build the reserves back up over the next few years as rental income came in.

We've mostly managed to do that, but we ran into some unexpected costs complying with building codes, so our savings are a bit lower than we would like to have them. Rental income is only one of many pieces that fund our operation. We also get revenue from ticket sales, visitor donations and TrolleyStop store sales. One of our most important revenue streams is memberships and large donations. If you haven't renewed, please do so now, we can really use your help. And if you feel that our efforts to preserve our buildings and freight yard, keep No. 10 going and improve our Visitors Center displays are worthy of extra support, we are always glad for additional contributions. We're nearly at the top of the hill, but we need to throw a little more coal in the firebox. Can you help? **Sam**

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!

The Shelburne Falls Trolley Museum will soon be opening for its eighth year of trolley operations, and this will be our sixteenth year of preserving local railroad and trolley history, starring the meticulously restored No. 10. In the last few years we have made major improvements to the property with volunteer help. Buildings, track, and rolling stock have all benefitted. Those are the big projects, which help us to have a more permanent presence.

There are plenty of smaller projects that are underway or have been completed, and of course we've been running the trolley, giving pump car rides and answering lots of questions about railroads and trolleys.

All of this work requires lots of volunteer time. We rely heavily on a few volunteers, with many more helping out several days a month during the operating season. We are always looking for more helpers; we need ticket sellers, painters, carpenters, track workers, lawn mowers and cleaners. And of course, we are always glad to have more trolley car crew members, we'll provide the training. If you can help with any of these things, please email me at sam@sftm.org or call 413-624-0192. **Sam**

CHANGES ON THE BOARD

Elected by ballot at the Annual Meeting of the Museum in February was **Alden Dreyer**, who had held an appointed post prior to the meeting.

Shirley Pelletier was elected by nomination from the floor. Shirley has been a long-time member of SFTM, and has been on the operating crew since last summer. She is an instructor in music at the Bement School in Deerfield, and she has an interest in all things railroad.

Larry Werner has recently submitted his resignation for personal reasons. Larry has been a regular with the operating crew.

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE

In case you have never browsed at www.sftm.org, you might just want to do so. There is a great deal of information and a News section, where SFTM happenings can be found. Check here for info on TrolleyFest and more.
