



VOL. 22 - NO. 2 SHELburnE FALLS Trolley MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2013

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The big news is the Cultural Facilities Fund, see elsewhere. We also expect to get a grant from the 20th Century Electric Railway Foundation, which will require a 1:1 match of new funds, so start squirreling away your spare change and lottery winnings.

Ridership has been about average this year. As of Labor Day we have carried 1159 paying adults, 234 paying youths and 559 under 6, members and other non-revenue passengers. That is 79% of last year's riders but 105% of last year's ticket revenue due to our price increase.

We have been able to get our liability premium whittled down a bit, but it is still our biggest expense after the mortgage.

At the end of May, The Warner Brothers motion picture company descended on Shelburne Falls to film "The Judge". They rented our property for crew parking in June and left us with a sizeable check to help fill our coffers. Later on, A&K Railroad Supply used our South Track for storing gondolas while they cleaned up scrap metal the Pam Am Railways mainline, and donated a derail in exchange.

The porch railings have been completed, thanks to Larry Krusz for a lot of tricky design work and welding and painting and installation, and to Marie Bartlett for the touch-up painting. Shirley Pelletier and Marie have been working on painting the porch guards. A new picnic table on the porch has been appreciated by many visitors and crew. The building inspector has signed off on the porch, it still has some trim work to be done but it is ready for the public.

Reba-Jean Shaw-Pichette has created a sign for our Elm St entrance, and an Art Garden sign will be joining it shortly. Alden Dreyer and Sally Wetherbee have donated a diaper changing table which has been installed in one of the restrooms. Richard Strycharz donated new fire extinguishers for No. 10, and also a new radio system with base station.

Tree clearing done for the rebuilding of Ann Brauer's new quilt studio down on Conway Street has lead to a dramatic

increase in our view and visibility in both directions from and of the car when we are stopped at Salmon Falls. There's a good excuse to visit us during foliage season if you live far away

Sam

THE BIG SURPRISE

Massachusetts has at last been able to fund programs to promote tourism through the Cultural Facilities Fund. Endeavours such as ours seemed to fit into the category, so application was made for a slice of the pie. In June we received a letter with the following excerpt: "*Congratulations! The board of MassDevelopment, the Massachusetts Cultural Council's partner in the administration of the Massachusetts Cultural Facilities Fund, has met to approve grant recommendations for the 2013 round of the Cultural Facilities Fund.*"

We are pleased to inform you that Shelburne Falls Trolley Museum, Inc. has been approved for a Capital Grant in the amount of \$27,500."

This sum was to be applied specifically toward the building of our long-awaited new car barn. And while we were begin site work for the car barn anyway, this grant provides a major lift.

It does come with a bit of twine attached:

*We must first match this fund dollar for dollar.

*We must then do the work, pay for it ourselves, prove that we have done it, and only then apply to receive the real grant money.

Thanks in large part to many past member donations toward the car barn, we do in fact have the match made already.

So what's next, you ask? We have refined the design for the car barn, deciding to lengthen it by 10 feet, to 60 feet, so that there would be more room for tools, parts, and the usual workshop materials. Window and door layouts have been finalized. At this writing the final plan in being floated to the metal building vendor for review and estimate for the kit. A lot more details have been dealt with in the process, which space does not allow listing here.

The kit (that's an accurate description – it all comes in a couple of big bundles with plans showing how each part fits, etc.) will in fact cost more than the amount of the grant, so that problem should solve itself.

(Cont'd on Page 4)

DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS - 2013

Officers:

President - Robert (Sam) Bartlett
Vice President - David Dye
Clerk - David Bartlett
Treasurer - Betsy Wholey Osell
Chair of Board - David Dye
Vice Chair – Alden Dreyer
Assistant Clerk – Betsy Wholey Osell
Assistant Treasurer – David Bartlett

Directors:

Gerald Besser
David Goff
Anthony Jewell
William Kaiser
James Wholey

CONTACT US

Shelburne Falls Trolley Museum
PO Box 272
Shelburne Falls MA 01370

Phone: 413-625-9443 Email: trolley@sftm.org

Web: www.sftm.org

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

SIGNING UP FOR eTRANSFER

As a convenience to our members, and as an attempt to control costs, **TRANSFER** is 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. What's more, **eTRANSFER** comes out in **full color!**

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 just **your name** - that's all.

Your address will be entered on a mailing list, and the future issues will come to you by internet instead of by snail mail, thereby saving printing and mailing costs. Save a tree, too!!

Please note – if you are an eTFR subscriber, and subsequently change your email address, please be sure that you let us know.

GUEST BENEFITS FOR MEMBERS

Individual and **Junior** levels (IN) (\$20) and (JR) (\$12) - card is valid only for named member. No additional guests. (eTransfer only for JR members).

Family (FA) level (\$32) is as follows: your card covers rides for up to two adults and all children under age 18 related to at least one adult and living in same household. 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 (\$40) - 2 guests, plus Family privileges, and one Instant Motorman opportunity per season.

Contributing (CO) (\$60) - 4 guests, plus Family privileges. And two Instant Motorman opportunity per season.

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

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

At this writing, SFTM has **109** current active memberships.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Piper Pichette – Deerfield MA
Nicholas Spencer – Buckland MA*
Curry-Letendre Family – Florence MA
Susanne Villar - Seattle WA
Pamela Parker – Shelburne Falls MA
Charles Targowski – Pownal VT
Erica Wise – Leverett MA

*Our new member from Buckland, Nicholas John Spencer, loves SFTM so much that he has taken out a membership for himself. Nicholas comes to SFTM almost every Saturday with his grandmother, Sally Spencer. What's interesting here is that Nicholas is only 3-1/2 years old! If that isn't SFTM loyalty, what is?

THE CARBARN FUND

Donors since the previous report:

Jack Yerkes
B. Balasubramanian

TROLLEYFEST 2013

THE EVENING DETAILS

Fraternal Order of Eagles - 52 State Street - Buckland
One block upstream on the right from the Bridge of Trolleys..er..Flowers.

Starting at 5:30 pm – Happy Hour
Cash Bar. Time to smooze with friends

6:30 pm – Buffet Dinner

Menu:

Choice of Roast Beef, Turkey, or Vegetable Lasagna
Vegetables, Salad, Rolls, Coffee. Cider or Milk.

The Price: \$21.50. Youths ages 6 through 10: \$10.00. Ages 5 and under free.
Homemade pies and other desserts – for additional modest prices.

7:30 pm – Entertainment and Enlightenment
President's Remarks. Questions and Answers.

A Raffle, with valuable prizes

A Slideshow from the collection of one of Buckland's greatest railroad photographers.



Reservations are necessary, and to hold your place, must be made **no later than Friday October 4**. Late-comers will be welcomed on a space-available basis.

Reservations best made by email.

+Send names of your party to: membership@sftm.org

Or by telephone.

+Call 413-625-6628. Leave clear message with your own phone number, and the names of your party.

Every effort will be made to acknowledge your reservation. If you don't receive one within a few days, call the phone number listed above.

Payment will be taken at the door, or you can prepay by mail to: SFTM, PO Box 272, Shelburne Falls MA 01370.

TRANSFER

(Surprise – Cont'd from Page 1)

While this grant provides the biggest real lift that the carbarn project has ever received, it should be kept in mind that a good deal more has to be done before there will be a complete new carbarn with its accompanying trackwork and overhead (trolley wire) all on line. Search for funds will be ongoing.

Meanwhile, we have been specially invited by the 20th Century Electric Railway Foundation to apply for a \$10,000 carbarn grant. This one will require a 100% match in newly raised funds received after November 1, 2013. This will be a bit of a challenge, but we really need to pull it off. All the help we can get will be appreciated.

COAL SHED BLUES

The old coal shed (See Page 5 – upper center), a relic of earlier times, has been rented for storage for some time. It is very much in the way of the carbarn site, and must go away. It is of post and beam construction, with weathered barn board siding and a tired metal roof. We have offered it for sale as is – take away. Some interest but no luck. Offered free, same conditions. Nibbles, but no thanks. But it must come down. The tenant vacated it on August 31. A demolition permit has been applied for. Next step is to attack it with our army of volunteers. Free barn boards and timbers will be available to anyone who wants some, but they must be removed promptly from the site. Come and get 'em if you can use any of the stuff!!

PAN AM SOUTHERN DOINGS

We get questions, lots of questions, about those railroad tracks next to SFTM.

Q: Are those tracks still in use? A: Go look and see if they are shinier than SFTM's.

Q: When is the next train coming? A: When it gets here.

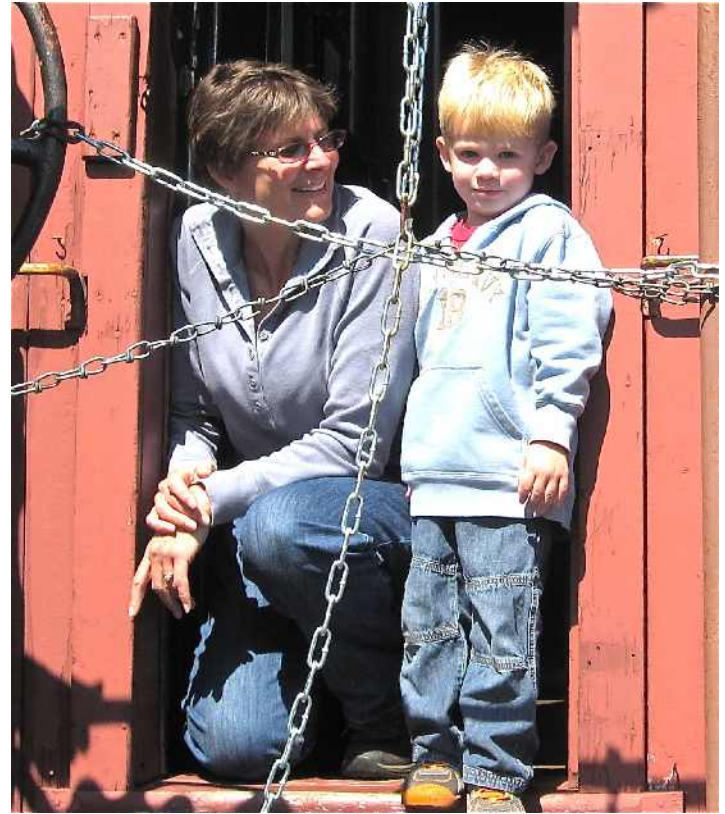
Q: Do those tracks go to the Hoosac Tunnel? A: No. They stay right here so the trains can go to the Hoosac Tunnel.

Q: Amtrak ges through here, right? A: You wish!!

Q: How do I get to the Hoosac Tunnel? A: Start walking along the track (but absolutely don't get caught doing so - it's illegal!!!). When it suddenly goes dark all around you, you are there.

Seriously, the train-watching is increasing interesting these days. The two intermodal trains – one each way each day – have gotten so long due to upturns in the automobile business, that separate auto carrier-only trains are showing up as well. There is still a little coal traffic to Bow, NH. Crude-oil trains (dare we say it?), and solid grain trains with foreign locomotives come by occasionally. a pair of mixed freight trains come eastbound each day, one from Mohawk, NY and one from Rotterdam Jct., NY. Each has a westbound counterpart every day as well, and a local runs sporadically between North Adams and East Deerfield and return.

Come see for yourself (but be intensely patient!!).



Nicholas Spencer, SFTM's youngest member, enjoys his perch on the caboose with his grandmother, Sally Spencer.



When SFTM bought the freight yard, a box car which had been used as storage came with the sale. It was one of a large order placed by the Boston & Maine Railroad in the 1950's and was no longer needed 20-some years later when box car traffic went way down during the '70's due to truck competition. SFTM also found it useful for storage, but hadn't the resources to restore it.

Recently a local artist, Caleb Neelon, offered at his own expense to temporarily turn it into a work of art. With an arsenal of spray paint cans, he blasted away, with the above result.

The image has to be seen in color to really appreciate it. Go eTRANSFER! See Page 2 for the how-to.



BIG GUN – SFTM's NEW WEAPON AGAINST HEAVY STUFF

Thanks to Sam, SFTM now has the use of this handy machine, which will be enormously useful for moving turnout parts and ties into place, and for erecting the new metal car barn. The car barn structure comes in the form of a kit, with all the pieces having to be lifted into place. This machine is ideally suited to such work. It should enable SFTM volunteers to erect most of the building components.



COAL SHED TO GO

The old coal shed is being emptied, and will be taken down in the near future. The new car barn will largely fill the foreground in this picture. The track car “box” will be relocated to a new spur (the beginning of the planned loop track).

MOONLIGHT MAGIC 2013 - FRIDAY NOVEMBER 29

Barring floods, blizzards, and flying saucers, the Village of Shelburne Falls will once again stage the spectacular MOONLIGHT MAGIC. SFTM will provide service fit to welcome in the Yule and to wrap up the 2013 operating season. Details will soon be posted at <http://www.gsfa.org/>

Shelburne Falls Trolley Museum
PO Box 272
Shelburne Falls MA 01370-0272

413/625-9443 www.sftm.org/



2013 OPERATING SCHEDULE

OPERATING EVERY SATURDAY, SUNDAY, AND
HOLIDAY, FROM MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND
THROUGH THE END OF OCTOBER.

HOURS OF SERVICE - 11 AM TO 5 PM.

LOCAL BUSINESS SPONSORS FOR 2013

WALTER'S PROPANE
WEST END PUB
ZOAR OUTDOOR
CHRISTOPHER'S
BERKSHIRE EAST
MO'S FUDGE FACTOR
MCCUSKER'S MARKET
COLDWELL BANKER - PHIL PLESS

TROLLEYFEST SATURDAY OCTOBER 12

A DOUBLE-HEADER:

DURING THE DAY

Caboose Rides

Cider Making

AND IN THE EVENING

Dinner at the Eagles Club

Music, A Raffle

A Slide Show

And More
