

SHALL WE RIDE NO. 10 AGAIN NEXT WEEK?
 YES, DAD. IT BEATS RIDING IN OUR BUGGY!



TRANSFER

**VOL. 26 - NO. 1 SHELburnE FALLS Trolley Museum Newsletter
 Spring 2017**

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



'Before' and 'During' views of the House Track area that is getting rebuilt, looking in opposite directions.



A new panel of track sits temporarily on the House Track. The same panel is shown above on the right, beyond the cones. Soon we will slide it along the House Track rails and into the trench.

HOUSE TRACK REHABILITATION

When we started using the new Car Barn last year, it meant that we were regularly running No. 10 on the House Track, a track that had been out-of-use for many years. We did some joint tightening last

year, and everything is in gauge, but the track structure is pretty marginal.

The section that had suffered the most and had the least attention was at the top of *Continued on Page 3*

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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.

Sam Bartlett - Editor editor@sftm.org

SIGNING UP FOR eTRANSFER

As a convenience to our members, and as an attempt to control costs, the TRANSFER is available online as a pdf file. This will give you the option of filing your copies of the TRANSFER on your computer, in case you want to refer back to them at some later time. eTRANSFER comes out in full color! If you are a current member and wish to receive your future TRANSFERS by email, here's how to do it:

- Send an email to: membership@sftm.org
- In the Subject line, please enter 'eTransfer'.
- In the body of your message please enter just your name.

Your address will be entered on a emailing 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 eTRANSFER subscriber, and subsequently change your email address, please be sure that you let us know at membership@sftm.org.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

At this writing, SFTM has 124 current Memberships. If your printed TRANSFER does not have **2017** on the address label, please renew your membership, see the **Membership, Donation and Volunteer Form**. See the Form for more information on Member benefits and giving levels.

If you get the *eTransfer*, please check the message in the email that was sent with this issue.

Or, renew online at <http://www.sftm.org/join.shtml>

Your support is very important to us!

Please send changes of address for mail or email to membership@sftm.org

TOY TRAIN SALE

We have several collections of LGB and O-Scale toy trains for sale. Contact us if you would like more information.

VOLUNTEERING - HOW TO DO IT

Stop by, send an email to trolley@sftm.org or call Sam at 413-624-0192. Indicate what your interests are - operating, painting, building stuff, selling tickets and gifts, grant writing, or what. We need you!!!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Julia Rueshemeyer
Michelle Fitzgerald
Andrew Jennings
Peter S. Miller
Jeff Fillios
Pondside Pizza
Shelburne Falls Bowling Alley
Baker Pharmacy

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Berkshire East
McCusker's Market
Mo's Fudge Factor
The Blue Rock Restaurant & Bar
Salmon Falls Gallery

HISTORY NOOK

From a 1913 Shelburne Falls and Colrain Report to the Mass. Railroad Commission:

The SF&C made a \$10,000 profit on revenue of \$17,000 from freight and \$12,000 from passengers. They carried 242,000 passengers for 63,000 passenger/miles, and had 18 employees. I think a 'passenger' was a single person for one zone, so if you traveled from the Falls to Colrain you counted as three 'passengers'. They spent \$1700 on insurance. They had four closed electric passenger cars with electric heat, two open cars with no heat and nine freight cars.

SCHEDULE 2017

Training Day Saturday May 20 @ 10am

Contact sam@sftm.org if you would like to be on our trolley crew this year!

Opening Day Saturday May 27

Trolleyfest Saturday July 22

Open Sat, Sun, Hol 11am-5pm until Oct 29

Mondays 1pm-5pm July and August

Depot St. This spring we decided to replace this entire 100 foot section. We have built two 40 foot panels of replacement track on top of the House Track just east of the project. Then we removed the rails across Depot St. The fact that the boom truck pulled the rails up without any ties coming up indicated that we were right in thinking that the ties were in bad shape.

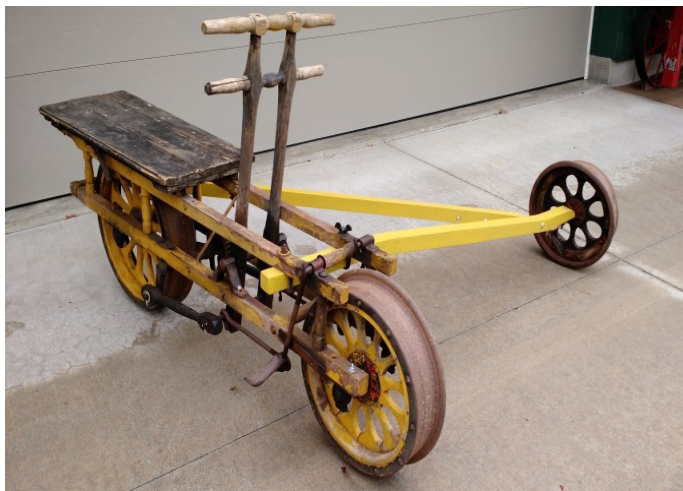
Our next step was to remove the remains of the ties and gravel/dirt under where the rails were. Then we'll put in some ballast and drag/lift the panels into place. The last 20 feet will be built in place, connecting the House Track back up to the Main Track at Turnout 2.

RECENT DONATIONS

Carl Carlson has donated a Sheffield Velocipede. Not much is known about where or when this particular machine was used. A velocipede is a one-person muscle-powered contraption kind of like a rowing machine that moves down the track. These were used by track inspectors, similar to a pump car but for just one person. Because it is an antique and not a trivial machine to operate, it will not be available for use by the public. We will probably have it out for demonstrations at Trolleyfest or other events.

We received two masts and five signal heads that were surplus from the Conn River line upgrade for the Amtrak Vermonter. We haven't worked out the details of how we will set these up and display them, but if someone is looking for a scraping and painting project, this would be an interesting one.

Walt Stapleton has donated a Type 17 switch stand. These were ubiquitous in B&M freight yards (like ours) in the mid 20th century.



Our 'new' velocipede.

PAN AM SOUTHERN DERAILMENT

Last December, our neighbors had a derailment that tore up their track nearest to the museum for the entire length of our yard. As part of rebuilding the track they pushed old ties and old ballast off to the side, on their property but in plain sight of our visitors. With PAS's permission and guidance, we were able to clean this up. In the process we got a bunch of usable ties and some ballast. Additionally some ballast was collected and shipped to UMass for a Civil Engineering study of 'fouled' ballast.



Trackside cleanup

AIR COMPRESSOR

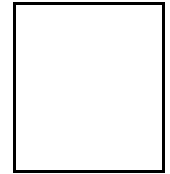
We have, from time-to-time, borrowed an engine driven air compressor for tamping and spiking tasks. Some of our members enjoy hand spiking, but when you have a 40 foot panel to spike, that's 100 spikes. With our pneumatic spiker that takes about 10 minutes, by hand (with our "weekend warrior spikers") it takes much longer. And tamping ballast under the ties is much faster with our pneumatic tampers. Still hard on the back, but not as bad as jumping up and down on a shovel. Did you know that is where the term "gandy dancer" came from? Anyway, we recently received a donation of an air compressor from a long-time supporter. It is old enough to claim social security and needs some TLC, but we hope to have it ready soon.

ELECTRIC MOTOR CATALOGS ca 1910

Nancy Dole Books and Ephemera donated some interesting material about substations and electric motors from 1910. Next time you are on the Buckland side of Shelburne Falls, check out her shop, she has many interesting railroad and history items.



413/625-9443 www.sftm.org/



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You can visit our FaceBook page at <https://www.facebook.com/ShelburneFallsTrolleyMuseum/>

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JOSHUA'S RAILCAMP STORY

(Excerpted from an Amherst Railway Society newsletter article by Greg Maas. See the full article at www.amherstrail.org/ARS/newsletter-archive/ARS-2017.04.pdf)

Each year, the National Railroad Historical Society (NRHS) offers high school students a unique opportunity to learn about railroad history, preservation, maintenance, and operations. Known as RailCamp, the unique program gives students valuable insights and hands-on experience with many different facets of railroading.

Two camps are held; one in Newark, Delaware, at the University of Delaware, and the other in Tacoma, Washington.

Last summer, Joshua Redenz, one of our trolley crew, went to Delaware, here is Joshua's story...

"I've spent most of my life in Germany," says Joshua. "And, I remember my mother taking me to a railroad museum when I was quite young, maybe 5 years old. I saw my first steam engine, and I was fascinated. Then, when I was a little older she took me to a tourist railroad and they would let kids ride in the steam engine cab when they ran the engine around the train for the return trip. I got to do that - wow, I was hooked!"

"I knew right away this was something that I wanted to do. I wanted to meet other kids who are as passionate about railroads as I am. And, I wanted to see railroading up close, from the inside, which is not so easy to do these days."

"The train ride to Wilmington was great," says Joshua. "...cruising along the Connecticut coast was a first for me. It was beautiful."

"It was amazing and really exciting to meet all these other kids that knew as much or more about railroads than I

did - and wanted to talk about it. I had never had an experience like that before."

Over the course of a week, the campers visited the Amtrak Training Center and yard in Wilmington, Delaware, did some railfanning in Newark, Delaware, toured the Amtrak Wilmington shops and the dispatch center, took a train ride to Washington Union Station, visited the Pennsylvania Railroad Museum in Strasburg and rode on and worked with trains at the Strasburg Railroad.

"RailCamp was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, and I'm very grateful that I have the chance to go," says Joshua. "For anyone passionate about railroading - you have to do this program."

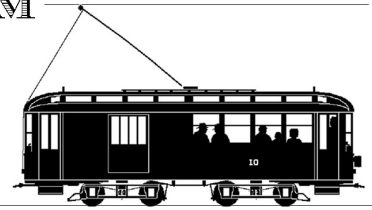


Happy Campers

Joshua is a high school senior this year in Amherst, MA. He will be moving to Germany this summer where he will be an apprentice in the steam shop of the Harz Railway.

SHELBURNE FALLS TROLLEY MUSEUM

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RAFFLE!

Please contribute to Shelburne Falls Trolley Museum's ongoing improvements by participating in our Raffle. All prizes are donated, so all proceeds help SFTM look better, be safer, be even more fun and be even more educational.

PRIZES

- A) 90 Main Eatery Charlemont - \$25 Gift Certificate**
- B) West End Pub Shelburne Falls - \$25 Gift Certificate**
- C) Cliff Schexnayder' book "Builders of the Hoosac Tunnel" a \$30 value**
- D) Essex Steamtrain and Riverboat - 1 voucher for 4 people, value \$116**
- E) Boothbay Railway Village - \$12 pass**
- F) Seashore Trolley Museum \$50 family pass**
- G) Shore Line Trolley Museum \$40 pass**

See <http://www.sftm.org/raffle.shtml> for more prizes as they are added.

You can purchase tickets at the Museum when we are open, or just cut out the included tickets, put your name and address and phone number and/or email on them and indicate the letter of the prize you wish to be entered for. You may print out as many tickets as you wish. Get your friends to buy some too! Mail them to:
SFTM

PO Box 272

Shelburne Falls MA 01370

with a check for \$5 for each ticket, or \$20 for eight tickets.

Drawing will be at Trolleyfest on July 22, you don't have to be present to win (but we'd love to see you!).

(see next page for Raffle Tickets)

