

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



TRANSFER



VOL. 26 - NO. 2 SHELburnE FALLS TROLLEY MUSEUM NEWSLETTER
SUMMER 2017

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



Nash prepares to jack the track into alignment in preparation for more ballast.

HOUSE TRACK REHABILITATION

In our last installment, we left you with a cliffhanger: Would the brave SFTM track crew get the House Track back in shape before it was time for No. 10 to make her first run on May 19th? Would No. 10 ever be able to roll on the Main Track again?

Unlike a serialized radio show, you could have learned the outcome for yourself by visiting the museum, and many of you have done just that. But in

case you've not been able to visit (or sleep), here is the update; the short answer is "We did it!"

We got the track back in operation well before our deadline. First we had to push, pull and lift the two forty-foot track panels (that we had already built on the track at the edge of the project) into place. Greasing the rails makes it fairly easy to slide a track panel along the rails. We had a few *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 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!

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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!!!

For **Training Day** we had a great 'turnout', 22 folks came to get re-qualified or to learn about being on our trolley crew. Welcome to new volunteers Jeff, Heather, Ellie and Jim.

New Member Benefit: Members get 50% discounts on used books, and free used magazines! We have plenty of old Model Railroader, Trains, etc. magazines. Come fill the gaps in your collection.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

At this writing, SFTM has 130 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

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Joseph Gazan	Paul & Rose Burnett
Gary Daniele	Russell Miller
Deborah Diamond	Eben Sorkin
James Wall	Sheila & Mike Thorn
Hope Wilson	

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Trolleyfest is Saturday July 22, 2017. See the last page for more details.

See the insert for your **Raffle Tickets**, drawing to be held at Trolleyfest.



Dick paints the caboos cupola inside the Car Barn.

Photos by Dave Goff, Sam Bartlett, Jim Shaughnessy

equipment problems along the way, but with help from Dick Hillman of W.R. Hillman & Sons, we got the job done. We built the last twenty feet of track in place, cut the rails to fit and bolted the joints together. Both rail cutting and joint-hole drilling require the use of specialized machines, which we are lucky enough to have purchased many years ago with Tony's help.

Next we jacked the track to the right level and aligned it to fit the curve required to connect the existing track pieces. Then with a borrowed compressor we got down to the tough job of tamping the track. Tamping is the process of packing ballast under and around the ties to keep the track well-drained and in place. In the heydays of railroading, tamping was done by jumping up and down on a shovel to pack the ballast, leading to the term 'gandy dancer' for a track worker ("Gandy" was a shovel brand). Railroads these day use tractor-sized hydraulic track machines to do tamping. We chose the middle road, air-powered tamping machines like jack-hammers. These are hard on the back and hot and noisy. We have plenty more tamping to do on other parts of the House Track, if you want to write a check for \$25,000 so we can buy a used tamper, I'll accept it.

After tamping we still had to 'dress' the ballast, by putting more ballast into the 'cribs' (the spaces between ties). Some test trips with No. 10 showed everything to be working smoothly. Pictures of the finished project do not do it justice, you'll just have to come see for yourself. Or you can see more pictures at <http://www.sftm.org/housetrackwork.shtml>. Thanks to Nash, Dave, Larry, Jeff, Jake, John, Tony, Joshua, Rowan and anyone else I left out. One more project done, but there is plenty of work left on other parts of the House Track.



Hillman Bros backhoe tweaks the track alignment.

PLANNING FOR OUR FUTURE

For the last eight years, we have focused on

building our new Car Barn and doing an exterior restoration of the Freight House. Now that those projects are (mostly) complete, it is time to look down the track again. This spring the Board of Directors adopted a Five Year Plan to help guide us in which projects to prioritize. The highlights are to work on getting at least one PCC cosmetically restored, keep improving the House Track, finish the restoration of caboose CV 4015, improve the water supply to the buildings, get some spare trolley trucks to make our operation more reliable, bring Fitchburg and Leominster Street Railway No. 60 (Wason 1904) to the Car Barn for study and restoration, look at other options for having a back-up trolley car to support No. 10 and raise funds and do research on restoring the Bangor and Aroostook passenger car and the Boston and Maine boxcar. You can access the 2017 Five Year Plan at the bottom of our Organization Page at www.sftm.org/organization.shtml.

CABOOSE

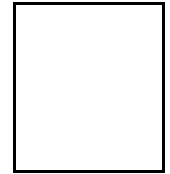
Now that we have a nice, dry, well-lit Car Barn to work in, we have increased the pace of the CV 4015 restoration. This spring Sam, Dick, Bill, Martin, Nash, Ian, Jeff and Dave have worked on repairing the body windows, repainting the end sills, finishing the restoration of the cupola and repairing the floor. We are in the process of installing a hearthstone donated by Ashfield Stone. We will reinstall the caboose stove, sink, fold-out cot and coach seats, and paint the exterior to a 1950's appearance.

INTERPRETIVE SIGNS

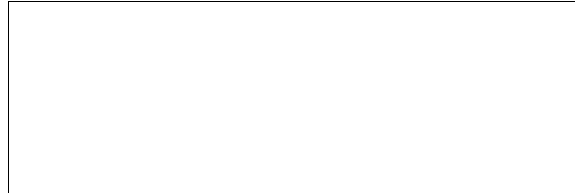
We added signs to our rolling stock giving a bit of history about each one. Our crew is always glad to answer questions (that's why we're here!) about the railroad equipment that we have collected. The signs will add to this, as well as help inform off-hours visitors. You can visit our website at <http://www.sftm.org/rollingstock.shtml> to see the text of these signs. We hope to do similar signs for our buildings this summer.

SALMON FALLS IMPROVEMENTS

Another long-planned improvement to our visitor experience is a permanent high-level platform at the Salmon Falls end of the line. This end of the line is on Town of Buckland property so we have not been able to make permanent improvements. This spring the Town granted us an easement for our tracks and a loading platform, so now we can move forward on this project. Larry has been building the steel pipe handrails for the stairs.



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TROLLEYFEST SATURDAY JULY 22, 2017

Please join us for Trolleyfest 2017 on Saturday July 22, 2017 at the Museum. New this year will be a Railroad Paraphernalia Tag Sale, old time sandwiches and pie for sale, games from the 1900's and foundry demonstrations, Maple Products for sale, Velocipede demonstrations and sampling of Vinegar products.

These activities go from 11am to 5 pm: *Trolley rides *Pump car rides *[Caboose](#) rides powered by our trackmobile *Speeder (aka Motorcar, aka Putt-Putt) Rides *Wooden and electric trains to play with *Send a message via telegraph

These Special Trolleyfest Activities go from 11am-3pm: *Old time sandwiches and pie for sale *Music by "Whistle Stop" *Maple products from Davenport Maple Farm for sale *Velocipede demonstrations *Foundry demonstration of poured aluminum using traditional sand casting techniques *Railroad Paraphernalia Tag Sale *Expanded offering of Lionel, K- Line and other toy trains, track, etc for sale *Trolley Era reenactors riding the trolley

These Hands-on demonstrations of Trolley Era activities from industries served by the trolley line run from 11am-3pm: *Cider pressing and sampling *Hands-on Butter making and sampling *Toolmaking with the Museum of Our Industrial Heritage *Games from 1900 *Hands-on Weaving on adult and child friendly looms *Milk a 'Cow' *Copper Polishing with Apple Cider Vinegar *Vinegar product sampling such as Switchel, Pickles and Vinegar Pie.

At 1:15pm Marie Betts Bartlett reads her book "[The Little Yellow Trolley Car](#)".

Raffle drawing, see [our Raffle page to buy tickets ahead of time.](#)

RAILROAD PARAPHERNALIA TAG SALE

At Trolleyfest this year we will be selling some of our railroad books, pictures, posters, calendars and other items that have been donated to us over the years but don't really relate to our mission. If you are a collector or have a 'train room', you won't want to miss this. You can also have a table of your own to sell your excess railroad paraphernalia. Contact Tony at tonyj@crocker.com if you want to have your own table.



The pole goes up for the first time at Trolleyfest 1999