



**VOL. 31- NO. 1 SHELburne FALLS Trolley MUSEUM NEWSLETTER
SPRING 2022**

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

BACK TO "NORMAL"

As of this moment, TSA still requires masks to be worn by passengers on trolley cars. If they extend this requirement then we will have to keep requiring our passengers to be masked. Other than that, we are expecting to have a normal operating schedule, opening Saturday May 28. We will be open 11am-5pm Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays until the end of October, as well as Mondays 1pm-5pm in July and August. We hope to see you there soon.

Please use the attached or included form to renew your membership if you haven't already! Or renew online at <https://sftm.org/join.shtml>.

Sam Bartlett - President- Editor

TRAINING DAYS

This year we are adding a classroom component to our trolley and pump car crew training. Since it makes a long day to try to cover everything, we are having classroom days and hands-on days separately. If you

are interested in learning how to be part of our volunteer crew, please go to: <https://sftm.org/training.shtml>. All current and new crew members are expected to participate in a classroom day and a hands-on day. We are holding two of each to make scheduling easier for you.

DO YOU WANT TO VOLUNTEER?

SFTM is an all-volunteer operation. This helped us survive the 2020 shut-down, since we didn't have employees to pay. But it can be a weakness when we have trouble finding new volunteers. We can use help on a variety of fronts, both working with the public and behind the scenes. We will train you if needed, and if you bring skills like painting, carpentry or metalworking, that is even better. If you have any questions, or want to volunteer, please call me at 413-834-0274 or email me at trolley@sftm.org. We can use your help!



Dave V and Martin prepare the roadbed for new timbers under the frog of Turnout 3.



Dave V and Martin use the Drott crane to put a very heavy switch timber in place.

DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS - 2022

Sam Bartlett (President)
David Dye (Vice President, Chair of Board)
Betsy Wholey Osell (Treasurer, Asst Clerk)
Lou Musante (Clerk, Asst Treasurer)
Alden Dreyer (Vice Chair)
Nash Bly - Shirley Pelletier - Bill Kaiser
Joshua Redenz - Dominic Vellucci - Jim 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. Three issues are planned for each year. Comments, contributions, and letters to the editor are welcomed.
Sam Bartlett - Editor editor@sftm.org

PLEASE SIGN UP FOR E-TRANSFER

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.

The e-TRANSFER 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: membership@sftm.org

In the Subject line, please enter "SFTM eTransfer".

In the body of your message please enter just your name. Future issues will come to you by email.

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.

VOLUNTEERING - HOW TO DO IT

Stop by, send an email to trolley@sftm.org or call Sam at 413-834-0274. Indicate what your interests are - operating, painting, building stuff, selling tickets and gifts, grant writing, or what. We need you!!!

NEW MEMBERS

Jen & Tom Hale
Melinda Valajaria

OPERATING SCHEDULE

The museum is closed for the season. We plan to reopen May 28, 2022 on Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays 11am-5pm until Oct 30, and also 1pm-5pm Mondays in July and August. Watch www.sftm.org and Facebook for updates.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

At this writing, SFTM has 117 current Memberships, including 14 Life Members and 54 members who have already renewed for 2022. If your printed TRANSFER does not have 2022 on the address label, we hope you will renew your membership, see the Membership, Donation and Volunteer Form.

See the Form for more information on Member benefits and giving levels.

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

If you get the eTransfer, please check the email that was sent with this issue to see your status.

Your support is very important to us!

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

PLEASE PATRONIZE OUR CORPORATE SPONSORS!

West End Pub	Blackmer Insurance Agency
The Optician	Mirick Insurance Agency
Bakers Pharmacy	McCuskers Market
Keystone Market	Salmon Falls Gallery
Walter's Propane	Shelburne Falls Bowling Alley
Berkshire East	Mo's Fudge Factor
Coldwell Banker Upton Massamont REALTORS	
The Blue Rock Restaurant & Bar	



Speeder Days are coming, see page 3

LARRY KRUSZ 1944-2022

Larry Krusz, our Volunteer of the Year in 2016, passed away earlier this year. His obituary is at <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/recorder/name/lawrence-krusz-obituary?id=33189309>. You can also find a tribute page for him at www.sftm.org/larrykrusz.shtml with more pictures.

I first met Larry in the 1970's when I was a Ski Patroller at Berkshire East, where he was a lift operator. We spent many hours in the lift shack at the top of the mountain, talking about trains as we looked down on his farm at the bottom of the mountain.

Larry kept coming by the Trolley Museum, at first to ask questions about Steam 10, the Baldwin 0-4-0 we had in our collection for a while. Later he got involved when we started building the Car Barn.

Larry's biggest contribution was to design and build the large track doors for the Car Barn. We worked collaboratively on the design and Larry brought his engine driven welder and skills as a welder to cut and weld the heavy-duty frame for these doors. You can't really see it with the siding on the doors but they are designed to withstand hurricane force winds.

Larry also helped with track work and other aspects of the Car Barn construction. He liked to ride on the trolley but made it clear that working with the public was not of interest to him.



June and Larry Krusz. June passed in 2021.

SPEEDER DAYS

Josh is working with some of our members who have their own speeders (small powered track inspection cars, aka "motor-cars", "putt-putts") to have a few days or weekends where speeder rides will be offered to the public. The schedule is still being worked out, you'll need to check our website or Facebook for updates.



Larry lays out the design for the doors.



Larry welds hinges on the Car Barn doors.

ELECTION AND BYLAW AMENDMENT

At our Annual Meeting we reelected Nash, Alden, Bill and Dominic as Directors, and Sam Bartlett as President and Dave Dye as Vice-President. We also passed the bylaw amendment that allows us to have remote participation in meetings in case of another lock-down or other reason.

PROJECT REPORTS

SPARE TRUCK PROGRESS

Josh and Nash have been making square-headed bolts for the frame re-assembly. The major pieces are painted and being re-assembled. Josh also had to repair our lathe to keep this project going.

CAR BARN EXTENSION PROGRESS

We hope to finalize the design and permitting of the extension so that we can begin work this year.

NEW CREW ROOM

Our new Crew Room (the primary purpose is to provide heated space for the plumbing) is being painted as we go to press.

TRACKWORK CONTINUES

The "track gang" (Sam B, Nash, Josh, Dave G, Dave V, Jeff, Ellie and Martin) filled in more ballast around Turn Out 3. We've also replaced about twelve timbers and a rail in Turn Out 3. Work on improving drainage near Turn Out 1 will have to wait for the ground to dry out.

RULE BOOK UPDATE

Our most recent Rule Book dates from 2017. With the advent of speeder operations and other minor changes, we decided it was time for an updated Rule Book. No major changes in the visitor experience are expected.

FIVE YEAR PLAN

In 2017 we adopted our first Five Year Plan, which we updated this year. This Plan describes Programs, like Interpretive Rides, and the Projects that support those Programs, such as the Track Rehabilitation Project. The Five Year Plan is mostly for internal use, but folks who are interested in what we are planning can find answers to some of your questions at <https://sftm.org/orgimages/fiveyearplan.pdf>.

NEW NEIGHBORS

The Surface Transportation Board has approved the purchase of Pan Am Railways and Pan Am Southern by CSX Transportation. PAR/PAS are the current owners of the tracks next to our Buckland Freight Yard. Trains on these tracks will be operated by a new entity called the Berkshire & Eastern. The transition is expected to take place on June 1. Maybe we'll see more trains and new paint schemes going past our yard.

B&M BOX CAR

The artfully-painted box car on our property came from the Boston & Maine Railroad. It came into our possession with the yard when we bought the yard. It was painted for a teen art project in the 1990's, with dinosaurs and volcanos and other odd things. Then it was painted twice by street artist Caleb Neelon. Now we are getting ready to get it back to its B&M blue glory, first removing the old paint and rust, then priming and painting it. We are having a contractor do this, which is very expensive. You can help by donating to the Box Car Fund, either on-line or by check. See <https://www.sftm.org/donations.shtml> for donation details, or read about our box car at <https://www.sftm.org/boxcar.shtml>.



This is the third artistic repainting of our box car



Here is the Andover NH Historical Society Museum's B&M box car. We plan to have the same painter do our car

NIGHT PHOTOGRAPHY

Last fall we had a special night photography session hosted by the new Amherst Railway Society's Special Interest Group for Photographers. Go to <http://amherstrail.org/photo-sig/> to learn more about this group.

We set up several scenes that tried to evoke the trolley era, using the fact that with night photography you can edit out modern backgrounds by simply not illuminating them. The hard part was having the actors, who were our regular volunteers, hold poses while the lighting was worked out and multiple shots and long exposures were made.

I had to choose some of the dusk shots for this article, since I don't think the full-on night shots will print well in black and white. You can see all the photos that Phil took that night at the site above.

If you'd like to join in on our next night photo shoot, contact the group at the site above.

Photos by Phil Johnson.



Looks like the trolley car crew and the track gang both think they have the right to this track.



Shelburne Falls and Colrain St Ry station agent helping load milk cans at a station stop in Colrain.



Central Vermont conductor doing paperwork in the caboose on a night freight run.



Notice how the background can be "edited out" by not illuminating it.

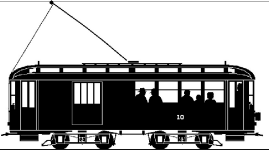
DID YOU KNOW?

Shelburne Falls had a Depot at the end of Depot Street. Buckland had a Depot at the end of Depot Road. These are different places, both in Buckland. Buckland is the town, Shelburne Falls is a village partly in Shelburne and partly in Buckland. The Buckland Depot still exists, in rather rough shape, across the river at CrabApple Whitewater. It was moved across the ice of the Deerfield River.

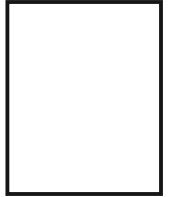
DID YOU KNOW?

Railroad cars used to be coupled with "link and pin" couplers. The brakeman would hold a large link about 10" long, in place while the steam locomotive shoved one car against the other. At the right time, he had to remove his hand and drop in the pin. They said you could tell a veteran brakeman by how many fingers he was missing. Sometimes when we are doing trackwork we find a bent link, and imagine the angry brakeman throwing it on the ground.

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413/625-9443 www.sftm.org



If your address label does not say '2022 or '2100' please renew your Membership today.

See the included Membership Form, or renew online at

<https://www.sftm.org/join.shtml>.

Please consider getting your Transfer online, see Page 2 for eTRANSFER details.

You can visit our FaceBook page at

<https://www.facebook.com/ShelburneFallsTrolleyMuseum/>

MUSEUM RECIPROCITY

A group of trolley museums has formed a Member's Reciprocity Program. If you are a current member of SFTM, you get a discount at other participating museums.

See what museums are participating and what the discount is at <http://www.trolleywayfinder.org/>. Bring your membership card or letter.

YOUTUBE CHANNEL

We have some videos on our YouTube channel, thanks to the efforts of Catherine Stryker. You can take a virtual ride on the trolley or the pumpcar. We also have movies from the early days of SFTM, when No. 10 was in a parade on Main Street, and an interview with Marshal Johnson, who donated No. 10. A link to our YouTube channel is on our homepage.

FRANKLIN COUNTY RAILROAD CALENDAR

This ever-popular calendar is back again for 2022. It has a historical railroad picture for each month, with a map on the back to show where each picture was taken, and a caption explaining the scene. You can get yours at our Gift Shop.

GIFT MEMBERSHIPS!

Did you know you can give an SFTM Membership as a gift? Just write the lucky person's name and address on the membership form, check the Gift box and include your check.

THANKS FOR THE HELP!

Thank you to Marie, Phil and Jeff for contributing to this issue.

To submit an article, picture or idea for the Transfer, please email editor@sftm.org.

TRANSFER AVAILABLE ONLINE

If you only get the printed version of the Transfer and want to see the pictures in color, or want to look at back issues, go to:

<https://www.sftm.org/transfer/full/>

EDITOR'S NOTES

I tend to only use first names, because the Transfer is posted online and some folks prefer not to have their names splashed all over the web.

Feedback is always welcome.

Sam Bartlett- editor