

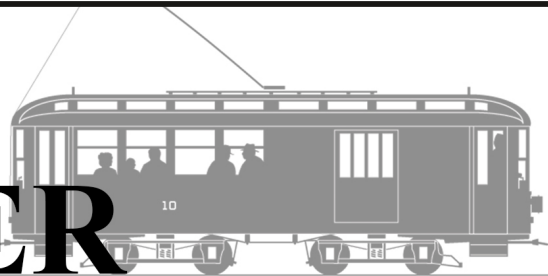
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Shall we ride No.10 again next week?

Yes! It sure beats riding in our buggy!



# TRANSFER



VOL. 34 - NO. 3 SHELBURNE FALLS TROLLEY MUSEUM NEWSLETTER  
FALL 2025

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

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## TROLLEYFEST 2025!



*Back again after many year's hiatus, Caboose Rides at Trolleyfest with our Trackmobile!*

### TROLLEYFEST SATURDAY SEPT. 27

Hop on board for Trolleyfest! Join us for our annual celebration of the restoration of No. 10 and a journey through local railroad history. Whether you've joined us before or this is your first time, Trolleyfest is always a fun, hands-on experience! Explore the rich history of the trolley era and its impact on the industries and farms that were served by the trolley line. Learn about how people worked, traveled and played in the Trolley Era, then do it yourself.

This year, we're offering even more special activities, like Caboose Rides, two types of velocipede rides, hands-on woodworking and metal working and blacksmithing demos.

Trolleyfest runs from 11 AM to 5 PM, for the usual admission. Here's what you can look forward to:

- Speeder (aka Motorcar, aka Putt-Putt) Rides
- **Caboose rides with our Trackmobile!**
- Velocipede demonstrations and rides
- Wooden and electric trains to play with
- Send a message via telegraph

### \*\*\*\* Special Trolleyfest Activities 11am-3pm: \*\*\*\*

- Food from Mo's Fudge Factor for sale
- Music by "Whistle Stop"
- Maple products from Davenport Maple Farm
- Preserves from BarbEric Farm for sale
- Morse Code demonstrations
- Railroad movies shown throughout the day
- Quilt Sale
- Cider pressing
- Hands-on Butter making
- Blacksmithing demonstrations
- Games from 1900
- Hands-on Weaving on adult and child size looms
- Milk a 'Cow'
- Antique farm tools from Wheel View Farm
- Vinegar uses - refreshment, pickles & polishing

Updated information at  
[www.sftm.org/trolleyfest.shtml](http://www.sftm.org/trolleyfest.shtml)

And of course we have trolley rides, pump car rides and you can view our on-going restoration projects. Free admission for members!

## DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS - 2025

Sam Bartlett (President)  
Nash Bly (Vice President, Vice Chair)  
Betsy Wholey Osell (Treasurer, Asst Clerk)  
Lou Musante (Clerk, Asst Treasurer)  
Alden Dreyer (Chair of Board)  
Jim Kessler - Bill Kaiser - Jordan Helzer  
Joshua Redenz - Jim Wholey  
Ryan Strong - Rico Gomes

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## 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](mailto:editor@sftm.org)

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## 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](mailto: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](mailto:membership@sftm.org).

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## VOLUNTEERING - HOW TO DO IT

Stop by, send an email to [trolley@sftm.org](mailto:trolley@sftm.org) or call or text Sam at 413-834-0274. Indicate your interests - operating trolleys, painting, building stuff, selling tickets and gifts or what. We need you!!!

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## OPERATING SCHEDULE

We are open weekends and holidays through October 26. See [www.sftm.org/events.shtml](http://www.sftm.org/events.shtml) for Special Events.

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

At this writing, SFTM has 131 current Memberships, including 20 Life Members. If your printed TRANSFER does not have '2025' or '2100' on the address label, we hope you will renew your membership. See the Membership Form for more information on Member benefits and giving levels.

Or, renew online at [www.sftm.org/join.shtml](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](mailto:membership@sftm.org)

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## PLEASE PATRONIZE OUR CORPORATE SPONSORS!

Floodwater Brewing  
Salmon Falls Gallery  
Mo's Fudge Factor  
Buckland Pizza House  
Blue Rock Restaurant  
Hotfire Bar and Grill

Baker Pharmacy  
Walter's Propane  
Davenport's Service Sta.  
West End Pub  
Keystone Market

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## NEW MEMBERS

Ted Chelmow

David Swiderski

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## PROJECT TEAM

If you would like to join a hearty band of volunteers working on projects like restoration, track, maintenance etc., send me an email at [sam@sftm.org](mailto:sam@sftm.org). We meet once or twice a week. We can use all skill levels and will work with you to gain new skills if you wish.



*The "Berkshire Hills" with a display of pictures from its glory days. To the right is a display of Line Car pictures and information.*



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

[I have my Editor's hat on now.] Long-time readers may notice that this "Fall" issue has arrived earlier than usual. Traditionally, the Fall issue comes out at the end of the year as a reminder to renew memberships for the upcoming year. Normally, the Summer issue is timed to go out just before Trolleyfest — but this year, we sent it early to help spread the word about the "Berkshire Hills" benefit concert (see below).

This early Fall issue is timed to arrive just before Trolleyfest, to remind you about the big event Saturday, September 27. We'll still have a fourth issue - the Winter edition - at the end of the year.

[Back to my President's hat.] We had great performers, great audience and raised over \$2700 for the "Berkshire Hills" benefit concert in August. Thanks to Bruce and Sarah and everyone else who helped out for a very successful event.

Our Hobo Re-enactment was also very well-received. Folks who stopped by could see how hobos cooked and learn a bit about their lives and why they traveled and lived the way they did. We hope to have them back next year.

The Projects crew have been making progress on the Line Car, the "Berkshire Hills" and the trackmobile. We have also started some repairs on the Visitor Center building and Caboose.

Ridership this year started a bit slowly, partly due to a wet start to the season, and partly due to the Bridge of Flowers being closed for our first month. The dry weather that has been plaguing our farmers has been beneficial to our mid-season attendance.

We do not send special fundraising mailings or conduct formal fund drives, but we rely on member support to sustain our operations and to move our special projects along. The Transfer is the only place where we ask members to consider a contribution.

This year, we face several important needs: repairs to the crane and tamper, as well as the connection of our 600VDC power supply. In addition, our all-volunteer Restoration Crew is making steady progress on two major initiatives — the "Berkshire Hills" parlor trolley restoration project and the MBTA Line Car restoration project — both of which require significant funding.

Your gift will make an immediate impact. While our crew will continue to make progress as funding

allows, knowing that members stand behind them provides a meaningful boost to their morale. Please take a moment to visit the project pages on our website, and make your donation today at:

[www.sftm.org/donations.shtml](http://www.sftm.org/donations.shtml)

Together, we can keep these vital restoration efforts moving forward.

Please remember to renew your Membership.

Thank you for your ongoing support!

**SAM BARTLETT - PRESIDENT/EDITOR**

## COMING ATTRACTIONS

### SPEEDER AND VELOCIPEDE DAYS

On Saturday October 4 you can come and ride a gas-powered speeder, also called a motor car or putt-putt, along with our usual trolley and pump car rides.

Saturday October 11 you can come and propel yourself for a short ride on a replica velocipede. A velocipede allowed one person to travel on railroad tracks for inspection of tracks or telegraph wires.



*Ellie takes Lily for a speeder ride [top]. Josh shows some visitors how his home-built mega-velocipede works [above]*



## **\$33,000 MATCHING GRANT FOR LINE CAR !**



*Jordan celebrates the arrival of 3283 in May 2023.*

*Photo by E. Flint*

We are thrilled to share that in June we were awarded a \$33,000 matching grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Facilities Fund to support the restoration of our historic MBTA Line Car 3283. This grant is a rare opportunity to double the impact of every dollar we raise — but to access the full amount, we must raise \$33,000 of our own.

Thanks to generous support from the Amherst Railway Society (\$1,500), our Board of Directors (\$10,700), and many members, we have already raised over \$15,000 toward the match. This is a great start — but we still need \$18,000 to unlock the full grant.

Your gift today will help us reach that goal and bring the Line Car back to life. Once restored, it will become a fully operational, hands-on educational exhibit — a fascinating and practical tool for our volunteers, and an exciting part of every visitor's experience.

Help us seize this opportunity and double your impact by donating today. Together, we can put the Line Car back on the rails! Please go to <https://www.sftm.org/linecar.shtml> to help us out with a generous donation.

## **FROM THE RESTORATION DEPARTMENT**

### **MBTA 3283 - THE LINE CAR**

Josh, Ryan, Nash, Martin, Larry, Dick and both Toms have been focused on the Line Car. They have fabricated all the replacement Z-channel for the steel frame of the Line Car. Most of the channel has been welded into the frame. We have started planning for repairing and rebuilding the wood frame for the body of the car. The crew has also removed and cleaned the brake rigging and started painting these parts. A few

brake parts need to have holes re-bushed, and many pins and bolts will get replaced but mostly it just needs paint and lubrication to be functioning brake gear again. But that is just the beginning.

If you would like to contribute to the restoration of this unique piece of Boston transit history, we encourage you to make a donation to the Line Car Fund. See [www.sftm.org/donations.shtml](http://www.sftm.org/donations.shtml) for donation details, or read about our Line Car at [www.sftm.org/linecar.shtml](http://www.sftm.org/linecar.shtml).

## **THE "BERKSHIRE HILLS"**

Our visitors have enjoyed the display of pictures of the "Berkshire Hills" and the information displayed on the side of the car. Although we are focusing on getting the Line Car finished, it is clear that the "Berkshire Hills" is garnering a lot of interest.

We have already received a \$10,000 donation to cover part of the costs of moving the "Berkshire Hills", and we raised over \$2700 at the benefit concert.. We will continue to have expenses with this project. Our restoration progress will be largely dependent on the donations we receive for the "Berkshire Hills" Fund. If you would like to support the restoration of this unique piece of Berkshire Street Railway history, please make a donation to the "Berkshire Hills" Fund. See [www.sftm.org/donations.shtml](http://www.sftm.org/donations.shtml) for donation details, online or by check

There is plenty of work to do on the "Berkshire Hills". If you want to help out by scraping, cleaning, priming, painting or rebuilding wooden parts, please email Josh at [josh@sftm.org](mailto:josh@sftm.org) or call (413) 682 4591.



*Visitors listen to the reenactors at the Hobo Jungle*

## RESTORATION VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

If you would like to support our restoration efforts by volunteering, please email Josh at [josh@sftm.org](mailto:josh@sftm.org) or call (413) 682 4591.

## VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION PROGRAM

The museum's Directors want our volunteers to know how important they are to our continued operation. One thing we have done is to ask two local banks, Greenfield Cooperative Bank and Greenfield Savings Bank, to donate to a fund for gift certificates to give to our volunteers. We use the fund to buy gift certificates from local businesses, so the money stays right in the community. Our thanks to GCB and GSB for their ongoing support!



*Larry and Dick rebuild damaged portions of the Visitor Center wall. This is one of many projects that contributions to our General Fund help finance.*

## 2025 MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE DUE!

2025 Memberships are now overdue! If your printed TRANSFER does not have '2025' or '2100' on the address label, we hope you will renew your membership now. See the attached Membership Form for more information on Member levels and benefits.

Or, renew online at [www.sftm.org/join.shtml](http://www.sftm.org/join.shtml)

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

Your membership dues is very important to our financial well-being, any time of year. We also depend on donations above your dues amount to fund our ongoing Projects, like the "Berkshire Hills" and the Line Car. Please consider a *generous* additional donation with your Membership.

## SFTM EMBROIDERED CLOTHING

If you have been to the museum recently, you may have noticed that many of our volunteers are sporting spiffy shirts, vests and other apparel with the SFTM logo embroidered on them.

Now non-volunteer members can have access to the same items! To learn more, email Betsy at [Betsysftm@gmail.org](mailto:Betsysftm@gmail.org)

## HISTORY CORNER

The following is from "Trolley Trips Through New England 1915", one of an annual series that Rowan uncovered. Here are some of the parts of the Berkshire Street Railway that the "Berkshire Hills" would have traversed. This description is interesting since you couldn't ride a trolley west from Huntington for another two years, on the "Huckleberry Line". "Trolley Trips Through New England" was an advertising and marketing publication, so maybe they were just engaging in wishful thinking and hyperbole?

*SPRINGFIELD and PITTSFIELD (via Westfield)*

*Our way is thro rural landscape to the pleasant little "whip" town of Westfield, and thence up the valley of the Westfield River. A grand ride this, among the gorges, and a very pleasant part of the trip. At Huntington we turn west and speed thro an old farming region. The line creeps thro sombre valleys, amid a tumble of foothills, gradually coming into a purer air. We pass just south of the famous "Jacobs Ladder" hill, over which in days past one toiled painfully up to Massachusetts' "second story"—Berkshire County!*

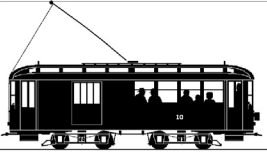
*At last we emerge into the Housatonic Valley—a real "Delectable Duchy"—which stretches south to the Connecticut border, and north where Greylock rears his head, highest in the State.*

*High on a hill stands Pittsfield, one of New England's pleasantest cities. Neat and cheerful in aspect, there is an exhilaration in its mountain air, the best ever breathed. The Museum here has a good collection.*

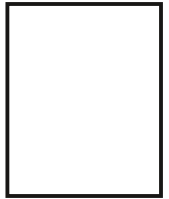
*The center is at "The Park," the so-called "Heart of Berkshire," around which are gathered most of the public buildings.*



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



413/625-9443 [www.sftm.org](http://www.sftm.org)



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See the included Membership Form, or renew online at

[www.sftm.org/join.shtml](http://www.sftm.org/join.shtml).

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

You can visit our FaceBook page at

[www.facebook.com/ShelburneFallsTrolleyMuseum/](https://www.facebook.com/ShelburneFallsTrolleyMuseum/)

### **SPECIAL EVENTS COMING!**

See inside for all the details on **Trolleyfest 2025**,  
Saturday Sept 27.

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### **MUSEUM RECIPROCITY**

A group of trolley museums has formed a Member's Reciprocity Program. Current SFTM members get a discount at participating museums.

See what museums are participating at [www.trolleywayfinder.org/](http://www.trolleywayfinder.org/). Bring your membership acknowledgement letter or membership card.

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### **TRANSFER INDEX AVAILABLE**

Nina has volunteered to create an index of Transfer articles. We still need to do the early issues for which we only have paper copies. You can download the index from

[www.sftm.org/transfer/transferindex.xls](http://www.sftm.org/transfer/transferindex.xls) to make it easier to find old "news" about our museum, and local railroad history. We have been publishing Transfer newsletters for thirty-four years!

### **THANKS FOR THE HELP!**

Thank you to Marie, Ellie and ChatGPT for contributing to this issue. To submit an article, picture or idea for the Transfer, please email [editor@sftm.org](mailto:editor@sftm.org).

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### **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:

[www.sftm.org/transfer/full/](http://www.sftm.org/transfer/full/)

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### **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.

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### **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@sftm.org](mailto:editor@sftm.org)*