

Boston Street Railway Association, Inc.

Fifty-Fifth Annual Report

2014

The Boston Street Railway Association was quite active in many areas in fiscal 2014. Income from member dues, General and 5706 Fund donations, and publication sales remained high. Expenses dropped slightly over 2013, despite the purchase of a new computer and software for the Treasurer's Office, Square-based point of sale hardware for publications sales, and rental of additional warehouse space for sorting publications and library materials.

We produced five catalogues for our retail mailings and have added many items to our online store. We also manned sales tables at the Amherst Railway Society show in West Springfield in January and at the Boston Chapter NRHS Collectors' Night in May. In addition, we designed and printed a new membership brochure with information on our website and Facebook and Twitter social media accounts. This has been very effective in our gaining new members. A new eMuseum site is also in the offing and should be up and running in 2015.

Work on Type 5 No. 5706 continued with complete sand-blasting and priming of the entire carbody. We had done this work on the side rebuilt in earlier years, but finished the overall job for maximum uniform protection.

As of this writing, grant applications for 5706 for installation of the subfloor and rebuilding the truck frames have been prepared and submitted. The wheel treads are very thin and will require steel tires or replacement with completely new wheels and we are costing and technically evaluating which direction to take in addressing this project.

In November 2013 we ran a chartered bus to Rail Technical Services. This allowed our members to see the work on the car, which got very good reviews.

As of the end of Fiscal 2014, the 5706 Fund had received \$249,546. We expect additional donations to push this total over the quarter-million dollar mark early in Fiscal 2015.

Beginning with the January/February 2014 issue, *RollSign* received a significant change in appearance. This was done in an effort to give the magazine a more contemporary style.

We have also introduced a new *RollSign* Twitter account for recounting transit events as they happen. We used this account and our older BSRA Twitter account on August 3, 2014, to feature MBTA historical events on the fiftieth anniversary of this agency, gaining a large number of new followers in the process.

During the year, we received several bequests, including a number of significant collections of books, photographic albums, slides, and movies for our library.

Report of the *RollSign* Director

During the year, the Association published six issues of *RollSign*, all with color covers. These included 62 color and

50 black and white photos and 2 graphics, on 112 pages. Jonathan Belcher's Annual MBTA Vehicle Inventory was featured in the January/February edition. Remaining issues included *An Inspection Trip to BSRA Type 5 No. 5706*; *Photo Gallery of Type 5 Cars in Boston*; *The Cleanup of PCC No. 3295*; *The Government Center Closing*; and *The Riverside Line at 55*, the last by Edward A. Anderson.

Charles Bahne, Jonathan Belcher, Bradley Clarke, Robert J. Matusik, Robert Minichiello, Mike Prescott, Barry Steinberg, and George Zeiba are all part of our regular staff, which keeps the publication on track year round. There were many other contributors to *RollSign* as well, and we offer our sincere thanks to Edward A. Anderson, Tadd Anderson, Ryan Anderson, Brandon Barlow, Rico Gomes, Dan Lampariello, Byron Nash, Bill Pollman, Stuart Spina, Leo Sullivan, and Jon Yee for their interest and continuing support.

RollSign now sports a new look. We have improved the layout, updated the cover and masthead designs, incorporated a new contemporary text font, and digitally enhanced historic images as we published them.

Report of the Publications Director

This fiscal year, the BSRA's Publications Department again experienced strong sales and oversaw an expansion of our online presence. Starting with sales, we produced 5 publications catalogues, which were distributed to our retail and *RollSign* mailing list recipients. The new items from the catalogues were also added to our online store at www.thebsra.org/store. Some of the best sellers from this year included *The Race Underground*, *Boston's Orange Line*, *Railroads of Rhode Island*, *On Track: A Field Guide to San Francisco's Historic Streetcars & Cable Cars*, *Riding Denver's Rails*, *The Dayton & Western Traction Company*, and *Brooklyn Elevated Equipment*, among many others. As you can see, our customers have enjoyed a range of titles covering a diverse selection of transit topics.

Our Publications Manager, Ron Clough, has once again spent countless hours in our warehouse, fulfilling orders on a timely and effective basis, and has also continued to manage our warehouse space. He deserves our thanks for his hard work year-round.

In January, we again manned two tables at the Amherst Railway Society's Railroad Hobby Show in West Springfield, MA. We had very strong sales, and distributed our brand new, full-color membership brochure to customers and throughout the show facilities. Our show staff consisted of Mike Prescott, Dana Frisbee, and Nick and Paul Tomkavage, with additional support from Brad Clarke, Charlie Bahne, Ron Clough, Dan Cohen, and Bill Pollman. We thank them all for their help!

As mentioned above, we produced our first all-new Membership Brochure in many years, featuring information on our website and social media accounts. This brochure has been

distributed at shows like the one in West Springfield, at retail outlets and museums like the Seashore Trolley Museum, and by mail. We are looking to conduct a larger printing of these brochures in the near future for wider distribution.

Our online presence has also expanded this year, with increased activity on our Facebook page, and on our Twitter account (@TheBSRA). We also created a new Twitter account, @RollSignBSRA, on which we share local transit news as it happens. Both Twitter accounts have seen increasing numbers of followers, with @TheBSRA benefitting significantly from a day-long commemoration of the MBTA's 50th Anniversary in August. We continue to work on expanding our website, with a new version of www.thebsra.org set to launch in the near future. Work has also picked up on our upcoming Boston Transit eMuseum site, which we are planning to launch in the coming year at www.transithistory.org.

Work on our next book, *Streetcar Lines of the Hub: The MTA and the T* has also progressed significantly, and we are now targeting a Fall 2015 publication date. We also have future book titles in the pipeline for near-term publication.

Report of the Director of Car Restoration

Our members and friends have continued to strongly support the restoration of Type 5 No. 5706. At the end of the fiscal year, we had raised \$249,546 for this project. The Association deeply appreciates your contributions and asks for your continued support in 2015.

At the end of Fiscal 2013, we sandblasted and primed the side of the car, which was rebuilt in 1974, and improved in recent years. This left the remaining parts of the car with a patchwork of sandblasted, primed areas that had been treated as the steelwork progressed. To achieve maximum protection of all the new steelwork, we continued sandblasting and priming and completed the entire carbody.

The next phase of restoration will focus on two areas: rebuilding the trucks and outfitting the carbody. We have already removed the motors from the trucks and rebuilt all four plus two spares. This leaves the wheel and axle sets and the truck frames for refurbishment or replacement.

Currently, we have submitted a grant application to rebuild the truck frames. Work to be done will include dismantling the existing frames, degreasing and cleaning all parts, and sand blasting all corroded surfaces. Damaged areas will be repaired as needed by appropriate welding and grinding and reprimed and painted. Parts including journal boxes and other truck frame components will be refurbished or replaced as needed, and the trucks will be reassembled and tested.

The wheel treads are very thin, almost worn through. There are two ways to address this condition. The first is to replace the wheels completely, removing them from their axles and fitting new ones with a wheel press.

A second approach is to install steel "tires" over the existing wheel treads, a process that involves heating the tire on a gas flame ring and lowering the expanded tire with a crane onto the wheel tread. We are studying which of these methods is a better option for 5706.

Interior work to be done includes installation of the subfloor, doors, window sash and safety glass, steps and seating. All of the material for this work is on hand and is ready for installation. We have a pending grant application for installation of the subfloor, which will be the first step in this effort.

Remaining mechanical and electrical work will include installation of car wiring and controls, the braking system, and other underfloor equipment.

Optional work will include installation of a pantograph and low voltage interior lighting. We are also studying ways to make the car ADA compliant. The finished streetcar will be capable of operation on an active streetcar system, and the restoration will comply with the current American Public Transit Association standard for Vintage/Heritage Trolley Vehicle equipment.

Report of the Secretary

Our mailing list now numbers 793. In January 2014, we began accepting membership applications through our website, and this has become an important source of new members, with 18 people joining over the web this year. Since October 1, 2013, we have added 43 new members, reinstated 1, and lost 49 due to attrition, including 14 deceased, 2 resignations, and 33 who did not renew, for a net loss of 5 paid members. Our membership and *RollSign* circulation statistics, as of September 30 of each year, were as follows:

<u>Mailing List Category</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
Regular	432	417
Intermediate	4	9
Associate	238	255
Subscriber	80	77
Honorary	7	8
Complimentary	<u>32</u>	<u>31</u>
Totals	793	797

Report of the Vice-President

The Vice-President has handled routine correspondence from members and has assisted at and prepared the press releases for the monthly meetings. This office interfaced with other officers and directors in many areas: proofreading reports and drafts, reviewing financial statements, and managing the mailbox on the Association's website.

Submitting the BSRA Annual Corporate Report to the Secretary of the Commonwealth, reviewing the treasurer's annual filings to the IRS and Massachusetts Attorney General, drafting and producing policy statements, and handling BSRA matters with the Association of Tourist Railroads and Railroad Museums (ATRRM) are also functions of this office. In addition, the Vice-President prepared the report of the nominating committee for presentation to the membership, and vote tabulation documents for use at our annual meeting.

Report of the Entertainment Chair

Lucius Chiaraviglio continues in the position of Entertainment Chair, seeking shows from presenters and organizing the Entertainment Calendar.

Dana Frisbee, our Entertainment AV Manager, continues to earn a round of applause that is not heard often enough, for steadfast work before each of these shows that makes them possible, and whose thorough work after each presentation ensures that everything in the room is in good order for the Masons when we leave.

The BSRA extends its sincere thanks to all who presented at our 2013–2014 meetings, as well as those in years past. In particular, we are very glad to have the return of Loring Lawrence, one of our presenters who was stricken with a serious illness in 2013.

In addition, before our meetings we show traction videos (VHS and DVD), and we invite members to bring pre-meeting entertainment.

October 5, 2013. Grand Central Centennial: Leonard Bachelder commemorated the 100th anniversary of New York's Grand Central Terminal, still considered to be the country's greatest railroad station, starting with a PBS American Experience DVD that described the reason and controversy behind this monumental undertaking. Then he showed slides (mostly from the 1960s) of now-disappeared trains then serving this terminal. Finally he showed 100th anniversary slides of the former terminal and office building of the New York, Westchester and Boston Railway, still used as a subway station and office building.

November 2, 2013. The Boston PCC Years: BSRA favorite Eric Oszustowicz showed us some of his large collection of PCC slides from the 1950s through the 1980s and a few photos from earlier times, with views of contemporary Boston transit of other types sprinkled throughout and views of parts of the streetcar system then in service but now extinct. This was classic Boston traction action!

December 7, 2013. That '70s (Slide) Show, Part I: Boston: George Chiasson gave us a show featuring all rapid transit and streetcar lines that were in service in the 1970s, along with some trackless trolley pictures from Cambridge and a few bus and shop photos, taken from 1970–1979 by various transit photography veterans. We saw parts of the system that were then in existence but have since vanished, along with many images of routine operation as well as some BSRA fantrips.

January 11, 2014. A Spanish and Dutch Outing and a Return to New England: Herb Pence reported on his trips to Europe in 2012 and 2013, where he rode and photographed some interesting LRT and heritage tramlines, with a few metro snapshots. He also performed an archaeological dig through his slides from the 1970s, and showed us the remains of the Yakima Valley Transportation Company (now a museum, in Yakima, WA) and Manchester Transit in New Hampshire in the 1970s along with a few photos from Pittsburgh in 2011.

February 1, 2014. American Victoriana: The Architecture of Charles Brigham: Charles Brigham was an architect on the cutting edge, of international renown, who designed Back Bay townhouses, Newport cottages, and important public buildings in Boston and across the country from 1866 to 1919. Watertown Historic Commission Chair David Russo presented an overlooked aspect of Brigham's work: the train stations that he designed, contributing markedly to station design and the burgeoning American culture of tourism and travel.

March 1, 2014. Transit and Weather Together: Long-time ERA and BSRA member, Seashore Trolley Museum instructor, and 35-year WCBS News Radio 880 meteorologist Todd Glickman travels around the world working with companies that invest in research at MIT. This gives him the opportunity to ride transit systems everywhere. In this show, we saw his recent travels to Asia, featuring Taiwan, China, Thailand, Singapore, Hong Kong, and Malaysia, plus a few surprises from a recent trip to Europe.

April 5, 2014. Trolley Videos: Donald Nevin presented trolley videos from Mark 1 Videos and Transit Gloria Mundi. First we saw "Nostalgic Trolley Tour of New York and New England", of two interurbans in upstate New York and streetcars in Albany, Schenectady, Providence, New Bedford, and Boston. Then we saw "Everett White in the West", showing 36 streetcar and interurban systems running west of Gary, Indiana.

May 3, 2014. 125 Years at the Reservoir: Nick Tomkavage presented a digital slide show of over a century of the Reservoir Carhouse and the Cleveland Circle area, featuring the various lines serving this neighborhood. Nick showed the audience many images of the Reservoir Carhouse, which dates back over one hundred years, including historic views of both the carhouse itself and the areas around it, and images up to the present.

June 7, 2014. Key System & Sacramento Northern: Clark Frazier presented a visual tour of the electric suburban Key System trans bay lines from San Francisco (connecting to the surviving Municipal Railway streetcar lines) to Oakland and Berkeley from 1956 to 1958, and then the freight-only electrified Sacramento Northern during the same time period. Afterwards, he presented a New England potpourri.

July 12, 2014. Boston in Transition: Loring Lawrence showed us Boston's Green Line from 1970 to 1979, a period of change, when PCCs were being repainted from Traction Orange to the now-familiar green (and occasionally in other schemes), and were slowly making their exit. He also showed us the other rapid transit lines, including the Main Line Elevated structures; south side Commuter Rail (including diverse motive power from various carriers); buses and trackless trolleys; Amtrak service (including the United Aircraft Turbo Trains); and a quick look at commuter bus service. Throughout the show he demonstrated excellent recall of detail about various pieces of equipment.

August 2, 2014. Boston Transit Memories: The Road to the Green Line: Bradley Clarke presented the later years of the dense streetcar network in Boston, starting in 1950, that preceded the Green Line, with frequent showing of maps and fan trips to give us perspective. He prepared this show as a pilot for other presentations (including a web presentation) and as a look at the content of a coming book.

September 6, 2014. Boston's Orange Line: Authors Andrew Elder and Jeremy Fox presented a slide show from their recently published book, *Boston's Orange Line*. Since 1901, this rail line's configuration evolved in responses to changes in the city, society, and technology.

Final Remarks

The Directors and Officers of the Boston Street Railway Association appreciate the strong support of you, our members both this year and in so many more years in the past. The Association thrives on member participation and voluntary

service, and these two qualities are the principal ingredients of our success. This past year is a good example of the cooperative spirit within our organization and the reason for our optimism about the years to come.

Respectfully submitted,

The Directors and Officers of the
BOSTON STREET RAILWAY ASSOCIATION, INC.

Bradley H. Clarke, President and Chairman
Thaddeus S. Anderson, Secretary
Thomas Athearn, Vice-President and Clerk of Corporation
Charles Bahne, Jr., Treasurer and Director
Jonathan Belcher, Director at Large
Lucius Chiaraviglio, Entertainment Chair
Ronald Clough, Publications Manager
Daniel R. Cohen, Director at Large
Dana Frisbee, AV Manager
James E. Gately, Librarian
David F. Harling, Director of Car Restoration
Gerard P. O'Regan, Assistant Librarian
Michael R. Prescott, Publications Director
Nicholas M. Tomkavage, *RollSign* Editor

**Boston Street Railway Association
Annual Treasurer's Report**

**Fiscal Year 2014
(after adjustments)**

General Fund			
Cash on Hand:	General Fund	October 1, 2013	\$9,799.98
INCOME FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014:			
Donations and Grants, General Fund		\$14,916.37	
Dues, Regular		\$10,700.00	
Dues, Intermediate		\$100.00	
Dues, Associate		\$4,860.00	
Roll Sign, Subscriptions		\$1,280.00	
Postage Surcharges from Members		\$154.00	
Roll Sign, Retail		\$756.50	
Roll Sign, Wholesale		\$252.00	
BSRA Publications, Retail		\$804.41	
BSRA Publications, Wholesale		\$738.44	
Publications, Resale		\$25,313.57	
Publications, Sales Tax Collected		\$726.46	
Publications, Shipping & Handling		\$2,270.75	
Fantrip Income		\$2,068.00	
Other General Fund Income		\$20.79	
TOTAL GENERAL FUND INCOME FOR FY 2014:			\$64,961.29
EXPENSES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014:			
Management & General Expenses		\$7,253.90	
Roll Sign Printing		\$12,102.00	
Roll Sign Postage & Mailing Service		\$3,750.94	
Other Roll Sign Expenses		\$908.36	
BSRA Publications Printing & Production		\$0.00	
Other BSRA Publications Expenses		\$0.00	
Purchase of Inventory for Resale		\$17,787.50	
Publications Marketing & Show Expense		\$6,729.60	
Publications, Sales Tax Paid		\$711.39	
Publications Shipping Expense		\$2,880.88	
Other Publications Sales Expenses		\$5,784.65	
Monthly Meeting Expense		\$3,025.00	
Library Expense		\$1,500.00	
Fantrip Expense		\$1,452.50	
Fundraising Expense		\$873.62	
Refunds Paid & Returned Checks		\$0.00	
Other General Fund Expense		\$0.00	
TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENSE FOR FY 2014:			\$64,760.34
GENERAL FUND SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014:			\$200.95
Cash on Hand:	General Fund	September 30, 2014	\$10,000.93
5706 Fund			
Cash on Hand:	5706 Fund	October 1, 2013	\$38,026.39
INCOME FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014:			
Donations and Grants, 5706 Fund		\$17,078.19	
Interest, 5706 Fund		\$112.36	
Other 5706 Fund Income		\$0.00	
TOTAL 5706 FUND INCOME FOR FY 2014:			\$17,190.55
EXPENSES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014:			
Car 5706 Restoration Expense		\$6,215.00	
Car 5706 Maintenance & Housing		\$1,000.00	
Car 5706 Project Management		\$87.00	
Car 5706 Fundraising Expense		\$1,547.82	
Other 5706 Fund Expense		\$0.00	
TOTAL 5706 FUND EXPENSE FOR FY 2014:			\$8,849.82
5706 FUND SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014:			\$8,340.73
Cash on Hand:	5706 Fund	September 30, 2014	\$46,367.12
COMBINED CASH ON HAND:	September 30, 2014		\$56,368.05
PROOF OF BALANCE:			
Cash		\$0.00	
Checking		\$5,135.37	
Money Market		\$50,508.21	
Savings		\$320.74	
PayPal		\$403.73	
Square		\$0.00	
GRAND TOTAL CASH ON HAND		\$56,368.05	VARIANCE: \$0.00
5706 FUND GRAND TOTAL RAISED TO DATE:		\$249,545.97	