

# Boston Street Railway Association, Inc.

## Fifty-Fourth Annual Report

### 2013

The Boston Street Railway Association has completed another successful year in Fiscal 2013. We had a substantial financial surplus largely resulting from excellent publication sales, strong General Fund donations, and lower expenses for administration and publication marketing.

The Publications Department, under the leadership of Mike Prescott, was very active, producing six publications catalogs for *RollSign* and retail customer mailings. An active sales presence at the Amherst Railway Society's show in West Springfield and increased web sales were also significant factors. We have also begun a popular program of offering a selection of our book titles at our monthly meetings.

Looking ahead, we are planning on increasing our activity on the Internet, and work continues on our next book, *Streetcar Lines of the Hub – The MTA 1950-1964*. We would like to publish this book, which will be BSRA Bulletin 25, in 2014.

The Association lost a long-time member, a wonderful friend and a professional colleague, Daniel T. Lenihan, on October 18, 2012. Dan was editor of the *RollSign* from its early days, and oversaw a host of changes in the content and production of the publication during the many years he served as its Editor and the Association as its *RollSign* Director.

Nick Tomkavage became *RollSign* Editor in November 2012, and has produced six terrific issues as of this writing, providing a smooth transition in taking up this position in the process. We are fortunate to have had a talented volunteer who was able to step in so quickly and competently.

The Entertainment Committee, chaired by Lucius Chiavaglio, once again put together a great program after each of our monthly meetings. Contacting and working closely with our presenters and preparing informative entertainment calendars for our *RollSign* mailings and for use on our website, the committee did yeoman service in maintaining a long-standing BSRA tradition of providing interesting presentations to our meeting attendees.

Our Secretary, Tadd Anderson, ably assisted by his son, Ryan, once again handled membership renewal processing, a tremendous annual effort, and the annual election, another significant job. Tadd also handled our correspondence and special mailings of many types.

Our Vice-President, Tom Athearn, manages public inquiries to our website and assists all our departments with document preparation and editing. He also is responsible for filing our annual report to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Our library, under the able management of Librarian James Gately and Assistant Librarian Gerry O'Regan, continues to grow with the donations and bequests from a number of members during the year.

Work on Type 5 No. 5706 continues with sandblasting and priming of the side restored in 1974, minor riveting, procurement of the hard maple top floor, and the submittal of grant applications to other organizations.

All our officers are volunteers, and the specifics of their contributions follow in individual reports. Our success is entirely attributable to the support of you, our members, and the effective use of the resources that you provide our volunteer officers through dues, donations, and important information, such as articles and photographs for *RollSign*.

#### Report of the Publications Director

2013 was another strong year for the BSRA Publications Department. We produced 6 Publications Catalogues during the year, which included popular titles like *Transit in the Triangle*, *Pittsburgh Trolleys in Color*, and *The Trolley Parks of Maine*. Online sales of publications, DVDs, gift items, and *RollSign* back issues has continued to grow, including many orders to non-members – a great way for us to spread the word about the Association and reach prospective new members! Mail order sales, however, remain our backbone and we thank all of our customers for their patronage and support. Once again, we recognize our Publications Manager, Ron Clough, for his many hours fulfilling orders year-round.

As we do every year, we manned two tables at the Amherst Railway Society's Railroad Hobby Show in West Springfield in January. Sales were strong, boosted by new wooden MBTA Commuter Rail train sets that proved quite popular. Mike Prescott, Nick and Paul Tomkavage, and Dana Frisbee again staffed our booth, with support from Charlie Bahne, Brad Clarke, Ron Clough, Dan Cohen, and Bill Pollman. We thank all of them for their help!

Late in 2012, we began bringing a small selection of books and other items to our monthly meetings for sale at the front table. This quickly caught on as a popular outlet for publications sales. It also helps offset the cost of room rent for the meeting in addition to the donations received from attendees. A coordinated effort between Ron Clough, Tom Athearn, Brad Clarke, Charlie Bahne, Nick Tomkavage and Mike Prescott makes this happen every month, and its popularity has made it quite worthwhile!

Turning the light on our own publications, we have been experiencing strong sales of our books, in particular *Boston Transit Equipment 1979 – 2009*, through the Ward Maps store and MBTAGifts.com website. Both have proven to be ideal wholesale customers, and we look forward to offering our next books for sale through them and our other wholesale customers. Much like our online sales, wholesale customers help spread the word about the BSRA to people who otherwise may not have heard of us!

Speaking of new books, work continues on the next installment in our Boston transit history series, *Streetcar Lines of the Hub – The MTA 1950-1964*, which we are targeting for production in 2014. Keep an eye on our website for further updates.

Finally, we are also working on an expanded online presence, which you will see in the coming months.

### Report of the Director of Car Restoration

As of the end of the 2013 fiscal year, we have raised \$232,000 for the Type 5 No. 5706 restoration, our most visible project. The Association was founded in 1959 to acquire and restore 5706, and it will not be long before we complete this task. Your sustained support has made this project possible, and we ask you all to continue your help in 2014

This year we finished off minor exterior riveting, sandblasted and primed the side of the car which was rebuilt in 1974, and purchased new maple top flooring for the center aisle between the seats, among other things.

In the spring of 2014, we'll install the base flooring to which the seat pedestals are fastened. Doing this will allow us to access the letterboard on ladders from inside the car. Last year we mentioned that a section of the letterboard, the metal strip above the windows, had to be replaced. Close inspection has revealed that the letterboard must be replaced entirely, and we have procured the fasteners and cut the sheet steel needed for this work.

We are also planning the installation of laminated safety glass for the side window sash and tempered glass for the end windows to fully enclose the interior. Doors will also be fitted with safety glass, but may not be installed right away to allow access for large tools and equipment to the car interior.

We have a grant request in process for the safety and tempered glass, pneumatic pipe and fittings for the braking system, new air tanks, and new wiring. We are planning the installation of these parts and materials in 2014. Procurement and installation of new air tanks, and placement of the compressor, resistors and remaining underfloor parts will be next, followed by the controllers, air brake and door controls and other vestibule equipment. These will follow in 2014-15.

Later, in 2015, the final phase of the project will include reworking the wheel and axle sets including installation of steel tires on the wheels, and reinstallation of the traction motors. A socket array for a working pantograph over the existing trolley pole assembly at one end of the car is also planned along with provision for handicap access, efforts which will bring the project to an end.

### Report of the RollSign Editor

The Association published six issues of ROLLSIGN, all with color covers. There were 55 color and 48 black and white photos, and 4 drawings and maps on 112 pages.

Jonathan Belcher's Annual MBTA Vehicle Inventory was featured in the January/February edition. Remaining issues included: *LOWELL – Recently Abandoned MBTA Bus Routes; Electric Trolley Test Car of the Worcester Polytech-*

*nic Institute; Car 396 and The Cardinal Revisited; Genesis of the Bay State Street Railway; Boston Marathon Bombing: The MBTA's Response; MBTA Emergency Training Center and Upper Broadway; Fairmount Line Opens Two New Stations, and The Longest Trolley Line in Massachusetts.*

Charles Bahne, Jonathan Belcher, Bradley Clarke, Robert J. Matusik, Robert Minichiello, Barry Steinberg and George Zeiba are all part of our regular staff, which keep the publication on track year round. There were many other contributors to ROLLSIGN as well, and we offer our thanks to Ed Anderson, Tadd Anderson, Ryan Anderson, John Arico, James M. Baggett, George Chiasson, Corey Connors-Reynolds, O.R. Cummings (Deceased), Rico Gomes, Christopher Kelliher, Joe Lynch, Mike Prescott, Stuart Spina, and Jon Yee.

### Report of the Secretary

Our current mailing list is 797. Since October 1, 2012, we have added 25 new members and lost 50 due to attrition, including 12 deceased, 2 resignations, and 36 who did not renew, for a net loss of 25 paid members. Our membership and ROLLSIGN circulation statistics, as of September 30 of each year, were as follows:

<u>Mailing List Category</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>
Regular	417	430
Intermediate	9	11
Associate	255	263
Subscriber	77	79
Honorary	8	8
Complimentary	<u>31</u>	<u>32</u>
Totals	797	823

### Report of the Vice-President

The Vice-President helped prepare our monthly business meetings, presented reports on behalf of other officers, prepared press releases for our monthly business meetings, and facilitated publication sales.

The Vice-President also assisted other officers and directors with routine correspondence review of drafts, reports and financial statements including annual government filings for the Treasurer, drafts for association policy, and standard responses for frequently asked questions from both written and electronic correspondence. He also prepared more detailed responses to specialized corporate correspondence in conjunction with other officers and directors.

The Vice-President prepares and submits the Annual Corporate report to the Secretary of the Commonwealth, prepares the credentials for the Association's representative at the Association of Tourist Railroads and Railway Museums (ATRRM) annual meeting, and has primary responsibility for monitoring the mailbox on the Association's website, responding to questions, and forwarding communications to appropriate officers, directors and staff for further action.

Finally, the Vice-President prepares the report of the Nominating Committee and documents for the tellers to use in tabulating votes at the annual meeting.

## Report of the Entertainment Chair

Lucius Chiaraviglio continues in the position of Entertainment Chair, seeking presentations 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 on each of these shows and which makes them possible.

The BSRA extends its sincere thanks to our presenters at our 2012–13 meetings, as well as those of years past. In particular, our thoughts go out to Loring Lawrence, one of our presenters, who was recently stricken with a serious illness and has only recently started recovering.

In addition, before meetings we show traction videos (VHS and DVD), and we invite members to bring pre-meeting entertainment. Finally, we added a 16 MM movie projector to our equipment roster for use with films from our library of vintage material and from others.

October 13, 2012. From Boston to New Bedford, 100 Years Back. Leo Sullivan took us on a historic tour of the Massachusetts south coast region, from Boston to Fall River and back. Leo gave us an extensive snapshot of streetcar service (including streetcar freight) from Southern Massachusetts before World War I featuring the Bay State Railway and the New Bedford & Onset Street Railway.

November 3, 2012. Nick Tomkavage presented a review of the Chicago Transit Authority in 2008 - 2009, showing Chicago's extensive elevated rapid transit system, including some unique at-grade ground level segments. We saw the Loop, the North Side Main Line, the Ravenswood Line, and the South Side Line, among others.

December 1, 2012. Jim Schantz's Seashore Trolley Museum Update. Seashore Trolley Museum chair Jim Schantz updated us on recent progress at Seashore, including restoration of some important Boston cars and Seashore's own infrastructure, recent developments in expansion of the trolley system in Lowell (including plans for a museum presence), and the museum's participation in the American Public Transit Association's streetcar committee (including involvement with new streetcar projects across North America). Finally, he gave us a mini-show about the new streetcars and subway cars that Toronto will soon be receiving.

January 5, 2013. Loring Lawrence presented transport in Thailand from his trip there in 2000, featuring the State Railway of Thailand, rapid transit (Skytrain), bus, and ferry

transport in Bangkok, and intercity buses. The State Railway of Thailand uses diesel locomotives and diesel multiple unit trains for regular service, but has also preserved several steam locomotives in working order for excursion service and many more for display. We saw examples of all of these, along with many other sights of Thailand, from temples and other religious edifices to the infamous "Death Railway" built by slave labor under the Japanese Empire in 1942–43 to connect Thailand to Burma. We also saw Vientiane, the capital of Laos.

February 2, 2013. A New England Retrospective. Longtime BSRA member Herb Pence showed us New England transit, especially in the Boston area around 30 years ago, with a few earlier photos featuring old New England buses and the Green Line when it still had some orange cars and some very old work equipment.

March 2, 2013. Mid-Atlantic Transit Images. Tadd and Ryan Anderson presented an expansive overview of modern transit property images from 2001 through 2012, with then-and-now comparisons from the 1980s for selected properties. We saw the MTA in New York, New Jersey Transit, SEPTA, DART in Delaware, the MTA in Maryland, WMATA, Amtrak and freight trains, and buses of private carriers.

April 6, 2013. Donald Nevin Presented Brazil, Part 2. Starting in São Paulo, Brazil (where Part 1 left off), this program featured both heavy rail and streetcar operations, over a total of SIX different gauges, in the states of Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro in the early 1960s. We also saw some of the old steam ships in Rio's harbor, including the world's last two side-wheel ferries to be powered by walking beam steam engines.

May 4, 2013. A Railfan Silent Film Potpourri. R. Allan Pommer showed us 3 reels of 8 mm silent film on European trolleys, North American PCCs, and New England and Maritime railroad short lines of the 1950s and 1960s. We saw electric, steam, and diesel operations in cities including (but not limited to) Naples, Rome, Koblenz, Toronto, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Everett, as well as rural rail scenes.

June 1, 2013. Northeastern University by Transit, 1870 - 1990. Nick Tomkavage presented a detailed historical overview of transit development and changes in the neighborhoods proximate to Northeastern University, his soon-to-be alma mater. We also saw many vintage photos of streetcars and infrastructure.

July 13, 2013. The East Coaster, Part 2. Christopher Kelliher continued on his tour of the East Coast of the United States. We started in New York (Upstate and City), and then made stops in Pennsylvania, Baltimore, Washington DC, and Florida. We also saw some West Coast photos.

August 3, 2013. Ye Olde Boston in Vintage Transit Movies. Bradley Clarke showed us some vintage transit silent films very rarely shown: First a movie of East Boston streetcar and tunnel service from 1950 - 1951, then a Boston Elevated Railway film of 1926 - 1927 vintage (prefaced by a brief Thomas Edison film of 1905, and including some other film footage from earlier times); then a film on the Charlestown Elevated commissioned by the BSRA in 1974-75; and finally a reel of assorted Boston color films taken in 1938.

September 7, 2013. Donald Nevin presented Brazil Part 3: The Northeastern States. Donald showed the final part of his program on Brazil, showing slides of railroads, trolleys, and steamboats from 1964, starting in Belém, near the mouth of the Amazon River, and working south to Minas Gerais, where Part 2, previously shown, ended.

## Final Remarks

The continued success of the Boston Street Railway Association results from the support it has from its many friends and members and from the hard work of its unpaid volunteers. We have every reason to believe that the Association will be at least as productive in 2014, if not more so. A new *RollSign*

editor, steady headway toward our next new book, continued progress on Boston Type 5 No. 5706, strong General Fund and 5706 support, and continued interest in our meetings and other activities from our members point to a bright future.

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, Treasurer and Director  
Jonathan Belcher, Director at Large  
Lucius Chiaraviglio, Entertainment Chair  
Ronald Clough, Publications Manager  
Daniel R. Cohen, Director at Large  
Dana Frisbee, Entertainment AV Manager  
James E. Gately, Librarian  
David F. Harling, Director of Car Restoration  
Daniel T. Lenihan (Deceased), *ROLLSIGN* Director through October 18, 2012  
Gerard P. O'Regan, Assistant Librarian  
Michael R. Prescott, Publications Director  
Nicholas Tomkavage, *ROLLSIGN* Editor (through October 5, 2013)

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

**Fiscal Year 2013  
(after adjustments)**

<b>General Fund</b>			
<b>Cash on Hand:</b>	<b>General Fund</b>	<b>October 1, 2012</b>	<b>\$6,188.53</b>
<b>INCOME FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013:</b>			
Donations and Grants, General Fund		\$12,276.57	
Dues, Regular		\$10,125.00	
Dues, Intermediate		\$100.00	
Dues, Associate		\$5,080.00	
Roll Sign, Subscriptions		\$1,216.00	
Postage Surcharges from Members		\$143.00	
Roll Sign, Retail		\$436.00	
Roll Sign, Wholesale		\$282.00	
BSRA Publications, Retail		\$2,571.08	
BSRA Publications, Wholesale		\$1,017.78	
Publications, Resale		\$24,282.20	
Publications, Sales Tax Collected		\$751.05	
Publications, Shipping & Handling		\$2,159.15	
Fantrip & Trolley Meet Income			
Other General Fund Income		\$51.76	
<b>TOTAL GENERAL FUND INCOME FOR FY 2013:</b>			<b>\$60,491.59</b>
<b>EXPENSES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013:</b>			
Management & General Expenses		\$4,059.31	
Roll Sign Printing		\$12,102.00	
Roll Sign Postage & Mailing Service		\$4,079.39	
Other Roll Sign Expenses		\$1,329.72	
BSRA Publications Printing & Production			
Other BSRA Publications Expenses			
Purchase of Inventory for Resale		\$16,611.38	
Publications Marketing & Show Expense		\$5,950.47	
Publications, Sales Tax Paid		\$730.93	
Publications Shipping Expense		\$2,219.24	
Other Publications Sales Expenses		\$4,104.00	
Monthly Meeting Expense		\$3,500.00	
Library Expense		\$1,380.00	
Fantrip & Trolley Meet Expense			
Fundraising Expense		\$713.70	
Refunds Paid & Returned Checks			
Other General Fund Expense		\$100.00	
<b>TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENSE FOR FY 2013:</b>			<b>\$56,880.14</b>
<b>GENERAL FUND SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013:</b>			<b>\$3,611.45</b>
<b>Cash on Hand:</b>	<b>General Fund</b>	<b>September 30, 2013</b>	<b>\$9,799.98</b>
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<b>5706 Fund</b>			
<b>Cash on Hand:</b>	<b>5706 Fund</b>	<b>October 1, 2012</b>	<b>\$31,583.38</b>
<b>INCOME FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013:</b>			
Donations and Grants, 5706 Fund		\$17,859.30	
Interest, 5706 Fund		\$96.17	
Other 5706 Fund Income			
<b>TOTAL 5706 FUND INCOME FOR FY 2013:</b>			<b>\$17,955.47</b>
<b>EXPENSES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013:</b>			
Car 5706 Restoration Expense		\$9,426.00	
Car 5706 Maintenance & Housing		\$284.86	
Car 5706 Project Management		\$231.17	
Car 5706 Fundraising Expense		\$1,570.43	
Other 5706 Fund Expense			
<b>TOTAL 5706 FUND EXPENSE FOR FY 2013:</b>			<b>\$11,512.46</b>
<b>5706 FUND SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013:</b>			<b>\$6,443.01</b>
<b>Cash on Hand:</b>	<b>5706 Fund</b>	<b>September 30, 2013</b>	<b>\$38,026.39</b>
<b>COMBINED CASH ON HAND:</b>	<b>September 30, 2013</b>		<b>\$47,826.37</b>
<b>PROOF OF BALANCE:</b>			
Cash		\$0.00	
Checking		\$4,912.76	
Money Market		\$41,817.18	
Savings		\$784.30	
PayPal		\$312.13	
Square		\$0.00	
<b>GRAND TOTAL CASH ON HAND</b>		<b>\$47,826.37</b>	<b>VARIANCE: \$0.00</b>
<b>5706 FUND GRAND TOTAL RAISED TO DATE:</b>		<b>\$232,355.42</b>	