

Boston Street Railway Association, Inc.

Fiftieth Annual Report

2009

The Boston Street Railway Association marked its 50th Anniversary in 2009. The BSRA Board of Directors appointed a committee to mark this significant year chaired by Michael R. Prescott, our Publications Director. During this time we produced a color calendar, a special edition of *ROLLSIGN* highlighting our history and traditions, made a group visit to view restoration progress on Type 5 No. 5706, and produced a new book, *Boston Transit Equipment, 1979-2009*.

In June, we held a 50th Anniversary meeting attended by 150 guests and members to whom we introduced five of our ten original founders, presenting them recognition awards. Next, Mike Prescott presented an illustrated history of the Association. Dan Lenihan recalled his forty plus years as *ROLLSIGN* Editor as it steadily developed into the fine publication it is today. Ed Anderson froze time with a fascinating presentation on the Boston transit scene in 1959, when the Association was founded.

Next, Brad Clarke took the audience through the many stages of the 5706 Restoration Project to date. The finale was a presentation to the BSRA of the H. Albert Webb Memorial Railroad Preservation Award, an annual grant to non-profits in the railway preservation field, by William Crawford, representing the Massachusetts Bay Railroad Enthusiasts, Inc., the grant administrator, and by Leigh A. Webb, the grant donor. Refreshments ended the meeting, marking the most successful group event the BSRA has ever held.

One week later, also in June, the Association sponsored a bus trip to Rail Technical Services to see the progress on Type 5 No. 5706. Lunch and a visit to the Branford Trolley Museum followed, ending an enjoyable outing.

As a final 50th Anniversary event, we released a new book in October 2009, *BOSTON TRANSIT EQUIPMENT, 1979-2009*, written by Mike Prescott.

The 5706 Project advanced significantly in 2009 and is discussed under the Director of Car Restoration report, which follows. Years of work are paying off, and completion is likely by 2012 or sooner. We cannot thank our members and friends enough for their support. We also deeply appreciate grants from the Amherst Railway Society and General Electric, and the H. Albert Webb Memorial Preservation Award.

General Fund income was \$55,135 and expenses were \$55,045, resulting in a slight surplus. This compares favorably with Fiscal 2008 in which income was slightly higher, \$56,382, but so were expenses, \$60,061, which resulted in a \$2,023 deficit. Fiscal 2009 has been financially successful, but only due to the steady support of the General and 5706

Funds by you, our members. Member support was up by 20% this year, and overall support by 75% including grants!

In May, we held a "Flyer Farewell" fan trip featuring Flyer trackless 4037 in a last run before its move to the Branford Trolley museum. This trip was well attended.

The reports of our volunteer officers are below. Their unpaid efforts and those of the staff that support them keep the Association running from day to day. With continued help from you, our members, and our volunteers, the BSRA will continue its non-profit, educational mission to preserve and record local transit history in the coming decades.

Report of the Director of Car Restoration

The restoration of Type 5 No. 5706 continues to progress with many accomplishments in Fiscal 2009. The vestibule steel on one end of the car is nearly complete as of this writing and should be finished by the end of calendar 2009.

The vestibules are more challenging than we originally thought. Extensive steel replacement was needed, only becoming apparent as the outer skin was removed. We have replaced the crown sheet, the half-moon shaped floor steel over which the motorman stands, rebuilt the platform knees, which support the crown sheet, and replaced the vertical posts in the front of the dash. The coupler radius bar and support steel have been restored and the coupler reinstalled. We still must connect the vertical dash posts to the crown sheet and rivet new steel plating on the front of the dash.

Other steelwork included installation of underfloor supports for the compressor, air piping and tanks, and a handbrake pivot arm. New window clips were installed on the sides.

Also in 2009 we received a new subfloor for installation later, have finished assembling the 24 sets of new cherry wood sash for the sides of the car, and have commenced refurbishing the end and side seats and their mechanisms and pedestals. We have also received new vestibule window sash, and this will be assembled and installed in 2010.

Along with these efforts, we will install safety glass in all windows, meeting American Public Transit Association standards for vintage streetcars on operating systems. Other work will include installation of the refurbished brass and steel window hardware and seat reassembly.

In 2010, we will rebuild the second vestibule, completing major car body steelwork. We will also install air brake piping and tanks, hand brake rigging, and the subfloor.

Support from our members and friends was nearly \$25,000, including \$11,500 in grants from the Amherst Railway Society and the H. Albert Webb Memorial Preservation Award, the latter administered by the Mass. Bay Railroad Enthusiasts. We spent almost \$31,000 this year, but we still ended with almost \$31,000 on hand. Donations from members and friends were up more than 20% this year, and overall contributions, including grants, were up almost 75%. We have raised more than \$164,000 for 5706, and have spent \$133,208. Thank you for your strong project support.

Report of the Publications Director

The publications department had a great 2009. We had an outstanding holiday sales season, and a record weekend at the Amherst Railway Society show in West Springfield. Nick and Paul Tomkavage, Dana Frisbee, Bill Pollman, Danny Cohen, Brad Clarke and Mike Prescott provided show support.

This spring, we reorganized and consolidated our space in Quincy, which has reduced our monthly rent. Mike Prescott, Brad Clarke and Ron Clough consolidated our publications space and have created a more accessible library unit.

While overall publications sales dipped slightly, overall expenses dropped even more, so the net surplus for the year from this department exceeded that of 2008.

We produced 5 catalogues this year, which have all been well received, and have maintained our online presence. Publications Fulfillment Manager Ron Clough was once again the cornerstone of our mail-order operation.

Near the end of the fiscal year, we also began work on a new book for release in October 2009, and work continues on our Boston streetcar route series, *The MTA and the T*, and *Route of the Minutemen*, a history of the Middlesex & Boston Street Railway Company.

Report of the ROLLSIGN Director

The Association published six issues of *ROLLSIGN* in FY 2009 with color covers. There were 98 color photographs, 28 black and white photos, 10 drawings and maps, and a total of 112 pages.

Jonathan Belcher's annual MBTA Vehicle Inventory was featured in the January/February edition. Remaining issues included: Green Line Extension to Somerville and Medford: Proposed Transit Extensions in 1945: Early trolley service in photos from Medford to Sullivan Square; Type 5 No. 5706 Project Update, Looking Back 50 Years to September 1958; Town History Mural at Arlington Heights, A Century Ago – The Washington Street Tunnel; Seashore Trolley Museum's Boston Collection; Seashore Trolley Museum's 70th Anniversary; Flyer Trackless Trolley Sendoff; 2008 MBTA Vehicle Inventory, and our 50th Anniversary Issue edited by Mike Prescott, our Publications Director.

Charles Bahne, Jonathan Belcher, Bradley Clarke, Robert J. Matusik, Robert Minichiello, Barry Steinberg and George Zeiba are all part of our regular staff, who keep the publication on track year round. There were many other contributors to *ROLLSIGN* as well, and we offer our sincere thanks to Tadd Anderson, Dan Cohen, Phil DeJoseph, Joseph Diecidue, Kevin Farrell, Walter Kobrzynski, Christopher Kelliher, Joe Lynch, Larry Mills, Paul Shackford, Bruce Thain, George Chiasson, NRE, Michael R. Prescott, Ed Anderson, Stan Genthner, and James A. Bainter.

Report of the Treasurer

New computerized bookkeeping systems were implemented with the transition to a new Treasurer in October 2008. These systems have streamlined this vital aspect of the Association's business, reducing our volunteer workload. The categories we use to report income and expenses were also revised, to facilitate future budget and planning efforts.

Report of the Secretary

Reflecting the state of the national economy, our membership decreased slightly in 2009. This was less than 2%, however, and our overall membership totals remain strong. As of September 30, 2009, our membership and *ROLLSIGN* statistics compared to 2008 were as follows:

<u>Mailing List Category</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
Regular	425	424
Intermediate	6	4
Associate	300	321
Subscriber	86	84
Honorary	8	8
Complimentary	<u>33</u>	<u>31</u>
Totals	858	872

Report of the Vice-President

The Vice-President supports the efforts of the other officers and directors. This office handles meeting publicity, and updates the Association's information line.

As Clerk of Corporation, the Vice-President prepares the Annual Corporate Report, legally required for all corporations in Massachusetts. The Vice-President also certifies all legal documents. An added task this year has been to verify and correct our mailing and contact information with state offices and vendors.

Report of the Entertainment Chairman

Tadd Anderson began the year as Entertainment Chair, with Lucius Chiaraviglio replacing Tadd in December so that Tadd could focus on his duties as Secretary and Entertainment Vice-Chair. Dana Frisbee continues to provide his expertise as Entertainment AV Manager.

The BSRA extends its sincere thanks to all our presenters at our 2009 meetings. Before the meetings we show traction videos, DVDs and photo CDs and we invite everyone to participate in pre-meeting entertainment.

October 4, 2008: ANNUAL MEETING AND MEMBER'S NIGHT: Christopher Kelliher and Bradley Clarke each provided a good mix of current events and vintage Boston historical slides.

November 1, 2008: NEW ORLEANS, THEN AND NOW. Bradley Clarke presented New Orleans' rebuilt Canal Street line using the green cars from St. Charles which had been pressed into service as a replacement for the red replica cars due to the damage done from Hurricane Katrina. Bradley also showed the Riverfront and St. Charles lines today and the latter from the 1960s, making a comparison of operations between the two times.

December 6, 2008: TRAVELS WITH CHARLIE. Charlie Bahne reprised scenes of his travels around the United States and Canada in the late 1970s and early 1980s. The cities we saw included Montreal, Toronto, Chicago, Atlanta, New Orleans, Seattle, and views from around Boston in the same period, including Red Line construction at Harvard Square.

January 10, 2009: TRAVELS TO WESTERN EUROPE WITH NICK TOMKAVAGE. Nick presented scenes of his recent European travels including the London Underground, Croydon Tramlink, Amsterdam trams, the Paris Métro, and a few bonus shots of buses in Reykjavic, Iceland.

February 7, 2009: INSIDE THE FENCE WITH HERB PENCE. Herb Pence shared his experiences from his years at the MBTA Everett Shops, from 1986 through 1992. Herb showed many fascinating images of the bus and rail divisions as he gave his insider's historical view of T Operations.

March 7, 2009: A VIEW OF OUR TOWN VIA RED LINE. Norman Fox presented slides of the Red Line and connecting bus services from his collection taken during the 1980s when there were still 01400s in the Commonwealth blue and gold paint scheme.

April 4, 2009: A TRAVEL BACK IN TIME TO CLEVELAND: Brad Clarke showed Shaker Heights and Cleveland Transit scenes from the 1960s, a trip back in time with a touch of trackless trolley and bus shots.

Final Remarks

Our 50th Anniversary Year, 2009, has a great success. We look for more in 2010, but as always this depends entirely on the support and participation of our members, volunteers and

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 Fulfillment 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, *ROLLSIGN* Director
Michael R. Prescott, Publications Director
Nicholas Tomkavage, Office Administrator

May 2, 2009: TRAVELS AROUND THE WORLD WITH ERIC OSZUS-TOWICZ. Eric Oszustowicz shared his tour in 2007 - 2008 of Nice and Cannes, France, and neighboring Monaco of commuter and intercity rail and the new light rail system in Nice. Views of Geneva, Berne, and Basel, Switzerland, with trolleys, trolley coaches, commuter rail, and intercity rail followed. Next was New York City for the introduction of the R-160 subway cars and a look at Second Avenue Subway construction. Finally it was off to the Caribbean and Brazil for public transit scenes.

June 6, 2009: BSRA's 50TH ANNIVERSARY MEETING. We looked back on fifty years of our Association! This show featured a special historical presentation of the Association's history over the past 50 years by Mike Prescott, words from Dan Lenihan about the development of *RollSign*, a capsule transit history of Boston in 1959 by Ed Anderson, and a review of the Type 5 No 5706 restoration progress to date. The highlight of the meeting was the presentation of the H. Albert Webb Memorial Preservation Award by the Mass. Bay Railroad Enthusiasts for the restoration of Type 5, No. 5706. Refreshments brought an end to a great evening.

July 11, 2009: TRAVELS TO EASTERN EUROPE WITH NICK TOMKAVAGE: Nick returned to present a digital slideshow of the U-Bahn, S-Bahn, and trams in Berlin, and the tramways of Heidelberg, Germany, Krakow and Gdansk in Poland, and Prague in the Czech Republic.

August 1, 2009: JIM SCHANTZ'S SEASHORE TROLLEY MUSEUM SPECIAL: Jim gave us an outstanding all-digital show, with an illustrated explanation of the Seashore Trolley Museum's National Collection of American Streetcars and an update of current projects and activities. Included were the latest Seashore efforts with the Lowell National Historic Park and the City of Lowell in developing an expanded trolley system. The show ended with an overview of Seashore activities with the American Public Transit Association to promote the re-introduction of vintage streetcars nationwide.

September 12, 2009: DOUGLAS CARRIER PRESENTS THE FRED MALONEY COLLECTION: "Round Two". Fred Maloney, a long-time BSRA and Seashore member and has overseen several restorations at the Seashore Trolley Museum. Fred has taken thousands of photos wherever he has traveled. These photos dated from the 1960s, and included Boston, Pittsburgh, and the Seashore Trolley Museum.

friends. The Board of Directors and Officers of the Association extend their deepest thanks to all of you and look forward to another successful year.