

# Boston Street Railway Association, Inc.

## Fifty-First Annual Report

### 2010

The BSRA marked the start of its second fifty years with the publication of Bulletin 24, *Boston Transit Equipment 1979 – 2009*, by Michael R. Prescott. This equipment survey in color, the first of its kind for the Boston system, is intended as a quick reference for enthusiasts and the general public alike, and it has been well received. The book was published in the fiftieth calendar year since our founding and was intended as a parting remembrance of this anniversary.

Work on Type 5 No. 5706 continued at a steady pace, the most significant achievement being the completion of the reconstruction of one of the two end vestibules. We also finished the surface preparation of the flip over seats and the end seats for painting, work that will commence shortly. As we enter FY 2011, we will be disassembling the second end vestibule for complete rebuilding, a job we expect to finish by the summer of 2011.

Financial results for the year were surprisingly good, considering the state of the economy. General Fund income was \$58,820 and expenses were \$57,814, resulting in a surplus of more than \$1,000. This compares favorably with Fiscal 2009 in which income was lower, \$55,135, but so were expenses, \$55,045, which resulted in a surplus of only \$89. A major expense this year was the printing for our new book. Fiscal 2010 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 15% this year!

The reports of our volunteer officers follow. Their unpaid efforts and those 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 Publications Director

The past year was a busy one for the Publications Department. Our biggest accomplishment was the publication of our 24th Bulletin, *Boston Transit Equipment: 1979-2009*, by Michael R. Prescott. This full-color photo album-style book was produced in the fall of 2009, with publication in late October and subsequent distribution to members. Since its publication, we have seen strong sales of the book through our own catalogues, and have enjoyed many wholesale purchases from museums and other book resellers. We are continuing to market this book, as well as our previous book, *Streetcar Lines of the Hub—The 1940s*, to wholesale customers and hope to see it in more locations nationwide.

Another major accomplishment for the department was the establishment of online sales via our website and PayPal. We have begun “testing the waters” by offering our own books for sale, and upon completion of a pending website redesign, we intend to expand our offerings to include more

items from our regular catalogs. Our first online retail sale was recorded in July of this year, and our first wholesale order followed soon after.

The Publications Department was also heavily involved in the 2010 Boston Trolley & Transit Meet. After the Meet’s former sole sponsor, the Boston Chapter, NRHS, was unable to continue this event, the BSRA stepped in, along with the Seashore Trolley Museum and the Bay State Society of Model Engineers, to run the Meet in 2010 with help from the Chapter. BSRA Publications Director Mike Prescott served as Show Director, and the BSRA created and hosted a website at [www.bostontrolleymeet.com](http://www.bostontrolleymeet.com). The BSRA also provided a number of volunteers, and would like to thank Tadd Anderson, Ryan Anderson, Tom Athearn, Charlie Bahne, Brad Clarke, Ron Clough, Dan Cohen, Joe Damery, Dana Frisbee, Bill Pollman, Bob Prescott, and Nick Tomkavage, who gave their time to support both the BSRA’s table and the Meet itself. The event was a rousing success, and the BSRA intends to participate in the 2012 Meet as well.

In January, the BSRA again was at the Amherst Railway Society’s Railroad Hobby Show in West Springfield, MA. We had strong sales, with many thanks to our volunteers, Brad Clarke, Ron Clough, Dan Cohen, Dana Frisbee, Bill Pollman, and Nick Tomkavage, for their help in transporting our stock and setting up and staffing our tables at this annual show.

In the past fiscal year, we received bequests from the estate of Nicholas Sefchuck and from an anonymous contributor. Donated books, documents, and photographs were catalogued and added to our library as needed. Surplus material was sold at shows and our monthly meetings to raise funds for both the 5706 Fund and our General Fund. We always appreciate bequests and donations, which helps the BSRA in a big way, not to mention favorable tax considerations.

Throughout the year, the BSRA continued producing bi-monthly sales catalogs, and has seen tremendous customer response. Our Publications Fulfillment Manager, Ron Clough, again rose to the challenge and we thank him profoundly for his continued volunteer work at our warehouse office. We also thank everyone who has placed an order from our catalogues. The proceeds from sales in these catalogs, at shows, and at our meetings goes right back into the Association, from funding purchase of new books for resale, to supporting our monthly meetings. Your continued support is extremely helpful and greatly appreciated!

Finally, we have two books that remain in progress—*Route of the Minutemen* and *Streetcar Lines of the Hub: The MTA and the T*. Both of these titles have significant work remaining before publication, and these efforts are subject to volunteer time, which is often scarce. We have recently begun to make some more headway on the latter title, and hope to see its publication in the not-too-distant future.

## Report of the Secretary

Despite the national economy, our membership remained stable in 2010. We had a total of 37 new paid members, and lost 35 to attrition, for a net gain of 2. Our membership and *ROLL SIGN* circulation statistics, as of September 30 of each year, were as follows:

<u>Mailing List Category</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>
Regular	437	425
Intermediate	7	6
Associate	290	300
Subscriber	85	86
Honorary	8	8
Complimentary	<u>33</u>	<u>33</u>
Totals	860	858

## Report of the Director of Car Restoration

Since October 1 of last year, restoration work on 5706 has continued steadily. The major steelwork on the vestibule that ran through much of 2009 was finally completed in January 2010. Remaining work on this end has continued. This has included installation of the "skirts," the sheet tapered sheet metal covering over the anticlimbers, which was intended to discourage daring youths from stealing rides. This was a challenge due to the compound bends and curves that this assembly required. Special steel is required for controls including the controller itself, the air gauge, brake stand, door valves, light, power and heating switches, sign box, and the list goes on. Finally, the corner posts, which join the vestibule to the car body, require sheet metal sheathing to protect riders from protruding steel and fasteners.

Proceeding on a parallel path, we have spent a lot of time stripping the old paint from the flip over cross seating and the four longitudinal end seats. We have also removed the dried and alligatored paint from the flip over seat mechanisms and the seat pedestals, preserving in the process the Heywood-Wakefield builders' plates on each pedestal. Both the wood and metal surfaces will be repainted in standard Metropolitan Transit Authority red, restoring their appearance to the way that they looked in 1959. While the painting will be the finishing touch, 95% of all paint jobs is surface preparation, and the seats in 5706 were no exception! All of the seat refinishing was paid for with funds received in 2009 from the H. Albert Webb Memorial Preservation Award, administered by the Mass. Bay Railroad Enthusiasts.

At this writing, late September 2010, we are starting work on the second vestibule of 5706. We hope to have removed the old steel by the winter of 2010-2011, and by summer of 2011 to have completed the new end. This will also mark the completion of steelwork on the entire car body.

The end of the car, the vestibule, is the "face" of the car, and the rebuilt end, contrasted with the remaining original end is quite dramatic. Most people living today who remember Type 5 cars in service saw them with banded up ends and dented, perforated sheet metal. They looked awful, and the rebuilt end looks like one on a Brill builders' photograph,

something that almost no one alive today remembers actually seeing. The BSRA is literally reliving history! Please check the slide show on our web site for progress on our car.

Our members and friends donated \$18,973 to the 5706 Fund in FY 2010, which included \$1,500.00 in grants from the Amherst Railway Society, \$650.00 in employer matching gifts, and \$2,523 from sales of books and other items that were bequeathed to us. We spent \$16,450 this year, ending up with \$33,535 on hand. Donations from members and friends were up nearly 15% this year. Since 1998 we have raised more than \$183,000 for 5706 and have spent \$149,658. Your strong support for this project has made it a success, and the Association deeply appreciates your help.

## Report of the ROLLSIGN Director for 2010

The Association published six issues of ROLLSIGN in Fiscal 2010. There were 111 color photographs, 3 black and white photos, and 6 drawings and maps, a total of 112 pages.

Jonathan Belcher's annual MBTA Vehicle Inventory was featured in the January/February edition. Remaining issues included: *Assembly Square Station Design*; Regional Transit Authority photos; Reservoir Carhouse and Lake Street Terminal photos; *Maverick Modernization*; *Eliot Square & Stadium Station Revisited*; MBTA's Review of the Transit Vehicle Fleet; Silver Line Views; Historic PCC Photos; *When Streetcars Ran in Wilmington*; 2010 Boston Trolley Meet; Historic Area Postcard Scenes; and the BSRA 50th Anniversary Celebration.

Charles Bahne, Jonathan Belcher, Bradley Clarke, Robert J. Matusik, Robert Minichiello, Barry Steinberg and George Zeiba are all part of our of our regular staff, keeping the publication on track year round. There were many other contributors to ROLLSIGN as well, and we offer our sincere thanks to Tadd Anderson, Ryan Anderson, Ed Anderson, Henry W. D. Bain, Robert Barrows, William Chermesino, George Chiasson, Jim Devlin, Joseph Diecidue, Jake Foley, David Hutchinson, Christopher Kelliher, Walter Kobrzynski, Arthur Krim, Joe Lynch, Larry Mills, B. Morris, Larz Neilson, Bob Prescott, Mike Prescott, Patrick Stanford, Nick Tomkavage, and Ellis Walker.

## Report of the Vice-President

During the past year the Vice President has assisted the other officers in their duties, reviewing documents and financial reports, preparing notes when the Secretary was unavailable, researching members whose mailings were returned, and responding to surveys from non-profit advocacy groups.

He has prepared the monthly meeting press releases, phone message updates, and notices of directors' meetings. In his capacity as Clerk of Corporation he prepared the Annual Corporate report for the Commonwealth, the report of the Nominating Committee, and credentials for our delegate to the Association of Railroad Museums convention. He prepared comments regarding policies required by the State's new Data Security Regulation, and also assisted at the sales booth at the New England Trolley and Transit meet.

## Report of the Entertainment Chairman

To the presenters at our monthly meetings, the BSRA extends its sincere thanks. Before each meeting we show traction videos, DVDs and photo CDs on an ad hoc basis. Everyone is invited to offer pre-meeting entertainment and we encourage you to do so. Lucius Chiaraviglio was the Entertainment Chair for the entire 2010 fiscal year. Dana Frisbee continued as AV Manager, and Tadd Anderson remained as Assistant Chair.

October 3, 2009: FROM R. ALLAN POMMER'S FILM COLLECTION: R. Allan Pommer presented Boston's Orange Line Elevated operation between Forest Hills and Everett from the 1950s through the 1970s in both 8 mm silent format and Super 8 with sound, plus a non-Boston trailer film.

November 7, 2009: THE NEW HAVEN THEN AND NOW. Railroad historian and photographer Josh Weis was back, this time with vintage New Haven and Long Island Railroad photos as well as updates from these properties over the years. Josh also included some photos of the New York City Transit Authority's subway and bus fleets; and, as always, some Metro North scenes for good measure.

December 5, 2009: SCENES FROM CHINA. Allan Jayne presented a very interesting tour of the subway systems of Hong Kong and neighboring Shenzhen in China, and transit scenes from several other Chinese cities including Shanghai, Huangshan, and Beijing.

January 9, 2010: A TRIP AROUND THE WORLD WITH LORING M. LAWRENCE. Loring showed us buses, trolleybuses, trams, metros, boats, and heavy rail (electric, diesel, AND steam -- from 0-4-0 tank engines to the largest Bayer-Garratt engines). He had so much interesting material that we had to invite him back to show us more - see July 10, 2010.

February 6, 2010: CANADIAN STREETCARS, TROLLEY COACHES, AND MORE. J. Leonard Batchelder took us to Canada, showing us photos of Toronto Transit Commission streetcars from 1961 through 1990, mostly before 1980, with Peter Witt cars in regular service alongside PCCs. All streetcar lines in operation in those years were included, along with a few images of subway trains and trolley coaches. Trolley buses in other Ontario cities in the 1960s and 1970s - Cornwall, Hamilton, Kitchener, and Thunder Bay were also presented. For teasers, Lenny presented a few views of electric freight in Cornwall.

March 6, 2010: MORE FROM R. ALLAN POMMER'S FILM COLLECTION. Allan Pommer returned with 3 silent 8 mm movies of Boston streetcars on lines that no longer exist (Arborway beyond Heath Street, the Watertown Line, Mattapan - Egleston via Blue Hill Avenue, the Broadway portal that connected the outer tracks of Boylston Street station to some of these discontinued lines, and the Everett Shops test track. These movies also

included footage of long gone trackless trolley lines, and some of the streetcar lines still in service, including the Lechmere viaduct, the Riverside Line, including its construction, the Boston College line, and the inner part of the Arborway line to Heath Street. The last reel was footage of a trip to Montreal and back, including steam-hauled passenger trains and other steam locomotives, Montreal streetcars, and even some interurban cars.

April 3, 2010: ITALIAN RAILROADS IN TRANSITION. Donald Nevin presented an interesting show on Italian railroads from 1960 to 1982, with considerable steam and some diesel operations, as well as the Ganz system of 2-wire, 3-phase AC that once powered all of the main lines in northern Italy. We also saw streetcars in Milan, Genoa, and Naples.

May 1, 2010: FROM ALASKA TO NEW YORK. Eric Oszustowicz took us on a tour across the United States, showing very interesting photos of the Alaska Railroad in the summer of 2009 along with some views from 1998 and 2003. He then took us to New York for comprehensive views of the subway and bus fleets from the 1950s through the present, rounding things out with some views of western U. S. freight railroads in 2009.

June 5, 2010: CURRENT EQUIPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE OF THE MBTA. Christopher Kelliher followed up on our recently released publication with a survey of MBTA rapid transit, commuter rail, and buses from 2007 - 2009, including many hard to get photos. As a bonus, he also presented some museum shots, including some from Seashore. Tadd Anderson added to this equipment compendium with recent MBTA commuter boat photos.

July 10, 2010: A TRIP AROUND THE WORLD WITH LORING M. LAWRENCE, PART 2. Loring returned to present pictures of buses, trolleybuses, trams, metros, boats (including at least one paddle wheeler still in service), and heavy rail (electric, diesel, and steam) from his travels around the world. We also saw slides from Scotland and Myanmar, including a steam operation impressively run on very limited resources.

August 7, 2010: BOSTON'S ABANDONED SUBWAY TUNNELS, AND MORE. Brad Clarke presented photos and a video of Boston's abandoned subway tunnels from a tour with Boston Globe reporters in December 2009. He also showed Dual Mode Vehicles in use on the Washington Street Silver Line; the move of LRV 3424 and Bottom Dump Car 3617 to Seashore; and the loading and send-off of trackless trolley 4037 at North Cambridge Carhouse for the Shore Line Trolley Museum. The show ended with movies of the Stoneham line of the Eastern Massachusetts Street Railway Company, Boston Type 3 Snowplow night scenes on Commonwealth Avenue, and the massive February 1969 blizzard and its devastating effect on the Green line and other Boston transit modes.

September 11, 2010: A TRIP TO ALBERTA. Fred Maloney and Corey Connors-Reynolds presented scenes from Fred's visit last year to Calgary and Edmonton. The show featured vintage Detroit streetcar photos and modern day heritage streetcar operations of the Edmonton Radial Railway Society line in Fort Edmonton Park and the High Level Bridge, and the modern Edmonton Light Rail and Calgary C-Train, as well as buses from both cities, including the Edmonton trolley coach that subsequently went to Seashore Trolley Museum. He also showed us shots from Chicago, Cleveland, and Winnipeg, and other scenes from his travels in Canada.

## Final Remarks

After a half-century, the BSRA renews again its commitment to its educational and historical roots in the transit systems of Boston, Massachusetts, New England, and beyond. With nearly 900 members, the streetcar restoration of Type 5 No, 5706, twenty-four books, over 100 fan trips, and production of *RollSign* all the while, there are many accomplishments of which we can be proud. In addition, we have helped count-

less individuals and researchers in the mass transit field, including students, educators, authors, news and entertainment media, and public agencies of all types, sharing our resources and fulfilling our core mission. We intend to build on this record in 2011 and beyond and invite you, our members to help us achieve this goal.

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

**Boston Street Railway Association**

**Annual Treasurer's Report**

**Fiscal Year 2010**

		<b>General Fund</b>	
<b>Cash on Hand:</b>	<b>General Fund</b>	<b>October 1, 2009</b>	<b>\$2,113.08</b>
<b>INCOME FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010:</b>			
	Donations and Grants, General Fund	\$10,766.54	
	Dues, Regular	\$10,744.00	
	Dues, Intermediate	\$120.00	
	Dues, Associate	\$5,800.00	
	Roll Sign, Subscriptions	\$1,360.00	
	Postage Surcharges from Members	\$120.00	
	Roll Sign, Retail	\$491.50	
	Roll Sign, Wholesale	\$381.06	
	BSRA Publications, Retail	\$6,437.03	
	BSRA Publications, Wholesale	\$3,133.18	
	Publications, Resale	\$14,642.17	
	Publications, Sales Tax Collected	\$863.82	
	Publications, Shipping & Handling	\$2,705.94	
	Fantrip & Trolley Meet Income	\$1,177.87	
	Other General Fund Income	\$77.76	
	<b>TOTAL GENERAL FUND INCOME FOR FY 2010:</b>		<b>\$58,820.87</b>
<b>EXPENSES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010:</b>			
	Management & General Expenses	\$4,298.31	
	Roll Sign Printing	\$10,220.00	
	Roll Sign Postage & Mailing Service	\$3,790.07	
	Other Roll Sign Expenses	\$1,281.29	
	BSRA Publications Printing & Production	\$10,416.54	
	Other BSRA Publications Expenses	\$540.59	
	Purchase of Inventory for Resale	\$7,754.83	
	Publications Marketing Expense (incl. Shows)	\$6,505.30	
	Publications, Sales Tax Paid	\$762.83	
	Publications Shipping Expense	\$2,704.46	
	Other Publications Sales Expenses	\$3,635.12	
	Monthly Meeting Expense	\$3,218.72	
	Library Expense	\$1,380.00	
	Fantrip & Trolley Meet Expense	\$220.50	
	Fundraising Expense	\$664.31	
	Refunds Paid & Returned Checks	\$371.93	
	Other General Fund Expense	\$50.00	
	<b>TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENSE FOR FY 2010:</b>		<b>\$57,814.80</b>
	<b>GENERAL FUND SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010:</b>		<b>\$1,006.07</b>
<b>Cash on Hand:</b>		<b>General Fund</b>	<b>September 30, 2010</b>
			<b>\$3,119.15</b>
		<b>5706 Fund</b>	
<b>Cash on Hand:</b>		<b>5706 Fund</b>	<b>October 1, 2009</b>
			<b>\$30,881.62</b>
<b>INCOME FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010:</b>			
	Donations, 5706 Fund	\$18,973.06	
	Interest, 5706 Fund	\$130.45	
	Other 5706 Fund Income		
	<b>TOTAL 5706 FUND INCOME FOR FY 2010:</b>		<b>\$19,103.51</b>
<b>EXPENSES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010:</b>			
	Car 5706 Restoration Expense	\$13,451.00	
	Car 5706 Maintenance & Housing	\$595.00	
	Car 5706 Project Management	\$279.80	
	Car 5706 Fundraising Expense	\$2,124.00	
	Other 5706 Fund Expense		
	<b>TOTAL 5706 FUND EXPENSE FOR FY 2010:</b>		<b>\$16,449.80</b>
	<b>5706 FUND SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010:</b>		<b>\$2,653.71</b>
<b>Cash on Hand:</b>		<b>5706 Fund</b>	<b>September 30, 2010</b>
			<b>\$33,535.33</b>
<b>COMBINED CASH ON HAND:</b>		<b>September 30, 2010</b>	<b>\$36,654.48</b>
<b>PROOF OF BALANCE:</b>			
	Cash	\$0.00	
	Checking	\$6,267.05	
	Money Market	\$30,046.75	
	Savings	\$275.49	
	PayPal	\$65.19	
	<b>GRAND TOTAL CASH ON HAND</b>	<b>\$36,654.48</b>	<b>VARIANCE: \$0.00</b>
<b>5706 FUND GRAND TOTAL RAISED TO DATE:</b>		<b>\$183,193.58</b>	