

Boston & Maine Railroad Historical Society
19 *Incorporated* 71

NEWSLETTER

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March-April 1999

Opinions expressed in the signed columns or letters of this *Newsletter* are those of their respective authors and do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Society, its officers or members with respect to any particular subject discussed in those columns. The mention of commercial products or services in this *Newsletter* is for the convenience of the membership only, and in no way constitutes an endorsement of said products or services by the Society or any of its officers or directors, nor will the Society be responsible for the performance of said commercial suppliers. We reserve the right to edit all material, either due to length or content, submitted for publication.

— B&MRRHS CALENDAR —

- MARCH 13, 1999** Bob Poore returns with a new presentation on the **Maine Central**.
- APRIL 15, 1999** Will be our joint meeting with the MassBay RRE in **Newton Highlands** at the **Newton Highlands Congregational Church** (one block west of the **Newton Highlands Green Line Station**). The evening's program will be presented by **Donald S. Robinson**.
- MAY 8, 1999** **Craig Della Penna** will return to do another presentation on more **Rail-Trails in New England, N.Y., N.J., PA. And MN.**
- JUNE 12, 1999** **Joe Balsama** will present a slide and video program on the **Boston, Revere Beach & Lynn Narrow Gauge RR.**
- JULY 23, 24 & 25 1999** No regular members' meeting, but the Society will be manning the **Combine Car** on **Dutton Street** at the **Lowell Folk Festival**.
- AUGUST 1999** No Membership meeting.

**All Lowell meetings are in the BOOTT MILLS THEATER at 3:30 PM unless otherwise noted.
If you forget what the program will be please call the Societys phone line.**

ADDRESS CHANGE FOR SOCIETY

Once again we are letting the membership know that the Woburn PO Box has been closed and moved to Derry, N.H. This was done because your Secretary lives there and it is easier for me to pick up the mail. Please address all correspondence to the new address:

B&MRRHS
PO Box 469
Derry, N.H. 03038

This includes all catalog orders, correspondence to the Archives, Historian, Bulletin, Newsletter and the Board of Directors. Remember, when sending mail and you want a reply, please include either a SASE or thirty-three (33) cents in postage.

Membership items should still go to the Lowell address.

MEMBERSHIPS

Several items under this heading. The first being, if you have renewed your dues and get a notice to renew please disregard.

If you do not know when your membership expires please look at your label on the Newsletter and Bulletin. The label is read this way: 99/01 Bas 0000 -- your membership expires Jan. 1999 type membership (Basic etc.) and your membership number. When renewing please include this information as it will make things easier. Thank you.

If your address is correct but not the membership data, please do not fret. We are keeping track of who has renewed and will correct it when the Membership Secretary gets his computer up and running.

The Board of Directors have voted to raise the cost of Canadian and Foreign Memberships as of 1-1-1999 to \$35.00. The cost of postage is the reason. All other membership fees stay the same.

CHARGE CARDS

Unfortunately the B&MRRHS has stopped accepting payments for membership and catalog orders by charge card. The reason is that there have been complaints from members that the charges are not showing up on their statements and the Society does not have a way to verify if the payment system is working correctly, and the cost of having the system is costly whether we rent or buy the system. This would have to be paid for by raising dues and the Board of Directors wish to avoid this. We will be accepting only personal checks or money orders. Yes, we will accept American currency--cash (not by mail, of course).

The BoD regrets doing this but has to avoid future problems.

SOCIETY WEB SITE

For those that are computer connected, the B&MRRHS has a web-site. The address for it is:

<http://come.to/bmrrhs>

This is the "Official Web Site of the B&MRRHS." Any other sites are not sanctioned by the B&MRRHS. Thanks go to Jonathan Miner, the webmaster of the site.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Please note that when sending in your renewals for membership that the address is on the form and it is:

B&MRRHS MEMBERSHIP
P O BOX 9116
LOWELL, MASS. 01852

HELP WANTED

As you know everything your Society does depends on volunteer contributions. From the Bulletin, the Newsletter, Archives, Shows and all the other tasks too numerous to list, none of it would get done without the hard work of our loyal volunteers.

Unfortunately, while interest and membership in the Society is rising, our pool of volunteers is getting dangerously low. Without more volunteer participation we may have to scale back some of our activities. This is the last thing we want to do.

So beginning in May we are inviting all members to attend a "get aquatinted" work session between the Board of Directors and Membership meetings from 1 to 3 PM. We will offer a number of jobs to help out with. Such as folding of tee-shirts for orders, labeling of kits, polishing lanterns, cataloging hardware and other jobs. No matter what your interest is we will try to find something tailored to fit your wishes.

We would like to make these "work sessions" a monthly event and we hope members will welcome the idea as a golden opportunity to get involved in the Society. Remember, like any business, the Society is only as good as the people who "work for it."

The Board of Directors meetings are open to all members of the Society. So come on down to Lowell and make a day of it and see some of the work that goes on that many may not realize we do.

1999 ELECTION RESULTS

Vice President	Paul Kosciolk	90
Clerk	Richard Nichols	90
Treasurer	Mike Basile	87
	Wayne Gagnon	1
Secretary	Buddy Winiarz	87
	Carl Byron	1
Directors	Dan Hyde	90
	Gerry Dube	88
	Buddy Winiarz	87
	Carl Byron	1
Alternate Dir.	Sandi Shepard	88
	Allen Klatsky	86
	Rick Nowell	1

There were 90 ballots sent in with no disqualification's. To those that voted, the candidates and Society thank you.

ARCHIVES HELPER

Archives Chairman, Rick Nowell has printed up a "Quick Finder" for the Archives. This is to help find items of interest if not familiar with the Archives.

Photographs

Ver.file cabinets on north wall-last 3 on right.

Information

Ver. file cabinets on north wall. Classified by subject, type of item, or issuing authority. See classification list on top of cabinets (blue plastic cover).

Maps

Ver. Files on north wall. See maps classification M3224 and try looking up subject or issuing authority class. See list on top of cabinets (blue plastic cover).

Valuation Plans

Storage bin on west wall. See instructions therein.

Flat Files

On east wall. See Maps class. M3224.

Mechanical Drawings, including track plans, profiles and signal diagrams

Ver. Files on north wall, class. By subject or type of item. Flat files on north wall, see guide to track plans (white 3-ring binder. Roll files on north wall, see storage key on cabinet door.

Time Tables

Ver. file cabinets on north wall, see timetable class. T4830 et seq. Storage boxes on south side of stack 2.

PROGRAM CHAIRMAN NEEDED

The B&MRRHS is posting a notice for a Program Chairperson . Needed is someone who will be willing to introduce and set-up potential presentors. Anyone interested in this position please contact the Society at the Derry PO Box. Outside of being at the meetings to introduce the presenter, the ground-work can be done from one's home by phone, mail or e-mail. There are currently presentations planned through the end of 1999, so anyone taking on the job will have a head-start.

THE INTERCHANGE

FOR SALE: B&M, B&A, Rutland and other Northeast RR public timetables, 1920's and up. Also NYNH&H, BAR, CN, CP, NYC china, silver and miscellaneous.

Send a LSASE for list to Art Benedict, 13 Central Way #307, Kirkland, Wa. 98033 or e-mail: sankat@compuserve.com

WANTED:"Minuteman Steam" by H. Frye and "Boston & Maine: A Photographic Essay" by P. Hastings. Contact Wayne Slaughter at 603-673-4603 or e-mail: wrs@concentric.net

WANTED:A key or information of where to buy one for a B&M switch lock made by the O.M. Edwards Co.

Contact Rick Mahler 4485 Piccadilly North West Vancouver, BC V7W1C8 Fax (604) 925-0446 or e-mail: srmahler@lightspeed.bc.ca

WANTED Peter Erhlin is looking for a copy of the "Central Mass." He can be contacted by mail at: Peter Erhlin Osmogatan 14 S-12248 Enskede Sweden or via e-mail: peter.erhlin@ost.banverket.se

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

November saw member Wayne Gagnon present a program of the Boston & Maine in the 1970's. Shots of Billerica, Boston, Nashua, Fitchburg and other areas were shown along with shots of diesels, Budd cars and trains at various places.

December was our annual Members Nite and we were shown slides by Frank Ellis in the Boston area and along the B&M. Buddy Winiarz showed slides of the B&M, Conrail, the "T", Guilford, live steam and "Paul's Lounge." We also saw a video on second generation diesels.

Carl Byron was our guest speaker in January and a large turnout of members enjoyed a presentation on the Hoosac Tunnel. A display of different scenes of the building and use of the tunnel and surrounding area was laid out for all to enjoy. A slide presentation followed on the history of the tunnel.

Thank you goes out to all who have given the Society presentations over the past year and to the members who come to the meetings.

Remember all meetings start at 3:30 PM in the Boott Mill theater unless otherwise noted.

February was a showing of videos. The membership saw the latest Boston & Maine video produced by Green Frog Productions. The time period is just after WW II until the mid-late 1950's. Include were scenes on the Stoneham branch, North Station/BET, the #3713 and lots of steam and some diesel. We also saw a video of action on Guilford and the "T" at Ayer and Lowell a scenes from a fan-trip from Rutland to Essex Jct.

SIDINGS

Have you noticed lately how much some type of railroading is in commercials on the television. From automobiles to "big kids" training pants, from real trains to model trains, it's visible.

The Hobo Railroad has purchased New England Southern's GP 7 #302.

(NERAIL)

Word going around is that former B&M Yard #7 has or is going to be sold for \$1 million an acre, with 40 acres available.

And word also has it that Yard #8 will be acquired by the MBTA and two more tracks are to be built by the Willey Track to accommodate freight use.

(NERAIL)

The Town of Bedford and the owner of the former B&M station and freight house have come to an agreement for purchase of the properties by the Town. Formal acquisition took place Jan. 19, 1999. The two buildings will undergo exterior historic restoration under the Depot Park project. Prior to use as a freight house, it was

used as an engine house for the narrow-gauge Billerica & Bedford RR in 1877-78.

(Jim Shea-FBDP)

A Claremont, N.H. man narrowly missed death when his snowmobile got clipped by an Amtrak train when he tried to turn it around. He was not hurt and no charges were pressed.

(Union Leader)

Stoney Morrell wants to buy the Conway Scenic RR for \$1.2 million and current stockholder, President and General Manager Russ Seybold also wants to buy it. A disagreement between present stockholders has brought court intervention—stay tuned for further word.

(Union Leader)

According to an article in the Boston Herald and a report on WCVB Channel 5 Boston, Edaville RR should be up and running on a limited basis this coming summer.

(Boston Herald/WCVB-5 Boston)

Concord, N.H.-Snowmobilers have been banned from using the former B&M section of track from Concord to Northfield. New England Southern RR owner Peter Dearness says this is being done to "wean" snowmobilers due to future use in winter for business.

(Union Leader)

Ken's Train Shop in South Sudbury, Ma. recently burned to the ground in a seven-alarm fire in one of Sudbury's oldest landmark buildings. Ken lost his entire inventory and will be conducting business out of his house until he can secure another place of business.

(Bruce Bowden)

On January 11, 1999, Maine Governor Angus King drove a ceremonial golden spike at a ceremony to get the Portland-to-Boston Amtrak on track. Dignitaries from Maine, Amtrak and Guilford were on hand. A special business train ran from Boston to Portland for the ceremony.

(Union Leader)

SPRINGFIELD SHOW

This years Amherst RR show in Springfield was a big success for the B&MRRHS. Our success would not have been possible without the help from Alden Dreyer, Brian Bollinger, Don Robinson, Paul Kosciolk, Wayne Gagnon, Dave Edgerly, Buddy Winiarz and our "rookie" Linda Weeks. Thanks go to all of those who helped out.

THANKS

Thanks this issue goe to Maureen Hadley, Bob Warren, Jim Nigzus, Dick Muse, Paul Stephens, Don Provencher, Ellis Walker, Howard Sands, David K. Johnson, Bruce Bowden, Mike Lennon, Don LeJune, Jim Shea, John Young, NERAIL.

NEXT ISSUE

The deadline for the May-June Newsletter will be April 10, 1999. Please send all items to the Derry PO Box or via e-mail.

RAILROAD TO BE PURCHASED

Berlin, N.H.—The state of New Hampshire is looking for a short-line railroad willing to take over an active rail line from Whitefield to Groveton. The Executive Council is set to meet to purchase the New Hampshire & Vermont RR Co. 36-mile line from Littleton to Groveton for \$1.3 million in order to keep the route operating.

Christopher Morhan of NHDOT said the NH&VT has agreed to operate the route until the state can find another short line railroad to take over.

The line is important because it links the Simpson Paper mill. The state began talks with NH&VT because they want to see the line preserved. "It is a bit unusual for the state to buy an active railroad," stated Morgan. The state has purchased inactive lines for future preservation while letting them be used for recreational activities.

(Berlin Daily Sun)

FALLEN FLAGS

Members Geoffrey Burton, Chandler Cobb, Burton Coburn, and Sanbon Worthen have all passed away and the Society extends its sympathy to their families.

John J. Claffey, Jr., a retired Boston & Maine RR conductor

Gordon L. Evans, who was born and raised on the former Maine Central Mountain Division at the Willey Brook House at Crawford Notch.

Our Sincere Condolences are extended to the families and friends of these fallen friends.

MEMBER RESPONSE

In regards to the B&MRR YMCA photo in the Nov./Dec. Newsletter, Ellis Walker sends the following:

"When I started working for the B&M in 1951, there were four branches of the YMCA on the B&M. They were located in Troy and Mechanicville, N.Y., Concord, N.H. and Boston, Ma. The Boston branch shared facilities with the Army and Navy at City Square in Charlestown. The branch in East Deerfield was still standing but was closed for several years.

In addition to providing a place for crews to sleep, the "Y" sponsored a number of activities at each location. Bowling leagues, softball and other sports were organized by the local YMCA's. At Billerica, the "Y" provided various activities during the lunch period including movies and cribbage tournaments.

In Boston, the "Minuteman Club" was formed and hosted a monthly dinner with a speaker on railroad affairs. Once a year the Boston branch hosted a "Young Railroaders Conference", an all day affair where participants got to meet with representatives of labor and management to discuss the Boston & Maine. One year we had Pat McGinnis as a speaker.

By the late 1950's several factors caused the decline in railroad YMCA activity. The number of trains on the road were steadily declining and crew assignments were adjusted so that fewer men had to stay overnight away from home. The total number of B&M employees was also in decline, so there was fewer people to draw on for membership.

Eventually, patronage of the "Y" facilities dropped to a point that it was no longer feasible to continue operations on the B&M. The few crewmen who had to be accommodated away from home were cared for by other means and the railroad YMCA as an institution disappeared from the Boston & Maine RR.

Ellis Walker

(Ed. Note: Your Newsletter Ed. spent several nights in the City Square "Y" while docked in Boston while in the service.)

"An Old Letter..."

Dear Sir:

I am writing to ask if you have any eggs to sell. Last year Mr. Sherwin used to get eggs from you and would let me have some occasionally, and they were always nice and fresh, but I did not like to bother him.

Please let me know if you could let me have a certain number each week, say two or three dozen, sending them down on a certain train, some specified train each week.

I believe you keep your own hens, do you not? I have found that in getting eggs which are picked up from the farmers here and there, that they are not apt to be so fresh, as where they come from some special hennery.

I am a stenographer for Mr. Ford, so a letter addressed to this office will reach me all right.

Please let me know as soon as possible, and greatly oblige.

Yours very truly,

Miss Bertha I. Boutin

You say, nothing special about that well...it was typed on Sept. 14, 1908 on official stationery of the Boston & Maine RR---Connecticut & Passumpsic Div.--Assistant Superintendent's Office-Springfield, Ma.--W.H. Ford Asst. Superintendent by his secretary to Mr. E.G. Gross, station agent, West Swanzey, N.H.

This was donated to the Society by an unknown gentleman at the Amherst Show.

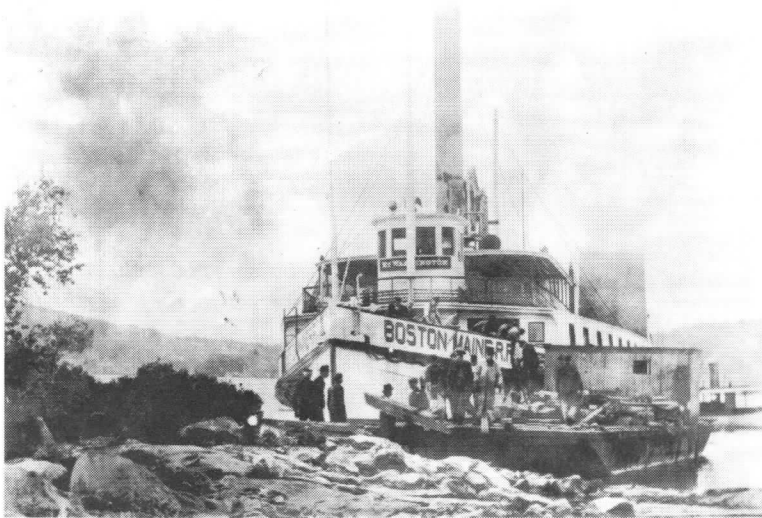
"SPEED LETTERING"

Member Bob Wilner has asked that those interested in the speed lettering he is offering to please refrain from ordering due to problems in the makeup of the colors. A notice will be placed in an upcoming Newsletter when they will be available. Bob thanks you for your patience and hopes that the situation will be rectified shortly.

MEMBERSHIP FARES

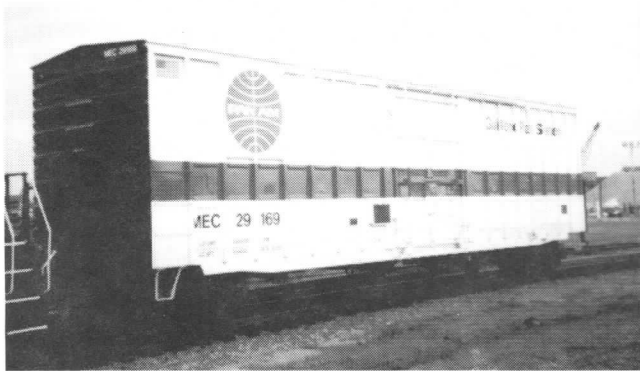
BASIC	\$25.00
BASIC & SPOUSE	\$27.00
CONTRIBUTING	\$35.00
SUSTAINING	\$50.00
SUPPORTING	\$75.00
BENEFACTOR	\$100.00
CANADA/FOREIGN	\$35.00

Dues are payable by check, money order or cash---NO CHARGE CARDS.

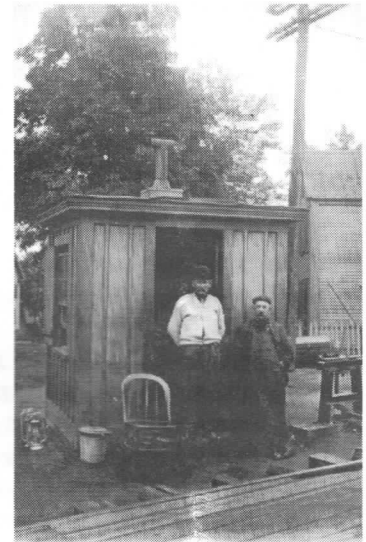


(Left) Don Robinson sends this photo of the Mt. Washington and hopes someone will be able to enlighten us as to what's is happening. The date is unknown.

(Below) The photo of the crossing shanty was taken in Portsmouth, N.H. the location and date is unknown. Is this the Society's shanty that sits at Conway Scenic RR? (Buddy Winiarz collection)



(Left) For all those that have heard about it--here it is, Guilford's own Pan Am Boxcar. It is white with a blue stripe and globe, black lettering and numbers and an American flag in Portsmouth, N.H. (Photo from Joe Shaw)



UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST...

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| Mar.20/21, 1999 | Center of NH 700 Elm St. Manchester, N.H. |
| Mar. 27, 1999 | Emerson School, Bolton, Ma. Nashua Valley RR Assn. show. 10-4. |
| Mar. 28, 1999 | Show at Masconomet Reg. High, Topsfield, Ma.,10-4. |
| April 10/11, 1999 | Greenberg's Great Train Show, 11-5/11-4. |
| April 18, 1999 | Hooksett Mem. Jr. High off Rt.3 10-4. |
| April 24, 1999 | Mt. Ararat H.School, Topsham, Me. 9-4. |
| June 5/6, 1999 | "Thomas the Tank Engine" returns to Conway Scenic RR 8:30 to 6. Phone ticket sales begin May 3, 1999, 9:30 to 4 daily. Walk up ticket sales begin May 15 daily from 10:30 to 2:00. |

Green Mountain Flyer Specials

Sugar On Snow	March 21, 1999
Easter Bunny Special	April 3, 1999
Mothers Day Special	May 9, 1999
Memorial Day Weekend	May 29-31, 1999
Transpo 99	July 31 Aug. 1, 1999
Rutland Limited	Sept. 11, 1999
Santa Express	Dec. 12-18-19, 1999

Call 1-802-463-3069 or 1-800-707-3530 for details.

Conway Scenic RR

Conway & Bartlett Schedule:

April 17/18	24/25	12 and 2.
May 1/2	8/9*	12-1-2 * Mothers Day
May 15-June 18		11:30 (B) 1:30 (C) Daily

Call 1-603-232-5251 in New Hampshire 1-800-356-5251 outside of New Hampshire for details.

B&M WEAR...

"McGinnis" Herald Baseball Hats

Herald is black & white B&M with white "Boston & Maine" on a royal blue hat. Adjustable sizes. \$10.00 each plus \$3.50 shipping & handling.*

B&M 410 Restoration Effort

Help support the ongoing cosmetic restoration of 0-6-0 No. 410—All proceeds from the sale of the items advertised below go directly to the 410 Restoration project.

BASEBALL HATS

Made in U.S.A. Blue with custom-embroidered 410 logo, Manchester Locomotive Works, B&M Lowell on front. Available in the following styles:

- Corduroy-\$13.00
- Twill-\$12.00
- Mesh Blue-\$12.00

All hats are "One-size-fits-all". Please add \$3.50 P&H (for up to two shirts, or per one shirt and one hat combination).

PATCHES

410 "Manchester Locomotive Works" Cloth Patch
2 1/2" Round embroidered cloth sew-on patch. Blue with silver trim. \$2.50 each plus .50 P&H (up to 3 patches)

TEE-SHIRTS

Screen printed front and back with original drawings, sketched at Iron Horse Park by our friend Sandy Shepard, these distinctive shirts are available in either Ash (light gray), Jade Green, or Paprika.

Sizes M (Jade Green only), L, XL and XXL \$12.00 plus \$3.50 P&H (up to two shirts or per one shirt and one hat combination).

**Boston and
Maine**

COFFEE MUG

Curl up with one of these videos or books and a hot cup of coffee, cocoa, or cider from one of these sharp-looking 8 oz. ceramic mugs with the distinctive script lettering. Black with red and silver-grey lettering, mugs are \$6.95 each, plus \$4.50 s&h.

**Boston and
Maine**

Shadow Script Sweatshirts – Tee-Shirts!

You can turn back the thermostat and the clock as you recollect the era of name passenger trains pulled by sleek Pacifics on the Boston & Maine in one of these heavy 9 oz. 50/50 blend Sweatshirts. Black with red and gold herald, these promise to be a big hit with the winter railfan. Made in USA and available in Large and Extra Large for \$19.00 each plus \$3.50 P&H (for up to 2 shirts) or in XX-Large for \$21.00 each plus \$3.50 P&H (for up to 2 shirts)*

Tee-Shirts:

Same color and style as above, except in a quality Tee-Shirt. Available in sizes adult M-XL \$10.95 each plus \$3.50 P&H (for up to 2 shirts) or in adult XXL for \$12.95 each, or XXXL for \$15.00 each plus \$3.50 P&H (for up to 2 shirts) *

McGinnis-Era Tee Shirts



Recollect the era of "Bluebirds" and Budd Cars on the B&M with this handsome Tee featuring the McGinnis herald. Available in sizes adult M-XL \$10.95 each plus \$3.50 P&H (for up to 2 shirts) or in adult XXL for \$12.95 each, or XXXL for \$15.00 each plus \$3.50 P&H (for up to 2 shirts) *

BOSTON-MAINE AIRWAYS

You can no longer fly B&M Airways' Stinson Tri-Motors to Bangor or St. John, but this striking tee-shirt will help you relive that exciting era.

Printed in Orange and Black on White, you'll be the hit of the flight line or the photo line with this colorful tee designed by our own Richard Symmes. Made in USA and available in sizes M-XL at \$10.95 each, XXL at \$12.95 each, and XXXL at \$15.00 each + 3.50 P&H Up to 2 shirts may be shipped for \$3.50*

SAFETY FIRST! TEE SHIRT

Limited supply of both black and blue with white lettering. Please specify color preference and size with alternate choices. (There are currently more black shirts in stock than blue). Made in USA and available in Medium, Large, X-Large and XX-Large.

\$8.00 each (reduced from \$9.95) + 3.50 P&H Up to 2 shirts may be shipped for \$3.50

*There is no sales tax on clothing in Massachusetts

