

Boston & Maine Railroad Historical Society
19 *Incorporated* 71

NEWSLETTER

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This Newsletter printed by Gnomon Copy of Lowell

Meeting/Membership Telephone Number (978) 454-3600

July-August 1999

B&MRRHS on the internet at: at <http://come.to/bmrrhs>

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— B&MRRHS CALENDAR —

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.

SEPTEMBER 11, 1999 George Howard will do a presentation on the restoration of the B&M's "Flying Yankee."

OCTOBER 16, 1999 Richard Sanborn will present "Railroading In New Hampshire--B&M Branchlines."

NOVEMBER 13, 1999 Not finalized at press time.

DECEMBER 11, 1999 "Members Nite"--bring a 15 minute video or 25 to 50 slides of your choice.

—NOMINATIONS FOR B&MRRHS OFFICERS—

Nominations are now open for any members interested in running for office in the B&MRRHS. Vacancies this year will include President, Vice President, Secretary, Clerk, Director (3 openings) and Alternate Director (2 openings). Anyone interested in running should notify the B&MRRHS at the Derry P.O. Box.

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 presentor, 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.

NEW ADDRESS

Please address all correspondence to the new address. 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.

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

Membership items should still go to the Lowell address.

MEMBERSHIP NOTICE

The "e-mail" addresses in the last issue of the Newsletter have some errors---some people have changed their servers and were not able to be updated in time. If anyone has done so please send a notice to the Society's e-mail address for correction.

CORRECTIONS

Alden Dryer's e-mail address is:
Alden@javanet.com

Leah Anne Weston's is:
leahw@sover.net

NEW ADDRESS

David Collinge dcollinge@ttic.net
Compilation and research of railroad station names and locations including present or last railroad plus original railroad, collecting 4X6 photos of RR stations. Currently limiting research to N. Hampshire, Vt., and southern Maine. Have finished research of southeastern Mass.

Howard Sands sands@net1plus.com
Interested in modeling the B&M between 1955-1962.

AND IN SALEM ON THE M&L...

Salem, N.H. ---Guilford crews have been busy installing a new run-around track near the plastic company before White's Crossing recently. Across the street from the Home Depot, a new strip mall is being built and the line has been severed for an entranceway. GRS has no rail customers beyond Whites crossing, the last having been a storage business across from Home Depot which sold the property for the new mall.

(NERAIL/Ed.)

NEW RESTAURANT

New Durham, N.H.---The "New Durham RR Station formerly Mama Mia's has reopened and now serves Italian - American dishes and seafood. Owner Joe Bryne, has collected photos and a history of the rail system from Boston to Wolfboro and has displayed them throughout the restaurant. Hopefully a caboose will be placed on the property.

New Durham is on the former Lakeport Branch which ran from Dover to Lakeport, New Hampshire. The Society had an article on the "Lake Shore RR" in Bulletin XVI #4---still available. There are at least 7 or 8 stations left on this route.

(Foster's Daily Democrat)

WORK ON AMTRAK LINE BEGINS

Portland, Me.---Work has begun on the 78-miles of rail line between Portland and Boston as of May 19, 1999. GRS crews will work their way south from Rigby Yard replacing ties, rail, and the upgrading of signals and 45 bridges.

Most of the rail dates back to 1932 and does not meet Federal and Amtrak requirements for passenger service. Speeds of up to 79 mph will be used by Amtrak.

There is 43 miles of track in Maine, 35 miles in New Hampshire and 36 in Massachusetts which is owned by the MBTA. Travel time would be 2 hours and 20 minutes between Portland and Boston.

(Several Sources)

AIRPORT IN COURT OVER RAILS

Manchester, N.H.---The Manchester Airport has been taken to court over the removal of tracks and the right-of-way of the Boston & Maine's Manchester & Lawrence Branch.

The Conservation Law Foundation has asked for a court order to stop further removal of the track. The group has stated that the rails and line have been severed without proper approval. They also allege that the Manchester Airport has violated a state law that prohibits any railroad right-of-way from being used in any way that would limit the ability to restore rail service at minimum cost in the future. The airport also violated state law by tearing up the tracks without notifying the NHDOT and without notifying the public that dismantling would occur.

According to Thomas F. Irwin, Attorney for the CLF, "there has been no public hearing to our knowledge."

(UNION Leader)

[Further reports in the Union Leader have said that the court upheld the action by the airport because future passenger service would come to Manchester through Nashua and not on the M&L line. -Ed.]

WEB SITES

Here are some web-sites to visit.

MEC RR

www.onelist.com/viewarchive.cgi?listname=MEC_RR

NE Rails-and -Signals

www.onelist.com/viewarchive.cgi?listname=NE-Rails-and-Signals

NMRO

www.onelist.com/viewarchive.cgi?listname=NMRO

North American M-O-W

www.onelist.com/viewarchive.cgi?listname=North_American_M-O-W

FOR SALE

The Seashore trolley Museum in Keenebunk, Me. has three caboose for sale.

B&M #103002 43 ft. long, 10'3" wide, 13' 8" high, weight 56,400, built by Laconia 1912.

BAR C-40 46 ft. long, 10' 3" wide, weight 50,900 built by AFC in 1915.

LIRR #29 43 ft. long, 10' 3" wide, 13' 8" high, weight 400,000, built by Laconia in 1926.

If anyone is interested contact Phil Morse, Executive Dir. Seashore Trolley Museum.

B&M BOOK

If you are interested in railroading on the B&M's Conn River Line, circa 1930-70 read the book "Behind the Iron Horse: The men who made trains run in and around Bellows Falls, Vt. BY 50 year veteran B&M Trainman Giro Patalano.

It is about the operations and the descriptions of the men who ran the trains in the area.

The book is 208 pages, cost \$16.95 and can be ordered from:

VT Historical Society
Pavilion Blvd.
109 State St.
Montpelier, Vt. 05609-0901

A picture and review of the book can be found at:
vhs@vhs.state.vt.us

DOT TO REPAIR OLD RR BRIDGE

Plaistow, N.H.---The NHDOT is planning to replace the Kingston Rd. bridge over the Boston & Maine RR (GRS). Construction will begin in the Fall of 2001 and conclude about one year later. The bridge was built in 1936 and is in a deteriorating condition. The new bridge will be a height of 22-and-half feet, four-and-a-half feet higher than the present bridge, to provide for higher and wider rail quarters.

(Rockingham News)

YARD SALE

Lebanon, N.H.---According to a report in the Valley News (5/10/99) the state of N.H. has reached a tentative agreement to purchase the former Westboro yard site and the western most three miles of the former Northern Line from GTI/GRS. The potential sticking point is the responsibility of any hazmats as yet undiscovered. Already known are the leaking diesel fuel tanks at the yard.

(NERAIL)

RAIL LINE TO REOPEN

Westford, Ma.---Residents living along an unused railline may be in for a thunderous surprise. If Fletcher Granite follows through with preliminary plans to reopen the line from it's quarry to the Boston & Maines Stoney Brook Line.

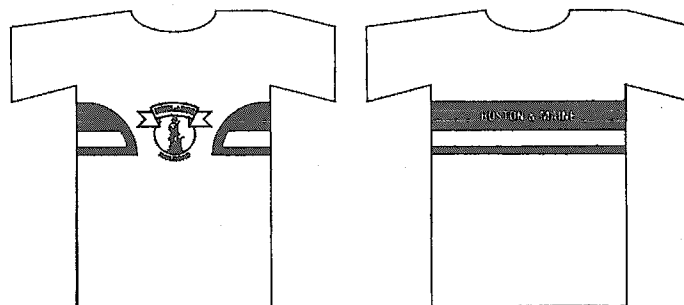
Neighboring abutters are already crying doom and gloom for the project, citing noise, pollution and the supposedly decreasing of property values.

Fletcher Granite President Duke Pointer says the plan is still in the preliminary stages and said tests and visits along the line will be conducted. If Fletcher does reopen the line it will eliminate the need for trucks going through the neighborhood. At the present there are 20 to 50 truckloads a day whereas rail service could handle 4 or 5 truckloads per car. The line would operate only during the day and maybe two or three times daily. The line hasn't been used in 30 years and is privately owned by Fletcher and has been the right of way into Fletcher's since the early 1900's. Houses have been built along the line.

Several neighbors have raised concerns that the environment will be hurt and that they didn't move to Westford to be next to a railroad. One even suggests that Fletcher's idea is "a self-righteous pocket-lining decision."

(Westford Eagle)

NEW SOCIETY SHIRTS!!



The Society has new tee shirts for sale. They are maroon with the minuteman logo on the front and Boston & Maine on the back with gold stripes as on the "F" units. They come in size M-L-XL for \$13.00 and in XX-Large for \$14.00 plus \$3.50 for up to two (2) shirts. Shirts can be ordered by check or money order from: B&MRRHS, P.O. Box 469, Derry, NH 03038. Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.

NOTICE OF ARCHIVES HOURS

The B&MRRHS archives are located in the Patrick Mogan Culture Center at 40 French St., Lowell, Ma. They are generally open Mon.—Fri. 9 to 5 and Sat. 10 to 3. Closed Sun. and holidays. For further information and to see if they are open call 978-934-4997 or 4998.

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

May saw **Craig Della Penna** present a slide program on the Rails To Trails in several New England states plus New York and New Jersey. Although many of the lines are gone from railroad service, many communities have beautified the trails for hiking and recreational use.

June had **Joseph Balsama** do a presentation on the "Narrow Gauge" or the Boston, Revere Beach & Lynn Railroad. Along with a slide presentation, Joe showed a video on the B, RB & LRR done by the Winthrop, Mass. Historical Society.

Thank you gentlemen for your presentations.

THE INTERCHANGE

For Sale---all issues of the B&M Bulletin---except the first two; early B&MRRHS Newsletters; nearly all B&M Employees Magazines 1945-60; and about a dozen earlier ones.

B&M ETT's 1952-75; B&M PTT's 1940-58;
The Central Mass (Sft.Cvr.); B&M rule books; B&M misc.

B&M Bulletins Vols. 1-5 will be sold as individual issue at a mail-telephone-Internet auction commencing about 30 days after publication of this notice.

All other items available from free list.

Wanted ---NESL Vol. 3 #2 and B&M ETT #33.

Contact Alden Dryer (retired B&M RTC) 91 Reynolds Rd. Shelburne, Ma. 01370-9715 413-625-6384 (8 am to 8 pm) alden@javanet.com

THANKS

Thanks this issue go to Linda Weeks, Arnold Wilder, Jim Nigus, Dick Muse, Scott Whitney and Bob Warren.

NEXT ISSUE

The deadline for the Sept/Oct. Newsletter is August 14, 1999. Please send all items to the PO Box in Derry or via e-mail.

TRANSP0 '99

This years Transpo 99 will be held July 31, and August 1, 1999 at Bellows Falls, Vt. Some of the equipment for display will be from NYSW and CP Rail. NYSW has agreed to send two E units and a request has been made to include them on the excursion to Brattleboro.

CP Rail is expected to send one of their new GE units for the event. Other railroads which hopefully send equipment for display is the P&W, Amtrak, Naugatuck, Claremont & Concord and NERC.

A night photo session coordinated by the folks from Railroad/Railfan is also expected again.

On July 31, 1999 the "Brattleboro Excursion" on the Green Mountain Flyer will leave be on the following schedule:

DEPARTS

Bellows Falls	9:00 am & 2:30 pm
Brattleboro	10:00 am

ARRIVES

Brattleboro at	9:45 am & 3:15 pm.
Bellows Falls	10:45 am

Adults \$15.00	Child (3-12) \$11.00
	under 3 Free when held

Brattleboro to Bellows Falls departure, 46 mile excursion, allows for a 3 hour layover in Bellows Falls for Transpo activities.

OPTION

Brattleboro to Chester, 72 mile roundtrip from Brattleboro to Chester allows for a 1 _ hour layover at Bellows Falls for Transpo activities.

Departs at 10:00 am returns at 3:15 pm.
Adults \$25.00 Child (3-12) \$14.00
Under 3 Free when held.

Call 1-802-463-3069 for reservations or send payment to:
Green Mountain RR Corp.
PO Box 498
Bellows Falls, Vt. 05101

UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST...

July 23 - 25, 1999 Lowell, Ma. the Folk Festival--come see the Society's exhibit in the combine.

July 31, -Aug. 1, 1999 Transpo 99 at Bellows Falls, Vt., begins 9:00 am (See notice above right.)