

YARD LIMITS

THE MONTHLY BULLETIN OF THE BERKSHIRE SCENIC RAILWAY MUSEUM

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WELCOME BACK TO YARD LIMITS

The BSRM Board of Directors is reviving our monthly electronic publication titled Yard Limits. Yard Limits will be published on a monthly basis to keep our volunteers, members and friends informed of what's happening at bsm. Look to Yard Limits for information on train operations, mechanical department activity, museum events and progress on museum development projects. Send any comments, questions, or input to: Jay Green at jgreen@berkshirescenicrailroad.org

NEWS FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

BSRM HAS EXPANDED

On August 29, 2010 BSRM took a major leap in its plan for future expansion by purchasing the adjacent building and land of the Daley & Sons Trucking Company for \$550,000.00. The purchase of this property has been a goal of the museum for many years. We were able to purchase the property because of continued increase in ridership and the additional revenue earned by special events. Daley will lease the building from BSRM until they move to a new facility in South Lee. After that, BSRM Mechanical and Curatorial departments will likely move into the building to permit year round mechanical work on our motor vehicle fleet and properly store our expanding collection of railroad artifacts and spare equipment parts. Once the mortgage is paid, the building will be demolished to

return the area to its original appearance which includes a magnificent and uninhibited view of Woods Pond and October Mountain. Stay tuned for more exciting information regarding this important development.

WE'RE ON FACEBOOK

As part of our continued efforts to market BSRM, we have developed a Facebook page to compliment our expanded webpage. Our Facebook page will be used to keep people informed of events at BSRM as well as share media relating to BSRM and news. You do not have to join Facebook to view the page. Please share the page with friends and family who you think would be interested in following our news, including photographs.

NEWS FROM THE MECHANICAL & ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

ENGINE 9128 IS READY FOR SERVICE!

Although the 1952 SW-9 went on a shakedown run to Danbury in 2009, work continued throughout the winter and spring to make it ready for service. Ditch lights and an event recorder have been installed and 9128 will be placed into rotation this season on

BSRM scenic trains. Thanks to Tom Delasco, Rick Selva, Paul Marsh, Mike Bollock, Jay Green, Ted Wichmann and Rick Selva, Jr. for contributing to the effort. Now to find funds for repainting!



BSRM PRESIDENT RICK SELVA PROUDLY SHOWING OFF THE "SOLD" SIGN!

WORK SESSIONS

Now that spring has arrived in the Berkshires, Lenox Station and Yard is a bee-hive of activity. Volunteers under the direction of PJ Bailly have started clearing unwanted brush from the former Daley property to provide additional parking for our special event trains. In addition, our volunteers have cleaned the entire fleet of passenger cars for the Pittsfield -Lenox excursions held on April 30th. Work Sessions are typically held on Saturdays from 8AM-Noon and Wednesday nights from 6:30 till dark. Look for work party notices from Tom Delasco by email. Regardless of your skills and interests, there are always plenty of tasks to be accomplished. Please consider spending a couple of hours lending a hand.



MIKE BOLLOCK AND RICK SELVA PUTTING FINISHING TOUCHES ON DITCH LIGHT WIRING

NEW SEATS FOR 3204 & 4301

After 5 years of service on BSRM and about 20 years since their last restoration, cars 3204 and 4301 require new upholstery. The replacement process is too time consuming for our mechanical staff and the work has been contracted to Jim Krutiak of Rod Rags in Adams, MA. Jim has completed the majority of seats in 3204 and will begin the labor intensive process of replacing the wicker material in 4301. At a cost in excess of \$500 a piece, this project will not be inexpensive. However, both cars are important to BSRM operations and the decision was made to allocate those funds to the project

NEWS FROM THE OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT

NEW TEAM TRACK SWITCH - NORTH

The Housatonic Railroad has extended the team track north beyond Lenox Lumber and installed two new switches to accommodate a new transfer station. The new team track - north switch will permit our trains to enter the main track from the north end of the team track. Operations volunteers are reminded to review the appropriate HRR Bulletin Order for additional information.

NEW PARLOR CLASS AND EXCITING SPECIAL EVENTS TO BE OFFERED IN 2011 SEASON

Under the direction of Special Events Coordinator Pam Green, BSRM will offer several new special events this season to compliment the popularity of the Polar Express. Also, in light of car 3204's new upholstery and the prevailing trend in the tourist railroad business, a new Parlor Class ticket will be offered this year. Parlor Class will feature reserved seating in 3204, a complimentary beverage and snack. Please see our webpage for more details at www.berkshirescenicrailroad.org

PITTSFIELD-LENOX EXCURSIONS A GREAT SUCCESS

On Saturday, April 30th as part of the opening weekend activities for the City of Pittsfield's 250th Anniversary Celebration, BSRM and Housatonic Railroad operated excursion service between Pittsfield and Lenox. Tickets for the trains were complimentary and the service was offered as a good will gesture to bring attention not only to BSRM, but also to the 40th Anniversary of the last passenger train to operate between NYC/Danbury and Pittsfield on the Berkshire Line and the recent interest in restoring the service. Mayor James Ruberto, Local Dignitaries and HRR President John Hanlon were on hand for the festivities. BSRM Curator Jack Trowill installed a new exhibit on Pittsfield RR Stations

(Continued)

and along with Jay Green, drafted an on-board narration specifically tailored to the event. Jack and Pam Green were able to locate the director of the 1971 film Last Train to Pittsfield which ran inside Lenox Station. Look for more information on Last Train to Pittsfield this season. Steve Piwowarski also led guided tours of Lenox Yard and Yokun Block Station which were very well attended. Thanks to the Pittsfield DPW, Pittsfield had a Station on the Berkshire Line once more located off of W. Housatonic Street. BSRM President Rick Selva brought the original station sign from the last New Haven station in Pittsfield. The sign was hung on the fence adjacent to the loading area which proudly announced "Pittsfield Station" once more. Look for photos from the event on our Facebook page in the next several weeks. A very special thank you to all of our volunteers who helped at work parties to get everything ready and our operations volunteers who manned the trains.

NEWS FROM THE CURATORIAL DEPARTMENT

VINTAGE CAR CARDS

We've dressed up the interiors of our passenger cars with replicas of vintage advertising cards that used to grace railroad commuter cars and trolleys in the early 20th Century. Although many of the advertised products have disappeared from store shelves, a few, such as Grape Nuts, are still available. If you have any vintage car cards, we'd be happy to display them in our cars.

Speaking of vintage - Stop by the museum to wish coach 4301 a happy 100th birthday this year! Its hard to believe but with in the next 10 years - our entire fleet will be 100. Thanks to the CMO and the mechanical staff for keeping them rolling!

LENOX STATION EXHIBITS

Jack Trowill and Jay Green have reconfigured some of our exhibits inside Lenox Station which will better interpret the history and

restoration of Lenox Station as well as BSRM's Master Plan. As part of the effort, Pieter Lips is developing a new bulletin board for the entrance lobby which will highlight the exhibits and equipment found at BSRM. This work is part of continuing efforts to develop the educational and historical mission of BSRM. Jack Trowill is currently looking for railroad artifacts to put inside display cases as "rotating exhibits." If you have any artifacts you would like to lend or donate to BSRM, please contact Jack at: jtrowilljr@nycap.rr.com

WE WELCOME NEW VOLUNTEERS!

We would like to welcome the following individuals to BSRM family: Brent Bette, Ryan Deets, Eric Garnick, Al & Kathy Goodrich, Ron Hanley, Jo Johnson and Rick Selva, Jr. We completed our first 25 years of operation in 2009 and we need your assistance in planning ahead for the next 25 years. If you're not yet a member of BSRM, please consider joining us.

INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS:

As an annual reminder, our insurance requires all of our volunteers to be members of the museum. The reason for this is so that you, as a volunteer are covered not only for medical, in case of personal injury but also for liability, so you can not be personally sued if the museum is named in a lawsuit.

So - if you are an active volunteer and haven't renewed, now is the time to do so! If you are not an active volunteer, your support of the museum through membership is greatly appreciated and allows us to proceed with our mission.

Thank you!

