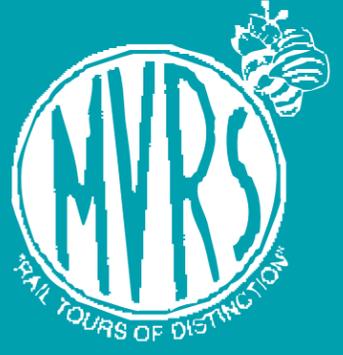


Please Share With A Friend

# THE WAYBILL



Mystic Valley Railway Society Newsletter  
A Non-Profit Educational Corporation  
1970-2016 • Over 46 Years of Service



credit R. Goelet

VOL. 48 NO. 2 ISSN 0897-7577 Got a question? Call us at 617-361-4445, 24 Hours • E-Mail at [contactus@mysticvalleyps.org](mailto:contactus@mysticvalleyps.org) JUNE - AUGUST 2017  
[www.mysticvalleyps.org](http://www.mysticvalleyps.org)

## Majestic Cape Ann

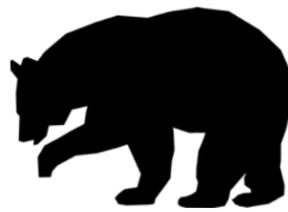
SATURDAY JUNE 10, 2017



Details on page 5

## Clark's Trading Post

SATURDAY JUNE 24, 2017



Details on page 5

## Maine Escape

SUNDAY JULY 2 - WEDNESDAY JULY 5, 2017



Details on page 3



CALLING ALL MEMBERS – WE NEED YOU!

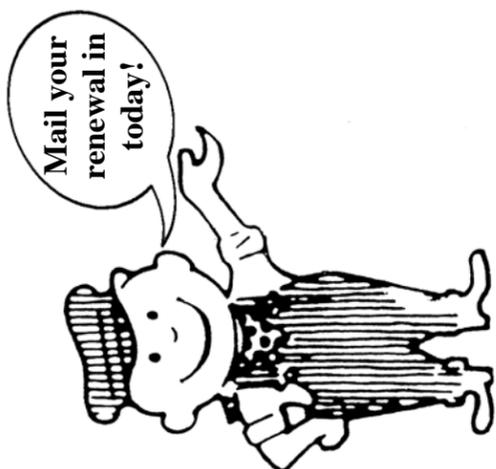
PLEASE SHARE YOUR TALENTS WITH US AS A VOLUNTEER



Details on page 6

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
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Mystic Valley Railway Society, Inc.  
P. O. Box 365486  
Hyde Park, MA 02136-0009



Deadline for Next Issue: August 1, 2017

Include your previous address with all address corrections



## NOTICE!

2017 N. E. RAILROADING CALENDAR



STILL AVAILABLE, see Boutique on page 6

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL April 1, 2017 – March 31, 2018



Keep the Good Times Rolling

Details on Page 2



## From the President - Theresa E. Rylko

Happy New Year as we start our 47th year. There have been a lot of changes, but one thing stays steady. That is your love for traveling with the club. Thank you for your help in passing the Waybills out in your area. Please let us know if you have a place that you would like the club to visit. If you have a note you wish to put under Member-o-Gram, please send it in Attention: Member-o-Gram and I will forward to

the Waybill editor to include in an upcoming edition. Many of you have asked about the column we used to have called Ask the Bee concerning questions about the history of different railroads. Currently we do not have anyone to write the column. If you have a great knowledge of trains and would like to share it with our fellow members let us know, and I will pass the information to our Waybill editor for consideration.

Remember this is your Waybill and it's the best way to communicate with other members.

Thank you for your comments and concerns concerning your membership. Our membership year runs from April 1 to March 31. We use the first year of the membership for coding the Waybill. So this year will be coded M17.

## From the Vice President - Jeff Costello

Happy Spring! We at Mystic Valley Railway Society are looking forward to summer with its many fun and educational trips. We're looking forward to a four-day trip to Maine revisiting Camden, Thomaston, Rockland, and Freeport. If you would like to join us, check the Waybill. The Trip Team works hard on the trips and always

appreciates your ideas and input about adventures and restaurants to visit. We are always in need of volunteers willing share their talents with us. At our Annual Meeting on May 6, the Russell Rylko Memorial Grant was presented to David Huntington representing the Shelburne Museum of Shelburne, Vermont. Their project involves

restoration of a private car. The Grand Isle was built in 1899 for Dr. Seward Webb, president of the Wagner Palace Car Company. Tasks to be done include earthwork, re-ballasting around the track to level the car, and refurbishing and painting the curved ceiling panels of the car. We are continuing this award in Russell's memory.

## From the Membership Chairperson - Ellie Manning

It's time to renew your membership. On the front of the Waybill - on the address label - to the right of your name there is a code. To receive your 2018 New England RR calendar, the code next to your name must read either LIFE or M17.

**LIFE** means that you are a member for life.

**M17** means that you are already a

member for year April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018.

**MAIL** means that you have not paid your current membership dues. It is time to renew. You will be taken off the rolls unless you join again.

**THE MEMBERSHIP YEAR RUNS FROM APRIL 1 TO MARCH 31.** Anyone who joins after January 1 will automatical-

ly be assigned to the coming membership year.

The membership fees for the year April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018 are \$10 for Regular Membership, \$4 per additional person to make a Family Membership, while Life Membership is \$125. We look forward to your continued support.

### Board of Directors, Positions Held April 1, 2016 - March 31, 2017

**President** - Theresa E. Rylko (Tracey)  
**Vice President** - Jeffrey Costello (Jeff)  
**Treasurer** - Judy Berson-Hoyt  
**Recording Secretary** - Nancy Roney

**Directors:**

Lillian Garvey  
Eleanor Manning  
William Manning  
Nancy Martin  
Joseph McDonough  
Marcia Pennington  
Mary Verner

**Positions They Fill**

Roma Hertel - Waybill Editor, Button Maker  
Dirk Hertel - Photography/Calendar  
Billy Manning - Mailing Chairperson  
Ellie Manning - Membership Chairperson  
Sally Avjian & Ellie Manning - Trip Team (Planning Trips and Social Event Co-Chairs)

Dan Ouellette - Web Master/Computer  
Joe McDonough & Jeff Costello - Trade Show Coordinators

Jeff Costello - Communications Radios/Defibrillators

Marcia Pennington & Jeff Costello - Boutique

Mary & Jay Verner - Waybill Mailing Coordinators  
Albert W. Avjian - Treasurer, Emeritus  
Sally M. Avjian - Recording Secretary, Emeritus

You will see many of these volunteers as tour leaders on your trips.

It takes a team effort to have a successful volunteer organization. Please share your talents as a volunteer with MVRS and be rewarded by seeing your work in action. Call 617-361-4445 and a volunteer form will be sent to you.



Seated: Nancy Roney, Judy Berson-Hoyt, Theresa Rylko and Jeff Costello  
Standing: Bill Manning, Lillian Garvey, Mary Verner, Nancy Martin, Sally Avjian, Ellie Manning, Marcia Pennington and Joe McDonough.

## TRAIN SHOWS & EXCURSIONS

By popular demand! To publicize an event please mail details to Mystic Valley Railway Society - Attn: Train Show Column, P.O. Box 365486, Hyde Park MA 02136 or else email [contactus@mysticvalleyrs.org](mailto:contactus@mysticvalleyrs.org). Publication deadline: see page 4.

• **Sat. 6-17 and Sun. 6-18-17, 10am-3pm: Pioneer Valley Live Steamers - Spring Meet**, 108 Hillside Road, Southwick MA. Donation for parking: \$5 per person; \$15 per car. Free train rides. Info: [www.pvls.org/new-events/](http://www.pvls.org/new-events/)

• **Sat. 6-17 (9am-5pm) and Sun 6-18-17 (10am-4pm): The Great Scale Model Train Show**, Cow Palace, MD State Fairgrounds, 2200 York Rd, Timonium MD. Info: [gsmts.com](http://gsmts.com)

• **Thu. 6-22 thru Sun. 6-25-17: 49th O Scale National Convention**, Southern New England Model Railroad Club, Holiday Inn Springfield South - Enfield CT. Info: [snemrr.org](http://snemrr.org)

• **Sat. 8-5-17, 9am-4pm: Model Railroad Open House**, South Shore Model Railway Club & Museum, Bare Cove Park, Bldg. 51, 19 Fort Hill Street, Hingham MA. Admission: \$2 adult; free 4 and under. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Info: [www.ssmrc.org](http://www.ssmrc.org)

• **Sat. 9-9-17, 10am-3pm: Train Show**, New Haven Railroad Historical & Technical Association, Valley Railroad, Essex CT. Admission: \$5 suggested donation. Info: [nhrrhta.org](http://nhrrhta.org)

• **Sun 9-17-17, 9am-1pm: NETCA Southern Chapter Meet**, Army Navy Hall, 1090 Main Street, Manchester CT. Admission: \$5 adult; free under 12 (with adult). Info: Dennis Ingalls 508-285-3963, [www.netca.org](http://www.netca.org)

• **Sun. 10-8-17, 9.30am-3.30pm: 25th Anniversary Model Train Show**, New Haven & Derby Model Railroad Club, High Plains Community Center, 525 Orange Center Rd (Rte.152), Orange CT. Donation: \$5 adult; \$1 teen (12-18 with adult); free under 12 (with adult). Info: [www.newhaven-derbymodelrailroadclub.org](http://www.newhaven-derbymodelrailroadclub.org)

• **Sat. 10-21 and Sun. 10-22-17, 10am-3pm: Open House (both days) & Train Show (Sat. only)**, North Shore Model RR Club, Wakefield MA. Donation: \$5 adult; \$2 senior or child; free under 5; \$10 family maximum. Info: 781-245-4742 [show@nsmrc.org](mailto:show@nsmrc.org), [www.nsmrc.org](http://www.nsmrc.org)

• **Sun. 11-5-17, 9am-2pm: Classic Shows, LLC - Train and Toy Show**, Zandri's Stillwood Inn, 1074 South Colony Rd, Wallingford CT. Admission: \$6 adult; free under 15 (with adult). Info: 203-926-1327, [www.ClassicShowsLLC.com](http://www.ClassicShowsLLC.com)

• **Thu. 11-9 thru Sun 11-12-17, Northeastern Region - National Model Railroad Association, Annual Convention: Rails to the Gilded Age**, Newport RI. Sat.11-11: one-day registration available only at the door: model railroad show, vendors, photo and model contests. Info: [littlerhodydiv.org](http://littlerhodydiv.org)

# MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

The Mystic Valley year runs from April 1 - March 31

**Here's what's included:**

- Our quarterly paper, *The Waybill*, filled with pictures and schedules of RR events.
- Exclusive members-only tours to unique activities and locations.
- Color Railroad calendar with 12 frameable prints (while supplies last).
- Annual Calendar Color Slide Contest for members.
- Railroad Socials.
- Membership card, The Mystic Valley Pass.
- Railroad films and guest speakers available upon request.

**Membership Fees & Classes**

1. **Regular Membership** (one person) \$10
2. **Family Membership**  
Price of regular membership for one member plus \$4 per additional person living in the same house with regular member. All are full members with only one copy of every mailing mailed to the family address.
3. **Life Membership** (one person, U.S.A. only) \$125
4. For membership outside the U.S.A., please double the above fees (remit in U.S. currency only).

Calendars will be mailed to all current members as stated above and not necessarily presented at time of joining (while supplies last).



Discover  
New England  
By Train!

PLEASE INCLUDE A SELF-ADDRESSED STAMPED ENVELOPE

Mail to:  
MYSTIC VALLEY RAILWAY SOCIETY, INC.  
c/o Membership Committee  
P.O. Box 365486, Hyde Park, MA 02136-0009  
 Check here if this is an address change



**Got a Question:**

call us at 617-361-4445 (24 hours) or online at: [www.mysticvalleyrs.org](http://www.mysticvalleyrs.org)

NEW \_\_\_\_\_ RENEWAL \_\_\_\_\_  
Regular Membership at \$10 per person \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
at \$4 per additional person to the price of the regular Membership \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Life Membership at \$125 per person (U.S.A. only) \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Tax deductible donations to a 501(c)(3) organization are gratefully accepted.  
TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

If you join more than once in the membership year, it will be considered a donation. Please send a SASE, a #10 business size envelope. Cards will be mailed to you in 5-6 weeks. There will be a \$20 service charge for returned checks.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City/Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Please include telephone number (with area code) \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Family members (no separate mailings). Please list full names: \_\_\_\_\_



# Maine Escape



Sunday July 2 – Wednesday July 5, 2017

**FARES:**

- \$875 per person double occupancy
- \$225 single supplement

Once again, we shall traverse the highways and byways of the rock-bound Maine coast as we celebrate the Fourth of July. Learn about lighthouses, lifesaving and the U.S. Coast Guard at the Maine Lighthouse Museum, overlooking Rockland Harbor and Penobscot Bay. At the Maine State Prison Showroom see wood products handcrafted by inmates as they learn workforce skills to help them transition upon release. Also, enjoy shopping in Freeport, Camden and Rockland.

**FEATURES:**

- Round trip comfortable motor coach
- Three nights lodging at Trade Winds Inn, Rockland ME
- Eight complete meals
- Daily breakfast at your inn
- Shopping at Freeport ME
- Visit Camden ME
- View the Fourth of July parade at Thomaston ME
- Visit the Prison Store at Thomaston ME
- Tour the Maine Lighthouse Museum, Rockland ME

**TIMETABLE**

↓	SUNDAY		WEDNESDAY	↑
	8:00am	Braintree T (Exit 17, Rte 3)	9:00pm	
	8:30am	Riverside T (Exit 22, Rte 95/128)	8:30pm	
	9:00am	Wellington T (Rte 16 – Medford)	8:00pm	

All times are approximate and subject to change

**RESERVE EARLY:**

This Maine Escape trip is sponsored by the Mystic Valley Railway Society. Send your letter of request indicating full names of all members in your party along with boarding station, and a non-refundable deposit of \$200 per person to: MVRs, P.O. Box 365486, Hyde Park MA 02136.

Balance due by Friday June 16, 2017.

**MAKE IT A GROUP AFFAIR!**

If the same person purchases ten or more tickets in advance, they will be entitled to a 10% discount (subject to availability).

# Maine Escape

Sunday July 2 – Wednesday July 5, 2017

**FARES:**

- \$875 per person double occupancy
- \$225 single supplement



PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone# \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Boarding Station \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Name & Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Please make all checks payable to:

Mystic Valley Railway Society, Inc. and mail to:  
MVRs, P.O. BOX 365486, Hyde Park, MA 02136-0009.

Thank you.

Information for handicapped Accessibility will be provided upon request.

Your tickets and itineraries will be mailed about 5 days prior to departure.

Note: A service charge of \$20 will be assessed for returned checks.

Editor's note: in the last Waybill, I asked "What Makes You Tick?". Here is Gerard Sevigny's answer to that question. And you can read more about Presidential Conference Cars in The Roundhouse on page 7.

## What is on My Trolley-Minded? - Gerard Sevigny

How and why did I fall in love with streetcars? I often find myself thinking about streetcars, trolleys, trains and other light-rail vehicles which operate on rails, and are powered by overhead wires.

When I was a little boy I saw pictures of streetcars in several books. I thought that streetcars were not prominent in the US, nor the world, anymore because they were old-fashioned.

When I was a resident student at The Rhode Island School for the Deaf in Providence RI, I would see unused streetcar tracks on Hope Street, near where the school was located. I thought I would see streetcars but I never did. Instead there were public trackless buses which use electrical wires on the roof. I did not have the same interest in these buses that I had with streetcars.

I remember one day, Mr. Abraham Cohen, who was a deaf teacher at my school teaching woodwork and math, took me and other students to Boston. He drove his wagon. He wanted to purchase brass pieces for furniture at a hardware store near the North Station. I was excited and surprised to see that Boston had live running old-fashioned streetcars. I remember seeing an elevated, shining yellow trolley, above street level, very near North station.

Mr. Cohen took us into the store. Students learned how to use different tools but all I wanted to study were streetcars. After a few minutes, I decided to walk outside to look up at the elevated track trolley. Mr. Cohen found me and asked, "Why are you looking at the trolley?" I responded

that I was surprised that Boston still uses trolleys. He said, "So what?!"

We went back into the shop - but I could not focus on the tools. I had become trolley-minded. I fell in love with trolleys that day - and meandered back outside to stare at the trolleys. Mr. Cohen told me to get back in the shop, but I told him I needed to see another trolley. Once the next trolley arrived at the North Station Mr. Cohen told me that I had seen enough trolleys for the day, and became frustrated with my distraction. I had not seen enough trolleys but, disappointed, did what I was told.

When I got my first car, I drove to see Boston Trolley. I remembered that I drove on Huntington Avenue. I stopped because the trolley approached me from corner. The trolley driver, who was around fifty years old and wore white, waved his hand at me. It meant he wanted me to go ahead.

When I moved in Newton Highlands I took the trolley (Green line) to Boston and returned home almost every day for many years. I was comfortable to ride it. When my friend took me to a restaurant in Brookline, the street had a trolley line. I looked at the trolley passing the window many times. I cannot control looking at it.

In December 2012, I received the Train Magazine. I was surprised that the article said, "America Streetcar Renaissance." I was very glad to read it because of the newly expanded train system that stretches throughout this country. Currently, the US has a lot of road construction, rising gasoline prices, increasing traffic congestion, and parking problems. I believe that

a better streetcar infrastructure in this country will reduce many of these issues. Streetcars would reduce traffic and would reduce parking issues.

In June 2014, I joined the Catholic Deaf Senior group tour of the Seashore Trolley Museum in Kennebunkport, Maine. It is one of the largest trolley museums in the world. When we arrived, we entered a large dining room.

A conductor told us all about the history of trolleys and first trolley museum. He said, the Seashore Trolley Museum is the largest trolley museum in the world. After his lecture, the conductor asked if we had any question. I shot my hand straight in the air. I spoke briefly about my love of all things trolley. He said that I would be a perfect fit to work at the Museum and told me I should move to Kennebunk. I asked if he truly mean what he said, "Should I move to Maine?" He said nothing.

After I retired from United States Postal Service I always boarded the train at the North Station and often ran into a conductor named John. He is a train and trolley fan like myself. He told me that he had worked in a trolley Museum in Maine. He also showed me his laptop computer. We often talked about trains and trolleys. I told him about Zurich, Switzerland which has a lot of old trams. They are cute because of their thin shape and the number on top. He agreed.

Around the year 1980 I visited Toronto, Canada, which has old trolleys. I was surprised this city has 11 route lines. The trolley system was a style called: Presidential Conference Committee (PCC) streetcar, first

built in the 1930s. PCC can be used anywhere in the world. PCC cars have been running many years because they are durable and last. I rode the Toronto trolley several times.

I would like to move to Maine. However, Massachusetts has better public transportation than Maine.

In 2015, I went to the senior center. There I met a lady who used to live in Maine and she told me about the lack-luster senior services for Mainers.

This past winter 2016, I met another woman who was a retired veterans' nurse. She said she has homes in both Maine and Massachusetts. I told her about the rumors that Maine has poor services for seniors. She responded, "You are right - no senior services. I live in a small town. There are 1,300+ in Washington, Maine. Last winter there were no open grocery stores, no gas stations, no restaurants, and I had to shovel almost every day. It was a very hard winter." She also added: "This summer they opened a small store in town but it is very expensive. I usually drive to Union, Maine about eight miles away. In winter, I would use [the local store] because I can walk there."

She wrote another letter and said, there is a lot of property for sale in Maine. I think the winter last year made a lot of people wish they did not live in Maine. She mentioned that her house is an old Cape, built 1838, but she fixed it up. She also mentioned that she will try and sell her property and then move to Massachusetts for better senior services.

That is why I might to stay in Massachusetts. I think, I was born in the trolley.



# MEMBER-O-GRAM

April was a busy month for Republic of Ireland member **James Scannell** who presented four local history lectures for the Old Dublin Society. Three of the lectures were presented in public libraries for the Dublin: One City, One Book festival organised by Dublin City Libraries & Archive service. 'Aspects of the 1939-45 Emergency' looking at life during WW2 in Ireland was presented in 2 public libraries and 'Captain Hermann Görtz; A German intelligence gatherer in WW2' in Dublin

City Library & Archive where James also presented 'The Light That Failed: The 1957 Dundrum Railcar Collision' to the Old Dublin Society as part of that society's lecture programme. James has been PRO of the Old Dublin Society since 2002, having joined the society in 1990.

And director **Joe McDonough** is still so relaxed after his trip to Portugal and Mallorca that he hasn't found the time to write up a piece about his adventures yet!



**HEAR YE!  
HEAR YE!**  
The Call Goes Out



To All Groups! 10 For 10

Group Sales Policy: 10 or more tickets purchased in ADVANCE by the SAME PERSON will be entitled to a 10% DISCOUNT subject to availability.

BLOCK SPACE may be arranged on any non-restricted event with Ticket Coordinator or Tour Director (when assigned) at least 50 days prior to departure. For further information, please contact the Mystic Valley Railway Society, 617-361-4445 or e-mail at [contactus@mysticvalleyrs.org](mailto:contactus@mysticvalleyrs.org).

## 2017 W. Russell Rylko Grant Update

By the time you read this, David Huntington representing the Shelburne Museum (Shelburne VT) will have received the 2017 Rylko Grant during the MVRS Annual Meeting held May 6, 2017. The amount of \$8,900.00 was made available to the museum for their project to re-ballast the track, examine the ceiling panels and create a digital slide show of the history of private rail car *Grand Isle* which was purchased in 1960. Successful completion of this project should greatly enhance public viewing of the *Grand Isle's* history.



## Booking Conditions



"We expect people to act respectful in a cordial manner. We also expect our passengers to follow instruction from supervised personnel on all transportation vehicles, i.e., trains, buses, boats, etc. It is important instructions be followed to maintain safety of all participants.

If any passenger is disruptive or refuses to follow direction they are subject to be prohibited from taking part in future trips. To be clear we consider non-compliance with safety directive to be a serious matter as well as use of foul language and disruptive conduct. Any of these behaviors will be grounds for prohibition of participation in future trips and events."

## Handicapped Information

The Mystic Valley Railway Society, Inc., endeavors to provide its passengers with information regarding the accessibility of and facilities available for the benefit of our handicapped ridership. In doing so, we make inquiries of the facilities visited and equipment used on each of our trips. Accordingly, since we merely convey this information, we cannot be held responsible for its accuracy.

If you are not self-sufficient and have special needs, you must travel with a companion who can provide assistance to you. By making a reservation for a trip, you are certifying that you do not have any mental, physical or other medical/disability condition that could compromise your safety or that of other trip participants. If you are uncertain about the demands or difficulties of a particular trip or event, please call us for details.

## RESERVATIONS

Please send a separate check and SASE for each trip. This way, if a trip did have to cancel, your check could be returned immediately. You will now find a separate coupon for each trip. If you want to come as a group, please list your group together in one reservation and sent to one address.

## idea TRIP IDEAS!

Have you visited somewhere around New England that you think the Mystic Valley Railway Society's members and friends would enjoy as much as you did?



**PLEASE LET US KNOW!**

Our Trip Team is always looking for new ideas, places to eat, things to see and do, train rides, museums, boat rides, etc.

With your help we can offer trips at a reasonable cost, that otherwise might have been overlooked.

Please contact us by e-mail at [contactus@mysticvalleyrs.org](mailto:contactus@mysticvalleyrs.org) or via regular mail at

MVRS, P. O. Box 365486, Hyde Park, MA 02136-0009.

Please provide your phone number or e-mail address, so that we may contact you, should we need more information.

**THE MVRS TRIP TEAM IS HERE FOR YOU! BE THERE FOR THEM!**

## Calling all Members!

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR ACTIVITY??



**NEW FRIENDS  
TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES  
REWARDING EXPERIENCES  
WAYS TO HELP OTHER MEMBERS  
or SHARE A CAREER SKILL??**



**ALL ABOARD** with the Mystic Valley Volunteers – the activities are as varied as their locations. Auto transportation is essential for some events, but many are located on the MBTA routes and may gather at special locations or at members' homes. Is distance an impediment? **NO WAY**, for we have dedicated members in many states and foreign countries who complete their activity by letter or E-Mail. Remember: volunteering allows you to share your talents and interests with those who would benefit most.

**TO JOIN THE FUN** Please request a volunteer form by submitting your request & membership number to: **M.V.R.S. P. O. Box 365486, Hyde Park, MA 02136-0009** or visit our Website [www.mysticvalleyrs.org](http://www.mysticvalleyrs.org).

**WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?** Your request is presented at our regular meeting so that you will be contacted by the appropriate chairperson. From there it is up to you how involved you wish to be, for the level of activity and variety of trips offered by the Society are solely determined by the level of participation supplied by our volunteer members. **WELCOME ABOARD!**

**DEADLINE  
FOR NEXT ISSUE  
August 1, 2017**



# WEEKEND DAY TRIPS

## Majestic Cape Ann

Saturday June 10, 2017 Fare: \$58 PP

Travel up the North Shore to Cape Ann and visit the Beauport McCann Sleeper House on the coast of Gloucester. We'll have a guided tour of the mansion and its gardens. Then it's on to Rockport where there'll be plenty of time for shopping and exploring on Bearskin Neck to find a place for lunch on your own. And don't forget your camera to snap a picture of Motif #1.

**FEATURES:**

- Comfortable Motor Coach
- Beauport McCann Sleeper House and Gardens
- Strolling and shopping at Bearskin Neck
- Lunch on your own



**TIMETABLE**

8:30am	Braintree T (Exit 17, Rte 3)	6:30pm
9:00am	Riverside T (Exit 22 off 128)	6:00pm
9:30am	Wellington T (Rte 16 - Medford)	5:30pm

All times are approximate and subject to change

Reserve in advance - capacity limited. Please read carefully and complete all details when requesting passage. Please include FULL NAMES OF ALL IN YOUR PARTY when completing this form. Tours run rain or shine. Timetable is subject to change. NO REFUNDS.

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone# \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ Boarding Station \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/Town \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 Emergency Contact Name & Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Please make all checks payable to: Mystic Valley Railway Society, Inc. and mail to: MVRS, P.O. BOX 365486, Hyde Park, MA 02136-0009. Thank you. Information for handicapped Accessibility will be provided upon request. Your tickets and itineraries will be mailed about 5 days prior to departure. Note: A service charge of \$20 will be assessed for returned checks.

## Clark's Trading Post

Saturday June 24, 2017 Fare: \$76 PP

Fun-filled family activities in Lincoln NH, with nearly 6 hours and many options. Take the 2½-mile train ride (as often as you want) though beware: it might just get robbed. Be astounded by the Black Bears and marvel at the Yandong Chinese Acrobatic Show. Five museums explore Clark's history plus railroad, firefighting and motoring heritage. Lunch on your own (voucher included) at either Pullman's Pizza and Subs, Whistle Stop Snack Bar or the Peppermint Saloon.

**FEATURES:**

- Round-trip comfortable motor coach
- Clark's Trading Post - all attractions and museums included
- \$12 voucher for lunch on your own
- Rest stop each way



**TIMETABLE**

7:00am	Braintree T (Exit 17, Rte 3)	8:30pm
7:30am	Riverside T (Exit 22, Rte 95/128)	8:00pm
8:00am	Wellington T (Rte 16 - Medford)	7:30pm

All times are approximate and subject to change

Reserve in advance - capacity limited. Please read carefully and complete all details when requesting passage. Please include FULL NAMES OF ALL IN YOUR PARTY when completing this form. Tours run rain or shine. Timetable is subject to change. NO REFUNDS.

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone# \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ Boarding Station \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/Town \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 Emergency Contact Name & Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Please make all checks payable to: Mystic Valley Railway Society, Inc. and mail to: MVRS, P.O. BOX 365486, Hyde Park, MA 02136-0009. Thank you. Information for handicapped Accessibility will be provided upon request. Your tickets and itineraries will be mailed about 5 days prior to departure. Note: A service charge of \$20 will be assessed for returned checks.

## Block Island

Saturday July 8, 2017 Fare: \$67 PP

Once again, we will travel to Point Judith RI to board the ferry to Block Island. Both Old Harbor (ferry dock) and New Harbor (about one mile away) have shops and galleries, with eating options for every budget. Relax on sandy State Beach by Old Harbor, or walk to the Southeast Lighthouse at Mohegan Bluffs. A taxi (reasonably priced when shared with others) could take you to the North Light and museum, but remember to arrange a pick-up time.

**FEATURES:**

- Round trip comfortable motor coach
- 2½-hour ferry ride to Block Island
- Time to explore the island
- Lunch on your own



**TIMETABLE**

7:00am	Wellington T (Rte 16 - Medford)	7:00pm
7:30am	Riverside T (Exit 22, Rte 95/128)	6:30pm
8:00am	Braintree T (Exit 17, Rte 3)	6:00pm

All times are approximate and subject to change

Reserve in advance - capacity limited. Please read carefully and complete all details when requesting passage. Please include FULL NAMES OF ALL IN YOUR PARTY when completing this form. Tours run rain or shine. Timetable is subject to change. NO REFUNDS.

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone# \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ Boarding Station \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/Town \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 Emergency Contact Name & Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

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## Cabbage Island

Saturday July 22, 2017 Fare: \$115 PP

Travel Downeast to board the Bennie Alice in Boothbay Harbor. After a scenic boat tour, we'll arrive at 5½-acre Cabbage Island in Linekin Bay. Our hosts, the Moore family, will be putting the finishing touches on the traditional meal, prepared in seaweed. You could explore the island or enjoy a game of horseshoes. Then the feast starts, at outdoor tables or, if the weather is inclement, in the island lodge that dates from 1900.

**FEATURES:**

- Round-trip comfortable motor coach
- Lobster Clambake with chowder, corn and potatoes
- Cruise round Boothbay Harbor

**MEAL CHOICES:**

- Twin 1½lb lobsters
- ½ BBQ chicken



**TIMETABLE**

7:00am	Braintree T (Exit 17, Rte 3)	10:00pm
7:30am	Riverside T (Exit 22, Rte 95/128)	9:30pm
8:00am	Wellington T (Rte 16 - Medford)	9:00pm

All times are approximate and subject to change

Reserve in advance - capacity limited. Please read carefully and complete all details when requesting passage. Please include FULL NAMES OF ALL IN YOUR PARTY when completing this form. Tours run rain or shine. Timetable is subject to change. NO REFUNDS.

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone# \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ Boarding Station \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/Town \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
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## Lobsterfest with "Baggage"

Sunday August 6, 2017 Fare: \$106 PP

At the Newport Playhouse, the attractions are just steps apart. Enjoy the buffet, before watching "Baggage" in the theatre. Two people accidentally get each other's luggage at the airport. From this inauspicious start, they embark on a journey away from failed relationships and into new territory as they search their souls to discover they actually have quite a lot in common. After the play return to the dining room, now transformed into a cabaret with music, skits and laughter.

**FEATURES:**

- Round-trip comfortable motor coach
- Live theatre and cabaret shows
- Lobsterfest buffet
- Dress code: no t-shirts, baseball caps or cut-off jeans
- Deadline for reservations: Saturday July 15, 2017



**TIMETABLE**

8:00am	Riverside T (Exit 22, Rte 95/128)	7:30pm
8:30am	Wellington T (Rte 16 - Medford)	7:00pm
9:00am	Braintree T (Exit 17, Rte 3)	6:30pm

All times are approximate and subject to change

Reserve in advance - capacity limited. Please read carefully and complete all details when requesting passage. Please include FULL NAMES OF ALL IN YOUR PARTY when completing this form. Tours run rain or shine. Timetable is subject to change. NO REFUNDS.

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone# \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ Boarding Station \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/Town \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
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## Martha's Vineyard

Saturday August 12, 2017  
Fare: \$70 PP, with \$16 extra for optional bus tour

Travel from Falmouth MA aboard the Island Queen ferry bound for Oak Bluffs on Martha's Vineyard. Explore the quaint gingerbread cottages and busy harbor. Or enjoy browsing the many shops. Lunch on your own. Our optional (extra fee) 2½-hour bus tour includes 30 minutes at the red clay cliffs of Gay Head in Aquinnah.

**FEATURES:**

- Comfortable motor coach
- 35-minute cruise each way
- Time on your own



**TIMETABLE**

7:00am	Wellington T (Rte 16 - Medford)	7:00pm
7:30am	Riverside T (Exit 22, Rte 95/128)	6:30pm
8:00am	Braintree T (Exit 17, Rte 3)	6:00pm

All times are approximate and subject to change

Reserve in advance - capacity limited. Please read carefully and complete all details when requesting passage. Please include FULL NAMES OF ALL IN YOUR PARTY when completing this form. Tours run rain or shine. Timetable is subject to change. NO REFUNDS.

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone# \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ Boarding Station \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/Town \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 Emergency Contact Name & Phone # \_\_\_\_\_  
 # for optional bus tour at \$16 per person \_\_\_\_\_

Please make all checks payable to: Mystic Valley Railway Society, Inc. and mail to: MVRS, P.O. BOX 365486, Hyde Park, MA 02136-0009. Thank you. Information for handicapped Accessibility will be provided upon request. Your tickets and itineraries will be mailed about 5 days prior to departure. Note: A service charge of \$20 will be assessed for returned checks.

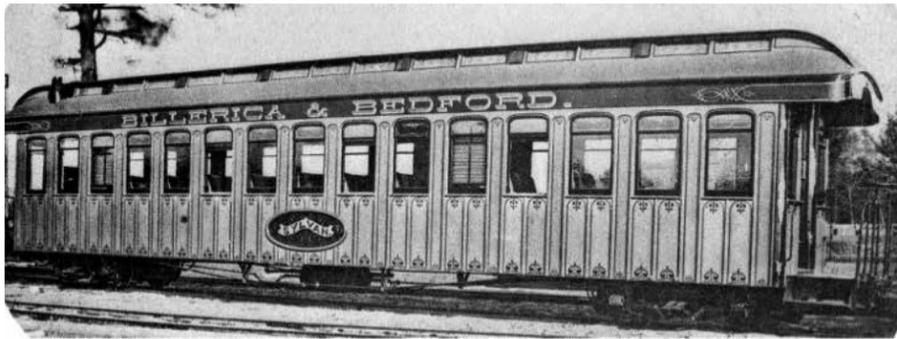


# Commuting Now and Then

By Dirk Hertel

A few years ago, my employer moved out from Cambridge to Billerica. The office park is close to the town line with Bedford. Most people drive to work, though some use the corporate shuttles connecting to the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority Red and Orange subway lines, and some even bike. I asked the cyclists how they coped with the busy road traffic and was told that wasn't necessary because of a nearby trail. This takes them into Bedford then onto the Minuteman Biketrail which goes to Arlington, Cambridge and Concord. One lunch break I ventured out on foot to explore. The northern trailhead is

However, with increased development in Boston's suburbs, road travel became ever more crowded. In January 1965 the MBTA responded to the increasing need for alternative transportation by subsidizing B&M's commuter rail service in the Boston area. This included the Lexington branch from North Station to Bedford. On December 26, 1976 the MBTA purchased the B&M commuter rail assets (rail corridors and rolling stock, mainly self-propelled Budd Rail Diesel Cars). However, after a snowstorm on January 10, 1977 stranded the Budd car at the Bedford Depot, the MBTA decided to close the branch for good. In 1981, the



B & B passenger car "Sylvan" (D. L. Ball, George Mansfield and the Billerica & Bedford Railroad, 2012).

on Springs Road but, since it starts south as a mere dirt path, narrow and washed out, is easy to miss. But what is this? Half buried in the sand are a few railroad ties, some still with the spikes in place! Behind the fence of a nearby garden stood a railroad sign that might have been a whistle post, though it was hard to tell as the paint has rusted off the sign's face. South across the town line in Bedford it becomes much wider and is well maintained, going through cuts and along embankments with concrete railroad culverts over small streams. Intrigued by the remains of this former railroad, I did some research and learned that I had walked along North America's first two-foot narrow-gauge railway, the Bedford & Billerica (B&B)!

Chartered in 1876, the 8.63-mile line was built between May and August 1877 at a cost of \$6,000 per mile. It provided a shortcut between Concord and Lowell, connecting the Middlesex Central with the Boston and Lowell. Two engines from the Hinckley Locomotive Works of Boston, and named for the Shakespearean spirits "Puck" and "Ariel" ran at 30-40mph. There were two passenger cars named "Sylvan" and "Pawn," an open excursion car, and a box car for freight. The Boston Globe of October 17, 1877 waxed lyrical about the two "little beauties": "The interior of the two passenger cars is very elegant, such woods as mahogany, "burl," black walnut and a peculiar Colorado Wood harmonizing splendidly with the nicely upholstered, nickelplated single seats at each side of the cars. Each car is furnished with lamps, toilet apartments, Miller platforms and airbrakes. As the cars hang very low to the ground the centre of gravity is brought as much as possible between the rails, so that the cars themselves, by some peculiar apparatus arranged beneath, cannot be overturned or leave the roadbed."

Despite the speed and amenities offered by narrow-gauge rail travel with seven round trips a day, the line ran into financial difficulties and closed in June 1878, after less than one year of operation. The equipment was auctioned off and went to the Sandy River Railroad of Maine, helping to spawn a successful 2ft narrow-gauge network. In May 1885 the Boston & Lowell Railroad revived the dormant roadbed to extend its Lexington Branch, this time in standard gauge. Six new station stops between the termini of Bedford and North Billerica were added: Springs Road, Bedford Springs, South Billerica, Turnpike (Nuttings Lake), Billerica, and Bennett Hall. In 1887 the Boston & Lowell was taken over by the Boston & Maine (B&M), which kept passenger service until the end of 1931, and eventually abandoned the line altogether in 1962.

Town of Arlington proposed converting the disused railroad corridor into a bikeway. The MBTA agreed on condition that the Lexington Branch was formally "rail-banked" (rather than abandoned), so that it could be re-opened as rail line in the future. The Minuteman Bikeway opened in 1993. The railroad did however return to the Bedford Depot: in 1998, Budd car # 6211 was put on stationary display in what became the Bedford Depot Park. To commemorate the 125th anniversary of the B&B Railroad in 2002, the Friends of Bedford Depot Park and the Maine Narrow-Gauge Railroad laid a short length of 2ft narrow-gauge track in the former B&M yard. This allowed operation of the Maine Narrow Gauge Railroad (MN-GRR) steam locomotive #3 for a weekend, very close to where the B&B had briefly operated in 1877-78.

During the first 100 years (1877 to 1977), though the B&B and its successors tried operating passenger services, there was simply not enough demand to sustain them. However, in the subsequent 40 years (1977 to 2017) the situation has changed fundamentally: many technology companies have moved into the outer suburbs, and people increasingly prefer living in the city. As a result, new patterns of commuting have emerged which are no longer served by commuter rail services designed in previous decades. Quality of life would be improved for me and many of my co-workers if we could commute out from the city on sleek, swift, electric light-rail trains stopping at our office park! The railroad right-of-way, established 140 years ago, still exists and could once again be repurposed to serve the needs of the 21st century.

- Boston and Lowell Railroad
- North Billerica Junction
- Nasons
- Salem Road
- Billerica
- Boston Road
- Nuttings Pond (Nutting Lake)
- South Billerica
- Cliffs
- Bedford Springs
- Oak Hill
- Spring Street (Springs Road)
- Main Street (Great Road)
- Bedford Junction
- Middlesex Central Railroad

Station stops on the Bedford & Billerica branch of the Boston & Lowell RR (Wikipedia).

# Riding the Rails

By Robert A. LaMay



Amtrak ballast spreader at North Haven CT



An unusual consist rolls north at Hartford CT



Connecticut Southern No. 2011, works yard at Hartford CT



Northbound Vermonter passes new signals at Hartford CT



Three trains at Old Saybrook CT



Acela rolls eastward past Bridgeport CT ferry terminal

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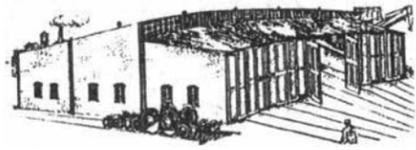
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# The Roundhouse



Connecticut Gov. Daniel P. Malloy, a supporter of passenger rail in his state, is now advocating for enhanced rail service from Springfield through Worcester and onto Boston. "Improved transportation connections will only strengthen our communities and increase economic growth significantly," Malloy wrote in a Jan. 30 letter to Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker. "It is my hope that Massachusetts will consider adding this vital link for the Knowledge Corridor to Hartford, New Haven and New York City with frequent and reliable service to Boston." [MassLive]. Do you remember the Bay State? In the early days of Amtrak this train ran Boston to New York via Worcester, Springfield and Hartford. It did not last because of Amtrak budget woes. Things might be different now. All the track used by this train is state-owned except for the CSX track between Worcester and Springfield. Inland route passenger service has the support of at least two Congressmen, Richard Neal and James McGovern.

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) has started national certification testing for the new Siemens Charger locomotives. The tests are being conducted on the Amtrak Cascades corridor and the test will run through February. WSDOT bought eight of the new locomotives as part of a multi-state procurement, and tests will certify the locomotives for use not only in Washington, but in other states across the nation as well. Washington will see the locomotives operate on the Cascades Corridor, which also runs in Oregon. In addition, Washington, along with Illinois, California, Michigan, and Missouri, jointly developed specifications for the Charger to be used on the nation's rail network. Maryland's MARC rail commuter agency will also be acquiring Chargers to take the place of soon-to-be-retired electric locomotives used on their NEC Penn Line.

The new Chargers, considered "next generation" locomotives, include:

- Higher acceleration rates and top speeds up to 125mph
- On-board positive train control safety features
- Greater reliability
- 4,400-horsepower engines that meet new emissions standards.

The Chargers will travel on various sections of the existing Vancouver, British Columbia to Eugene, Oregon corridor. Amtrak and Siemens

staff will test and monitor how the locomotive performs, and if testing proves successful, the new locomotives will enter service later in 2017. [NARP]

Railpace reports that the Berkshire Scenic has acquired former New Haven RR RDC-1 number 42. This Budd car is missing one engine, but the Berkshire Scenic has acquired a Detroit engine for eventual installation in the RDC. The car came from the recently-closed Old Colony and Fall River Railroad Museum in Fall River.

USA TODAY reports that CSX is going to lay off about 1,000 managers. CSX CEO Michael Ward will be retiring at the end of May. Progressive Railroading reports that CP CEO Hunter Harrison will head CSX. Mr. Harrison has led the two Canadian giants CN and CP at different times in his career. He has a reputation as a cost cutter and is a strong believer in scheduled freight service. Both CN and CP saw significant increases in their stock price under his leadership.

Progressive Railroading reports that the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) will spend \$7.9 million over the next two years to overhaul its existing Presidential Conference Committee (PCC) streetcars on the Mattapan-Ashmont Line. The project is aimed at maintaining the historical significance of the 1940s-era cars while keeping them viable for the next decade, MBTA officials said in a press release.

From a more local source on the same subject, here is a quote from the Dorchester Reporter: Transit officials began the first leg of a community outreach process on the future of the Mattapan High-Speed Trolley on April 4 by briefing a modest gathering in the Mattapan branch of the Boston Public Library.

With \$7.9 million allocated to keeping the 10-car fleet of WWII-era Presidential Conference Committee (PCC) trolleys maintained and functioning, the engineering firm CH2M Hill, Ltd. is now engaged in a \$1.1 million, year-long "due diligence" study of the 2.6-mile line's current conditions.

The baseline investment will preserve the cars "into the 2020s," said Brian Kane, the MBTA's director of operations analysis. "There are many things we are considering for the future of the line, but we are also committed to keeping the PCC car fleet on the Mattapan high speed line into the next decade," he said. "As old as they are, there are no guarantees with these cars, but there's also no expiration date."

The study will weigh the relative advantages of maintaining or enhancing the current stock - of which seven cars are regularly in service; investing in replica trolleys or other light rail

alternatives; creating a Bus Rapid Transit route with additional connections; and alternative vehicle technologies like all-electric trams.

Attendees emphasized that the trolley is an historic part of the neighborhood. "I see the Mattapan line as a great asset to the city of Boston and the MBTA," said resident Carole Mooney. "It goes along a historic route, and it goes through an historic cemetery, there is a walking trail along the way, and you can get on it from most of the stops."

The Statehouse News Service reports that the Baker Administration is going to spend \$1.5 million to do a preliminary engineering study of the often-proposed, often-studied but never-built rail link between Boston's North and South stations.

From the Boston Globe: Eight Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority vehicles derailed in 2016, the nation's highest overall figure and the second consecutive year the transit agency has had among the most light-rail derailments in the country, according to federal statistics. Last year, six Green Line trolleys and two subway maintenance vehicles derailed, according to data from the National Transit Database, which tracks safety data for transit systems.

Three Amfleet cars of the westbound Lake Shore Limited derailed on the approach to Chicago Union Station on March 27. There were no injuries, the cars tilted at about a 45-degree angle. [Chicago Tribune].

Train Riders Northeast reported some good news about Amtrak's Downeaster. Both ridership and revenue for February are up from February last year. Customer satisfaction ratings for friendliness and helpfulness of both the train crew and café crew were better than ratings for the Amtrak system as a whole. It looks like the Downeaster will once again feature Amtrak's only remaining dome car for some trips in August and September. If you did not get a chance to ride the dome on its brief visit last year, put a dome car ride on this year's list of things-to-do. Chances to ride a dome in New England are rare, so do it in 2017. Check the Downeaster web site.

From Amtrak's History Blog: April 1, 2017, marks the centennial of regularly-scheduled passenger rail service over the famed Hell Gate Bridge, which is the centerpiece of a complex of bridges and viaducts that links Astoria, Queens, on Long Island, with the mainland in the Bronx via Wards and Randall's islands. (Wards and Randall's were real islands when the Hell Gate bridge was built but the channel that used to separate them from the mainland has been filled in.) The bridge takes its name from the narrow stretch of the East River it spans. Here the waters of Long Island Sound and Upper New York Bay meet,

creating strong tides; the area once also featured dangerous rapids. Often described in glowing superlatives, the Hell Gate Bridge was the longest steel arch bridge in the world when completed in 1916 and instantly became an icon of American railroading.

The bridge's opening also largely marked the completion of what is now Amtrak Northeast Corridor (NEC) as we know it today, providing an all-rail route from Boston to Washington through New York City. At the time the bridge was built it connected the New Haven RR to the Pennsylvania RR. Approximately 40 Amtrak Northeast Regional and Acela Express trains cross the bridge each day - as well as freight trains - rewarding passengers with breathtaking views of the Empire City's world-famous skyline.

Vermont Business Magazine reports that AllEarth Rail, an affiliate of Williston-based solar manufacturer AllEarth Renewables, has announced its purchase of 12 vintage self-propelled rail cars to be used in launching a commuter rail service in northwestern Vermont. The cars are former VIA Rail Canada Budd RDC's purchased from Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART). The Vermont group out-bid VIA which was interested in getting these cars back. AllEarth does not yet have an agreement with either New England Central Railroad or the Vermont Rail System. An agreement with the State of Vermont would also be needed.

Ringling Brothers, Barnum and Bailey Circus is shutting down. On 4/17/17 Pan Am Railways provided FP9 locomotives from their business car train to power the next-to-last run. The train ran from Worcester MA to Manchester NH. The actual last run, on 4/24/17 from Manchester to Worcester (and on to Hartford on CSX), was powered by a pair of CSX engines.

Amtrak has had a lot of negative publicity about derailments at Penn Station and delays in the Hudson River Tunnel. Amtrak President Wick Moorman announced that critical repairs at Penn Station will be done in the next few months. These repairs were scheduled to be done over several years but now they will be expedited. The long-term result will be a much-improved Penn Station. The short-term result will be delays as tracks are closed even at rush hours. Penn Station is used by Amtrak, the Long Island Railroad, and New Jersey Transit.

Reuters reports that Amtrak expects the construction of the new rail tunnel under the Hudson River from New York to New Jersey to last from 2019 to 2026.

## Lines from Ireland

February 2017 to April 2017

By James Scannell

In early March Iarnród Éireann (Irish Rail) announced that in order to facilitate the upgrade of the company's advance ticket booking system, bookings for travel beyond May 4th would not be available to purchase until April 24th due to the introduction of a new ticket booking system. To facilitate the transition from the old to the new system, dates after May 4th could not be booked between March 8th and April 23rd until the new system came into operation on April 24th.

Track trespass is a major problem for Iarnród Éireann which has urged an end to this practice as the company revealed that during 2016 train engineers had 32 "category 1" near misses with trespassers, which required engineers to hit the brakes to avoid hitting a person.

Shock CCTV footage released by the company from one station alone - Kilbarrack on Dublin's northside - showed the recklessness involved. One trespasser in December 2016 avoided being killed by a split second, as the Dublin-to-Belfast Enterprise express sped through that station at 140 kilometers per hour. Other clips from this busy DART station in a warning video released by the company showed trespassers crossing the track with bikes, and even a toddler being carried across in a stroller.

Any one of these trespass incidents at Kilbarrack, or at any one of the 32 'category 1' near misses around the network could have resulted in a tragic and needless death or catastrophic injuries. A parent carrying a stroller who falls and hurts themselves or their child leaves the engineer of the train in an impossible situation - trains take considerable distances to come to a halt even at moderate speeds, and a train cannot swerve around a stricken trespasser.

Furthermore, modern tracks and trains are a lot more silent and customers may not be aware they are approaching them. Trespassers have been seen crossing with headphones without realizing that their awareness will be dramatically reduced.

In addition to the 32 'category 1' incidents, Iarnród Éireann train engineers reported over 200 trespass incidents during 2016. Company management believe that this is undoubtedly the tip of the iceberg however, and have called on all station users not to take risks on the rail network.

At Kilbarrack station platform end barriers have now been installed to counteract the problem of line trespass.

For a third year in a row Iarnród Éireann has resumed a programme of line improvement work on the main Dublin-to-Cork line focusing on the sections between Hazelhatch-Portlaoise, and Portlaoise-Ballybrophy. The work being undertaken will cost in the region of US \$12M this year and will result in higher reliability, smoother and faster running of trains and, taken with other works, will deliver consistent 160 kph (100 mph) speeds resulting in improvements in journey times for customers.

The works being undertaken involve improvements to the track substructure with the removal or replacement of degraded crushed stone ballast which supports the railroad track structure, in addition to improvements to track drainage and geometry. To facilitate these works there will be timetable changes on selected Saturdays throughout this year.

In preservation matters, during February former Iarnród Éireann 121 (B) class locomotive No.134, owned by the Railway Preservation Society of Ireland, which operates the largest fleet of preserved working steam locomotives in Ireland, was towed by 201 class diesel locomotive No. 8209 from the Dublin Connolly roundhouse to the Dublin Inchicore Works where it is due to receive a body overhaul, bogie overhaul, and have other work carried out in order to return it to main-line standard. The cost of this work is estimated to be in the region of US \$60,000.

Awaiting scrapping or preservation at the end of April in Inchicore Works were 5 remaining Iarnród Éireann-owned 141 (B) class locomotives. Two examples of this class of diesel locomotive are already owned by the Irish Traction Group, Ireland's only dedicated diesel locomotive preservation organization. One of their locomotives is in working order and in use on the Downpatrick Railway, a private heritage railroad in County Down, Northern Ireland, while the other locomotive is in storage at the West Clare Railway awaiting restoration.

### International News

**Tottenham Court Road Station, London UK, Becomes Step-Free**

On February 10th the final milestone in the upgrade of Tottenham Court Road Underground station on the London Underground, was reached with the station providing step-free access to both the Central and Northern lines. It became the 71st tube station providing step-free access, making travel in central London easier for older and mobility-impaired people and other

customers who find it difficult to use stairs or escalators. It will directly benefit parents and carers with children and strollers.

Tottenham Court Road station has been completely modernized and expanded so that it can meet the needs of London's rapidly growing population, with new features including:

- Three new entrances, and one further refurbished entrance
- A ticket hall five times larger than the original
- Eight new escalators
- Six new elevators providing step-free access

The station has also undergone significant work in preparation for the new Elizabeth line that will run through it next year and will provide step-free access along its entire route. The expanded ticket hall and added escalators mean that the station is equipped to deal with a projected increase in demand of around 30% when the Elizabeth line comes into service.

The station upgrade has been designed so that it will be able to deal with future increases in demand, such as the planned Crossrail 2 project, which includes Tottenham Court Road on its route.

**Tunneling starts to extend the London Underground Northern line to Battersea**

The Northern Line Extension moved a significant step forward on April 11th as the first of two giant tunnel boring machines, 'Helen', began her 3.2km tunneling journey.

'Helen' and her sister machine 'Amy' were lowered 20 meters below ground in Battersea in February, in the shadow of the iconic Battersea Power Station. 'Helen' has now set off under south London to create the first of the underground tunnels that will extend the Charing Cross branch of the Northern line from Kennington to Battersea Power Station, via Nine Elms. 'Amy' will follow in around a month. The extension, targeted for completion in 2020, is the first major Tube line extension since the Jubilee line in the late 1990s.

As the 100-meter long tunneling machines advance forward, nearly 20,000 precast concrete segments will be put in place to form rings to line the tunnels. A conveyor system will then take the spoil from the tunnels up to barges on the River Thames. More than 300,000 tonnes of earth will be excavated by 'Helen' and 'Amy' in this way before the spoil is taken by barge to Goshems Farm in East Tilbury, Essex where it will be used to create arable farmland. Each machine is capable of tunneling up to 30 meters

a day with teams of around 50 people operating them. Tunneling is expected to take around six months to complete.

According to tunneling tradition, tunnel-boring machines cannot start work until given a name. Following a vote by local schoolchildren, the machines were named in honour of the first British astronaut, Helen Sharman, and British aviation pioneer, Amy Johnson, who was the first female pilot to fly solo from Britain to Australia.

**Metrolink in Manchester UK celebrates 25 years at the top**

On April 6th Metrolink celebrated its 25th anniversary, having tripled its original size to become the largest streetcar network in the UK. Now a sight familiar to millions, Metrolink first opened its doors on April 6th 1992, when passenger services started operating between Bury and Manchester Victoria. Services to Altrincham followed soon after, before Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II officially opened the network during a special ceremony in July that year.

Fast-forward 25 years, and the network has grown beyond all recognition, catering for more than 37 million passenger journeys a year and rising. While Greater Manchester has always enjoyed a rich history where streetcars are concerned, prior to 1992 one hadn't operated since 1949 when the last service was withdrawn and replaced by buses. The concept of bringing streetcars back into service was born back in 1982 when a Rail Study Group was created to give the local rail network a secure long-term future by creating a new north/south link across the city centre that would be much easier for people to access. Consisting of members from Greater Manchester Council, GMPTE, and British Rail, this group developed the plans to create the UK's first modern street-running light rail system. Ten years in the making, Metrolink's opening heralded a new chapter in public transport and set the standard for other streetcar systems to follow.

Today Metrolink boasts an extensive 60-mile network, with 120 streetcars serving 93 stops at key destinations across Greater Manchester.



# WEEKEND DAY TRIPS

## Essex Steam Train & Riverboat

Saturday August 26, 2017 Fare: \$108 PP

Destination: Essex CT. After lunch at The Griswold Inn it's just one mile to the Essex Steam Train for the 2pm narrated round-trip journey through the Lower Connecticut River Valley. At Deep River Landing you'll transfer to the Becky Thatcher Riverboat and cruise along the scenic shoreline with views of Gillette Castle and the Goodspeed Opera House. Then rejoin the train and return to the historic 1892 Essex Station.

**FEATURES:**

Round-trip comfortable motor coach  
The Griswold Inn  
Essex Station gift shop



**TIMETABLE**

↓	8:00am Wellington T (Rte 16 – Medford)	8:30pm ↑	
	8:30am Riverside T (Exit 22, Rte 95/128)	8:00pm	
	9:00am Braintree T (Exit 17, Rte 3)	7:30pm	

All times are approximate and subject to change

Reserve in advance – capacity limited. Please read carefully and complete all details when requesting passage. Please include FULL NAMES OF ALL IN YOUR PARTY when completing this form. Tours run rain or shine. Timetable is subject to change. NO REFUNDS.

## Trains and Boothbay Harbor

Saturday September 9, 2017 Fare: \$80 PP

This brand-new trip offers an early fall day Downeast. There'll certainly be scenery and maybe foliage too. First stop Boothbay Railway Village with train rides (sometimes behind a Henschel steam engine), Maine's Merci Car (a post-WW2 gift from the people of France), and many exhibits including blacksmith and artisan demonstrations. After lunching at the Boothbay Lobster Wharf, enjoy the harbor on your own.

**FEATURES:**

Round-trip comfortable motor coach  
Boothbay Railway Village  
Explore Boothbay Harbor  
Boothbay Lobster Wharf restaurant



**TIMETABLE**

↓	7:00am Braintree T (Exit 17, Rte 3)	8:00pm ↑	
	7:30am Riverside T (Exit 22, Rte 95/128)	7:30pm	
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### Essex Steam Train & Riverboat

Saturday August 26, 2017 Fare: \$108 PP

**MEAL CHOICES:**

- Roast pork loin
- Pan-seared chicken breast
- Vegetable pasta with cream sauce

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone# \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ Boarding Station \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/Town \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 Emergency Contact Name & Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Please make all checks payable to: Mystic Valley Railway Society, Inc. and mail to: MVR, P.O. BOX 365486, Hyde Park, MA 02136-0009. Thank you.  
 Information for handicapped Accessibility will be provided upon request. Your tickets and itineraries will be mailed about 5 days prior to departure.  
 Note: A service charge of \$20 will be assessed for returned checks.

### Trains and Boothbay Harbor

Saturday September 9, 2017 Fare: \$80 PP

**MENU CHOICES:**

- Grilled steak
- Fish and chips
- Chicken finger dinner

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION

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 City/Town \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
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## BRIMFIELD FLEA MARKET

Sunday September 10, 2017 Fare: \$60 PP

Join us as we go to Brimfield Flea Market. Explore the country's oldest, largest and best-known outdoor antiques event. Browse to your heart's content. Maybe that rare object you have been searching for is here, or perhaps an unexpected treasure will catch your eye. Lunch is on your own (food courts near the dealers).

**FEATURES:**

Round Trip Motor Coach  
Plenty of time on your own



**TIMETABLE**

↓	7:30am Braintree T (Exit 17, Rte 3)	7:00pm ↑	
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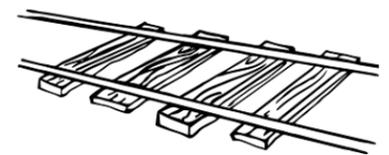
## NH Turkey Train

Sunday September 24, 2017 Fare: \$87 PP

Ride the train around Lake Winnepesaukee. View fall scenery from your traveling dining room while enjoying a full turkey dinner, just like Grandma used to make. Then visit Moulton Farm where sustainable agriculture is practiced. Stock up on produce, plants, and other locally-sourced ingredients. Take home prepared items from the farm kitchen, or some Cider Bellies: warm cider doughnuts. There will be farm animals to visit and pet, plus free tractor rides and special events.

**FEATURES:**

Round-trip comfortable motor coach  
Hobo Railroad  
Moulton Farm



**TIMETABLE**

↓	8:30am Braintree T (Exit 17, Rte 3)	7:30pm ↑	
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