Recent Development – Executive Director
by Jim Schantz, President & CEO

Last week John Michalowski, who we expected to succeed Sally Bates as Executive Director at the end of this month, withdrew from accepting the position. He informed me that his decision was driven by recent changes in his family responsibilities.

The ED search has been re-opened, the job has been posted, and applications are already coming in.

We have been taking steps to prepare for a smooth transition, and those efforts are not in vain. We are working with Sally to identify strategies to assure that we have our bases covered during the process of finding her replacement, and getting that person established and up to speed in the position.

Jim Schantz, President & CEO

Pirates Day at Seashore

INVADERS REACH SEASHORE
by Herb Pence,

Up along Log Cabin Road, advancing from Dock Square and southbound from Biddeford, blood-thirsty pirates and their female companions assaulted Seashore’s Main Campus. Rather than plunder the streetcar and bus collection, they stopped on The Platform for drinks and entertainment. It was the 2018 Seashore summer social event.

In the past, Galas have been scheduled, with food, drinks, music and comradery. This year, a lower keyed event was scheduled, keeping in mind next month will host the On the Marsh Bistro fund raiser for Seashore. While the Pirate Party was scheduled as a low keyed event, as it turned out, the party was anything but. People dressed in pirate costumes attended. They partied from 6:00 pm until 10:00 pm.

Toe-tappin’ sea shanty music and country music was provided by the Gumption Junction Band. One of the event's sponsors was Sebago Lake Distillery. The company provided samples of its output of distilled spirits. The Saco-Biddeford Savings Institution and Biddeford Savings Bank were also sponsors. Unfortunately, they were unable to offer samples of currency. Weirs Buick GMC and Kennebunkport Resort Collection were the remaining sponsors. Those listed in bold face type are Seashore Business Members, showing the importance of the museum’s business relationships.

During the party, some pirates gave up thinking about their sail and wind powered conveyances. To take a break from the festivities, they opted for rides on trolleys. The party was an opportunity for the museum to showcase itself. Seashore can be a venue for trade shows, private celebrations, business events and weddings.

Seashore made a profit on the affair, without unholstering single-shot, flint-lock pistols. Sally Bates, our Executive Director stated, “Another successful event that created a buzz!”
Giving Strategies

Seashore Trolley Museum – Founders Legacy Society
Submitted by S. Bates

Created in May, 2017, the Society was established to recognize and honor friends who intend to remember NEERHS with a bequest or other form of planned or deferred gift. Such gifts will benefit NEERHS in the years ahead without requiring that the donor fund the gift at the present time. While the gift is deferred, the benefits of membership in the Society begin immediately. If you let us know that you have provided at least $10,000 for NEERHS in your will, trust, pooled life income fund, life insurance policy, gift annuity or retirement fund, you immediately become a full member of the Society. Your gift need not be irrevocable and we understand that situations change. It is your current expression of commitment to NEERHS that is important. Legacy Society members receive a membership certificate, are listed in the NEERHS Annual Report, and are honored at Annual Meeting and Members Day.

Charitable Giving Strategies in light of the Tax Cuts and Job Act of 2018
Submitted by S. Bates

While the change in tax law may result in more taxpayers choosing the standard deduction over itemizing deductions, many opportunities for charitable giving remain.

New income tax brackets lower most individual tax rates. If donors pay less in taxes they may have more financial capacity to make gifts to organizations they care about, like NEERHS.

Making a gift to NEERHS with Appreciated Stock remains as a strategy to avoid capital gains tax.

The IRA Charitable Rollover provision was unchanged. If you are 70 ½ or older, you must take a required minimum distribution from your IRA (or be penalized.) A gift directly from your IRA to NEERHS helps meet your required minimum distribution and is NOT considered taxable income.

Accumulate/Bundle – With the standard deduction increased to $24,000 for joint filers and $12,000 for individual filers, some taxpayers will benefit by lumping two or more years’ worth of donations in a single year to exceed the standard deduction and itemize for that year.

Cash Gifts – for those who itemize, the limit on cash contributions was raised from 50% of adjusted gross income to 60% and retained a 5-year carryover for unused deductions. Donors itemizing deductions may consider increasing they gifts.

Ideas for some of the best gift types in the age of the Tax Cuts and Job Act of 2018
We encourage you to consult your tax, legal and financial advisors to identify the best charitable giving strategies for you.

Name NEERHS as a beneficiary of your retirement plan. The assets remain taxable when distributed to an individual, but are distributed tax free when given to NEERHS.

Establish a Charitable Gift Annuity. This is a gift vehicle that falls in the category of planned giving. It involves a contract between a donor and a charity, whereby the donor transfers cash or property to the charity in exchange for a partial tax deduction and a lifetime stream of annual income from the charity. The amount of the income stream is determined by many factors including the donor’s age and the policy of the charity.

Establish a Donor Advised Fund. Pool several years’ donations in a donor advised fund, deduct the entire contribution in the year of the gift and then make grants to NEERHS and other charities you care about in future years.

Gifting Life Insurance. You can make NEERHS the beneficiary of all or part of a life insurance policy. Real Estate. Some donors have difficulty deciding what to do with a home or other real estate, particularly if there is no family to pass it to or the family has no interest in it. For some of those donors it can make sense to gift the real estate to NEERHS to use for museum purposes or sell to increase the endowment.
Moxie Day at Seashore

New England Moxie Congress report
by Moxie scribe
Photos by Mike delaVega
MOXIE AT THE SEASHORE, July 15, 2018

The 27th annual Moxie Day is in the books, after a picture perfect weather day. Roisterers were feted with hot dogs cooked in Moxie, in front of the Trolley Dog. After an absence of a couple of years the Moxie horsemobile was present and drove around on museum dirt roads. A first time visitor was the tiny Moxie panel van. The operator sits in the “sun roof” and fires up the lawnmower engine, not to cut grass but to power the vehicle to get smiles from all who see this bright orange vehicle. Another visit by MaiNtrak, the N scale modular railroad featuring a Moxie theme, ran in the exhibit room for all to see. Helen made Moxie jelly donuts, which did not last very long. I never got one!

Of course many rides on our streetcars were enjoyed, by over 200 passengers. Regular and sugar free Moxie samples were tasted by many, and even some of the kids became fans. “Mikey likes it!”

As usual the efforts of Mike Peters helped insure another successful Moxie Day. Mark your calendars for July 14, 2019 for next year’s celebration.
2019 Trustee Nomination Form

NEERHS - NOMINATION FORM FOR TRUSTEES

We hereby nominate the following individual to stand for election to the office of Trustee, subject to confirmation of his/her eligibility and possible endorsement by the Nominating Committee.

Nominee: ___________________________ Pass No. ______

Nominated by (please sign and PRINT your names):

Name: ___________________________ Pass No. ______
Name: ___________________________ Pass No. ______
Name: ___________________________ Pass No. ______
Name: ___________________________ Pass No. ______
Name: ___________________________ Pass No. ______
Name: ___________________________ Pass No. ______

I, the undersigned member of the New England Electric Railway Historical Society, agree to stand for election to the office of Trustee. I understand that the Nominating Committee reserves the right to not endorse this candidacy.

Signed: ___________________________ Printed Name: ___________________________ Pass No. ______
Phone (_______) _________ - _________ Email: ___________________________

Please use the space below to provide some biographical information, including your education, experience and activities at Seashore. Use the reverse if needed, or attach a separate document. Please limit the text to about 15 lines set in this typeface (12 point Times New Roman). Please write in the 3rd person (he is, she was, not I am)

________________________________________

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________________________________________

Please print clearly. Deliver the completed form & attachments if any, to the Museum Office.

The Dispatch is a bi-monthly publication of New England Electric Railway Historical Society operators of Seashore Trolley Museum in Kennebunkport, ME and The National Streetcar Museum at Lowell, MA. Opinions expressed herein are those of the writers, and do not necessarily represent NEERHS’ official position.
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A Presidential Visit

by Jim Schantz

This past April 17, the nation was saddened by the passing of former First Lady Barbara Bush, wife of one president and mother of a second. The loss was felt strongly in the Kennebunkport area, as the Bush family for many decades has spent the warmer months of each year in their residence at their waterfront estate at Walker’s Point. They have regularly engaged local residents and participated in local events, clearly embracing the town and its institutions.

Seashore benefited from this neighborliness on a number of occasions over the years, too, as one or both visited at different times. On learning of the first lady’s passing my thoughts immediately turned to a visit in 1994 which featured two distinct connections between the visiting Bush party and streetcars in our collection.

The first connection related to our late member Roman Arnoldy, who grew up in the Twin Cities riding cars like Gate Car 1267. He was enthusiastic about the car’s restoration and gave generously to the project. Arnoldy later moved to Texas and worked in the oil business, where he met and became friends with the elder George Bush. In July of 1994, Arnoldy and his wife planned a visit the Bushes at Walker’s Point, and as restoration work on 1267 had just completed, Arnoldy was anxious to see the car and show it to the Bushes.

When the request for the visit came to the Seashore office, then-museum director Donald Curry readily extended our invitation, and the event was planned for July 4 weekend. Then a second connection came to mind: President Bush had attended Yale University in New Haven and reportedly had lived on Chapel Street in the late 1940s. This was the era when the Connecticut Company still operated its fleet of open cars—dating from the early-1900s—on Yale football game days to transport fans from the train station to the Yale Bowl. The route these cars followed ran down Chapel Street, so we planned to include an opportunity for the Bush party to ride one of our four Yale Bowl open cars, no. 838, and to give the president an opportunity to try his hand at the controls.

When the party arrived, they were running a bit late. We had a receiving line set up in front of the Visitors Center and after we greeted them all, I guided them through the Visitors Center to the platform where a crowd had gathered. As chairman I made some brief remarks welcoming the Bushes and Arnoldys, then turned the mike over to the former president who spoke, encouraging volunteerism among other topics.

We then escorted the party to tour 1267 which was parked near Arundel Station after which we headed for 838 in the loop for a trip out the line. But a timing snag developed. The Bushes’ appointment secretary vetoed the trip citing another commitment. It turned out that the president was due to return to Walker’s Point, where he would pilot his famed Cigarette boat to Kittery to pick up his next house guest, former Czech president Vaclav Havel—and time was growing short. She asked me how quickly we could do a round trip, but said that was too long. So I asked her what time the party needed to leave the Museum, and I promised to have them back in time.

As we rode, I asked the Bushes if they remembered these cars in New Haven and they both quickly told of the cars running past their house on Chapel Street. I had heard that Barbara Bush had from time to time brought grandchildren to Seashore so asked her if that was true. She smiled and gestured toward the young grandson standing just in front of her. She also asked about some of the less attractive rail components stacked next to the main line. I explained that all track construction was done by volunteers and this was valuable material for them to use.

In a few minutes we were back at Arundel and the Bush party was ushered into the familiar black SUVs. With a final handshake and warmly expressed thanks, and the party was off.

It was gratifying that two cars in our collection could have such interesting connections to the Bushes and Arnoldys. All of us who participated in the event were delighted to have met the former first lady. She was just as gracious and personable in person as she always seemed on TV. It’s sad that this year our region lost such a bright light, but her memory will live on in the many people she touched.
Teddy Roosevelt Days

by Phil Morse  follow the Narcissus project... www.narcissus1912.blogspot.com

The opening of the 2018 Teddy Roosevelt Days weekend at Seashore Trolley Museum to benefit the Narcissus Project on Friday, July 20, began with fifty-four of the sixty registered guests checking in at the exhibit room at the visitor center.

Guests attending the limited seating, advance ticket-required event, included folks from communities served by the Portland-Lewiston Interurban and the Narcissus; and members from the historical societies in Falmouth, Cumberland, Gray, and New Gloucester, and of course Seashore Trolley Museum. Another guest at Friday’s opening gala was Jean Flahive. Jean has been contracted through Maine Authors Publishing in Thomaston, Maine, to write an early reader historical fiction chapter book about the Narcissus.

Guests had time to look over the many silent auction items, TR-related books for sale, and raffle opportunities prior to boarding 1901 Connecticut Car Company open trolley car No. 303 for a short ride to the 1915 Portland-Lewiston Interurban waiting station from Morrison Hill in West Cumberland, Maine, where they would disembark then take a short walk to the Donald G. Curry Town House Restoration Shop for a tour and slideshow of the Narcissus and the restoration progress.

The tour of the restoration shop/Narcissus began with guests settling in along the visitor gallery and being addressed by Ernie Eaton & Donald Curry. The next stage of the tour was for guests to go downstairs and be seated to then watch & listen to a presentation on the restoration.

The Narcissus was decorated with images and directional arrows drawn on blue painters’ tape along its side sills and lower section of the vestibule. These attachments were for guests to see where the various components to operate the National Register of Historic Places icon are located underneath and inside the PLI luxury coach.

Upon the conclusion of the tour and presentation at the shop, guests returned to the visitor center by trolley and enjoyed a meet and greet reception with food and beverages. This was followed by Phil Morse, project manager of the Narcissus Project, opening the evening program by welcoming guests. Phil asked the guests to have a moment of silence for two gentlemen that were dedicated to the Narcissus and had passed away since the 2017 Teddy Roosevelt Days event. Daniel Vallee and Norman Downs. Dan’s father, J. Henri Vallee had purchased the body of the Narcissus in the 1930s for use as the family summer camp at Sabattus Pond. Dan spent the first eighteen summers of his life living in the Narcissus. Norm had pictures of the Narcissus from when it first arrived at Seashore in 1969. He, like Dan, and so many others with a connection to the Narcissus that have gone before them, so wanted to see the Narcissus restoration completed.

Phil then continued with his opening remarks to the gathered guests and gave his sincere thanks to Arthur Jones and Joseph Brogan, principals of the 20th Century Electric Railway Foundation for the very generous pledge of a gift that will fund the remaining costs associated with completing the restoration of the Narcissus. Phil went on to say that additional funds, above those needed for restoration, are still needed for the costs associated with researching, creating, and implementing the interpretation portion of the Narcissus Project. This portion of the project is to tell the incredible story of the Narcissus that has taken place over more than one hundred years. This will be done through static and online exhibits, displays, and curriculum programs. The ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the completion of the restoration of the Narcissus and the unveiling of the interpretation programs is expected to take place in the fall of 2021.

Phil then introduced the first of two guest speakers, Sheila Libby Alexander. Sheila is a Board member of the Skyline Farm & Carriage Museum in North Yarmouth, Maine. Sheila explained how the Farm & Museum started and the various collections and activities carried out by the members of the organization. She also explained the history of the 1880s wagon on display at Seashore for the weekend event. She then spent time explaining the story of how the 1840s circa Libby Family sleigh, also on display for the weekend, came to become part of the collection of the Skyline Museum and the steps taken to clean the original hand-painted winter scene on the exterior of the back panel of the sleigh. The guests were captivated by her presentation.

Following the conclusion of Sheila’s presentation, Phil introduced the second guest speaker, Donna Davidge. Donna is the owner of the Sewall House & Yoga Retreat in Island Falls, Maine.

Phil first met Donna during a trip to Island Falls to visit Bible Point in the fall of 2015. Theodore Roosevelt would walk to this spot to read his Bible while he was in Island Falls staying at the Sewall House. William Sewall and William’s nephew, Wilmot Dow, were Roosevelt’s guides during Roosevelt’s three trips to Island Falls in 1878 & 1879. Sewall and Dow, and later their families, would join Roosevelt in North Dakota in the mid-1880s. Sewall & Dow were ranch hands for Roosevelt and built his Elkhorn Ranch and then lived in the ranch with him with their families. The original mirror from the Elkorn Ranch was on display at Seashore Trolley Museum during the 2016 Teddy Roosevelt Days weekend. The mirror is in the collection of the Presque Isle Historical Society in Presque Isle, Maine.

Donna is the great-granddaughter of William Sewall and owns the original Sewall House where Theodore Roosevelt lived during his three visits to Island Falls, Maine in 1878 & 1879.

Following Donna’s presentation, the final call for silent auction bids and raffle winners were pulled, then off for a picture-perfect evening open trolley car ride along Seashore’s heritage railway. It was a wonderful opening for a great weekend for the benefit of the Narcissus.

Picture-perfect late afternoon. Guests on 303 prior to making way to Morrison Hill Station. PWM
Portland Railroad No. 615

By Richmond Bates

Portland, Maine’s largest city, once had a streetcar system with over 200 cars and over 100 miles of track extending between Saco on the south and Yarmouth on the north. Only one trolley car from Portland survives. This car, No. 615, is one of Seashore’s earliest acquisitions, and it now resides in storage in the museum’s Central car barn.

No. 615 is one of eight Birney cars built by Wason for the Portland Railroad in 1920. They followed another 15 other Birney cars from Wason a year previously. At a time when most streetcars required both a motorman and a conductor, Charles O. Birney of the Stone & Webster engineering staff had designed a car needing only a single operator. These “Birney cars” had a relatively small seating capacity (30-32 passengers) and had only a single, light-weight, two-axle truck. This design gave the Birney cars a tendency to gallop on anything but the smoothest track. Nevertheless, some 6000 Birney cars were built between 1916 and 1930, and the cars operated in many cities across the U.S., Canada and overseas. Their economical operation extended the street railway era in numerous cities.

A key feature in the Birney cars that allowed one-man operation was the “deadman” safety device. The operator needed to keep constant downward pressure on the controller handle or the car would go into emergency braking. So, the Birney cars were also called “Safety Cars.”

Near the end of streetcar operation in Portland, the Portland Railroad sold all but two of its 23 Birney cars in 1936-37 to the Biddeford & Saco Railroad. Since the track connection to Saco had been abandoned earlier, No. 615 was trucked from Thornton Heights in South Portland to Saco. It retained its 615 number on the B&S. The B&S operated No. 615 between Biddeford and Old Orchard Beach until the B&S ended its trolley operation in 1939. This abandonment prompted the creation of the Seashore Trolley Museum when the new museum started its collection with another B&S car – No. 31.

The scrapper dismantling the cars and buildings of the Biddeford & Saco used the body of No. 615 as an office during this work and then sold it to Seashore in 1940. Seashore used No. 615 as its first bunkhouse and later as an office. Then the museum moved No. 615 into storage. Because No. 615 lost its original two axle truck in 1939, the car has been resting on shop trucks. A correct Birney truck is ready to be placed under No. 615. The National Park Service has listed No. 615 on the National Register of Historic Places.
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If you are interested in submitting news tips, feature articles or photos for possible publication, Contact Mike at dispatch@neerhs.org