



October 2008

## CHANGES

By now you should be aware that changes have been made in the operations department of the Pennsylvania Trolley Museum. We will increase communication with you, but it is a two-way street. You need to keep us informed of changes in your contact information and also send us your ideas.

Two Bells is one of the ways in which we will maintain contact with you. It is our plan to send this publication out on opposite months of Trolley Fare. To keep our costs down, we will send this as a PDF file to you through e-mail. For those of you who do not have e-mail we will send it through US Mail.

**2009**  
**WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA TROLLEY CALENDAR**  
Pennsylvania Trolley Museum



## Operations Department

Walt Pilof  
Interim Operations Manager  
ptmops@comcast.net

Dennis Cramer  
Assistant Manager  
trombone@windstream.net

David Carpenter  
Chief Instructor  
dcarpenter8@alltel.net

Raymond Windle  
New Operator Training &  
Requalification  
r.winde@att.net

Robert Jordan  
Safety  
bobandmary@hky.com

Nancy Young  
Special Events Liaison  
wnyoung@zbzoom.net

The 2009 calendar is now available through the Museum Store. Gets yours today.

## Operator Requalification

There has been quite a bit of discussion concerning operator requalification and new operator training. A meeting was held on October 3, 2008 to discuss this and several other issues concerning the Operations Department. In attendance were Museum President Charlie Fife, Museum Executive Director Scott Becker, David Carpenter, Dennis Cramer, Jim Herron, Robert Jordan, Edward Lybarger, Walt Pilof and Nancy Young.

It was unanimously decided that operator requalification will be held in March (the museum does not open to the public until April 3, 2009) and also during the Washington County Fair Week. New operator training will be held three times a year. The exact dates of these events will be published in Trolley Fare, on the museum website and here.

Even though we are returning to group requalification, check rides will still be performed during the operating season to make sure operators are operating in a safe and proper manner.

Major topics to be covered will be the new US&S signal system, a new rulebook, power and substation, and Pittsburgh Railways 4398. The signal system and substation are now in operation, the rulebook is in the process of being finished and 4398 should be ready for next year.

There is also high hope that the open car will be ready by next summer. This car will require extensive training as it will present operating challenges that are very different from any car in our fleet due to the running board on the side of the car and no center aisle for the conductor.



## Cell Phones

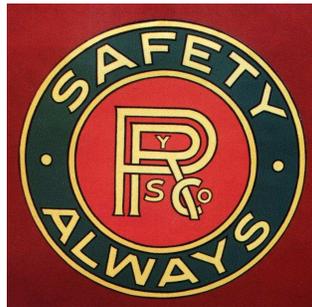
After the Federal Railroad Administration determined that the engineer of the fatal wreck in California of a Metrolink train had been text messaging just seconds before the crash, they sent the accompanying message to the Pennsylvania Trolley Museum. We will follow the FRA directive.

Do not use your cell phone while operating a car. Do not use your cell phone while you are the conductor or a docent or in any other way interacting with the public. This means you do not send or receive text or place or answer a call.

## Statement of Federal Railroad Administrator Joseph H. Boardman On Restricting Improper Use of Electronic Devices by Railroad Workers

“Today’s announcement by the National Transportation Safety Board regarding the tragic Metrolink crash has made it clear that the use of cell phones and other personal electronic devices must be immediately addressed. The bottom line is railroad operating employees cannot focus on their critical safety functions while engaging in phone conversations, texting or any other form of unessential electronic communication often in violation of railroad operating rules.”

“The consequences of inattentiveness and distraction are simply too catastrophic to be addressed at the operator or state level alone. As a result we will issue an emergency order explicitly prohibiting the use of personal electronic devices by railroad employees while operating trains and in other settings. Everyone involved with rail travel deserves the full attention and focus of train operator without exception and without excuse.”



### Safety First

The conductor is the last on and first off the car. The conductor is responsible for the safety speech on each and every trip and should have preceded that with a general caution about safety during the initial walk about to the carhouse for the tour. Once the conductor has signaled the operator that it is safe to move the car, the conductor should punch tickets and then move to the back of the car to observe the passengers and answer any individual questions the guests may have. The conductor should not occupy the front platform.

### Instructors Named

Scott Becker, Dennis Cramer, David Carpenter, Jim Herron, Tim Jones, Bob Jordan, Ed Lybarger, Ray Mackenzie, Chris Walker, Ray Windle, Nancy Young and Wayne Young were named Instructors effective October 9, 2008.

## Operating Opportunities

As of this writing there are still many opportunities to volunteer as a member of the crew. The museum is still open for over twelve more weekends and that includes two major special events; Pumpkin Trolley, Santa Trolley, and Toy Trains. You may access the public calendar from the museum website, but do not use the members only site at this time. You should be receiving a weekly e-mail from Walt Pilof showing the available slots. To sign-up, send him an e-mail. [ptmops@comcast.net](mailto:ptmops@comcast.net)

With over 50 operating days left in the season, there is still plenty of time for you to re-qualify if you have not done so for this season. This is our museum and we all have something positive to give.



## Website

The museum website is divided into two major sections; the public side and the members' section. Both are in need of updating and that job has been undertaken by Bruce Wells. Bruce is a long-time member of the museum and just retired from his teaching position. Bruce has served in many leadership positions over the years, including serving as Head of Restorations, serving on the Board of Directors, being a member of the Operations Department, and working on the Publications Committee. He has kept us informed on an almost weekly basis with his Weekly Reports for many years now. He most recently posted the Ops Schedule. Visit [web.mac.com/cuzinbrucie](http://web.mac.com/cuzinbrucie) to keep up with your museum during this transition period.



## Getting to Know You

I would like to run a feature in each issue of Two Bells that focuses on one of you. Send me a write-up of your life and include a picture or two. Tell about your adventures in life both at the museum and away from the museum. Let us all get to know each other a little better. Or just send me the favorite traction subject you photographed.

Dennis Cramer  
Editor of Two Bells