



February 2021

<https://patrolley.org/ptm-operations/>

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**OPERATOR
 TRAINING**

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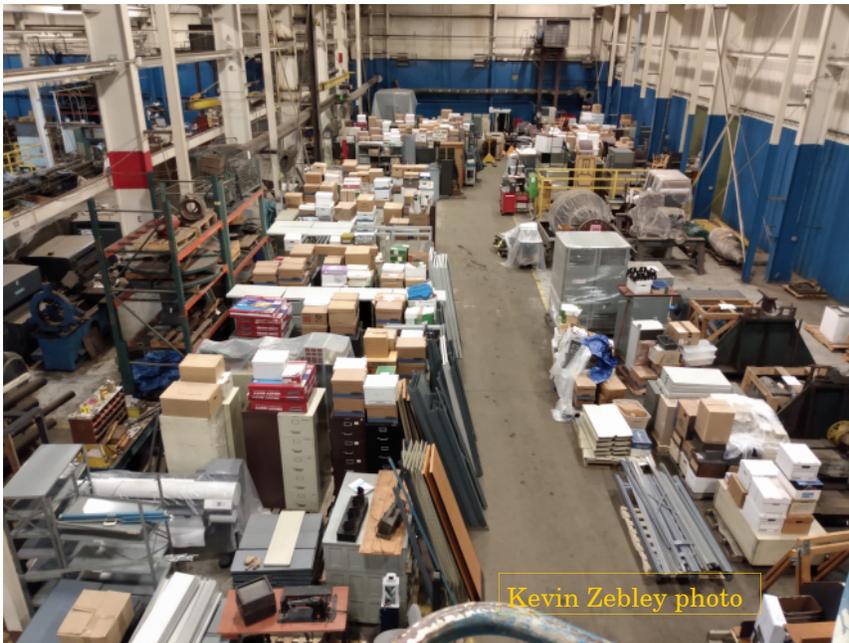
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Executive Director's Report

Scott R. Becker 641

I hope you are all coping well with the “real” winter we are having this year! Despite a snowy season, lots of behind the scenes work is going on as we prepare for a new season. There has been lots of trolley maintenance and right of way maintenance including extensive tree trimming up the Arden Valley. Restoration of PTC 8042 and PST 73 are moving forward in the Restoration Shop. Our on-line Trolleyology presentations have been well received with the most recent one having been sold out! We plan to open to the public on Friday April 2nd and will have a Friday-Sunday 10-4 schedule through the spring. As per last year we will continue to closely follow Pennsylvania Department of Health Covid-19 guidelines, which currently



Kevin Zebley photo

limits us to 50% capacity in the buildings and on the streetcars. I invite you to come out and be a part of this effort! Please see requalification information in this issue of *Two Bells*.

I am very pleased to report that on December 4 we acquired the building and surrounding property at 320 Reliance Drive! Last August we found out we needed to move the Archives

out of the space we have leased for many years at Eaton Crouse-Hinds due to roof problems at that building. We were very fortunate to find a landing spot for this material at nearby 320 Reliance Drive. Due to incredible volunteer effort and the help of All Ways Moving & Storage we completed our move of the Archives on December 29. You may remember this site as the Reliance Electric building adjacent to our trolley line just east of County Home Siding. Over the years it has changed hands a few times but has always been full of electric motors that were built new or overhauled there. This 66,000 square-foot building provides many current and future opportunities for the Museum. Its office area will be used for Museum offices, allowing us to move out of leased space at Accutrex Products on Museum Road. The office area will also provide air conditioned/heated space for fragile/high value items from the Archives such as photographs and rare books. Bob Popey has been leading an effort to get the office area upgraded for the Archives

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and other Museum use. We acquired a used electric forklift and manlift, and we are working to make the building more energy efficient. In addition to the offices, there are four large bays (each 400 foot long) that can be utilized in the future for trolley car and mobile equipment storage as well as additional archive space and restoration work areas. Integrated Power Services has been leasing the building and plans to lease parts of the building into the future which helps to develop cash flow to cover expenses. Other tenants are being sought. The PTM Board has approved naming the Archives “The Kathryn & David Black Transit Archives” in recognition for their support of both the acquisition of 320 Reliance Drive and the future buildout of the Archives there. Thanks go KeyBank for providing financing and to a number of other members who have donated to the project and many volunteers who are working so hard to make this all happen. This entire project is quite an accomplishment, particularly during a Pandemic! There are lots of expenses involved in adapting this large building to our needs and donations are being cheerfully accepted! Increased construction work will start soon for our East Campus Development. With the help of LLI Engineering, our Construction Manager, we should see construction begin very soon. This will include construction of Trolley Street, the Welcome and Education Center and new Parking Lot. Please note that there will be some impact on operations at the Trolley Display Building and we plan to foster good communication on any construction that affects operations. Although the construction bids were competitive, we still have some fund raising to do to complete all aspects of this project. If you have any leads on funding, please don’t hesitate to contact me.

There have been some changes in paid staff; Visitor Services Manager Madelon Cline has left the Museum to pursue other opportunities. We thank Maddy for her work at the Museum and also to our existing staff who has assumed her duties on a temporary basis. We are working on developing and funding a staffing plan to implement as we prepare to relocate our “front door” to the East Campus in 2022.

I am excited to say that in 2021 we will see amazing progress on a number of areas of the Museum and I encourage you to support our efforts through financial donations and volunteering. Thanks for your continued interest and support!

From the President

Chris Golofski 103

We made it through 2020. I want to thank everyone who was able to come out to the Museum to help with operations and everything else that was needed to keep things up and running. Everyone understands that many of you, myself included, couldn't help because of health concerns with Covid-19. I missed being able to be out and about, operating, and just hanging around the old trolley yard. We are all hoping that things are going to get better with the Covid-19 situation since we now have a vaccine. However, things are going much slower than we hoped. It may take longer than anticipated for things to get closer to the new normal. If you can't be available, everyone understands, we hope you'll be back eventually. It's so frustrating. If you can be available, please help.

To ease the burden of annual requalification, the Instruction Department is planning to do it virtually this year. There will be no need to travel out to the Museum to participate. Zoom on-line meetings and videos are being planned and you can attend requalification from home. Of course, the hands-on requalification trips with an instructor will still be required. But, they can be scheduled with an instructor at a mutually convenient time. I think this will be a great improvement along with several instructional video presentations now in the works.

To make things interesting, we are planning to do several "Theme Days". We did several of these in 2020 and proved to be very popular with the operators, members and public. Maybe a "Pittsburgh Day", "PCC Day" or a "Philadelphia Day", during which we operate appropriate equipment based on the theme of the day. This gives us a chance to operate cars not used on a regular basis.

I hope everyone stays healthy, exercises caution and wears a mask, maybe two. Don't take any chances with your health.

Changing of the Guard

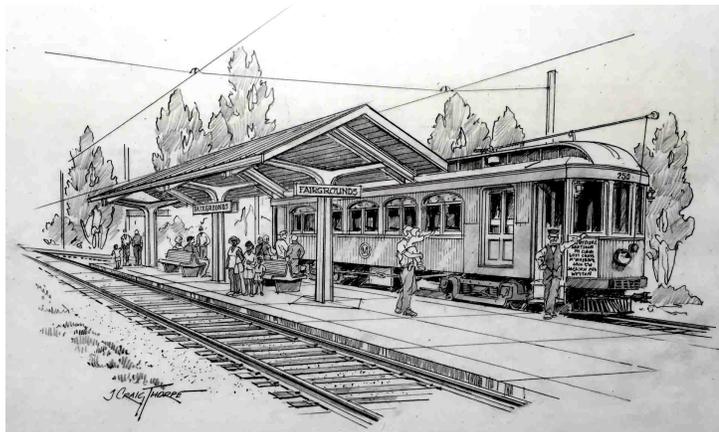
The Instruction Department

Since the last issue of Two Bells and with the beginning of the New Year, there have been some changes in the Instruction Department. As you may know, back in beginning of 2019, Dennis Cramer, our long time Chief Instructor retired from that position to pursue other activities at the Museum. We've managed to get along without a Chief Instructor through the efforts of the other members of the Instruction Department stepping up to divide the work once done by Dennis. We felt it was time to finally appoint someone to that position. Then, along came Joe Brandtner who volunteered to take on the task. Joe has been around the Museum for a long time. He joined back in 1980 and was continually active doing everything

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from trackwork and operating. Back in those days, sometimes Joe would be the only person on the property when we were open to the public. It was during his tenure at WQED Pittsburgh in the 1970's that he got to know Fred Rodgers and his production staff. Then in 1984 he got a call from them asking if they could do a show at the Trolley Museum. The arrangements were made, and it was Joe who instructed Mr. Rodgers on how to operate a trolley at the Museum (that episode of Mr. Rodgers Neighborhood is still floating around out there). Joe went on to be hired by the Port Authority of Allegheny County. Joe eventually was able to hold a position as operator on the "T" where he worked for 25 years until retirement. During his time at Port Authority, Joe had little time to devote to the Museum and hours he could spend with us were few and far between. Then one day during County Fair of 2018, Joe decided to pay a visit to the Museum. Chris Golofski, who worked with Joe at the "T", was dispatching and a conversation ensued. The result, like a prodigal son, Joe came back into the fold. All it took was a little brush up and familiarization of cars put in service since he last operated and Joe was up and running, at least the cars were. While Joe was at Port Authority, he acquired a great deal of knowledge about not only operating but the technical aspects of trolley operation. To Joe, it wasn't just a job but a passion. Joe brings with him a vast wealth of knowledge that he will share with our Operations Department.

The new year also saw us lose two instructors. Jeff King stepped down to give more time to devote to the Power and Signals Department and Alex Bruchac, who lives in the Cleveland area, because it's difficult to devote the time necessary because of the distance and the Covid-19 situation. Thank you for all your help.



Familiar faces, Bob Popey and Brett Freithaler were added to the instructor team to make up for the loss of both Jeff and Alex. They will be welcome additions to the department.

Last, but not least, the latest change is the addition of Dale Knutson as consultant to the Training and Instruction Department. Dale is employed at the Port Authority of Allegheny County and oversees the Training and Instruction Department. He is responsible for starting the "Port Authority Operations University" for operator training. Dale is a recent graduate of PTM's training program and completed his required fifteen days of in-service training in near record time. What an opportunity to have someone with this experience critique our training program. Dale was asked to provide us on his thoughts on what are we doing right and what are we doing wrong. His input will be a valuable tool to help us improve our training program in the future.

Instruction Moves into the 21st Century

The Instruction Department

The Training and Instruction Department is moving into the 21st Century. One of the biggest challenges to training new operators and requalification of existing operators is getting everyone together on dates that are mutually convenient to everyone. This has always been a problem since a number of operators and potential student operators are from out of the area. Manager of Operations, Kevin Zebley and Chief Instructor, Joe Brandtner have been working on a way to ease this dilemma. If things go according to plan, this year, the Instruction Department will start to roll out a series of training videos and on-line training sessions using Zoom to provide classroom instruction that will enable new students as well as requalifying operators take the necessary class work online. This will enable the Museum to eliminate the necessity of getting everyone involved to set aside time to physically travel to the Museum to participate in the required training. Of course, this will not totally eliminate the “hands-on” portion of the training. Requalifying operators will have to make an appointment to do their annual requalifying trips with an instructor. This can be done at a time mutually agreeable to both a member of the instruction team and the operator.

New students will be able to receive orientation and basic safety and operating rules instruction before even stepping foot on Museum property. Subjects like sig-

nals, switches and proper procedures can be demonstrated using videos prepared by our operating team. This will enable students to have an understanding of what is required before actual operation of the cars is attempted. It will make topics like, how does a hand controller work, the different types of air brake valves easier to explain, rather than everyone huddled around the in-



structor, where only the person up front can see what is being explained.

Thanks go to Kevin Zebley, Joe Brandtner, Dale Knutson and Kristen Fredricksen for getting the ball rolling on this project. Also, thanks to the members of the operating team who are helping by providing on-air talent and support as well.

Operator Requalification Kevin Zebley-Operations Manager 978

We will be changing our operator requalification this year. Your requalification will consist of attending an **online rules and update class**, taking an **online rules test**, and a **check ride** with an instructor.

**The Online Rules Classes will be held on
Monday March 1st at 7pm or Friday March 5th at 7pm.**

Operators will be required to attend one of these classes. Please email me at operations@patrolley.org as to which class you plan to attend. If you are unable to attend either class let me know and we can make special arrangements.

The **online rules test** this year will be a multiple choice test. Once you email me with your class date preference you will be sent the link to the test and for the meeting.

The **check ride** will occur this year on one of your *first 5 scheduled operating days*. You will simply schedule shifts as normal and email me that you need a check ride. I will schedule an instructor to meet with you on one of your scheduled operating days and they can perform a check ride when you do your line check in the morning.

Interested New Operators

Anyone interested in becoming a new operator we would love for you to become part of the operations department. Simply email me at operations@patrolley.org and we will get you set up for operator training. We are scheduling new operator training on a flexible schedule so that we can accommodate your schedule.

Manager on duty

This upcoming operating season will be slightly different than last year. The museum has reduced staff this year by not replacing staff that has moved on to other jobs. We are doing this due to the uncertainty of today's times. The staff that we still have has had to do their jobs plus the jobs of those who have moved on. Everyone working for the Trolley Museum has been having to do much added work to keep things rolling. To help with this we are not going to have a staff Manager on duty for all operating days. Most days this role will be covered by an instructor, on other days this will be covered by a senior operator. We will also not be having morning meetings however we will still ask you to stop in the store before the day begins to inform the store staff what cars are being used and to find out if anything special is going on that day. Remember we all need to do our part to help keep things rolling..

Thank You

Operations Manager

Cell 412-780-5578

Kevin Zebley

operations@patrolley.org

2021 Schedule

Regular Operations

April-May, September-November Friday-Sunday 10-4
June-August Thursday-Sunday 10-4

Special Events

OPENING WEEKEND

Friday, April 2 – Saturday, April 3 (Closed Easter Sunday)

\$25 DOLLAR DAY

Fund raising event for #73 – Friends of Philadelphia Trolleys
Saturday, June 12 (3:00 PM – 9:00 PM)

FREE MUSEUM DAY

Sunday June 20 (Father's Day)

WASHINGTON COUNTY FAIR

August 14-21

DINOSAUR TRAIN

September 18-19, 25-26

PENNSYLVANIA ARTS & CRAFTS CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

October 15-17, 23-24

PUMPKIN PATCH TROLLEY

Friday-Sunday October 15-17 & 22-24

SANTA TROLLEY

November 26-28

December 4-5, 11-12, 18-19

TROLLEYS & TOY TRAINS

Fridays December 3, 10, & 17

The above schedule is subject to change



Remember When?

Instructor Bruce Wells submitted this photo of Operations years ago, Kyle McGrogan and Joe Bauers in 1974 before shop construction.

Upcoming Photo Essay Dennis Cramer 618

I am planning a photo essay for an upcoming issue. I would like to feature your favorite, currently extant, trolley structures or artifacts. I am looking for photos of buildings, right-of-ways and artifacts of the remnants of our trolley past. You may submit an image from a current system if it was there before the takeover by the public entity. So get off the couch and get out to do some railfanning. This is the perfect time of year for that since all of the leaves and underbrush are out of the way. You may submit an image you took in the past as long as the item is still there. Please provide as much information as you can about the image, such as location, year of photograph and line served. Any other little tidbits concerning the image(s) would be most appreciated. Stay safe - Do not trespass - and go with a friend. Some of my best memories are of trips with Ed and friends. Have some fun!

Send the images to dcramer@patrolley.org