

Trolley Fare

Fort Collins Municipal Railway Society News

Volume 28, Number 2, November 2008

www.fortnet.org/trolley/



Greetings, Members!

by Craig Stith

For over a year now, it seems the Trolley Society has been operating like a 10-year-old on a sugar-high. We've had so much going on. I think it's true that bringing a big, new project has re-energized the group. Those that made that prediction were correct. The acquisition and arrival of Car 25 has added a dimension to the activities of our modest organization.

In fact, I believe a good argument can be made that it has challenged our ability to manage multiple activities. We're working on defining a Project Manager position for leading the Car 25 Restoration Team. My overall vision is that the project manager should have oversight of all aspects of the restoration, reporting monthly to the Board on progress relative to budget, volunteer participation, training, restoration issues, City interface, etc. I envision there would be sub-tier foremen for specific aspects of the restoration, individuals with skills and interest in activities like mechanics, pneumatics, wood working, metal working, painting, etc. In each case, we'll encourage the foremen to share knowledge in an apprenticeship-like program to pass on skills, knowledge and experience to perpetuate our ability to maintain our equipment into the future.



Unloading Car 25 at the Howes St. Barn in May 2008.
Photo courtesy The Coloradoan.

The project has attracted several new volunteers who have been extremely helpful so far. There are more prospective volunteers who have expressed interest. In the future we will be contacting them to participate in the areas for which they have expressed interest. (If you're interested in adding your skills and/or enthusiasm to the project, please let us know via email: fcmrs@netzero.net)

While Car 25 has generated a lot of attention, our ongoing operation of Car 21 is unprecedented in North America. We have a simple formula, expertly executed by a small (but growing) group of dedicated volunteers. The formula to which I refer is: 1) An historic and original-to-Fort-Collins streetcar. 2) Outstandingly restored and maintained by volunteers. 3) Operated reliably on a regular schedule. 4) For a \$1 or less per person per trip. 5) By volunteers who enhance the experience by providing historical interpretation. 6) And, if you don't get enough on weekends and holidays through the summer, you can charter Car 21 for \$30/hour! Where else can you get all that for less?

I encourage all local members to watch for the upcoming announcement for the Annual Meeting in January 2009. We will be looking for two members to join the Board of Directors. If you are available, please come and let your voice be heard on how the Society is run. You can nominate and vote for Directors and share any thoughts you might have on our future direction.

Thank you all for your support.



Car 21 Crew Changes

by Carol Turner

As Lead Conductor, I'm happy to report that we had a great season thanks to our professional crew. We added two new conductor recruits, **Matthew Cook** and **Evan West**. These dependable young men took a lot of work slots, making it way easy on our scheduler. Evan was one of the conductors that volunteered the most for the whole season. This was good for us because **Roy McBride** and **Tom Dandy** were not available due to open-heart surgery, but they hope to be in working condition next season better than ever. **Jim Deluhery** also has a health problem but still wants to help for charters and 4th of July. Jim has been a steady, strong crew member for many, many years and we truly appreciate his dedication and service.



Conductors Evan West (left) and Harold Kelley exchanging information during a shift change at City Park on a warm summer afternoon.

New motormen this year are **Fred Snyder**, **Scottie Rienecker** and **Bill “Moose” Shattuck**. Bill was another most-frequent volunteer. We’re happy to have them because we lost motorman **Bob Hanley** to medical problems and **Bob Viscount** to Arizona. Maybe Bob V. can get down to Tucson to run their trolleys. Thanks, both Bobs, for your years of service on the car and on the Board.

I’d like to give a personal thank you to **Al Jackson** and **Roger Smith** who found O-27 track and an antique transformer to run my two model trolleys, one from Corgi and one from Lionel. We ran them at the Whole Foods Market fund-raiser, and the store gave us little Whole Foods signs to place on the sides like a banner. The big and little children visiting the market loved it. We also set it up at the crew dinner and it will surely get used a lot in the future for marketing and fund-raising. Thanks guys.

Car 25 Project Update

We’ve made a lot of progress on Car 25 since the last newsletter. Car 25 arrived via truck from Charlotte in early May and we unloaded it the same morning with the help of a local crane service and FCMRS volunteers. It’s now (back) in stall 1 of the Howes St. barn on temporary cribbing. Special thanks to **Brad March**, **Gary Thomas**, **Dan Holland**, **Bob Hutchison**, and others for ensuring a safe, smooth operation.

A small team of members designed and outfitted a shop area at the back of stall 1, including a new tool crib, shelving for all the loose and boxed parts, and an excellent new work bench. Thanks to **Arron** and **Matt Cook**, **Moose Shattuck**, **Gary Boughton**, **Reid Jacob**, **Roger Smith** and **Charlie Rock**, plus **Brad March** for all the tools, and **Kevin Nelson** and **Bob Hutchison** for our new two-ton overhead hoist.

Reid Jacob is now inspecting the underframe for defects and identifying areas where we will repair or replace steel to ensure a sound frame.

We are planning to tackle these major tasks in the next six months:

1. Examine all loose and boxed parts to ID those needing

rebuilding or replacement.

2. Paint the car exterior in the final FCMR color scheme, silver with red and green trim.
3. Begin rebuilding the power truck by replacing the worn wheelsets with new ones.

We have openings for volunteers to join the team in many areas including plumbing, electrical, painting and mechanical skills. If you’re interested but have not added your name to the list, please call **Bob Hutchison**, 493-1044.



Our new ‘back shop’ in stall 1 of the Howes St. barn.

Brief History of Second Car 25 (aka 25B)

Fort Collins owned nine single-truck Birney Safety Cars between 1919 and 1951. The initial cars, 20-23, were purchased new from the American Car Co. in 1919. Car 24 came from the National Car Co. in 1920 but was scrapped by 1930. Cars 25 and 26 came used from Cheyenne, WY in 1925. The last two cars, second 24 and second 25, arrived in 1946.

Second car 25 came used from Virginia Railway & Power Co. in 1946. Originally numbered 1520 when it ran on Richmond, VA, Second 25 arrived in Fort Collins along with sister car 1530, which became FCMR second car 24. Car 24B didn’t last long and was used for parts, while 25B served the City well until operations ceased in June 1951.

FCMR 24B and 25B were built in Philadelphia by Brill and almost identical to earlier FCMR cars from American Car Co. The most-noticeable differences are the deluxe, high-back leather bucket seats, wider doors that opened inward, and being two feet longer length than the ‘American’ cars.

All remaining FCMR cars except Car 21 were sold after the system shut down. 25B was purchased by Jim Stitzel for less than \$500 and moved to his family’s second home in Victor, CO. It remained outside their Victor home until sold to SCANA Corp. of South Carolina in the 1990. SCANA cosmetically restored the car as their Charleston car 407 for the 150th anniversary as a South Carolina utility. After the celebration, the car remained in storage in Columbia, SC.

Car 25B changed hands again, this time in 1997 to Charlotte Trolleys, Inc., a volunteer-based non-profit working with the city to provide a heritage streetcar experience. Purchase price this time was about \$127,000. Charlotte Trolleys planned to completely restore the car as Richmond car 1520 and operate it, along with other restored streetcars of the region, on Charlotte's expanding light-rail lines. Restoration cost was estimated at over \$250,000.

Last year, Charlotte Trolleys' mission changed to restoring and operating only cars that could be made ADA compliant. They contacted us in the hopes that we would complete the restoration. We quickly traveled to Charlotte, assessed the condition of the car and negotiated sale price and terms. Thanks to quick action by our board and generous local donors, we raised the needed \$196,000 purchase price and completed the purchase in December 2007. Car 25B is now back home in stall 1 of the Howes St. carbarn.



From left-to-right, cars 25B, 26 and 24B doing the Mountain-College-wye dance in 1948. Photo courtesy the Fort Collins Museum.

Christmas is Coming!

by Carol Tunner

Have you thought about unusual Christmas gifts from the trolley? We have a whole list of souvenirs in our Online Depot: fortnet.org/trolley/shop.php

Particularly neat is our Corgi model of Car 21, 1:48-scale, die-cast. At \$40, it's the cheapest price on the web. They will be sold out soon, so get yours now before they're gone.

We also have the elegant Trolley Centennial painting done especially for us by our own famous local artist **Barbara Moore**. She's the lovely lady who paints historic downtown with elegant style. Giclee prints are \$95 and \$195. All proceeds go to restoring Car 25, which needs new wheelsets for starters. The framed, signed and numbered prints are available in limited numbers only at the Fort Collins Museum's gift shop (970-221-6738), and are keepsakes that will only go up in value. Lesser cost Centennial postcards and 8x10 prints are available on our website, along with many other souvenirs. So, for an unusual gift that they won't get two of and is sure to fit, go with trolley stuff. Yea, Santa!

Our Barn Has a New Coat

Thanks to the **Mark Layman family** and local Eagle Scouts, the Mountain Ave. barn got a new look this June. The 20 volunteers first power-washed the exterior, then caulked and primed it the following week. Finally, they applied two coats of paint, colors matching the depot and other buildings in City Park. MoW crew-members **Bob Hutchison** and **Al Jackson** helped facilitate the work.



The Mountain Ave. barn now shines in its new buff and green coat.

We Broke the 200,000 Barrier!

by Gary Thomas

Brandon Haifley of Golden was attending a family reunion in Fort Collins on Sunday, June 29th, when they all decided to take a ride on Car 21. The seventeen members of the group joined the line to board the car right at 2:30 p.m.

during the crew change. Brandon did not know it until he stepped aboard that his spot in line made him rider number 200,000 of the modern era. For his good luck, Brandon received a congratulatory letter from Craig Stith on behalf of the FCMRS, plus



a hat, pin and some free passes. His mom says he is looking forward to returning to Fort Collins for more rides. Here is a photo of the young man as the ride counter documented the historic event.

Charters A-rolling in 2008

by Gary Thomas

Once again the FCMRS had a great year providing charters to a wide range of groups. The phone started ringing in February with people wanting to schedule their charters early to make sure they got the date they wanted. In fact, we even worked in an April charter during our crew-certification week to accommodate an out-of-town group (more about that below).



Motorman Deb Stith and Conductor Harold Kelley enjoying some 'spot time' between runs at the Howes St. platform in July'08.

The numbers were amazing. We operated 41 individual runs as regular charters. As usual we had a number of second-grade school groups and several weddings, plus a few birthday parties, summer camps and several family outings for good measure. We even had an investment counselor who brought along a group of clients, before the market crash of course!

In addition to individual runs, we ran several large events including; Fourth of July free to the public; the Downtown Business Association's two "Downtown Days" free to the public; the City of Fort Collins employee picnic; the Historic Homes Tour; and the Mountain Ave. block party.

This year we also had three groups of out-of-town enthusiasts: A tour of Bus (and trolley) fans from New Jersey who showed up the last weekend in April, and two groups from the Association of Railway Museums who drove up from their national convention in Colorado Springs to ride Car 21 and see Car 25. The New Jersey group was very generous in their donation and their purchasing of souvenirs. And the ARM folks will be good resources as we work on restoring Car 25.

Speaking of Car 25, in addition to the tours for visiting museum people, we had a public open house and a special tour for the Fort Collins City Council this year. Although we do not charge fees for visiting the restoration work, it is a great opportunity to build public support and awareness of our new project.

At the risk of leaving someone out, here are the members who helped with charters and tours at some point or other:

Bob Viscount, Tom Boardman, Carol Tunner,

Bob Browning, Dick Erickson, Gary Thomas, Roger Smith, Adam Thomas, Bob Hutchison, Scotty Rienecker, Craig Stith, Bob Beavers, Al Jackson, Moose Shattuck, Evan West, Mathew Cook, Wayne Sundberg, Greg Roberts, John Beckett, Jim Deluhery, and Gary Boughton.
A special thanks to all!

Charters are not only a fund-raiser for us, they also help further our mission of education. We have a lot of fun running the charters, especially the school groups. But, we also pass on to a new generation the style and joy that streetcars once brought to our community. Perhaps, someday, some of those young people will be in a position to help work to bring working streetcars back to our town. Wouldn't that be something!

Charters are available May through September any time during daylight hours that the car is not open to the public. Call me at 482-7125 to add Car 21 to your event!



A crew-change lineup one summer afternoon (left-to-right): Bob Browning, Evan West, Moose Shattuck, John Beckett.

Crew Dinner Enjoyed by All

We held our annual semi-potluck crew dinner at the City Shops Cafeteria on October 24. In addition to some great food, we gobbled up a nice spice cake that featured an interesting image of car 21 (photo and cake courtesy of Carol Tunner).



After the feasting, **President Craig** reviewed the year's accomplishments, thanking the many volunteers who helped make this one of the busiest years since we began operating in 1985. Craig especially acknowledged **Robin Holland** for crafting the table arrangements, which we've enjoyed many years. Craig also thanked Motorman **Bob Browning** and

Conductor **John Beckett** for being our most-frequent performers in regular service this season.



Craig reviewing our busiest season ever at this year's crew dinner.

From the Membership Desk

by Bob Hutchison

The FCMRS Board of Directors would like to introduce you to our fifteen new members for 2008. Many of these new members have not only supported the Society financially, but they have also become operators, conductors and/or restoration volunteers for Car 25. We appreciate their willingness to donate both their time and money.

A special thank you to **John A. Rushton**, of Stony Plain, Alberta, Canada for joining us as a Lifetime Member.

New Associates

Terry Boardman, Balcowlah Heights, NSW 2093, Australia

Chris Knapp

Robert R. Lowry, Corvallis, OR

Charles H. Rock

Anthony Siniscarco, Redington, NJ

Evan West

New Family Memberships

Rick & Sherrie Isham

Reid M. Jacobs

Frederick Snyder

New Sponsors

Herb Danneman, Brookfield, WI

Robert P. Godwin

Richard Harrison, McMinnville, OR

Scottie Rienecker

Bill "Moose" Shattuck

Membership Renewal (again?)

by Bob Hutchison

The time has arrived again to renew your membership. It is through your continued support that the operation of Car 21 may continue in a successful manner. As a 'not-for-profit' entity, we have to rely on your financial support, along with your volunteer-time support. There is no underwriting or other financial source paying our bills and needed equipment repairs. We have been able to continue to maintain the same

dues rate structure for membership, and hope that through your continued support, we can maintain these same rates for the near future. Our membership levels and codes are:

A – Associate Member, \$10/yr

FAM – Family Membership, \$15/yr

SPON – Sponsor Membership, \$25/yr

BENE – Benefactor Membership, 100/yr

FCMRS LM – Lifetime, \$500 (renewal not needed)

The year your membership expires is indicated on the mailing label by the two-digit number after the membership code. * after the membership code indicates a donation greater than the minimum required for that membership level. Please send your membership payment to the return address on the cover of this newsletter. Your donation is *tax deductible* and is acknowledged in our return receipt to you. All renewed members will continue to receive this newsletter and an undated membership card good for six free trolley rides. We look forward to your continued support. Car 21's historical journey depends on YOU.

Advertising Space Available on Car 21

by John Beckett

Advertising on Car 21 is an easy way to get your message to everyone that rides with us. We have eight openings for advertising cards on the car for our next season. The cost is \$100 per season, plus the cost of ad set-up the first season. For more information, please call me, 484-2805x203, or email: john@beckettinsurance.com

Correction...

Somehow, **Reid Jacob's** name was spelled wrong in the last *Trolley Fare*. The author has apologized and been duly punished!

Trolley Fare is published semi-annually for members and friends of the Fort Collins Municipal Railway Society.

FCMRS Staff

President: Craig Stith, 498-0286

Vice-President: Bob Hutchison, 493-1044

Secretary: Carol Tunner, 484-3957

Treasurer: Dan Holland, 223-8150

Directors

John Beckett, Brad March, Roger Mitchell, Gary Thomas.

Departments

Crew Training: Carol Tunner, Roger Smith.

Car Maintenance: Roger Smith, Roger Mitchell.

Car 25 Restoration: Bob Hutchison

Crew Schedulers: Craig Stith, Gary Thomas (alt.).

Charters: Gary Thomas, 482-7125

Membership: Bob Hutchison

Souvenir Despot: Deb Stith

Advertising & Fund-raising: John Beckett

Public Relations: Wayne Sundberg

Maintenance of Way: Dan Holland, Bob Hutchison,

Al Jackson, Art Mitchell, Roger Smith.

Trolley Fare & website: Al Jackson, fcMrs@netzero.net



Car 25 navigating the wye at Mountain and College Ave's, heading into the morning sun on South College Ave., about 1950. Today's motormen on Car 21 wish that the auto traffic on Mountain Ave. was as light as shown here!

**Fort Collins Municipal Railway Society
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