

The 2012 Boston Trolley and Transit Meet

This year's Boston Trolley and Transit Meet, a joint venture of Bay State Society of Model Engineers, Boston Street Railway Association, Seashore Trolley Museum, and Boston Chapter-NRHS was held at the Holiday Inn in Brookline, Massachusetts on Friday and Saturday, April 27th and 28th, 2012. This was a new venue for this event, previously being held in a more remote location north of Boston. The site was right on the Beacon Street light rail line of the MBTA, a location that was handy for those coming by transit and which resulted in the appearance of an ex-Boeing LRV, now a work car for the photographic enjoyment of the Meet participants. The Meet was largely focused on historical memorabilia and paper items but East Penn provided a generous dose of modular trolley operation in HO and O scale provided by Tom O'Donnell and Dave Gallagher, with visiting equipment from some of the modelers from the Boston area, along with what the East Penn participants ran. The new Island Scale Models modern Portland O scale model, based on the Skoda prototype was a crowd pleaser on the modules. East Penn members provided a clinic on getting started in HO trolleys which was well attended and had excellent questions and interactions. Around 300 people participated in the Meet, making it a must-attend event in future years. The facility was large, well-lit, comfortable and highly suitable for trolley meets. A generous contingent of East Penn members attended the Meet, and continued to strengthen the bonds and camaraderie between our organizations. East Penn members and displayers were warmly welcomed and greatly assisted by the locals with set up, operation, and break down of the modules.

Those eager for more model operation were not disappointed: Bay State Society of Model Engineers had a post-show open house at their large DCC-operated layout in Roslindale, MA on Saturday evening and Sunday, which was well attended by East Penn members. East Penn hopes to reciprocate for our New England friends' hospitality at next year's East Penn Meet!

Rich Allman