

MAINE LINE

A Publication for the Friends of the Bangor and Aroostook Railroad



Talking It Over



Welcome! This is the first issue of the Maine Line Magazine since the Fall of 1990 issue. In the nearly 28 years since - so much has happened. The 100th anniversary of the Bangor and

Aroostook, the sale of the property to Iron Road, bankruptcy and of course, in 2003, the crossing over of our beloved railroad into a fallen flag.

You may ask why over 15 years after the railroad ceased to exist start up a magazine to honor it? Simply put - why not? For 28 years no one has been recording the stories, memories, experiences of those who knew the B&A best – the employees. I know that I want to hear about the times that things went well and when things did not go so well. The firsthand accounts of everything from painting boxcars to 49 mile per hour freights will one day fade out of our collective memory. Before that day, let us all share the knowledge, stories, experiences and camaraderie of what was to us in Maine - The B&A.

What will we cover? In short, everything railroad in the Bangor and Aroostook's territory from the very beginnings to the present day.

Who is this for? Those that have an interest in the B&A: former employees, model railroaders, photographers, historians and many many more.

If you have stories, photographs or anything else you would like to contribute, reach out! You will find contact info elsewhere in the magazine.

All Aboard!

- "Joey" Kelley, Editor

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About the Cover:

Joe and Joey Kelley surround
Bangor and Aroostook motorcar
#62, recently restored in this
2014 photo.

Photo by Shawn Melvin,
Joey Kelley Photography Collection
Learn more in our feature article

Feature Article:

Restoring B&A History,
a Father and Son keep
Bangor and Aroostook
motorcars rolling

We Need Material!
Maine Line Magazine
cannot be a solo effort!
If you wish to contribute,
contact us!

RESTORING HISTORY



Bangor and Aroostook Motorcar #69 is winched onto Joe Kelley's trailer,
June 25, 2015

Railroads all across North America owned track cars. Some were large, some small and all began to be replaced by Hy-rail pickup trucks as time marched on. Railroads often offered their surplus equipment at rock bottom prices. Thus a hobby of running these Maintenance of Way vehicles for pleasure was born. Almost inevitably, an organization was formed to coordinate trips on railroads normally closed to such traffic and such trips have been run periodically over B&A rails with one scheduled for this summer.



Interesting photos come out of these speeder trips, as a Maine Central motorcar owned and operated by Jeff Jacobs rolls south past station name sign West Seboois – September 25, 2011

My own involvement with the motorcar hobby started somewhat differently. My first job on the Belfast and Moosehead Lake Railroad was to operate a Fairmont A4 motorcar and put out any fires left behind by the steam locomotive. During the very first trip I said I needed to get one of these motorcars for my very own. It was November of 2004 when Bangor and Aroostook #62 made its way home on Dad's trailer. It was somewhat less

than I had hoped. Although all the major pieces were there, the wood holding it all together was long past the point of repair. I have described it as a 'down to the frame' restoration, but two of the pieces of the frame were replaced as well. Although it lay dormant for several years, my Father, Joe Kelley, got the motorcar bug and bought one of his own. December 7, 2013 saw #62's stripped carcass being fork lifted into the basement for restoration.



Motorcar #62 – December 7, 2013

It was Father's Day – June 15, 2014 when Bangor and Aroostook 62 saw the rail again, for the first time in at least 10 years. Accompanied by Dad's Bangor and Aroostook #18, we took them out for a shakedown run on the very same Belfast and Moosehead Lake rails that had inspired me to buy #62.



#62 and #18 at Burnham Junction on the Belfast and Moosehead Lake, June 15, 2014.

Dad has proceeded to take this hobby and run with it – his motorcar collection now boasts a total of seven – three of which were purchased directly from B&A successor Central Maine and Quebec Railway, before they were scrapped. Bangor and Aroostook #18, #62 and #69 are all in the collection and all but 69 are currently operational.

It takes many hours to restore one of these antiques to operation and my father's attention to detail is second to none.



Joe working on Bangor and Aroostook #62's rear axle – April 10, 2018.

Through it all – the bad parts – the electrical wiring – the coats and coats of paint – Dad has persevered, restoring these one of a kind pieces of Bangor and Aroostook history and keeping the story of the B&A alive.

Happy Father's Day Dad!

Check out <http://barmotorcar62.blogspot.com/> for the complete story on Motorcar #62's restoration including photographs of the entire process

From the Archives



Richard B. "Dick" Gasset caught 46 and 87 with C-93 on April 7, 1973.
Collection of JoeyKelleyPhoto.com

YOU'RE ON

the

RIGHT TRACK

WHEN YOU

Ship

B AND A



The
BANGOR AND AROOSTOOK
Railroad
OPERATES
FAST FREIGHT SERVICE
For Less Than Central Shipments
To And From
Andover, MAINE
WITH
FREE PICK-UP & DELIVERY
Overnight
SERVICE FROM BANGOR
HEATED CHARGES PERISHABLE SHIPMENTS
FOR FREE PICK-UP IN BANGOR *5829*