

---

# MAINE LINE

---

*A Publication for the Friends of the Bangor and Aroostook Railroad*

---



# Talking It Over



In a very real sense the Bangor and Aroostook Railroad is THE railroad of the State of Maine. The red, white, and blue boxcars proudly proclaiming 'State of Maine Products' that roamed North

America's railroads were the best advertising a railroad could have asked for. This advertising turned into a reputation and that reputation has turned into a legacy. This legacy is what I hope to perpetuate with this magazine. I would like to thank all of you who have complimented these efforts, who have contributed photos or articles and those that have simply read these pieces and said "Thank You." A magazine is nothing without readers and it is extremely gratifying to know that in some small way this magazine is keeping the legacy going.

I have mentioned it before, but I am openly asking for articles and interviews. If you are a former B&A employee, I want to talk with you. This railroad's legacy was built by the people who were proud to work for it – from the summer worker slinging ties to the executive board room and everyone between – the B&A's legacy is your legacy. Lets add to it.

This issue features some of that legacy – in the locomotives that have left B&A rails – but continue as legendary Maine railroad icons.

- "Joey" Kelley, Editor

**Volume 2, Issue 1**  
Published Quarterly

**Maine Line Magazine:**

A Publication of

Joey Kelley Photography,  
JoeyKelleyPhoto.com

Direct all Correspondance to

[joey@joeykelleyphoto.com](mailto:joey@joeykelleyphoto.com)

All content, except where noted,  
Copyright 2019, Joseph T. "Joey"  
Kelley, JoeyKelleyPhoto.com  
All Rights Reserved

**About the Cover:**

Pennsylvania rolls past as we look  
through the window of former  
Bangor and Aroostook #54  
on the Stourbridge Line.  
Learn more in our feature article

**Pennsylvania: The B&A's  
Second Home**

The Keystone State is home  
to a lot of railroading  
including a lot of B&A  
history.

**Boomer BL-2s:**

A pair of B&A BL-2s still  
rolling decades after being sold

**Out of the Rain:**

A personal railroad experience

<http://mainelinemagazine.joeykelleyphoto.com>

# PENNSYLVANIA: THE B&A'S SECOND HOME



*BL-2 #54 has found a second home on the Stourbridge Line in Pennsylvania. She retains her tri-color paint scheme, but has traded potatoes for passengers. Engineer Rich climbs down from 54's cab at the end of the last run of the day. June 30, 2018 - Joey Kelley - [JoeyKelleyPhoto.com](http://JoeyKelleyPhoto.com)*

Although there are five states between Maine and Pennsylvania, there is a lot of Bangor and Aroostook in the Keystone State. In fact you can find more operating, preserved, Bangor and Aroostook locomotives in Pennsylvania, than any other state.



*Tuscan Red Varnish, June 30, 2018 - Joey Kelley – JoeyKelleyPhoto.com*

Purchased directly from the B&A, #54 has done her new owners, the Stourbridge Line, proud. The crews rave about how well 54 was maintained, how easy it is to run and its reliability – credited to the shop forces at Derby and Northern Maine Junction.



*Stourbridge 54 is saving a customer lots of money and time by taking this excavator right where it needed to go – a gas pipeline project that was virtually inaccessible, except by rail. Shot on October 11, 2017 in White Mills, PA. Photo by Tim Wright.*

If you get very lucky, you'll catch one of the Stourbridge's freight moves and you're almost guaranteed to find 54 on the job.

Although used when freight is offered, 54 primarily takes passengers on a trip through the Pennsylvania country side. Located in Honesdale, PA, you can find out more at [TheStourbridgeLine.net](http://TheStourbridgeLine.net) or by calling 570-470-2697. As of this writing this is the only place to ride behind a B&A BL-2. To say that there are some fans of the B&A in Honesdale is a bit of an understatement. They are very proud of 54 and its heritage, as evidenced by keeping the tri-color paint scheme when 54 was repainted in 1999. The Stourbridge is worth a visit for any Bangor and Aroostook fan!

# BOOMER BL-2S

An informal definition of the word 'Boomer' is 'a wandering or migratory worker'. This applies quite well to 52 and 56.



*52 and 56 are tarped at Northern Maine Junction on June 2, 1980, Richard B. "Dick" Gassett photo, JoeyKelleyPhoto.com Collection*



*One could be forgiven for thinking this was a shot from the 1970s at the end of a B&A branch line. In fact, this is February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1991 and 52's new owner is performing an inspection at the former Milwaukee Road roundhouse in Janesville, Wisconsin. Photo by Sam Carlson*

Glenn Monhart bought B&A BL-2's numbers 52 and 56 from the B&A. He transported them to Wisconsin where 52 was painted in a one-off paint scheme, lettered for the Janesville and Southeastern. This line did not exist, outside of Mr. Monhart's leasing company and 52 spent most of her time working on the Wisconsin and Calumet (reporting marks WICT) even after Mr. Monhart's death. It was then passed through at least one other owner before landing under the ownership of Iowa Pacific Holdings and being shipped to New York for the Saratoga and North Creek.





*Odd combination - The locomotive is Bangor and Aroostook, wearing the paint of the Janesville and Southeastern, the Depot is Milwaukee Road, the tracks are owned by the state of Wisconsin and operated by the Wisconsin and Calumet. Sam Carlson's shot on January 20, 1992 captured this scene in Monroe, Wisconsin. As of this writing, nothing of this scene is still present. 52 has moved on, the track is gone and the depot has either been relocated or torn down.*



*Wig-Wag over Wisconsin: Sam Carlson found 52 switching in Monroe on January 20, 1992. At this time, the Wisconsin and Calumet was running trains as needed to Monroe. Today, although Monroe does have rail service, this particular crossing and its wig-wag signal are no longer there.*



*Not potatoes – but dairy cows. Crawling through an unlit crossing at the ponderous pace dictated by track conditions, 52 is wrapping up her day on January 20, 1992, returning from Monroe, Wisconsin. 52 looks right at home in the snow and cold. Photo by Sam Carlson.*



*May of 1998 found Mr. Monhart's locomotives stored next to the roundhouse in Janesville, Wisconsin, 52 and 56 among them. By this time, the Wisconsin and Southern had taken over the operations on this line. The TP&W caboose remains in Wisconsin, everything else has found new homes. Photo by Sam Carlson*



*Previous Page: 52 – wearing Saratoga and North Creek colors is just minutes away from returning to the station in North Creek, New York on August 12, 2012. Joey Kelley, JoeyKelleyPhoto.com Photo*

The story does not end here – although the Saratoga and North Creek has shut down operations, both #52 and #56 have been moved off the property. They are still controlled by Iowa Pacific Holdings and who knows where they will pop up next! One thing is for sure – this pair of BL-2s still has a lot of roaming to do.



*Setting sun over Saratoga Springs: 52 will overnight here with her train as 8524 runs back to North Creek for the night. August 12, 2012, Joey Kelley, JoeyKelleyPhoto.com*

# FROM OUT OF THE RAIN

I suppose that not many Bangor and Aroostook fans can say that their first sighting of a running B&A BL-2 was caught on video. Then again, how many B&A fans saw their first running BL-2 in 2012?

August 11, 2012 saw myself and Shawn Duren headed south from Maine to Upstate New York. The objective was to photograph the Bangor and Aroostook BL-2 running on the Saratoga and North Creek – a former Delaware and Hudson branch line between the towns of Saratoga Springs and North Creek, New York. Personally, I had no expectation of seeing the BL-2 on the move. We did not have any information that it was running, at all, let alone where it was or if it was leading any particular train.

After checking into the hotel and getting a light dinner, we headed for the tracks, not far from our hotel. The posted timetable said there should have been nothing turning a wheel at the time we arrived. Wind and rain had lashed the line that day – forcing trees down onto the line and making the last run of the day late. The deadhead move back to North Creek after the last scheduled run was being made in rainy darkness and behind schedule. Only a few minutes after pulling into Hadley Station, a rather non-descript passenger waiting platform – out of the rain came a sound I'd never heard before – clear as a fog horn over a foggy bay – that single tone horn defied the rain drops to spit out a sound that warmed my soul. Within two minutes of the first time my ears ever heard that sweet, loud, blaaaaat from that horn – it was upon us. 52 might have been wearing colors based upon the Delaware and Hudson – she might have been wearing a different railroad's name. But under that skin – she was all B&A. Close my eyes – and I could have been in Fort Kent. It was awesome. Although that first photo is not what I would consider a prize-winning photo, in fact it was probably the worst photo of the entire trip, it means something to me – a moment that I truly appreciated the series of rather unlikely events that had brought me and this piece of history together – and I will never forget it.



*S&NC 52 – Northbound for North Creek, August 11, 2012. Joey Kelley, JoeyKelleyPhoto.com*

[The video I mentioned can be viewed by clicking here – complete with that beautiful horn!](#)



# From the Archives



*B&A #87 is sandwiched between two Conrail units in this photo shot in Marysville, PA, December 15, 1978, photographer unknown, JoeyKelleyPhoto.com Collection*



*B&A #76 splits the signals in Jersey Shore, PA, March 7, 1977,  
photographer unknown, JoeyKelleyPhoto.com Collection*



*B&A #81 was captured in the yard in Avis, PA, July 7, 1977, photographer unknown, JoeyKelleyPhoto.com Collection*

*Happy  
New Year*

*Resolved*

To continue to operate a modern,  
dependable transportation system  
in fullest cooperation with the  
interests of the people in the  
area we serve...

**BANGOR and AROOSTOOK RAILROAD**  
*Serving northern MAINE*

