



MOTOR BUS SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2007

Message From the President

MBS Members:

I am aware of your dissatisfaction with publication delivery of *Motor Coach Age* during the last year. Your President and Board of Trustees are actively working to correct the situation. We expect at least two, possibly three, more issues to be published this year.

But what about the future? Here's where you can help. Our supply of articles is not inexhaustible. We need YOUR input. The other officers and I are more than willing to assist you. What can you do? Visit local bus properties, either transit or coach, and see what information they have. Look for timetables, fleet rosters (current and past), and whatever records they have. Go on the internet. Visit the regulatory agencies and visit your local libraries for material and newspaper articles as well. Be sure to include as many pictures as possible. Talk to drivers, mechanics, officials, et. al.

Once the information is gathered, write your article. The first draft does not have to be perfect. Submit it and the materials you have gathered to the Society. One or more of us will be happy to assist you. Together, we can produce an article that could make you and the Society proud. We need and request your help.

The convention at Raleigh was very interesting. Dino Mandros does a superb job in organizing conventions. If you have never attended one, or attend very rarely, give the conventions another try. In October, we will be in the Columbus-Dayton, Ohio area; next April we'll be based in Denver. Come on by!

Finally, we have an excellent slate of Regional Vice Presidents:

- New England**---Wayne Doran
- East**---Dino Mandros
- South**--Joe Peres
- Midwest**--Nick Lang
- Southwest**-Bill Wheeler
- West**-Eli Bail
- Canada and Foreign Nations**--Andrew Gold

All officers and trustees are willing to help make the Motor Bus Society a quality organization.

Bill Vallow

Conventions

North Carolina: The Spring 2007 Convention was held in central North Carolina during the three day weekend of April 27-29 (Friday-Sunday), with headquarters in Raleigh. There was a total of 47 paid reservations, which meant that all could fit into one 45-

foot (55-seat) bus (MCI coaches on all three days). On Friday, the group visited the North Carolina State University Wolfline campus operation, the regional Triangle Transit Authority and local and regional operations in Greensboro, High-Point and Winston-Salem. On Saturday, they went to Charlotte to see the extensive bus operation including new bus garage facility and the large downtown transit center. The group also saw the new LRT maintenance building and the Siemens rail cars, which were being "burned-in" for the start of the new rail system later this fall; the tour stopped at the small bus operation in Concord on the way back to Raleigh. Sunday was spent closer to home, with visits to Raleigh's Capital Area Transit, Carolina Coach Co. (Trailways), Duke University, Durham Area Transit Authority and Chapel Hill Transit. Because of the long day of activity on Saturday, the semi-annual membership meeting was held on Friday night (instead of Saturday); the meeting was presided over by new MBS President Bill Vallow with his "state of the Society" message. Entertainment was a digital slide show prepared by John Pappas.

Columbus-Dayton: The Fall 2007 meeting will cover central Ohio area during the Columbus Day holiday weekend of October 6-8 (Saturday-Monday). It has been decided to headquarter the meeting in Dayton because of the more favorable airline fare arrangements. The hotel will be in a downtown Dayton location. The Cincinnati Street Railway Association will be providing a display of some of their restored buses for the occasion. More details will be available in the convention announcement that will be included with the Summer 2007 *MBS Newsletter*.

Future Conventions: The dates and location of conventions for the remainder of the 2006-2010 schedule are:

2008	Spring	April 26-27	Denver, Colorado
	Fall	October 11-12	Southwest Ontario
2009	Spring	April 25-26	Kansas City, Missouri
	Fall	October 10-11	Eastern Virginia
2010	Spring	April 24-25	Vancouver-Victoria, BC
	Fall	October 9-10	East-Central Pennsylvania

Publications

This issue of the *MBS Newsletter* is being mailed with the Fall 2005 (Oct.-Dec) issue of *Motor Coach Age*. This long awaited number consists of 36-pages, mostly an article on the complex bus operations in Passaic County New Jersey. This is the first MCA release since the extensive history of the Des Moines, Iowa transit system that was mailed in mid 2006. The fact that there was never any comprehensive transit maps of the Passaic area (typical of New Jersey cities) made preparation of this story difficult, and partially accounts for the delay in the completion of the story. The Editor reports that the delays in the Passaic issue was unusual, and that he

has at least four issues in the works that should be able to be completed before the end of the year.

Job Openings

Board of Trustees: The Board of Trustees is looking for a member to fill the vacancy on the six member board that was created by the resignation of new MBS Treasurer, Rich Philippi. Although former Treasurer Steve Goldmann also held a position on the Board, Rich felt that he could not devote full attention to both positions. A successor will be appointed by the Board to serve Rich's remaining term. As specified in the Society's By-Laws, candidates must be a resident of the state of New Jersey and must have been an MBS member for at least five consecutive years. Members with those qualifications who are interested in serving on the Board should contact the Trustees at one of the addresses listed below.

Membership Secretary: Long-time Membership Secretary, Paul Semindinger has asked to be relieved of his position before the end of 2007. The duties of this position include maintaining records and lists of past and current Society membership and sending current membership list to the mailing service for each publication mailing. The Membership Secretary is also responsible for maintaining the confidentiality of the membership list and for sending out annual dues notices. Qualifications for this position include familiarity with Windows-based PC operations and expertise in the use of the Microsoft Excel spreadsheet program.

Bus News Magazine Editor and Reporters: The President and the Trustees have recognized that there is a need for a magazine that would concentrate on what is happening now in the transit and coach operations area. The concept is that this magazine would be published on a fixed quarterly schedule and would concentrate on news rather than history. It is proposed that this magazine would be printed in color and would be smaller than MCA at 16-20 pages per issue.

In order for this idea to work, we will need an editor—someone who has the technical skills and equipment to prepare a magazine for production—and a knowledge of the bus business, so that he or she can make knowledgeable judgments about the material received. But of perhaps more importance is a group of about a dozen people throughout the country who can collect news, information and photos for the editor.

The idea for the proposed news magazine is that it would supplement *Motor Coach Age* and provide the additional material that is desired by our younger members. Implementation of this program will depend upon a number of factors, including recruiting editorial and reporting personnel and the cost to produce such a magazine.

Members that are interested in serving in any of these positions should contact the Society either at the mailing or the website address. As is true of all Society positions, work will be done on a volunteer basis.

The John Hoschek Cameras

The late John P. Hoschek, one of the MBS founders for whom the Society's Archives were named, contributed extensively to the growth of the organization in many ways, but one of his passions was photography. In his early days (1950's) he took color slides, but as it became desirable to use these photos for publication, he began using medium format black and white print film. Many of the photographs that have appeared in *MCA* (some credited, some not) were taken by John, and they are generally well composed and exposed. But 35 mm format cameras became more popular and the older roll-film cameras, which were equipped with bellows that tended to develop light leaks, it became

difficult to keep these early cameras in good repair.

To resolve these problems, John acquired a professional camera that did not employ the use of bellows. The drawback of this choice was that the equipment was heavier and bulkier than the older units, and as a result, John gave up on the use of the smaller 35mm film, and concentrated only on the medium format 120 film that produced negatives of the 2¼ x 2¾ inch size. Sharp negatives of this size are generally good for making 8 x 10 inch prints suitable for use on the cover of our magazine. In his final years, John acquired a Mamiya camera, and by the time he was through, he had three of this make! The other two cameras were used as spares, in case one was in for repairs (apparently he always had two cameras with him when he was shooting).

After John passed away, his bus memorabilia came to the MBS, including the three Mamiya 120 roll film cameras; they have been sitting in the archives, unused ever since. Since they were only gathering dust, the Trustees decided to try to find a new home for them. One, two or all three are available for a donation to the Society. The Society does not warrant any of the cameras as to their mechanical functioning. The three cameras are of two models, two Mamiya 23 Standards and one Mamiya Universal. All three have Mamiya 1:3.5 lenses. Interested parties should contact Murray Kramer at the MBS Post Office Box or at the website.

Dues Policy

The Board of Trustees has decided that all "2005" members will receive the remaining 2005, and all four 2006 issues of *MCA*. Members who did not pay dues for 2006 were billed this year for the 2007 issues. Members who paid dues in 2006 will not be billed for 2007 issues. Some "2005" members have questioned why they should pay dues for 2007 before they have received all their 2006 issues? The answer is that the Society has other ongoing expenses, such as the rental on the Archives and the publications storage facilities and other ongoing expenses. Members are encouraged to pay dues promptly.

YC/GMC Final Vehicle Records

Many bus manufacturers produce documentation of each customer's order that contain details of parts and components that were included as original equipment, including body, engine and transmission serial numbers. Also included are paint numbers and the dates on which each vehicle was shipped. Operators used this information to order replacement parts. Sometimes GM updated the records as vehicles were sold to other operators. Several microfilm copies of the records were produced for field representatives; the records cover the period 1940-1986. Since GM has been out of the bus building business for over 20 years, one of the retired GM Coach employees decided to dispose of his set.

This microfilm set was acquired by the **Ohio Museum of Transport (OMOT)** this year. OMOT plans to make copies available to interested parties as a fund raising measure for its bus restoration program. Persons or organizations interested in acquiring paper copies of the microfilmed records should contact Mike Ondecker at OMOT through his e-mail address, silversidespdg@yahoo.com, by mail at Post Office Box 454, Tallmadge, OH 44278 or by phone at (330) 730-8997 (Cell).

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