

# **Motor Bus Society**

## **WINTER 2014 NEWSLETTER**

### **2013 FALL CONVENTION REPORT**

***London, U.K., September 20-24, 2013***

The Motor Bus Society held its first regular Convention at a non-North American site in the Fall of 2013, choosing London, U.K., as its venue. Approximately 37 bus fans and their spouses/significant others travelled from North America to the U.K. for the Convention and they were rewarded with a fantastic time and experience. Below is a brief summary of the daily activities during the Convention's five "formal" days:

Friday, September 20<sup>th</sup>: Most of the attendees stayed at the MBS Headquarters hotel, which was the London Guards Hotel in the Bayswater area, just north of Hyde Park and Kensington Park. The hotel was in a quiet, residential neighborhood, but restaurants, shopping and transportation were not very far away. On Friday, the first day of the Convention, the group used public transit under the guidance of Richard Stedall, Chairman of Buses Worldwide magazine, and some of his associates. We travelled via the Central Line and Docklands Light Rail to Lewisham, where lively bus activity gave us considerable photo opportunities. We then took a Southeastern Line commuter train to Hayes, where we caught a London bus to Addington Village, where we had another photo stop featuring buses and trams of London Tramlink. We then hopped on board a tram to East and West Croyden, our lunch stop. After lunch, we boarded a Southern Line train from West Croyden to Victoria Station, from which we rode a new Borismaster bus on Route #24 to Trafalgar Square, which made for a non-stop sea of buses for our cameras. We then boarded an old Routemaster on Route #15 and took it to the London Tower for a brief break, after which we boarded a hydrogen fuel cell bus on Route #RV1 to Covent Garden. There, the group spent over 90 minutes at the fantastic London Transport Museum, after which we returned to the hotel via the Central Line.

Saturday, September 21<sup>st</sup>: A chartered red, double-decker bus with coach seats greeted the group at our hotel and took us south of London, to downtown Crawley, for a photo stop at the bus terminal. We then visited the local bus operations depot for an open house celebration, during which we saw many historic buses. Our lunch stop was in Brighton, a seaside resort along the English Channel. We then travelled east to Eastbourne, making a stop at Beachy Head to view the huge white chalk cliffs.

Sunday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>: A chartered London General Routemaster picked us up at the hotel for the two and a half-hour ride to an airfield near Stratford-upon-Avon which was this year's site for Showbus, a colorful display of over 300 buses and

coaches from all over the U.K., both new and old. Our chartered bus was one of those on display. The size of and activity at Showbus is unparalleled to anything here in the States. We had a good six hours to absorb all the bus goodness that Showbus had to offer, after which we returned to our hotel.

Monday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>: Another London General chartered double-decker took us west and north of London today, beginning with a stop in downtown Reading, a hub of bus activity. We then visited Reading Buses' depot (garage), where the head of Reading Buses warmly welcomed us. A hybrid-electric Reading Bus had taken us from downtown to the depot. We then travelled to our lunch stop, the famous university town of Oxford, where several operators supply local and regional bus service to the area. After lunch, we stopped at the Didcot Parkway Railway Station to view some First Great Western trains as well as local Thames Travel buses, followed by a stop in Newbury for photographs at the bus terminal.

Tuesday, September 24<sup>th</sup>: This was another day of using public transit, and the group took the Central and Northern Lines to Golders Green for a stop at the large bus terminal. After plenty of time for photographs, we took a bus to a London Overground station to ride the fairly new equipment on the Overground. We wound up in Stratford, where ample time allowed us to take numerous train and bus photos. We then boarded a Greater Anglia commuter train to Romford, our lunch stop, which provided great bus photography. We then rode a London bus to Lakeside, where local service is provided by Ensignbus. After a good photo stop, Ensignbus sent a restored Routemaster to pick us up and bring us to their depot. In addition to providing much of the local service in Lakeside and environs, Ensignbus has dozens of restored, historical vehicles, most in running condition, as well as buses they sell on the secondary market. Visiting its depot was like being in a museum. After that wonderful stop, Ensignbus provided a green Routemaster to take us back to Romford for the train and tube ride back to the hotel. In the evening, most participants joined the group for a "Farewell Dinner" at a very lovely Italian restaurant close to Paddington Station.

It was quite clear that everyone attending the Convention had a marvelous time. The MBS Board has already recognized Richard Stedall for a job well done in putting the itineraries together for the five days of activities. Without his time and effort, the Convention could not have been as successful as it was. Special thanks also go to Sid Keyles for setting up the arrangements with the Headquarters hotel and for coordinating so many different facets of the Convention. Although Sid consulted often with President Dino along the way, Sid was glad to see Dino finally attend a Convention more as a spectator than an organizer. Sid, in turn, extends his thanks to Wayne Doran and Kevin Nicol, who served as assisted in finalizing many of the Convention



arrangements. The success of this event has already engendered talk of another non-North American convention for MBS sometime in the not-too-distant future. The bottom line is that all who attended the London Convention had a good time.

### ***Motor Bus Society Convention Locations for 2014 – 2016***

<b>Year</b>	<b>Spring Location</b>	<b>Fall Location</b>
2014	Seattle, WA Apr 25-27	Grand Rapids, MI Oct 17-19 ( <i>New dates</i> )
2015	Indianapolis, IN Apr 24-26	Halifax, NS, Canada Oct 9-11
2016	St. Louis, MO ( <i>Dates TBD</i> )	

### **FUTURE CONVENTION LOCATIONS & NEW CONVENTION FEE STRUCTURE**

During 2014 the MBS Trustees and Convention Chairman will be planning for convention destinations beyond the Spring 2016 Convention in St. Louis. Based upon feedback received from the MBS members during the NYC-NJ Convention, many desired more east coast cities and possible more European destinations be covered. We would like to hear from you on your ideas for future convention cities. Send your suggestions to us via the MBS e-mail address or contact MBS President Dino Mandros with your future recommendations

Due to the increasing cost of running the conventions, particularly with higher fees associated with chartering of the buses for the weekends, the Society has been incurring significant losses with the last several conventions. The Trustees approved the phasing in of a new convention fee structure starting with the April 2013 – NY/NJ Convention that now has a new separate daily and multi-day fees. The daily fee for the convention will be \$35/day per person and \$90 per person for a three-day registration. This new fee structure has been discussed and deferred for a few years, but the new convention fees will curb the mounting losses and contribute to the Society's financial stability.

### **2014 TRANSIT/TRAIN SHOWS**

Another source of income for the Society continues to be the participation at local transit/train shows in the NJ & PA area. The Society rents a table to sell magazines, books and other materials we have acquired. It is also a very good place to recruit new MBS members. The MBS Trustees are seeking interested members who wish to set-up and staff a MBS table at your next local or regional show. We will equip you with everything you will need for the show. If interested, please contact us via the MBS e-mail address or via the MBS PO box with your contact information and proposed show schedule.

### **OFFICER & TRUSTEE NEWS & ELECTIONS**

The MBS Trustees are pleased to announce 5 year MBS member Nolan Kolmel of Chandler, AZ has agreed to taken on the MBS Secretary position effective January 2014.

Are you interested in being an MBS Officer or MBS Trustee? 2014 is our bi-annual election of officers and trustees. Nominations are now open to all members in good standing. Trustees must be a resident of New Jersey in order to be eligible to run for election. Let us know if you are interested in these positions.

### **DUES & ELECTRONIC PAYMENTS**

During February you will be receiving your 2014 MBS dues renewal. Your dues payment is appreciated by **April 1, 2014.**

We are pleased to announce the MBS is now accepting dues payments electronically via **PAYPAL**. You can send your payment using **PAYPAL** to the following address: [membership@motorbussociety.org](mailto:membership@motorbussociety.org). **PAYPAL** payments can be made via direct bank transfer, debt & credit cards. If you plan to use a credit card for payment, a new \$1.50 transaction fee will need to be added to your dues payment.

### **DONATING ITEMS TO MBS ARCHIVES**

Are you interested in downsizing your bus collection? Know of someone who has a collection of bus related items and is looking for a good home for them? Then we want to hear from you! The MBS Archives is a great place to save those treasured items. Visit the MBS website for more details on how to donate items. Our web address is:

**[www.motorbussociety.org](http://www.motorbussociety.org)**

If you don't have access to the internet, contact us via the MBS PO Box and we will be happy to mail you our "How to Donate Guide".

### **MBS CONTACT INFORMATION**

Motor Bus Society II, Inc.  
PO Box 261  
Paramus, NJ 07653-0261

To send an e-mail, please direct your inquiry to one of the following e-mail addresses listed below.

[info@motorbussociety.org](mailto:info@motorbussociety.org) - For general inquiries regarding the Motor Bus Society

[membership@motorbussociety.org](mailto:membership@motorbussociety.org) - For inquiries regarding membership or membership renewals with the Motor Bus Society

[library@motorbussociety.org](mailto:library@motorbussociety.org) - For inquiries and for making donations of materials or collections to the Motor Bus Society Archives and for requesting back issues of our magazines: *Motor Coach Age* & *Motor Coach Today*.