

# The Streamliner

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## SUPER BOWL, SUPER CHARTER

Story by Roger DuPuis and Bill Monaghan, Jr.  
Pictures by Bill Monaghan, Jr.

The Friends of Philadelphia Trolleys (FPT) hosted its second Super Bowl Trolley charter on Sunday, March 15, 2026 using SEPTA Kawasaki LRV #9000 in its recreated 1980s paint scheme. This trip was postponed from February after a snow and ice storm that hit the Philadelphia area on January 25-26, 2026. To add something special for this trip, Michael Burkhart and John Gabriel applied black tape to the rub rails before the trip to give the car more of its original appearance.

The Super Bowl trip also ended up serving as Gary Mason's (pictured above) retirement trip after a 40-year career at SEPTA. Gary has always received many praises and compliments from his passengers for decorating trolleys for the holidays over the years. He has been decorating trolleys since 1993.

The trip departed the Callowhill Depot at 10:00 A.M., covering Route 15 (now known as G). There were about 20 quality photo stops with two of them having the chance to photograph trains in the background.

Proceeds from this trip will go to the restoration of Philadelphia Transportation Company's "Peter Witt" #8042 at Pennsylvania Trolley Museum. We thank everyone who participated in the trip and look forward to seeing you soon on the next excursion!



**IT'S DUES RENEWAL TIME!** The FPT membership year now runs from January 1 to December 31. Your dues support many projects. Won't you take a moment, complete the attached form and return it? *Thank you!*



*The Streamliner* is published by the Friends of Philadelphia Trolleys, a Pennsylvania non-profit corporation.

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The Friends of Philadelphia Trolleys encourage you to visit and support trolley museums dedicated to the preservation of Philadelphia's trolley heritage, including the following:

Baltimore Streetcar Museum

[www.baltimorestreetcarmuseum.org](http://www.baltimorestreetcarmuseum.org)

Electric City Trolley Museum Association

[www.ectma.org](http://www.ectma.org)

National Capital Trolley Museum

[www.dctrolley.org](http://www.dctrolley.org)

Newtown Square Railroad Museum

[www.newtownsquare railroadmuseum.org](http://www.newtownsquare railroadmuseum.org)

New York Museum of Transportation

[www.nymtmuseum.org](http://www.nymtmuseum.org)

Pennsylvania Trolley Museum

[www.pa-trolley.org](http://www.pa-trolley.org)

Rockhill Trolley Museum

[www.rockhilltrolley.org](http://www.rockhilltrolley.org)

Seashore Trolley Museum

[www.trolley museum.org](http://www.trolley museum.org)

Shore Line Trolley Museum

[www.shorelinetrolley.org](http://www.shorelinetrolley.org)

Have an article, suggestion or compliment you'd like to submit for the newsletter? Contact us via the e-mail address listed above.

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## WINTERFEST 2026

*By Matt Nawn and Bill Monaghan, Jr.  
Pictures Courtesy of Bill Monaghan, Jr.*

Winterfest is a gathering of staff and active volunteers from trolley museums throughout the Northeastern United States and Canada. This is a weekend of socializing, operating trolley cars under instruction and having fun. This year's event was hosted by the Pennsylvania Trolley Museum (PTM) in Washington, Pennsylvania. It included tours of the PTM's Trolley Display Building, Artifact Preservation Building and Restoration Shop.

It has become a Winterfest annual tradition that the hosting museum has unique equipment operating for participants. This year's the special treat was former Philadelphia's Market Frankford Line Car #606 operating from the recreated rapid transit platform in the Trolley Display Building out to the yard tracks. This was the first time Car #606 operated with a temporary trolley pole on the roof. Car #606 is seen (*next page*) in front of the Trolley Display Building on March 7, 2026.

In the picture above, PTM volunteer Steven Goehring is posed in front of the Market Frankford Line Car #606, during a night photo session at the trolley museum with LED lighting provided by Tom Pawlesh and Bill Monaghan on March 6, 2026.

A special round of thanks the Pennsylvania Trolley Museum volunteers and staff for hosting the 2026 Winterfest event! Even more pictures follow on the next page.





## SEPTA'S ISLAND AVENUE-EASTWICK LOOP IMPROVEMENT PROJECT UPDATE

*Story and Picture by Bill Monaghan, Jr.*

Route 36 has been substituted by buses from Elmwood Depot to Eastwick Loop on Island Avenue since May 2023, due to construction for the “Island Avenue Improvement Project.”

This project includes traffic signal improvements, roadway resurfacing and line striping. Also, the addition of grass medians and adjacent bicycle lanes, reconstruction of trolley platforms and intersection upgrades round out the project.

SEPTA operated a pilot car, #9108, on Island Avenue on March 26, 2026. In the picture above, LRV #9108 is at the new Island-Tanager station. SEPTA has announced on its website that this section of Route 36 (now known as T5) will reopen on Monday, May 24, 2026.



### A TALE OF TWO CARS:

AN UPDATE ON RED ARROW #73 AND PTC #8042

*By Jeanine DeBor, Executive Director/CEO*

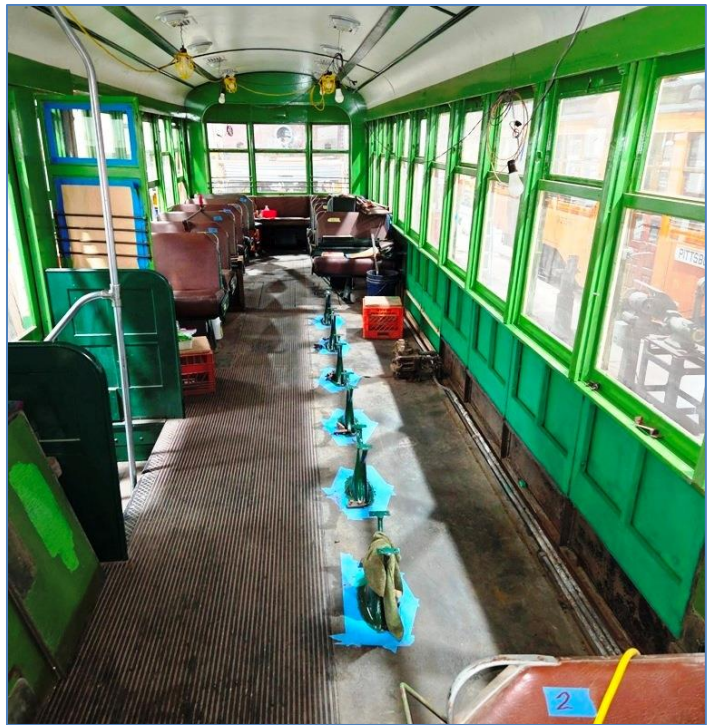
*Pennsylvania Trolley Museum and  
Bruce Wells (PTM)*

Pennsylvania Trolley Museum’s restoration shop continues to make steady progress on two Philadelphia streetcars, Red Arrow #73 and Philadelphia Transportation Company (PTC) #8042. Number 73s underside subfloor is being primed and painted; thanks to Michael Buchta; one center door stepwell has been rebuilt with the other nearing completion. The underside of the car has been completely rewired by volunteers Fred Cooley and Wayne Wicks, and the trucks are being rebuilt by Tim Gump and Bernie Orient.

Artie Ellis, using our LeBlond lathe donated by United Industrial Group, re-profiled the wheelsets. Please see video at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QMX3BOGxMQU>. Laura Wells has expertly fabricated an entire set of new window frames, including arched upper sash. The lift sash is being fitted for the brass hardware and is currently being painted with the exterior color on the end sash before glass is installed.

Work on PTC #8042 is coming along nicely. The seats, heaters, heater ducts and wall have been rebuilt on the blind side of the car through the efforts of Bruce Wells, Yousof Hamza, Jack Demnyan and Steve Iversen (visiting from the Illinois Railway Museum). The rear door pocket for the center doors was reassembled and the mechanism overhauled by Art Rizzino.

In the picture below, that's Michael Buchta, busy at work, welding a new stepwell. Below that, is Steve Iversen, expertly levelling the seats and frames.



The picture above shows the progress of #8042s interior. At one time, the PTC sought to “modernize” a number of these cars. Evidence of one aspect of the modernization project was the replacement of the original bare-bulb light fixtures with PCC-type “bullseye” lighting devices. The picture below illustrates the expert work done to restore the car’s windows. This requires disassembling the window glass, trim that holds glass and window frames. After a thorough stripping of old paint, all the wood is sanded, primed and painted in original colors. Once done, the reverse process is done to reassemble each window ... not an easy task.



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**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM**



**HELP PRESERVE PHILADELPHIA'S TROLLEY HERITAGE**

Check one:  New Member (Welcome!)  Renewal (Thanks for Renewing!)

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Additional Donation | \$_____  |
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Friends of Philadelphia Trolleys Inc. (FPT) is a non-profit corporation, as defined by Section 501 (3)(c) of the Internal Revenue Service Code. Since June 2005, the Friends of Philadelphia Trolleys has donated **more than \$250,000.00** towards the preservation of Philadelphia Trolleys in several museums.

**The membership year runs from January 1, 2026 to December 31, 2026.** The Friends of Philadelphia Trolleys sincerely thank you for your support!

†Your e-mail address is needed for you to receive *The Streamliner*, the FPT's newsletter. *FPT does not sell or share e-mail addresses.*