

# THE STREAMLINER

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## **SPECIAL EDITION:** **RESTORATION OF PCC #2168** **COMPLETED**



It's official – the restoration of former PTC/SEPTA PCC Car #2168, sponsored and managed by the Friends of Philadelphia Trolleys for the Baltimore Streetcar Museum, is completed! The car just glistens in its 1970s era orange and white “Gulf Oil” colors and today is a part of the operating fleet at BSM.

With the completion of the restoration work on #2168, which was FPT's original goal when the organization was founded in 2002, it is only appropriate to take a look back now at the preservation and restoration of this historic Philadelphia trolley car over the past five years.



***A dented, rusted, and tired PCC #2168 still wears its “Gulf Oil” colors on a 1985 fantrip. Car #2168 was the last SEPTA PCC car in service to wear these colors.***



***Fathers' Day, 2005 – A faded and rusty car #2168 is loaded for shipment to Baltimore Streetcar Museum. FPT donated \$4001 for acquisition and transportation of the car.***



***Fall 2005 - Initial rust treatment is applied.***



**2006 – Interior work progresses. All loose paint and scale was removed and the new paint was computer matched to the old. A faulty front door relay was replaced as well.**



**2007 – The interior work was far more than “just a paint job”. Advertising card racks were removed, the steel carlines were cleaned and preserved, and then the card racks were riveted back in place.**



**2007 – Progress accelerates as major steel repairs are performed on the roof. Paul Minnick welds in new steel in this photo.**



**2007 - Chuck Greene repaints card racks. Paul does metal work in the background.**



**2007 – This shot shows the extent of roof repairs in just one area.**



**2008 – Great progress! As part of the restoration project, the entire car was stripped to bare steel before additional body preparation work and priming.**



**2008 – The hired restoration crew of Paul and Mark reworks the right rear of the car to their satisfaction. Both men are professional automobile restorers whose attention to detail resulted in an outstanding finished product.**



**2008 – The car earned the nickname of “gray ghost” once priming was completed. Note that the marker lights have been removed for rechroming. An original style set of “cat’s eyes” taillight lenses were donated and installed. These were just a few of the many small details that were part of this outstanding restoration project.**



**2168**



**November 2008 – Working under the lights to keep the project moving.**



**January 2009 – The talented BSM shop crew fabricates new steel wheel spacers (a.k.a. “donuts”) and new bolts to facilitate the regauging of the car to Baltimore streetcar gauge.**



**January 2009 – The first test truck is regauged. The regauging of #2168 soon followed.**



*Summer 2009 – This photo speaks for itself.*



*Among the many finishing touches was new glass. Thanks to all FPT members who purchased new standee windows during the “buy a window” campaign last year. When the time came to install them, it was decided that the old rubber would not be suitable and that we needed to have professionals install the new rubber. Also replaced were the front destination sign glass and the rear windows. This was not in the original plans, but was a worthwhile addition to the final expenses. Many thanks to all FPT members who contributed \$1000.00 to this final touch. Replacement standee windows were also purchased for PCC #2743 at the same time.*



*2009 – Making the car run as good as it looks. In late 2008, it was discovered that the car’s GE KM motor controller had several damaged resistor elements and a hole burned into its commutator. Over a several month period, the old KM was removed and parts were combined with a KM in BSM’s spare parts inventory to assemble a good replacement KM. Following installation and testing, additional preventative maintenance work was performed on the car’s control system. Here, FPT members Matt Nawn & Bill Monaghan check out the replacement GE controller from which parts were taken to repair 2168’s controller.*



**August 22, 2009 – Nothing like beating a deadline. With the dedication ceremony of the restored #2168 set for September 12, the project to assemble a replacement KM motor controller became critical. In this scene, Ed Amrhein, Matthew Mummert, and John LaCosta (operating) pose with #2168 returning from its first test trip. The car now truly ran as good as it looked.**



**September 12, 2009 – Dedication Day at Baltimore Streetcar Museum during the museum's annual "Members' Day".**



**Among the festivities on September 12 was a PCC car "race" between BTC #7407 and SEPTA #2168. Adding to the celebration of that day was the completion of a large section of double tracking by BSM volunteers as well as the return of #7407 to operable condition in the weeks preceding the event.**



**Cars #2168 and #7407 proved to be a very photogenic combination.**



**FPT leadership poses proudly with #2168 on the day of her rollout. From left to right: Dave Nelson, FPT Legal Counsel; Dave Horwitz, Matt Nawn, Harry Donahue, and Bill Monaghan, FPT Founding Members.**



**Yet another reason to celebrate on September 12 was the rollout of former SEPTA "Tower Car" PCC #2187 in special red and tan colors and beautiful BSM logos and lettering. BSM's overhead crew has been using the car for overhead wire work while some remaining electrical problems are resolved.**



**There were many, many dedicated friends and volunteers who gave thousands of hours to see car #2168 restored to a condition not seen since 1948. However, it is only fitting to recognize the individual who "piloted" the project from concept through to completion and, hands down, is the best friend that PCC #2168 ever had. Thank you, Harry Donahue, for turning a dream into reality. Generations to come stand to benefit from your labors.**

### **DUES RENEWAL REMINDER**

Just a friendly reminder in case you forgot to mail in your 2009/2010 dues. FPT is able to support these worthy projects because of your ongoing support. If you forgot, can you take a minute or two to mail in your renewal? A form is attached at the end of this newsletter. Thank you for your support! We apologize for the delay on getting out the current membership cards.

**FPT would like to thank those members who have donated funds in the last few months. Because of these generous folks,**

**FPT was able to make the final payment on the completion of 2168's restoration. These members gave a total of \$4025.00.**

Steve Perrson	Mike Greene
Julian Frasier	Jack Mowbray
Joe Lance	Ray Cannon
George Johannesen	Tom Lochhead
Dennis Linsky	Ken Potts
Burton Eisenburg	Paul Rittershoff
Dale Rothenberger	James Liddle
Tom Moran	Harry Donahue
Ben Bates	Jerry Kelly
Matthew Mummert	Martin Van Horn
Chuck Greene	Matt Nawn
Peter Gentieu	Walt Daniels
Bill Keigher	Al Achert
Anonymous	

**Many thanks to all who helped with this great project! If we missed anyone on this list, please let us know and we will correct our oversight immediately.**

**Now it's on to PCC #2743 at Rockhill Trolley Museum!**

**FRIENDS OF PHILADELPHIA TROLLEYS will again sponsor the annual New Year's Eve trolley on Thursday December 31.**

PCC-II will depart from the Rt 10's 63-Malvern loop at 10.00PM, returning around 2.00 AM on Jan 1. Routing TBA, but we hope to cover parts of all six city trolley lines.

Fare is \$40.00, with all proceeds going to FPT's next major project, the repainting of Rockhill Trolley Museum's PCC #2743 into 1959 vintage PTC green & cream.

Snacks and drinks will be available on the car.

To reserve a seat, please mail check, made payable to: **FPT, Inc.,**  
**Please mail to:**  
 Harry Donahue  
 103 Mulberry Court  
 Morgantown, PA 19543

**Need more info? Contact:**  
[had2709@aol.com](mailto:had2709@aol.com)

THE STREAMLINER is published by the Friends of Philadelphia Trolleys, a Pennsylvania non-profit corporation.

**FPT Founding Members:**

Harry Donahue, Dave Horwitz, Bill Monaghan, Matt Nawn

FPT *Streamliner* Editor: Matt Nawn

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Mailing Address: P.O. Box 33397, Philadelphia PA 19142-0397

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  
<http://www.baltimorestreetcar.org/>
- Pennsylvania Trolley Museum  
<http://www.pa-trolley.org/>
- Rockhill Trolley Museum  
[www.rockhilltrolley.org](http://www.rockhilltrolley.org)
- Seashore Trolley Museum  
<http://www.trolley museum.org/>
- New York Museum of Transportation  
<http://www.nymtmuseum.org/>
- Shore Line Trolley Museum  
<http://www.bera.org>
- Electric City Trolley Museum Association  
<http://www.ectma.org/>

**NEXT ISSUE OF THE STREAMLINER IS IN THE WORKS!**

We're happy to report that the next issue of *The Streamliner* is already being compiled. The next issue will report on the San Francisco trip sponsored by FPT in August 2009, a report on the forthcoming New Year's Eve fantrip, and an update on #2743 at Rockhill Trolley Museum. Thanks for your patience and support. We are accomplishing great things with your help!



*FPT wishes all of its members and friends a very happy and healthy holiday season and best wishes for 2010.*



*As a final wrap up to the restoration of PCC #2168, we present this photo taken approximately 15 years ago of a fantrip on Erie Avenue with #2168 and a rather unusual observer. Your editor cannot offer an explanation as to how or why the rooster was there, but as the #2168 restoration concludes, we all can be happy that #2168 did not end up being "put out to pasture."*

**FRIENDS OF PHILADELPHIA  
TROLLEYS, INC  
P.O. BOX 33397  
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19142-0397  
Annual Membership Renewal**



**HELP PRESERVE PHILADELPHIA'S TROLLEY HERITAGE**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Member # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

***I hereby apply for the class of Annual Membership in FRIENDS OF PHILADELPHIA TROLLEYS, INC and enclose the current dues:***

- ( ) Regular.....\$35.00
- ( ) Student under 18.....\$15.00
- ( ) Retired over 60.....\$25.00
- ( ) Life member.....\$500.00
- ( ) Additional Donation...\_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed....\_\_\_\_\_



***Please make check payable to: Friends of Philadelphia Trolleys, Inc.***

***Dues should be send to: P.O. Box 33397 Philadelphia, PA 19142***

***FPT is a non profit corporation. Since June, 2005 FPT has given \$41,000 towards the preservation of 3 Philadelphia Trolleys including the restoration of PCC 2168 at the Baltimore Streetcar Museum and the upcoming repainting of PCC 2743 at the Rockhill Trolley Museum.***

***Memberships run from July 1 to the following June 30.  
FPT thanks you for your support!!!!***



**FPT COMMEMORATIVE TEE SHIRTS**

Our newest in the series of Philadelphia area trolley tees is PCC 2168 in the 1970's "Gulf Oil colors!"

The restoration of this car was funded by FPT, and it is now in operation at the Baltimore Streetcar Museum.



FRIENDS OF PHILADELPHIA TROLLEYS



BALTIMORE STREETCAR MUSEUM  
FRIENDS OF PHILADELPHIA TROLLEYS



BALTIMORE STREETCAR MUSEUM  
FRIENDS OF PHILADELPHIA TROLLEYS

The shirts may be ordered with a grey, blue or orange background

**Prices include shipping and handling\*\*\***

- 1 shirt....\$21.00
- 2 shirts....\$38.00
- 3 shirts....\$56.00
- 4 shirts....\$74.00

Please indicate the number of shirts and the background color:

\_\_\_ S \_\_\_ M \_\_\_ L \_\_\_ XL \_\_\_ 2XX \_\_\_ 3XXX

\_\_\_ grey \_\_\_ blue \_\_\_ orange

Send check, made out to ***FPT, Inc*** to:

Harry Donahue, 103 Mulberry Court, Morgantown, PA 19543

Ship to:  
 Name \_\_\_\_\_ FPT member # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ zip \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*FPT members deduct 10% from the total