

PROJECT MAINE

A Newsletter of the **Maine Chapter, Project Management Institute**

MAY 2003

<http://www.pmimaine.org/>

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Train a long time coming

May 14 PMI Maine program: Portland-Boston Downeaster a winner, but it wasn't easy

Amtrak's Downeaster, the regular passenger rail service between Portland and Boston, is a successful fact of life today. Getting the service going was, however, was a long, difficult project.

"Do you realize it has taken longer to get this train here – 13 years – than it took to build the first transcontinental railroad during the Civil War?" That question, asked at the opening dedication of the line in December 2001, makes the point. Now the Downeaster, the nation's newest passenger corridor, could be a model for future state-supported passenger runs.

You'll discover why that is so at the May 14 meeting of PMI Maine at Wright Express in South Portland. Wayne Davis, president of Trainriders/Northeast, will tell the inside story of the citizen organization's unrelenting tenacity in making the Downeaster happen.

Davis also will discuss lessons learned and the future of rail transportation in Maine. The Downeaster is considered a prototype that works in spite of the numerous obstacles it faced – problems its supporters say never would have arisen had the service rolled on rubber tires or flown through air.

Wayne E. Davis is chairman and a founding member of TrainRiders/Northeast, a nonprofit educational corporation of more than 1,300 members formed in June 1989 to bring Amtrak passenger rail service to Maine as the first step in expanding Amtrak in northern New England.

Davis has worked with local, state and federal transportation officials and the New England congressional delegation, as well as Amtrak officials, in securing federal

***Project took longer than building
the first transcontinental railroad.***

grants of \$63 million for right-of-way improvements and \$20 in equipment. He has been active in numerous regional and national rail organizations and efforts.

Before his fulltime volunteer work for Trainriders, Davis was an executive and educator in banking and finance in Maine for 30 years.

The May 14 PMI Maine meeting site is the Wright Express campus on Darling Avenue in South Portland. Directions are at pmimaine.org/meetings.htm. Registration, networking and a buffet are at 5:30 p.m., a brief business session is at 6, and the 90-minute program begins at 6:30.

Nonmembers are welcome.

Project of the Year launch a success

PMI Maine's first Project of the Year competition was completed successfully with an awards program April 17, in which two co-winners were honored and two other projects were awarded certificates for Distinction in Project Management.

Cianbro Corp. received top honors for its work on the Portland International Jetport parking garage; and Shalom House for its development of Brannigan House, an innovative residence in Portland for people living with mental illness.

The competition was for projects completed in 2002. A panel of judges from management, engineering, information technology and social service considered a final field of eight projects. PMI Maine has suggested projects can occur in a wide variety of fields, including health care, economic development, information

technology, social service, marketing, education, business, change management, government, construction and manufacturing and service industries.

Besides the two Project of the Year winners, two projects earned the designation Distinction in Project Management. Those are the Anthem Consolidated East System of Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield; and the Rand Road Interchange (Maine Turnpike Exit 7B) by HNTB Corp.

The chapter decided to develop the Project of the Year competition as an original project, without linking it to the international organization's Project of the Year program. The Maine project team concluded that its circumstances called for encouraging broad participation

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Project of the Year competition completes first run

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in an area not fully familiar with project management.

The purpose of the PMI Maine effort, in fact, is to create public knowledge of project management as an effective methodology. For that reason, the rules and management of the Maine project were designed to draw the greatest possible participation, rather than winnow down the field. The project team did use the international rules as one of its information sources.

The Maine Project of the Year 2002 project team included Jim Milliken, project leader; Steve MacIsaac, Bob Laliberte and Jim Stevens. All are PMPs and members of PMI Maine. Chapter member Eva Polisner, PMP, was an early contributor to the project, and served as a judge panel.

A post-operations review of the initial POY competition will be conducted during the chapter's annual Strategic Planning meeting June 12, and planning for next year will begin.

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Chapter Strategic Planning scheduled for June 12

PMI Maine will hold its annual Strategic Planning session June 12 in connection with a year-end dinner on Peaks Island.

The chapter board of directors will gather at 5:30 p.m. Interested members are welcome, but should register with President Steve MacIsaac at 766-5514 or stevo1945@worldnet.att.net

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