



TrainRiders
NORTHEAST

Changing the way the Northeast travels

Founded in 1989

Welcome Aboard – you are riding today in a dome car that’s 15 feet, 10 inches tall.

This Great Dome Car was built by the Budd Company of Philadelphia in 1955 for the Great Northern Railroad for \$325,000.00 – which would be equivalent to about \$2.7 million in today’s dollars.

The Great Northern Railroad – later the Burlington Northern Railroad – named this car the “Ocean View” and ran it on their most famous train, the “Empire Builder”, operating between Chicago and Seattle. (AMTRAK still operates an Empire Builder train over the same route today.)

When Amtrak came into existence in 1971, this Great Dome Car, number 10031 was used on the Auto Train between Washington, D.C. and Sanford, Florida – near Orlando. The Great Dome Car was restored in 1985 and again in 1999.

This car was later used on the route between Los Angeles and San Diego – then the “San Diegan” service - now called the “Pacific Surfliner service”. This dome car has been used in various other Amtrak services since then, including Amtrak’s Adirondack” operating between Albany, NY and Montreal.

Before its arrival here this year, it was on Amtrak’s “Pacific Surfliner service” between San Luis Obispo and San Diego during most of this summer.

This car had never operated anywhere in New England until its addition to our Downeaster in August & September of 2016. We’re pleased to have the Great Dome car back on the Downeaster this year until September 24th and we have the folks at NNEPRA to thank for arranging with Amtrak once again for the temporary Assignment of this Great Dome Car on the Downeaster.

We hope you’ve enjoyed this bit of railroad history and thank you for riding Amtrak’s Downeaster service.