



The Semaphore

Newsletter of the Rochester NY Chapter, NRHS
P.O. Box 23326, Rochester, NY 14692-3326; Published Monthly

December 2006
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Program for Dec 21:

Depots in New York State

by Charles Woolever

Charles has spent many years tracking down and documenting the many railroad stations in New York State. He will present some of his findings in this program. For those he doesn't talk about are probably on his website:

<http://ny.existingstations.com>.

Also see article by John Stewart for more background >>>>.

Meeting: 7:30 PM

Program: follow

Stores: Open before meeting and at intermission.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

For the Record:

The announced November program (American Orient Express, Ltd.) was not presented.

In its place, Chris Hauf showed slides and videos that he took while being a guest on the Luca's *Federal* private car going to Albany area, Canadian border and then to Steamtown for the American Association of Private Railroad Cars convention. [Now how many of us are in envy?]

Future Programs (Subject to change!)

2007

Jan. 18: *Gold Coast and Danbury RR Museums*, by Harold Russell

Feb. 15: *RPO Car Operation*, by Chris Hauf

Mar. 15: *Member's Slide Night*

Chapter Library

Because of all the activities that many members are involved with the approaching holidays:

The Library will NOT be open in December.

Existing Railroad Stations in NY State

By John Stewart

It has been ten years since I first became acquainted with Charles Woolever and his Existing Railroad Stations in NY State web site. At that time Charles was living in the Binghamton area and I had just moved back to Rochester.

Charles was undertaking a project to document every existing railroad station in the State of New York. That is no small feat in a state with 61 counties, and many of the rail lines long since removed. To complicate matters, many stations have been relocated or substantially altered.

Through a network of people located around the state, Charles has put together a great resource for those interested in local and railroad history.

The site is organized by county, so it is easy to find if a station has been documented. Once you find your county, the railroads are listed in alphabetical order. Each existing station includes a photo, information on its construction, and whether it was used for freight or passenger service.

Since its inception, Charles has maintained a high standard for historical accuracy. You can visit it at: <http://ny.existingstations.com>

E-Bay Sales Site

by John Stewart

The Chapter has launched its own e-Bay sales site under the Seller ID of "rochnrhs". The purpose of this site is to provide an additional sales outlet for the Chapter. This will reach a very large audience, which will mean more sales opportunities and higher profit.

To date, all material sold on the site has been donated expressly for the purpose of getting our site up and running. Nothing has come from our collections or archives. We are currently offering copies of *Vanishing American* DVD. Soon we will begin listing our R&GVRM brakeman lanterns and reproduction BR&P caboose marker light brackets.

Locomotive Battery Fund Drive - Update

by John Redden

Our members have come through again, with some very generous donations for our locomotive battery fund drive. In October and November of this year, we asked for cash donations in order to replace a portion of the batteries in the locomotive 1843. At this writing, over twenty of our members have either pledged or donated cash gifts to our Chapter, in order to allow us to purchase a half-set of these rather expensive batteries. It appears likely that we will exceed our goal, and might be able to buy about three-quarters of a set of batteries for this unit (approximately six batteries).

At this time of year, we often take some time to sit back and reflect on our many blessings. As this is written, Thanksgiving is just a week behind us, and I can say that the generosity of our members makes me most thankful. On behalf of the Motive Power Department, the Rochester & Genesee Valley Railroad Museum, and the Rochester Chapter, please accept our sincere "Thank you" for your continued support.

In the future the Collections Management Committee may elect to use this as a vehicle to dispose of material deemed to be surplus, or not related to our core collections. The Chapter may also choose to develop products specifically for sale through this channel.

After I sent out the email to the Volunteers list, I received feedback from several people about offering items to the membership first. This is always a possibility, but it raises questions as to whether sales have been handled in an open forum and whether we have received fair value.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at rgvrr@363.com. Thank You

Wishing Everyone Safe and Joyous Holidays

Year End Tax Planning - A Time for Considerations

by Rand Warner

Give some careful consideration to our Rochester Chapter as you consider will, legacies, bequests, trusts, foundations, endowments, appreciated securities, Gifts, Recognition, Memorials, Designated Gifts, Challenge Gifts or Grants, Matching Grants, Underwriting of on going maintenance, Capital Improvement projects, Underwriting Rehabs/Restoration/Upgrades, Support to Excursion Trainset/motive power, Land use/Acquisition, or any of our many committed cash funds for projects. Consult your attorney, tax preparer, or financial advisor for advice.

NATIONAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT

By Bob Miner

I attended the Fall NRHS Board of directors meeting on November 12, 2006. It was held in Huntsville Alabama and sponsored by the North Alabama Chapter. The big topic for discussion was the late National Bulletins and the late and incorrect National Dues renewal notices and member cards.

The cause of all of Nationals troubles is very lengthy and complicated. It all centers around the fact that the NRHS is an all volunteer organization. That is, with the exception of one paid office person. All but the printing and mailing is done by volunteers. The text is typed and the photos are scanned into the computer to produce press ready copy for the printer. There were three people doing the bulletins and another just to do the Annual Society Activities Bulletin. They got their work out OK but problems developed with the printers and mailing contractors. Then two of the volunteers were unable to continue helping. Today there is enough material to publish 6 bulletins but no one to do the composing and scanning.

Several years ago a volunteer offered to write a program to better handle the membership records. This would allow for easier and faster production of dues renewal billing and better statistical information. After two years and a system which seemed to work the volunteer had to quit. Last years dues notices had to be produced by volunteers and the paid office person who had little knowledge of the new system. Today the office volunteers had the dues notices ready and sent them to the contractor for assembly and mailing on time. The contractor subcontracted cutting the membership cards and that

Capital Fund Drive

by Jessica Stallone

The Chapter is hard at work completing our restoration building complex and the new excursion set siding at the museum. Our dedicated volunteers have already made significant progress on the building and connecting trackage, but work on the siding to the west of the LA&L is just beginning. We need your continued support to complete these projects in time for the 2007 operating season. Send your donations, made out to Rochester Chapter, NRHS, to Don Wawrzyniak, 471 Cedarwood Terrace, Rochester, NY

Thank you for making these projects possible.

did not get done on time. So the renewal notices are 3 weeks late. Why can't the contractors get things out on time? Only a large contract firm is able to do the job National needs done. Nationals job is a small part of their business so they don't give it priority.

Please don't jump to conclusions by what I have stated above. I do not have all the facts I only am trying to give you a feel for what National is facing. . National still is, getting renewal notices out, running Rail Camp, running the library, scheduling conventions, preserving films, coordinating Operation Lifesaver and other things.

Volunteers at the National level has declined. Volunteers qualified to handle the work cannot be found. Therefore the Officers and Directors have concluded that National must change how it does business. They will change from business as a railroad to business as a nonprofit. You thought they already are nonprofit. Well they are, but haven't thought like one. There are management firms that specialize in working for non-profits. They have a staff that handles many non-profits so the cost of a computer system ETC. is spread over many organizations. For instance they can handle membership. They send out notices, receive the dues and keep the records. They can take the content for the bulletins and get them printed and mailed.

The National officers are very dedicated and hard working. The are committed to

Contributors to this issue

Bob Achilles, Harold Crouch, Chris Hauf, Chris Hausler, Richard Palmer, John Redden, Charles Robinson, Harold Russell, Jessica Stallone, John Stewart, and Rand Warner and various publications as indicated.

Membership Report

Jessica Stallone, Chairperson
membership@rochnrhs.org

Please welcome our new members:

Kevin Miller, Pittsford, NY

Alvin Leslie Emens, Webster, NY

David M. Spengler, Rochester, NY

Matthew Alfes, Blasdell, NY

Stewart added his son, David, as a family member and changed his address:

Stewart, Patricia & David Anderson
5003 Anderson Rd.

Groveland, NY 14462-9714

Due Notices have been mailed!

You should have received your membership renewal by now. Please take the time to renew your membership for the 2007 year. Donations are greatly appreciated and can be added in with your membership dues payment when you renew. Be sure to return your renewal by December 31, 1006 so that your tax deductible donation will count or the 2006 year.

If you have any questions, please contact Jessica at the above stated e-mail address.

Chapter & National dues

Regular: \$42.00

First family member: \$11.00

Additional family members: \$4.00 each

Local member: \$20.00 (Primary membership in another Chapter)

Subscription to *The Semaphore* only: \$10

Chapter's 2007 Calendars

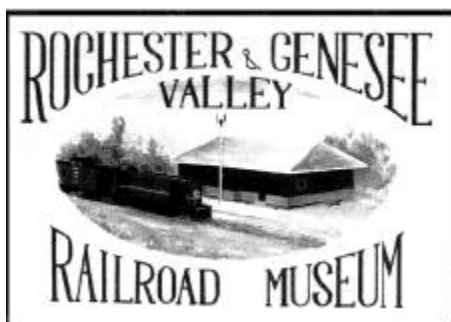
The 2007 Chapter calendar contains full color photographs of the various cars that operated on the Rochester Subway.

The views are the same as in the 2006 calendar; but the calendar dates are for 2007.

The calendar is available by mail at \$15.00 plus \$2.00 shipping and handling. Send order to: Calendar, Rochester Chapter, NRHS, PO Box 23326, Rochester, NY, 14692-3326. Make check payable to Rochester Chapter, NRHS.

It is also available for our Stores at meetings with a membership discount.

Merry
Christmas



Motive Power Report

by John Redden

Gasoline Locomotives:

Plymouth BL: Progress on our Plymouth locomotive continues. A new control and instrument panel is being fabricated. This will have gauges to monitor the health of the Buda engine as well as controls for headlights and cab lights that will eventually be added to the locomotive. An oil bath air cleaner that was recycled from some surplus equipment has been cleaned up and repainted. A mounting for the air cleaner has been fabricated and attached to the engine. Sheet metal to cover the cab roof, engine canopy top and cab sides has been ordered. This will further complete the exterior of the locomotive.

TrackMobs TM-2: Don Pohler, Rand Warner, Bob Mader and Norm Shaddick performed tune-up work on the Trackmobile TM-2. With a little more work, this will be placed back in service for light-duty switching around the shop.

Diesels:

For the second month in a row, our two trusty **GE 80-ton center cab locomotives** were called upon to perform some work for us. This month, we went up to the West side of the NYMT Loop, and retrieved a total of four freight cars plus one caboose. Since we did not have a practical way to break up the train, we took it all at once, through the Loop Switch, and over the very steep grade to the south. We believe that this was the longest and heaviest train, ever to traverse this section of track (two eighty tonners, and five cars, for a total of more than 300 tons). It's a tribute to our train crews, our Motive Power volunteers, and the continued good work of our track gangs, that this movement came off without a problem.

The **RG&E 1941** had more work performed by the team of Luther Brefo and Joe Nugent. They have taken on the task of removing the paint from the cab ceiling of this loco. For those that haven't seen it, this engine has had many coats of paint applied

Managers:

Railroad: (Motive, Rolling stock, MOW, ROW)

Chris Hauf: 381-8583; crhauf@frontiernet.net

Infrastructure: (Buildings, grounds, shops, construction, communications, signals & power, heavy equipment)

Dave Luca: 288-0318; daveluca@frontiernet.net

in the cab over the years, and these various layers of paint have dried up, pealed, and partially fallen off. Luther and Joe have done some great work, in very unpleasant conditions, using a needle scaler to remove this loose paint, on the ceiling. Most of the cab ceiling has now been stripped, thanks to their willingness to do this tedious, messy job.

Norm Shaddick serviced the batteries on the 1843 this month. He also drained water from the fuel sump of the EK-6.

The seven battery chargers that we now have in service, one for each diesel, were checked out for proper operation by John Redden.

Steam:

Dave Chapus and John Redden have removed more paint from the cab of the #12, on a Tuesday evening. Dave Luca moved three switch timbers up to the Building. These timbers are almost precisely the correct size for the front pilot beam on the 12. They will be trimmed and fitted to the front of the locomotive in the coming months.

Thanks to: All of our Motive Power Volunteers, and also to Kevin Klees and

Machine shop news:

by John Redden

We have even more great news to report in the area of tools for our machine shop. During the month of November, the team of Kevin Klees and Jim Johnson have the Do-All metal cutting bandsaw in operation! This machine was donated by Rochester Institute of Technology several years ago, with the assistance of Ron Amberger. This month, Kevin made some mechanical repairs, and Jim Johnson performed the electrical hookup, as well as making some internal wiring repairs.

Thanks to our multi-talented team, we have another very useful piece of equipment in operation. In fact, we have late-breaking news that it was already put into service, helping to make a mount for the air-cleaner on the Plymouth locomotive.

Returnable cans can help Steam Fund

You can help turn returnable cans into cash for our steam fund by donating them to the Chapter **any time**. There is a receptacle in the Baggage Room at the Museum.

Library Report

by Charles Robinson, Chairman

There will be **no** library open hours for general use during December because the usual schedule interferes with the holiday. This is a practice that we have been following in the years past. However it is expected the staff will continue working in the library during Monday afternoons between 2 and 4 PM.

Unfortunately the heating system for the library quit working. Thanks to Bob Miner, who took care of the problem, the library is now being heated properly and all are comfortable inside. The cost of the repairs was shared by members of the library staff thus the Chapter wound up being reimbursed for the charges; Gale Smith paid for over half of the bill.

Jerry Gillette and the library chairman have finished a reasonably complete inventory of the library that includes the size of the bookcases, the shelf length of the various categories of books and of the different kinds of periodicals. A preliminary estimate of the number of Banker's boxes that would store all this material has been made. The library chairman still has to complete the report on this project so we will have some idea of our difficulties in moving or storing the library contents.

Jerry Gillette and the library chairman have returned to reducing the number of slides in the Dick Barrett collection. Permission to do this has been granted by Dick's wife Nancy Barrett. We are attempting to retain all the reasonably exposed rail scenes and deleting those of scenery and other non-rail shots. Gale Smith continues with his assigning call numbers and enrolling newly donated books into our collection.

We will be seeing you at the library in January.

Steam Team Meets

This team meets the first Saturday of each month. Anyone interested in 'steamers' is invited to attend. For information, contact John Redden at ejredden@frontiernet.net.

Major Progress on Many Fronts

by Rand Warner

Early November saw a huge amount of very fruitful efforts in a large number of areas:

- New stairway entrance for Tool Car completed by Dan Waterstraat.
- Plymouth BL critter switcher runs and moves on test track - Kevin Klees
- A five car freight train was moved down from NYMT to just north of Switch #6 using two diesels - John Redden & Co.
- Jackson Tamper roof painted - Chris Hauf
- Speeders moved for winter rehab to Restoration Building and proximity - Dave Luca & Co.
- Do-All bandsaw put in operation by Kevin Klees and Jim Johnson.
- Work on roadbed preparation for Switch #7 by Dave Luca and crew.
- Diesel locomotives relocated for winter by John Redden & Co.
- Radiator pulled for TC-3 by Bob Mader so it can be repaired.
- Erie Depot (Station 'VE') goes world wide on Internet telegraph hookup by Chris Hausler.
- More work on RG&E #1941 cab interior by Joe Nugent and Luther Brefo.
- New-to-us Caterpillar D-6 dozer arrives on site.

Hats Off to Some More Unsung Heroes

by Rand Warner

Our salesman of this month and last month and many other months: **Joe Scanlon**, who continues to do an amazing job of selling all kinds of surplus equipment for us, to the monetary benefit of our R&GVRM!

To our behind the scenes fund raiser: **Lynn Heintz**, who keeps coming up with cash flow projects to aid and abet our many ongoing restoration activities!

To the one guy who really makes the rubber meet the road, or the crawler tracks, etc., as the case may require: **Art Mummery**, who works constantly and diligently and smartly to keep all our many pieces of heavy construction equipment in good operable condition for our many

Possible Rail Oriented Themes for Our R&GVRM/NYMT Visitors

by Rand Warner

There are more and more possibilities emerging as our two sister museums add to their operating equipment and infrastructure:

- Railway Mail Services: Trolleys and RPO cars for postal services.
- Railway Express Agency: Rail Cars and REA truck for parcel express.
- Factory to You: Box, flat and gondola cars for manufactured products.
- Farm to Market: Reefers for fruits, vegetables and slaughtered meats.
- Mine to Mill: Hopper and gondola cars for coal and ores.
- Forest to Sawmill: Flat cars and log bunks for lumber and logs.
- Well to You: Tank cars for water and petroleum products.
- Bank to Kiln: Hoppers and gondolas for stone, sand and other aggregates.
- Products to Stores: Box cars for consumer/commercial/industrial goods.
- Where's the Beef: Cattle car for cattle on the hoof (from BOCESS?)
- Cow to Consumer: Trolleys and milk cars for milk cans to creameries.

Some of these can be demonstrated now, and others would require future equipment.

Anniversaries

by Rand Warner

25th Anniversary of acquisition of our first locomotive, center cab GE 80-ton #6 from Kodak Park Railroad in 1981.

35th Anniversary of acquisition of our Erie RR Depot for \$1 from Erie Railroad Co. in 1971.

30th Anniversary of first track construction at our Museum site: Track #1 now containing flat car and tool car.

65th Anniversary of the Empire State Express cars that went into NYC service on December 7, 1941.

2007:

15th Anniversary of joining of trackage connecting R&GV RM and NYMT in 2007.

70th Anniversary of formation of Rochester Chapter NRHS - the 5th Chapter in USA at the time. We are 4th oldest NRHS Chapter.

ESE Cars Update

by Bob Achilles

Work on our fleet of *Empire State Express* passenger cars located in Newark has wound down for the winter. We finished watering the batteries in the three remaining cars with thanks to all who brought in distilled water. Also more work has been done to re-qualify the brakes. That work will be resumed in the spring. There is a lot more work yet to be done to make the cars fully usable including a major cleanup and more window replacement.

Look for information on those jobs in future issues of *The Semaphore*.

NRHS National Statistics (From October 2006 "NRHS News")

by Rand Warner

There are now 174 Chapters worldwide and 16,800 members worldwide.

Rochester Rail Transportation in the Media

by Rand Warner

Did you see the letter to the Editor in the Friday, Sept. issue of Rochester's *Democrat and Chronicle* regarding the need for competitive rail and truck transportation in the Rochester area?

This article, by Doug Midkiff who spent 29 years with Eastman Kodak as a transportation manager, highlighted our Rochester area shortlines, including Falls Road Railroad, Livonia Avon & Lakeville Railroad family, Rochester & Southern, and Finger Lakes Railroad.

Quiz:

How many states were served by the New Jersey, Indiana & Illinois Railroad? [Thanks to *Midwest Rail Scene Report* via *Tower Topics*, Dec. 2006, Pg. 16]

Answer on Page 7.

Shows, etc.

2007

Jan. 27-28: *Amherst Railway Society Big Railroad Hobby Show*, Eastern States Exposition Grdounds, West Springfield, MA Info: www.AmherstRail.org *

March 10-11: *Rochester Model Railroad Club Annual Show*, First Universalist Church, 150 Clinton Ave South; Sat: 10-5; Sun. 1-5 *

March 10-11: *Greenberg's Great Train Expo*, Dome Center, Henrietta, NY *

[* Ref: *Rochester Model Rails*, Dec. 2006]

Happy Hanukkah

Reaching New Potential Visitors and/or Volunteers

by Rand Warner

It is a well known fact that in the USA most people are moving on average every five years. This is both a challenge and an opportunity for organizations such as NRHS/R&GVRM.

From a challenge standpoint, we must replace members/volunteers who move out of town and off our membership rolls.

From an opportunity standpoint, new people moving into the Rochester area can be, potentially, new visitors, new members and new volunteers

When people move into a new area they will typically be looking for jobs, housing, furnishings, services, recreation, education, entertainment, and cultural enhancements.

We can satisfy, at least in part, recreation, education, entertainment and cultural needs but only if we can reach these new people.

That is where our formal and informally publicity and public relations efforts come in: formally by our Publicity & Public Relations Committee, and informally by all the rest of us — meetings, word of mouth, e-mail, handing out brochures, putting up notices and posters, talking to newcomers on the job, at church, on our street, etc. We are all part of the equation.

Turning Excess Clutter into Excess Cash

by Rand Warner

With the advent of the Internet and e-Bay and other forms of electronic/digital selling, marketing and transactions, we now have the possibility of more easily raising cash for the Chapter from surplus/unneeded items.

What do we have that we don't need/no longer need/never needed - that could be turned into cash for our gain?

It might be equipment, tools, supplies, materials, skills, services, rentals, scarp metal/paper/plastic/solids/liquids, publications, periodicals, newsletters, books, tapes, CDs, records — you name it. We probably have it somewhere.

So put your creative thinking caps on and talk to or write to/phone/fax or e-mail one of our museum managers or Chapter officers with our ideas, to keep that *cash flow rolling inward*.

[See "E-Bay Sales Site" on Page 1.]

Mystery photo revealed

by Bob Achilles

Well, how did you do with last month's mystery photo?

[Ed. Plans were to reprint the undoctored photo, but the deleted two details did now show well in the scans. This doctored photo is being reprinted with the hope that Bob's other comments will be visible. Also there was problems in printing the November issue.]

The two small changes were: First the tower number showed and the East Rochester lettering on the water tower was faintly visible. Thanks to Chris Hauf for electronically erasing those to make it a little harder for you to identify the location. This view was taken just west of Washington Street in East Rochester looking east on the New York Central main line.

Of particular note is the fact that this photo was taken in 1953 when Washington Street was being changed from a grade crossing to an underpass. If you look

carefully you can see two grade crossings and two grade crossing watchman shanties. The first grade crossing and shanty are Washington Street. The second grade crossing and shanty are for a temporary crossing to be used while the underpass was being constructed. It was located approximately where Maple Street is today. Also if you look up in the trees to the right you will see a workman doing some preparatory work on the overhead wires in the area. And lastly the switch in the right foreground was for a siding that led into the Piano Works.

We are also showing a photo that was taken from the tower again looking east. An L3a Mohawk is leading train #8 heading west toward Rochester and beyond. Today the freight station in the background is Despatch Junction, a model railroad hobby shop. Our thanks to member Bill Chapin, who took these photos, for loaning them to us.

Next month we will feature another chapter member and a steam locomotive, stay



More Information on Norwood & St. Lawrence Locomotive #210 pictured in the November issue.

In Regards to Norwood & St. Lawrence Locomotive #210

by Harold Crouch

Back in the Spring of 1947, I was working with the Chief Boiler Inspector, Tony Desorbo by name, when N&St.L locomotive #210 came into shop "D" at New York Central's West Albany steam locomotive back shop for an overhaul. The railroad had a policy of overhauling short lines locomotive that interchanged with NYC. When the cab, boiler jacket, and insulation (asbestos) were removed, what should we see but a 2-inch long crack in the knuckle of the backhead flange! According to Interstate Commerce Rules & Regulations, the backhead should have been replaced. Instead, the crack had been chipped out and welded closed-against all rules and regulations! NYC couldn't let this go by, so the backhead was removed, a new one formed up, and reapplied to the boiler. The #210 was duly overhauled and sent back for further service. I suspect that the backhead of #210 at Scranton, PA, is the one we applied back in 1947!

As of a year ago, the water column (plug) was still in place in the yard at Norfolk, NY. Quite likely it could be re-activated! Also, in the engine house at Norfolk is a General Electric 70-ton diesel-electric locomotive with a Cooper-Bessmer oil engine that is completely worn out and is unserviceable

Do hope you have a Good Holiday. Till

Archival Storage Space to be Rented

by John Stewart

The Chapter Board has approved the rental of a climate controlled storage locker at **Climate Controlled Self Storage** in Webster. This facility will be used to house non-circulating archival material and our new book inventory.

New books are currently stored in a locker on Dewey Ave., and the DL&W baggage car at the museum. Our archives are stored at the Chapter Library and rented self space at the NYMT. The consolidation will protect our investments in a safe environment that is not subject to extreme change in temperature and humidity. We hope to begin moving materials after the first of the new year.

The board is also investigating the possibility of relocating the Lending Library to the second floor of the 40&8 Club. It would be most advantageous to have our library where it is most accessible to our members.

If you have any questions regarding these items, please contact John Stewart at rgvrr@363.com.

Visit our Websites for color!

Our webmasters put current and past photos, in color, on the Chapter's two websites:

**www.rochnrhs.org, or
www.rgvrrm.org**

"Tiger Tracks Train Show" - a Success

On December 9 and 10, the RIT Model Railroad Club produced a greatly expanded holiday train show for attendees. In previous years they held one-day shows in the Student Union. This year, they went for a two-day show in the cavernous Gordon Field House.

There were 10 operating layouts and 190 vendors drawing from across western and central New York.

Club members find that they can apply their classroom studies to their Model Train Railroad layout located in the basement of the Student Union. As examples, IT majors can put computer chips in locomotives, designers help design brochures and mechanical engineers work on the trains.

Still looking for gift ideas?

Here are a few suggestions:

R&GV RR Marked Lanterns

R&GVRRM marked Star Brakeman's Lanterns are available again. Cost is \$26 (+tax) for lantern without battery; \$30 (+tax) with battery. Contact Chris Hauf (crhauf@frontiernet.net) if interested in purchasing one.

New T-shirt issue

To satisfy requests how to purchase one of our signature yellow 'Train Crew' t-shirts, Chris Hauf arranged for a new one for the public. The base color is forest green with yellow lettering. The Diesel Days design (RG&E 1941) appears on the shirt, sans Train Crew lettering and dates.

The price is \$13.00 each (\$15 if mailed). He has all adult sizes. Contact Chris at 585-381-8583; crhauf@frontiernet.net. Sales to date has covered the cost of procurement.

2007 Calendars

Full-color calendars honoring the closure of the Rochester Subway. See Page 2 for details.

Seen on a T-shirt

by Rand Warner

Dream It

Believe It

See It

Achieve It

Certainly applies to the last 35 years of dreams turned into operational reality at R&GVRRM.



Rochester, Syracuse & Eastern Interurban car at Macedon, NY (John Stewart collection)

Hausler continues "wireless" telegraphy

[A telegraph demo on was held Saturday, November 11, 2006 via the Internet. Unfortunately the volunteer workers had left for the day, leaving Chris Hausler alone to keep the fires — and sounder clicking! Here is his comments.]

Hi All,

For the third time now, I've been part of an internet "way wire" from the agent's office of our depot. I had just gotten back from my latest two week trip out of a several months effort for CSX in Atlanta on Friday (hopefully for the last time :-), so I didn't have any time to put out a notification. Anyway, this one was more significant than the last two as it signaled the beginning of what we hope is a future "depot net", where telegraph operators located within a number of preserved railroad stations connect via the internet periodically on such a "way wire" (or as I like to think, a "wayward wire" :-)

I had received an email several days ago announcing that there was to be a first telegraph demonstration at the restored MILW depot in Cle Elum, WA on Saturday afternoon, and requesting other telegraphers to get on the "wire" to make the demonstration more realistic. As it turned out there were about a half a dozen on the wire including one from New Zealand, but I was the only other one operating from a real RR depot. This morning [Sunday], I received the following email due to my participation. I thought I would share it with you.

By the way, although we were on the wire earlier, the demonstration didn't actually start until about 5 PM after the rest of the volunteers had left for the day. As I sat there, on a chilly fall day with a hot fire in the depot stove to keep me warm and only the light over the agents desk for illumination, I was alone, except that is, for the chattering telegraph sounder to keep me company. Not exactly like the "night tricks" of old but similar enough to allow me to think back to the many stories I've read and dream...

Regards and 73, Chris Hausler

Hi Chris,

You picked a great time to get back on the wire! Your participation from the Erie RR depot greatly enhanced the significance of the demo and the impact it had on the museum's directors at the Milwaukee depot in Cle Elum.

Tnx es 73,

--Les

History Corner

Researched by Rand Warner

From *Railroad Magazine*, April 1940, page 96:

"Out of Buffalo, April 21

"The Buffalo and Syracuse Divisions of the Railroad Enthusiast, Inc. together with the Rochester chapter of the National Railway Historical Society, are jointly sponsoring an excursion of unusual interest. The trip is indorsed by RAILROAD MAGAZINE. The route will be from Buffalo (Central Terminal), Rochester and Syracuse, to Oneida via New York Central. At the last mentioned point, excursionists will board the only passenger train of the New York, Ontario & Western Railroad, for a ride to Sidney, where photographs may be had of the roads' motive power. Times of departure from the home cities of the three organizations will be Buffalo: 6.00 a.m., Rochester: 7.19 a.m., and Syracuse: 9.02 a.m. Returning the train will arrive at these points, in the reverse order, at 7.04, 8.36 and 9.50 p.m. Rates and further information may be had from Roy M. Zimmerman,..Buffalo; .. Ward C.S. Shafer,..Rochester; .. Charles Rich,..Syracuse; and Hobart Price..Utica."

Rand noted that this was 66 years ago, and the Chapter was only three years old!

Note the two historical society designations: Railroad Enthusiast, Inc. and National Railway Historical Society. What is the history on the former?

No Year-End Party Planned

In previous years, Chapter members and guests celebrated the previous years accomplishments with a Year-End Party the first weekend of January. A similar occasion took place in the summer. We enjoyed good food, fellowship and riding some of our railroad equipment.

Why no parties? Our dedicated coordinators of the past are on hiatus, and moved on. No one else has stepped forward to fill the void.

2007 National NRHS Convention

"Chattanooga Rails 2007", the 2007 National NRHS Convention, is August 21-25.

Pre-registration (\$15) can now be made. Write to Chattanooga Rails 2007, 2025 Zumbahl Rd., PMB 87, St. Charles, MO 63303-2723. Consult your October issue of *NRHS News*.

Answer to Quiz (on Page 4):

"Actually, only one, Indiana, as the NJ, I&I was an 11-mile short line in the area of South Bend, Indiana. So whence the corporate name? The NJ, I&I was owned by and served the Singer Manufacturing Co., known for its sewing machines, and Singer had manufacturing plants in the three states contained in the railroad's name."

Happy Kwanzaa



Editor's Corner

As has been mentioned, the original computer that 'feed' the Xerox copier printer that we used to print *The Semaphore* was on the fritz! For the October issue, I used hard copy from an Inkjet printer and was pleased with the results. Thought I had it down pat. HA! Couldn't get similar hard copy for the November issue — had to use that from my laser printer, which does not do well with photographs.

Trial runs with this issue, looks promising, so maybe Santa will not foul up the works and leave me coal!

I wish to express my most sincere gratitude to all the contributors who so faithfully submit their input for *The Semaphore* each month.

There is a lot of railroad related material out there that can be reported. BUT, the prime purpose of this newsletter is to report the activities that affect this Chapter — and as you can read, there is a LOT of projects accomplished with many more projects planned or underway. The Chapter is very fortunate to have a variety among its members of varying professions and knowledge. Very important, as we "age" that it also attracts younger persons (less senior?) who can provide the needed "muscle".

With that stated:

I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and may the New Year be a Joyous, Prosperous, Healthy, and Wealthy New

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Chapter Meeting & Program:
Depots of New York
State
 by Charles Woolever
 7:30 PM
 Thursday, December 21, 2006
 40 & 8 Club
 933 University Ave.

Season's Greetings

The Semaphore is published monthly by the Rochester, NY Chapter, National Railway Historical Society. It is mailed free to all Chapter members. Non-member's subscriptions are \$10.00 after 1/1/2005 and run from January 1 to December 31. Chapter meetings are held the third Thursday and the Board of Directors meets the first Thursday of each month.

Rochester Chapter NRHS Officers:

President: Jeremy Tuke
Vice President: Robert Achilles
Treasurer: Don Wawrzyniak
Recording Secretary: Dave Peet
Correspondence Sec.: Chris Hauf
National Director: Bob Miner

Trustees: Ron Amberger, Mike Dow, Dave Luca, Mike Roque', Harold Russell, John Stewart.

The Semaphore Staff:

Editor: Gale Smith
Printing & Mailing: Bob Miner, Gale Smith, Jerry Gillette

Contributions to *The Semaphore* are welcomed and encouraged from all readers. They should be mailed to: Gale E. Smith, 299 Seneca Park Avenue, Rochester, NY 14617-2433. Phone: (585) 544-6221. Contributors using a computer are asked to send their submissions on any MS-DOS diskette in ASCII or *.txt format, as well as a printed copy. Also can send by e-mail to: gale299@frontiernet.net. **Deadline: First Day of Each Month.**

Restoration Building Floor Fund

by Dave Luca

One of the Chapter's major goals for 2005 was the installation of the inspection pit and concrete floor in the east side of the Restoration Building. Chapter volunteers will perform the pit excavation and the slab grading. Pre-qualified concrete contractors will perform the concrete placement work. The estimate for this is \$75,000. Recent donations in **BOLD**.

Help "cement" together a great project! Each block represents \$3,000.

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