

THE SEMAPHORE

FOR FRIENDS AND MEMBERS OF THE ROCHESTER CHAPTER NRHS

JUNE 2008
VOL. 50 No. 9

NEXT CHAPTER MEETING:

JUNE 19

Enjoy Your Railroad!

Bring your friends to our first summer Chapter Meeting at Industry Depot. Come on out and enjoy a ride!



June 3 saw the first movement through the restoration shop building on Track 8. It was also RG&E 1941's first time operating with both prime movers in many years. Many volunteers contributed their efforts to make this happen! PHOTO BY DAVID SCHEIDERICH

Champions needed...

INSIDE

Train Bulletin	2
Museum News	3
Our F-M Diesel	6
Webster Depot.	10
Sodus Point.	11
Off the Train Wire	12

With continued success on the Rochester & Genesee Valley Railroad Museum's 2008 goals and priorities, things are certainly looking very positive for our museum this year.

South of the restoration building, the fill has been cleared, staked for grading, the first one hundred feet graded, and Track #8 extended south out of the restoration building for over seventy-five feet; enough to hold our New York Central Pullman PS-4 flat car (also the subject of rebuilding and restoration).

Our Empire State Express cars have seen nearly two complete coaches' windows completely rebuilt with new glazing and many more windows in the process of being reworked.

After many years of hard work, **Rochester Gas & Electric GE 45-tonner #1941** made its first museum move using both of its prime movers after a multi-year rebuild on the #1 prime mover, a complete air system rebuild, and many other mechanical improvements.

GE 80-ton switcher R&GVRR #1654 was made serviceable again after suffering a water pump failure last winter.

Plus so much other positive progress all over the museum! Yet, we have so much more to accomplish to achieve all we hoped for in 2008 and now with only six months left. This is where we really need your help to spend a few hours volunteering for your museum. Whether it is at the museum or working in your *(continued on page 7)*



www.rochnrhs.org

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TRAIN BULLETIN

SHORT NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS REGARDING
THE ROCHESTER CHAPTER NRHS

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Please welcome aboard **Raymond A. Howard** of Geneva. Mr. Howard is interested in rolling stock restoration, museum operations/track car driver, and "Anywhere else I can help."

We are in the process of updating the membership roster for 2008. There are a number of members whose membership records are missing e-mail addresses. Having member e-mail addresses available in the membership roster provides the chapter with another means of communicating with members. In addition, your e-mail address can be added to the chapter's members-only volunteers e-mail mailing list. The subscription-only list is used for special announcements, weekly work plans for the R&GVRR Museum, and occasional discussions on railroad history and other railfan topics. Please send your e-mail address to Membership Chair Sam Rosenberg at membership@rochnrhs.org.

DEPOT GUIDES REPORT

Without Depot Guides, there is no museum experience for our Sunday visitors. Can you spare a weekend or two to help keep the museum open and ready for visitors? We'll train you to help make you a great host for our museum. Contact Coordinator Mike Root at mikeroot@clearwire.net.

CHAPTER LIBRARY SUMMER HOURS

The Rochester Chapter Library is now housed at the **40 & 8 Club**, located at 933 Univesity Avenue, Rochester, opposite the Gleason Works. The Library will be open for general use, browsing, checking out books, and returning books on the following days:

July 2, Wednesday 6:30-9:00 PM

August 7, Thursday 6:30-9:00 PM

Members may return Library materials during summer at Trustee's meetings.

June 25, Thursday 6:45-7:15 PM

July 3, Thursday 6:45-7:15 PM

SUMMER MEETINGS - BRING A FRIEND

For June, July & August, the Rochester Chapter's general membership meetings are held at the Rochester & Genesee Valley Railroad Museums. Starting around 6:00 PM, the museum will be open and the meetings always feature a variety of operations around the R&GVRRM and possibly even the NYMT. Along with our locomotive hauled trains, we hope to have some other special events including night photo sessions which we hope to feature for both the July and August meetings.

As is true with all of our meetings, guests and visitors are ALWAYS welcome so please treat the meetings as open houses. Have a friend that might be interested in joining us? Bring them out, show them around and let them take a ride. Have a colleague who might be able to help us with donated goods and services? This is a great time to introduce them to our museum and what we are all about. Or just have family you want to share our museum with? Again, a great time to come on out.

So we hope to see you out in June, July & August. Again, the meeting and operations start around 6PM. A short business meeting may be held at some point during the evening. Also please feel free to stop out a little earlier, bring your dinner and eat out on the depot picnic tables. This is another great way to socialize and catch up with your fellow Chapter members.

2008 CHAPTER ELECTION RESULTS

"Some are born into greatness..." and the others are elected by your fellow Chapter members! You may notice some new names in the Chapter masthead at left. Thank you to our outgoing officers and trustees for your dedication to the Chapter. A warm welcome to the newly elected!

UPCOMING MUSEUM EVENTS

CHAPTER MEETING AT INDUSTRY
Thursday, July 17

CABOOSE DAY
Sunday, July 20

CHAPTER MEETING AT INDUSTRY
Thursday, August 21

DIESEL DAYS
Saturday, August 23
and Sunday, August 24

MUSEUM CLOSING WEEKEND
Sunday, October 26

Next Chapter Meeting:
July 17
6:00 PM at Industry Depot



MUSEUM MANAGERS

RAILROAD: Chris Hauf

(585) 381-8583 crhauf@frontiernet.net

INFRASTRUCTURE: Dave Luca

(585) 288-0318 daveluca@frontiernet.net

MOTIVE POWER DEPT.

EK 6: Work on EK 6 has been completed and it was used in a switching operation on May 10. Thanks to all who participated in getting the brakes on EK 6 rebuilt and for repairing the hand brake which was in great need of attention. Thanks to Ron Amberger, Pete Gores, Mike Dow, Rand Warner, Chris Hauf, Norm Shaddick, Kevin Klees and others who may have helped with the work on this engine.

RG&E 1941: The 1941 is still undergoing restoration. Most recently new fan belts were installed on both the engines on this locomotive. One of these replacements turned into quite a job involving moving the radiator and removing the water pump. This was because on this Cummins diesel engine the fan belt tension is adjusted by turning the water pump housing. When it won't turn, the result is what was described. Fortunately the pump housing on the other engine could be freed up. The work on this engine has been well organized by Joe Nugent. People working on the engine have been John Redden, Ron Amberger, Joe Nugent, Dave Scheiderich and Kevin Klees.

USA 1654: Repairs to the 1654 have been completed and it is operational once again. Thanks to Dave Scheiderich, and Mike Dow and anyone else who helped with this project. The Fairbanks-Morse engine is now back on line but still needs some work on its hand brake.

Plymouth: Kevin Klees has been continuing restoration on the Plymouth loco. He has been focusing on finishing up the hood side cover panels and cab sides.

R&GV TC-2: With essential work now complete, TC-2 is now back on the tracks and in use again. Thanks to Bob Mader, Norm Shaddick, Rand Warner and anyone else who helped out with that project.



This is what a flatcar looks like naked. The old decking has been removed, now work can begin on repairs and installing a new deck. PHOTO BY CHRIS HAUF

TRACK DEPARTMENT

The Track Department has extended Track 8 by two panels beyond the southern limits of the restoration building. Thanks to Dan Waterstratt, Scott Gleason, and Dave Luca for preparing the area for track. Thanks to Rand Warner, Chris Playford, Mike Walsh, Dave Scheiderich, Mike Roque and Charlie MonteVerde for completing the build in under two days. Our construction equipment was put to good use. One of the

ex-Army Chevy pick-up trucks was used to haul rail to the panel construction site. Rand Warner and used the Ford forklift to bring ties as needed. Dan Waterstratt, Scott Gleason, Jeremy Tuke, and Dave Luca made good use of the D-7, Trojan Loader, road roller, and the Bobcat for the earth work prior to the track being installed. Of note, **RG&E 1941** shoved our NYC flat as the first move through the shop on June 4.

—Luther Brefo, Track Dept. Foreman



MUSEUM NEWS CONTINUED



Track 8 now extends through the shop and out the south end. Further expansion will give us greater flexibility in storing our railroad equipment that is not in use or awaiting restoration. By the time you read this, you may see even more extended track! PHOTO BY CHRIS HAUF

TRACK CAR OPERATIONS

The 2008 Track Car Season has opened with good visitor attendance. This year we are interlacing our operations with the trolley and running down the north side of the NYMT loop (see April *Semaphore*).

Track Cars TC-1 and TC-2 are up and running with TC-3. Ted Strang has been successful in acquiring a new transmission for TC-1 and installing it in time for the season opening. Not to be outdone, Bob Mader has TC-2 running too after a major engine overhaul. Bob reports that it no longer smokes as in the past.

The schedule shows below that there are numerous opportunities for you to operate

the track cars. A third relief operator is requested for all days, a fourth operator will be needed for Caboose Day on June 20. Trained and licensed operators should contact Harold Russell by e-mail at haroldrussell@juno.com or telephone (585) 427-9159. Contact him also if you are new and want to become an operator this year.

ESE WINDOW PROJECT

More than one-third of the remaining large windows on the Empire State Excursion Set have now been re-built. The window crew has now completed 17 of 49 large windows since the project began in

January. Five of 55 small windows have left the window shop.

On a car-by-car basis, the concession car (Car #3) has received the most attention. All of the car's large windows have been re-built and temporarily re-installed. In addition, all of the large windows from the west side of Car #2 have either been completed or are in the window shop.

The task of replacing the exterior sheet metal screws is nearing completion. Screws need to be replaced on only ten more large windows, making this phase of the project 85% complete. Replacement of screws on smaller windows is 44% complete. All exterior screw replacement

R&GVRM - NYMT 2008 TRACK CAR OPERATOR SCHEDULE

Date	Operator A	Operator B	Operator C	Primary TC	Event
June 29	Consadine			TC-3	
July 6				TC-1	
July 13	Dunham			TC-3	
July 20	Becker	Byrne		TC-1	Caboose Day
July 27	Consadine	Moore		TC-3	

NOTE: Operator C is the relief operator. A fourth "Operator D" is requested for June 20, Caboose Day.



TOP: Working on the New York Central wooden caboose, several components need to be replaced and rebuilt on this piece of equipment. PHOTO BY CHRIS HAUF **ABOVE:** Track Foreman Luther Brefo along with "Super" Dave Scheiderich and Mike Walsh pose on the NYC flat inside the shop after a day extending Track 8 through the south end. PHOTO BY CHRIS PLAYFORD

should be completed before winter. The next step is to get Car #3 into the Restoration Building for surface prep and painting of the window band.

Thanks to the following volunteers for their efforts during May: Dave Peet, Don Wawrzyniak, Dave Luca, Bob Mader, Lynn Heintz, Bill Blasei, Dave Chapus, Rand Warner and Dale Hartnett.

—Dale Hartnett, Project Foreman

CHAPTER LIBRARY HOURS:

July 2

August 7

**6:30 - 9:00PM at 40&8 Club
933 University Ave, Rochester**

WANTED

- Relay ties and switch timber for new track construction on south side of Restoration Building and on west side of the LA&L tracks.
- No. 3A crushed stone ballast for above track construction
- Non-asbestos boiler lagging for Heisler fireless steam locomotive
- Cantilever passenger car jacks for use on our excursion trainset
- Donations/sponsors for proper grade of Lexan plastic sheets for fabricating outer window panes on excursion cars
- Sheet steel in 0.085" thickness for rehab of Rochester Subway car 60
- Cases of soda/pop in cans
- Open-end wrenches larger than 1"
- Pallet racking crossbeams
- Good used, or new, rims for Bobcat
- Oxy-Acetylene rosebud torch
- Vise Grip pliers, assorted sizes
- Sturdy wood, metal, or plastic pallets
- Track bolts for 80-lb. or 90-lb. rail

IF YOU CAN HELP PROCURE ANY OF THESE ITEMS PLEASE CONTACT:

**Rand Warner at (585) 425-8586
Chris Hauf at (585) 381-8583
Dave Luca at (585) 288-0318**

NEXT EVENT:

Caboose Day

July 20

Visit the Museum on-line:

www.rgvrrm.org

No early retirement for this locomotive... **U.S. ARMY** **1843**

The Rochester & Genesee Railroad Museum's ex-U.S. Army Fairbanks-Morse model H12-44 locomotive #1843 was part of a group of locomotives built in 1953 for the United States Army at a cost of \$224,700 each. The engine was built in January 1953, and is now 55 years old with no sign of early retirement.

Our locomotive 1843 is a 1200 horsepower, 120 ton yard switcher. In 1944, Fairbanks-Morse entered the United States railroad locomotive market trading on their excellent reputation in diesel power plants for marine applications. Their locomotives used an unorthodox opposed-piston design engine which has two pistons inside each cylinder. This requires the engine to have both an upper and lower crankshaft and makes the engine very tall. Thus, the locomotive has its unique high hood in order to accommodate the power plant. For the next nineteen years, F-M achieved limited acceptance and rated a distant fourth place in market share during a period when all major American railroads were replacing their steam locomotives with diesels. F-M left the locomotive market in 1963.

Locomotive 1843 was last used by the U.S. Military at the Seneca Army depot in Romulus, New York where it handled 30 to 100 cars per week on 42 miles of track at the base. In 1993, it was declared surplus by the Army, and a group of Rochester Chapter NRHS members purchased the unit for the Chapter through the Federal Property Assistance program. It arrived at the Museum in May 1993. It is in operating condition and has been used year round



USA 1843 has been a standard during our annual Diesel Days event. Here the engine pulls the Erie caboose north of Reid's Crossing into the Diesel Days transfer point. PHOTO BY CHRIS HAUF

at the Museum as the locomotive uses antifreeze and has a block heater for winter use. Engine 1843 is the only serviceable F-M locomotive in New York State and continues to operate in its 55th year of service at the R&GVRM, only the second owner of the locomotive.

Many of the 1843's sister locomotives have been saved and are preserved in other museums throughout the country including the other Seneca Army depot engine #1844 at the National Transportation Museum in Kirkwood, MO.

—Chris Hauf, Museum Manager

AT A GLANCE

Builder: Fairbanks-Morse

Model: H-12-44

Road/Number: USA 1843

Built: January 1953

Weight: 120 Tons

HP: 1200

Acquired: May 1993

Locomotive Preservation Fund update

Thanks to recent generous donations by Chapter members, Charles McNamara and Dave Scheiderich, the Chapter's Locomotive Preservation Fund has reached its goal of matching the \$1800.00 2007 NRHS Heritage Grant the R&GVRRM received to purchase a new set of starting batteries for Lehigh Valley Railroad ALCO RS-3m #211. With \$3600.00 in the bank, a new quote has been acquired for the 211 batteries only to find like so many things, the price has gone up more than anticipated. The new goal for the fund is \$4500.00 to match the recent quote, and the R&GVRRM would like to raise this money as soon as possible so



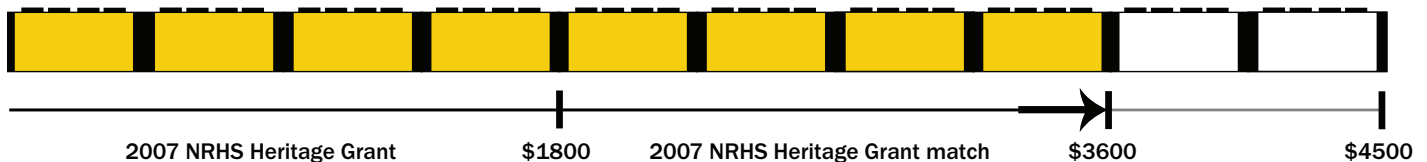
211's batteries can be purchased and installed in time for the locomotive to participate in Diesel Days in August.

We thank everyone that has already donated toward 211's future in the engine's 55th year. Would you please help us achieve our new goal quickly? Donations

to the Rochester & Genesee Valley Railroad Museum and the Rochester Chapter NRHS are tax deductible to the extent allowable by law. Please consider a donation today. Donations can be made online via PayPal via the Chapter's website www.rgvrrm.org or sent to us through the regular mail. Please make your donation check payable to the Rochester Chapter NRHS and mail it to:

Locomotive Preservation Fund
Rochester Chapter NRHS
P.O. Box 23326
Rochester, NY 14692-3326

Fundraising Progress to Date: June 2008



You can champion a museum project

(continued from page 1) home shop, we have many projects that need your help and several that also need leaders.

Certainly, we have our large infrastructure improvement projects like the restoration building south yard construction and the LA&L siding construction. In both cases, we need help in preparing the sites and building the track. All hands are going to be needed at times to make these projects continue to progress. But more to the point of this call for help, our railroad and construction equipment collections really need more hands and champions. From painting to woodworking to metal fabrication to mechanical and engine repair, we have tasks for any skill level and equipment to match any interest.

Plus, we have many pieces of equipment that simply need a champion; someone or even better a team of someones to undertake the care and feeding of any given piece while building an understanding of its past while looking toward and working on its future. For some pieces, this is already a reality, but there are many without. On the railroad side, cars from our Empire State Express coaches to our PRR RPO to our Fruit Growers Express refrigerator car to

even our B&O tool car, all need champions to help in their upkeep and restoration.

On the construction side, we have many cranes, shovels, dozers, and more that could use champions to get them back to operating and keep them there while working on their cosmetics. With 2008 museum priorities set



Chapter volunteer Chris Hauf works on the BE 22B Truck Crane on Saturday, June 7th. After draining many gallons of varnish-like gasoline and several hours of preparation work the upper motor hummed to life. The lower drive motor also was run after some tinkering with the fuel system. PHOTO BY JEREMY TUKE

to work on the roofs of some of our cars, make improvements and repairs to our ESE coaches beyond the windows, repaint at least one piece of railroad and one piece of construction equipment, help is needed beyond what we already have.

Can you help us? We are working very hard to insure there are no barriers to you helping at your museum, and all skill, talent and capability levels are welcome. None of us are experts at everything, yet together we field an incredible array of talents, capabilities and know how. It is amazing what we accomplish when we all work together.

Please contact either Dave Luca or Chris Hauf if you interested in helping or adopting a piece of equipment. Or simply come on out any Saturday or Tuesday. Work on both days starts around 9:00AM. For the summer, Dave Luca has also offered to chair another weekday work session if a group wanted to come out on another day to champion a project. Please let us know what you are interested in working on and what we can do to support you in that effort. Any help will be greatly appreciated and will allow the R&GVRRM to truly meet or exceed all of its 2008 goals and priorities.

—Chris Hauf, Museum Manager

