

NEXT CHAPTER MEETING:
August 19
Last chance this summer to enjoy our museum railroad! Bring a friend and take a ride!



LIGHTS! CAMERA! ACTION! Lehigh Valley 211 prepares to make some nighttime switching moves, perhaps on the electrified Niagara Junction Railroad? No, it's the result of a carefully orchestrated night photo session at the Rochester & Genesee Valley Railroad Museum from August 2009. Long-time Chapter member Ron Amberger poses as the train's brakeman at our Midway station. The 211 will be just one of the operating vintage diesel locomotives at our annual Diesel Days event August 21-22. Learn more on Page 3. PHOTO AND LIGHTING BY CHRIS HAUF

Ready for Diesel Days

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July has been a busy month at the Rochester & Genesee Valley Railroad Museum! Work has continued on Coach 1 of our *Expire State Express* excursion set. Rob Burz, Rick Israelson and Chris Hauf have worked on prepping the interior of the coach for paint. Dale Hartnet has almost completed the job of cleaning the exterior window band area on both sides of the coach. Jim Johnson and crew have mostly finished their electrical work on the *Alonzo B. Cornell* RPO, which contains our electrical generator, and will begin installing several small transformers on Coach 3 for the concession area.

Planning work continues on the possibility of running a trip this fall season. This would be the first time our cars have served the public in many years, and would help recoup some of our recent investment in the equipment. However, if you would like the cars to return to active duty, we seriously need your help in getting the cars ready! A variety of work remains to be done both inside and out on the coaches, and not all of it is skilled labor. Please contact Dave Scheiderich if you are willing to help and get us "back on track!"

Work on the new West Siding alongside the LAL mainline (Continued on page 7)



www.rochnrhs.org

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TRAIN BULLETIN

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM ROCHESTER CHAPTER NRHS

UPCOMING MUSEUM EVENTS

There's an exciting calendar of events planned for the Rochester & Genesee Valley Railroad Museum's joint operations this season. Tell your friends! For a complete listing and details, visit www.rgvrrm.org.

August 21-22, 2010: DIESEL DAYS: These kings of the rails come in all sizes, and the collection at the Rochester & Genesee Valley Railroad Museum gives visitors a close-up look. Learn what makes a diesel go. See several different diesel locomotives under power, and take a ride on them! Extended hours (10:00AM-6:00PM) and Special Event admission prices apply.

UPCOMING CHAPTER PROGRAMS

We have many interesting and varied programs scheduled throughout the year as part of our monthly membership meetings. If you are interest-

ed in giving a presentation on any railroad subject at an upcoming chapter meeting, please contact Harold Russell at haroldrussell@juno.com.

August 19, 2010: Monthly meeting at the Rochester & Genesee Valley Railroad Museum, at Industry Depot. Come on out and enjoy a ride on our museum railroad! Visitors are always welcome.

LIBRARY COMMITTEE

Your Chapter Library will be open for use on September 16 during the regular meeting night and on October 4 at 6:30 pm. The Chapter Library will be moving this month to a much bigger room next to our present room now. We are currently seeking donations of strong, sturdy book cases to support our ever-growing collection of materials. Please contact Bob Fleck at rcfleck@rochester.rr.com or (585) 338-7205 for details.



IMPROVEMENTS AT MIDWAY: A special thank you to Steve Huse for undertaking some much-needed improvements at our Midway Station. Thanks to Steve, our visitors enjoyed a neat and tidy station experience, complete with the convenience of electric lighting (thanks to a clever battery and inverter set-up). This scene was taken at the well-attended "Trolleys at Twilight" joint event on July 17. For more photos from this event, see Page 5. PHOTO BY CHRIS PLAYFORD

JOIN ROCHESTER CHAPTER NRHS
Annual Dues: \$57.00
Rochester Chapter NRHS
P.O. Box 23326
Rochester, NY 14692-3326

PLAN AHEAD: Next Meeting:
September 16
Industry Depot



ROCHESTER & GENESEE VALLEY RAILROAD MUSEUM

VISIT OUR WEB SITE: WWW.RGVRRM.ORG

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MOTIVE POWER DEPT.

RG&E 1901: The majority of the motive power work this past month focused on RG&E 1941. Work continues to clean up and paint various areas of the locomotive. I've attached some photos of the work. One photo shows Mike Walsh wire wheeling cowl doors. Another photo shows Super Dave priming interior surfaces of the engine cowls. The other two photos show primed areas. Painting and assembly work will continue into September. Our goal is to have RG&E 1941 running for our upcoming Diesel Days event.

LV 211: Work also continued on Lehigh Valley 211's stuck pedestal liners. The liners have been removed on one side. Work is continuing on the other side.

All equipment is being made ready for our Diesel Days event taking place later this month. Our goal is to ensure maximum reliability and safe operation throughout the weekend and into the end of our operating season. Many people are to thank for our progress up to this point, too many to mention here, but your help is appreciated! A reminder that the Motive Power Department meets every Saturday inside Industry Depot at 9:30am. Anyone is welcome to join us if you have questions about our work or want to get involved!

—Joe Nugent
Motive Power Superintendent

Donated tons at work! Mike Dow guides the ballasting of the new West Siding using by the museum's backhoe. Once the ballast was in place, the museum's tamper was used to level and tamp this portion of the siding. There is more work to be done and more ballast is needed. Would you please consider donating? \$20 buys a ton! Every little bit helps... Go online at www.rgvrrm.org/support for more info. PHOTO BY CHRIS HAUF

**CHAPTER SPONSORED AMTRAK TRIPS
Pre-Christmas Trip (Thu. Dec. 2-Sat. Dec. 4):** Take Amtrak to New York City for a weekend of shopping, dining and Broadway shows. Includes tickets to the Christmas Show at Radio City Music Hall.

Anyone who has NOT traveled with us before will have to send us a \$75.00 per person advanced deposit on the 2-night trip NYC trip and \$100.00 on the 3-night trip to New York City in order to hold space. A \$50.00 advanced deposit is required for our fall foliage trip. If you are interested in any of these trips please telephone us at (585) 377-5389. Please be aware that most of our trips sell out quickly so if you are interested, please call right away to avoid disappointment.

—Jim & Dianne East,
Chapter Tour Guides

DIESEL DAYS 2010

Once again it is time for our annual Diesel Days celebration at the Rochester & Genesee Valley Railroad Museum. It seems like we prepare for this event right after the last one ends! Tracks are repaired, equipment is made ready, and crews are trained, all to make this event possible! We'll need "all hands on deck!" to make

this a successful event for the museum and our visitors.

One area where people can help is on board our trains. Specifically, we need people to act as "Car Hosts" on board our locomotives and cabooses. The job of the car host is to be a friendly face to our visiting public, to help passengers get on or off the equipment safely, to help answer any questions, and to generally be our extra eyes and ears during the event. Anyone can be a Car Host, so don't be shy!

We're also looking for people to help staff our Transfer Point, where passengers will transfer from diesels to trolleys. You'll help keep our visitors from wandering off, and making sure they are safely away from the railroad while trains are moving in and out of the station.

Separately, we'll also need a few people to help out with our concession stand down at Industry Yard. We'll have the usual soda, water, chips and candy bars for sale, and perhaps a few Museum souvenirs as well. If you would like to help your museum have a successful and enjoyable event, please contact Volunteer Coordinator **Otto Vondrak** at ovondrak@yahoo.com. Please give your name, where you would like to help out, and when you are avail-



MUSEUM NEWS

able. You don't need to spend the whole day, a morning or an afternoon are very appreciated! If you're not sure what you'd like to do, please get in touch and let us know you'll be available. If you have special skills, such as First Aid or CPR certification from the American Red Cross, please note that as well (We always like to operate on the safe side)!

We're also in need of qualified train crews and volunteer Depot Guides for the weekend. If you are available to help operate trains during the Diesel Days weekend, we're looking for two train crews and one relief crew for each day. Please contact **Mike Dow at operations@rgvrrm.org** if you are available to work as part of a train crew (see Page 7). If you would rather help out as a Depot Guide, please contact **Mike Root at mikeroot@clearwire.net**.

—Otto M. Vondrak
Diesel Days Volunteer Coordinator

ROCHESTER SUBWAY UPDATE

For years, Rochester had the distinction of being one of the smallest municipalities with its own rapid transit system. Built in the bed of the abandoned Erie Canal, the Rochester Subway opened for business in 1927. By the mid-1950s, the city had lost interest in improving or maintaining its Subway, and it succumbed to the highway planners in 1956. The portion under Broad Street survived as a freight conduit until 1996, when final customer Democrat & Chronicle moved their printing operations to suburban Greece. The tracks and tunnel laid dormant until September 2009, when the City Council decided it was time to fill in the unused property. Contracts to full the former Subway were solicited, and work began in the spring of 2010.

The first section to be filled in runs from the portal at Brown Street to just before Main Street, behind Nick Tahou's (the old

BR&P/B&O terminal). Once again, Broad Street was peeled back, revealing a right of way that had not seen the light of day for more than 30 years (the entire length of Broad Street, essentially the "roof" of the tunnel, was rebuilt in the mid-1970s). If you squinted and suspended reality for a moment, it appeared you had travelled back in time to the mid-1920s when the Subway was under construction. It was very surreal to see the tunnel walls and supports, and a bare roadbed alongside. Future work will fill the tunnel up to the old aqueduct at Exchange Street.

Unfortunately, it appears that Rochester has lost a valuable transportation asset in the short-term. However, as talk turns to "smart" downtown development and rebuilding, rail might play a role in the future of the Flower City, most likely on new surface routes and without the Subway. —Otto M. Vondrak



COMING OR GOING? Going, unfortunately. In this mid-April view, crews were busy compacting layers of fill to raise the level up to the old surface of Broad Street. A temporary construction ramp has been created in what was the Oak Street Loop, where local cars from Rowlands and interurbans from Syracuse would turn back. The distant steel X-braced structure is a remnant of the ramp that once allowed Subway-surface access for streetcars. The old BR&P/B&O freight interchange ramp was located at the far right of this photo. Volunteers from NYMT were able to salvage some track materials from the ramp for future use. PHOTO BY OTTO M. VONDRACK

MUSEUM NEWS



TOP, TOP RIGHT, ABOVE RIGHT: New York Museum of Transportation's "Trolleys at Twilight" event took place during the evening of July 17. It was great to hear the sounds of the museum's calliope providing the atmosphere for a perfect evening of trolley rides.

PHOTOS BY CHRIS PLAYFORD

ABOVE: Dave Scheiderich helps scrape and prime the interior of RG&E 1941's engine compartment. RIGHT: Mike Walsh helps prep the engine hoods for primer and finishing with the aid of a motorized grinder to remove almost 70 years of built-up paint. Project Manager Joe Nugent has been spearheading the campaign to debut RG&E 1941 at this year's Diesel Days event. PHOTOS BY JOE NUGENT



DEPOT WATER

The water inside the depot has been tested and certified safe to use for washing and drinking.

★★ HELP WANTED ★★

2010 Track Car Operating Schedule

We need your help! Please contact Harold Russell at haroldrussell@juno.com.

DATE	OPERATOR 1	OPERATOR 2
August 15	Coon	Chapin
August 29	Dunham	Coon
September 5	Playford/Teague	
September 12	Emens	Harnaart

(from page 1) has progressed nicely. The first 450 feet of siding has been ballasted and tamped with the help of Mike Dow, Pete Goes, John Stewart, Chad Timothy, Rand Warner, Ted Kratzer, David Scheiderich, and many others. It sure does look great to see all the new track down! Some stone work still remains, but we have come a long way. Unfortunately, in the process of ballasting the siding, the tamper has suffered a broken crank shaft. Plans are in the works to rebuild the motor on the tamper, which is a valuable machine for maintaining our railroad. It was some 23 years ago, that we had the engine rebuilt after receiving it from Kodak, not a bad track record.

On July 17, the museum hosted the first ever "Trolleys at Twilight" from 4:00pm until 10:00pm. Both museums were open to the public with train and trolley rides offered to our visitors. The New York Museum of Transportation had their classic calliope playing nostalgic tunes throughout the evening, and visitors enjoyed a traditional "ice cream social" harkening back to the days of the turn of the century "trolley parks" where such activities were common. Personally, I found this event quite enjoyable, and hope we can repeat it in the future. The event was fairly well-attended, with great feedback from our visitors.

I look forward to seeing you at this year's Diesel Days event! Many people have been working hard behind the scenes to make sure this event is the best we can possibly produce. I hope to see you there!

—Dave Scheiderich
Asst. Museum Manager

**DIESEL DAYS
AUG. 21-22**

Your Museum Needs You to be a Depot Tour Guide

We need your help to keep our museum open to the public. Without tour guides, our visitors will arrive at a closed depot, without opportunity to visit our exhibits. Please take a moment to review this schedule and see if you can contribute a couple of hours. We need at least two people to cover each day, but extra help is always appreciated. Please contact Mike Root at mikeroot@clearwire.net.

DATE	EVENT	TOUR GUIDES
Sun., August 15	Reg. Ops/BMW Club	Rick Israelson, Bill Benzing, Mike Root
Sat. August 21	DIESEL DAYS	Bob Fitch, Lynn Heintz, Mike Root
Sun., August 22	DIESEL DAYS	Mike Root, Dave Peet, Bill Benzing
Sun., August 29	Regular Ops	
Sun., September 5	Reg. Ops/Birthday Party	

2010 R&GV Crew Call

Increased train operations demands more train crews. We are the only operating railroad museum in New York State! We need your help to keep the trains rolling for our visitors. You are invited to sign up for the train crew opportunities listed below. For more details or to sign up for the Operations Department e-mail list, please contact Mike Dow at operations@rgvrrm.org.

DATE	ENGINEER	FIREMAN	CONDUCTOR	BRAKEMAN
8/19				
8/21 - 1	FILLED			
8/21 - 2	FILLED			
8/21 - 3				
8/22 - 1	FILLED			
8/22 - 2	FILLED			
8/22 - 3				
8/28				
9/19				
9/26				

THE SEMAPHORE

ROCHESTER CHAPTER
NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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Chapter Meeting:

August 19

7:30 PM at Industry Depot
Route 251, Industry (Rush)

Next Chapter Meeting:

September 16

7:30 PM at The 40&8 Club
933 University Ave., Rochester

**ROCHESTER & GENESEE VALLEY
RAILROAD MUSEUM • EST. 1971**

Preserving the railroad history of Rochester and Western New York



Join us for...

**DIESEL
DAYS**

**AUGUST
21-22**

Mark your calendars!



All aboard for Diesel Days! Ride and enjoy select examples from our diverse collection of operating vintage diesel locomotives, from large road switchers to center cabs! Boarding the trolley at the New York Museum of Transportation, you will then transfer to one of our diesels for the ride down to Industry Depot. Upon arrival, enjoy tours of our classic Erie depot, equipment displays and our exhibit cars. Ride as often as you like throughout the day!



Minutes from the Thruway and I-390, many hotels and restaurants nearby!

Please visit our website for more information: www.rgvrrm.org

The Rochester & Genesee Valley Railroad Museum and the New York Museum of Transportation reserve the right to substitute equipment, modify, or cancel any special event without prior notification.