

# THE SEMAPHORE

NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCHESTER & GENESEE VALLEY RAILROAD MUSEUM

MARCH 2011  
VOL. 53 No. 7

**NEXT MEETING:**  
**March 17**  
*Contemporary Dakota, Minnesota,  
and Wisconsin railroading  
presented by Irene Szabo*



**YESSIR, THAT'S MY BABY:** Rochester Transit Corp. Car 60 pauses in between runs at Rowlands Loop in Brighton, on what looks like a warm summer day in June 1956. The city will have shut down the Rochester Subway by the end of the month, and the entire fleet would be scrapped—except for Car 60. Donated to Rochester Chapter after the end of service, the was finally brought to Industry in 1998 for preservation. RGVRRM ARCHIVE PHOTO

# The Car 60 Issue

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★ ★ CHAPTER ELECTIONS ★ ★  
**May 19**

Spring is nearly upon us, and with it the promise of another busy season. Plans are in the works for a new inspection pit in the Restoration Building. Once the snow is gone, we will be able to finish up the West Siding, and move the ESE cars on to it. Not only will all these projects be ensuing during the year, but we also need to keep the doors open for the public. There is much to do, and we can surely benefit from your help! Just think of all the projects we can complete if we work together.

We have not yet released our 2011 events calendar as we are still working out some details with the New York Museum of Transportation. We hope to release this information as soon as possible so we can

begin promoting our joint 2011 operating season. The popularity of our joint museum operation grows each year, as more and more people discover our train and trolley rides! As we expect more visitors to Industry, we will be taking steps this Spring to clean and better organize the depot to enhance the museum experience.

Since we could not gather any news items for this issue, we have decided to share some historic photos of Rochester Subway Car 60, as we prepare to have this important artifact professionally evaluated in the coming months. We look forward to sharing this important artifact with the public once more!

—David Scheiderich, President



[www.rgvrrm.org](http://www.rgvrrm.org)

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# TRAIN BULLETIN

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM R&GVRRM

**RESERVE FOR RAILCAMP 2011**

A great opportunity for high school aged youth! There is still time to register campers for the 2011 RailCamp session at Steamtown from July 10 through July 16, 2011. Contact Barry Smith at [svp@nrhs.com](mailto:svp@nrhs.com) and a reservation will be held. Reservations must be confirmed with a name and payment by April 15, 2011. You can visit our web site at <http://www.railcamp.com/> for more info. —Barry Smith

**CASCADE RAILS 2011 - TACOMA, WA.**

The 2011 NRHS national convention will be held in Tacoma, Washington June 20-26, 2011, promoting the history of railroads in the Pacific Northwest. Highlights include an excursion with SP "Daylight" 4449, plus many other local tours, excursion activities, and seminars. Hosted by Tacoma Chapter NRHS. Complete schedule and details can be found at <http://cascaderails2011.com>.

**UPCOMING CHAPTER PROGRAMS**

We have many interesting and varied programs scheduled throughout the year as part of our monthly membership meetings. If you are interested in giving a presentation on any railroad subject at an upcoming chapter meeting, please contact Harold Russell at [haroldrussell@juno.com](mailto:haroldrussell@juno.com).

**April 21, 2011** - The Baltimore & Ohio operated a coal dock at Lake Ontario in Charlotte until 1970, an operation they inherited when they took over the Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburgh Railway in 1932. Tom Brewer explains this fascinating part of Rochester's railroad history.

**May 19, 2011** - Members' Slide Night and Chapter Elections. Bring a tray of slides or digital images on a disc to present! The more the merrier!

**VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT [WWW.RGVRRM.ORG](http://WWW.RGVRRM.ORG)**



Having no museum or storage facility of its own, Rochester Chapter loaned Car 60 to the Rail City Museum in Sandy Creek, New York. The car was moved upstate in 1956 and was on display for many years until it was acquired in 1968 by the State of New York for possible inclusion in the new State Museum at Albany. It was some point before moving to Albany that Chapter member, trolley historian and prolific author Bill Gordon paid Car 60 a visit. RGVRRM ARCHIVE PHOTO

**JOIN R&GVRRM CHAPTER NRHS**

**Annual Dues: \$57.00**

Rochester Chapter NRHS

P.O. Box 23326

Rochester, NY 14692-3326

**PLAN AHEAD: Next Meeting:**

**April 21**

**40 & 8 Club, Rochester NY**



## ROCHESTER TRANSIT CAR 60

The Rochester Rapid & Industrial Railway, better known as the **Rochester Subway**, was in operation from 1927 through 1957 (all passenger service ended in June 1956). The Subway had a fleet of 1920's era single-ended trolleys that first saw service on the Rome-Little Falls line before moving to the Utica city lines in 1933. The Utica service was shut down, and the cars were moved to Rochester in 1938 to improve service on the Subway. That same year, Rochester Transit Corp. took over operation of the line from the old Rochester Railways division of New York State Railways. Upon termination of service, Car 60 was donated to Rochester Chapter.

RTC Car 60 is the sole survivor of the Subway fleet, and the Rochester & Genesee Valley Railroad Museum is working hard to rebuild this historic car so that the public may enjoy it and learn from it once more. After years of neglect, the car was moved back to Rochester in 1998. After an initial flurry of activity in our Restoration Shop, the project ground to a halt due to a number of setbacks. The Board has voted to have the Gomaco Trolley Company perform a complete inspection on the car and provide an honest evaluation and help us plan our next steps towards fundraising and restoration. Joe Nugent is currently coordinating these efforts, but any help is gladly accepted.

—Otto M. Vondrak



**TOP:** RTC Car 60 languished outside under a makeshift shed in a Thruway maintenance lot near Albany for almost 30 years. While not the most optimal situation, the covering did help slow down the car's deterioration. In 1998, museum volunteers made the journey to Albany to prepare the car for movement back to Rochester. **MIDDLE:** The "temporary" enclosure was removed from around Car 60, revealing what some volunteers hoped was a promising picture. **BOTTOM:** Silk Road Transport moved Car 60 from Albany to our museum at Industry in 1998. Chapter member Sam Grover signed for the delivery, a fitting tribute as he was Chapter President in 1956 when the car first became ours. Soon after its arrival, the car was moved to the new Restoration Shop for evaluation. RGVRRM ARCHIVE PHOTOS





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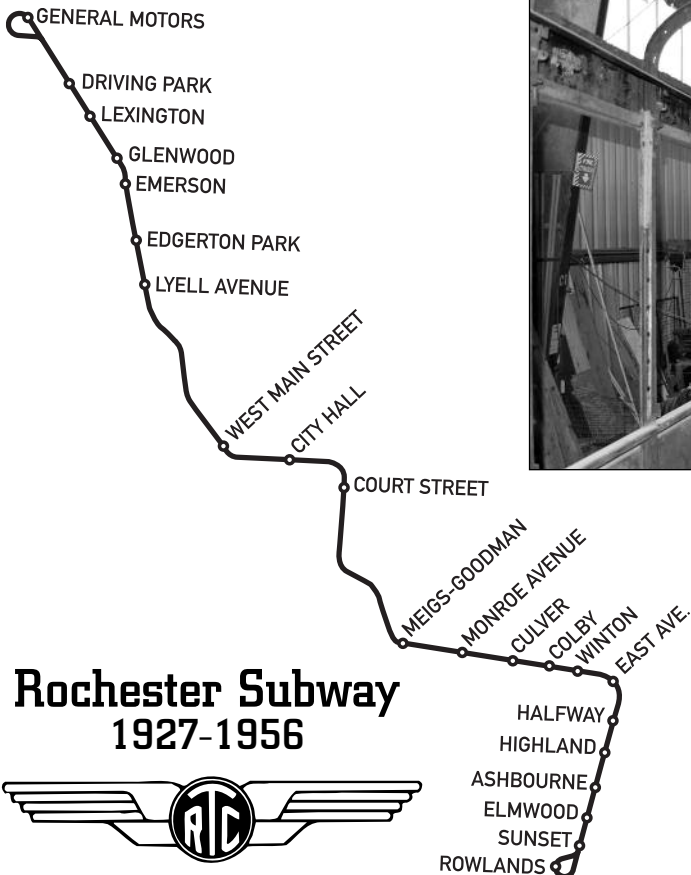
## March 17

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

Next Chapter Meeting:

## April 21

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



Rochester Transit Corp. Car 60 was the subject of an aggressive restoration and evaluation program upon its return to our museum in 1998. The car was disassembled and parts were removed and stored. Body rot and rust was discovered in many critical areas, and much sheet metal was going to have to be replaced before any advanced restoration could take place. The project was side-tracked when several key volunteers passed away, and more urgent items required our attention. As the restoration enters its second decade, the museum is taking steps towards completing this project with the help of a professional outside evaluation to be completed by the Gomaco Trolley Company of Ida Grove, Iowa. The evaluation will help us plan our next steps. PHOTO BY JOE NUGENT