

NEXT MEETING:
September 15
*Enjoy our museum
 railroad! Take a train ride!
 Bring a friend!*



HERE'S WHY: The rain can't dampen the spirits of this young visitor and his father, riding in our restored Penn Central caboose during our annual Diesel Day event on August 21. Thanks to the many volunteers who made this event a success! Event coverage begins on page 4. OTTO M. VONDRAK PHOTO

Diesel Day a Success

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From all accounts, we hosted yet another safe and successful Diesel Day event on August 21. About 425 visitors came to visit and to experience our museum's collection and educational message. In a time when folks seem to be guarding their time and money closer than ever before, we should be thankful for each paying patron who chose to visit that weekend. Every museum volunteer put their best foot forward to make their best impression on our guests, and it made a clear difference.

Diesel Day is just one unique way we reach out to the general public to share the rich history of Rochester's railroads. In the future, we'll need to find even more unique ways to engage the public and solicit their support. The connecting trolley ride from the New York Museum of Transportation certainly adds a dimension of interest we

did not have before. What else can we do to attract visitors and strengthen our message of history and education? How can we better focus our efforts?

We face a unique challenge in the near term as we struggle to meet our expenses while completing the many important projects that will contribute to our museum's future. We are fortunate to be one of the only operating railroad museums in New York State, but such an operation requires a lot of manpower and a lot of cash to keep running year in and year out.

Please support your museum in any way you can. Spend a few hours down at the depot to lead a tour. Encourage your friends and neighbors to visit. Help us identify new sources of income and support. Every contribution counts!

—Otto M. Vondrak, Editor



www.rgvrrm.org

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The official publication of the Rochester & Genesee Valley Railroad Museum

Volume 54, No. 1

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©2011 Rochester & Genesee Valley Railroad Museum. The Semaphore is published monthly by the Rochester & Genesee Valley Railroad Museum. It is mailed free to all members. Non-member subscriptions are \$12.00 and run from January 1 to December 31. Meetings are held the third Thursday of each month, and the Board of Trustees meets the first Thursday of each month. Any items related to the activities of the Rochester & Genesee Valley Railroad Museum, and regional railroad history and current events are gladly accepted.

TRAIN BULLETIN

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM R&GVRRM



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Please join me in welcoming our new members, who were voted in at our August meeting. Please welcome **Adam Morris**, who hails from Lockport; and our friend **Marty Phelps** from the Medina Railroad Museum. Also joining is **Andrew Austin**, from Rochester, and he is interested in construction equipment, rolling stock restoration, publications, and operations. Welcome aboard!

— Sam Rosenberg, Membership Chairman

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

On **September 15** our meeting will be held at the depot at Industry. Dave Scheiderich and his crew promise some train activity in which you can ride. Invite your friends also. It is a great way to acquaint them with our facility.

In **October** we resume our meetings at the **Forty & Eight Club on University Avenue in Rochester**. NOTE PROGRAM CHANGE FOR OCTOBER: Due to illness, **Irene Szabo** will not be able to present her program on Cass Scenic Railroad. Instead, **Vern Squire** from the New York Museum of Transportation will be presenting "Railroads of the Civil War" on October 20. We wish Irene a speedy recovery! The November 17 meeting will be a special treat when **Mike Root** tells us all about High Speed Rail, the things we wondered about but were afraid to ask. On December 15 we bring **Craig Woodworth** in from Tonawanda to present "Coast to Coast by Rail."

Fortunately, we have no shortage of programs coming up! The dates for 2012 are completely filled. Before some cancellations were received, September 2013 was our first open date. Things have changed and I would like to fill the February and April dates in 2013. We will be featuring two separate Lehigh Valley nights in late 2012 and January 2013 where members will be invited to

share any Lehigh Valley Railroad memorabilia.

If any of you have a program that you would like to present, please contact me. Call (585) 427-9159 or email haroldrussell@juno.com.

ANNUAL NEW YORK CITY ESCORTED PRE-CHRISTMAS TOURS:

Book early! December 1-3, 2011 (3 Days, 2 Nights) \$660-690.00 per person double occupancy. Includes round trip fare on Amtrak from Rochester-New York City, 3 nights in Hotel Metro (located in midtown Manhattan), orchestra seat for the Radio City Music Hall's Christmas Show starring the Rockettes, an optional tour, 1 dinner, 2 breakfasts, all transfers, luggage handling and taxes. For more information contact Jim East at (585) 377-5389.

CHAPTER LIBRARY COMMITTEE

The Museum Library has moved to a much bigger room at the 40 & 8 Club, located at 933 University Avenue, in Rochester, the same location where we have our monthly membership meetings. The library hours will remain the same this summer with it being open the first and third Mondays at 6:30 pm at the 40&8 Club. We have a outstanding collection of various railroad magazines such as *Baldwin Locomotive Magazine*, *Railroad Magazine*, *Vintage Rails* and *Classic Trains*. Looking to get involved? Any volunteer help is appreciated. Please contact Bob Fleck by email at rcfleck@rochester.rr.com or call (585) 338-7205.

UPCOMING SHOW APPEARANCES

As one of the ways we do our part to promote our unique joint museum experience to the general public, the R&GVRRM will have a booth showcasing our mission of education through historic preservation at the following upcoming train shows:

November 13 - Batavia Train Show, at Batavia Downs in Batavia, New York

December 10-11 - Tiger Tracks Train Show, at the Gordon Field House on the RIT campus in Henrietta, New York.

We can use your help! Please contact Don Wawrzyniak for more information.

Visit us at www.rgvrrm.org

JOIN THE MUSEUM TODAY

Annual Dues: **\$25.00**

Rochester & Genesee Valley RR Museum

P.O. Box 23326

Rochester, NY 14692-3326

PLAN AHEAD: Next Meeting:

October 20

40&8 Club - Rochester, NY



MUSEUM CONTACT INFO

MUSEUM PRESIDENT

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MOTIVE POWER SUPERINTENDENT

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MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

Sam Rosenberg
ALC0251@frontiernet.net

MOTIVE POWER

RG&E 1941: Work continues on this locomotive as we prepare to return it to service. Unfortunately, it was not used during Diesel Day due to an issue with the fuel pumps discovered by Joe Nugent just days before. Volunteer Chris Hauf continues to work on finish painting and lettering.

A reminder that the Motive Power Department meets every first 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

MORE MIDWAY IMPROVEMENTS

New volunteer Mark Wilczek constructed some great new step platforms up at Midway station to help our visitors enter and exit our trains a little easier. The materials for the new steps were donated by the Wm. B. Morse Lumber Co., of Rochester.

VEHICLE DONATION

We use several support vehicles to help us maintain our railroad and ground. New member Tim Griffith arranged a donation of a light pickup truck from Monro Muffler, and is a very welcome addition to our maintenance fleet.

NIOBE TOWER SIGN DONATION

While at a railroadiana show in Niles Ohio on August 21, I was looking over a gentleman's sale table, and found the Conrail-era "N.E. JCT." sign from the former Niobe Tower. The sign was in the possession of Phillip Albano of Lima Ohio, who is actively involved with the Marion OH



New steps have been constructed at Midway Station by new volunteer Mark Wilczek, with materials donated by Morse Lumber. The pickup truck was the result of a donation by Monro Muffler arranged by new volunteer Tim Griffith. Thanks, guys! Far in the background you can see a tree that fell on the end of the trolley wire, a result of the local effects of Hurricane Irene on August 28. JEREMY TUKE



Spikes as far as the eyes can see on September 3! The extension to our passenger car siding has been completed. Now we need to get the ballast deliveries started, but we need your help. Please consider giving to our Donate-A-Ton fundraiser (Online at rgvrrm.org/support). A \$20 donation buys a TON of stone and we need at least 150 tons! Please help us continue the progress! CHRIS HAUF PHOTO

Union Station Museum. We got to talking, and he mentioned that he had tried unsuccessfully to contact our museum, but was not successful. When I introduced myself and let him know where I was from, he immediately donated the sign along with

the attached print. What a nice coincidence that brought this sign to our museum, to be incorporated into the developing restoration and display of the N.E. Jct interlocking plant machine in our possession.
—Jeremy Tuke (continued on page 6)



MUSEUM NEWS



DIESEL DAY AUGUST 21 2011

Volunteer Chad Timothy (1) helps get our LV 211 ready for Diesel Day service. Volunteer conductor Harold Russell (2) takes a break in the restored crossing shanty placed at BOCES Crossing before visitors arrive. Museum president Dave Scheiderich (3) holds a safety briefing for all volunteers at Industry depot the morning of Diesel Day. We may not always think of it, but there are many ways to help out! Volunteer Bill Blaesi mowed the area that was once occupied by Track 1 and Track 2, and helped clean up the area around the depot. First impressions count! Even though we had a little rain during the day (5), our visitors were still enjoying the sights and sounds of our diesel powered trains.

PHOTOS BY OTTO M. VONDRAK



MUSEUM NEWS



Visitors board our restored Erie caboose (6) at the temporary transfer point at BOCES Crossing, assisted by Howard and Kyle. Volunteer depot guide Mike Root (7) talks to visitors about our rare Fairbanks Morse diesel. Though the day dawned a bit gray (8), it didn't stop folks from coming out to visit us! Our guests are making the transfer from NYMT's trolley to our diesel powered trains at BOCES Crossing. Mike Root (9) helps visitors board our GE switcher for a supervised cab ride. Dave Scheiderich and Mark Wilczek ride aboard LV 211. Dave filled in as a conductor for most of the day, and also helped several volunteers get some time to learn about safe train operation.

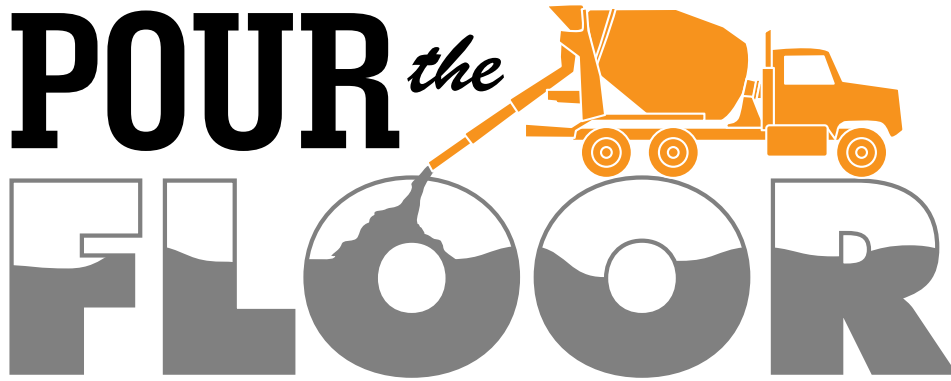
PHOTOS BY OTTO M. VONDRAK



MUSEUM NEWS



GETTING CLOSER EVERY DAY: As the years-long rebuilding of RG&E 1941 draws to a close, our volunteers are putting the finishing touches on this historic locomotive (ABOVE). Volunteer Chris Hauf has redrawn the old Rochester Gas & Electric logo (LEFT) so that a sign shop can make new vinyl decals that we can apply to the sides of the cab (as seen ABOVE, prior to rebuilding). Long one of Rochester's traditional independent utilities, RG&E was acquired by Energy East in 2002, which was in turn acquired by Spanish energy conglomerate Iberdrola in 2008. PHOTOS AND ARTWORK BY CHRIS HAUF



Our 2011 fundraising goal is \$75,000.00. The funds from the 2011 campaign will allow us to complete the entire flat floor and completely install our inspection pit with all of its necessary components including stairs, railings, power and lighting. A complete shop floor will help expand our restoration and maintenance abilities. Donations to the Rochester & Genesee Valley Railroad Museum are tax deductible to the extent allowable by law. Thank you!

Please visit us at www.rgvrrm.org/support

We need Depot Guides for 2011

We need your help to keep our museum open to the public. Please contact Mike Root at mikeroot@clearwire.net.

Sunday, September 4 - Sunday Ops
Sunday, September 11 - Sunday Ops
Sunday, September 18 - Fall Foliage Train/Trolley
Sunday, September 25 - Fall Foliage Train/Trolley
Sunday, October 2 - Fall Foliage Train/Trolley

Sunday, October 9 - Fall Foliage Train/Trolley
Sunday, October 16 - Fall Foliage Train/Trolley
Sunday, October 23 - Fall Foliage Train/Trolley
Sunday, October 30 - Fall Foliage Train/Trolley

IMPORTANT MAILING CHANGES

Our treasurer received the renewal notice from the Postal Service for our non-profit mailing permit, which is an annual recurring cost based on volume mailed. As our plan going forward is to mail THE SEMAPHORE only to those members who *request* a mailed copy, and pay \$5/year for that service, the sense of the board is to not renew the bulk permit. As it stands, the bulk permit expires October 10, 2011. Pending the ratification of changes to our by-laws, we will plan to mail the October, November and December 2011 issues to members for whom we have no email address for no charge. **The charge for mailing physical copies will begin with the January 2012.** Of course, downloading the PDF version will always be free (and will have the additional benefit of arriving in a much more timely fashion).

Why are we doing this? As we look for ways to cut costs and operate in a more efficient manner, we expect to realize actual savings from printing and mailing fewer physical copies of our newsletter. The newly implemented \$5.00 fee will help cover the costs to continue mailing the newsletter to those who request it.

What's more, the electronic version of the newsletter can be delivered in a much more timely manner than our current bulk mailing system allows. As we have many projects ongoing simultaneously, good, timely communication is important!

How will I read this newsletter on my computer? The newsletter will be available to our members as an Adobe PDF file. To open the file, you'll need a copy of Adobe's free Acrobat Reader software (it's probably already installed on your computer). Rather than send a large file attachment to your email each month, we will broadcast an announcement to our members when the latest issue is ready for download. You can currently view all of our newsletters going back to 1996 on our museum's website by visiting <http://rgvrrm.org/newsletter>.

We will publish more details about the mailing change as we get closer to the deadline. Thanks for your support during this exciting period of transition!

—Otto M. Vondrak, Editor

MATERIALS SUBMISSIONS: We welcome your contributions to The Semaphore! Any materials related to the activities of the Rochester & Genesee Valley Railroad Museum, as well as the history of Rochester's railroads are welcome for publication in the *Semaphore*. All written materials should be submitted as Microsoft Word or plain text documents, and all photographs as high-resolution JPEG files. Materials and inquiries should be emailed to the Editor at ovondrak@yahoo.com or call (585) 820-2341.



THE SEMAPHORE
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Chapter Meeting:
September 15
 7:30 PM at Industry Depot
 252 Route 251, Industry, NY

Next Chapter Meeting:
October 20
 7:30 PM at 40 & 8 Club
 900 University Ave., Rochester, NY

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*HEY! Tell your friends that
 the September meeting will
 be at Industry Depot!*



MYSTERY PHOTO: This vintage photograph showing a complex terminal approach guarded by semaphores has been hanging up in our depot's waiting room for many years, placed there by a volunteer long ago. Most likely this was a promotional photo from Rochester-based General Railway Signal. We're not certain of the location, though we think it is somewhere in the East. That's a SOCONY fuel storage tank at the left of the frame, and there is a Philadelphia & Reading switcher in this scene. Could it be Jersey City? Please contact us if you have an idea! PHOTO COLLECTION OF RGVRRM