

THE SEMAPHORE

NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCHESTER & GENESEE VALLEY RAILROAD MUSEUM



NEXT MEETING:

JULY 19

*Take a ride on
our museum railroad!*

JULY 2012
VOL. 55 No. 11



YOU'RE NOT SEEING THINGS: Norfolk Southern train 11R with New York Central 1066 leading gets a look over by the local crew switching in Hagerstown, Maryland, on June 19, 2012. The NYC unit is one of 20 heritage tributes created by Norfolk Southern to celebrate their 30th anniversary. The units will gather at the North Carolina Transportation Museum in July for a "family portrait." PHOTO BY JOE GOODRICH/RAILPICTURES.NET

A Look Ahead

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It's summertime, which means it's also time to come out and enjoy your museum! Here are some highlights from our last Board meeting to bring you up to date.

We passed a policy on personal equipment on the property. We felt this was import to address so that personal items or equipment may be displayed on the museum's property to enhance our existing collection. As the museum grows we may have the opportunity to have additional items and equipment on display, and this policy sets the guidelines to help facilitate that. The policy requires an agreement between the museum and the owner, to ensure that both parties are protected.

We also passed a motion requiring us to put 10% of almost all income into our Museum Endowment Fund. The growth of this fund will help us to ensure the long

term survival of the museum. This a key fund which we hope to increase through other means as well.

We also decided on some key projects we would like to see finished this year. Among them are the completion of the depot repainting project, design and construction of a an inspection pit inside the Restoration Building, bringing the fill south of the building to final grade, and general clean-up of the property.

Finally we spent some time talking about what we would like see at the museum in 5-10 years. I have also spoken to some of our volunteers about this and gathered ideas. Do you have any ideas on what you want the place to be? Let me know by email at mdow@rochester.rr.com or call me at (716) 474-2833. Thank you!

— Michael E. Dow, President



www.rgvrrm.org

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The official publication of
the Rochester & Genesee Valley
Railroad Museum

Volume 55, No. 11

EDITOR

Otto M. Vondrak
ovondrak@yahoo.com

PRINTING AND MAILING

Bob Miner
Don Wawrzyniak

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TRAIN BULLETIN

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM R&GVRRM



ROUTE OF THE PHOEBE SNOW: Norfolk Southern 1074 is the twentieth and final unit in the railroad's series of tributes to the heritage companies that make up the modern NS system. Painted in tribute to the Lackawanna, NS 1074 enjoys a bit of sunshine outside the new EMD assembly plant in Muncie, Indiana. These new SD70ACe locomotives are rated at 4,500 horsepower, produced by new Tier-2 compliant 16-710G3C-T2 prime movers.

PHOTO BY CASEY THOMPSON/NORFOLK SOUTHERN

UPCOMING MEETINGS AT THE DEPOT

Join us for a train ride at Industry! For **June 21, July 19, August 16, and September 20**, we return to Industry Depot to enjoy rides over our demonstration railroad following the membership meeting. Bring a friend, all are welcome! As always, please check the listings on our web site for more information at www.rgvrrm.org.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome our newest members voted in at the last membership meeting in June. **Ira Sacher** and family of Bergen, New York. Ira is interested in publications and historical research. Please also welcome **James, Laurie, and Nicholas Otto** of Hilton, New York. Jim is interested in restoration, tour guiding, publications, historical research, and operations. We're glad to have you on board!

—Sam Rosenberg, Membership Chair

SPECIAL EVENTS 2012

Aside from our regular Sunday museum operations, we have several special events scheduled in cooperation with NYMT. Please add these special events on your calendar and consider spending a few hours to volunteer with us! Every little bit helps.

Trolleys at Twilight - July 21

Diesel Day - August 19

Fall Foliage by Trolley and Train - Sep. 16, 23, 30, and Oct. 7, 14, 21, 28, and Nov. 4

VISIT US ON-LINE:

www.rgvrrm.org

facebook.com/rgvrrm

PLAN AHEAD: Next Meeting:

AUGUST 16
at Industry Depot

JOIN THE MUSEUM TODAY

Annual Dues: \$25.00

Rochester & Genesee Valley RR Museum
P.O. Box 23326
Rochester, NY 14692-3326



ROCHESTER & GENESEE VALLEY RAILROAD MUSEUM

VISIT OUR WEB SITE: WWW.RGVRRM.ORG

MUSEUM CONTACT INFO

MUSEUM MANGER

David Scheiderich

(585) 301-1019 boblenon@gmail.com

MOTIVE POWER SUPERINTENDENT

Joe Nugent

(585) 944-1047 joe.r.nugent@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

Sam Rosenberg

ALC0251@frontiernet.net

MOTIVE POWER DEPT.

RG&E 1941: Ron Amberger and Joe Nugent continue to work on Rochester Gas & Electric #1941. Trial runs were performed on our museum mainline in order to adjust the throttle linkages on this locomotive. Unfortunately, a couple electrical issues were discovered. Jim Johnson is cleaning a few switches to help correct one of the issues. We fully expect to have this locomotive back in service in July. Stay tuned!

LV 211: Lehigh Valley #211 was up and running for our Railroad Day event this month. Our visitors enjoyed seeing this locomotive operate up close and personal! We also used LV 211 for our membership meeting this month. She performed very well on both days.

US Army 1843: Our Fairbanks-Morse locomotive, former US Army 1843, is getting a well deserved rest this summer. We put her to work this past January moving our *Empire State Express* passenger car set onto our new siding on the LA&L. There are no immediate plan to use the FM this year, so it will remain tarped to protect it from the elements.

RG&E 1950: Our other RG&E 45 tonner, RG&E 1950, is currently in storage out of service. This locomotive is next on the list of motive power restoration priorities, as its weight and wheelbase will allow it to traverse the entire railroad end-to-end. Aside from one bad engine, it is in relatively good mechanical shape. Don't let the



A BIG BRAKE JOB: Our volunteers were busy reconditioning the brakes on our ex-New York Central coaches on June 26. With the brake piston removed (TOP) for cleaning and installation of a new piston packing cup, you can see the inside of one of the four-per-truck 12 inch brake cylinders. The cylinder here was wiped down to insure it was clean and then a thin coat of an approved air brake grease was applied to the sides to insure the piston will slide freely in the cylinder after its re-installation. **TEAMWORK:** With the cylinder cleaned and greased and the new packing cup and seals installed on the piston, museum president Mike Dow (left) and museum vice-president Joe Nugent (right) work to set the piston back into the cylinder. Between the weight, the odd angle you have to install the piston at, and trying to insure the packing cup does not fold over on itself, it is quite a challenge. But our volunteers were up for it, and there is still more work to do. Help and donations are always welcome to help us keep making progress. PHOTOS BY JOHN STEWART

peeling paint fool you! In due time the 1950 will earn her place in the shop. Contact me if you want to help!

—Joe Nugent, Motive Power Supt.

LV CABOOSE

Many of the volunteers who were working on the LV caboose lent their hands to helping work on our coach set. Work will con-



MUSEUM NEWS

tinue on stripping the old paint from the wooden interior. Following that work, we will make repairs to the exterior sheet metal where needed. Additional work was performed by volunteer Jim Bridgen to needle scale the remaining rust from the exterior. Work will continue throughout the summer so that we may prepare the body for primer before winter sets in. Do you want to get involved? Contact the Sub-General Assistant Director Foreman Otto Vondrak at ovondrak@yahoo.com.

"TROLIES AT TWILIGHT"

On Saturday, July 14, the New York Museum of Transportation recreates an evening at an old-time "trolley park," complete with refreshing ice cream and the happy sound of the calliope wafting across the beautiful Genesee Valley countryside. Our diesel trains with two cabooses will meet the trolley ride for the continuation to Industry Depot and the Rochester & Genesee Valley Railroad Museum. No reservations required! Special Event admission applies: \$8 Adults, \$7 Seniors, \$5 Children (3-15). The event starts at 4:00 p.m. and runs until 10:00 p.m. Come enjoy this unique after-hours perspective on your museum's railroad!

"DIESEL DAY"

On Sunday, August 19, join the Rochester & Genesee Valley Railroad Museum for "Diesel Day," a celebration of working vintage diesel locomotive technology. These kings of the rails come in all sizes, and the collection at our museum gives visitors a rare opportunity to ride on and learn more about these fascinating vintage machines! Learn what makes a diesel go, see how they are operated. See several different diesel locomotives under power, and take a ride behind them! Meet the engineer and his friendly crew! One day only! No reservations required! Special Event admission applies: \$8 Adults, \$7 Seniors, \$5 Children (3-15). The event starts at 10:00 a.m. and runs until 6:00 p.m.

DEPOT GUIDES AND TC OPS

Volunteers are needed to fill the schedules posted at right. Without volunteers, there is no museum. Any donation of your time is greatly appreciated!

2012 Depot Guides

Volunteer **Mike Root** will be scheduling Depot Guides this year. We need Depot Guides to greet our guests and show them around the museum. We'll show you what you need to know to be a great Depot Guide! Please email Mike at mikeroott@clearwire.net if you are available to volunteer. Without Depot Guides, there is no museum.

DATE	EVENT	Depot Guide 1	Depot Guide 2
July 11	10:30 Group Tour (30-60)	Mike Root	
July 12	10:30 Group Tour (15-20)	Mike Root	
July 15	Regular Museum Ops	Mike Root	
July 19	10:00 Group Tour (25-30)	Mike Root	
July 22	Regular Museum Ops		
July 25	10:30 Group Tour (50-60)		
July 29	Regular Museum Ops		
August 2	10:00 Group Tour (10-12)		
August 5	Regular Museum Ops		
August 12	Regular Museum Ops		
August 19	DIESEL DAY		
August 21	10:00 Group tour (16-19)		
August 26	Regular Museum Ops	Irene Szabo	

2012 Track Car Operations

Once again, we will be depending on our volunteers to operate Track Cars throughout the season to safely shuttle our visitors from the trolley at Midway down to Industry Depot and return. Volunteer **Richard Fischpera** will be scheduling operators this year. We need qualified Track Car Operators to volunteer for the open slots in this schedule. Please email Richard at rfischpera@rochester.rr.com if you are available to operate.

DATE	EVENT	Track Car 1	Track Car 3
July 8	Regular Museum Ops		Al Emens
July 12	Group tour 1000-1200		
July 15	Regular Museum Ops	Tony Mittiga	Al Emens
July 22	Regular Museum Ops	B. Williams	
July 29	Regular Museum Ops		Al Emens
August 5	Regular Museum Ops		
August 12	Regular Museum Ops		Al Emens
August 21	Group tour 1000-1130		
August 26	Regular Museum Ops		Al Emens
Sept. 2	Regular Museum Ops	Playford/Teague	
Sept. 9	Regular Museum Ops	B. Williams	Al Emens

MISSION STATEMENT

As we continue forward in our development as a museum, we need have certain documents in place that help guide our future decisions so that we can use our resources in the most efficient way possible. For us to continue to be viable as a museum, we must become an engaging destination, for it is the visitors' donations that help fund our activities. While it may seem painfully redundant to some, having written guidelines in place helps your museum run in an efficient manner. Since joining the board of trustees last year, I have identified this as my primary project.

What I am proposing is a three-part process to establishing these guiding documents. The first part is the establishment and acceptance of a Mission Statement. The Mission Statement is how we communicate our activities to the general public in 15 seconds or less. It also helps set the foundation towards steering our resources

towards a common goal.

Once we have an accepted Mission Statement in place, we will translate those values into a Scoping Document. The Scoping Document will spell out in great detail our primary interests as a museum and what actions we take to forward the values in the mission statement. For instance, if our mission statement says, "We interpret local railroad history through the operation of trains and presentation of artifacts," then the scoping document spells out exactly what falls under "local railroad history." In other words, it defines what the scope of our collection is for geographic region and railroads companies represented.

Upon acceptance of a Mission Statement and a Scoping Document, we will then develop our Long-Term Museum Plan. The Museum Plan will outline exactly what it is we want to show the public, and

exactly how we will do it. For instance, if we decide to have an exhibit of glass insulators, how will they be displayed and interpreted to the public, and how would it fit into our overall mission and goals?

Right now the Mission Statement Committee consists of myself, trustee Joel Shaw, and David Shields. We will work together to gather input and implement changes to the documents. We would like to complete our work before the end of the year, if possible. Together with the board of trustees, we have discussed concepts for our new Mission Statement, presented below for your input. We want your feedback, so get involved! You can contact me at ovondrak@yahoo.com, or trustee Joel Shaw, or committee member Dave Shields with your input so we can consider it for revisions. **The new Mission Statement will be voted on at the August membership meeting.** —Otto M. Vondrak

Proposed Mission Statement:

The Rochester & Genesee Valley Railroad Museum is a non-profit organization founded in 1971 to educate the public on the impact of the railroad industry in Rochester and the surrounding region through the preservation and operation of railroad equipment and the display of relevant artifacts and historic documents.

DIESEL DAY - AUG. 19

We need volunteer train crews, car hosts, and depot guides to make this event a success! Tell your friends to bring their families and help spread the word! Details available on www.rgvrrm.org

Shelden S. King (1931-2012)

Shelden S. King, noted rail historian, passed away at age 80 on Saturday, June 16. Among the many museums and historical societies he belonged to were our own New York Museum of Transportation and the Rochester Chapter NRHS. Over the years, he shared his encyclopedic knowledge of steam and electric railways with members of both groups. Shelden made important contributions by providing historical details for the exterior restoration of Rochester & Eastern 157 at NYMT and for ongoing identification and cataloging of the archival holdings of both organizations.

Shelden was especially happy to see and ride our joint trolley-and-train ride. Anyone who had a chance to ride with Shelden was treated to a discussion of some historical attribute of the line.

Shelden was a prolific author, having his first work, a

history of New York State Railways, published at age nineteen in 1951. He wrote extensively on the trolleys centered around the cities of Binghamton, Elmira (where he lived for many years while working as the librarian for Westinghouse) and Geneva. He wrote a book on the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western, and spent the last decade of his life polishing a manuscript for an unpublished Lehigh Valley book.

A caring person, Shelden believed that the mere collection of information and artifacts could only be justified with sharing, but the books he authored were just one means of sharing. Shelden spent countless hours preparing and giving talks on a wide variety of rail history subjects, further sharing his knowledge with others. Many of us, though, knew of Shelden's sharing by the many hours of conversation or correspondence we had with him. We will all miss Shelden, but his work will live on through his many publications and friendships.

—Charles R. Lowe

Tom Trencansky (1951-2012)

Thomas T. Trencansky, 61, of Dryden, New York, died unexpectedly June 19, 2012, at Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester, NY. Thomas was born on January 14, 1951 in Johnson City, NY. Starting in childhood, he was an avid railroader and photographer, now well known throughout the world.

He worked at Cornell University as Administrative Manager of Geological/Earth and Atmospheric Sciences for 29 years; owned and edited *Dryden Tidbits*; and recently retired as Executive Director of the Cayuga Nature Center.

Over the years he spent most of his free time publishing articles and photographs in railroad magazines. Many will remember his name from *Railpace Newsmagazine* as

the editor of the "Empire State" column. Tom was also a volunteer at the Adirondack Scenic Railroad for many years. More recently, he spent his free time developing his "New York Railroads" web site (www.newyorkrailroads.com). Tom was a tireless volunteer promoter of the tourist lines and museums of New York State. An active historian, Tom was instrumental in founding the Cornell Railroad Historical Society, the Cornell Chapter of the NRHS, headquartered in Ithaca.

Tom was also a collector and enthusiast of classic cars, and was a fixture at area meets. A prolific photographer, he was always ready to share information and images to anyone who asked. His generous nature will be greatly missed. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Cayuga Nature Center or to the Adirondack Scenic Railroad.

—Otto M. Vondrak, and various reports



A note from the Editor...

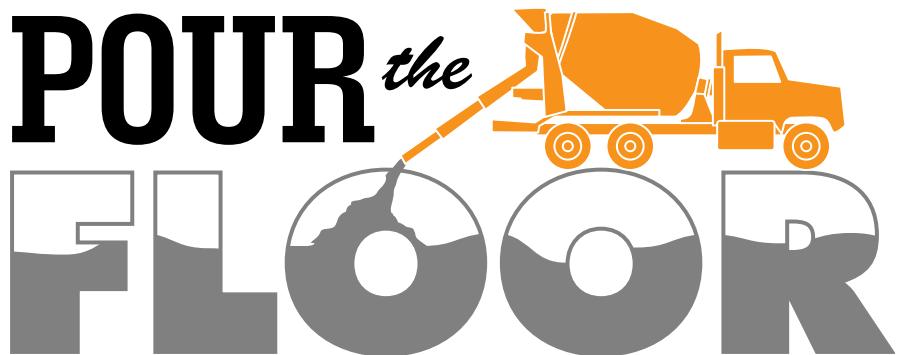
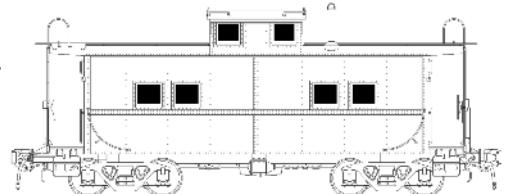
A bit of advice...

books, articles, photographs, and other valuable research and information shared over the years. What of the private archive no doubt stored away in boxes and on shelves, now without a caretaker to assign value? Most likely in the case of Sheldon and Tom, family and friends will step forward to ensure those priceless collections live on. But what about collections that are not so fortunate? I was told of a recent donation to NYMT of some extremely rare destination signs from a long-forgotten railroad from down in the New York City area. They were brought in by a widow who had recently disposed of her husband's collection upon his passing. Fortunately, those signs were saved, but who knows what else was lost to the trash man? Some people don't like to think about the future, but now is the time to take steps to preserve your collection of photos, timetables, books, lanterns, and so on. Make sure your family and friends know of your clear, specific intentions in writing so your life's work is not lost. You'll rest easier knowing that your collection will continue to benefit others when left in the right hands. —Otto M. Vondrak

You can help ! Visit www.rgvrrm.org/support

Help us complete our LV caboose!

You can help us return a historic Lehigh Valley Railroad caboose to the rails! We are trying to raise \$2000 to help pay for materials that will allow us to make repairs and replace damaged interior woodwork, as well as make external sheet metal repairs where needed. As of April 15 we have raised \$500. Your donation in any amount will help!



Pour The Floor! Our fundraising goal is \$75,000.00. These funds 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 and enhance our restoration and maintenance abilities.

YAHOO!® GROUPS New email list took effect in February

In an effort to streamline our communications, we are moving our old email distribution lists to new Yahoo! Groups! Joining the new groups is easy, plus it gives you more control over how you communicate with others. **There are new email lists for Friends, Members, Active Volunteers, and Operations Dept.! Need to get signed up? Not sure where you belong? Contact Otto Vondrak by email at ovondrak@yahoo.com.**



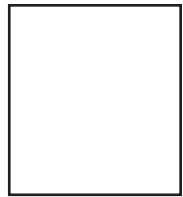
A PROMISING SIGN: Volunteer Chris Hauf stands beside our newly installed 4x8 sign that faces Route 251 near Industry Depot. The bright yellow and black graphics were designed by Otto Vondrak, and the new framing was constructed by Dan Waterstraat and others. Chris Hauf cut and applied the vinyl lettering, and the sign was installed by a team consisting of Hauf, Mark Wilczek and Jeremy Tuke on June 30. Thanks to everyone who helped make this project a reality, we now have a bright, new advertisement to the public who pass by our museum site each day. If you're wondering what happened to our old hand-painted sign, don't worry. It was carefully removed and has been set aside for preservation as part of our museum's history. Do you have ideas on how we can continue to increase our museum's visibility to the public? We are constantly looking for ways to improve the visitor experience, and raise awareness of our unique dual-museum operation. Send your ideas to the editor (see below)! **PHOTO BY JEREMY TUKE**

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

ROCHESTER & GENESEE VALLEY RAILROAD MUSEUM
P.O. BOX 23326
ROCHESTER, NY 14692-3326



This Month's Meeting:

July 19

7:30 PM at Industry Depot
Route 251, Rush, NY

Next Month's Meeting:

August 16

7:30 PM at Industry Depot
Route 251, Rush, NY

— find us on Facebook: facebook.com/rgvrrm —



ANOTHER ERIE EXPERIENCE: Norfolk Southern 1068 is painted in tribute to the Erie Railroad, as factory fresh paint gleams under the lights at EMD's new locomotive assembly plant in Muncie, Indiana. Twenty units in all pay tribute to the railroads that make up Norfolk Southern, which celebrates its 30th anniversary this year. Will 1068 will make a visit to Portage Trestle before it is replaced? PHOTO BY CASEY THOMPSON/NORFOLK SOUTHERN