



**OPENING DAY:** Trains were meeting trolleys on the Opening Day for joint operations with the New York Museum of Transportation on May 16. The 2010 schedule will include many weekends of diesel operations. See page 6 for more photos from Opening Day. PHOTO BY CHRIS HAUF

# Getting Started!

## **INSIDE**

Train Bulletin .....	2
Museum News .....	3
2010 TC Operators .....	7
First Diesel on LV .....	7

Wow, what a month! Where to start? Our new water well and treatment building is now complete! That means we have a usable water supply near the restoration building. It also means that our depot's plumbing is now fed from the new well. As a word of caution, the water must still be tested and approved by the Health Department. **Until further notice, no one should be drinking from the new water supply until we receive approval from the Health Department.** Many thanks to Jeremy Tuke, Rand Warner, Jim Johnson, Bob Mader, Chad Timothy and the many others who helped contribute to the project's completion.

The new West Siding is progressing

nicely, see Luther Brefo's report on page 4. Again, thanks to the many volunteers that worked on this including Dan Wattstrat, Scott Gleason, Chad Timothy, Pete Gores, Jeremy Tuke, Dale Hartnet, Luther Brefo, Mike Walsh, and many others! Once we complete work on the siding extension, we will tackle our mainline project for the year. Switch 6 needs a number of timbers replaced and putting down fresh stone. As time allows, we will continue extending the siding further south.

Preparing our set of former New York Central coaches for a return to service will become a priority project. While structurally sound, a number of small projects need to be completed. (Continued on page 7)



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

#### CHAPTER OFFICERS

**PRESIDENT**  
Dave Luca

**VICE PRESIDENT**  
Dave Scheiderich

**TREASURER**  
Don Wawrzyniak

**RECORDING SECRETARY**  
Joe Nugent

**CORRESPONDING SEC'Y**  
Ron Amberger

**NATIONAL DIRECTOR**  
John Stewart

**TRUSTEES**  
Bob Achilles  
Luther Brefo  
Mike Dow  
Peter Gores  
Jim Johnson  
Joel Shaw



The official publication of  
the Rochester Chapter,  
National Railway Historical Society

Volume 52, No. 9

**EDITOR**  
Otto M. Vondrak

**PRINTING AND MAILING**  
Bob Miner  
Don Wawrzyniak

©2010 Rochester Chapter, NRHS. The Semaphore is published monthly by the Rochester (New York) Chapter, National Railway Historical Society. It is mailed free to all Chapter members. Non-member subscriptions are \$12.00 and run from January 1 to December 31. Chapter 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 Chapter the Rochester & Genesee Valley Railroad Museum, and regional railroad history are gladly accepted.

# TRAIN BULLETIN

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM ROCHESTER CHAPTER NRHS

#### 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).

**June 17; July 15; and 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.

#### CHAPTER LIBRARY REPORT

The Chapter's Library at the 40 & 8 Club will be open on Monday, June 21 from 6:30-8:30 pm.

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

**June 20, 2010: Railroad Day:** Caboose rides will be offered on this special day centering around railroad operations.

**July 17, 2010: Trolleys at Twilight:** 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.

**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 (10A.M.-6P.M.) and Special Event admission prices apply.

**VISIT US AT: [WWW.ROCHNRHS.ORG](http://WWW.ROCHNRHS.ORG)**



Museum volunteers were busy through the month of May to extend the new West Siding that will be home for our former New York Central stainless steel coaches. This view from our Restoration Building gives a real perspective as to how big the job is. See more photos and details starting on page 4. PHOTO BY CHRIS HAUF

#### JOIN ROCHESTER CHAPTER NRHS

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

#### PLAN AHEAD: Next Meeting:

**July 15**  
Industry Depot





## ROCHESTER & GENESEE VALLEY RAILROAD MUSEUM

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

### MUSEUM MANAGER

Dave Luca

(585) 288-0318 [daveluca@frontiernet.net](mailto:daveluca@frontiernet.net)

### MOTIVE POWER SUPERINTENDENT

Joe Nugent

(585) 944-1047 [joe.r.nugent@gmail.com](mailto:joe.r.nugent@gmail.com)

### TRACK SUPERINTENDENT

Luther Brefo

(646) 241-5294 [lutherkb@gmail.com](mailto:lutherkb@gmail.com)

### OPERATIONS SUPERINTENDENT

Mike Dow

(716) 474-2833 [opsdept@rgvrrm.org](mailto:opsdept@rgvrrm.org)

### FREIGHT CAR SUPERINTENDENT ASSISTANT MUSEUM MANAGER

David Scheiderich

(585) 301-1019 [boblenon@gmail.com](mailto:boblenon@gmail.com)

### MOTIVE POWER DEPT.

**RG&E 1941:** Our former Rochester Gas & Electric switcher is inching closer to completion. The fuel pump and governor assembly was removed from it's number two engine a few weeks ago. It was not functioning properly and needed to be sent out to be rebuilt. The rebuilt assembly will be reinstalled as soon as it comes back. Efforts are also being made to clean up the locomotive in preparation for paint. Joe Nugent has been cleaning and priming interior areas of the locomotive's cowl. In addition, the locomotive will be thoroughly washed as soon as the restoration building receives it's water supply. Joe has also been working on refurbishing the headlight housings. The old housings are being modified to accept modern PAR style locomotive headlight bulbs. This will improve visibility, safety and ease of maintenance. In other news, Mike Walsh removed the old window frame rivets. They were severed when the old window frames were removed. New brass rivets will be installed in order to maintain the locomotive's original appearance. Mike has also installed the new drain lines for the exhaust bowls. These lines will direct rain water away from the bowl to the outside. This will prevent corrosion and damage to the new exhaust bowls.

**RG&E 1950:** Our new resident diesel mechanic Bob Ziegler began inspecting



**Diesel mechanic Bob Ziegler inspects the non-functioning engine on RG&E 1950. While no work is planned on this locomotive, it was decided to investigate its problems so that a future plan could be developed. Unfortunately, it appears rainwater got into the engine through the uncapped exhaust stack, although it was capped as soon as the chapter acquired it. The cylinder liners are in rough shape. Arrangements are being made for a replacement drop-in Cummins engine. PHOTO BY JOE NUGENT**

the No. 2 engine on RG&E 1950. This engine would not turn over when the locomotive was donated to us about a year and a half ago. The inspection revealed water in several of the cylinders. This locomotive does not have exhaust opening protection, so it is believed that the number two engine became flooded with water over time. As a result, the piston rings have frozen to the cylinder walls. This engine will need to be rebuilt or replaced. No work is planned at this time, however the information we obtained from this inspection will allow us to plan for future work.

**BNY 12:** The boiler analysis on former Brooklyn Navy Yard #12 has been completed by Strasburg Railroad! They are checking over their numbers very carefully and will send us the report as soon as they are satisfied with it. We should have a complete, extremely detailed report in a

week or two. In general, the boiler is in good shape. The boiler shell looks good, however we will need to replace a few fire-box sheets. I will provide more details once we have the report in hand.

**LV 211:** Work continues on Leigh Valley 211's stuck pedestals on the No. 4 axle. Once the old rusty pedestal liners are removed, we will replace them with new liners. We are also working on swapping out badly worn brake shoes. Lastly, Peter Gores delivered the 211's rear sand boxes to Mohawk Valley Community College in Utica, NY. Students there will work to repair the boxes so that they may hold sand once again!

**A reminder that the Motive Power Department meets every Saturday at 9:30 inside Industry Depot. All are welcome! —Joe Nugent, Supt.**



# MUSEUM NEWS

## TRACK DEPARTMENT

The Track Department has been making great progress on extending the West Siding through the months of May and June. The new siding extension was graded then rolled. Stone ballast was put down, graded and rolled. Next we dropped ties and enough rail to complete 150 feet., Joints were bolted, then tie plates were inserted. Through the end of May the rails were gauged and "safety spiked."

We've begun stoning, jacking, leveling, and tamping the first 300 feet of it and are working south. All of this without the use of a crane! We're shooting for an additional 150 feet after this bit is done. We can always use more able bodies to help complete the construction, so please come and spend a few hours on the track gang when you can! Now to get some more ballast...

—Luther Brefo, Supt.

## SUPPORT "DONATE A TON"

The Rochester & Genesee Valley Railroad Museum has been working very hard on the construction of a new siding west of the Livonia, Avon & Lakeville Railroad.

The goal is to use this siding in late summer 2010 for the storage of its operational six-car ex-New York Central Railroad Empire State Express stainless steel passenger car set. At a minimum to hold that train, the museum needs six hundred feet of tangent siding.

To date, the museum has paid for and had the LA&L install a new turnout in their mainline. We have also cleared and graded over 600 feet of land for the siding to be installed on. In some areas, the over two feet of dirt had to be removed. Our volunteers have installed over 400 feet of track on sub-ballast, and we have the material on hand to install the next 150+ feet of track.

The biggest challenge the museum faces right now is affording the purchase of the 300 TONS of ballast needed to raise, tamp and level the currently installed track and the soon to be installed 150 plus feet. That is six hundred thousand pounds of stone. Therefore we hope you can help us.

We are starting a new fundraiser called "Donate-A-Ton!" For every \$20.00 you donate, the museum can buy one of the three hundred tons of ballast we need.

Where else can you donate \$20 and know you have purchased a TON of material. Every ton helps so please consider donating \$20 or more. **You can donate securely using PayPal by visiting our web site <http://rgvrrm.org/support>.**

—Chris Hauf

## John L. Weber (1920-2010)

Long time Rochester Chapter member and former Chapter Board member John L. Weber passed away May 12 at the age of 90. John was a Chapter Board member for many years and was always a willing contributor and extremely generous when it came to funding projects around the museum. John was also very willing to help with his engineering background, generating some of the first concept drawings of our Restoration Building. John was a WW II Army Veteran, who served in the North African and European Campaigns. John enjoyed a long career in engineering at Rochester Products, and retired to his home in Gates.



**LEFT:** Work continues on RG&E 1941. Mike Walsh installed a new copper drain line on the newly fabricated exhaust bowl. This line will drain any water that collects within the bowl and prevent corrosion. **ABOVE:** The interior areas of the cowl are being cleaned, primed and painted. Great care is being taken to cover all areas with new paint, inside and out. This will prevent damage to the original sheet metal. This photo shows the headlight area being primed. Once painted, the refurbished headlights can be installed. **PHOTOS BY JOE NUGENT**



# MUSEUM NEWS



**WE'VE BEEN WORKING ON THE RAILROAD:** We have enjoyed great progress on the extension of our new West Siding through the months of May and June. **TOP LEFT:** Looking over the siding from the R&GVRM mainline just as the earthwork for Phase 3 was beginning. This gives some idea of the scope of the project. **TOP RIGHT:** Dan Waterstraat has the controls of the museum's Bucyrus-Erie 20-H hydraulic excavator. **ABOVE LEFT:** With the ground prepared, ties were placed for the next phase of the siding. The crew here includes (from left to right) Dave Scheiderich, Pete Gores, Dan Waterstraat, Scott Gleason, and Mike Walsh. **ABOVE RIGHT:** Scott Gleason pushes dirt with the museum's 1968 Cat D7E dozer. This piece has been the backbone of the museum's heavy earthmoving capability since being restored with a new engine and new paint in 2002. **PHOTOS BY CHRIS HAUF** **RIGHT:** Dave Scheiderich, Luther, and Mike Walsh "safety spiked" the newly installed rail on the evening of June 3. **PHOTO BY DAVE SCHEIDERICH**







# MUSEUM NEWS



**OPENING DAY! TOP LEFT:** Visitors board interurban #161 for the return trip to New York Museum of Transportation from the Midway station on opening day 2010. **TOP RIGHT:** Volunteer Steve Huse was at the controls of R&GV 1654 on Opening Day. **ABOVE LEFT:** Jeremy Tuke's classic 1940 Buick Eight sits in the Industry depot parking lot on opening day adding a little more history to the museum. **ABOVE RIGHT:** R&GV #1654 with our Erie and Penn Central cabooses awaits passengers at the Midway station. This shot is taken from the museum's Rochester, Lockport & Buffalo trolley waiting room which has been positioned at Midway. **RIGHT:** The lower walls in former New York Central coach #2567 have all been installed and the trim is well on its way. This work was sponsored by generous donations to the museum's "Partners in Panels" fundraiser which exceeded its goal. Thanks to everyone who donated! By the time you read this, the trim should be complete and the paint preparation underway. **PHOTOS BY CHRIS HAUF**



# 2010 Track Car Operating Schedule

Even though we are running more diesels than in the past, we still need trained Track Car operators to help out on select weekends. At right is the current schedule for the remainder of our 2010 operating season. We need your help to fill in the remaining open slots. Come out with a friend and share the operating duties for the day! New operators may want to shadow an experienced operator to better learn the schedule and equipment. please contact Harold Russell at [haroldrussell@juno.com](mailto:haroldrussell@juno.com) for more information.

DATE	OPERATOR 1	OPERATOR 2
June 13	Mader	Playford/Teague
June 27	Emens	Mittiga
July 4	Harnaart	Emens
July 11	Byrne	
July 25		
August 1		
August 8		Becker
August 15		
August 29	Dunham	
September 5	Playford/Teague	
September 12		

(From page 1) Cleaning, repairs and brake service will cover most of the work which should be identified shortly. The interior of Coach 1 is coming along nicely, thanks to Chris Hauf and his crew. Some electrical work is being done in the *Alonzo P. Cornell*, our Railway Post Office car that houses our HEP generator. As the summer progresses, we will need many hands to help returning these coaches to active duty. A few hours from each of our members can really help make a difference.

Mike Dow and Joe Nugent did some work on the tamper. The bolts that held on the rear axle had become loose and rusted, so new ones were installed. Additionally, some rubber was installed for the motor mounts in an attempt to reduce the noise and vibration of the machine.

We would also like to thank Bob Miner for his years of service as National Director, and welcome John Stewart, Ron Amberger and Jim Johnson into their new roles.

Its been a fantastic month. We have accomplished much, and everyone involved should take a moment to relax and enjoy in what we have accomplished as a group. Our June, July and August monthly Chapter Meetings will take place at Industry Depot, and always include a number of train rides for our members and guests. I hope to see you all on board!

—David Scheiderich,  
Asst. Museum Mgr.

DEMOCRAT & CHRONICLE • ROCHESTER, N.Y. • MONDAY, JULY 11, 1938



EMC SW-1 #107 at the Lehigh Valley station in Rochester (D&C Photo)

## Lehigh Installs Diesel Engine on Its Rochester Branch

**BECOMES FIRST ROAD ENTERING CITY TO ABANDON STEAM**

The Lehigh Valley Railroad's Rochester branch has graduated into the smokeless class.

A powerful diesel heavy-oil locomotive has replaced steam and gasoline-electric engines previously in use and is now handling all traffic on the branch, which connects Rochester with the main Lehigh Valley line at Rochester Junction and which has an offshoot to Honeoye Falls and Hemlock.

Up to the time the diesel arrived, a steam locomotive hauled freight and heavy passenger trains over the Rochester branch while the gasoline-electric motor pulled lighter passenger trains.

Substitution of diesel for steam on the Lehigh Valley branch signals another step in long-distance transportation out or Rochester. The Lehigh is the first steam line entering this city to completely abandon steam as a motive power.

—Thanks to Richard Palmer for supplying this article.



# THE **SEMAPHORE**

ROCHESTER CHAPTER  
NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
P.O. BOX 23326  
ROCHESTER, NY 14692-3326

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NON PROFIT  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
ROCHESTER, N.Y.  
PERMIT No. 826

Chapter Meeting:

**June 17**

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

*Next Chapter Meeting:*

**July 15**

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

## 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](http://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.