

THE SEMAPHORE
 NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCHESTER & GENESEE VALLEY RAILROAD MUSEUM
 DECEMBER 2010
 VOL. 53 No. 4

NEXT MEETING:
December 16
 Peter Gores presents the
 1971 American tour of the
 Flying Scotsman



The popular "Holly Trolley" rides keep our friends at the other end of the shared line busy through the end of December. New York Museum of Transportation's Car 161 rounds the bend alongside Remelt's tree farm on a chilly day in late November. The Rochester area was covered with a dusting of snow that provided the perfect holiday feeling to this timeless scene. Bring your friends and come ride the trolley this holiday season! Here's looking forward to another great year of progress for both of our organizations! PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER R. HAUF

Another Year of Progress

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Happy Holidays! As the year closes, it seems like a good time to reflect upon the past twelve months; and they certainly were busy! Do you recall that it was just this past March that we finally constructed the well building for water? Or perhaps it was only just two weeks ago that we poured flooring in the restoration building? It sure has been a crazy busy year.

As an organization we have a refined focus; we are a railroad history and preservation organization. Our name change in part embodies this. But, this has also taken place in actions. The Empire State Express coaches have continued to receive much attention. The windows are close to completion; upholstery has been redone; and

one coach is getting a fresh paint job. Wooden NYC caboose 19877 continues to receive work; paint and exterior wood has been replaced, and it no longer has its "mean lean." Work is wrapping up on RG&E 1941, and we can expect to see her roll out of the shop under her own power this spring. Next in line is RG&E 8, with new parts in hand our Motive Power team is ready to get to work!

But not all projects have directly had to do with our *raison d'être*. The West Siding has grown considerably this year, and is close to it's completion. The restoration building, after twelve years, has had about 20% of the floor poured, and it looks fantastic (see page *(Continued on page 7)*)



www.rgvrrm.org

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TRAIN BULLETIN

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM R&GVRRM

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.

HOLLY TROLLEYS RETURN: Santa may still use reindeer power, but museum visitors can enjoy a ride on an authentic 80 year-old electric trolley car, recalling another time when families rode the big interurban trolleys from their rural homes to do their holiday shopping in the city. Also, nothing says Christmas like model trains, and the museum's large model railroad will be running five trains at once. Trolleys run Saturdays and Sundays from December 4 through 19. Trolleys depart every half-hour starting at 11:30. Bring your friends!

HOLLY TROLLEYS: Weekends from November 27 through December 19, come enjoy a ride on NYMT's "Holly Trolley!" Special event fares apply.

LIBRARY COMMITTEE

Soon the Chapter Library will be moving to a much bigger room. We are currently seeking donations of strong, sturdy book cases to support our ever-growing collection of materials. Any volunteer help is appreciated. Please contact Bob Fleck by email at rcfleck@rochester.rr.com or (585) 338-7205.

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.

December 16, 2010: Flying Scotsman's Visit to America in 1971, presented by Peter Gores. This famous British steam engine was brought to America by preservationist Alan Pegler, where a series of promotional trips were run until the engine was returned in 1973. Pete Gores will present images from the Flying Scotsman's tour of America,

with plenty of examples of the contemporary railroading scene of the time.

January 20, 2011: Railroads of Livingston County, presented by Douglas Morgan.

February 17, 2011 - Ted Miller will offer a presentation on the San Louis Valley & Rio Grande and the Cumbres & Toltec, sure to delight any fan of classic western railroading.

March 17, 2011 - Cass Scenic boasts an assortment of rare geared steam locomotives that are a draw for railfans far and wide. Irene Szabo takes us to Cass, then brings us to the heavy railroading action of the American west.

April 21, 2011 - The Baltimore & Ohio operated a coal dock on 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!

June 16; July 21; August 18, 2011 - Enjoy our museum railroad. Summertime meetings at Industry depot resume..

VISIT WWW.RGVRRM.ORG



JOIN R&GVRRM CHAPTER NRHS

Annual Dues: \$57.00

Rochester Chapter NRHS

P.O. Box 23326

Rochester, NY 14692-3326

PLAN AHEAD: Next Meeting:

January 20

40 & 8 Club, Rochester NY



MUSEUM CONTACT INFO

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MOTIVE POWER DEPT.

RG&E 8: The air reservoirs have arrived from Stoystown Tank & Steel of Stoystown, Pennsylvania! They will be installed before spring. The replacement of these air reservoirs was made possible through grants from the Amherst Railway Society and the NRHS.

RGV 1654: This locomotive is antifreeze equipped and will be active all winter on an as-needed basis.

USA 1843: Dave Scheiderich, Chad Timothy and Joe Nugent tarped the radiator fan opening for the winter. The freeze point of the antifreeze was also checked.

LV 211: Dave Scheiderich, Ron Amberger and Joe Nugent tarped the radiator fan openings and drained the remainder of the water from the cooling system.

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



TOP: Volunteer Dale Hartnett makes sure we have a good supply of firewood to keep the stove in the agent's office warm all winter long. Anyone seen our chainsaw? It's been missing since early October. **ABOVE:** Volunteer Bob Ziegler has been hard at work reassembling the ancient GM diesel that powers our tamper. It's been a long process, due to the fact that the engine has been out of production for many years and parts are hard to come by. When he's not getting dirty down at the museum, Bob is a diesel mechanic for Waste Management's fleet. **PHOTOS BY OTTO M. VONDRAK**

WEST SIDING UPDATE

With some nice weather in November and a little help from a rented bulldozer to aide the museum's heavy equipment, much more progress was made on excavating for the next extension of the new siding west of the LA&L to the museum's Empire State Express cars. Volunteer Chad

Timothy kept a full blade on the rented Cat D4 as he worked to get the grade right on the land which will become the road east of the siding, while Scott Gleason has the museum's Cat D7E piling up the excess dirt away from where the siding will be. With the excavation work completed and

finish grade reached, ballast was delivered and rough spread right from the trucks. Once the sub-ballasting is graded off, more track can start to be installed.

NYC COACH UPDATE

Progress has continued on the interior



MUSEUM NEWS



We took advantage of nice weather on the weekend of November 13 to complete some dirt work in the former construction yard. **TOP LEFT:** Volunteer Chad Timothy helps push dirt around on Saturday, November 13, as we prepare to extend our West Siding alongside the Livonia, Avon & Lakeville. A rented Cat D4 helped augment our existing fleet of heavy construction equipment maintained by our volunteers. **TOP RIGHT:** Chad Timothy and Rand Warner check the level of the grading in the area of the siding extension. **RIGHT:** An overview of the work area as seen from the restoration shop access road. **BELOW LEFT:** Three machines working simultaneously help grade the area where we plan to construct the siding extension (PHOTOS BY OTTO M. VONDRAK). **BELOW RIGHT:** Crushed stone has been placed in anticipation of track extension later this season. As long as the weather holds out, we'll keep working! PHOTO BY CHRIS HAUF





November was a flurry of activity at the museum, with great strides taken on many projects. **TOP LEFT:** Museum volunteer Joel Shaw paints the window surrounds on New York Central coach 2567 in anticipation of permanently reinstalling the glazing and frames. Nearly all the windows on one side of the car has been prepped, painted, and windows permanently installed this fall (PHOTO BY CHRIS HAUF). **TOP RIGHT:** Don Wawrzyniak continues making new seat covers in his makeshift upholstery shop inside our Erie Stillwell coach. **ABOVE LEFT:** Chris Hauf trims back some of the ties on Track 8 to provide clearance for the concrete slab that was poured November 18. **ABOVE RIGHT:** Dave Peet was working on the Railway Post Office car on November 13, making sure the car is weathertight for another Rochester winter! (PHOTOS BY OTTO M. VONDRAK)

restoration of NYC #2567. One of the current projects is the removal of the reglazed window modules which were just temporarily installed in the car, prepping of the interior window surround for new paint, repainting it, and then permanently installing them in the car with all new caulk. Helping to get that job done, volunteer, Joel Shaw, is working on repainting one of the larger window surrounds.

Over half of the windows on one side of the car have been completed already. Window work tends to take place on Tuesday afternoons and Saturdays. Other interior work on the car tends to take place on Tuesday evenings and Saturday mornings, and it will take place all winter long. The good news for the winter is that we have heat inside our well insulated car and help is always welcome! Please stop on out

if you are interested or contact me.

—Chris Hauf,
NYC 2567 Restoration Manager

CONCRETE FLOOR UPDATE

We recently installed a small section of concrete floor in the south end of the Restoration Building, the first of many to follow (we hope). To pour the floor, there were several steps we had to undertake. First, we had to clear all of our stuff from the area to be installed including an extra five feet at the north end for some head room. We also had to ensure there was plenty of room for access for the stone slinger truck and the cement trucks outside the south end. Ballast was added to track #8 south of the shop to bring it to grade to increase the area where trucks could maneuver. (continued on next page)



Next, measurements were taken to make sure the track was properly located in the center of door. It was determined we were a few inches off with Track 8. The ties were simply trimmed back a few inches to give clearance for the pour allowing us to leave the temporary track installed. In the future, we expect to locate an inspection pit on this track north of where the new slabs were installed. The finish floor height was also determined based on the building's footings

and survey stakes were installed by Rob Burz to add in both subgrade prep, stone install, and finish floor install.

With the stakes in place, it was possible to determine the subgrade and where we needed to remove more dirt. Luckily, we were already pretty close and with the assistance of our rented bulldozer and some of our dedicated volunteers on the business end of shovels, the grading was complete. Additionally, we had to cut and

TOP LEFT: Leveling and grading in the Restoration Building (PHOTO BY JOE NUGENT). **ABOVE RIGHT:** Contractors pour the slab at the south end of the shop. **MIDDLE LEFT:** Ballast was added to Track 8 so the cement truck would have easy access to the south end of the shop. **MIDDLE RIGHT:** Contractor Tom Burgess smoothing out the top finish coat. **ABOVE:** A panoramic view showing the completed slab. Another slab was also poured on the other side of RG&E 1941. PHOTOS BY CHRIS HAUF

attach foam insulation to the sides of the foundation to act as a barrier and provide for floor expansion. Once completed, we turned the site over to the contractor.

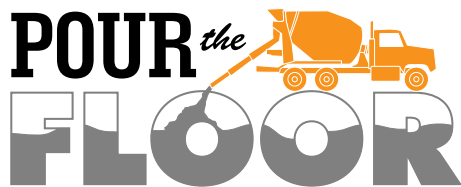
The contractor did the job over three days. On the first day, forms were installed along with six inches of stone for the subgrade which the contractor had brought in with a stone slinger truck. The stone which was actually crusher run was leveled and compacted to leave six inches for the finish slab. Grade was checked with a rotary laser level (which is a tool the museum could really use). Two feet of two inch fiberglass insulation was also sunk into the stone along the side walls of the shop to add further frost protection.

On the second day, the floor was poured and the necessary reinforcing mesh put into place. All finishing and sealing of the


floor also took place over the course of the second day as the concrete set up. On the third day, the contractor cut in the necessary expansion joints within the floor completing the job.

Currently, the floor is over 80% cured, but we need to leave a few more weeks before it is 100% solid. As such, we are waiting until Christmas before we bring in any vehicles, but the floor can be walked on.

The installation of the proposed inspection pit will be more complicated requiring more excavation, forming, electric/utility install and the actual embedding of rail tie downs into the concrete to hold the rail on the pit walls. However, the hardest part has already taken place: Getting started! Watch this space throughout 2011 as we embark on a fundraising campaign to "Pour the Floor!" — *Chris Hauf*



Watch for an announcement of our latest fundraising campaign, starting in 2011...



Happy Holidays
from the
Rochester & Genesee Valley
Railroad Museum

Important By-Laws Change

This amendment will voted on at the December meeting. The purpose is to alleviate the need to change presiding officers during the meeting at which the election is tallied.

Article 4.- Elections

Current

6. Electees will take office immediately upon the completion of the election.

Proposed

6. Electees will take office at the first Trustee's meeting following the completion of the election.

Another Year of Progress

(from page 1) 6). Our railroad has received a lot of attention, both from our own volunteers and from our friends at Giambatista. We have severed our connection with Monroe County Water Authority and replaced it with a well system. While these projects have consumed time and money; they will pay dividends for the years to come. Through all of this, we continued to be open to the public educating and entertaining happy visitors.

This year has been great fun for me, and hopefully it has been for you as well. As we come close to the end of this year, I want to thank everyone who contributed to

the success of the year. Without each of you, we are nothing more than a static display. We also need your financial support; as the year ends, please consider a donation to the Rochester & Genesee Valley Railroad Museum.

I have had a lifelong interest in trains, and I look back on my last five years volunteering at the museum as a very rewarding experience. I look forward to serving as your president in 2011 and working with everyone to meet our goal of building the best museum we can! Again, thank you all, and have a safe and happy holiday!

—*David Scheiderich, President*

"DONATE A TON"

We have been working very hard on the construction of a new siding west of the Livonia, Avon & Lakeville. The goal is to use this siding for the storage our passenger car set, which requires the construction of a 600-foot siding. 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? **Please visit rgvrrm.org/support for more info.**



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 ROCHESTER & GENESEE VALLEY RAILROAD MUSEUM
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Chapter Meeting:
December 16
 7:30 PM at The 40&8 Club
 933 University Ave., Rochester

Next Chapter Meeting:
January 20
 7:30 PM at The 40&8 Club
 933 University Ave., Rochester



HUMBLE BEGINNINGS: Rochester Chapter volunteers were hard at work in 1971, making desperately needed repairs to the roof and subfloor of the old Erie Railroad depot purchased with the intention of creating a railroad museum. While so much has changed in the last 30 years, what hasn't changed is our organization's pride and determination. Here's to a happy and successful 2011! PHOTO BY RICHARD BARRETT, RGVRRM COLLECTION