



In January 1989, RIT student Brian Solomon captured a Conrail local on Hojack Line at Charlotte. So much has changed in the last 20 years... RG&E has shut down both BeeBee Station and Russell Station, negating the need for coal deliveries; the Hojack Swing Bridge is facing dismantling, and SW1500's 9565 and 9573 were transferred to Norfolk Southern in the 1999 split. What does remain? Conrail N-11E caboose 18526 became part of our museum's collection in 1996, and has since been restored to its as-built Penn Central appearance! In the intervening years, Brian Solomon went on to develop his professional career as a photographer and author. See the back cover for another great photo from Brian. EKTACHROME BY BRIAN SOLOMON

An Early Spring

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We have been fortunate here in Rochester to have enjoyed a somewhat mild winter this season. The warmer-than-usual weather has allowed us to continue working outside during the months we would normally be relegated to indoor activities. As such, your museum has had a head start on a number of activities to help us prepare for the coming operating season. From track to equipment to training, it takes a lot of work behind the scenes to keep your museum functioning!

Later this month we will be having our first series of rules and training classes for all train crews. Now is your chance to jump in and get involved with train opera-

tions at our museum! Train crew not your thing? Consider helping out as a depot guide and conducting tours at the museum. We are always in need of outgoing folks to interact with our visitors!

It takes a lot of helping hands to get ready for the next operating season... If you've got a few hours to spare, come on down to the museum and pitch in! We'd be glad to have you.

On another note, please check inside this issue for an important by-laws change that will be voted on at the next member meeting. If you have any questions, please get in touch with me.

—David Scheiderich, Museum President



www.rgvrrm.org

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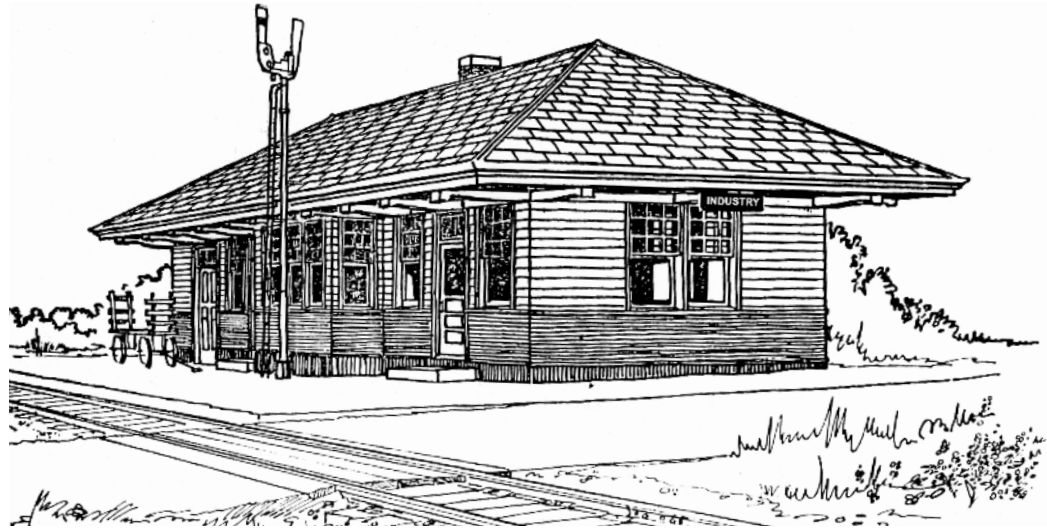
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TRAIN BULLETIN

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM R&GVRRM



UPCOMING MEETING PROGRAMS

Please join us for these upcoming great programs at our monthly membership meetings (of which you don't have to be a member to attend)! On **March 15, 2012**, longtime museum member Peter Gores will present "16mm Promotional Films from the Association of American Railroads." Museum member John Stewart will present "Railroads in North Central Pennsylvania" on **April 19, 2012**. Our Member's Slide Show Night and Elections is scheduled for **May 17**. For June, July, and August, 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.

Fortunately, we have no shortage of programs coming up! The dates for 2012 and 2013 are completely filled. The next open date in January 16, 2014. If any of you have a program that you would like to present, please call me at (585) 427-9159 or email haroldrussell@juno.com.

MUSEUM LIBRARY COMMITTEE:

YOUR LIBRARY IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS

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

is open the first and third Mondays of each month and also before our monthly meetings. 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.

2012 RULES CLASS

If you plan on participating in the operation of trains, trolleys, or track cars in 2012, you are required take this class. The first class session will be held March 10 in Room 2240 in the Center for Integrated Manufacturing Studies (Building 78) at RIT from 9:00AM to 12:30PM. The Air Brake and Train Handling class will follow from 12:30PM to 5:00PM, and is required for anyone whom wants to be a Conductor, Fireman or Engineer. Park in J Lot or T Lot, located at the northwest corner of the campus just off East River Road. Please RSVP to Dave Scheiderich (boblenon@gmail.com) if you plan to attend.

Visit us at www.rgvrrm.org

facebook.com/rgvrrm

youtube.com/rgvrrm

rgvrrm.blogspot.com

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:

April 19

40&8 Club - Rochester, NY



ROCHESTER & GENESEE VALLEY RAILROAD MUSEUM

VISIT OUR WEB SITE: WWW.RGVRRM.ORG

MUSEUM CONTACT INFO

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LEHIGH VALLEY CABOOSE

Our Lehigh Valley caboose was moved into the Restoration Shop back in January, and our volunteers have immediately begun work towards restoration. Throughout the month of February, the exterior of the caboose was needle scaled to remove paint and rust from the surface by several volunteers. Portions of the interior are also being disassembled to allow for steel repair. Our friends from the **Lehigh Valley Historical Society** in Shortsville, New York, made a \$500.00 donation towards the restoration of the caboose, for which we thank them. An article about the acquisition of the caboose was featured in the April 2012 issue of **Railfan & Railroad**, thanks to our vice president Joe Nugent. We hope that the article draws attention not only to the restoration project, but also to our museum activities in general. Volunteer Mark Wilczek is working with contacts at **Pioneer Millworks** in Farmington, New York, for potential materials to use for the interior restoration. Chris Hauf has been busy researching proper paint color formulas based on samples revealed during our restoration. Volunteers will soon move on to the interior work, starting with stripping the old paint from all wooden surfaces.

If you'd like to help out with this project on any level, please contact Otto Vondrak (ovondrak@yahoo.com) or Joe Nugent (joe.r.nugent@gmail.com).

RG&E 8

Volunteer Mike Walsh is working on fabricating two new hangers for the air reser-



READY FOR PAINT AND INSTALL... The brackets for one of ex-Rochester Gas & Electric GE 110-tonner's two new air tanks sit ready for paint on February 28. The other pair of brackets was too badly corroded to reuse so new brackets are being fabricated and should be complete in the coming week, which will allow the second new tank to be mounted and plumbed. PHOTO BY CHRIS HAUF



Sometimes it is all about the details. One of our replica ALCO builders plates affixed to the side of Lehigh Valley Railroad #211. Since the originals were long gone before we acquired the engine, we had replicas made by Wayne James Products. The plate is mounted magnetically so we can easily install and remove them during our operating days, please keep your eyes out for the plate during our upcoming 2012 operating season that kicks off in May. PHOTO BY CHRIS HAUF

voirs. He also cleaned up two other hangers that were in good enough condition to reuse (see photo above). These hangers will support brand new air reservoir tanks that will help us restore the air brake system to full function.

Additional work will take place throughout the next few months to return this engine to operation. Thanks to Chris Hauf and Jim Johnson for their assistance with this multi-faceted project.

—Joe Nugent, Motive Power Supt.



MUSEUM NEWS



Restoration work continues on our Lehigh Valley steel caboose inside our Restoration Shop. Volunteers have been needle-scaling the exterior metal of the caboose to prepare the surface for repairs and primer. **ABOVE:** We have been fortunate that the majority of the body is in very good shape. Working under cover of our shop has made the job so much easier. **JOE NUGENT PHOTO** **LEFT:** On February 21, museum volunteer Rob Burz works inside LV 95100 removing nails from some interior trim. With the majority of needle-scaling complete on the exterior, our volunteers will next move inside to start stripping paint from the wood and metal surfaces. Aside from making repairs, we will also have to fabricate some new fixtures. Care to pitch in? **CHRIS HAUF PHOTO** **BELOW:** The interior of the caboose was painted gray by Conrail when it was cycled through their car shop in the late 1970s. We will be working to backdate the car to an earlier period of service on the Lehigh Valley. Temporary work lights have been installed in this car. **JOE NUGENT PHOTO**



MUSEUM NEWS



**BUFFALO
ROCHESTER
AND
PITTSBURGH
RY.**

"SAFETY AND SERVICE"

EAST SIDE COMPLETE! The four cabinet doors on the east side of Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburgh caboose #280 are now installed with three doors being installed by Christopher Hauf during the February 28 work session. Work will begin on the west side of the car during the upcoming Saturday work session.

The Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, which had purchased the BR&P in 1932, did a modernization program on the class I-10 cabooses of which the #280 was one of. This car was rebuilt in 1968. The B&O shop forces removed all of the center cabinetry and cupola seating originally made from 3/4" thick 3" wide tongue & groove wood. They put plywood over the entire interior skin and then replaced the cabinetry with all plywood cabinetry. However, the new plywood cabinets and cupola seats were replaced in the exact same design as the originals.

Since our goal is to backdate the #280 to its as built BR&P appearance, we wanted the cabinets to look correct, however, it would have been expensive to remove and replace them with new tongue & groove cabinetry. Plus there is some neat "historic fabric" like the wear marks on the cupola seat walls we would have destroyed. Instead we chose to use a 1/4" thick 3" wide pine tongue & groove interior siding applied to the plywood to give the proper appearance while preserving the plywood cabinetry. This was a compromise position which is turning out to look quite good. PHOTO BY CHRIS HAUF



Our former Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburgh caboose was the first piece of rolling stock to arrive at our new museum. Retired by Chessie System in 1977, it was delivered to Industry in 1979. Dressed as B&O C-2631, the car got some attention from members of Rochester Chapter NRHS upon its arrival at Industry. Volunteers are working on this caboose in our Restoration Shop to return this caboose as close as possible to its as-built appearance. PHOTO COLLECTION OF RGVRM



Proposed By-Laws Change

Proposed bylaw change to remove the reference to the *NRHS Bulletin* from Article VI, Duties of Officers, Section 2, Vice-President.

Currently reads: 2.4. Supply the *NRHS Bulletin* with an annual report of the RGVRRM's current activities.

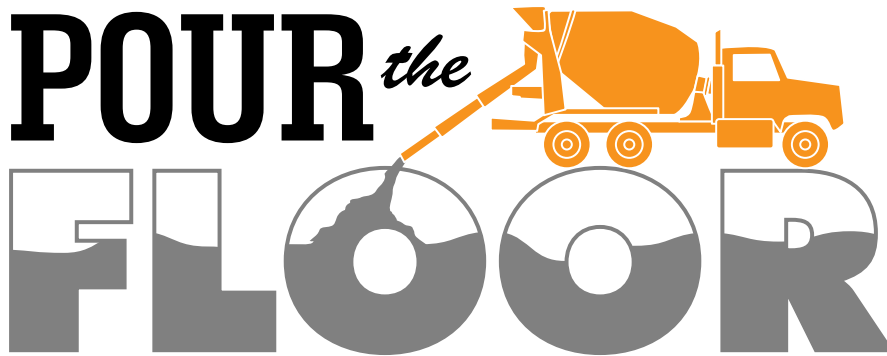
Change to: **2.4. Prepare an annual report to the membership and public relating to the activities of the RGVRRM.**



LEHIGH VALLEY THEN AND NOW: This photo comes from Bill Chapin. He took the photo in the early 1950's as best he can remember. A Lehigh Valley gas-electric "doodlebug" is seen heading towards Rochester Jct., just south of Elmwood Avenue. The University of Rochester boiler house (which was once a freight customer) is in the background. This location is where the Erie and the LV ran side by side. There was a junction between the two in the middle of the UR campus. **RIGHT:** Here we have a photo of what is most likely the first train in Rochester Jct. since the rails were removed in the 1980s. This LV 40-foot boxcar was moved from Manchester to Rochester Jct. and placed on display at the site of the old depot. The boxcar is placed on the old Rochester Branch right of way, this view looks towards the north. Notice the car still retains full length ladders and a high brake wheel. To visit the site, now used as a trailhead for the Lehigh Valley Rail Trail, take Route 251 to Plains Road. DAVE SCHEIDERICH PHOTO



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



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.



\$20 Buys a Ton of Ballast

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? As of this past February, we have been able to purchase 250 of the 300 tons we need, thanks to your support! **Please visit www.rgvrrm.org/support to donate today!**

YAHOO! GROUPS New groups 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.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/rgvrrm-friends> - This announcement-only list is open to anyone interested in the activities of our museum. Intended for the general public and event promotion to non-members.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/rgvrrm-members> - This list is open to all members in good standing, and is provided so that members can communicate with each other on a variety of railroading topics.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/rgvrrm-volunteers> - This list is intended specifically for the discussion of museum projects and improvements amongst project managers and active volunteers.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/rgvrrm-operations> - This list is intended for discussion amongst members of the Operations Department, including engineers, conductors, brakemen, students, and track car operators. Crew calls will also go out through this list.

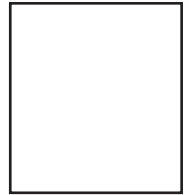
Not sure where you belong? Contact Otto Vondrak by email at ovondrak@yahoo.com.

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
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This Month's Meeting:

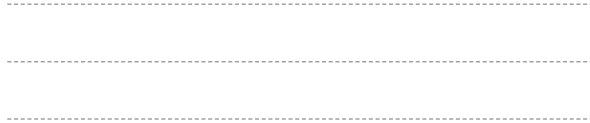
March 15

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

Next Month's Meeting:

April 19

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



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



Brian Solomon was a student at RIT studying photography when he captured this Conrail switch job on the Hojack Swing Bridge during a break in January 1989. Boat at left belongs to the now-defunct Marine Fire Department that was once based up in Charlotte. Conrail SW1500's 9565 and 9573 shove caboose 18526 across the bridge to Windsor Beach. The caboose is now part of the museum collection at Industry. BRIAN SOLOMON PHOTO