

NEXT MEETING:
August 16
 Take a ride on
 our museum railroad!



TROLLEYS (AND TRAINS) BY TWILIGHT: On the evening of July 21, Car 161 arrives at Midway Station to bring happy visitors back to NYMT. In an effort to recreate an old-time trolley park experience, visitors got to enjoy an after-hours trolley ride with diesel train connection, while enjoying ice cream and the sounds of a calliope at NYMT. For more photos of this joint NYMT-R&GVRRM event, please see pages 4 and 5. PHOTO BY CHRIS PLAYFORD

Continued Growth

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Some new developments! At our last meeting with the NYMT we were asked when we could begin test runs of diesel trains to the boarding area. These test runs will be happening soon, and if successful, will allow us to have another means of conveying our visitors for special events, when trolleys need some rest, or running with the trolleys for added capacity in the future. You can bet that the newly reactivated RG&E 1941 is a big part of those plans.

At our last board meeting Dave Shields presented a business plan for running the ESE coaches, although there is more discussion to had, it was an excellent presentation and a fine start to how we should conduct our affairs as we move forward.

I asked Jesse Marks to stay on as our publicity committee chairman, and the

board has confirmed his nomination. We look forward to his continued help.

Otto Vondrak and Bob Achillies will be working with NYMT on forming a joint policy on private groups using our location for filming or photo shoots. This is a service we have offered infrequently in the past, however our increased popularity has lead to more inquiries. The new policy will help us determine how to handle issues of compensation for our time and liability.

John Stewart is leading a project to start selling Richard Barrett's book titles once again, using electronic publishing and print on demand distribution. We are also working with author Ted Jackson on producing his Erie Railroad Rochester Division book in the same manner. More to come!

— Michael E. Dow, President



www.rgvrrm.org

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TRAIN BULLETIN

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM R&GVRRM

WITH SYMPATHIES

On behalf of everyone at R&GVRRM, I would like to express the museums deepest sympathies to our friends Chad and Oliva Timothy over the loss of their son Alex Michael.

—Mike Dow, President

UPCOMING MEETINGS AT THE DEPOT

Join us for a train ride at Industry! For **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 visit our web site for more information at www.rgvrrm.org.

NIGHT PHOTO SESSION - AUG. 16

Our August 16 program at the depot will feature a night photo session. Our intent is to feature our newly restored RG&E locomotive. Photographers Jeff Miller and Harold Russell will team up with multiple electronic flash units to supply the lighting. Those of you who are interested should bring a camera that is capable of leaving its shutter open ("Bulb" or "B" position) while the light is flashed on the subject. You will also need a tripod to secure-

ly support the camera during the exposure. See you at the depot!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome back **Chris Stilson** who resumed his membership since moving to Dayton, Ohio.

—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.

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

youtube.com/rgvrrm



WHAT IF THEY WERE STILL AROUND? This photo pretty much answers the question of what these railroads might look like had they survived today. The Pennsylvania, New York Central, and Penn Central units soak up some sun at the NS Family Portrait event July 3-4 at the North Carolina Transportation Museum. OTTO M. VONDRACK

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:

Sept. 20
at Industry Depot



ROCHESTER & GENESEE VALLEY RAILROAD MUSEUM

VISIT OUR WEB SITE: WWW.RGVRRM.ORG

MUSEUM CONTACT INFO

MUSEUM MANGER

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MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

Sam Rosenberg

ALC0251@frontiernet.net

MOTIVE POWER DEPT.

RG&E 1941: The mechanical work on RG&E 1941 is complete! Only a few cosmetic repairs remain to be completed. On July 19, RG&E 1941 operated for our membership at our July membership meeting at the museum. The locomotive performed very well. We are looking forward to operating 1941 for the first time at our membership picnic in August. Stay tuned!
—Joe Nugent, Motive Power Supt.

EXCURSION COACHES

Brake work continues on our former New York Central *Empire State Express* Budd stainless steel excursion set. New packing cups were installed last month by several volunteers. Efforts are also being made to locate and seal any leaks in the air systems. We are working hard to prepare two coaches for possible excursion service later this season. Please contact Joe Nugent if you'd like to help out!

LEHIGH VALLEY CABOOSE 95100

Work has slowed down a bit on our Lehigh Valley caboose because all available volunteers are working on the ESE coaches to help get them ready. But we have good news to report in terms of materials donation! Back in January, we were contacted by Jered Slusser, from **Pioneer Millworks** in nearby Farmington, NY, regarding their interest in donating some lumber for the doors, windows and benches we need to fabricate for the caboose. After a few months of working and planning on this, we are pleased to announce Pioneer Millworks has donated a generous amount



TOP: On July 26, the Motive Power Dept. had RG&E 1941 out on the main line for a little test run. Even the overcast skies that day could not dampen their enthusiasm! Look for 1941 to get a bit more work throughout the season now that the major restoration work is complete. **JOE NUGENT**
ABOVE: Jered Slusser from Pioneer Millworks in Farmington loaded up his truck to make a donation of Heart Pine to the museum to help in the interior repair and restoration of LV 95100. Mark Wilczek will be heading up the woodworking portion of that project. **MARK WILCZEK**

of Heart Pine to the Museum. Pioneer specializes in reclaiming old timbers from buildings, and such, then turning them into usable stock for new projects. This material is of domestic, old growth lumber. Typical of what was used in the original construction of rail equipment of days gone by. Jered tells us this particular type

of wood was mostly harvested in the 1890s. Couple that with the fact these trees typically were in the neighborhood of 150 to 200 years old at harvest, these trees were likely saplings in the late 1600s or early 1700s! A big thanks to Pioneer Millworks, Jered, and everyone involved.

—Mark Wilczek



MUSEUM NEWS

ERIE CABOOSE C254

The roof painting project is now complete. After many hours and many hands preparing the surface, it was finished off by volunteer Chris Hauf, when he sprayed the final paint early in July. We want to give the finish a little time to weather to make sure all is well, seeing as this is a new finishing system to us. We will then be installing roof walks, to protect this new surface and return it closer to its original condition. Thank you every one who put their time and hard work into this project.

—Mark Wilczek

R&GV WEST COAST DIVISION

Please join us in offering congratulations to long-time volunteer **Chris Hauf**, who has recently taken advantage of an exciting new career opportunity in California. We can't possibly thank Chris enough for his too-many-to-list contributions to our museum over the years. Expect Chris to drop in from time to time as his family is remaining in the Rochester area for the time being. In case you get any ideas that he will be taking time off from railroading, don't you believe it. Chris is already actively volunteering with the **Niles Canyon Railway** in Sunol, Calif., alongside fellow R&GV transplant **Mike Roqué**!

"DIESEL DAY" - AUGUST 19

On Sunday, August 19, join us 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!**



TOP: As dusk descends, visitors prepare for their twilight trolley ride to Midway Station. **ABOVE:** The view of the rolling farmlands that surround NYMT. **RIGHT:** The motorman prepares to change ends for the return trip to NYMT. **PHOTOS BY CHRIS PLAYFORD**

Trolleys at TWILIGHT



MUSEUM NEWS



In an effort to recreate the old-time “trolley park” experience, visitors took an after-hours trolley ride through the rolling farmland that surrounds our museums to Midway Station, where diesel trains met them for the ride down to Industry. Upon return to NYMT, visitors were treated to ice cream and the bright, cheerful sounds of an antique calliope. TOP LEFT: Our volunteer train crews check on lanterns and other safety devices while passengers make their way towards the trolley at Midway Station. TOP RIGHT: Scoops Ice Cream provided refreshments for visitors at NYMT. ABOVE LEFT: The cut glass lens accents the warm glow of a kerosene flame, as seen on the rear of our Penn Central caboose. ABOVE: NYMT 161 arrives at Midway Station. LEFT: Thanks to the efforts of many volunteers, our visitors were able to enjoy the warm glow of both kerosene and electric illumination at Midway Station. PHOTOS BY CHRIS PLAYFORD

WHY YOUR MUSEUM WILL CLOSE WITHOUT YOUR HELP

Our museums are a very popular attraction, and as word spreads around, we can expect more visitors in the future. Part of the experience of visiting our museum includes a tour of Industry Depot and our related displays and exhibits in the Yard. Unfortunately, we cannot simply release our visitors to tour our museum without some sort of supervision. This is where we desperately need your help.

Contrary to popular belief, you do not need to know everything about trains or our museum to be a tour guide. All you need is a willingness to greet our visitors as they arrive and show them what makes our museum special. Most likely the same things you enjoy about our museum is what our visitors will like, too. We'll show you everything you need to know without filling your head up with facts and figures and confusing jargon.

What is the alternative? Frankly, there is none. **If we cannot get Depot Guides to come help out for regular Sunday operations or to assist with weekday group tours, we will be forced to close.** That means visitors will stay on the train when they arrive at Industry, as there will be no one to guide them. Without a means to guide our visitors, we will be forced to close our doors, losing a significant amount of income, and putting our charter as an educational organization in jeopardy.

If it sounds dire, it is. But the solution is easy. Please donate an hour or two of your time. Bring a friend. Contact **Mike Root** and help fill in one of the empty spaces you see on the chart at right. You'll quickly find that volunteering doesn't always require heavy lifting or dirty clothes. What's more, *you'll have fun*. So many people come to visit our museum because they like trains. Already, that's one thing you have in common... Come out and help some Sunday! **Your museum needs you and your help is tremendously appreciated.**

—Otto M. Vondrak, Trustee

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
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

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 mikeroor@clearwire.net if you are available to volunteer. Without Depot Guides, there is no museum.**

DATE	EVENT	Depot Guide 1	Depot Guide 2
August 5	Regular Museum Ops		
August 9	11:00 Group tour (12)		
August 12	Regular Museum Ops		
August 19	DIESEL DAY	Bill Benzig	
August 21	10:00 Group tour (16-19)		
August 26	Regular Museum Ops	Irene Szabo	
Sept. 2	Regular Museum Ops		
Sept. 9	Regular Museum Ops		
Sept. 16	Regular Museum Ops		
Sept. 23	Regular Museum Ops		
Sept. 30	Regular Museum Ops		

LATE NEWS: On July 23, Genesee & Wyoming Industries announced their acquisition of short line group Rail America, which includes the New England Central (former Central Vermont) among others. No news yet how the newest additions will fit into the growing GWI family worldwide. —Various Reports

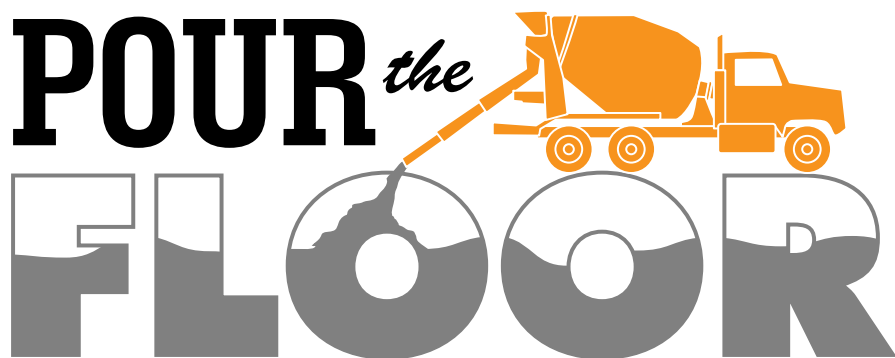
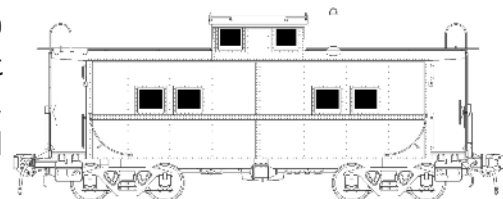
DIESEL DAY - AUG. 19

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

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.

Volunteer ! Visit www.rgvrrm.org/volunteer

DEPOT GUIDES NEEDED

Not interested in train operations? We are always in need of Depot Guides throughout the year. Depot Guides greet our visitors when they get off the train, and help interpret our many displays. Make our guests feel welcome so they come away with good memories. Without guides, our visitors show up to closed displays and a shuttered depot. We need your help to keep our museum open to the public. Get involved! Please contact **Mike Root** by email at mikeroot@clearwire.net.

NYMT GIFT SHOP HELP WANTED

The gift shop and ticket desk at the NYMT is the front door to both of our organizations. The gift shop is the first thing our visitors see, and it is also the place where tickets for our joint trolley and train rides are purchased as well. The NYMT can use our help to staff the gift shop, which can get quite busy between incoming visitors and folks looking to purchase souvenirs. Please email **Jim Dierks** at dierks66@frontiernet.net if you can spare a Sunday or two to help out.

Giving just an hour a week helps your museum grow

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:

August 16

7:30 PM at Industry Depot

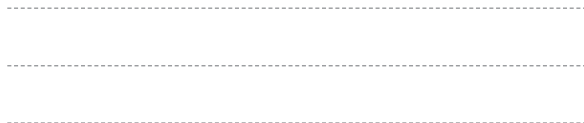
Route 251, Rush, NY

Next Month's Meeting:

September 20

7:30 PM at Industry Depot

Route 251, Rush, NY



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



NS FAMILY PORTRAIT: To celebrate their 30th anniversary, Norfolk Southern painted 20 brand new locomotives in the paint schemes of various railroads that are a part of the NS system today. They were all brought to the North Carolina Transportation Museum in Spencer, N.C., for a special event on July 3-4, 2012. This view is from the roof of the Bob Julian Roundhouse, taken with permission during the media preview day. OTTO M. VONDRAK