



R&GV 1654 leads a short train north of Switch 6 en route to a connection with the NYMT's electric trolley at Midway Station. "Fall Foliage by Trolley & Train" is a popular join event hosted by both museums through the fall season. PHOTO BY CHRIS HAUF

Dream Big for the Future

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The world of railroad preservation is changing every day, yet one thing remains the same: Successful museums engage their visitors and encourage return visits. With the expansion of trolley and diesel operations at our museum, we are indeed seeing increased attendance. But train rides are just a small part of what we can offer the public.

Over the next few months, your Board of Trustees will be exploring ways to rebuild and expand the way we interpret our historic collection to the public. Preliminary discussions have centered around improving what we have already, but we know there's even more that can be done. "Make no little plans," said famous architect Daniel Burnham, "They have no magic to stir men's blood and probably will not themselves be realized."

We'll be looking for your input as we set out to build an engaging experience for our visitors now and into the future. What can we do with the items we have on hand already? What would you add if you could? And more importantly, how will we pay for it? Can you think of innovative ways to raise funds, engage sponsors, or otherwise help your museum offset costs?

The process will take time, but the end results will benefit everyone. Only a few years ago, operation of electric trolleys was a dream. Only a few years ago, a country depot sat abandoned along an Erie branch line. Only a few years ago, some plucky volunteers graded a roadbed in the woods with little more than a transit and a bulldozer. Let's dream big! You can find my contact information inside.

— Michael E. Dow, President



www.rgvrrm.org

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The official publication of
the Rochester & Genesee Valley
Railroad Museum

Volume 56, No. 2

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©2012 Rochester & Genesee Valley Railroad Museum. The Semaphore is published monthly by the Rochester & Genesee Valley Railroad Museum. It is mailed free to all members. Non-member subscriptions are \$12.00 and run from January 1 to December 31. 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 & Genesee Valley Railroad Museum, and regional railroad history and current events are gladly accepted.

TRAIN BULLETIN

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM R&GVRRM



HELLO, STRANGER: Two of our excursion coaches and our power car RPO visited the LA&L's Lakeville Shop at the end of September. The railroad borrowed our cars for a private company trip (see page 3), and have since returned the cars to Industry. The train will once again roam the LA&L rails on October 27, when the railroad operates our special Rare Mileage Fan Trip! Tickets are still available, see page 6 for details. JEREMY TUKE PHOTO

MARIE MINER (1934-2012)



Marie L. Miner, wife of museum volunteer Bob Miner passed away suddenly on September 25. Marie was an active museum volunteer herself, helping to staff the NYMT ticket desk and gift shop. She was also active volunteering with the Girl Scouts in Webster for many years. Our condolences go out to the Miner family.

UPCOMING MEETING PROGRAMS

With the return of fall weather, our monthly membership meetings move back indoors to the 40&8 Club located at 933 University Ave., Rochester. All are welcome to attend. The museum store opens at 7:00pm, with the general business meeting starting at 7:30pm. Programs usually start around 8:15 following the business meeting. Bring a friend! As always, please visit our web site for more information at www.rgvrrm.org.

October 18 - "New York City and Beyond" by Otto M. Vondrak, a slide show consisting of scenes from around Metro New York and as far as Minnesota, Iowa, and even Oregon and Washington.

November 15 - Frostbite Ferroequinology: The Sequel with Duncan Richards

December 20 - Lehigh Valley Memories with Douglas Parmelee

SPECIAL EVENTS 2012

Rare-Mileage Fan Trip on the LA&L - Oct. 27:

Join us for this special trip over the LA&L from Lakeville to Mortimer (Henrietta) and return. Train will consist of two of our stainless steel ex-NYC coaches, the RPO power car, pulled by two Alco locomotives provided by the LA&L. Cost per ticket is \$75.00 each for members, \$99.00 each for non-members. Includes box lunch, trip guide, and more. For details visit www.rgvrrm.org.

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.

Fall Foliage by Trolley and Train - Oct. 7, 14, 21, 28, and Nov. 4: Enjoy the beauty of the fall season in western New York State from the window of an authentic 80-year-old electric trolley car. A train consisting of a diesel locomotive and cabooses will meet the trolley each day for the continuation to the Rochester & Genesee Valley Railroad Museum. Trolleys depart every half-hour starting at 11:30, and no reservations are required.

www.rgvrrm.org

facebook.com/rgvrrm

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:

Nov. 15

at 40&8 Club, Rochester NY



ROCHESTER & GENESEE VALLEY RAILROAD MUSEUM

VISIT OUR WEB SITE: WWW.RGVRRM.ORG

MUSEUM CONTACT INFO

MUSEUM PRESIDENT

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MOTIVE POWER DEPT.

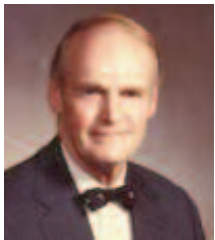
As we participate in "Fall Foliage by Trolley & Train" rides through November, we expect that RGV 1654 will continue to hold down regular assignments, with RG&E 1941 pinch-hitting as backup as-needed. Work has resumed on RG&E 8, and will continue through the off-season. We are anxious to return #8 to service to help take the pressure off of 1654. Want to learn more about our historic fleet of locomotives, or get involved with restoration and repairs? Get in touch, we're always looking for more help to keep our vintage diesels rolling strong! My contact info is listed above in the yellow box.

—Joe Nugent, Motive Power Supt.

PRIVATE MEMORIAL TRIP

Your museum made available two coaches and the RPO power car to the Livonia, Avon & Lakeville Railroad so they could

run a private memorial excursion for the family of Seargent W. Wise on September 29. Born in The Bronx, Wise practiced law in New York City following his graduation from Columbia after his service in World War II. He moved to Rochester in 1957 to become a law partner, and in 1965



SEARGANT W. WISE

became the founding counsel and board secretary for the Livonia, Avon & Lakeville Railroad. He passed away on August 26, 2011.

TOP: Duncan Richards recorded the special memorial train for Seargent W. Wise passing Industry Depot on September 29. The newly rebuilt and repainted LAL 428 was named in honor of Wise, who was a lifelong railroad enthusiast and the railroad's founding general counsel. **PHOTO BY DUNCAN RICHARDS** **ABOVE:** Volunteer Mike Walsh continued his work on preparing ex-Rochester Gas & Electric GE 110-tonner for the install of its second air tank by cleaning, priming, and painting the areas under the engine where the tank will be on September 27. **PHOTO BY MIKE WALSH**

Due to the private nature of the trip, it was not announced to the public. The LA&L operated a special trip over the "original" line from Lakeville to Avon for close friends and family of Wise. Bob

Mader, Jim Johnson, Dick Holbert, and David Shields provided technical support on board the train, riding the RPO power car and keeping an eye on the generator and other important systems. LA&L president Gene Blabey asked that Dave Shields wear his passenger conductor's uniform and help greet guests. Duncan Richards was commissioned by the railroad to be the

WWW.RGVRRM.ORG • THE SEMAPHORE • OCTOBER 2012 • 3



THAT'S A WRAP: Thanks a generous donation from Jon Salsgiver, we have been able to hire Riverside Shrink Wrapping to apply a tough, outdoor grade shrink-wrap to the roof of our ex-Lackawanna electric M.U. commuter coach just in time for winter. The roof of this car suffered a failure, exposing the interior to the elements. Applying this shrink-wrap will help stabilize the car until we have the resources in place to make a repair and restoration. In the short term, this will help keep the damage from spreading further. Thanks to museum volunteer Mark Wilczek for meeting the contractor to perform the work on September 27. PHOTO BY MARK WILCZEK

official photographer at the event, which included dedicating the newly rebuilt and repainted 428 (an Alco C-425 originally built for the Spokane, Portland & Seattle as their #320 in 1966) for Seargent Wise. Amongst the riders was son Peter Wise, who works for BNSF Railway and traveled from Fort Worth, Texas, with his wife for the event. The cars operated flawlessly for the excursion, and the railroad thanks us for making the cars available to them.

—Otto Vondrak and Dave Shields

PUBLIC RARE-MILEAGE TRIP SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27

As you may have heard, your museum is operating a special rare-mileage passenger excursion over the length of the LA&L from Lakeville to Mortimer Jct. (Henrietta) on **Saturday, October 27**. This will be the first public excursion using our coaches in many years, and also one of the first public excursions on the LA&L since they quit the passenger business in 1977. The train will consist of two of our ex-New York Central stainless steel coaches, and

the RPO/power car pulled by two Alco diesel locomotives provided by the LA&L. The trip is being operated as a fundraiser for the museum, with all ticket proceeds going towards supporting our operations and restoration activities. Cost per ticket is **\$99.00** for the general public, **\$75.00** for museum members (in honor of our 75th anniversary as an organization). Cost of ticket includes a box lunch, a special illustrated route guide, and some other special perks to be announced later. You can purchase tickets through our web site or send a check (payable to "R&GVRR Museum") to R&GVRR Museum, P.O. Box 23326, Rochester, NY 14692-3326. Details about the trip have been posted to our web site at www.rgvrrm.org, or you can contact **Otto Vondrak** (ovondrak@yahoo.com) for further information. **Don't get left at the station, order your tickets before Oct. 20!**

MATERIALS CLEAN-UP

Lynn Heintz has been leading a team of volunteers to organize some of our old paints and supplies. Dried up or damaged

paint will be properly discarded. All other useable paints will be organized into a labeled storage cabinet. Also being sorted are miscellaneous additives and cleaners.

MEETING SPACE AND LIBRARY

We have been meeting at the 40&8 Club on University Avenue for many years, and we have recently moved our museum library from Webster to the club quarters. We have recently learned and was given a firm deadline by the 40&8 Club that they have entered into an agreement to sell their property and move into a smaller building. Construction will begin this Spring on a 3,500 sq. ft. building at the rear of the property that will house the new meeting space. Once complete, the old 40&8 Club will be demolished to make way for new development. Unfortunately, the new building will not have quarters for our Library, which means, once again, we must relocate.

At this time we are forming a small committee to not only seek out a new location for our library and archives, but also to determine how we will use them in the

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 contact Mike Root at mikeroot@clearwire.net if you are available to volunteer. REMEMBER: Without Depot Guides, there is no museum, we close our doors, and we lose revenue!**

DATE	EVENT	Depot Guide 1	Depot Guide 2
Oct. 14	Regular Museum Ops	Mike Root	Otto Vondrak
Oct. 21	Regular Museum Ops	Chris Hausler	
Oct. 24	School 10 Tour		
Oct. 28	Sunday Museum Ops	Chris Hausler	
Nov. 4	Sunday Museum Ops		

Contact Mike Root if you are available to help any of these days. Thank you for your support!

future and make them a valuable resource not only to our members but to historians and researchers outside our organization. If you are interested in helping out, please contact **Mike Dow** (see contact info in yellow box on page 3).

OPERATIONS TRAINING

The Operations Dept. is planning another hands-on training session for Thursday, October 25 at Industry Depot, starting at 6:00pm and running until 8:30. We will be reinforcing the skills learned in the classroom and offering a refresher for anyone wanting to be a conductor or an engineer. This hands-on training is open to anyone, but you need to RSVP to **Dave Scheiderich** before October 25. We will most likely be collecting a small contribution from each attendee to cover the cost of locomotive fuel.

LEHIGH VALLEY CABOOSE

Restoration work has resumed on our Lehigh Valley caboose. A while ago we removed the ice box from the interior so we could address the effects of built-up condensation on the body. Volunteer Rob Burz has begun repairs to reinforce the bottom of the ice box so it can be reinstalled. Volunteer Joe Nugent has continued to remove the remainder of the wooden trim inside so we can finish paint stripping and evaluating the interior for repairs. We plan on plugging the windows with plywood so that we can heat

the car and continue work inside the shop through the winter. We will need to finish paint stripping, sand surfaces, and make to wooden interior ready for priming. We will also make any needed metal repairs to the exterior body. Our goal is to have the body ready to sandblast and prime for painting this spring or summer. We can't finish woodwork on inside until the outside is sound. If you'd like to help work on this project, please contact **Joe Nugent** or **Otto Vondrak**.

www.rgvrrm.org

Fall Foliage

BY TROLLEY AND TRAIN

Sundays only starting September 16 through November 4, enjoy the beauty of Autumn in western New York State from the window of an authentic 80-year-old electric trolley car (the only electric trolley ride in the state)! A diesel locomotive with two cabooses will meet the trolley each day for the continuation to the Rochester & Genesee Valley Railroad Museum. Trolleys depart every half-hour starting at 11:30, and no reservations are required. Special Event Fares: \$8 adults, \$7 seniors, \$5 children (3-15). All tours begin at New York Museum of Transportation, 6393 East River Road, Rush, NY.

We'll be looking for volunteers to help with train operations, car hosting, depot guides, as well as assisting NYMT in the gift shop. If you are available to help on any of these special event days, please contact Dave Scheiderich at boblenon@gmail.com or (585) 301-1019.



New York Museum of Transportation
www.nymtmuseum.org

USING OUR NEW GROUP EMAIL

More than a few of our members have asked for additional information about our new group email systems and how to use them. First off, a reminder that we have three different lists so you only get the communication you're interested in. The general *Members* list is the place to contact other members, share notices of special museum events, and general railroad information. Use rgvrrm-members@yahoogroups.com to send an email to the list. The *Volunteers* list is for folks interested in sharing information related only to museum operations and activities. Use rgvrrm-volunteers@yahoogroups.com to send an email to the list. The *Operations* list is for anyone interested in museum train operations (track car operators, trolley operators, locomotive engineers and train crews). Use rgvrrm-operations@yahoogroups.com to send an email to the list. *Remember that emails you send go out to everyone on the list, so use discretion.*

If you would like to contact the museum officers and trustees, please send an email to rgvrrm-trustees@yahoogroups.com, and we will try to answer you as quickly as possible. And if you or anyone else you know has questions about how to use the email system or how to get signed up for lists, please contact our "listmaster" **Otto Vondrak** at ovondrak@yahoo.com or (585) 820-2341.

We would also like to remind everyone that issues of The Semaphore are posted to our web site at www.rgvrrm.org/newsletter and are usually available at least a week before the printed edition.

SPECIAL!



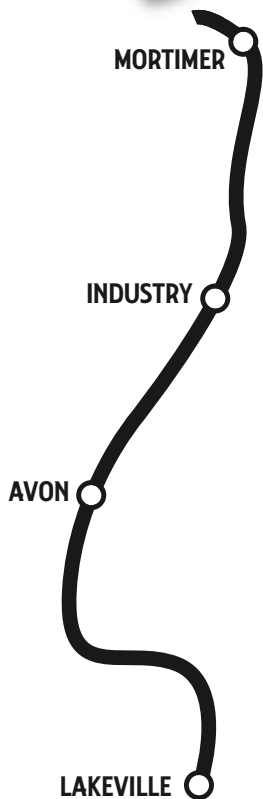
Rare-Mileage Public PASSENGER EXCURSION

SATURDAY OCT. 27

Join us for a special end-to-end public
passenger excursion over the
Livonia, Avon & Lakeville Railroad!



Help us celebrate the 75th anniversary of the **Rochester & Genesee Valley Railroad Museum!** Our journey begins at the southern end of the railroad in Lakeville, New York. Ride in comfort in our restored streamlined coaches from the 1940s, pulled by immaculate Alco locomotives provided by the Livonia, Avon & Lakeville Railroad. Enjoy multiple photo stops and a box lunch along the way. At Mortimer Jct., our train will change ends and return to Lakeville, a round-trip distance of more than 40 miles. **This will be the first public excursion offered since the LA&L took ownership of the route north of Avon.**



Round-Trip Excursion Ticket

All proceeds help support the R&GVRRM
and its mission of historic preservation.



SPECIAL
\$75.00
MEMBERS ONLY

For details and ticket sales please visit www.rgvrrm.org

ROCHESTER & GENESEE VALLEY RAILROAD MUSEUM

P.O. BOX 23326 • ROCHESTER, NY 14692-3326 • VISIT US ONLINE AT RGVRRM.ORG



NOTE: Due to the vintage construction of our coaches, they are not wheelchair accessible. If you have questions about accessibility, please contact us. We reserve the right to substitute equipment or modify schedules as dictated by the railroad without prior notice.

**SATURDAY
OCT
27**

LIVONIA AVON & LAKEVILLE

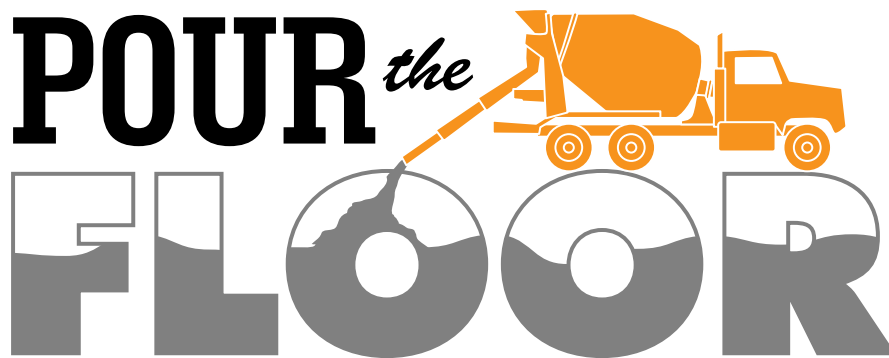
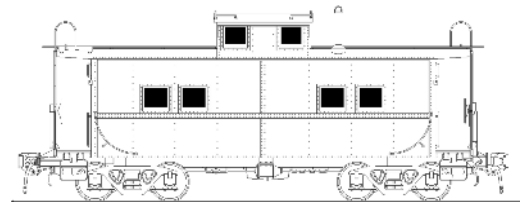
Special Rare Mileage Fan Trip

Save the date for a special fan trip sponsored by the museum and operated by the Livonia, Avon & Lakeville Railroad! This will be one of the first public passenger excursions on the railroad in recent memory! Proceeds from ticket sales will benefit the museum. You can buy tickets on our web site at rgvrrm.org! **ALL ABOARD!**

Contact **Otto Vondrak** at ovondrak@yahoo.com or **Dave Shields** at marberth@aol.com with any questions.

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 \$2500 to help pay for continued restoration of the body as well as preparation for painting and finishing. As of July 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.

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

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 Members, Volunteers, and Operations! Need to get signed up? Not sure where you belong?** Contact "listmaster" 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.

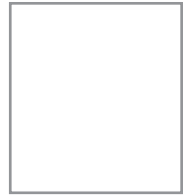


THE SEMAPHORE

ROCHESTER & GENESEE VALLEY RAILROAD MUSEUM

P.O. BOX 23326

ROCHESTER, NY 14692-3326



This Month's Meeting:

October 18

7:00 PM at 40&8 Club

933 University Ave, Rochester NY

Next Month's Meeting:

November 15

7:00 PM at 40&8 Club

933 University Ave, Rochester NY



— find us on Facebook: [facebook.com/rgvrrm](https://www.facebook.com/rgvrrm) —



If you're riding our special Rare-Mileage Fan Trip on October 27, you'll enjoy all-new windows and refurbished interiors in our ex-New York Central stainless steel streamlined coaches. Built in 1941 for the "Empire State Express," these cars were later rebuilt for commuter service and retired in the 1980s. Since 1987, our fleet of six cars have been used for many excursions over the years. Details and tickets available on our web site at www.rgvrrm.org.