



LET IT SNOW: A 10" snow fall only slows us down a little bit... But volunteer work continues down at the museum all year round. Everyone is making preparations behind the scenes to get us ready for the upcoming 2013 visitor season! Do you want to get involved? Ask us how! OTTO M. VONDRAK PHOTO

We Can Do Anything*

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*As one of the only operating railroad museums in New York State, we are fortunate to have a group of dedicated volunteers who help make it all possible. As it stands, we are in the midst of several projects that will help our museum achieve its goals and set the foundation for future success. What's more, your board has approved a set of prioritized projects that we will be dedicating our resources towards in 2013 (see page 3). We feel this list will help give our volunteers a clear guide on how they can best help contribute for the coming year.

It's no secret our money situation is tight. To that point, your Board of Trustees has already put in place project management policies that will help ensure that we maintain our financial position while we work on new projects that will benefit the

museum and its collection. All new projects require board approval, and must be accompanied with a proposal that outlines the scope of the work, who will work on it, how long it will take, and how much it will cost. Any project will be considered that is in line with our organization's goals and helps advance the mission of the museum. What we cannot afford is to start new projects and walk away from them, or worse, pull volunteers off another project in order to complete someone else's task.

Please take a moment to look over our list of priority projects and let me know what you think. Do you have an idea for a project and don't know where to begin? Please contact me at (716) 474-2833 or mdow@rochester.rr.com. I'd like to hear your ideas!

—Mike Dow, Museum President



www.rgvrrm.org

MUSEUM OFFICERS

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(716) 474-2833

VICE PRESIDENT

Joe Nugent

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TRAIN BULLETIN

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM R&GVRRM



R&GVRRM MEMBERSHIP MEETING JANUARY 17, 2013

The January Museum Membership Meeting was called to order at the 40&8 Club, 933 University Avenue, Rochester, at 7:30 p.m. Museum trustee Otto Vondrak presiding.

Guests: Charlie Tubbs and two unidentified visitors from the NYMT.

Correspondence Report: None

Historian's Report: None.

Membership Report: Sam Rosenberg reported that there were two new members, Thomas Seils of Rochester, and Ralph Dressler of Geneva. The LA&L trip got us around 10/12 new members; we are at an 80% renewal rate. A MOTION was made by Jeremy Tuke to accept the candidates as new members. The motion passed unanimously.

Preservation Report: Dave Scheidrich reported that the storm sewer plumbing project is complete. The sanitary sewer is on its way to completion. In the spring of this year an inspection pit will be constructed on the east track at the north end of the Restoration Building. Rules Classes are in the planning stages. Joe Nugent reported that our Lehigh Valley caboose project is moving along with the lower wall wood removed and there is some sheet metal work to be done. Otto Vondrak reported that the old center display from the depot waiting room has been rebuilt and relocated into the Lackawanna baggage car.

Operations Report: Everything is tied down for the winter.

Museum Library Report: Chris Hausler announced that the library will be open from 6:30 to 8:30 on the first Monday as well as meeting nights..

New Business: Otto Vondrak shared a brief cost analysis with the membership that our admissions are not meeting our expenses. We have made a proposal to the NYMT Board; and we are awaiting a response on our proposed admission increase.

By-Laws Change: Otto Vondrak announced that there will be a change in our by-laws. We are moving the elections from May into November; this means that the candidates will be announced in October, and the membership voting in November.

Dave Scheidrich made a motion to adjourn; The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

—Joel R. Shaw, Recording Secretary

VISIT US ONLINE:

www.rgvrrm.org

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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:

March 21

at 40&8 Club, Rochester NY



ROCHESTER & GENESEE VALLEY RAILROAD MUSEUM

VISIT OUR WEB SITE: WWW.RGVRRM.ORG

MUSEUM CONTACT INFO

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MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

Sam Rosenberg

ALC0251@frontiernet.net



On Sunday, January 20, museum volunteers Jay and Todd Considine, Rick Holahan, Charlie Lowe, Tony Mittiga, Joe Nugent, Robert Pratt, and Otto Vondrak all contributed to the effort to help clear out a new space at NYMT for the future display of the steam engine parts from the now dismantled Hojack Swing Bridge. No small feat, as many heavy parts and small machines were moved through the cramped space, as well as many boxes and discarded trash were removed as well. OTTO M. VONDRAK

IN MEMORY OF MARIE MINER

I want to thank everyone for their support in my time of sorrow. I was touched by the number of friends who attended Marie's wake. I am also overwhelmed by the number of contributions to Marie's Memorial Fund. Thank you to everyone.

—Bob Miner

UPCOMING MUSEUM PROGRAMS MONTHLY MEETINGS

We have resumed our monthly meetings at the 40&8 VFW Club, located at 933 University Ave., Rochester. Everyone is welcome to attend! The museum store opens at 7:00 p.m., with the general business meeting starting at 7:30. Programs usually start around 8:15 following the business meeting. Bring a friend! Please visit our web site for more information at www.rgvrrm.org.

February 21: "Rochester in the 1960's and 1970s" with Pete Gores. Another look back at railroad action around the Flower City through the lens of Pete Gores. Remember that time he fell through the roof at Industry? That photo probably won't be in his show... But plenty of other good stuff will be, we're sure!

March 21: "Charlotte Hojack Swing Bridge In Existence and Dismantling" by Chris Playford and Harold Russell. Chris will share his digital images of the bridge's dismantling from November 2012, while

Harold will share his slides made in 2005 while gathering field data.

April 18: "Cass State Park Shays, Heislars, and a Climax" by Irene Szabo. Cass State Park is a remnant of the more than 3,000 miles of logging railroads climbed through West Virginia. Today eleven miles remain at Cass, perfumed by the heady smell of working coal smoke.

May 15: Members' Slide Night and Museum Elections. Details to follow.

—Harold Russell, Program Co-Chair

PRIORITY PROJECTS FOR 2013

In order to better focus our resources and to help our volunteers identify where they can make the most impact, your Board of Trustees has identified several projects as priorities to work on through 2013. Some items we would like to complete this year, others we realize may take a bit longer. Please take a moment to look over this list and think about where you might be able to help out: **1) Design and Construction of Inspection Pit Inside the Restoration Building:** Completion of this project will help us maintain our fleet of operating equipment for years to come, and allow us to perform certain maintenance tasks that

are nearly impossible at present. **2) Finish Landscaping the Area North of Industry Depot:** Since the removal of display Track 1 and 2 many years ago, the area north of the depot has been awaiting the completion of landscaping in this area. Work will consist of burying an electrical conduit, finish grading, and planting of grass seed (see January 2013 issue of THE SEMAPHORE for details).

3) Completion of our Sanitary Sewer: Once the old sewer is transferred from state to county control, we should be able to quickly complete the design and implementation of our sanitary sewer plan. This will allow us to restore our bathroom facilities inside Industry Depot. **4) Completing the Fill South of the Restoration Building:** Once we complete the fill and grading of the land south of the Restoration Building, we will be able to extend our tracks and create a long-term storage area for certain pieces of equipment. **5) Completion of Empire State Express Coach #1:** The scope of this project includes the completion of interior painting, the installation of new heating and electrical systems, the reinstallation of the coach seats, and many other small tasks to return this car to active duty.

6) Repair and Repaint the Roof of the Lackawanna Baggage Car: The roof of the car that holds many of our displays is rapidly deteriorating and will require repair and refinishing this year so it may continue to serve. **7) Completion of Repairs to RG&E #8:** We hope to complete the major mechanical work on this locomotive this year, which will give us greater flexibility in our diesel operations. **8) Repair a Third Track Car and Trailer:** So that we can meet periods of peak demand when the diesels are not operating, we must repair a third track car and trailer set from our existing fleet of equipment.

While this may seem like a long list, many of these projects have already started. In the coming months, we will be calling upon our volunteers to help us meet our goals so that our museum can continue to grow and fulfill its mission. Are you interested in contributing to any of these projects? Contact me at (716) 474-2833 or mdow@rochester.rr.com.

—Mike Dow, Museum President

2013 RULES CLASS AND TRAINING

It's that time of year again... Time for rules class training for all volunteers interested in railroad operations. This includes all track car operators, trolley operators, and locomotive engineers, conductors, and brakemen. We are always looking to train new train crew members for all positions.

Taking these classes is the first step. We teach you everything you need to know for safe train operations. Watch for an announcement regarding scheduling of classes soon. If you have any questions or want to know how you can get involved, contact Operations Dept. Supt. Dave Scheiderich at boblenon@gmail.com.

2013 DEPOT GUIDES

We need you! As our attendance continues to grow, Depot Guides are more important than ever. Not only do we need Depot Guides for regular Sunday operations, but we also need help for our many tour groups that visit us throughout the weekdays. **Without your help, we are forced to close our doors, losing much needed revenue and denying our visitors the full museum experience.**

You do not need to be an encyclopedia of railroad knowledge, nor do you need to be a flamboyant showman like P.T. Barnum. All you need is a willingness to greet our visitors and help interpret the displays in and around Industry Depot. This year Mike Root and Otto Vondrak will be teaming up to offer training to anyone interested in becoming a Depot Guide.

This is your opportunity to get involved. There will be a preliminary meeting for all volunteers interested in volunteering as Depot Guides on Sunday, March 2, at 11:00 a.m. down at Industry Depot. We'll talk about some of the

changes taking place to our museum grounds and displays and talk about training. You don't need to know everything about our collection, and you don't need to work alone. Still on the fence? Come to our meeting on March 2 and find out what it's all about!

—Otto Vondrak

DEPOT CLEAN UP CONTINUES

Work continues on preparing the Industry Depot waiting room for new displays. Two new display cabinets will be built in the northwest and southeast corners, along with new wiring for lighting and future audio/visual equipment. Our conductor mannequin will also be placed in the southeast corner. Our existing hanging display panel will get new graphics to promote our events, our museum, and our projects. We will also be preparing the old center bench from Avon depot for display while we form a plan for its restoration.

THE BAGGAGE CAR, TOO

The Lackawanna baggage car will be organized and cleaned as we prepare to install new exhibits and refresh old ones. Some items will have to be moved to storage. If you're interested in helping out, please contact Otto Vondrak at ovondrak@yahoo.com.

Visit us at: www.rgvrrm.org



US&S Countdown Timer Donated by LIRR

While this looks like a candy jar, there is indeed a different kind of treat sealed inside this glass. Donated to our museum by the MTA Long Island Rail Road, this is a Union Switch & Signal TC-10 clockwork release. Timers like this were used in approach interlockings. Once the tower operator had given a train the proceed signal, he could not change the route until the signal had been returned to red for a set amount of time. The length of time was figured to be enough so that a train having already passed the approach signal to an interlocking would have time to see the red signal and stop. Even if the train passed the red signal, there was no danger since the route was unchanged. Without an approach locking it would be possible for an operator to make a mistake; such as giving a proceed signal and then taking it away to change the route (perhaps into another train). This timer was salvaged from a tower on the LIRR that was recently closed after more than a century of service on the busy urban commuter line. The railroad has been modernizing and consolidating its busiest junctions by replacing old mechanical relays with new interlockings that rely on computers and software to perform the same functions. This piece will eventually go on display at our museum with our interlocking machines and other vintage railroad signal equipment. —Mike Dow

It's another.... **By-Laws Change**

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE R&GVRRM BOARD OF TRUSTEES
BETTER LIVING THROUGH MANAGEMENT™



Article IV- Elections - Current

1. All officers and those trustees whose term expires shall be elected at the regular May meeting by majority vote of all eligible members voting in person or by mailed ballot. Mailed ballots must be received at the RGVRRM mailing address before the May meeting.

2. Prior to the regular April meeting, a Nominating Committee shall meet and select a slate of officers and trustees. This committee shall consist of four RGVRRM members. Two of these members will be carry over trustees, one of which will serve as chairman, as nominated by the President and confirmed by the remainder of the board by majority vote. The two confirmed trustees shall select two members who are not currently serving on the board or seeking nomination.

3. At the regular April meeting, the Nominating Committee shall announce their slate of candidates, then the President shall call for additional nominations from the floor. It will be the job of the Nominating Committee chairman to contact those nominated from the floor that were not present, if any, and ask those individuals if they will accept the nomination. If they accept, those names will be added to the ballot of candidates selected by the Nominating Committee.

4. The ballot shall be published in the May issue of the RGVRRM news letter as a ballot that can be mailed in. This issue shall be mailed not less than ten days prior to the meeting date.

4.1 At the regular May meeting the election shall then be conducted by majority vote from the ballot of candidates published. If a majority vote is not obtained, a run off election will be held immediately, from the candidates receiving the two highest percentages of votes for that office.

5. In the event of a vacancy in the ranks of officers, National Director, or trustees, the vacancy shall be filled by the following: The trustees, by majority vote, shall appoint a RGVRRM member to fill the office until the next regular election. The remaining term of the office shall then be filled by the nomination and election procedure as prescribed above.

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

Article IV- Elections - PROPOSED CHANGE

1. All officers and those trustees whose term expires shall be elected at the regular **November** meeting by majority vote of all eligible members voting in person or by mailed ballot. Mailed ballots must be received at the RGVRRM mailing address before the November meeting.

2. Prior to the regular **October** meeting, a Nominating Committee

shall meet and select a slate of officers and trustees. This committee shall consist of four RGVRRM members. Two of these members will be carry over trustees, one of which will serve as chairman, as nominated by the President and confirmed by the remainder of the board by majority vote. The two confirmed trustees shall select two members who are not currently serving on the board or seeking nomination.

3. At the regular **October** meeting, the Nominating Committee shall announce their slate of candidates, then the President shall call for additional nominations from the floor. It will be the job of the Nominating Committee chairman to contact those nominated from the floor that were not present, if any, and ask those individuals if they will accept the nomination. If they accept, those names will be added to the ballot of candidates selected by the Nominating Committee.

4. The ballot shall be published in the **November** issue of the RGVRRM newsletter as a ballot that can be mailed in. This issue shall be mailed not less than ten days prior to the meeting date.

4.1 At the regular **November** meeting the election shall then be conducted by majority vote from the ballot of candidates published. If a majority vote is not obtained, a run off election will be held immediately, from the candidates receiving the two highest percentages of votes for that office.

5. In the event of a vacancy in the ranks of officers, [delete: *National Director*,] or trustees, the vacancy shall be filled by the following: The trustees, by majority vote, shall appoint a RGVRRM member to fill the office until the next regular election. The remaining term of the office shall then be filled by the nomination and election procedure as prescribed above.

6. Electees will take office at the first Trustee's meeting in **January**.

7. After the passage of this change, those whose terms expire in may will be extended until the end of that year, and their elections will occur in November.

This proposed change is so that new board members will not take office after the operating season has begun. Also the mention of national director was removed from paragraph 5. November was chosen for the election because December meetings are very close to Christmas and normally not many attend. Paragraph 7 was added to allow a simple change over to the new system, without having to have a second election in the same year. Moving the election will also allow the May meeting to be held at the depot where there is more daylight than in September. This would also move member slide night to the November meeting.

—Board of Trustees

LEHIGH VALLEY 95100

PROJECT UPDATE

Our Lehigh Valley caboose is getting some much needed attention on the interior, where paint is being stripped off of all wood and metal surfaces, and some repairs have already begun. Some wooden panels have been removed so that we have access to the exterior steelwork so repairs can begin there as well. Our goal is to have the exterior prepared for primer and paint by this summer. We need help with interior paint stripping and needle scaling, so if you want to lend a hand, please contact Joe Nugent at joe.r.nugent@gmail.com.



ABOVE: Volunteer Rob Burz cuts off 70 year old rivet heads from the sill of our Lehigh Valley caboose on January 15. The rivets will be removed so the weakened and thin steel can be replaced with new material. The old insulation held in water that caused the steel to rust from the inside. **JOE NUGENT PHOTO LEFT:** Museum Manager Dave Scheiderich and volunteer Joe Nugent discuss the repairs to be made to the east side of the caboose exterior.

New Amtrak Cars Coming Soon To Be Built in Elmira

Amtrak says the first four of eight prototypes of its 130-car, single-level long-distance equipment order will be delivered late this year and, after testing, could enter service by mid-2014. The prototypes will include one each of the 25 sleepers, 25 diners, 25 baggage-dorms, and 55 full baggage cars, which will allow Amtrak to retire its remaining heritage equipment, some of which is more than 60 years old.

The stainless steel cars are based on the quarter-century old Budd Viewliner design and are being built from the ground up at by CAF USA, the North American subsidiary of Spain's Construcciones y Auxiliars de Ferrocarriles, S.A., at its facility in Elmira, New York. In order to make the Amtrak cars, particularly the



stainless steel shells, CAF USA has installed additional overhead cranes, CNC metal cutting and robotic welding equipment — one reason for the time lag between the company getting the contract and the actual start of

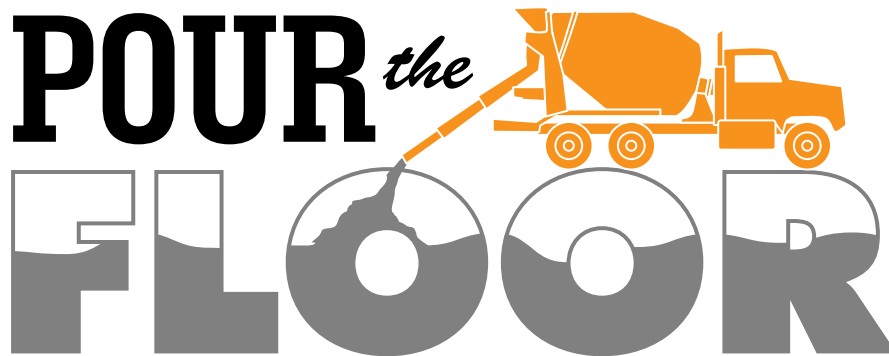
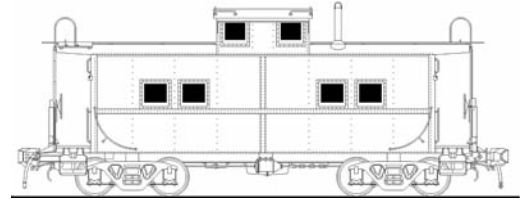
the production work. About 100 employees, welders, quality assurance and purchasing staffers, have also been hired. The order is expected to be completed by 2015.

— *Various Internet Reports*

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

Help us complete our LV caboose!

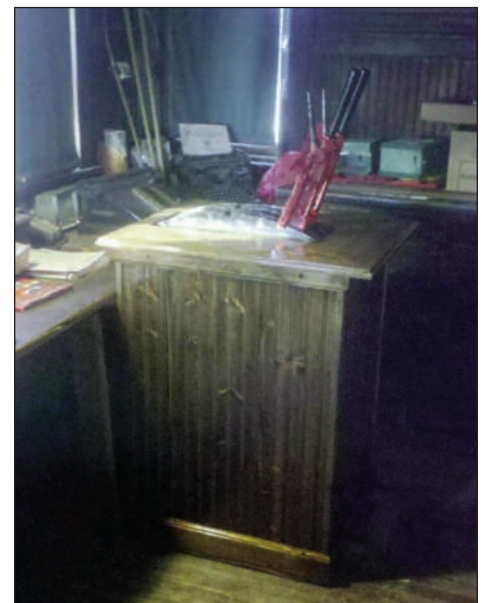
You can help us return a historic Lehigh Valley Railroad caboose to the rails! We are trying to raise \$2500 to help pay for continued restoration of the body as well as preparation for painting and finishing. As of January 8 we have raised \$1100. **Your donation in any amount will help!**



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.

THE SEMAPHORE STAND

Maybe, oh, fifteen or more years ago, a young kid named Mike took it upon himself to make a wooden stand to support the train order levers inside the agent's office. Well, that kid grew up, got a job on the railroad, and became your museum's president. Mike Dow decided he could do a much better job and built a new stand in his home workshop. The replacement stand was installed last week and I think you'll agree it is a welcome improvement! Look for some more improvements to the agent's office coming soon! —Mike Dow photos



YAHOO! GROUPS Are you or a friend missing messages?

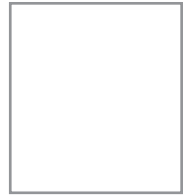
In an effort to streamline our communications, we are moving our old email distribution lists to new Yahoo! Groups! Joining the new groups is easy, plus it gives you more control over how you communicate with others. **There are new email lists for Members, Volunteers, and Operations! Need to get signed 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:

February 21

7:00 PM at 40&8 Club

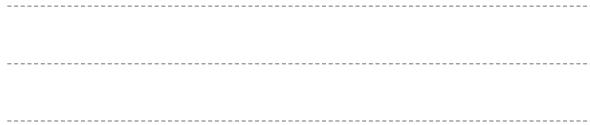
933 University Ave, Rochester NY

Next Month's Meeting:

March 21

7:00 PM at 40&8 Club

933 University Ave, Rochester NY



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



ALL ABOARD THE CAFFEINE EXPRESS! The old Delaware, Lackawanna & Western depot in Leicester, New York, has been transformed into a cafe called "Gatherings at the Depot." Joni and Vince Santucci the proud owners and proprietors of this establishment, having refurbished the 1915 depot into a gathering place to enjoy coffee, tea, and smoothies while browsing the displayed works of local artists. The historic features of the depot are not hidden, as the ticket window, agent's desk, and depot scale have all been integrated into the space. They are open Tuesday through Sunday, and located right off Main Street in Leicester. Visit their web site at www.gatheringsatthedepot.com for details! PHOTO BY OTTO M. VONDRAK