



Last year, many visitors enjoyed taking home free baby pumpkins during our Fall Foliage by Trolley and Train event, operated in cooperation with New York Museum of Transportation. Fall foliage continues to be the busiest time of year for both museums. PHOTO BY OTTO M. VONDRAK

Everything is fine

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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. While we are experiencing growth, we must continue planning for our museum's future.

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!

Museum Elections will take place in November. The floor will be open to nominations at the October meeting, and the ballot will be finalized at that time. Any museum member in good standing can be nominated. Look for the official ballot in the next issue of THE SEMAPHORE.

Have questions or comments? Call me at (716) 474-2833 or by email at mdow@rochester.rr.com.

—Mike Dow, Museum President



www.rgvrrm.org

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The official publication of
the Rochester & Genesee Valley
Railroad Museum

Volume 57, No. 2

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PRINTING AND MAILING

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©2013 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

R&GV MUSEUM PRIORITY PROJECTS

REV. SEPTEMBER 6, 2013

1. Lehigh Valley Caboose Exterior and Interior Restoration

Manager: Joe Nugent/Mark Wilczek: Complete the exterior metal and interior wood repair and finishing so that the car can leave the shop and be put on display, and operated in revenue service.

2. Lackawanna Baggage Car Roof Restoration

Manager: Otto Vondrak: Needle scale surface, seal, prime, and apply epoxy coating to preserve roof.

3. Construction of Inspection Pit for Restoration Building

Manager: Joe Nugent: Design and build inspection pit inside the Restoration Building so we can properly inspect and repair our rolling stock and locomotives.

4. Survey and Grade Fill South of Restoration Building

Manager: Dave Scheiderich: Complete survey and grading of fill south of the Restoration Building so we can extend our storage track capacity.

5. Complete Repainting of Industry Depot

Manager: Dave Peet: Complete exterior scraping, priming, and painting of the depot before end of 2013.

6. Put a Third Track Car and Trailer into Revenue Service

Manager: Joel R. Shaw: Acquire/rebuild a third track car and passenger trailer for revenue service for 2014.

NOTE: IF YOU DO NOT SEE YOUR PROJECT LISTED HERE OR WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT MUSEUM MGR. DAVE SCHEIDERICH (585) 301-1019

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:

November 21

at 40 & 8 Club, Rochester



ROCHESTER & GENESEE VALLEY RAILROAD MUSEUM

VISIT OUR WEB SITE: WWW.RGVRRM.ORG

MUSEUM CONTACT INFO

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Sam Rosenberg

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UPCOMING MUSEUM PROGRAMS MONTHLY MEETINGS

Our monthly museum meetings return to the 40&8 Club located at 933 University Avenue in downtown Rochester starting **October 17**, when NYMT's Charlie Lowe will be presenting a detailed program on the old **Rochester Subway**. **November 21** is our annual **Members' Slide Night and Elections**. Please bring a tray of up to 40 slides or a show of 40 digital images to present. On **December 19**, member **Peter Gores** will present his show covering a **Canadian Steam Fan Trip**. On **January 16, 2014**, member **Dale Hartnett** will present **Railroads from a Century Ago**.

The museum store opens at 7:00pm, a brief business meeting takes place at 7:30pm, and the program begins around 8:15pm. Our meetings are free to attend and open to everyone, so please bring a friend and join the fun!

—Harold Russell, Program Co-Chair

MOTIVE POWER DEPT.

RGV 1654: Our GE 80-ton switcher continues to be the primary motive power for our Sunday operations.

USA 1834: Our Fairbanks-Morse diesel remains on active standby to pinch-hit for 1654 as needed.

RG&E 1941: Our GE 45-ton switcher is stored serviceable, ready to be activated for service as needed.

LV 211: Some limited activity continues to repair the faulty water pump in this unit.



The 2013 PCRRHS "Despatch Express" convention in Rochester began September 26 and included excellent programs by RGVRM members Howard Fine, Duncan Richards, Otto Vondrak, and PCRRHS member Jim Hebner. Pictured here at their annual business meeting are (L-R) Treasurer Mike Beverley, President Jim Homoki, and Secretary Jim Hebner. PCRRHS PHOTO

All other locomotives are stored out of service until further notice. Would you like to get involved helping to keep our historic fleet of diesel locomotives in good working order? Please contact me at joe.r.nugent@gmail.com.

—Joe Nugent, Motive Power Supt.

PENN CENTRAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2013 DESPATCH EXPRESS

On Saturday, September 28, 46 members of the Penn Central Railroad Historical Society visited our museum as part of their 2013 Despatch Express convention held in Rochester. We ran a special train consisting only of our restored Penn Central N11e transfer caboose hauled by RGV 1654. The tour was split into two groups ("Red Team" and "Green Team"), and visitors enjoyed train rides and a special behind-the-scenes shop tour. While the caboose was the star of the show, our visitors enjoyed seeing LV 211 (ex-PRR 8445), the PRR Pine Falls, our PRR hopper car, MDT reefer 14053, NYC wooden caboose 19877, and of course, our NYC Flexi-Van trailer. Visit pcrrhs.org for details.

MATERIALS CLEAN-UP COMPLETE

In his spare time, Lynn Heintz has been leading a team of volunteers to organize some of our old paints and supplies for the past year. To avoid waste in the future, all materials must be stored properly. If you bring latex paint for a project at the museum, bring it home for the winter. If the project is finished and the color cannot be used elsewhere at the museum, find a home for it. **Do not store paint in the depot basement.** Store solvent based paints and related chemicals/thinners in the Restoration Shop paint cabinet when your project is finished. *Safety first!*

RGVRRM BOARD MEETING

The next Board of Trustees meeting will be Thursday, November 7. To get an item added onto the agenda, please contact Mike Dow at (716) 474-2833 or mdow@rochester.rr.com.

VISIT US ONLINE AT RGVRRM.ORG
FACEBOOK.COM/RGVRRM

Lackawanna caboose moved from Gunlocke to Wayland

By T.L. Applin
Genesee Valley Pennysaver

Residents recently witnessed a bit of a spectacle in the Village of Wayland. On August 30, the “Gunlocke Caboose” was moved to its new home at the **Wayland Historical Society**.

Howard Gunlocke of the Gunlocke Chair Factory purchased the caboose from the Delaware, Lackawanna, and Western railroad company in the early 1970s. Initially, the caboose sat on the siding near the factory. Mr. Gunlocke began having it remodeled into a personal office where he could spend some quiet time. Shortly thereafter, the caboose was moved to his home property on West Naples Street in the village. There Mr. Phillip Donovan, a Gunlocke employee, finished the inside remodeling of the caboose which was then named *Gunlodge 2*.

This summer, Bruce Brown, a member of the Board of Directors of the Wayland Historical Society, began discussion with the present owners (the Baird family of Walter E. Baird & Sons Funeral Home) to see if they would consider donating the caboose to the WHS. With Wayland’s past as a sizable railroading town and the Gunlocke caboose being a DL&W car, it seemed fitting that the caboose should sit at the Historical Society location. An agreement was reached and Mr. Brown agreed to act as the project coordinator.

Preparations began immediately, with LMC Industrial Contractors (Mr. Lawrence Mehlenbacher) of Dansville donating and delivering rail road ties, rails, plates, and rail road spikes. A crew of WHS board members and Michael Landino Excavating installed the new rail bed and tracks, and within a couple of weeks the new site was ready. Board member Martin Kimmel checked into getting the necessary permits and transportation routes so the move would be as smooth as possible.

Early on August 30th, the caboose was gently lifted off its wheels by the Wilcox Crane Company of Canandaigua and loaded on to a flatbed truck provided by LMC. The crane operator then set the caboose wheels onto a separate truck for the trip. The Village of Wayland Police and the Village Department of Streets and Water provided traffic control, and the




TOP: The Lackawanna caboose was lifted onto a trailer for the ride to its new home at the Wayland Historical Society on August 30. **ABOVE:** The trucks were set into place on a new panel track constructed outside the Wayland Historical Society. GENESEE VALLEY PENNYSAVER PHOTO

move began. A special thank you goes to The Mane Attraction for allowing the trucks to cross their parking lot for an easier and safer turn onto a connecting street.

A crowd eagerly watched as the caboose arrived at the WHS site and the two crews prepared for the second lift. The caboose’s wheels went onto the new tracks first. The rigging was put in place, the crane operator gently lifted, and finally, the caboose was free from the truck bed. With a little more lift and a gentle swing, the crane operator began lowering the caboose onto its wheels. As the pins went into place and the


crew motioned that the caboose was down, applause, cheers, and shouts echoed through the neighborhood. The Gunlocke caboose was at its new home.

What an outstanding display of effort, expertise, skill, and professionalism on the part of the crews of the LMC Industrial Contractors and the Wilcox Crane Company. Bruce Brown commented, “What a job well done. This whole move went without a glitch!!” And indeed it did! The Wayland Historical Society will always be grateful for the professionalism and generosity of all involved. 

Fall Foliage

BY TROLLEY AND TRAIN

Sundays only starting September 15 through November 3, 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: \$10 adults, \$8 seniors (65+), \$8 children (3-17). 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



Holiday Party at Industry Depot



SATURDAY, DEC. 7

6:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Enjoy some holiday cheer in the warm festive atmosphere of our restored country depot.

Bring a dish or other refreshments to pass.

Open to all friends and family!

Industry Depot • 282 Rush-Scottsville Road • Rush, NY



SEPTEMBER MUSEUM MEETING

We held our monthly museum meeting on September 19 at Industry Depot, taking advantage of the warm weather. After a brief meeting (left), we boarded the train for a special run to NYMT (below left). On board was Vanessa Loftus and her son Gabe, enjoying the ambiance of a sunset train ride (below). Some members hung around after the last train to share stories and catch up on the latest news (bottom left). Volunteer Rich Fischpera was our engineer for the evening. **Meetings return to the 40 & 8 Club (933 University Avenue, Rochester) starting October 17.** For complete details, visit our web site at www.rgvrrm.org. *Photos by Chris Playford*



PHOTO BY VANESSA LOFTUS



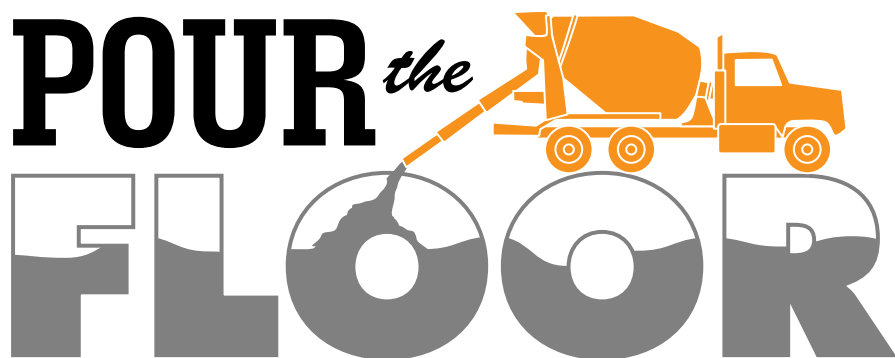
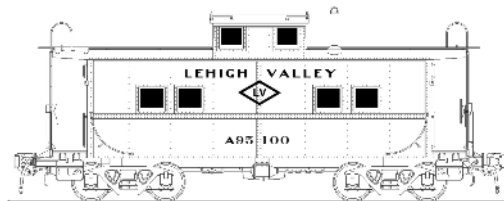
PHOTO BY OTTO VONDRAK



DONATE TODAY! Visit www.rgvrrm.org/support

Adopt-a-Rivet for our Lehigh Valley caboose

You can help us return a historic Lehigh Valley Railroad caboose to the rails! We have made great progress since rescuing this car from a local scrap yard in October 2011. We are trying to raise funds to help pay for continued restoration of the exterior bodywork as well as preparation for painting and finishing. **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.

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. We need your help to keep our museum open to the public, and we'll show you everything you need to know and make it fun! Get involved! Please contact **Otto Vondrak** by email at ovondrak@yahoo.com.

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



OFFICIAL MUSEUM NAMETAGS

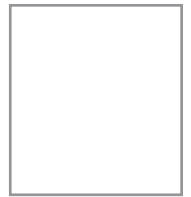
Do you have your official museum volunteer nametag yet? They are yellow with black lettering, and pin conveniently to your shirt or hat. **Name tags are \$8.00 each.** Please provide the spelling of your name EXACTLY as you would like it to appear on the tag (consider using only your first initial if you have a very long last name). Please contact Otto Vondrak by email at ovondrak@yahoo.com to order.

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:

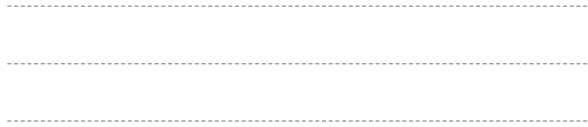
October 17

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

Next Month's Meeting:

November 21

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



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



The last Erie Railroad passenger train departed the terminal on Court Street in downtown Rochester on September 30, 1941. These were the same trains that served Industry Depot. Service from Avon to Corning remained for only a few years more. ROCHESTER DEMOCRAT & CHRONICLE PHOTO