



Our 1909 Erie Railroad passenger station is all decked out for the holidays in this night-time winter scene taken during our annual Holiday Open House Part on Saturday, December 7. Well attended, it was a great way to close the books on another year of accomplishments! PHOTO BY OTTO VONDRAK

# Year-End Recap

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This year has been a very good year at the museum, our visitors were up 5.4% and revenue increased 34%! This doesn't come without a lot of hard work, and a lot of volunteers. We can not keep this up without your support. We are taking steps to improve our administrative structure at the museum and to try to make it easier to volunteer or help in other ways. It is our goal to shift some of the responsibility away from our board members and to get more of our members involved.

Over the next few months we will be looking to fill a few key positions. Operations Superintendent is one of them, where we need someone who is organized and can help with the planning of training and crewing our trains.

Next is Track Superintendent. This job calls for helping budget and plan the track

work on our railroad throughout the year. It also involves communicating with those doing the work, and coordinating with the NYMT on projects that affect our joint operation.

We also are looking for folks to help with visitors operations, from track car operators, to train crews, and depot guides. Training is available for all positions.

If you don't think you are up for operations, the NYMT is always looking for people to run the register at the gift shop. Visitor operations at NYMT are an important part of our joint operating season, and we need your help. Have questions or comments? Call me at (716) 474-2833 or by email at [mdow@rochester.rr.com](mailto:mdow@rochester.rr.com).

Happy New Year!

—Mike Dow,  
 Museum President







# ROCHESTER & GENESEE VALLEY RAILROAD MUSEUM

VISIT OUR WEB SITE: [WWW.RGVRRM.ORG](http://WWW.RGVRRM.ORG)

## MUSEUM CONTACT INFO

### MUSEUM PRESIDENT

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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. On **December 19**, member **Peter Gores** presented his slide show documenting various Canadian steam-powered fan trips attended by many Rochester Chapter members during the 1970s. On **January 16, 2014**, member **Duncan Richards** will present a show titled "Details, Details," focusing on the details of everyday railroading. On **February 20, 2014**, member **Dale Hartnett** will be presenting "Railroads from a Century Ago." On **March 20, 2014**, **Peter Gores** returns with "Around New York City in the 60s and 70s." On **April 17, 2014**, NYMT's **Jim Dierks** will present, "Newfoundland Railroads in 1969." 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

## WELCOME NEW MUSEUM MANAGER MARK WILCZEK

The role of Museum Manager was created many years ago when the museum was just a single line item in the Rochester Chapter's sprawling list of budgeted activities. Since then, not only has the museum evolved, but the position as well.



Museum members, along with their friends and family, enjoyed our annual Holiday Open House Party at Industry Depot on Saturday, December 7. There was hot cider on the stove, delicious dishes to pass, and warm holiday music throughout. A great way to welcome the holidays! OTTO VONDRAK

It is a thankless job that has taken some of our best volunteers and turned them into shattered shells of their former selves, forever wounded and fearful of the light. Our last victim was David Scheiderich ("SuperDave™"), who at various times held down the positions of Museum Manager, Museum President, and Operations Superintendent simultaneously. In an effort to help delegate some of that crushing responsibility, **Mark Wilczek** has volunteered to replace Dave as Museum Manager effective November 8, 2013. We would like to take this time to thank Dave for his years of hard work and contributions towards keeping the museum "on track" during a difficult time of transition. Please join us in welcoming Mark into his new role. He looks forward to encouraging more participation at the museum and is actively soliciting any feedback that can help us maximize our resources. You can find Mark's contact information at the top of this page each month.

—Mike Dow, President

## HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7

The annual Holiday Open House at

Industry Depot was well attended by our members, their friends and family. The depot was carefully decorated by our volunteers in the holiday spirit, and everyone brought delicious dishes to share. It was nice to see the depot waiting room full again, with our members able to relax and enjoy the fruits of their hard work while catching up with friends and family.

## THE EVERGREEN EXPRESS SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21

This year, your museum decided to try out an experimental "off-season" event to create a local attraction to tie-in with the holiday season. The "Evergreen Express" was conceived as an event designed for families with young children, in a similar vein to popular "Santa Trains" and "Polar Express" themed experiences.

Scheduled for Saturday, December 21, we offered two departures from Industry Depot at 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. All ticket sales were pre-sold through our web site using our PayPal account. We limited the event to 36 tickets per train, which was the absolute maximum for our two cabooses. All advertising was done by "word of mouth" through this newsletter, our web



site, and our Facebook fan page. In fact, most riders were first time visitors who found us through a simple Google search.

Preparations took place the weeks before as the cabooses were moved down to Industry so they could be prepped for our winter visitors. Steve Huse made sure the stoves in both cabooses were in full working order to guard against the cold weather expected! Train crews consisted of Rich Fischpera, Jeremy Tuke, Jim Otto, and Dave Shields, with assistance from Mark Wilczek and Steve Huse. Operational support was provided by Jim Johnson and Dave Scheiderich at the "North Pole," along with Joe Nugent and Travis Winthers. Laurie Otto and Jeanine Lovell helped serve refreshments to our guests at Industry, Dave Peet greeted guests while Chris Hausler was our ticket agent (assisted by Nick Otto). Of course, a big thanks goes out to Santa Claus himself (who in this case looks a lot like our own Ray Howard). Otto Vondrak was event coordinator and host.

Thanks to everyone who helped make our first Evergreen Express a huge success! While the weather left much to be desired (constant rain and temps hovering in the 30s), everyone seemed to have a great time. We definitely helped a lot of families create some special memories on Saturday. With your help, we look forward to exploring the possibility of hosting more events like these in the future.

## EXPANDING VISITOR CAPACITY

Our partners at the New York Museum of Transportation had asked us earlier in the year to work out some solutions to help increase capacity during our joint operating season (May-October). Currently, capacity is dictated by available space on the track cars and our cabooses. As our popularity as a destination grows, we must work to meet the demand.

Your museum has come up with a two-part solution to address the situation. Currently we only have two track-car-and-trailer sets available at any given time. We are working towards putting a third set into service for the 2014 operating season. Trustee **Joel R. Shaw** is our liason on this important project.

The second part involves acquiring a 40-foot flatcar to convert into a "rider flat" for



**TOP:** On November 23, volunteers from R&GVRRM headed north to help out our partners at NYMT to do a little rearranging of their storage tracks in front of the car barn. **ABOVE:** During the first week of December, NYMT's 9TM Trackmobile was officially transferred to R&GVRRM. Christened "L-3" in a tounge-in-cheek honor to the Rochester Subway's own small diesel switcher, this Trackmobile has already helped switch out several pieces at Industry. **JOE NUGENT PHOTOS**

the 2015 operating season. The addition of this flatcar would help our trains match the capacity of the trolley, and help absorb peak crowds. Your museum has acquired a suitable candidate in the form of former U.S. Army 40-foot flatcar from the collection of member Peter Gores, and we are working towards preparing the car for

movement to our facility for rebuilding. Trustees **Rob Burz** and **Joe Nugent** are the liasons on this project.

These two projects together will help us meet our attendance goals for the future as we prepare to expand operations. Look for more updates in future issues of *THE SEMAPHORE*.



## MUSEUM NEWS & UPDATES



Nothing stops the Tuesday Night Track (TNT) Gang! Not even the cold of winter, or the dark of night, or the blinding flash of reflective vests! Their goal is to replace 50 ties in the main line before year's end (and they'll probably make it, too). DUNCAN RICHARDS PHOTO

### LIBRARY/MEETING SPACE UPDATE

As you may be aware, the University Avenue property that the 40&8 Club sits on has been under consideration for residential redevelopment for some time now. Part of the development deal includes the continuation of a permanent home for the veteran's club, though scaled back to meet their modern needs. Rest assured, we will always have a place to hold our meetings as long as we wish to continue our warm relationship with the 40&8, though once renovations are complete, there will be no room to house our Museum Library in any form at the same location.

We have been notified by 40&8 that we must vacate our rented library space by the end of January 2014. Once again, your Board of Trustees is faced with the arduous task of packing and moving our extensive library and archive. Your board has already taken the important step of arranging for safe, secure, *climate-controlled* storage to temporarily house the collection (at an annual rate that is less than our current rental). We have tasked the Library Committee to find a permanent solution to house our library collection within one year's time. During this time, the committee will evaluate the major parts of the collection (the so-called "lending

library" versus our more sensitive and valuable archive materials) to help shape our future plans and make more of the collection accessible to our members, as well as to the general public.

We will be seeking your help throughout the month of January to help in the careful packing and cataloging of our collection while we place it in temporary storage. **Without your help, the future of the library is in jeopardy, as construction will begin at the 40&8 site if we are vacated or not.** Please contact museum manager Mark Wilczek (585) 721-1377 if you are available to help with packing.

### TUESDAY NIGHT TRACK GANG SETS RECORD FOR 2013

As of this typing, the Tuesday Night Track (TNT) gang has replaced 47 ties on our demonstration railroad. I stop short of saying that this is the final count as several of the "Track Dokneys" (that is a deliberate misspelling) have expressed a desire to "Go for 50!" before the end of the year, and as the picture (ABOVE) will attest, darkness, cold and snow have no bearing on our work. As long as the ground doesn't freeze, there is a chance we will meet our desired goal. While a few folks have stopped by to contribute (and I apologize

for not remembering them all by name), the stalwarts have been John Redden, Dave Chapus, Rand Warner, Rick Israelson and Duncan "One Glove" Richards. We welcome anyone who wishes to come out, just dress for the weather and bring your own safety gear. We look forward to continuing our efforts in 2014.

—Duncan Richards, Track Donkey

### 2014 MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Please watch your mailboxes for your 2014 R&GVRRM Membership Renewal. We hope you will remember your museum with an increased donation to help advance all of our programs in the coming year. We count on your support, and we hope you continue to find your museum membership a worthy investment. If you have not yet received your renewal letter, please contact membership chair **Sam Rosenberg** at [ALCO251@frontiernet.net](mailto:ALCO251@frontiernet.net).

—Sam Rosenberg, Membership Chair

### DICK HOLBERT AWARDED PRESTIGIOUS FAIRMONT CUP

The prestigious Fairmont Cup is awarded annually to a museum volunteer who goes above and beyond all expectations. This year's award goes to **Dick Holbert**, (See page 6) who works tirelessly behind the scenes on many aspects of our radio and communications systems, a vital part of conducting our operations safely. Congratulations!

—Mike Dow, Museum President

### 2014 MUSEUM BANQUET SATURDAY, MARCH 8, 2014

We are reviving a tradition that has been dormant for too many years, and that's the Annual Banquet. Please mark your calendars for Saturday, March 8, 2014. More details to follow.

### RGVRRM BOARD MEETING

The next Board of Trustees meeting will be Thursday, February 6, 2014. To get an item added to the agenda, please contact president Mike Dow at (716) 474-2833 or [mdow@rochester.rr.com](mailto:mdow@rochester.rr.com).

VISIT US ONLINE AT [RGVRRM.ORG](http://RGVRRM.ORG)  
[FACEBOOK.COM/RGVRRM](https://www.facebook.com/RGVRRM)

# YEAR-END REPORTS

**NOTE:** *This report was pieced together from submissions received prior to December 15. If you have updates or additions, please send them to the editor by email at [ovondrak@yahoo.com](mailto:ovondrak@yahoo.com).*

## Project - Depot Painting

**Team Members** - Dave Peet, Jeremy Tuke, Don Wawrzyniak, Joel Shaw, Norm Shaddick, Jim Otto, and others.

**Scope of Work:** Finished stripping and painting the west side of the depot. Also the north end wall and east wall north of the baggage room door. We're left with most of the east wall which is in really rough condition, the roof overhang on the east side, and the roof overhang on the north end (mostly stripped of paint). Several exterior doors need significant repairs - these should be removed from the building and taken off to be stripped and the veneer either replaced or reattached if possible. Would also like to get the window screens redone. The galvanized screens are mostly falling apart and we should also either remove or replace the hardware cloth that protects the windows.

## Project - LV Caboose 95100

**Team Members** - Joe Nugent, Rob Burz, and Bill Bollinger.

**Scope of Work:** Rivets were popped out and damaged steel was removed. Exposed steel structure was cleaned and painted. New steel sheet metal was cut and fitted into place. Sheet metal was welded into place and then attached with new fasteners. Worked on air system plumbing and related equipment.

## Project - Landscaping for Sign

**Team Members** - Jeremy Tuke, others

**Scope of Work:** Built up railroad tie cribbing around our new entrance sign, filled with topsoil and installed new landscaping around base.

## Project - R&GV 1654 Maintenance

**Team Members** - Joe Nugent, Mark Wilczek, Dave Scheiderich.

**Scope of Work:** Both prime movers received an oil change with new filters. New air filters for both prime movers. New fuel filters for both prime movers. Removal of the #2 alternator for repair; Repaired and installed by Mark Wilczek.

Sander nozzles were welded to brackets to allow for proper alignment. Replenished sand.

## Project - RG&E 1941 Maintenance

**Team Members** - Joe Nugent, Mark Wilczek, Dave Scheiderich.

**Scope of Work:** Continued work on air valve repair. Changed one brake shoe.

## Project - 9TM Trackmobile

**Team Members** - Joe Nugent, Mark Wilczek, Dave Scheiderich.

**Scope of Work:** Assisted with the repair of 9TM trackmobile "L-3." Got the unit ready to be transferred from the NYMT to the RGVRRM.

## Project - Museum Library Relocation

**Team Members** - Joel R. Shaw, et. al.

**Scope of Work:** Worked with Library Committee to help catalog and pack contents of museum library and archive. Focused on finding new temporary safe storage for library collection, and assisting in development of permanent solution.

## Project - New Lever Stand

**Team Members** - Mike Dow.

**Scope of Work:** Constructed new stand to support signal levers inside the agent's office at Industry Depot.

## Project - New Wash Sink Stand

**Team Members** - Jeremy Tuke

**Scope of Work:** Created new level surface and relocated utility wash-up sinks in the depot basement while our upstairs bathroom remains out of service.

## Project - Third Track Car Set

**Team Members** - Joel R. Shaw, Rand Warner, Norm Shaddick, etc.

**Scope of Work:** Repaired TC2 to eliminate excessive smoking issue and restore to reliable operation. Working towards the design and construction of a new trailer to carry passengers.

## Project - Industry Depot Cabinets

**Team Members** - Mark Wilczek, Otto Vondrak.

**Scope of Work:** Mark built new display cabinets for the South Waiting Room of Industry Depot to match the period style, based on initial drawings by Otto. Otto then designed new display panels to be placed on top of the cabinets for the 2013 season.

## Project - Depot North Lawn

**Team Members** - Otto Vondrak, Tim Gifford, Dan Waterstraat, Scott Gleason, Jim Johnson, Jeremy Tuke, Rand Warner.

**Scope of Work:** Laid out new landscaped area north of Industry depot to help absorb rain run off, and also give our visitors more usable space to enjoy while waiting for their train. Area was graded, new topsoil brought in, and bordered with ties. Seed and feed were applied, and grass was growing and fully established by the end of summer.

## Project - Wayside Sign Display

**Team Members** - Otto Vondrak, Joe Nugent, Dave Scheiderich, Scott Gleason, Tim Gifford, Dan Waterstraat, others.

**Scope of Work:** Wayside sign collection was relocated to area along Industry Depot platform, opposite the new lawn. Concrete markers and steel signs were "planted" in a new "garden" filled with ballast and contained by ties. All signs and markers had fresh paint applied as well. More signs to be installed in 2014 as well as permanent descriptive plaques for each.

## FAIRMONT CUP AWARD *presented to* DICK HOLBERT

Dick Holbert (left) was the recipient of this year's Fairmont Cup award, presented by museum president Mike Dow (right). The Fairmont Cup is awarded annually to a museum volunteer who makes contributions to our organization far above and beyond expectations. JOE NUGENT PHOTO





# MUSEUM LONG-TERM PLANNING



Your board of directors brainstormed ideas to help chart a path for your museum's growth over the next five to ten years. The common theme throughout all of the ideas includes the attraction of more visitors, the improvement of our facilities, and the ability to restore and interpret our collection in an effort to educate the public about Rochester's rich railroading heritage. This is only a preliminary listing. **What would you include?** Send your comments to president Mike Dow [mdow@rochester.rr.com](mailto:mdow@rochester.rr.com) or call him at (716) 474-2833.

## 2014 IMMEDIATE GOALS

- Complete Inspection Pit
- Complete grading of fill and access road
- Complete Industry Depot paint job
- Third track car and trailer set in service
- Lehigh Valley caboose restoration complete
- Repair and refinish Lackawanna baggage car roof

## 2014 MAINTENANCE GOALS

- Maintain and replace rail joint bolts
- Clean up discarded ties from right of way
- Complete work at Reid's Crossing

## 2014 ADMINISTRATIVE GOALS

- Fill out the museum department structure
- Implement a permanent home for museum library
- Initiate more railfan day trips for our museum members
- Overall safety review

## FIVE YEAR GOALS (2014-2019)

- Paint RG&E #8
- Return RG&E #8 to active fleet
- Rebuild and restore new rider flatcar, place into service
- Complete signaling display inside Pennsy RPO
- Install more working signals along the right of way
- Initiate more local fund raising and grant opportunities
- Increase membership and volunteer contributions
- Complete cosmetic restoration of EK 6
- Complete Restoration Building concrete floor
- Unite both museums under one common marketing brand
- Utilize the Empire State Express cars for more trips
- Host a visiting live steam locomotive event (Gramlings, Viscose)
- More covered equipment storage for the Upper Yard

- Improve Midway platform area
- Establish a permanent station at BOCES Crossing
- Continued museum endowment growth
- Continued clean up along west side of LAL
- Increase parking capacity at Industry Depot
- Have the museum open more days a week, extend season
- Develop a plan for each piece of rail equipment
- Establish plan to care for each piece into the future
- Ability to do painting on our own, e.g. sandblast and spray
- Cosmetic restoration of steam engine for static display
- Flexible ride plan to allow visitors more time at Industry Depot
- Phase out track car operations for Sunday public visits
- More public bathroom facilities
- Establish online ticket sales; point of sale for ticket desk
- Clean out North Waiting Room and make part of public display
- New Industry Yard arrangement for public displays
- Complete lighting and electric service in Restoration Building
- Joint holiday operations (Christmas, Easter, Halloween, etc.)

## TEN YEAR GOALS (2014-2024)

- Interlocking Tower at Switch 6
- Subway Station transfer point at Switch 6
- Trolley operation end-to-end with south loop at Industry
- Diesel operation end-to-end
- Freight house replica at Industry Depot
- Passing siding in the middle of the line
- Investigate rerouting of track north of BOCES to ease curves
- Restoration of Rochester Subway Car 60
- Design and construct interactive museum exhibits
- Develop into a known tourist stop, increase recognition
- Construct second trolley substation
- Construct dedicated crew room/locker room
- Further restore Industry Depot to original condition
- Heat in Restoration Building
- Private phone system and telegraph line end-to-end

# THE SEMAPHORE

NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCHESTER & GENESEE VALLEY RAILROAD MUSEUM

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**NEXT MEETING:**  
**January 16**  
**Duncan Richards**  
**presents "Details, Details."**



**TO THE NORTH POLE!** Santa Claus takes a break from his very busy schedule to speak with a group of visitors who traveled on the Evergreen Express to visit with him at the North Pole on Saturday, December 21 (see page 3). PHOTO BY OTTO VONDRAK

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933 University Ave., Rochester NY

7:30 PM at The 4088 Club

**February 20**

*Next Month's Meeting:*

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933 University Ave., Rochester NY

7:30 PM at The 4088 Club

**January 16**

*This Month's Meeting:*