



RG&E 1941 leads NJ Transit PCC 7 towards its new home at the New York Museum of Transportation on January 18, 2014. R&GV 1654 can be seen following a safe distance behind between the Loop Switch and Giles Crossing. This streamlined trolley is one of 30 that served for nearly 50 years on the Newark City Subway until retired in 2001. The car is an excellent candidate to carry visitors on our shared museum railroad. PHOTO BY OTTO VONDRAK

# Planning Ahead

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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. This past year saw the completion of many important projects that will help our museum. What's more, your board has approved a set of prioritized projects that we will be dedicating our resources towards in 2014 and beyond (see the Dec.-Jan. issue for details). 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.

We're looking forward to another great year of growth. **Please reach out and ask how you can get involved!**

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



www.rgvrrm.org

#### MUSEUM OFFICERS

##### PRESIDENT

Mike Dow  
(716) 474-2833

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The official publication of  
the Rochester & Genesee Valley  
Railroad Museum

Volume 57, No. 6

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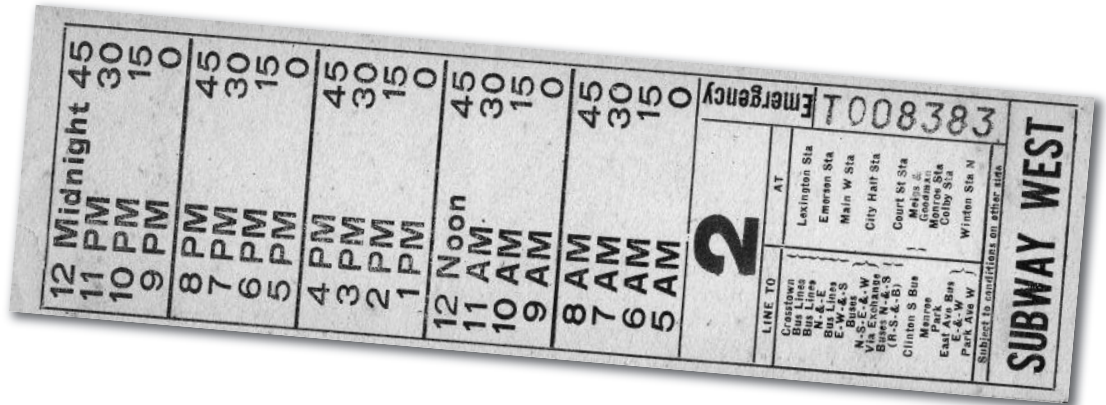
##### PRINTING AND MAILING

Dave Peet  
Don Wawrzyniak

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# TRAIN BULLETIN

## NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



### Rochester & Genesee Valley Railroad Museum Membership Meeting Minutes January 16, 2014

The January Museum Membership Meeting was called to order at the 40&8 Club on University at 7:33 PM by Trustee Dave Scheiderich in the absence of President Mike Dow.

**Announcements/Correspondence:** None.

**Guests:** Arthur Elliot.

There was a MOTION by Jeremy Tuke to dispense with the reading of the minutes from last month's meeting. The MOTION passed unanimously.

**Membership:** Sam Rosenberg reported that there was one new member, **Jacob LaTour** of Honeoye Falls. Rand Warner made a MOTION to accept the nominee for membership. The MOTION passed unanimously.

**Museum Library Report:** Packing continues to take place through the help of Chris Hausler and Joel R. Shaw. Dave Peet has put down a deposit on a climate controlled storage facility that is close by our present location. We must have the entire library packed by the end of January.

**Operations/Preservation:** Joe Nugent announced that progress continues on the Lehigh Valley caboose. Work is also progressing on roof repairs to our New York Central wooden caboose, thanks to Charlie Marks. The Evergreen Express operated on December 21 was a success, with sold out trains and

very happy visitors despite the weather. We will apply what we learned operating this event to future "off-season" activities.

**Newsletter:** Due to an overwhelming schedule, the December 2013 and January 2014 issues were combined. February 2014 issue will continue as normal.

**Publications:** Otto announced that his committee is taking a second look at the Ted Jackson project on the Erie Railroad's Rochester Division, and that a recent discovery of some original photos has helped the process.

**Program:** The evening program "Details, Details" will be presented by member Duncan Richards and will focus on the everyday details of railroading (With a humorous twist). Our February meeting will feature member Dale Hartnett presenting "Railroads of A Century Ago," while member Peter Gores will present "Around New York City in the 60s and 70s" at our March meeting.

**New/Other Topics:** Dave Scheiderich announced the Annual Museum Banquet will take place Saturday March 8, and an announcement regarding upcoming Rules Classes for operating department volunteers will be made shortly.

Jeremy Tuke made a MOTION to adjourn, and this was seconded by Tony Mittiga. The motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

—Joel R. Shaw, Trustee and Recording Secretary

### 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 20

at 40 & 8 Club, Rochester



## 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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#### MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

Sam Rosenberg

[ALC0251@frontiernet.net](mailto:ALC0251@frontiernet.net)

### UPCOMING MUSEUM PROGRAMS MONTHLY MEETINGS

Our monthly museum meetings return to the 40&8 Club located at 933 University Avenue in downtown Rochester. 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. Cash bar available. 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 TROLLEY NO. 7

Exciting news as our friends at New York Museum of Transportation welcome the newest addition to their roster; **NJ Transit PCC No. 7**. One of a fleet of 30 PCC trolley cars acquired for service in the 4.3 mile Newark City Subway, they served for nearly a half century before they were retired in 2001 when the line was converted and upgraded to light rail standards. Eleven of the cars found a new home in San Francisco on the Muni F-Line that runs along the Embarcadero. A few others found their way to museums, while the rest remained in storage on NJT property pending a final disposition. Some were ear-



Slowly but surely, Mike Dow has been restoring and reassembling the interlocking machine that was salvaged from Niobe Tower many years ago by our museum volunteers. The machine will be part of a new interactive display taking shape inside the Pennsylvania Railroad RPO car. OTTO VONDRAK

marked for future transit use in Bayonne, but when that proposal fell through, the future of the remaining cars came into question. Fortunately, their historic value was recognized and the surviving cars made their way to established trolley museums around the country.

NYMT's new PCC was built in 1946 by St. Louis Car Company and was used on the Minneapolis-St. Paul streetcar system until 1953 after which time it was sold to New Jersey's Public Service Coordinated Transport along with 29 other Minneapolis cars. The streamlined cars served on the 4.3-mile-long Newark City Subway from 1954 to 2001. In many ways, the Newark Subway was very similar to the Rochester Subway. Both used the bed of an abandoned canal (the Morris Canal in Newark and the Erie Canal in Rochester) for their route. Both became fast routes to downtown areas to connect with selected surface streetcar lines. Rochester's Subway, though, was never modernized with PCCs and was closed to passenger traffic in 1956 so expressways could be built along parts of its route. The Newark Subway was re-equipped with the PCC cars in 1954 and has since been re-equipped again (in 2001)

with modern light rail cars. Now under the auspices of New Jersey Transit, the Subway (now known as the Newark Light Rail) remains an important passenger transit line through the city of Newark.

On the afternoon Wednesday, January 15, the Silk Road Transport trailer once again paid a visit to Track 4 in Industry Yard to drop off yet another historic artifact. Volunteers from both NYMT and RGV worked together to help safely unload the trolley onto its new home rails. By sunset the car was safely offloaded and the tractor trailer had departed. A special towing drawbar was connected between RG&E 1941 and NJT 7 before activities wrapped up for the day.

Museum volunteers prepared for the move up to NYMT on Saturday, January 18. Charlie Lowe from NYMT and Dave Scheiderich from RGV coordinated the careful movement of the car from Industry. Mark Wilczek and Joe Nugent manned RG&E 1941, while Jeremy Tuke and Otto Vondrak followed a safe distance behind with R&GV 1654. As the car was carefully inched over our shared museum railroad, several volunteers (including Bob Sass, Bob Achilles, and Rand Warner)



## MUSEUM NEWS & UPDATES

were on the ground walking along side keeping an eye on the steady progress.

Our entourage paused once for a group photo at Midway, and again for another brief photo op at BOCES Crossing. Soon enough, we were climbing the grade leading to the carbarn switch at NYMT. Car 7 was spotted on the loading track and tied down, allowing RG&E 1941 to disconnect and pull away. With the historic trolley delivered to her new home, the two locomotives returned to Industry.

Car 7 is now on display at NYMT's passenger boarding area, although access inside the car is limited. Plans call for extending a spur track into the museum's main exhibition hall later this year so that NJT 7 can be stored inside. Here, some work can be undertaken prior to a full restoration to operable condition. In the not-too-distant future, Car 7 will be used to provide rides on the 1.5-mile-long trolley railroad which connects NYMT with the Rochester & Genesee Valley Railroad Museum.

—Otto M. Vondrak

### 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.

**We have been notified by 40&8 that we must vacate our rented library space by the end of January 2014.** 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.

**TOP:** Silk Road Transport arrived on January 15 with NJ Transit PCC 7. **MIDDLE:** Our forklift came in handy to position the unloading ramps. **RIGHT:** On January 18, RG&E 1941 carefully leads NJT 7 up the Hill Block towards Switch 6.

OTTO VONDRACK PHOTOS



## MUSEUM NEWS & UPDATES



### 2014 MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Please watch your mailboxes for your 2014 R&GVRRM Membership Renewal. 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

### 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**. We will be holding the banquet at the recently refurbished **River's Edge Party House**, located near the airport at 31 Paul Road, Rochester, NY. Doors will open at 6:30, and guests will enjoy a cash bar and social hour prior to seating for our buffet dinner. Following dinner will be some brief awards presentations before we introduce our keynote speaker, **Eugene H. Blabey II**, President and CEO of the Livonia, Avon & Lakeville Railroad Corp. Please join us for this wonderful opportunity to celebrate our organizations achievements over the last year as well as congratulate the LA&L Railroad on fifty years of excellent service. Tickets are \$25.00 per person, and are payable by check or money order to R&GV BANQUET, P.O. Box 23326, Rochester, NY 14692-3326. You can also purchase tickets in person at our monthly meeting on February 20. **Please R.S.V.P. no later than February 28** to Otto Vondrak ([ovondrak@yahoo.com](mailto:ovondrak@yahoo.com)) if you are planning on attending. We cannot accept ticket orders after February 28, so please reserve your spot early!

### RGVRRM BOARD MEETING

The next Board of Trustees meeting will be Thursday, March 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).

**TOP:** Some of the team of volunteers who helped move NJT 7 pause at Midway on January 18. **MIDDLE:** RG&E 1941 leads NJT 7 to the boarding area at NYMT. **LEFT:** Upon their successful arrival, NJT 7 was tied down on the boarding track at NYMT. **OTTO VONDRAK PHOTOS**





## ERIE VIEWS FROM THE PAST

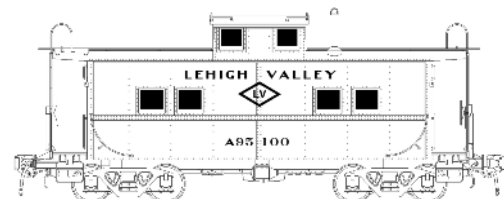
The Erie Railroad passenger trains served Rochester from its terminal facing Court Street on the west shore of the Genesee River until September 30, 1941. These undated photos from the museum's collection show the station in service (above), with a gas-electric motorcar sitting at the platform. The combine trailer shown above is a retired electric car used for storage by the maintenance crews. The undated photo at right shows the terminal being demolished following the end of passenger service. We have some news clippings in the collection without dates, so the timeline is unclear. Any leads on the date of destruction would be appreciated.

—Otto M. Vondrak, Editor



**DONATE TODAY! Visit [www.rgvrrm.org/support](http://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!****



# R&GV Museum Banquet

**Saturday, March 8**

**River's Edge Party House**

31 Paul Road - Rochester, New York

**Cocktail Hour - Buffet Dinner**

**Award Presentations**



*Guest Speaker:* **Eugene H. Blabey II**

**President/Chief Executive Officer**

**Livonia, Avon & Lakeville Railroad Corp.**



Join us as we look back upon a year of accomplishments for our organization as well as congratulate the Livonia, Avon & Lakeville Railroad on their fiftieth anniversary of service!

**SEND CHECK OR MONEY ORDER WITH TOTAL ORDER TO:**

**R&GV BANQUET • P.O. BOX 23326 • ROCHESTER, NY 14692-3326**

**Please R.S.V.P. by February 28 to [ovondrak@yahoo.com](mailto:ovondrak@yahoo.com)**

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**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](mailto:ovondrak@yahoo.com).

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**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](mailto:ovondrak@yahoo.com) or call (585) 820-2341.

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**THE SEMAPHORE**

ROCHESTER & GENESEE VALLEY RAILROAD MUSEUM  
P.O. BOX 23326  
ROCHESTER, NY 14692-3326



This Month's Meeting:

**February 20**

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

Next Month's Meeting:

**March 20**

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

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



**GOOD TIMING:** While RG&E 1941 was on a training run paused in the Hill Block, the Livonia, Avon & Lakeville's afternoon southbound road train rolled past our museum complex on the way to Lakeville on January 15, 2014. The LA&L is close to celebrating 50 years of service. OTTO VONDRAK PHOTO