

NEXT MEETING:
March 20
 Peter Gores presents
 "Around New York City
 in the 1960s and 70s"



With Alco RS-2 #213 in the lead, Lehigh Valley's Geneva Local is eastbound making good speed on the superelevated curve near Lodi, N.Y., in late March 1976. In just a matter of days, trains will no longer run through here once Conrail takes over on April 1. We are fortunate to have preserved many artifacts from the LV, including rare high-hood RS-3 #211 and caboose 95100. RICHARD JAHN PHOTO/RAILPICTURES.NET

Think warm thoughts

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Winter is winding down and Spring is just around the corner! As the snow begins to melt away, we're going to be busy getting ready for our 2014 joint operating season in cooperation with our friends at New York Museum of Transportation.

Now is your chance to jump in and get involved with train operations at our museum! We will host our first Rules Class on March 29, and follow-up with hands-on training. Anyone is eligible to take these classes and learn how to safely operate trains, trolleys, or track cars at our museum. Please RSVP with Operations Superintendent **Rich Fischpera** (rfischpera53@rochester.rr.com).

Train crew not your thing? Consider helping out as a Depot Guide and conducting tours at the museum. Please contact **Otto Vondrak** (ovondrak@yahoo.com)

for more details on the next training session to be held on April 27 at Industry.

There are many things we want to accomplish this year, but we simply do not have enough volunteers to contribute. We are also in need of volunteers to help fill some leadership roles at the museum. How do we get more volunteers for our vital projects? Over the next few months, your Board of Trustees will be reaching out to you for help filling out some of these roles, and your input and suggestions for recruitment are welcomed.

Would you like to help out at the museum and you're not sure where to start? Please contact me at (716) 474-2833 or **mdow@rochester.rr.com**. I'd like to hear from you!

—Mike Dow,
 Museum President



www.rgvrrm.org

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TRAIN BULLETIN

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rochester & Genesee Valley Railroad Museum Membership Meeting Minutes February 20th, 2014

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

Announcements/Correspondence: None.

Membership: No new members to report, but Chairman Sam Rosenberg let everyone know that 2013 membership cards were being prepared for mailing. Your membership card can be presented for a complimentary ride at the NYMT ticket desk, among other discounts that may be applied.

Museum Library Report: Mark Wilczek announced that a good portion of our library collection has been boxed and packed and ready to go. We will employ professional movers to bring the boxes to the storage facility in the next couple of weeks.

Operations/Preservation: Joe Nugent announced that the traction motors on R&GV 1654 are being evaluated for repair and replacement. Charlie and Jesse Marks are making good progress on the roof of the New York Central caboose that is presently inside of the Restoration Building. Lehigh Valley caboose progress continues with an eye towards sandblasting and painting later this summer.

The Board of Trustees voted to wrap the PRR "Pine Falls" Pullman lounge car with a protective "cocoon" much like the one we placed on the Lackawanna coach a couple years ago. This will help prevent further deterioration while we consider several courses of action for preservation. This work will take place once the weather breaks and warms up a bit, overseen by Mark Wilczek.

The museum has also purchased a steel banding machine to help us clean up and better store our used materials around the museum grounds. This will help us keep the property neat and clean.

The Operating Rules Classes will be again held by Dave Scheidrich on March 29, 2014, and are required for all trolley motormen, locomotive engineers, conductors, brakemen, and track car operators. The new Operating Superintendent is Rich Fischpera. David and Rich will be working together throughout the season.

Otto Vondrak discussed our joint operating season with NYMT, which will start a week earlier on May 11 to coincide with Amtrak's National Train Day marketing. There will also be a special event on June 29 called "Subway Sunday" to help draw attention to the old Rochester Subway and the potential restoration of Car 60.

Trips Committee Report: Dave Shields has reported the approval of a series of fall foliage trips to operate with the cooperation of the Livonia, Avon & Lakeville Railroad on October 18. The committee working on this consists of Otto Vondrak, Dave Peet, and Dave Shields. Dave is also working up some details on a day trip to the Arcade & Attica for our museum members and interested public as well.

Museum Property Easement: Dave Shields has been working up the specifics of our property easement alongside the National Grid (former Niagara-Mohawk) high-voltage line so that we may continue with the design and planning of future construction. The project to upgrade the electric line has since been cancelled, according to National Grid's web site. The Right of Way and Easement up the hill dates back to 1987, and Dave Scheidrich and Rand Warner are researching the original agreement.

Annual Banquet: The annual Banquet is being held on March 8 at the River's Edge Party House on Scottsville Road near Paul Road (former Nordic Village). Gene Blaney II, president and CEO of the LA&L will be guest speaker. Tickets are \$25.00 each, and includes buffet dinner. There is a February 28th cut-off date per Otto Vondrak.

Program: The evening program "Railroad Palaces of a Century Ago" will be presented by member Dale Hartnett and will include photographs and history of New York's Grand Central Terminal and old Pennsylvania Station as well as Washington D.C.'s Union Station.

Ray Howard made a MOTION to adjourn, seconded by Jim Moore. 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:

April 17

at 40 & 8 Club, Rochester



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 March 13, 2014, we hired Sheridan Movers to take our boxed up library collection and place it in storage. We must find a new home for the library collection since the build the 40 & 8 Club is housed in will be renovated for other purposes. OTTO VONDRAK

UPCOMING MUSEUM PROGRAMS MONTHLY MEETINGS

Our monthly museum meetings are held at the 40&8 Club located at 933 University Avenue in downtown Rochester. On **February 20, 2014**, member **Dale Hartnett** presented "Railroad Palaces from a Century Ago," focusing on the history and construction of New York's Grand Central Terminal and Pennsylvania Station as well as Washington, D.C.'s Union Station. It was a very informative program featuring great information and photos from a variety of sources.

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!

Can you help us? We are looking for help with the Program Chair position. Please contact Mike Dow if you are interested in helping to schedule fun and informative presentations for our monthly museum meetings!

—R&GV Program Committee

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.

The operators of the 40 & 8 Club notified us more than a year ago that we must vacate our rented library space before the end of winter. Thanks to several hearty volunteers along with the guidance of board members **Joel Shaw** and **Dave Peet**, we were able to get the majority of our collection boxed and ready to go by the end of January. Arrangements were made by your Board of Trustees to place the valuable collection in temporary storage, thanks to the efforts of **Mark Wilczek**.

On Thursday, March 13, Sheridan Movers helped relocate the majority of our boxed library collection, including shelving and other furniture from the 40 & 8 Club to our temporary storage space just down the street at the corner of University and Culver. The movers made three trips over the span of five hours, saving us from

doing the "heavy lifting" and making sure nothing would be damaged. A few boxes of loose items remain to be packed up, along with the library computer and other miscellaneous pieces. These items we will handle ourselves. The good news is that we have fulfilled our obligation to the 40 & 8 Club to vacate the premises prior to the renovations that will be taking place at their property. Meanwhile, your Board of Trustees continues to work many avenues to find a permanent solution to make our library collection accessible to as many as possible. If you have ideas, questions, or concerns about the library collection, please contact museum president **Mike Dow** at mdow@rochester.rr.com.

2014 MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

By now you should have received your 2014 R&GVRRM Membership Renewal in the mail. 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 ALC0251@frontiernet.net.

—Sam Rosenberg, Membership Chair
(Continued...)



MUSEUM NEWS & UPDATES

2014 MUSEUM BANQUET SATURDAY, MARCH 8, 2014

On Saturday, March 8, nearly 60 members and guests of the R&GV Railroad Museum gathered at the River's Edge Party House in Rochester for our 2014 Annual Banquet. Doors opened around 6:30, and guests enjoyed a social hour in the bar area before being seated for dinner. We were treated to a delicious hot buffet dinner including roast chicken, roast pork loin, and carved sirloin, along with salads and sides. Safe to say, no one went hungry that night.

With proper introduction by emcee Otto Vondrak, museum president **Mike Dow** thanked everyone for attending and also for their contributions to the museum's success over the past year. He also presented an award to the Tuesday Night Track ("TNT") Gang for replacing 50 ties by hand on our museum railroad during the course of our 2013 season. The award was accepted on behalf of the gang by Rand Warner. Next up, museum manager ("Mangler?") **Mark Wilczek** said a few words of thanks and highlighting some of our major projects from the past year. He highlighted the need for volunteer help as a key factor to our success in 2014.

Following these brief remarks, Otto introduced our guest of honor, keynote speaker **Gene Blabey II**, president and CEO of the Livonia, Avon & Lakeville Railroad Corp. The railroad is coming up on its 50th anniversary of service, and Blabey has sat as a member of the board since the company's founding. He recounted the railroad's early history and noted its success against all odds in growing its customer base with strong sources of freight traffic. Following his talk, he showed great slides of early steam and diesel operations on the LA&L. Finally, Blabey took questions from our audience regarding everything from the future of the Bath & Hammondsport to outlook for the LA&L. Thanks to Gene and his wife for joining us

TOP: The Tuesday Night Track Gang received an award for replacing 50 ties during the 2013 season, accepted on behalf of the gang by Rand Warner. **MIDDLE:** Programs and tickets from the event. **RIGHT:** Museum president Mike Dow presented Otto Vondrak with an award for being the editor "of a publication no one reads on a regular basis." Such a sense of humor! **PHOTOS BY OTTO VONDRAK AND JOE NUGENT**



MUSEUM NEWS & UPDATES



for this fun event!

Due to the overwhelmingly positive response we had to this year's banquet, it sounds like this is one revived tradition that is here to stay. If you have any comments or suggestions for next year's banquet, please pass them on to event organizer Otto Vondrak by email at ovondrak@yahoo.com.

OPERATIONS DEPT.

Please join us in welcoming volunteer **Rich Fischpera** as our new Operations Superintendent. Rich has been a volunteer with both R&GV and the New York Museum of Transportation for many years and will coordinate training and crew calls for all locomotive engineers, trolley motormen, conductors, and track car operators. He won't be doing it all alone, of course, so don't be surprised if you get asked to help out!

Our first Rules Class of 2014 will be held on **Saturday, March 29**, at RIT. This annual class is required for all returning train crew members as well as those interested in getting training this year. Please RSVP to Rich Fischpera at (585) 865-4283 or rfischpera53@rochester.rr.com to let him know you are attending this class. If you cannot attend, another class will be held later this spring.

2014 JOINT OPERATING SEASON RESUMES MAY 11

Your railroad museum will once again open to the public this Spring to showcase the rich railroading heritage of the Rochester area. We will be opening one week earlier than usual on **Sunday, May 11, 2014**, to coincide with Amtrak's National Train Day festivities across the country. One of the greatest difficulties we had last year was finding enough volunteers to keep the museum open to the (Continued...)



TOP: Everyone enjoyed a delicious buffet dinner and catching up with old friends. **MIDDLE:** Gene Blabey presented a very informative and entertaining discussion about how the LA&L overcame the odds and became a successful and growing short line serving our region. **LEFT:** Gene's slide show included great photos from the first few years, including the popular steam passenger excursions that helped launch the LA&L's regular operations. **PHOTOS BY JOE NUGENT AND OTTO VONDRAK**

public. We rely heavily on kind folks like you to give up a few Sundays during the season to greet our guests and show them around the museum. Unfortunately, there were some days we could not find enough people, and were forced to close our doors, hurting our reputation and costing us much needed revenue.

Training for Depot Guides will be held once again at Industry Depot on **Sunday, April 27, 2014**, at 1:00 p.m., and is required for new and returning volunteers. The training will take approximately three hours, and will show you everything you need to know to sign in, open the depot, open the display cars, how to greet guests, and how to close up everything at the end of the day. It's fun, it's easy, and it's some of the most important work we do at the museum. Please RSVP to Otto Vondrak at ovondrak@yahoo.com if you plan on attending the training session.

—Otto Vondrak,
Visitor Experience Chairman

ARCADE & ATTICA DAYTRIP JUNE 7, 2014

Come join us for a great day riding the Arcade & Attica, New York State's only regularly scheduled steam-powered excursion train, on Saturday, June 7, 2014! We will be boarding our air conditioned, rest-room equipped motorcoach at the R&GV Railroad Museum located at 282 Rush-Scottsville Road (Route 251) in Rush, N.Y., at 10:00 a.m. sharp. We will travel to the Arcade & Attica Railroad arriving at 11:30 a.m. Our steam train departs at noon, and we will be riding our own all-reserved passenger coach. Lunch will be at the mid-point of our trip at Curriers where the steam locomotive will run around the train where pictures and videos may be taken. You can either bring your own lunch to eat at the shelter at Curriers, or you can purchase chargrilled hot dogs (\$2.00), cold drinks (\$1.00) and ice cream novelties (\$1.00) from the concession at the station.

We will be offering a raffle for a cab ride as the steam locomotive runs around the train at Curriers, details pending. We will return to Arcade around 2:00 p.m. where we have arranged a special tour of their locomotive shop facilities. Of course, no trip is complete without a visit to the gift shop inside Arcade station!

Our motorcoach will depart Arcade at approximately 3:00 p.m. traveling to the Lumberyard Restaurant in Perry, N.Y., for



The Arcade & Attica operates New York State's only regularly scheduled steam-powered passenger excursions. Join the museum for a special tour to the A&A on June 7, 2014. ERIC WILLIAMS PHOTO

a delicious prime rib dinner with a soup and salad bar, bread, butter, coffee, tea and dessert. Our plan is to return to the R&GV Railroad Museum around 7:00 p.m.

Tickets are only **\$75.00** per person which includes the bus trip, tickets for the Arcade & Attica Railroad, and a delicious prime rib dinner. Tickets can be obtained by sending a check made out to the RGVRM with a self-addressed stamped envelope to:

R&GV Railroad Museum
Arcade & Attica Train Excursion
P.O. Box 23326
Rochester, NY 14692-3326

Please R.S.V.P by May 9 to **David Shields** at david.shields12@yahoo.com. Tickets will also be available at our monthly museum meetings, and also on our web site at www.rgvrm.org.

—David Shields, Trip Chairman

R&GV FALL FOLIAGE EXCURSIONS ON THE LIVONIA, AVON & LAKEVILLE RETURN OCTOBER 18, 2014

The R&GV Railroad Museum will be sponsoring special Fall Foliage train excursions on the Livonia Avon & Lakeville Railroad on **Saturday, October 18, 2014**. We are still working out all of the details, but we do have some preliminary information to share.

Thanks to the cooperation of the LA&L, we are proud to announce we will be offering four round-trips, each departing from

the Conesus Lake Sportsman's Club in Lakeville, N.Y., at regular "Dr. Pepper" intervals of 10:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m., 2:00 p.m., and 4:00 p.m. Passengers will enjoy a 28-mile round trip from Lakeville to Industry. Passengers will not be allowed to board or disembark at the museum, however, we will have special Saturday hours for anyone who would like to visit before or after their ride.

The excursion will feature our refurbished former New York Central stainless steel coaches originally built by Budd in 1941 for the *Empire State Express*. The train will be pulled by Alco Century locomotives provided by the LA&L.

Tickets will be \$25.00 for Adults (18+), and \$20.00 for Youth (under 18) and Seniors (65+). Children 2 years and under may ride free (sitting on laps). Help support the R&GV Railroad Museum and join us for this special event! Ticket purchasing information will be provided soon.

—David Shields, Trip Chairman

RGVRRM BOARD MEETING

The next Board of Trustees meeting will be Thursday, April 3, 2014. To get an item added to the agenda, please contact president Mike Dow at (716) 474-2833 or mdow@rochester.rr.com.

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

THE ROCHESTER & GENESEE VALLEY RAILROAD MUSEUM PRESENTS

DAY TRIP TO THE ARCADE & ATTICA

JOIN US ON SATURDAY JUNE 7, 2014



- Motorcoach departs from from Industry at 10:00 a.m.
- Ride in a reserved coach behind steam on the A&A
- Special behind the scenes shop tour following train ride
- Enjoy prime rib dinner at Lumberyard Restaurant in Perry
- Motorcoach return to Industry, returning about 7:00 p.m.

This fun and exciting day trip is open to all R&GV museum members and the general public as well. Tickets are limited to the capacity of the motorcoach. Please RSVP by May 9. Order your tickets today! Please send your check for \$75.00 per ticket, to:

**R&GV RAILROAD MUSEUM
P.O. BOX 23326
ROCHESTER, NY 14692-3326**

Volunteer! Visit www.rgvrrm.org/volunteer

DEPOT GUIDES NEEDED

We are always in need of Depot Guides throughout the year, Sundays and some weekdays. 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.

YAHOO! GROUPS Are you or a friend missing messages?

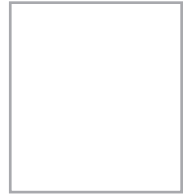
Are you missing out on important messages? Joining the new groups is easy, plus it gives you more control over how you communicate with others. **There are new email lists for Members, Volunteers, and Operations! Need to get signed up? Not sure where you belong?** For more information, or to be added to any list, please contact "listmaster" Otto Vondrak by email at ovondrak@yahoo.com. Thank you!

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:

March 20

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

Next Month's Meeting:

April 17

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

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



FALL FOLIAGE TRIPS RETURN: Thanks to the cooperation of the Livonia, Avon & Lakeville Railroad, we are pleased to announce the return of special R&GV Fall Foliage Excursions on Saturday, October 18, 2014. See details on Page 6. DAVID SCHEIDERICH PHOTO, OCTOBER 2012