



Livonia, Avon & Lakeville no. 418 leads caboose 2203 through what used to be Mortimer Junction on May 7, 2014. This extra train was run for the benefit of a visiting director of the railroad. The caboose was built for the Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburgh in 1918 as no. 252, later became Baltimore & Ohio C2603 before coming to the LA&L in the 1960s. The caboose is stored, and only brought out on rare occasions. ELLIOT COURTNEY PHOTO

# HELP WANTED

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By the time you read this we will have opened to the public for our 2014 joint operating season with the New York Museum of Transportation. We started this year off with an expanded newspaper ad campaign, media coverage on WHEN Channel 10, and exhibits at the Rochester Amtrak station for National Train Day. We are hoping to see a large increase in visitors this year, but we need your help. Train crews are in constant demand, and training is available. Please contact Operations Supt. **Rich Fischpera** for details (p. 3). We also need tour guides on weekdays and Sundays. Please email **Otto Vondrak** at [ovondrak@yahoo.com](mailto:ovondrak@yahoo.com) for details.

We are also going to be working on other items around the property to build up our infrastructure. This includes completing the floor and lighting inside the

Restoration Building, the fill south of the building, and the road north of the building. The depot repainting project will wrap up soon. Diesel 1654 will be getting new motors, and the Empire State Express coaches are being prepared for a series of trips this fall. All of these projects need extra hands to be successful.

We are also looking for volunteers willing to help us manage the museum. We are looking to put in place a Track Superintendent to help manage our projects and interact with our volunteers. If you're willing to step up and learn the job, please contact **Mark Wilczek** (p. 3).

I can be reached at (716) 474-2833 or [mdow@rochester.rr.com](mailto:mdow@rochester.rr.com) if you don't know where to start!

—Mike Dow,  
 Museum President



[www.rgvrrm.org](http://www.rgvrrm.org)

#### MUSEUM OFFICERS

##### **PRESIDENT**

Mike Dow  
(716) 474-2833

##### **VICE PRESIDENT**

Joe Nugent

##### **TREASURER**

Dave Peet

##### **RECORDING SECRETARY**

Joel R. Shaw

##### **CORRESPONDING SEC'Y**

Don Wawrzyniak

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Rich Fischpera  
Peter Gores  
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David Scheiderich  
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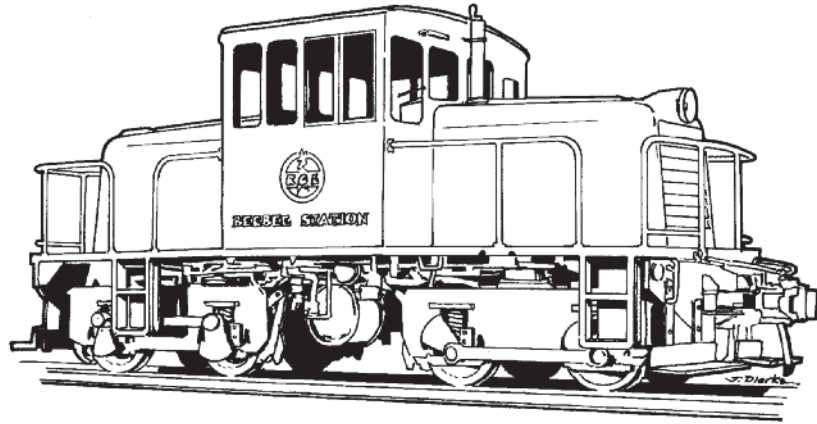
##### **PRINTING AND MAILING**

Dave Peet  
Don Wawrzyniak

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# TRAIN BULLETIN

## NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



### **Rochester & Genesee Valley Railroad Museum Membership Meeting Minutes April 17, 2014**

The April Museum Membership Meeting was called to order at the 40&8 Club on University Avenue at 7:32 p.m. by Trustee Otto Vondrak in the absence of President Mike Dow.

**Announcements/Correspondence:** None.

**Membership:** None.

**Museum Library Report:** The library move has been completed and the new Chairman of the Library Committee of this venture is Jim Ziobro. Jim has arranged some meetings with local library professionals to help us make some important decisions regarding cataloging some materials and finding new homes for others. We continue to solicit input on the direction that the membership wants to go in and see for the future.

**Operations/Preservation:** Otto Vondrak announced that May 11 would be our opening day, to coordinate with Amtrak's National Train Day weekend. Both the Museum and the NYMT will need help in this endeavor. Joe Nugent announced that on Saturday April 26 at 9:00 A.M. there would be a hands-on demonstration on how to properly inspect, start-up, and shut down our diesel locomotives. Joe also told us about progress on the Lehigh Valley caboose hot riveting project. The goal remains to sandblast and prime the body of the caboose this spring. Otto Vondrak will host a training and refresher course for all Depot Guides on Sunday, April 27, at 1:00 P.M.

**New Business:** The Saturday June 7 fan trip to the Arcade & Attica is filling up nicely, with 24-seats sold as of this night. Saturday May 10 is National Train Day, and we will have a display at the Rochester Amtrak Station from 10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. that day. Volunteers from the RGV and NYMT will work together to bring in displays and hand out promotional items provided by Amtrak.

Sadly the May issue of *Trains* magazine left us out of a feature mapping every tourist railroad in New York State. Our members found this troubling, since together with NYMT we are the only operating railroad museums in New York State! Otto encouraged members to write to editor Jim Wrinn and point out the omission from their map and invite the *Trains* staff to come take a ride with us.

**Program:** Program Committee Chairman Chris Hauf, visiting from California, asked for someone local to please help and take over his position to help find new and engaging programs for future meetings. The evening program "Newfoundland Railroads in 1969" will be presented by member Jim Dierks, and will feature photos of a 1969 trip to ride the last of the Newfoundland Railway's passenger trains. Includes cab rides, ferry trips, and more.

Jeremy Tuke made a MOTION to adjourn, seconded by Chris Hauf. The MOTION passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:58 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:**

# June 19

**at Industry Depot, Rush, NY**



## 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)



A new station sign exhibit is being installed inside the Lackawanna baggage car. All of these signs have local significance, and will be accompanied by a photo of the station. OTTO VONDRAK PHOTO

### 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 **April 17, 2014**, NYMT's **Jim Dierks** presented "Newfoundland Railroads in 1969." Jim's slide show followed his trip from Montreal, to Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, across Newfoundland, and back via Quebec's Gaspé Peninsula. The show also included a cab ride on the passenger train as well as a caboose ride on a freight train, several car ferries, and more. It was a great look back at a bygone era of railroading!

On **May 15, 2014**, member **Jim Moore** will present his slide show titled, "More Lehigh Valley." 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!

On **June 19, July 17, and August 21, 2014**, meetings move to Industry Depot! You are invited to join us (and bring a friend) to take a ride on the museum railroad we have all worked so hard to build and maintain together. After a brief business meeting at 7:00pm, train rides start at 7:30pm. **ALL ABOARD!**

**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

### SURVEYING THE FILL

On May 10, two students from Rochester Institute of Technology surveyed the fill south of the Restoration Shop. Elliot Courtney (2017) and David Stavans (2016) are both Civil Engineering students of RIT as well as members of RGVRRM. This was a great opportunity for them to put to use the skills learned in their classes. The equipment used was lent by the civil engineering department and professor Teresa Wolcott for this project. The surveying was done to know the elevation of the fill so earthwork could proceed for eventual track laying. This was an essential first step as we expand our storage capacity in the shop area. Both students will continue the next steps of the process for future material compaction and leveling for drainage on the fill.

—Otto Vondrak

### ALL TRAIN RIDE AND EVENT INFO NOW IN ONE PLACE: [ROCHESTERTRAINRIDES.COM](http://ROCHESTERTRAINRIDES.COM)

Ever since the first days when the R&GV partnered with the NYMT to operate a joint train ride experience, the struggle has always been how do we deal with our dual, separate identities? Furthermore, how many of your friends express shock and disbelief when you tell them that they have two great train museums right in their own backyards? In an effort to streamline our marketing activities and to speak to the public with one voice, we are proud to introduce **RochesterTrainRides.com**.

RochesterTrainRides.com will be the single point of contact for train rides and events operated by NYMT and R&GV. Our individual museum web sites will remain to provide in-depth, detailed information about our activities and collections. Both museum sites will link to RochesterTrainRides.com, and the new RochesterTrainRides.com links back to both R&GV and NYMT sites. We also have a new Facebook page to support the site, so that a single event can be shared anywhere, instead of having a separate





Volunteers Elliot Courtney (left) and David Stavans (right) began surveying for an extension of the fill on Saturday, May 10. Both are civil engineering students at RIT. JIM OTTO PHOTOS

Otto Vondrak gives one of our hand trucks a coat of dark green paint to help them survive yet another season of outdoor display. We have two hand trucks like these, one is at Industry, the other at Midway. JOE NUGENT PHOTO



event page hosted on our individual sites. Having a single point of contact eliminates duplication and the chances of error, while giving visitors an easy destination URL to remember: RochesterTrainRides.com!

Many museum volunteers (including Otto Vondrak, Mike Roque, and Jim Dierks) have worked on this project behind the scenes throughout the winter so that we could be ready for our 2014 joint operating season. The boards of both NYMT and R&GV recognize that the only way we can further our missions and reach our goals is to work together to help increase awareness and attendance. The next time you want to tell your friends to come take a ride with us, tell them to check out RochesterTrainRides.com! Your feedback is appreciated.

—Otto Vondrak

## LIBRARY UPDATE

On April 24, the Library Committee met with some local professional archivists and librarians to help us plot a course for the future of our library collection. One of the

goals is to retain the materials that have the most relevant historic value to our region, in accordance with our mission and collection management policies. As we look to enlist the help of professionals to catalog and preserve the collection, the committee recommended and the board of trustees accepted to remove the bulk of the entertainment items. This includes hobby and enthusiast publications as well as all VHS tapes and DVD's. While they have great entertainment value, they are of low research value, and are widely available from other sources. Removal of these

items will make the task of cataloging much easier. These materials will be made available to our members first, with the proceeds helping to preserve the remainder of the collection. We will make an announcement about upcoming work sessions in future editions of The Semaphore.

—Jim Ziobro, Library Committee

## RIDGELY TOWER PARTS

You never know when opportunity will present itself. Last month I was on Facebook and saw a post from a friend out in Missouri looking for a good home for a



## MUSEUM NEWS & UPDATES



“locking bed” from the retired Ridgely Tower in Springfield, Illinois. Ridgely Tower was built by the Chicago & Alton Railroad; it controlled the crossing for the Chicago & Alton (now Union Pacific) and the Chicago & Illinois Midland (now Illinois Midland, part of Genesee & Wyoming). Ridgely was home to a 32 lever Saxby & Farmer lever frame, connected to the interlocking using pipeline and cranks. When the tower was closed in June 2010, it was the last remaining mechanically controlled interlocking in America. The parts were salvaged for later use and preservation. *(Continued...)*

**Track Car Training Day:** Volunteers from both NYMT and R&GV were out on Saturday, May 3, to complete their hands-on training and refresher course to become track car operators for the coming season. On certain select Sundays, track cars substitute for the diesel trains that meet the trolley. CHRIS PLAYFORD PHOTO

**Volunteer train and trolley crews from RGV and NYMT pose at Midway Station prior to the first official revenue run of the 2014 joint season on May 11.** OTTO VONDRAK PHOTO







**Volunteer Dave Boswell tears down the old water pump from Lehigh Valley 211 to make some repairs that will help bring her back to active service. May 6, 2014. JOE NUGENT PHOTO**

In order to acquire these rare interlocking machine parts, we traded a few surplus signal parts we wouldn't need. We also ended up getting more interlocking machine parts donated to us in addition to the bed we traded for. These parts will allow us to make our own interlocking set up with having to alter the machine we salvaged from Niobe Tower in Pennsylvania so many years ago. I am currently building and designing a display of signals and interlocking machines inside our former Pennsylvania Railroad RPO car. Our hope is to create some new interactive displays that highlight signal technology past and present. Watch for updates in future editions of this newsletter.

—Mike Dow

#### **RGVRRM BOARD MEETING**

The next Board of Trustees meeting will be Thursday, June 5, 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). Remember that any members are welcome to attend, but to address the board, you must be on that meeting's agenda.

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

## **NYMT-R&GV JOINT OPERATING SCHEDULE FOR 2014**

### **May 2014**

*Saturday 10 – National Train Day at Rochester Amtrak Station - NO TRAINS*  
*Sunday 11 – "Opening Day/National Train Day" – Trolley and Diesel*  
*Sunday 18 – Trolley and Diesel*  
*Sunday 25 – Trolley and Track Cars*  
*Monday 26 - Memorial Day Observed - NO TRAINS*

### **June 2014**

*Sunday 1 – Trolley and Diesel*  
*Sunday 8 – Trolley and Track Cars*  
*Sunday 15 – "Fathers Day" – Trolley and Diesel*  
*Sunday 22 – Trolley and Track Cars*  
*Friday 27 – Press Event for "Subway Sunday" – Trolley and Diesel*  
*Sunday 29 – "Subway Sunday" – Trolley and Diesel*

### **July 2014**

*Friday 4 - Fourth of July - NO TRAINS*  
*Sunday 6 – Trolley and Track Cars*  
*Saturday 12 – "Trains at Twilight" – Trolley and Diesel*  
*Sunday 13- Trolley and Track Cars*  
*Sunday 20 – "Baseball Day" - Trolley and Diesel*  
*Sunday 27 – Trolley and Track Cars*

### **August 2014**

*Sunday 3 – Trolley and Diesel*  
*Sunday 10 – Trolley and Track Cars*  
*Sunday 17 – "Diesel Day" – Trolley with Extended Diesel Ride*  
*Sunday 24 – Trolley and Track Cars*  
*Sunday 31 – Trolley and Diesel*

### **September 2014**

*Monday 1 - Labor Day - NO TRAINS*  
*Sunday 7 – Trolley and Track Cars*  
*Sunday 14 – "Fall Foliage w/Fire Trucks" – Trolley and Diesel*  
*Sunday 21 – "Fall Foliage" – Trolley and Diesel*  
*Sunday 28 – "Fall Foliage" – Trolley and Diesel*

### **October 2014**

*Sunday 5 – "Fall Foliage" – Trolley and Diesel*  
*Sunday 12 – "Fall Foliage" – Trolley and Diesel*  
*Monday 13 – Columbus Day - NO TRAINS*  
*Saturday 18 – Fall Foliage Excursions on LA&L*  
*Sunday 19 – "Fall Foliage" – Trolley and Diesel*  
*Saturday 25 – "Halloween Express" – Trolley and Diesel*  
*Sunday 26 – "Fall Foliage - Last Day" – Trolley and Diesel*



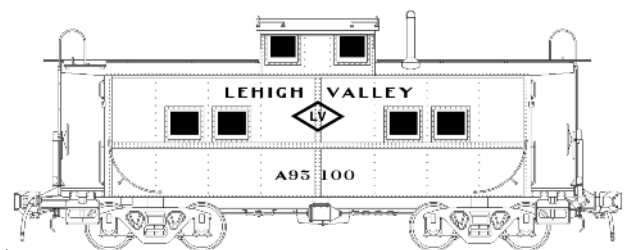
For our event schedule and more, visit...

# **RochesterTrainRides.com**

a joint project of New York Museum of Transportation and the Rochester & Genesee Valley Railroad Museum

# 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!**



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



## 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](mailto:ovondrak@yahoo.com) to order.

## These notices are ignored by most readers:

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:dierks66@frontiernet.net) if you can spare a Sunday or two to help out.

## YAHOO! GROUPS Get connected to our private mailing list

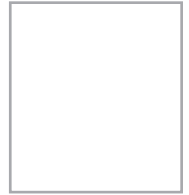
Are you missing out on important email messages? Joining is easy, plus it gives you more control over how you communicate with others. **There are new email lists for Members, Volunteers, and Operations! Need to get signed up? Not sure where you belong?** For more information, or to be added to any list,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

**May 15**

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

Next Month's Meeting:

**June 19**

7:00 PM at Industry Depot  
282 Rush-Scottsville Rd., Rush, NY

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



The LA&L's wooden caboose recreates a timeless image as it rolls south past MP 375 at East River Road on May 7, 2014. The special extra train was operated for the benefit of a visiting director of the railroad. ELLIOT COURTNEY PHOTO