

NEXT MEETING:
July 17
Meeting at Industry Depot:
Ride your museum railroad!



TWILIGHT RIDE: NYMT Car 161 arrives at Midway Station as visitors prepare to transfer from trolley to train during last year's twilight event. Join us July 12 for "Trains at Twilight" for special evening train rides! DAVID SCHEIDERICH PHOTO

Forward Progress

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Sometimes it's hard to tell, but your museum is making great progress on many projects that will benefit our organization for the long-term. After many years of planning and fundraising, we are well on our way towards the completion of our inspection pit inside the Restoration Building. This new addition will allow us to make inspections and repairs to critical components beneath our equipment without having to crawl under them.

We're also moving forward on the rebuilding and reconstruction of an open-air rider flatcar, which we will be putting into service for the 2015 season. Completion of this car will allow us to expand our visitor capacity and allow occasional end-to-end diesel operation.

A new display of signal equipment and technology is being put together inside our

former PRR Railway Post Office car. Look for this new exhibit to debut in the 2015 season as well.

Finally, your board took steps towards the preservation of the Pullman *Pine Falls* by applying a "cocoon" to the body at the end of June. This is similar to the treatment applied to our Lackawanna m.u. car a couple of years ago. We need your help in determining the future of these cars so they can be enjoyed for years to come by future generations (see page 5).

Don't miss our **Annual Museum Picnic** on August 16, followed by **Diesel Day** on August 17! We need your help to make both events a success. Have ideas? I'd like to hear from you by phone (716) 474-2833 or by email at mdow@rochester.rr.com.

—Mike Dow,
 Museum President



www.rgvrrm.org

MUSEUM OFFICERS

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(716) 474-2833

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Otto M. Vondrak
Mark Wilczek



The official publication of
the Rochester & Genesee Valley
Railroad Museum

Volume 57, No. 11

EDITOR

Otto M. Vondrak
ovondrak@yahoo.com

PRINTING AND MAILING

Dave Peet
Don Wawrzyniak

©2014 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



Rochester & Genesee Valley Railroad Museum Membership Meeting Minutes June 19, 2014

The June Museum Membership Meeting was called to order at Industry Depot, on Rush-Scottsville Road in Rush, New York, at 7:01 p.m. by museum President Mike Dow.

Announcements/Correspondence: Otto Vondrak announced that a special press event will be held on Friday, June 27, to promote awareness and launch the campaign to restore Rochester Subway Car 60. Sunday, June 29, will be the special "Subway Sunday" event for the public.

Guests: Welcome Vanessa Loftus and her son, Caren Pita, Phil Schaeffer and his son Tom, Sue Swanton from the Rush library, Susan Mee Rush Town Historian, and others.

Membership: Sam Rosenberg announced that there were two family memberships; Adam Johnson and family as well as Lorraine Gough and family. Both candidates were voted in unanimously.

Museum Library Report: Jim Ziobro reported that on Saturday, June 21, at 10:30 A.M., there would be a library work session at the storage location at Uncle Bob's Storage on University Avenue. This is the first step towards rationalizing our collection.

Operations: None.

Preservation: Joe Nugent reported that the Lehigh Valley caboose project continues with the last of the

steel repair work. The next step will be finding contractor quotes for sand blasting and priming the exterior. Joe also announced that our 40-foot steel flatcar will be delivered this week. This piece of equipment will be used to increase the capacity of our Sunday train operations. This car was originally built for use at the Watervliet Arsenal before it was purchased for use by the Lowville & Beaver River Railroad. Dave Shields announced the formation of a crew to tackle the project of reinstalling electrical cables on our Empire State Express passenger coaches so that we may return them to service soon.

Trips: Dave Shields talked about our very successful Arcade & Attica daytrip. We sold 52 out of 56 tickets. Dave is starting work on promoting our October 18 Lakeville Avon & Livonia fall foliage train trips; many volunteers will be needed for this activity.

New Business: Mike Dow announced that Rich Fischpera was forced to resign from serving on the Board of Trustees because of a new policy passed by NYMT. Rich will continue as a volunteer at R&GV and as Operations Superintendent. There is a need for a new candidate to fill the vacancy on the board. The Board will appoint a temporary member to this position.

Program: Riding our museum railroad!

Rich Fischpera made a MOTION to adjourn, seconded by Otto Vondrak. The MOTION passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:40 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:

August 21

at Industry Depot, Rush, NY



ROCHESTER & GENESEE VALLEY RAILROAD MUSEUM

VISIT OUR WEB SITE: WWW.RGVRRM.ORG

MUSEUM CONTACT INFO

MUSEUM PRESIDENT

Mike Dow

(716) 474-2833 mdow@rochester.rr.com

MUSEUM MANGLER

Mark Wilczek

(585) 721-1377 mwilczek@rochester.rr.com

MOTIVE POWER SUPERINTENDENT

Joe Nugent

(585) 944-1047 joe.r.nugent@gmail.com

OPERATIONS SUPERINTENDENT

Rich Fischpera

(585) 865-4283 rfischpera53@rochester.rr.com

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

Sam Rosenberg

ALC0251@frontiernet.net



ABOVE: She may not look like much now, but this is a very important step in the construction of our third track car trailer to haul additional museum visitors over our museum railroad. Thanks to Joel Shaw, Norm Shaddick, and Rand Warner for their contributions. PHOTO BY JOEL R. SHAW

UPCOMING MUSEUM PROGRAMS MONTHLY MEETINGS

On 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

ROCHESTER SUBWAY CAR 60 IN THE NEWS

On Friday, June 27, the New York Museum of Transportation and the R&GV Railroad Museum hosted a special press event to raise awareness for the restoration of Rochester Subway Car 60. The date was chosen as the closest to the end of service on the Rochester Subway, which was June 30, 1956. Soon after that date, Rochester Transit Corp. donated Car 60 to our organization. We lent it to other groups until it was returned to us in 1998. Subject to an aggressive tear down and inspection by

museum volunteers, the project has been placed on hold until a formal plan and fundraising can be established. Realizing we can't do it alone, we turned to the public to help.

Press response was favorable, including a radio interview on WXXI-FM, television coverage on WHAM 13 and TimeWarner's YNN News. A photographer and writer from the *Democrat & Chronicle* made sure we were front page news on Monday, June 30. We were also mentioned on the popular web site RochesterSubway.com. All of this led up to our "Subway Sunday" event, where we brought small groups up to our restoration shop to tour Car 60 and lend their support to the project. The future of this project will be determined by a committee to decide on the best course of action: Conservation (do nothing, assemble all parts in one location, cocoon the carbody), Restoration (a cosmetic restoration only to allow visitors to tour the car), or Operation (a full return to operation over our museum railroad). Only then will fundraising begin and will work resume on the only survivor of the Subway fleet.

—Otto M. Vondrak
Car 60 Exploratory Committee

LIBRARY WORK SESSION AND BOOK SALE

On June 21 we held our first work session at the storage site to help identify materials that would no longer be retained in the museum's Library Collection. The majority of these items are common "mass-market" books, tapes, and DVDs, along with popular railroad enthusiast publications like *Trains*, *Railfan*, *Model Railroader*, and *Railroad Model Craftsman*. The team consisted of Dave Luca, Ken Gardner, Otto Vondrak, Florence Wright, and Jim Ziobro. About 90% of the boxed material was sorted through and identified. More than a dozen boxes have been marked for removal. If you are available to help, or if you have any questions, please contact me by email at rgvrr.ziobro@yahoo.com.

—Jim Ziobro, Library Committee

BOARD VACANCY AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The Board of Trustees reluctantly accepted the resignation of board member Rich Fischpera at the end of June. The decision was not his, however, as the NYMT recently passed a resolution that prevents anyone who is an RGV board member to



MUSEUM NEWS & UPDATES



The New York Museum of Transportation and the RGV Railroad Museum hosted a special press day to raise awareness for the restoration of Rochester Subway Car 60. **ABOVE:** Dave Shields looks on as the cameraman from WHAM 13 interviews Nick Otto, son of volunteer Jim Otto, about his feelings towards the restoration of Rochester Subway Car 60. **ABOVE RIGHT:** Volunteer Otto Vondrak gets mic'd up in preparation for taped interviews with Time Warner YNN and WHAM 13. **RIGHT:** Volunteer Harold Russell is interviewed by YNN's Seth Voorhees about his recollections of riding streetcars and the subway in Rochester. JOE NUGENT PHOTOS



also sit on the NYMT board (despite this practice having been in place for many years previous). NYMT cites a "conflict of interest" between the two boards as the primary reason for passing this resolution. The RGV Board of Trustees has gone on the record with our displeasure at these recent developments, and asked the NYMT board to reconsider their position. A reaffirming vote was passed by NYMT, and Rich Fischpera was forced to resign from our board. Despite our objections, we respect the sovereign authority of the NYMT board, and will abide by its wishes.

Unfortunately, we are tasked with filling this vacancy once again. We are seeking candidates for appointment, any RGV member in good standing is eligible to be

nominated. Please contact president Mike Dow at (716) 474-2833 or mdow@rochester.rr.com with your nominations.

THIRD TRACK CAR TRAILER PROJECT UPDATE

Progress has been made on the design and construction of a third track car trailer designed to increase our visitor capacity. A new steel frame has been fabricated, moved inside, and "red lead" primed for a protective undercoating. The project team is expecting some of the major wood components to be done very shortly. Project manager Joel R. Shaw created the AutoCAD drawings for the frame and the wood components. Rand Warner and

Norm Shaddick have also been instrumental in the ongoing progress on this very important expansion project. The goal is to have this new trailer in service before the end of the 2014 operating season.

—Joel R. Shaw, Project Manager

OPEN-AIR RIDER FLATCAR PROJECT UPDATE

Jared Rosenberg (son of membership chairman Sam Rosenberg) and project manager Rob Burz evaluated a prototype for a passenger seating to be constructed for the open air rider flatcar (ex-L&BR 23, see June 2014 issue of THE SEMAPHORE). Construction of the seating portion is Jared's Eagle Scout community service project. Jared and I had completed a proto-

MUSEUM NEWS & UPDATES



ABOVE: Jared Rosenberg, son of membership chairman Sam Rosenberg, demonstrated a test fitting of benches he is constructing that will be used on our new open-air rider flatcar. Jared is constructing these benches for the museum as contributions toward his Eagle Scout service project. **LEFT:** Project manager Rob Burz checks over the full-size mock-up with Jared. Completion of the flatcar will increase our visitor capacity tremendously for the 2015 season. **SAM ROSENBERG PHOTOS**



type bench and Rob made a temporary deck and railings so that we could check the clearances and also seating ergonomics. We made a couple of modifications to the design based upon the test fitting and at this point we are in the process of building

the remaining three benches. The bench design is adapted from a similar design that is used by the Hoosier Valley Railroad Museum. With Jared's contribution, this project is scheduled for completion prior to the 2015 operating season.

—Sam Rosenberg

TRACK DEPT. SUPERINTENDENT

Your Board of Trustees is looking for a candidate to oversee all track projects on our museum railroad, including joint projects with the NYMT. Please contact president Mike Dow at (716) 474-2833 or mdow@rochester.rr.com for details.

PRESERVATION COMMITTEES

Your Board of Trustees is looking for candidates to lead a committee to determine the future of our Lackawanna m.u. coach and the PRR Pullman *Pine Falls*. Please

contact president Mike Dow at (716) 474-2833 or mdow@rochester.rr.com for details. We need your help to determine next steps for this important pieces of our museum collection.

RGVRRM BOARD MEETING

The next Board of Trustees meeting will be Thursday, August 7, 2014. To get an item added to the agenda, please contact president Mike Dow at (716) 474-2833 or 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

SATURDAY, AUGUST 16, 2014



OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Come for the sale... Stay for the picnic!

**Enjoy hots, hamburgs, cold pop and beer!
Bring your favorite dish or dessert to pass.**

\$5.00 DONATION PER PERSON

MEMBERS-ONLY TRAIN RIDES AT 4:00 P.M.

Please R.S.V.P. to Otto Vondrak at ovondrak@yahoo.com or (585) 820-2341



Have you told your friends yet?
Schedules, events, fares, exhibits, details,
and more, all in one easy to use web site!

Tell your friends to please visit...

RochesterTrainRides.com

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

**the more you
volunteer, the
less stuff we
have to scrap!**

(No, we're not kidding. Are you
tired of seeing everything in our
collection rust away to nothing?
We need your help. Ask how you
can get involved.)

NYMT-R&GV JOINT OPERATING SCHEDULE FOR 2014

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/Extended Diesel Rides

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

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. 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



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

Next Month's Meeting:

August 21

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

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



The entertainment for our June museum meeting was a ride over the railroad all the way up to NYMT's Switch 21. Please join us on July 17 and August 21 for your opportunities to enjoy our museum railroad! Visit www.rgvrrm.org for details. OTTO M. VONDRAK PHOTO