



LET'S DO THE TIME WARP AGAIN: Recalling the "steam era" on the Livonia, Avon, & Lakeville, engine no. 38 picks up interchange from the Erie Lackawanna at Avon, N.Y., on May 13, 1972. Look for our special announcement on page 5. **RICHARD J. ALLEN PHOTO**

Spring Training

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While the greater Rochester area is covered in a blanket of snow, it's time to start thinking those warm thoughts of Spring. Even though the cold weather drastically reduces our outdoor activity, you can be sure that everyone is working to get ready for opening day of the joint season. Please see **page 6** for the 2015 Joint Operating Schedule that was approved by RGV and NYMT boards. Promotion efforts and advertising for the coming season are being coordinated by Otto Vondrak and Jim Dierks.

The annual Rules Class has been scheduled for **Saturday, March 14**, and is mandatory for all operating personnel. We strongly encourage ALL of our volunteers to take the safety training that is part of this course. See page 5 for more details.

Our annual banquet has been scheduled for **Saturday, March 28**, and we're pleased to welcome career railroader Don Brown as our guest speaker. You won't want to miss this fun event, so make sure to reserve your tickets early!

We've got some great fantrips planned for the spring and summer, thanks in part to the efforts of Dave Shields. Do you have ideas about fun activities we could organize for our members? Let me know!

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.

Think warm thoughts!

—Mike Dow, Museum President



www.rgvrrm.org

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AROUND THE MUSEUM

ABOVE: Volunteer Joel Shaw is leading the project to construct a third trailer for our track car fleet. The frame is complete and the axles have been attached. Next will come "road testing" before the deck is affixed. JIM ZIOBRO PHOTO
RIGHT: On February 10, 2015, volunteer Dave Shields made a presentation to the local chapter of the Rotary Club about our museum activities. This kind of local outreach helps raise the profile of our activities in the community! **BELOW:** Volunteers Mark Wilczek and Adam Lloyd remove air valves from RGV 1654 on a very cold January 31, 2015. The valves were sent out for reconditioning to prepare for our upcoming operating season. JEREMY TUKE PHOTO



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:

February 19

at 40&8 Club, Rochester, NY



ROCHESTER & GENESEE VALLEY RAILROAD MUSEUM

VISIT OUR WEB SITE: WWW.RGVRRM.ORG

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Rails have been re-installed over the inspection pit, the next concrete pour will take place in the spring. Further progress on the floor will be dependent on donations and fundraising. Rochester Subway Car 60 and BR&P caboose 280 can be seen at left on January 17, 2015. JIM ZIOBRO PHOTO

UPCOMING MONTHLY MEETINGS

On **February 19**, member Dale Hartnett will present "Wartime Images from FSA/OWI." These historic images in the Library of Congress collection offer a window into the world of railroading during World War II.

On **March 19**, we will host another installment of "Members Slide Night." No digital this time, just good old analog media. To sign up for a slot, please contact program chair John Stewart.

The R&GV Railroad Museum meets every third Thursday at the 40&8 Club, located at 933 University Avenue in downtown Rochester. Doors open at 7:00, meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. Museum bookstore open prior to meeting. Cash bar available. All events are free and open to the public!

—John Stewart, Program Chair

MUSEUM MANAGER'S UPDATE

As I write this, it is 5 degrees outside and projected to drop well below zero. The good news is only 35 days until spring! Last month I put out a request for people to

step forward and help fill the various openings we have in our department structure. Unfortunately, no one contacted me, with the exception of one brave soul.

I would like to announce **Bob Achilles** as our new Track and Right-of-Way Superintendent. Bob brings in extensive railroad knowledge along with excellent skills in budgeting and management. Thank you very much Bob, you will certainly be a huge help in the planning and maintaining of the track and ROW going forward! The Tuesday Night Track Gang knows about Bob filling the position, and is looking forward to coordinating efforts with Bob. If you have any questions, suggestions or would like to get involved in this area, please contact Bob directly at BobAchilles@aol.com.

On to another subject: Keeping on top of routine maintenance tasks around the Museum. I would like to ask all of you to help out in identifying and letting me know of any issues you see around the Museum grounds. Not all of us notice things that need to be addressed, and when we do, we may not know who to tell about it. I am compiling a list so we can identify and tend to those matters. "Little things" like a

blown light bulb, gutters that need cleaning, or a broken hinge on the shop door. I am offering to be the one point of contact for that list. The best way to notify me is by email at mwilczek@rochester.rr.com or put a note in my mailbox at the depot. For immediate matters, please call me at (585) 721-1377.

While I will put all items on the list, it will be prioritized by the need to get it fixed along with who might be able to get to it, not necessarily by when it goes on the list. This will also help me let volunteers know what they can work on when they stop in for our regular work sessions. Please note this list is not for suggestions of things we could, or should do, but rather things that need immediate attention. Thank you, keep warm and stay in touch.

—Mark Wilczek, Museum Manager

INSPECTION PIT PROGRESS

In December, the forms, rebar and rail on either side of the pit were in place and ready to pour the concrete base, but then winter set in. I had stayed optimistic that we would get enough of a thaw in late December or in January to pour the concrete, but that obviously did not happen.



So we have had to wave the white flag to Mother Nature and put the project on hold. Since all preparations are in place, as soon as the frost is out of the Restoration Shop we will be pouring concrete. We have enough funds to pour concrete for the rail base, around the pit and part of the East wall. As soon as the weather breaks and we complete the next pour, we will be putting on a full court press to raise the remaining money needed to finish the east wall and center section of concrete floor.

—Mark Wilczek, Museum Manager

RGV ANNUAL BANQUET

Please join us for our annual R&GV Railroad Museum Banquet on **Saturday, March 28**, at the River's Edge Party House, located at 31 Paul Road, Rochester, N.Y. Our guest speaker will be **Don Brown**, a seasoned railroad industry veteran who has enjoyed careers with Penn Central and Conrail as well as the management team that operated the Ontario Midland and Ontario Central railroads. Please join us as we look back upon a year of accomplishments for our organization as well as enjoy Don Brown's "tales of the rails." Doors open to a social hour with cash bar at 6:30 p.m. Buffet dinner will be served at 7:30 p.m. **Banquet Tickets are \$30.00 each.** To reserve your seats, please send check or money order with your total order to:

R&GV Banquet
P.O. Box 23326
Rochester NY 14692-3326

Please R.S.V.P. by March 21, 2015.

—Otto M. Vondrak, Event Coordinator

LEHIGH VALLEY CABOOSE 95100

Even though its the dead of winter, progress continues on the restoration of LV caboose 95100. Charlie Marks has been replacing rotten boards in the sub-floor, as well as helping reconstruct the car's unique wooden interior. New volunteer Adam Lloyd has been assisting with cleaning and repair of various mechanical parts, under the supervision of Joe Nugent. Work will continue as weather permits, if you'd like to get involved, please contact Joe Nugent (See top of page 3).

—Joe Nugent, Mechanical Supt.



ABOVE: Charlie Marks made repairs the sub-floor of Lehigh Valley caboose 95100 as part of the ongoing restoration efforts to get this car back on the road. New wooden planks were cut to size and installed on February 14, 2015. **RIGHT:** NEW Adam Lloyd wire wheels air system components for LV 95100 inside our Restoration Building. JOE NUGENT PHOTOS

JOINT BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

Your board met with NYMT officers on February 4 to discuss a number of matters important to our continued success and growth. What follows is a summary of the agenda highlights.

The first item of business related to an amendment to NYMT's by-laws that specifically prevents any member of RGV from holding positions simultaneously on both boards, citing a potential "conflict of interest." Charlie Lowe reported there is a proposal on the table to rescind this amendment entirely.

Charlie Lowe made a presentation regarding the position of Chief Track Car Operator to supervise all track car operations throughout the year. Both boards nominated Jim Otto for the position, which he accepted. Both boards will vote separately to confirm the nomination.

Otto Vondrak made a presentation regarding the creation of a "Season Pass" that individuals could purchase during the joint operating season to take advantage of multiple visits at a discount. The pass would be good for admission and train rides to both museums, and would be counted as revenue evenly between both groups, but would not convey membership privileges. Discussion was tabled pending a review by the NYMT board.



Mike Dow explained that a new NORAC-based rulebook would be in effect starting with the 2015 joint operating season. The new rulebook would not significantly change operations, but would address a number of safety issues and other inconsistencies in the current rulebook. The final document is being prepared and NYMT will have opportunity to review before it is published. The NYMT board expressed their displeasure at not being involved in all aspects of planning and implementation of the new rulebook.

Charlie Lowe made a presentation on the Town of Rush's plans to open the former BOCES property adjacent to NYMT as a town park, complete with a system of recreational trails leading down to the river. Lowe asked for RGV assistance with a number of housekeeping projects related to this development, to which RGV enthu-

siastically agreed.

Otto Vondrak made a presentation regarding the 2015 joint operating schedule. The schedule is altered slightly from last year, opening to the public on June 7, and running until November 1. Both boards unanimously approved the new joint operating schedule.

Otto Vondrak made a presentation regarding an increase in the joint advertising budget that would allow both organizations to promote the entire joint operating season. The discussion was tabled pending review by the NYMT board.

Mike Dow called for a committee to be formed to develop joint holiday operations, based on our success with Halloween and Santa Trains. Dave Coon and Mark Wilczek nominated themselves, both boards will seek one additional member each to serve on the committee.

Mike Dow called for a committee to be formed to address joint track projects and investments. Charlie Lowe nominated himself and Rich Fischpera, Dow nominated Bob Achilles (recently appointed RGV Track and ROW Supt.).

Mike Dow offered RGV assistance in reviewing and improving the museum displays at NYMT. Charlie Lowe deferred discussion to Jim Dierks.

Mike Dow expressed RGV's concern over equal coverage by the press during the joint operations season when members of the media show up unannounced at

NYMT. Otto Vondrak offered to draft a procedure to help NYMT's Officer of the Day and RGV Depot Guides deal with "surprise" visits by the media, to be reviewed by Jim Dierks.

Mike Dow and Jim Dierks have been working in committee to identify ways to streamline and improve operations at the NYMT ticket desk. Dow distributed copies of the preliminary report, but tabled the discussion in the interest of time.

Mark Wilczek made a presentation regarding the efficiency and costs of operating the weekday private group tours. Wilczek has been working with Jim Dierks, and asked for his committee to be officially sanctioned by both boards so his work can continue. Both boards agreed. Presently, RGV is not participating in group tours, pending the outcome of the committee findings.

The date for the next joint board meeting was set for June 6, with the stipulation that another meeting could be scheduled sooner if there are matters to discuss prior to the opening of the joint operating season.

—Otto M. Vondrak, Recording Sec'y

ANNUAL RULES CLASS SATURDAY, MARCH 15

It's that time of year again... The 2015 Book of Rules class will be **Saturday, March 14** starting at 9:00 a.m. The class is being held at Rochester Institute of Technology, in Louise M. Slaughter Hall

(also known as Building 78 or "CIMS") Rooms 2230/2240. Park in T Lot for best access to the building.

This class is required for anyone interested in taking part in train operations, including car hosts, brakemen, conductors, engineers, trolley motormen, trolley conductors, and track car operators. This class is required for anyone operating on our shared railroad at any time for any reason (whether for the public or not). This year, we **STRONGLY ENCOURAGE ALL VOLUNTEERS** to attend the first part of rules class which is related to your personal safety around the railroad.

Class will start with mandatory Safety Training for all volunteers. For those interested in being a conductor or engineer, the required Air Brake & Train Handling class will follow after the Book of Rules Class. Coffee and donuts will be available in the morning; and we will "pass the hat" and order some pizza for lunch.

These classes are open to anyone, and are a pre-requisite for future hands-on training. If you think there's a remote chance you want to get your hands dirty this year, you must attend the full class. Can't attend March 14? We will schedule additional classes as make-ups.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (585) 755-8942 or by email at jamesotto@gmail.com.

—Jim Otto, Operations Supt.

LIVONIA, AVON & LAKEVILLE 50TH ANNIVERSARY FANTRIP

Mark your calendars! We're excited to announce that your museum will be operating a special fantrip in coordination with the Livonia, Avon & Lakeville Railroad on **Saturday, May 9**, to celebrate the railroad's 50th anniversary of operation. The details are being worked out, but the trip will utilize our *Empire State Express* coaches. That evening, a special night photo session will be coordinated by Steve



LEFT: RGV hosted a special Joint Board Meeting on February 4 to address a number of topics of mutual interest to our museums. Pictured clockwise are Doug Anderson, Bob Nesbitt, Charlie Lowe, Bob Sass, David Scheiderich, Otto Vondrak, Joe Nugent, Mike Dow, and Mark Wilczek. Just out of frame are Jim Johnson and Dave Coon. JIM ZIOBRO PHOTO

2015 NYMT-RGV JOINT OPERATING SEASON

MAY

31 – Joint Operations “Dry Run” – Trolley and Diesel

JUNE

7 – Joint Season Opening Day – Trolley and Diesel

14 – Trolley and Track Cars

21 – Father’s Day Trains - Trolley and Diesel

28 –Trolley and Track Cars

JULY

5 – Subway Day Trains - Trolley and Diesel

12 – Trolley and Track Cars

18 – Trolleys at Twilight/Food Truck Rodeo – Trolley Only

19 – Baseball Day Trains – Trolley and Diesel

26 – Trolley and Track Cars

AUGUST

2 – Classic Cars and Trains – Trolley and Diesel

9 – Trolley and Track Cars

16 – Diesel Day 2015 – Trolley and extended Diesel

23 – Trolley and Track Cars

SEPTEMBER

6 – Trolley and Track Cars

13 – Fall Foliage and Fire Trucks – Trolley and Diesel

20 – Fall Foliage Trains – Trolley and Diesel

27 – Fall Foliage/RG&E Appreciation Day – Trolley and Diesel

OCTOBER

4 – Fall Foliage Trains – Trolley and Diesel

11 – Fall Foliage/Kodak Appreciation Day – Trolley and Diesel

18 – Fall Foliage Trains – Trolley and Diesel

25 – Fall Foliage/Pumpkin Patch Trains – Trolley and Diesel

NOVEMBER

1 – Fall Foliage Trains – Trolley and Diesel



All events details posted in one place!

Tell your friends to please visit...

RochesterTrainRides.com

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

Barry, editor of *Railfan & Railroad* magazine. Otto Vondrak will be organizing the event, while Dave Shields will be coordinating volunteers for the fantrip. More details will be available soon.

—Otto M. Vondrak, Event Coordinator

RAILFAN OVERNIGHT TRIP TO UTICA AND COOPERSTOWN JUNE 6 AND 7

Save the dates **Saturday, June 6, and Sunday, June 7, 2015**, for a fun overnight railfan trip to the Leatherstocking region of New York State! Our preliminary plans are to have a restroom-equipped air conditioned motorcoach take us to Utica on June 6 for a special Landmark Society tour of the Utica Union Station, followed by a train trip using Adirondack Scenic Railway equipment for a ride on the Mohawk, Adirondack & Northern (ex-NYC) to Booneville for dinner. We will also visit the Key, Lock & Lantern Society railroadiana and antique show in Utica and stay overnight. On June 7, we will take our motorcoach to Cooperstown and ride the Cooperstown & Charlotte Valley Railroad (ex-D&H), returning to Rochester that evening. Seating will be limited. Additional details and tour prices will be forthcoming in the next edition of THE SEMAPHORE. Tell your friends!

—Dave Shields, Trip Chairman

DEPOT GUIDES 2015

Another season is quickly approaching, which means we will need trained Depot Guides to meet and greet our guests and tour them around our museum grounds at Industry. I received some complaints about last year’s training, and as a result we’ll be making some changes to make the job easier for everyone in 2015. This season will be a 23 week schedule, and I’m looking forward to having new faces participate. Training dates will take place in April and May, watch for announcement. If you have any questions about becoming a Depot

Guide, please contact me by email at ovondrak@yahoo.com.

—Otto M. Vondrak, Patrol Leader

CLASSIC CAR DISPLAY AT NYMT FOR AUGUST 2

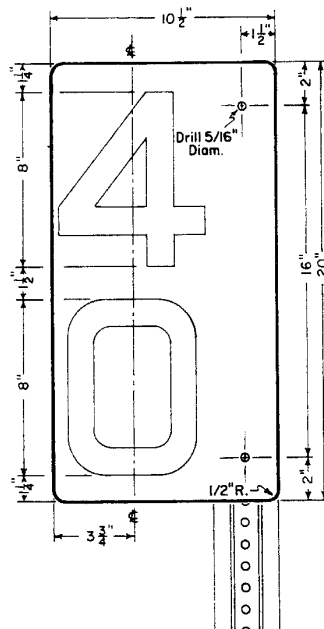
We are trying to organize a display of classic cars at NYMT for our **August 2** special event. We are aware that many of our members (Joe) are (Rand) proud (Charlie) owners (Jim) of (Jeremy) vintage autos. We would love to have as many cars as we can participate in the event to make it a true attraction. Please reach out to your friends and RSVP to ovondrak@yahoo.com for details.

—Otto M. Vondrak, Event Coordinator

RGVRRM BOARD MEETING

The next Board of Trustees meeting is **Thursday, March 5, 2015**. Meetings are held at the 40&8 Club, 933 University Ave., Rochester, starting at 6:00 p.m. To get an item added to the agenda, please contact president Mike Dow at (716) 474-2833 or email 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. **S**

WWW.RGVRRM.ORG
FACEBOOK.COM/RGVRRM
YOUTUBE.COM/RGVRRM



R&GV Museum Banquet

SATURDAY, MARCH 28

River's Edge Party House

31 Paul Road - Rochester, New York

DOORS OPEN AT 6:30

Cocktail Hour - Buffet Dinner

Award Presentations

GUEST SPEAKER: Don Brown

Career railroader with Penn Central, Conrail,
Ontario Midland and Ontario Central



Join us as we look back upon a year of accomplishments for our organization as well as enjoy Don Brown's recollections of his long career railroading in Rochester!

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 March 21 to ovondrak@yahoo.com

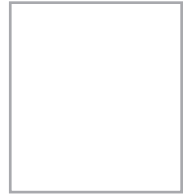
This Event is Open to the Public
Please Reserve Early

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:

February 19

7:30 PM at 40&8 Club

933 University Ave., Rochester NY

Next Month's Meeting:

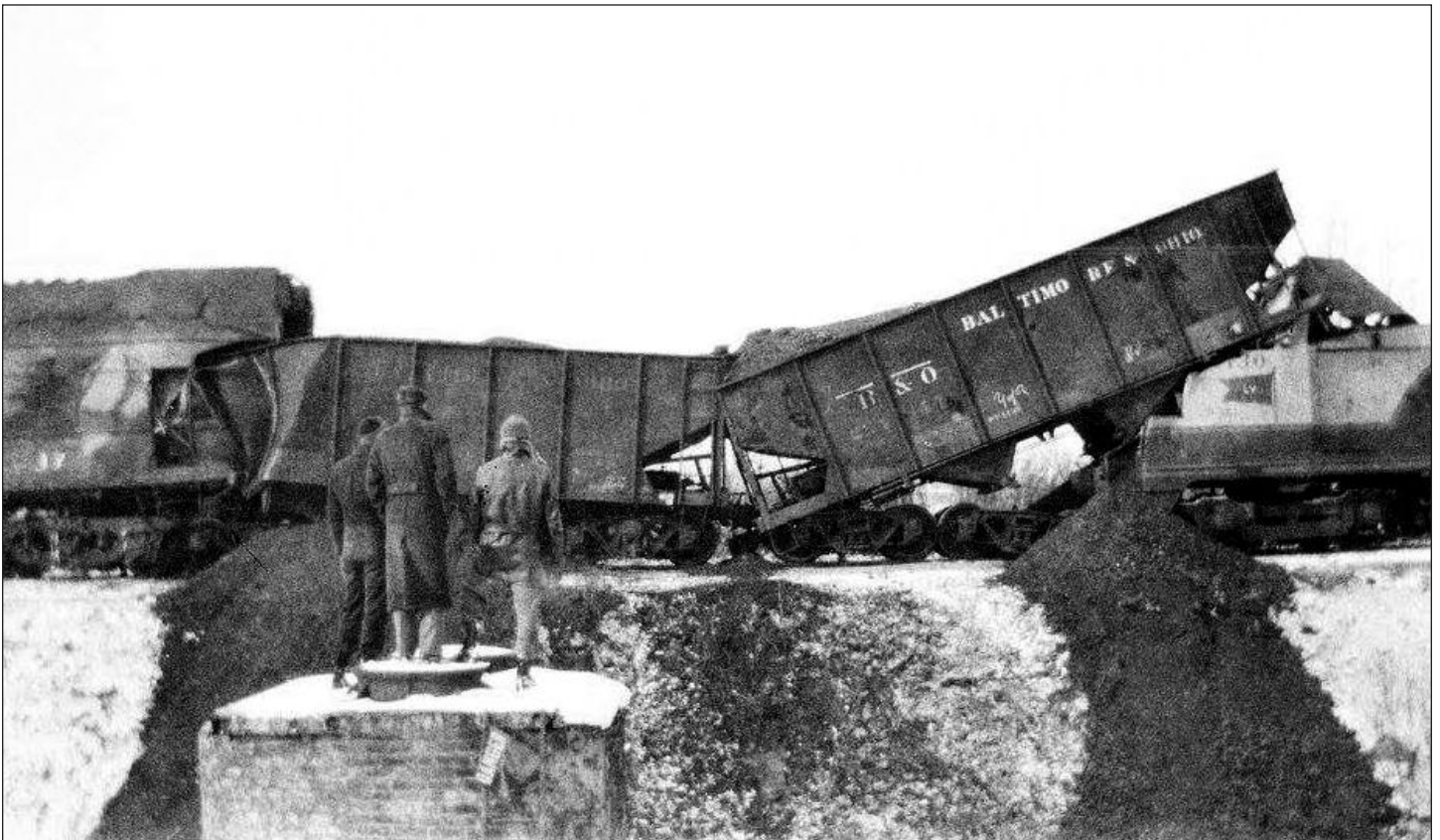
March 19

7:30 PM at 40&8 Club

933 University Ave., Rochester NY

*Have you sent in your
membership renewal yet?*

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



WHOOOPS: On January 27, 1940, Lehigh Valley 130 was shoving two loaded coal cars ahead and one behind on their way to the University of Rochester power plant when they collided with gas-electric motorcar 17 near River Jct. The fireman and a trainman aboard the 130 were killed, and the railroad installed automatic block signaling between Rochester and Rochester Jct. as a result. JEFF FAUST PHOTO COLLECTION, CAPTION BY T.B. DIAMOND