



FAMILY PORTRAIT TIME: Three generations of Livonia, Avon & Lakeville equipment were posed at the railroad's Lakeville Shop on May 9, 2015. From left to right, our own RG&E 1941 (ex-LA&L 97, their first locomotive); LA&L caboose 2603 (ex-BR&P 252 built 1918); and LA&L 428. That's our own volunteer Steve Huse posed as brakeman on the rear of the caboose. CONNOR SHORT PHOTO, LIGHTING BY STEVE BARRY

Full Speed Ahead

INSIDE

2015 Schedule 2

Museum News 3

Museum T-Shirts 7

As the weather turns warmer, your museum has become a beehive of activity as we work hard to get ready for our museum opening **June 20 21**. Our parking area has been expanded on the west side of the depot, with trailers and other materials moved to non-public areas of our property. The track gang is busy building a new display track, and our construction gang has been assisting with clean up and grading all around the property. New displays are being installed and we've already welcomed our first private charters of the year. Thanks to the cooperation of our friends at the Livonia, Avon & Lakeville, we served more than 600 happy passengers on our May 9 excursion. Good news indeed!

We appreciate the overwhelmingly positive feedback we received regarding our

museum plans detailed in last month's issue. Everyone is excited to move forward. We thank you for your support as we grow and expand our own museum operations for this 2015 season.

We still need your help. Tuesday and Saturday work sessions are in full swing. We will need kind folks to be train crews, tour guides, and work our ticket desk. Friendly and fun training is available for all of these jobs that will contribute to our 2015 operations. Please contact me and I'll get you in touch with the right person.

Don't forget our opening weekend is June 20 and 21. Have questions or comments? Call me at (716) 474-2833 or by email at mdow@rochester.rr.com.

—Mike Dow,
 Museum President



www.rgvrrm.org

MUSEUM OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Mike Dow
(716) 474-2833

VICE PRESIDENT

Joe Nugent

TREASURER

Dave Peet

RECORDING SECRETARY

Otto M. Vondrak

CORRESPONDING SEC'Y

Joel R. Shaw

TRUSTEES

Dave Boswell
Bob Burz
Peter Gores
Jim Johnson
Jim Otto
David Scheiderich
Mark Wilczek



The official publication of
the Rochester & Genesee Valley
Railroad Museum

Volume 58, No. 9

EDITOR

Otto M. Vondrak
ovondrak@yahoo.com

PRINTING AND MAILING

Dave Peet
Don Wawrzyniak

©2015 Rochester & Genesee Valley Railroad Museum. THE SEMAPHORE is published monthly by the Rochester & Genesee Valley Railroad Museum. Electronic distribution by e-mail is free. First-Class mailing is available for \$7.00 a year. Non-member mailed subscriptions are \$12.00 and run from January 1 to December 31. Member 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 for publication.

2015 OPERATING SCHEDULE

Enter our historic Industry depot and purchase your ticket from the friendly agent inside. Tour our displays while you wait to board your train. You will be welcomed aboard by friendly volunteers as you enjoy your ride aboard restored freight train cabooses. Disembark at our Restoration Shop to tour our collection of historic railroad equipment. Peek behind the scenes to see how we preserve Rochester's rich railroading history for future generations to enjoy. Your return trip arrives at Industry depot, where you will have time to enjoy our displays and museum grounds. Please visit our web site at RochesterTrainRides.com for more details

June 20-21 - Father's Day Weekend

Take Dad out for a train ride as we open our museum for the season!
Our short train rides are fun for the whole family!

July 18-19 - Classic Cars Weekend

Enjoy train rides and classic cars together!

Aug. 15-16 - Diesel Days Weekend

Our most popular weekend event returns! See, hear, and ride behind our fleet of vintage diesel locomotives

Sept. 19-20 - RG&E and Kodak Days

See how railroads and our local industries were tied together for generations, and enjoy our exhibit of trains from RG&E and Kodak

Oct. 3-4 - Fall Foliage Trains

Enjoy the emerging foliage season from a seat aboard one of our vintage trains

Oct. 17-18- Pumpkin Patch Trains

Celebrate the harvest season and take home a pumpkin to decorate at home

December TBA - Santa Trains

Ride to the North Pole and visit with Santa Claus!



All events details posted in one place!
Tell your friends to please visit...

RochesterTrainRides.com

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 18

7:00pm at INDUSTRY DEPOT

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 SUPT.

Joe Nugent

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

OPERATIONS SUPT.

Jim Otto

(585) 755-8942 jamesotto@gmail.com

TRACK AND R.O.W. SUPT.

Bob Achilles

(585) 421-0876 BobAchilles@aol.com

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

Sam Rosenberg

ALC0251@frontiernet.net

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Jim Ziobro

(585) 889-5316 rgvrr.ziobro@yahoo.com

MONTHLY PROGRAM

Our meetings move to Industry Depot for the warm weather months! **May 21, June 18, July 16, and August 20**, we will meet at Industry Depot at 7:00pm for a brief business meeting. Following the meeting, enjoy train rides on our museum railroad! Bring a friend! Our meetings are free and open to the public.

MUSEUM MANGLER'S MESSAGE

Now that spring is really here, things are really buzzing around the Museum! First I would like to thank all of those involved with the many successful museum activities so far. On the LA&L excursion (Dave Shields and too many others to list) did an outstanding job getting everything ready and running a flawless trip that was enjoyed by all. Also a huge thanks to all at the LA&L for all of the work they did, picking up and returning the coaches, operating the trip, and hosting on a night photo shoot. We appreciate the opportunity to do events like this, and we couldn't do it without the cooperation and generosity of the railroad. To those expanding the parking lot, or working on the display panel track or all of the other areas being readied for the operating season, thank you all. There is still plenty of work to be done, both pre-season and when we open for the public. We can use your help no matter what skill set you may have. Not sure how



Our first museum visitors of the year were from Brockport's Oliver Middle School on May 13. The school field trip enjoyed a museum tour and a train ride. OTTO VONDRAK PHOTO

you can help, please contact me, or anyone else you may see in the various departments, I assure you we can find a way for you to help.

—Mark Wilczek, Museum Mgr.

NOTICE OF CHANGES TO DEPOT ACCESS

On June 1, we will be giving the alarm company Personal Identification Numbers (PINs) that will be unique for each user to arm and disarm the alarm system installed inside Industry Depot. I have sent a personal email to everyone I show to have a Depot key, and have set up most of them with their PIN. If you have a Depot key, and did not receive an email from me, or if you use some other means to open the Depot, please contact me as soon as possible to get your PIN. After we give the information to the alarm company, I will let everyone know when the switch from the universal code to the individual PINs will take place. You can contact me at mwilczek@rochester.rr.com or phone me (585) 721-1377.

—Mark Wilczek, Museum Mgr.

OPERATIONS DEPT.

We hosted our first successful private charter in May, which was also our first train operations of the 2015 season. Aside from the schedule of public operations (listed on Page 2), we also have a number of private events slated for this season. We need

engineers, conductors, and car hosts to staff these events. To sign up for a time slot, visit tinyurl.com/rgv2015 to see what's available. Any day we are operating trains is a day you can come out for hands-on training and experience. Please contact me if you have any questions!

—Jim Otto, Supt.

VISITOR EXPERIENCE DEPT.

The title of my role has changed over the years, but for now "Visitor Experience" seems to cover most of it. My department handles everything that our visitors interact with, from the displays in the depot, to the signs on the lawn, to the cleanliness of the porta-potty in the parking lot.

This year I'm working to freshen up our displays all around the museum. A new panel track will put some of our out-of-service Track Cars on display for the public to enjoy just north of the "Sign Garden." The Lackawanna baggage car has been cleared out to make room for new displays specific to how items like milk,

SAFETY FIRST

- Do you know where the First Aid kits are located? Are they stocked?
- Do you know where the closest fire extinguishers are? Charged?



CHARTERS and TOURS

We have had a number of charters and private tours visit our museum during the month of May. **TOP LEFT:** The Niagara Frontier Region of the National Model Railroad Association toured our museum as part of their convention activities on May 16. They had many questions about the equipment displayed on Track 6 and 7 in the Upper Yard. **ABOVE:** We posed our train in the Hill Block for the NMRA visitors to photograph. **LEFT:** An active seniors tour group visiting from suburban Philadelphia toured our museum on May 18. They enjoyed visiting our restored depot and taking a ride on our train of cabooses. You can charter our train for your next party or event, just ask us how! OTTO VONDRAK PHOTOS

SAFETY FIRST

- Are you working within 4 feet of the tracks? Do you have your PPE?
- Working around heavy equipment? Don't assume the operator can see you. Be aware of your surroundings.

mail, and express were handled. The MDT reefer will get some attention, too.

Later this month, we will add a coat of primer and paint to our MDT and FGE reefers that are stored on Track 6 in the Upper Yard. This will make them more presentable to our volunteers, and stabilize them for possible future restoration.

The biggest change will come to

Industry Depot as we transform the Waiting Room and Agent's Office into a Gift Shop and Ticket Desk. The Agent's Office will be closed to the public (but still visible), and a cash register will be installed to handle all of our retail and ticket sales. We will have some items available for purchase, while retaining the seating and displays in the Waiting Room. Later this season, additional lighting will be added to make the Waiting Room brighter and more comfortable.

We will no longer offer guided tours of the Industry museum grounds (except to private tour groups). Instead, volunteers will be on hand to help answer questions and to assist visitors as they tour the grounds and displays at both Industry and the Upper Yard. We will also need volun-

teers to work our new ticket desk, which will be equipped with a simple "point of sale" cash register system that is both streamlined and easy to use.

There will be a meeting for all volunteers on Saturday, June 6, at 10:00am in Industry Depot. The meeting will last about an hour, and will go over some of the changes for the 2015 season. Operating trainees are encouraged to stay later for some hands-on training following the meeting (contact Jim Otto for details).

—Otto Vondrak

INDUSTRY YARD PROJECTS

Dan, Scott, and Tim have been busy! Our storage trailers and fuel lockers have been relocated from the parking lot on the west side of the LA&L tracks to other non-pub-

lic areas of our property. This has greatly expanded our parking capacity for visitors, and enhanced our “curb appeal.” Our road grader, Army dump truck, roller, and backhoe have all been put to good use! The gate to the construction yard will be moved north. We are looking to acquire stone or road millings to provide a more durable surface that will also shed water away from our property.

The Tuesday Night Track Gang has been busy installing a new panel track alongside the old concrete platform at Industry. This new 33’ display track will house some of our out-of-service Track Cars. Controls will be disabled, so it will be safe for visitors to climb aboard for photo ops.

Additional railroad signs will be installed in the “Sign Garden” as well.

Fencing will be installed between the parking lot and the railroad tracks to keep

visitors (and volunteers) off the active LA&L right of way.

There’s still much work to be done to get us ready for our June 20-21 opening, but we are getting there. If you’d like to help with any of the projects at Industry, please get in touch.

—Mike Dow

UPPER YARD PROJECTS

The Upper Yard facing our Restoration Shop is no longer “the place where dreams go to die.” It is now a public display area. Trains will arrive on Track 9, where visitors will disembark at a new boarding area created between Tracks 7 and 9. Thanks to Dan, Scott, and Tim for clearing out this area of parts and debris. This area will get an additional layer of fine crushed stone to make a comfortable walking surface.

A new equipment parking area has been

created on the east side of the shop so we can safely store our rubber-tired fleet when not in use. Some of our fuel tanks and our white storage containers have been relocated here as well.

We have created an improved walkway between Tracks 6 and 7 where we will have many items from our collection on display. An initial load of stone has been spread and rolled to create an even walking surface for visitors. Additional stone and some vegetation control will complete this project.

The appearance of our collection is very important. As railfans we may not mind some chipping paint and runaway rust, but it makes a bad impression on the public. While we lack the resources to complete a full restoration on every item, we are taking steps to stabilize certain items and also make them more presentable. Joe Nugent



With the return of warm weather, your museum has become a beehive of activity once again on Tuesdays and Saturdays. **TOP LEFT:** Museum president Mike Dow has been rolling up his sleeves and getting dirty with the rest of the construction gang over the last few weeks to direct some of our projects to increase capacity and clean up our property. **ABOVE:** Many of our machines have been put to work expanding our visitor parking lot on the west side of the LA&L tracks. Stone or road millings will complete the project. **OTTO VONDRAK PHOTOS** **LEFT:** The R&GV has increased its total mileage by 33 feet! The Tuesday Night Track (TNT) Gang is hard at work constructing a new panel track at Industry Depot. This track will display some of our retired track cars for the public to enjoy. This project will be completed in time for our opening on June 20-21 weekend. **JEREMY TUKE PHOTO**



LIVONIA, AVON & LAKEVILLE 50TH ANNIVERSARY

The Livonia, Avon & Lakeville Railroad celebrated its 50th Anniversary this month. The railroad borrowed our coaches for a private charter for executives on May 6. ABOVE LEFT: LA&L Corp. CEO Gene Blabey III holds up a copy of Railfan & Railroad magazine featuring his railroad on the cover. OTTO VONDRAK PHOTO ABOVE: The railroad had moved our coaches down to Lakeville a few days before to get everything staged and ready. CHRIS PLAYFORD PHOTO LEFT: The afternoon run of our May 9 50th Anniversary Excursion passes Howlett Farms just outside of Avon with 425 and 418 in the lead (and 428 trailing). This year's train consisted of four coaches, thanks to some last-minute work by volunteers. Both trains were completely sold out! Thanks to the LA&L for helping us operate a safe and successful excursion. MICHAEL BURKHART PHOTO

has taken on the task to scrape and prep our other General Electric 45-ton switcher, RG&E 1950. A new coat of yellow paint will be applied, and perhaps a reapplication of the "RUSSELL STATION" lettering it once wore on the cabs. Lynn Heintz has taken an interest in getting a protective coat on our 1909 Pennsylvania Railroad H-21 class hopper car. Otto Vondrak will be scraping, priming, and painting our two refrigerator cars, FGEX 50220 (wood bodied, built 1926) and MDT 12549 (steel bodied, built 1953). This work will improve the appearance of these cars and help preserve them for the future.

—Otto Vondrak

POUR THE FLOOR UPDATE

After an all too long hiatus, due to the harsh winter, busy work loads and person-

al lives, things are happening again in the Restoration Shop. The rail is set, secured and is ready to have the concrete poured for the approaches to the inspection pit. The mason has been notified and will be pouring before the end of May. After that, things will start flying. The hard work is done and it is on to the more simple "flat" work that requires a lot less preparation. Check in often as you will see big changes over the next several weeks. We only have enough funds to take us through a few more sections of concrete floor. Your museum will be seeking donations to help us complete the floor in the eastern and center sections of the building. Completion of the floor will help us get even more use from the building, speeding projects and making more efficient use of our time. Can you help? Please visit our web site at

www.rgvrrm.org/support to make your tax-deductible donation in any amount.

—Mark Wilczek, Museum Mgr.

RGVRRM BOARD MEETING

The next Board of Trustees meeting is Thursday, June 4, 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. 9

VISIT US: RGVRRM.ORG
ROCHESTERTRAINRIDES.COM
FACEBOOK.COM/RGVRRM

Museum T-Shirts For Sale

Be stylish, be safe, support your museum, support your favorite project, identify yourself quickly to volunteers and other train enthusiast... No matter what your reason, R&GV Railroad Museum t-shirts are the "in" fashion this season! Help us determine how many to order so we can have them ready by the next membership meeting in June. We will also have some limited quantities for sale in our gift shop at Industry Depot! **Shirts are \$15.00 each. Please submit your order BEFORE JUNE 6. Email to ovondrak@yahoo.com or mail your order with payment to P.O. Box 23326, Rochester, NY 14692-3326. WE CANNOT SHIP SHIRTS AT THIS TIME. They must be picked up in person.**



**No. 1 "TRAIN CREW" DARK GREEN/YELLOW
(RGV MEMBERS/VOLUNTEERS ONLY)**



**No. 2 "TRAIN CREW" HI-VIZ GREEN/BLACK
(RGV MEMBERS/VOLUNTEERS ONLY)**



No. 3 "MDT 14053" ORANGE/BLACK



No. 4 "PC 18526" JADE GREEN/WHITE

| SHIRT | SLEEVE | | SIZE | | | | | | QTY. | TOTAL |
|-------------------------|--------|-------|------|---|---|----|-----|-------|---------|-------|
| No 1. TRAIN CREW | Long | Short | S | M | L | XL | 2XL | _____ | \$_____ | |
| No 2. TRAIN CREW Hi-Viz | Long | Short | S | M | L | XL | 2XL | _____ | \$_____ | |
| No 3. MDT 14053 | Long | Short | S | M | L | XL | 2XL | _____ | \$_____ | |
| No 4. PC 18526 | Long | Short | S | M | L | XL | 2XL | | \$_____ | |

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

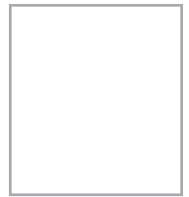
CITY _____ **STATE** _____ **ZIP** _____

PHONE _____ **EMAIL** _____



THE SEMAPHORE

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



This Month's Meeting:

May 21

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

Next Month's Meeting:

June 18

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

*Meetings move to
Industry Depot starting
May 21!*

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

50 YEARS ON THE LIVONIA, AVON & LAKEVILLE



HEY MAN, NICE SHOT: Three generations of Livonia, Avon & Lakeville history were assembled in front of Lakeville Shop on May 9. From left to right, LA&L 425-418-428; LA&L 20 and caboose 2603; and RG&E 1941 (ex-LA&L 97, the railroad's first locomotive). The railroad was a gracious host, arranging the movement of RG&E 1941 from our museum to Lakeville for the event. CONNOR SHORT PHOTO, LIGHTING BY STEVE BARRY