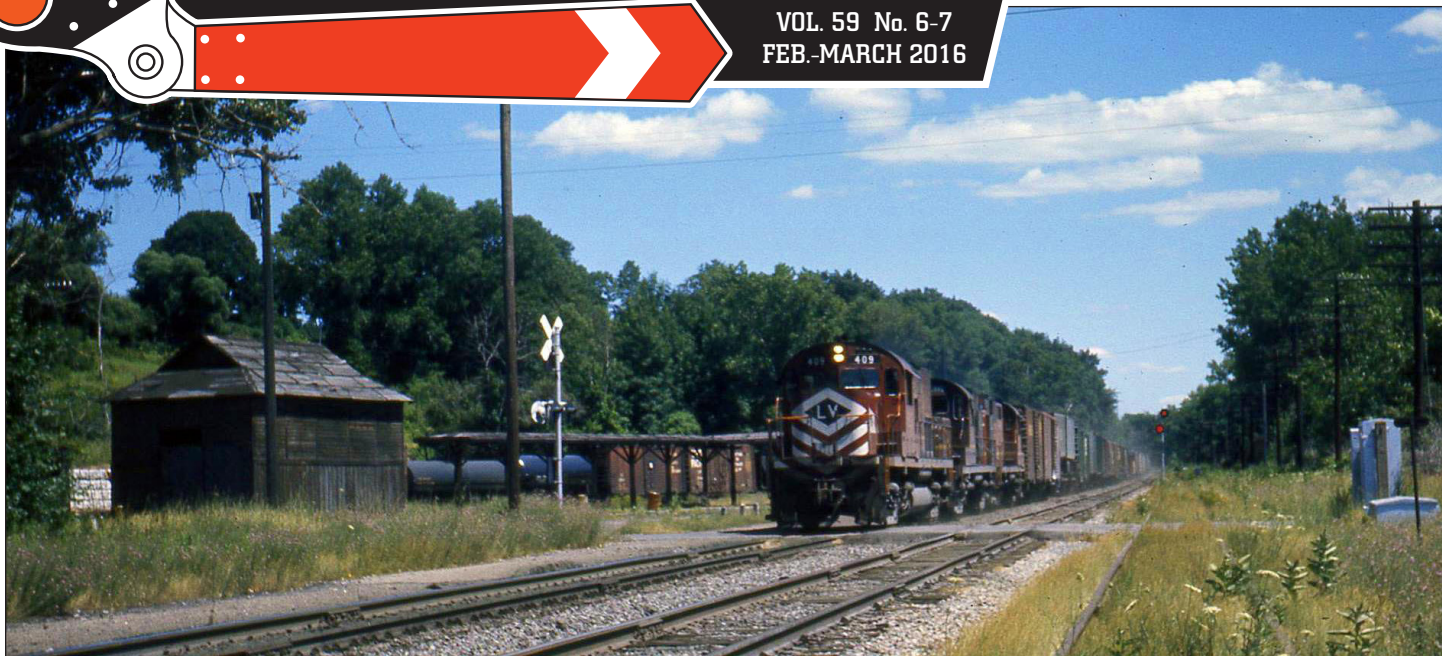


THE SEMAPHORE

NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCHESTER & GENESEE VALLEY RAILROAD MUSEUM

VOL. 59 No. 6-7
FEB.-MARCH 2016

NEXT MEETING:
April 21
Duncan Richards
presents Chinese Steam



A westbound freight with LV Alco C420 No. 409 passes the remains of Rochester Jct. station at Plains Road in Mendon, N.Y., 1974. The station was destroyed in April 1973 after a fire set by arsonists. The main line was abandoned in 1976, though the Rochester Branch and Lima Branch were operated by Conrail through 1981. Today the right of way is a popular recreational trail. PHOTO BY RON AMBERGER

Think Spring

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The Rochester area enjoyed a relatively mild winter this past season, which means we can get a jump on activity around the museum to prepare for opening day. **June 18-19** seems like a long ways off now, but it will be here before you know it. We enjoyed a very successful season last year, thanks to the hard work of many volunteers. We hope to duplicate and build upon that success this year.

I was very excited to see so many new faces pitch in to help out last year. Every little bit helps, and it was great to see everyone working together to help make our new operation run so smoothly.

There are great opportunities coming up this year if you think you want to get involved. A second Safety Training and Rules Class will be scheduled for anyone interested in working on the trains. That includes car host, brakeman, conductor, and engineer. We strongly recommend the Safety Training for all volunteers.

We're always looking for extra eyes and

ears on the ground to help with boarding trains, answering visitor's questions, and generally being a warm and welcoming face to the public. Otto Vondrak will be hosting orientation sessions in May and June for anyone interested in helping out. We also need cashiers to work our ticket window at Industry Depot. Our new point of sale system is easy to learn and use.

Several projects are taking place that we hope to benefit from this season. The Lehigh Valley caboose will be painted this summer, bringing it closer to active service once again. Rob Burz is heading up our Army flatcar conversion project. We expect the car will be ready this September to expand our visitor capacity. We will also be painting several pieces and installing new displays throughout the museum. There's many ways to get involved. If you're not sure where to start, ask me. You can call me at (716) 474-2833 or email me at mdow@rochester.rr.com.

—Mike Dow, Museum President



www.rgvrrm.org

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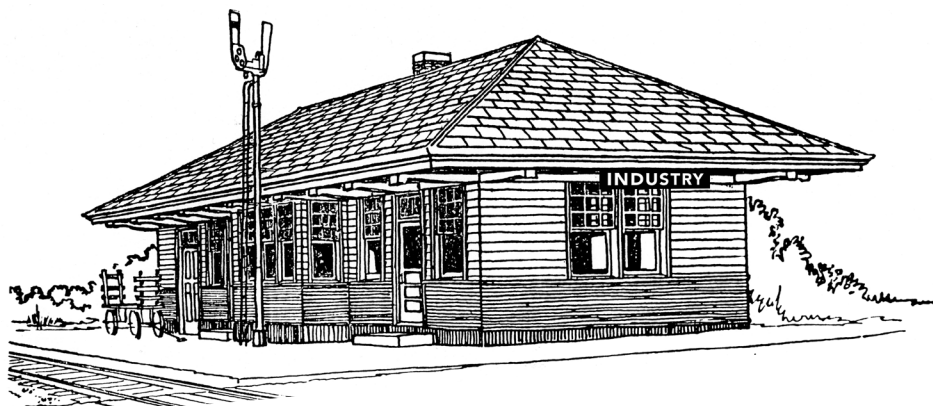
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2016 Museum Schedule

Train rides resume in June 2016! Enjoy a mile-and-a-half round trip train ride behind vintage diesels, while you tour the largest collection of historic trains in New York State! Industry Depot is located at 282 Rush Scottsville Road, Rush NY 14543. We're just 20 minutes from downtown Rochester, easy to find from Exit 11 off I-390 in the Town of Rush off Route 251 West. Your ticket is good for museum admission and unlimited round-trip train rides (space permitting).

June 18-19 - Opening Weekend

July 16-17 - Caboose Train Rides

August 20-21 - Diesel Days Weekend

September 17-18 - RG&E/Kodak Weekend

October 1-2 - Pumpkin Patch Trains

October 15-16 - Pumpkin Patch Trains

October 29-30 - Pumpkin Patch Trains

TICKETS: Adults: \$10.00, Youth/Seniors/Military: \$8.00

Trains depart Industry Depot every half-hour.

All seating is first-come, first-served.

Free parking located off Route 251. Refreshments available.

RochesterTrainRides.com

facebook.com/RochesterTrainRides



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MONTHLY PROGRAM

Our monthly meetings are held at the 40&8 Club in downtown Rochester. Located at 933 University Avenue, doors open at 7:00 p.m. and the meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. Our museum bookstore will have the latest titles for purchase, and a cash bar is available.

On **January 21**, **Robert French** will present his railroad photography spanning the last half century from coast to coast. On **February 18**, our membership chair **Sam Rosenberg** will present a slide show based on his trip aboard VIA Rail's *Canadian* in 2012.

On **March 17**, member **David Kehrer** will present some of his father's 8mm home movies of railroading action around Rochester from the 1960s and 1970s, with a few visits to Horseshoe Curve thrown in.

On **April 21**, member **Duncan Richards** will present his travels to China to photograph the last of regularly scheduled mainline steam action.

Please welcome our new Program Chairman **Adam Lloyd**. One of our new volunteers, Adam is already quite active around our museum assisting with various projects. He will be scheduling new meeting activities through the end of the year, so if



Our memorable January program was presented by **Bob French**, a long-time Rochester resident, GRS employee, and talented railfan photographer. Museum volunteer **Duncan Richards** (providing technical assistance as always), museum program chair **Adam Lloyd**, presenter **Robert French**, and guest **Bob Hogarth** on January 21, 2016.

you have suggestions please direct them to his contact information above.

—Adam Lloyd, Program Chair

ANNUAL BANQUET

Mark your calendars for Saturday, March 12, 2016, for our Annual Banquet at the recently refurbished River's Edge Party House. Doors will open at 6:30, and guests will enjoy a cash bar and social hour prior to seating for our buffet dinner. Following dinner will be some brief awards presentations before we introduce our keynote speaker, **Mike Smith**, president of the **Finger Lakes Railway**.

—Otto Vondrak, Event Coordinator

2016 RULES CLASS

It's almost that time of year again, time for our annual rules class. The class is scheduled for Saturday March 19th, 9:00 am, at the Rochester Institute of Technology. Rules Class will be held at Rochester Institute of Technology, Lousie Slaughter Hall (Building 78/CIMS), Rooms 2230/2240. Class will begin at 9:00 a.m. with introductions and mandatory Safety Training. Book of Rules class will follow, then Air Brake/Train Handling class. Coffee and donuts served in the morning, we will pass the hat for pizza delivery at noon.

Taking an annual rules class is required for all volunteers who wish to work in train

service. The first part of the class is safety training that is strongly suggested for ALL Volunteers, regardless if you are in train service or not. The class is free to attend, but you must RSVP so we have enough class materials for everyone attending. Please contact me at (585) 721-1377 or mwilczek@rochester.rr.com to confirm your spot or if you have any questions.

A make-up class will be scheduled for April for anyone who missed the March class. Please contact me if you need to attend a make-up class.

—Mark Wilczek, Museum Manager

2016 FALL FOLIAGE TRIPS

Our friends at the Livonia, Avon & Lakeville Railroad have agreed to operate a series of Fall Foliage Express trips between Lakeville and Industry on Saturday, October 8. The trips will use our ex-New York Central Empire State Express coaches, with motive power provided by the LA&L. We will be looking for volunteers to help with everything from parking at Lakeville, to on board technicians, to car hosts, and more. This will also mark the first time your museum will be processing its own online ticketing. Look for additional details in future editions of The Semaphore.

—David Shields, Trips Committee

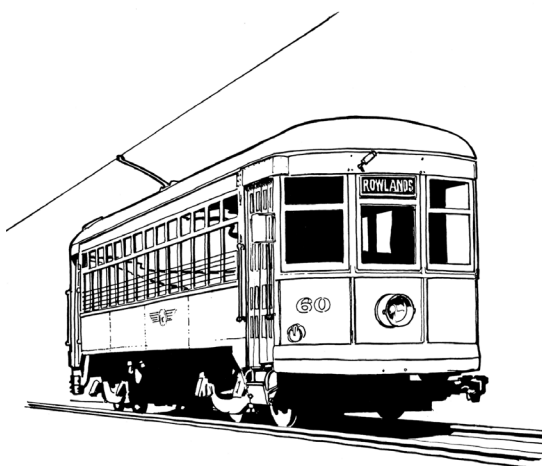
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TOP LEFT: Adam Lloyd discovered we had an old Lehigh Valley whistle post hiding in the weeds near the Restoration Building. He has since primed the metal in preparation for a fresh coat of white and black paint. This will make a great addition to our sign garden for 2016! **LEFT:** Interior work continues on our Lehigh Valley caboose. Adam Lloyd is one of the volunteers helping to complete this project. **ABOVE:** This project was awarded a \$3,000 grant for exterior finishing by the Tom E. Dailey Foundation, as well as a \$1,000 donation from an anonymous individual who read about our project in the pages of Railfan & Railroad magazine. **BELOW:** Norm Schaddick, Joel Shaw, and Rand Warner have nearly completed the decking on our new TC trailer work flat. This car was designed and constructed by our volunteers based on an earlier design by Neil Bellinger.



RIGHT: Project manager Rob Burz cuts away a corroded piece of metal that will need to be replaced on our ex-Army flatcar. **BELOW:** Bob Achilles and Tony Mittiga work the needle scaler to clear loose rust from the surface of the frame. **BELOW RIGHT:** The metal has been cleaned and primed, and a new plate will be bolted in place. The frame only needs a few repairs before it is cleaned, primed, and painted prior to a new wood deck being applied. Once the deck is in place, new sides will be constructed and benches will be mounted, greatly expanding our passenger capacity. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Joe Nugent helped Rand Warner take measurements for thickness of metal sheeting for the roof of Rochester Subway Car 60. Rand is gathering estimates to see how much it would cost to replace the roof on our one-of-a-kind trolley car.



WHEE! IT'S TIME FOR ANOTHER...

By-Laws Change

The following items were discovered during the most recent review of our by-laws. These proposed changes were read at the March 17, 2016 membership meeting. They will be voted on at the April 21, 2016, membership meeting.

Article III Board of Trustees; Sec. 5

When we changed elections to November from May; we explicitly state electees take office at the January Meeting. As such this is in error; and should be removed.

Currently is worded:

5. Elected trustees shall assume their posts at the Trustees meeting immediately following their election.

Amend to strike Article III.5 from the ByLaws.

Article IV Elections; Section 5 and 6

When we changed elections to November, we decided electees take office in January. Previously; they took office at the meeting following their election (usually June). The issue is if a trustee resigns, the board must elect a trustee to fill the vacancy until the normal annual election. Currently this could be interpreted either way within the bylaws.

Currently is worded:

5. In the event of a vacancy in the ranks of officers, or trustees, the vacancy shall be filled by the following: The trustees, by majority vote, shall appoint a RGVRM member to fill the office until the next regular election. The remaining term of the office shall then be filled by the nomination and election procedure as prescribed above.
6. Electees will take office at the first Trustee's meeting in January.

Amend to add the underlined text to Section 6:

6. Electees will take office at the first Trustee's meeting in January. In the case of fulfilling a vacancy until the next regular election, that trustee or officer shall take office immediately.

Article VII Committees; Stores & Mail Order

Some years ago it was discussed to remove Mail Order as a committee and amend Stores to be responsible for it duties (there is a lot of overlap). This change will codify that decision.

Currently, Article VII, Section 4.4 is the Mail Order Committee:

- 4.4. Mail Order Committee
 - 4.4.1. To receive mail orders for RGVRM publications and other store items.
 - 4.4.2. To maintain inventory, solicit orders, ship ordered materials and deposit funds received from customers immediately into the proper RGVRM account or with the Treasurer.
 - 4.4.3. To prepare an annual inventory and financial statement for distribution to the board and to the membership.
 - 4.4.4. To provide a written annual report for distribution to the board and to the membership.

Amend the Bylaws, striking completely the aforementioned section regarding Mail Order. Add the following to the Stores Committee:

To receive mail orders for RGVRM publications and other store items.

Article VII Committees; Section 4.5.1 Membership Committee

When we parted ways with the NRHS; we missed this needed removal; no longer do we need to maintain NRHS applications; just our own.

Currently is worded:

- 4.5.1 To maintain a supply of NRHS membership application blanks for distribution to prospective members.

Amend to read:

- 4.5.1 To maintain a supply of membership application blanks for distribution to prospective members.

Article XII Dues and Assessment; Section 2

When we parted ways with the NRHS; we missed this needed removal; no longer are we collecting Dues for a national organization.

Currently is worded:

2. For a member to remain in good standing, his (or her) annual dues must be paid to the RGVRM Treasurer no later than January 1 each year. Any member shall be automatically suspended when he (she) becomes one month in arrears in either The National or RGVRM dues or assessments. Members suspended alternatively, not in good standing will be reinstated upon full payment of their dues and assessments plus a penalty.

Amend to read:

2. For a member to remain in good standing, his (or her) annual dues must be paid to the RGVRM Treasurer no later than January 1 each year. Any member shall be automatically suspended when he (she) becomes one month in arrears in dues or assessments. Members suspended alternatively, not in good standing will be reinstated upon full payment of their dues and assessments plus a penalty.

If you have any questions about the above changes, please contact president Mike Dow prior to the April 21 meeting at mdow@rochester.rr.com or phone (716) 474-2833.



Requiem for 365

BY ADAM LLOYD

A FEW YEARS AGO ON A CHILLY SPRING night, I sat on the steel battery box that powered the massive signal bridge that stood in the dark in front of me. The box's cold steel lid was sending a constant chill up my spine, which seemed fitting for being in the presence such a structure. The silhouettes of the tall cast iron finials that pointed toward the sky were occasionally blocked out by a passing cloud. After a few seconds of darkness, the cloud would pass and the signal's silhouette would become bright and rich with detail again.

While sitting on the battery box, I could enjoy the song of the relays as they clicked away in the steel cabinet next to me. After listening to the constant soft mechanical sound of the relays for so long, it seemed as though they had a life of their own as they worked to guide trains safely thru the same stretch of track they had been responsible for keeping safe for decades. With a soft click, the structures searchlight heads would come to life, casting their bright colorful beams into the darkness. As I sat there listening to the sound of the clicking relays in their cabinet and the gentle thud the signal heads would make as they lined the next train thru the block, I found the fact that I was watching this seemingly ancient system work right in front of my eyes and ears was absolutely amazing.

Sometime later I received word that CSX




TOP: The New York Central era signal bridge at milepost 365 was casting strong, colorful beams into the night sky on April 11, 2014. Contractors lifted the bridge away from the mainline to prepare for eventual cutting for scrap on June 30, 2014. ADAM LLOYD PHOTOS

Chicago Line signal replacement program was making its way close to the Rochester area and was horrified one day to see 2 new masts installed a few hundred yards to the west of old 365 bridge on either side of the track. One day, I walked down the right of way to get a look at the new aluminum signals. The new signal heads, which already had peeling paint only a few months after being installed, were turned away from the tracks awaiting activation.

Finally on a warm summer evening, I visited this bridge to spend one last night with it under the stars. I sat on the battery box one last time and watched as the lighting on the bridge dimmed as the

setting sun touched it for the last time. Before leaving, I walked up under the old signal bridge and placed my hand on one of the structures 4 thick steel legs. I looked up at the massive bridge as its heads cast their powerful beams of light in to the darkness for what would be one of the last times. I knew that never again would I hear the gentle song of the relays as they clicked in their box or watch as the searchlights flipped thru their aspects. I knew by the same time tomorrow this ancient structure would be torched for scrap.

After saying goodbye to this massive structure, I turned and walked away, leaving it behind in the darkness. 



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Lehigh Valley caboose No. 95032 brings up the rear as a local crew prepares to depart the main line at Rochester Jct., and head down the Lima Branch on a sunny day in 1974. The main line was abandoned in 1976, but the Lima Branch was operated by Conrail until 1981. Nothing in this scene remains today. PHOTO BY RON AMBERGER