



Rochester Subway Car 60 prepares to depart the loop terminal at General Motors Rochester Products plant for another trip into the city and the suburbs of Brighton in June 1956. Our June 17-18 event focuses attention on our efforts to restore Car 60 for future generations to enjoy. CERA PHOTO

Summertime Fun

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The operating season began two months earlier with sold-out Easter Bunny Train Rides in April and our first ever Rails & Ales beer tasting event in May. Our first weekend of “regular” public operations is **June 17-18**, paying tribute to the old Rochester Subway and helping draw attention to our efforts to restore Car 60. We’ve built great momentum for 2017, and I’d like to thank all the volunteers who helped with our success so far.

Now is not the time to rest on our laurels, however. We only have eight more weekends in our regular operating season and we have to make every one count. This is where the majority of our operating funds come from; the funds that pay for things like ongoing equipment maintenance and our short list of approved projects.

We need your help to introduce new faces to our volunteer ranks. We have so many opportunities available, yet many are

reluctant to step forward. Help us reverse this trend. Contributing a few hours during our operating days helps tremendously. Don’t be afraid to accept the challenge and help your museum grow. It may sound trite, but every contribution counts, no matter how big or small.

Our next operating weekend is July 15-16 Craft Show Caboose Rides. This is yet another new approach we are trying to draw new first-time visitors to the museum.

Speaking of new ideas, I also want to ask for your thoughts on events we could add to our calendar this year and next. As we move into our next stages of development and expansion, your support will be most important. Would you like to help out and not sure where to start? Please contact me at (716) 474-2833 or mdow@rochester.rr.com. I’d like to hear from you!

—Mike Dow, Museum President

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ROCHESTER & GENESEE VALLEY
RAILROAD MUSEUM

www.rgvrrm.org

MUSEUM OFFICERS

President
Mike Dow
(716) 474-2833

Vice President
David Buckner

Interim Treasurer
Mark Wilczek

Recording Secretary
Otto M. Vondrak

Corresponding Secretary
Joel R. Shaw

Trustees
Rob Burz
David Kaiser
Joe Nugent
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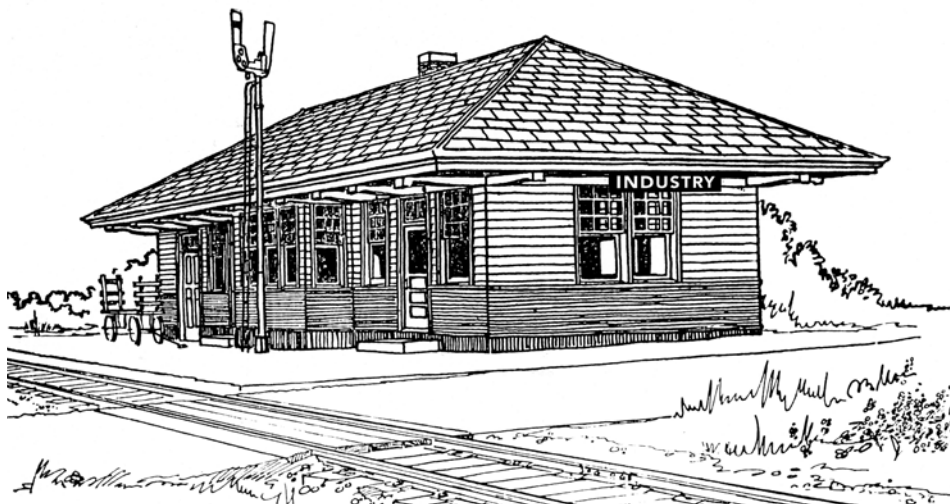
The official publication of
the Rochester & Genesee Valley Railroad Museum

Volume 60, No. 8

EDITOR
Otto M. Vondrak
ovondrak@yahoo.com

PRINTING AND MAILING
Dave Peet

©2017 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.



2017 SCHEDULE

Please note some dates and activities are subject to change. Please visit our www.rgvrrm.org and www.RochesterTrainRides.com for details.

June 10 – Saturday Hands-On Training Day
June 17-18 – Rochester Subway Heritage Weekend

July 15-16 – Craft Show and Train Rides

August 19-20 – Viscose 6 Steam Engine Train Rides
August 26-27 – Viscose 6 Steam Engine Train Rides

September 16-17 – Diesel Days Train Rides

October 14-15 – Pumpkin Patch Trains
October 21-22 – Pumpkin Patch Trains
October 28-29 – Pumpkin Patch Trains

December 8 – Holiday Open House
December 9 – Santa Trains
December 16 – Santa Trains

GET INVOLVED! GET ON BOARD!

<https://tinyurl.com/2017-RGV-Train-Crew-Schedule>

<https://tinyurl.com/2017-RGV-Ground-Crew-Schedule>

Get tickets at schedules at RochesterTrainRides.com

MUSEUM CONTACT INFO

MUSEUM PRESIDENT

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

MUSEUM MANAGER

Mark Wilczek
(585) 721-1377 mwilczek72@gmail.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.

David Kehrer
(585) 576-3843 dkehrer1@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

Sam Rosenberg
ALC0251@frontiernet.net

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

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

PROGRAM CHAIRMAN

Adam Lloyd
(585) 662-7295 adamfj45lloyd@yahoo.com

MONTHLY PROGRAM

Starting a half-hour earlier at 7:00 p.m., following a brief business meeting we will enjoy rides on our museum railroad and a tour of current projects in the Restoration Shop. Warm-weather meetings continue at the depot on **June 15, July 20, and August 17**. These events are FREE to attend, so bring a friend!

—Adam Lloyd, Program Chair

PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD RPO PAINTING AND PRIMING

Priming of the east side and south end of the Pennsylvania Railroad railway post office was completed at the end of May, thanks to volunteer **David Kehrer**, with assistance from **Otto Vondrak**. Thanks also to **Dale Hartnett** and **David Buckner** for facilitating the replacement and repair of a broken window on the west side. The next steps involve power-washing the roof and making assessments for repair before applying a fresh coat of paint. This painting project will be ongoing throughout the year, if you want to get involved, please contact David Kehrer.

Our Railway Post Office No. 6516 was built for the Pennsylvania Railroad at their Altoona Shops in 1910 as part of class



The Tuesday Night Track (TNT) Gang prepares to replace ties in the Hill Block on a warm spring evening. Thanks to the continuous efforts of the “track dockneys” we are able to keep our track in top operating condition. Pictured here are Mike Guglielmo, John Redden, Rand Warner, Duncan Richards, David Kehrer, and David Chapus.

M70. It was rebuilt in 1935 with a baggage compartment and reclassified M70b. Between 1950 and 1953, fourteen M70 baggage cars were rebuilt into class BM70nb baggage-mail cars. It served Penn Central and continued on into the Conrail era in work train service. It was subsequently purchased by the Rochester Refrigeration Corporation and stored at their Rockwood Place facility for many years. In 1994 the car was donated to the museum and was moved to Industry.

This summer we will debut the first part of a new signal technology display centered around the Saxby & Farmer lever machine salvaged from Niobe Jct. tower by a team of museum volunteers in 1988. The machine has been since rebuilt and restored by museum president **Mike Dow**.

KEEPING TRACK OF OUR TRACK

Please congratulate **David Keher** on his recent promotion to Track and Right of Way Superintendent. Your museum thanks **Bob Achilles** for his years of service in this role which interfaces with the Museum Manager to coordinate our museum’s ongoing track maintenance program.

—Mark Wilczek, Museum Manager

OVERWHELMING SUCCESS FOR FIRST “RAILS & ALES” EVENT

On the afternoon of May 20, your museum hosted its first ever “Rails & Ales”

event. The event was strictly for visitors 21 and over, and featured beer tasting stations set up throughout the museum grounds. Eight local breweries came out for the afternoon, including: **810 Mead Works, OSB Ciderworks, Rail Head Brewing, Iron Tug Brewing, Blue Toad Hard Cider, Swiftwater Brewing Co., Triphammer Bierworks, Rootstock Ciderworks, and Upstate NY Homebrewers Association (UNYHA)**. Food service was provided by our friends at Z Best Foodz down at Industry Depot, while a rented popcorn machine provided complimentary snacks while visitors sampled in the Upper Yard.

More than 250 guests visited the museum during Rails & Ales, almost all of them for the first time. Many commented that they want to come again and bring their kids too! Visitors explored the entire property, venturing to the end of track 6 and asking lots of questions about our collection and trains in general. Relaxing guests took advantage of the nice views and picnic table area transforming the “Pumpkin Patch” into a “Beer Garden.”

The craft beer flowed that afternoon, as guests enjoyed the unlimited tastings and train rides. Everything from hard cider to raspberry honey mead was available, and people loved it! The breweries also enjoyed the relaxed pace of the afternoon because they had time to interact with visitors. Aside from the free tastings, many breweries brought merchandise or pre-packaged



RAILS and ALES

Our first ever “Rails & Ales” event on May 20 was a huge success, thanks to the generous cooperation of our local brewers. **LEFT:** Sampling from OSB Ciderworks, Swiftwater Brewing, Iron Tug Brewing, and Rootstock Ciderworks at Industry Depot. **BELOW:** The Upstate New York Homebrewers Association (UNYHA) brought several beers to sample inside the Restoration Building. Complimentary fresh popcorn was also available. **BOTTOM:** Visitors enjoyed exploring the Upper Yard while sampling from Tripphammer Bierwerks, Railhead Brewing, 810 Meadworks, and Blue Toad Hard Cider.

product to sell. Many of the brewers let us know that they did better sales at our event than the Lilac Festival (which was hosting its own craft beer event across town the same day).

“You’re doing this again next year, right?” was the question many people were asking as they left. The answer: Yes we are. Overall, people were excited and interested in the exhibits, the museum turned a profit, and we learned what to improve for next year. What’s more, we learned we can market and operate successful events geared exclusively towards adults. Thank you again to all the volunteers who helped make Rails & Ales a success!

—Branden Hummer

THE TIES THAT BIND

The north end of our track from milepost 0.4 to Midway was used to store pieces of our collection for two years until the Track 6 extension was completed at the end of 2016. With the track cleared out, inspections revealed a number of ties needed to be replaced if we wish to continue operating on this segment.

On June 3, old timbers were removed and 25 new ties were inserted north of milepost 0.3. First, spikes were pulled and tie plates set aside. We used our museum’s Case backhoe to pierce and push out the old ties. Our Ford forklift was used to bring up a fresh bundle of ties from the construction yard. The old ties were gathered up and banded for disposal, while new ties were staged for insertion. The backhoe was used again to insert the new ties, while volunteers followed behind to re-insert the tie





plates. The next step will be to gauge and spike the new ties in place over successive work sessions. Thanks to **David Scheiderich, Mike Dow, Mike Guglielmo, David Kehrer, and Otto Vondrak** for their help completing this important task.

NORTH WAITING ROOM AND NEW GIFT SHOP

Over the last year the North Waiting Room has been cleaned out and reorganized in an effort to use the space more efficiently. Generally off-limits to the public, the room was used for storage and as a crew lounge and office. Planning and construction of our new gift shop area began in the spring.

A new 8-foot tall wall separates the gift shop from the crew lounge and office area.

The free-standing wall is anchored to the floor, but not to the walls to help reduce damaging our historic depot. A new pass-through door will allow volunteer access from the gift shop to the crew lounge.

The public will enter from the door on the east side, which will be repaired and reactivated. The second ticket window will be opened as an exhibit, complete with the original window grille cleaned up and repainted by volunteer Adam Lloyd. All gift shop sales will take place at the Dutch door.

Framing for the walls took shape during the first week of June, thanks to volunteer **Otto Vondrak**. New electrical wiring was run by **Jim Johnson** and **Mike Guglielmo** so that the new wall has handy live outlets on both sides.

While all the finishing touches might not be complete, the gift shop will be open for business during our June 17-18 operating weekend. We are excited to showcase a new variety of museum-themed souvenirs including t-shirts, posters, postcards, and more! Come by and check it out.

OPEN-AIR RIDER FLATCAR UPDATE

Roof sheathing was completed during the first week of June on the Army flat-car conversion project. Project manager **Rob Burz** was preparing metal diagonal braces to give the body additional stability and prevent racking and twisting. With the roof sheathing completed, the next step will be installing corrugated metal roofing material. Rob expects the benches previously constructed by **Jered Rosenberg** to be installed by the end of the month. **Joe**



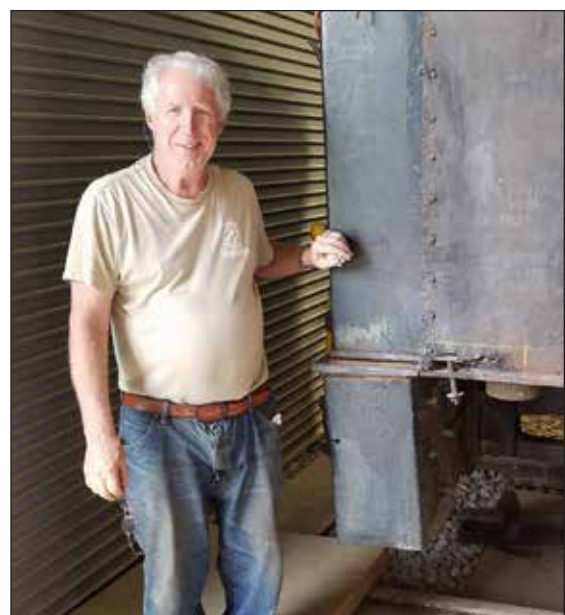
TOP: Otto Vondrak assembles wall framing in the North Waiting Room to create a new gift shop space separate from our crew lounge and office on June 2. **ABOVE:** Mike Dow uses our museum's backhoe to remove old ties in preparation for inserting new ones. **RIGHT:** Museum volunteers inserted 25 new ties from milepost 0.4 to the end of track at Midway on June 3. **BELOW:** The east side and south end of our Pennsylvania Railroad railway post office now wears a fresh coat of primer, thanks to David Kehrer.



1937 2017

ROCHESTER & GENESEE VALLEY
RAILROAD MUSEUM

RIGHT: The open air flatcar project continues to take shape. Sam Rosenberg, Rob Burz, and Mike Byrne were part of the team on May 27. Soon the benches will be installed, and the brakes rebuilt and repaired to bring the car one step closer to being in service. **BELOW:** Vice president Dave Buckner led the May museum meeting at Industry Depot on May 18. After a brief meeting we rode up to the Restoration Shop to tour our various projects in progress. **BELOW RIGHT:** Joel Shaw is leading the project to cosmetically restore Brooklyn Navy Yard 0-4-0T No. 12. The Steam Team meets most Saturday mornings if you want to get involved.



Nugent is working to upgrade the flatcar's air valves to make them more reliable. Thanks to volunteers **Rick Bohn, Mike Byrne, Sam Rosenberg, Jeremy Tuke, Dave Peet, Perry Bertsch, Wayne McIntyre**, and many others for contributing to this project's success. We expect to begin testing this car in mid-July to prepare for our August steam engine event. Stay tuned!

STEAM, DIESEL, AND ELECTRIC RAILROAD TOUR OF SCRANTON

Steam, diesel, and electric trains are the highlight of a special weekend excursion to Scranton, Pa., on July 29-30. Travel with the members of the Rochester & Genesee Valley Railroad Museum by deluxe motorcoach to ride historic trains on the Delaware-Lackawanna Railroad, Steamtown

National Historic Site, and Electric City Trolley Museum. Visitors will enjoy a private excursion on the Delaware-Lackawanna from Scranton to Delaware Water Gap and return on Saturday. The special excursion will be powered by vintage Alco diesels with the railroad's 1936 luxury executive observation car bringing up the markers. On Sunday, a chartered trolley will take visitors from the Electric City Trolley Museum on a five-mile run through the historic Crown Avenue Tunnel to the baseball stadium in Wilkes-Barre. Upon return to Scranton, we will tour Steamtown NHS and take a short steam train ride around the yards and museum facility.

Tickets for this trip are \$300.00 each (\$275.00 for RGVRRM members), and does not include food or lodging. The

museum has reserved a block of rooms at the Comfort Inn & Suites in Moosic, Pa. You must call (570) 347-1551 and ask for the Rochester & Genesee Valley Railroad Museum block of rooms for Saturday, July 29. Your choice of rooms will be either a room with two double beds or a room with a king size bed. Ask for a guaranteed late arrival. Remember, the block of rooms is only available until July 8. The price will be \$70 plus tax for a total of \$79.10.

Seats are filling up fast! Purchase your tickets today from our museum's web site at www.RochesterTrainRides.com.

—David Shields
Trips Chairman

WWW.RGVRRM.ORG
FACEBOOK.COM/RGVRRM

COMING SOON TO THE R&GV MUSEUM GIFT SHOP



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THE **SEMAPHORE**

ROCHESTER & GENESEE VALLEY RAILROAD MUSEUM

P.O. BOX 23326

ROCHESTER, NY 14692-3326

HEY! Don't forget that our monthly meetings move to Industry Depot starting May 18! Tell your friends!



Find us on Facebook! facebook.com/rgvrrm



During our successful "Rails & Ales" event on May 20, we converted the "Pumpkin Patch" into a "Beer Garden." Visitors enjoyed relaxing on the benches and watching our trains run up and down the Hill Block. This will be the future location of our "Railfan Overlook" and observation deck.