

# THE SEMAPHORE

The Newsletter of  
ROCHESTER CHAPTER - NATIONAL RAILWAY  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Vol. XXXI No. 11

July 1990

## PROGRAM NOTES

By: Ron Amberger

This month's Chapter meeting will again be held at our Rochester & Genesee Valley Museum. The formal part of the meeting starts at 8:00 p.m. but you should plan to come out earlier and enjoy the museum and the summer weather. The evening program will be presented by Chapter member Eric Norden and will feature recent steam action from around the country as well as his special interest in railroad architecture. This promises to be a very interesting show by one of our newer members.

## PRESIDENT'S SIDING

By: Ted Miller

For a change, all the good news about trains isn't from Europe or Japan.

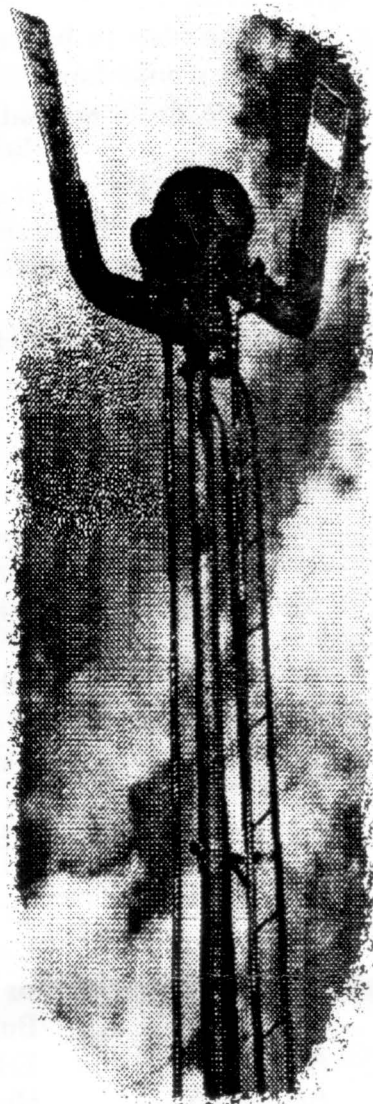
Roy A. Davis, Chautauqua County coordinator for the Empire State Passengers Association, reports it is "very possible" that, if Amtrak is allowed to meet its capital needs, there will be improved passenger service in Western New York along the southern shore of Lake Erie.

"Assemblyman William Hoyt, chairman of the committee on energy (in the New York state legislature), is supporting a possible extension of New York to Buffalo daytime service west to Cleveland, and possibly Cincinnati, with a stop at Dunkirk," Davis told the Dunkirk Evening Observer.

Assemblyman Hoyt met earlier this year with Frank Barry, director for the passenger association's legislative affairs for New York state, to discuss the extension of service west of Buffalo and several other ideas.

During that session, Barry explained that the plan to include Dunkirk would involve extending a section of the Toronto-New York City Maple Leaf run to Cleveland.

As Barry told the Dunkirk paper: "This train now runs on a daytime schedule from New York City to Toronto. Under this plan, the train would divide in Buffalo, with one section going southwest along Lake Erie through Dunkirk, Erie, PA to Cleveland, OH."



For the plan to become reality, according to what Barry told the Dunkirk paper, several things would have to happen, including all parties involved making a joint request to Amtrak for an estimate of the cost to implement the proposal.

Barry envisions all three states involved, New York, Pennsylvania, and Ohio, sharing some of the costs. He estimates the equipment costs to be about \$1.5 million for a locomotive (new business for Erie G.E.), and about \$1 million per coach for two to four coaches.

To change subjects abruptly, let me take a moment to let you know about the Railroad subject computer bulletin board maintained by Bill and Paula Keller. If you have a computer (most any kind), with a modem, you can call the EMPIRE STATE EXPRESS bulletin board at (716) 647-9798. The Bulletin board will support 300, 1200 and 2400 baud rate access. It functions with an 8 bit, no parity, 1 stop bit format (standard for most systems). Contents include RR related news, a message base and a file section. The board is interactive. We should now have our meeting dates and times in the bulletin board. More Chapter related info will follow.

While I'm changing subjects, stay alert for flyers for the Niagara Frontier Chapter's August 11 Steam Excursion from Exchange Street station, Buffalo to Albion, PA (and return) using NS#1218. The flyers should arrive soon. - they are bright pink. For those of you who want an update on the NS steam program for this summer, the relevant portion of their schedule follows (note the mid-September return of #611 to excursion service).

July 28-29	....	Columbus-Kenova Round-trips. 1218. [Ohio Railway Museum]
August 4	.....	Kenova-Columbus [Ohio State Fair] <u>Note:</u> Schedule shows neither RT or OW. [C.P. Huntington - NRHS]
August 11	.....	Buffalo, NY-Albion, PA Round-trip. 1218. [Niagara Frontier-NRHS]
August 18	.....	Erie, PA-Bellevue, OH Round-trip. 1218. [Lake Shore-NRHS]
August 25	.....	Huntsville, AL-Chattanooga, TN Round-trip. 1218. [North Alabama-NRHS]
September 8	...	Knoxville-Harriman, TN Round-trip. 1218. [Old Smoky-NRHS]
September 15	..	Bellevue, OH-Ft. Wayne, IN Round-trip. 611. [Mad River & NKP Society]
September 16	..	Bellevue-Ashtabula, OH Round-trip. 611. [Same bunch]
September 15	..	Bristol-Radford Round-trip. 1218. [Watauga Valley-NRHS]
September 16	..	Bristol-Morristown Round-trip. 1218. [Same guys]
September 22	..	Cincinnati-Danville Round-trip. 611. [Cincinnati RR Club]
September 23	..	Cincinnati-Portsmouth Round-trip. 611. [Identical group]
September 22	..	Lynchburg-Roanoke-Walton-Lynchburg Round-trip. 1218. [Roanoke-NRHS]
September 23	..	Roanoke-Glasgow-Lynchburg-Roanoke Circle Trip. 1218. [Busy folks!]
September 29	..	Lexington-Chattanooga One-way. 611. [Bluegrass RR Museum]
September 30	..	Chattanooga-Lexington One-way. 611. [Headed back home!]
September 30	..	Alexandria-Front Royal Round-trip. 1218. [WNDC Area Trip Committee]

October 6 . . . . . Alexandria-Lynchburg Round-trip. 1218. [WNDC Area Trip Committee]  
 October 7 . . . . . Alexandria-Front Royal Round-trip. 1218. [Same guys]  
 October 13-14 . . . Chattanooga-Oneida Round-trips. 611. [Tenn Valley RR Museum]  
 October 20-21 . . . Chattanooga-Oneida Round-trips. 611. [Again!]  
 October 20 . . . . Greensboro-Roanoke Round-trip. 1218. [Greensboro-NRHS]  
 October 27-28 . . . Asheville-Spencer Round-trips. 611. [Asheville-NRHS]  
 October 29 . . . . Asheville-Newton One-way. 611. [School Children] [Asheville-NRHS]  
 October 27 . . . . Atlanta-Toccoa Round-trip. A&WP 290/New Georgia diesels. [Atlanta-NRHS]  
 October 28 . . . . Atlanta-Chattanooga Round-trip A&WP 290/New Georgia diesels. [Again!]  
 November 3 . . . . Charlotte-Winston-Salem-Charlotte Circle Trip. 611. [RR Excursions-Piedmont Carolinas-NRHS]  
 November 4 . . . . Charlotte-Asheville Round-trip. 611 [Diesel Charlotte-Salisbury, OW] [Same sponsors]  
 November 5 . . . . Charlotte-Columbia, SC One-way. 611. [School Children] [Same Guys]  
 November 3 . . . . Atlanta-Chattanooga Round-trip. 1218. [Atlanta-NRHS]  
 November 4 . . . . Atlanta-Toccoa Round-trip. 1218. [Once more, troops!]  
 November 10 . . . . Columbia-Spencer, NC Round-trip. 611. [Central So Carolina-NRHS]  
 November 11 . . . . Columbia-Charleston Round-trip. 611. [One more time!]  
 November 10 . . . . Birmingham-Chattanooga Round-trip. 1218. [Heart of Dixie-NRHS]  
 November 11 . . . . Birmingham-Columbus, GA Round-trip. 1218. [Same group]

## **ROCHESTER & GENESEE VALLEY RAILROAD MUSEUM STORE**

-Operation Supt. Tom Bauman - 458-4289

New/reordered books in the Chapter store:

The Handsomest Trains in the World (LV Passenger) . .	\$15.95
Remember the Rock (Rock Island) . . . . .	\$13.95
Route of the Erie Ltd . . . . .	\$9.95
NYC - Lightning Stripes . . . . .	\$45.00
Conrail, Vol. 1: 1976-1982 . . . . .	\$39.95
1990 Steam Directory . . . . .	\$8.00
Diesel Builders - Fairbanks/Morse and Lima/Hamilton .	\$34.95
Night Trains (Pullman) . . . . .	\$49.95
Rail Ventures (Train travel information) . . . . .	\$12.95

Also, the Chapter Store will be carrying a line of video tapes, beginning in July! If you'd like to know the titles for July, you'll have to come to the meeting or give me a call!

Rochester Chapter NRHS members receive a 20% discount on books AND VIDEOS ordered through the chapter store (except "The Vanishing American").

Museum volunteers so far have been: George Bauerschmidt, Curt Boyer, Bill Chapin, Bernie Cubitt, Sheldon King, Kevin Kleve, Phil Miller, Ted Miller, John Redden, Matt Temple, and Fay Timmer.

.....  
**ROCHESTER & GENESEE VALLEY  
MUSEUM WORK PROGRESS  
REPORT**

**-Chmn. Rand Warner - 248-8889**  
.....

Hopefully everyone had a safe and fun filled 4th of July. By now you might have noticed that The Semaphore (June & July issues) have been down-sized from previous issues. This is due to the fact that as Temporary Editor, I don't have the time to spend in front of a copier while so many other irons are in the fire. We are going to start highlighting the progress of the different departments at the Museum on a quarter rotating basis. In doing this, various departments will be reported on each month. (Dave Luca for Rand Warner)

Below is a list of the Superintendants of each department at the Museum as well as their phone numbers. If anyone is interested in helping out in any of these departments, please feel free to call the Superintendant of that department.

Track & Right of Way - Bill Reid (589-4880)

Freight Equipment - John Myers (334-3948)

Signals & Communications - Neil Bellenger (359-9985)

Motive Power - John Redden (594-2227)

Passenger Equipment - Robert Miner (671-3589)

M.O.W. Equipment - Norm Shaddick (865-2773)

Building & Grounds - Dave Luca (288-0318)

Construction Equipment - Steve Huse (381-1012)

Tool Car - C. Harshbarger (266-8339)

.....  
**TOOL CAR**

**-Supt. Charlie Harshbarger - 266-8339**  
.....

Shelf space has been rearranged to help accommodate additional electrical material. The old paints which were not useable have been discarded. We are still in need of a combination belt/disc sander to assist us with future work. Our next goal is to install new

underground electrical service cables to tool car. Thanks to Rand Warner for ordering new cart of oxy-acetylene equipment.

.....  
**MOTIVE POWER**

**-Supt. John Redden - 594-2227**  
.....

The exciter and generator on both NKP79 and LV211 were inspected by Jim Johnson. The preparation of LV211 for painting continued with the removal of the shutters, grills and old lettering. The front door was straightened and number boxes were made from scratch by Neil Bellenger. Several batteries were removed from the Depot baggage room and stored in the tool car battery box. The plow on the north end of NKP79 was reinstalled with the help of Dick Holbert and Larry Fennesy. Finally, the cab restoration on EK6 has continued thanks to Norm Shaddick.

.....  
**CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT**

**- Supt. Steve Huse - 381-1012**  
.....

Progress was made in the following areas:

A second new tire was installed on the Euclid Front Loader which was donated by Iron Horse Construction. Two down and two to go.

A new ignition switch, starter switch and wiring was done on the Road Grader by Dick Holbert. Two new batteries were bought by Rand Warner. The hydraulic pump was removed by Rand Warner, and we are currently looking for a good used one.

A new ignition switch and wiring was installed on the Gradall by Dick Holbert and was started up and run.

The Backhoe had a new voltage regulator installed by Dick Holbert and the generator was rewired with the help of Dick and Rand. The battery is now being charged while running.

\*K-Mart will give you \$2.00 for each battery you turn in regardless of whether it was purchased at K-Mart.



## **PUBLICITY/OUTREACH**

**-Mike Byrne - 225-5659**

A number of activities have occurred over the past few months for the chapter, and I wanted to take this opportunity to bring you all up to date. We should all be very proud of the hard work and great attitudes all the members of the chapter have exhibited while involved in these activities.

Here is a capsule summary:

### **1) Operation Lifesaver**

- We ran a total of 9 school days, although 2 days partially canceled due to weather.
- We had TV news coverage of the exhibit by 2 local TV stations.
- We had newspaper coverage in all 4 sections of Gannett Rochester's "Our Towns" newspaper.
- We received a letter from Conrails Chairman in response to a letter from me regarding the great work his employees put on.

### **2) Bus/Train Trips**

- Jim East sold out his Amtrak trip to NYC and is now planning on holding another one to be held in early December and will include a trip to Radio City Music Hall (watch for details).
- A busload of railfans and spouses enjoyed a warm sunny weekend of railfan activities in the southern tier and Pennsylvania. We stopped for breakfast on the Tioga Central, went to a coal mine tour in Scranton, had a special tour of the Steamtown complex, and rode on the West Shore RR in Lewisburg, PA. Everything went like clockwork and not a single trip was delayed.
- If anyone has any ideas for a bus or train trip and would like to organize it, let Mike Byrne (225-5659) or Bob Miner (671-3589) know. If you run a trip you get to ride for free!

### **3) Summer Fun Rail Excursions**

- Three weekends of long and sometimes very hot work allowed approximately 2600 people to enjoy train rides from Webster to East Williamson. I know I enjoyed being conductor one week and a parking attendant the following week. Tom Bauman sold out all his children RR hats on the first weekend, and Dave Luca and associates sold over 45 cases of soda pop!! We plan to run from Sodus to Newark in the fall and can use any type of help from anyone who is interested, it is a perfect way to help the chapter and

have fun. Call Bob Miner at 671-3589 if interested.

### **4) Publicity**

- We have been very fortunate to have a lot of cooperation from both the print and visual media this year. We were on the 6 p.m. and 11 p.m. Channel 13 News on Sunday, June 13 for our Summer Fun Weekends. Channel 10 gave us a 5 minute spot on Ray Lovato's Ten Country show at 6:25 p.m. June 1. Ray was kind to plug our Summer Fun trips and also report on a Charter of 363 children from School 46. The "Our Towns" section of Gannett's evening and morning newspapers gave us a front page plug in the NE section and page 12 in the SE section for our School 46 Charter. That was one of the largest articles we have ever seen done on us. The Weekend section of the Thursday, May 24 Times Union had a very nice 1/2 page article on Rand Warner that featured our Rochester and Genesee Valley RR Museum and also our train trips.
- WE have been very luck this year to have the assistance of the local media to help promote our activities, but this won't last forever. It is very important that we all become part of the promotion team of the chapter.

Use every opportunity you have to plug our events with your friends and neighbors, I briefly mentioned our Summer Fun trips to my next door neighbor and he brought 2 car loads of people out to ride! Feel free to make copies of any promotional information you see in the "Semaphore" and pass that around, I keep a pile of trip fliers in my car and drop them off at Model RR stores, malls, etc.

That's all for now, thanks for your help and have a great summer.

## **SPECIAL NOTICE!!!**

Chapter Member Stan Ames needs our help on a project he has undertaken. Stan will be presenting a clinic at the NMRA Convention being held in Pittsburgh in early August. Stan is in need of acquiring slides of B&O/C&O power in the Rochester area between 1955 and 1975 for his presentation. Any members that can help should contact Stan at 8 Higate Road, Chelmsford, MA 01824 (508)256-3062.

## TRIP COMMITTEE REPORT

-by Bob Miner

### Webster To East Williamson Spring Excursion

The trips were run on three Sundays in June. There were three round trips each day and the train went from the Hojack Yards in Webster to the siding in East Williamson. There were 2880 tickets available for the trips and 2573 were sold.

I would like to list the name of everyone who helped with the trips here in this report, but I would probably leave someone out. The people know who they are and they can take satisfaction in having helped bring a train ride to people who enjoyed it and revenue to the chapter. The Trip Committee thanks them all. We could not have done it without you.

On to the next rail excursions. The First Railfan Day on the Ontario Midland will be held on Saturday, September 22. Get your ticket orders in early so you don't miss out.

Second will be the Fall Foliage runs from Sodus to Newark. They will be on Sunday's, September 30, October 7, 14 and 21. Times will be 12 noon, 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. That is 12 trips, 3 each on 4 Sundays.

If you have recently joined our Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society, I would like to invite you to become involved in the passenger excursion side of the Chapter. We need a few good people to work on the coaches. This is an opportunity to learn what makes a passenger car tick. There is electrical work, brake work, plumbing, air conditioning and body work. If you are interested, see me or give me a call at 671-3589. Oh yes, I have a special work week day for retired and shift working members. Now we can work at the Oatka Depot on Saturday and work in Sodus on a weekday.

Would you like to be on the Trip Committee? We would like to have you join us in planning all our trips. The Trip Committee meets on the first Wednesday of each month. Get up, call now, 671-3589.

Again, thanks to all of you who helped make the "Spring Flings" go.

## THANKS TO

- Thanks to Bob Steele, one of our subscribers from Cottonwood, Arizona for his donation of Conrail Employee Timetables from the 1980's and Union Agreement booklets from Conrail in the 1950's for addition to our library. Bob also contributed a book on the history of the New York Central which has a personal memo written on the flyleaf by the then president of the New York Central in the 1920's, presumably addressed to a valued customer of the railroad. Anyway Bob, your contributions are really appreciated. (Dan Cosgrove)

## HISTORIAN NOTES

-by Keith Blackall

Back in the January 19, 1989 issue of The Semaphore - Vol. XXX No. 5, we ran an article by Phil Miller titled "Diesels in the Adirondacks". Recently Phil has submitted two related drawings titled "UM-1 vs. the Winter" and "A Meet at Birn Moose". In addition, Phil informs me that additional ones are on the way. Starting with the August issue, we will try to share these drawings along with a brief narrative, hopefully as an insert to the newsletter. (Dave Luca)

## DID YOU KNOW??

When you have your automobile greased, there are something less than a dozen grease nipples to deal with. When the National Museum of Science and Technology's ex-CP 4-6-2 No. 1201 gets a 'lube job', there are a mere 108 alemite fittings to deal with, not to mention the big-ends.

From the May 1990 BRANCHLINE of the prestigious Bytown Railway Historical Society, Inc. of Ottawa, PO, Canada.

# ROCHESTER CHAPTER - NRHS CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

## JULY

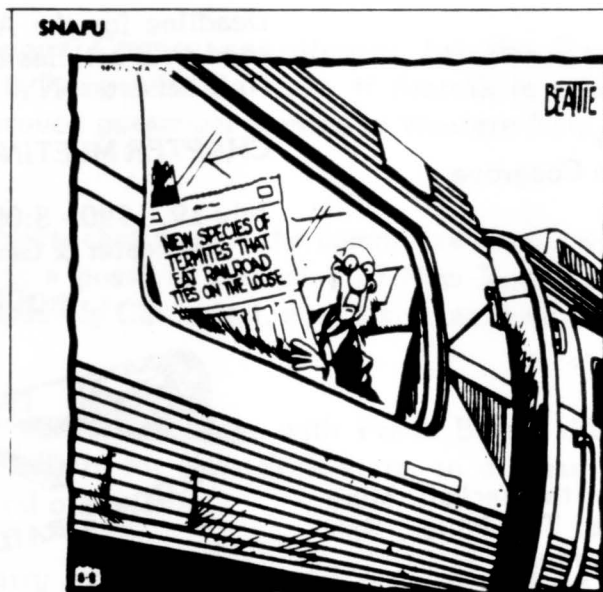
- 19 - Chapter Meeting - Oatka Depot
- 21 - Summer Work Session - Oatka Depot
- 28 - Summer Work Session - Oatka Depot

## AUGUST

- 2 - Trustees Meeting - Pine Falls
- 4 - Summer Work Session - Oatka Depot
- 11 - Steam Excursion (611 or 1218) - Buffalo, NY to Albion, PA and return - Niagara Frontier - NRHS
- 11 - Summer Work Session - Oatka Depot
- 16 - Chapter Meeting - Oatka Depot
- 18 - Steam Excursion (611 or 1218) - Erie, PA to Bellevue, OH (return by Diesel) - LSRHS
- 18 - Summer Work Session - Oatka Depot
- 25 - Summer Work Session - Oatka Depot

## SEPTEMBER

- 3 - Labor Day
- 6 - Trustees Meeting - 40&8 Club
- 9 - Chapter Picnic - Oatka Depot
- 22 - Railfan Extravaganza - Omid
- 30 - Fall Foliage Excursions - Omid



This cartoon was taken out of the Tower Topics Newsletter - June 1990.

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## THE SEMAPHORE

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ROCHESTER CHAPTER

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Vice President - Dave Luca  
Treasurer - Dan Tomlinson  
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Ron Amberger, Tom Bauman, Keith Blackall, Mike Byrne, Steve Huse, Dave Luca, Ted Miller, Bob Miner, John Redden and Rand Warner.

### SEMAPHORE DEADLINE:

Deadline for the August issue is July 30. Please send your articles to Dave Luca at 983 Winton Rd., N., Rochester, NY 14609.

### CHAPTER MEETING:

July 19, 1990 - 8:00 p.m.  
Rochester & Genesee Valley Museum

**ROCHESTER CHAPTER**

