

**NEXT MEETING:**  
**April 20**  
**Bob Zimmermann**  
 presents  
**"Cleveland 1975-1983"**



Our train pauses north of Switch 6 during our first Hands-on Training Day on April 8. Two more training days are scheduled for May 14 and June 10 to help volunteers get ready for the upcoming season of train rides. OTTO VONDRAK PHOTO

# All Aboard for Fun

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With winter snow retreating and temperatures climbing, it's time to get ready for another operating season at the museum.

We will have two scheduled hands-on training events on **May 14** and **June 10**. Jim Otto and Mark Wilczek will head up instruction for brakemen, conductors, and engineers. Otto Vondrak will coordinate orientation and training for Museum Guides and other non-train crew volunteers.

We have many projects in the works that will help the visitor experience overall. Everything from general clean up, to installation of new staircases, to the construction of new public areas, and more. We can always use your help if you want to get involved in any way.

Trip Chairman Dave Shields has put together a fun day trip to Buffalo to ride the NFTA Metro Rail and tour Buffalo Central Terminal on **May 6**. Tickets are only

available on-line from our web site. You can find details about the trip on page 6.

To all those who have volunteered in the past, I sincerely thank you for your service. To everyone else, please consider donating a few hours of your time this summer to help us ensure a smooth operation for our visitors. After all, we only get one chance to make a good first impression. The best advertisement for us is a happy visitor!

We had a very successful museum season last year. Your contributions will ensure our continued growth into the future.

What do you want to see at your museum in years to come? What ideas could we develop better? How can we grow? I want to hear from you... Please contact me at (716) 474-2833 or [mdow@rochester.rr.com](mailto:mdow@rochester.rr.com).

—Mike Dow,  
 Museum President



www.rgvrrm.org

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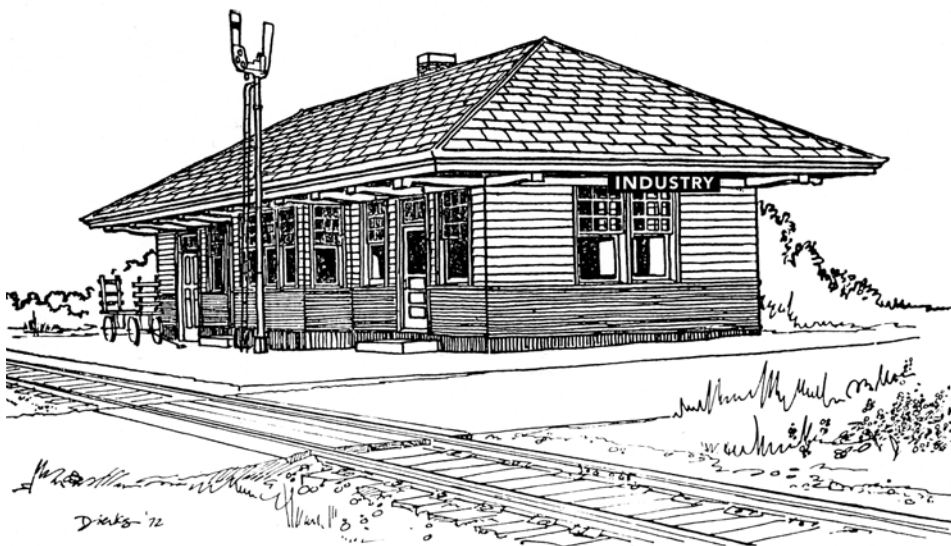
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2017 SCHEDULE

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

April 8 - Saturday Hands-On Training Day
April 15 - Easter Bunny Trains Special Event Day

May 6 - Buffalo Day Trip
May 14 - Sunday Hands-On Training Day
May 20 - Rails and Ales Special Event Day

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



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**MONTHLY PROGRAM**

Monthly meetings are held the third Thursday of every month at the 40 & 8 Club, 933 University Ave., Rochester, at 7:00 p.m. On **April 20, Bob Zimmerman** presents “Cleveland 1975-1983.” In the mid-1970’s, many of Penn Central’s old Alcos and F-units migrated from western New York to Cleveland, Ohio. On October 31, 1975, Amtrak inaugurated the *Lake Shore Limited*, providing service west of Buffalo. Cleveland has had an extensive rapid transit system, making it possible to travel from the Amtrak station to Collinwood Yard and other points of interest without a car. Take a look at early Conrail operations, plus Norfolk & Western, the industrial flats, Shaker Heights PCC’s, and the Airporter line, with a few surprises along the way.

**Meetings return to Industry Depot starting May 18.** Starting a half-hour earlier at 7:00 p.m., we will enjoy rides on our museum railroad following a brief business meeting. These events are FREE to attend, so bring a friend!

I am pleased to announced that **Devan Lawton** will be our presenter for the **November** meeting. I am looking for programs for our **September, October,**



**Adam Johnson (LEFT) and his son Tyler (CENTER) help Mike Guglielmo (RIGHT) load branches and debris for disposal during our Clean Up Day on April 1. Wind storms destroyed the shrink wrapping on the Pine Falls and caused minor damage elsewhere.**

and **December** meetings. If you have a program to present, please contact me. Thank you!

—Adam Lloyd, Program Chair

**80th ANNIVERSARY BANQUET**

Your museum celebrated its 80th anniversary in fine style at the River’s Edge Party House on March 18. Emcee **Otto Vondrak** welcomed more than 40 attendees to the banquet, and recapped the highlights from our museum’s first 80 years, from our start with railfan trips to our first steps into preservation and establishing the museum. President **Mike Dow** reviewed our accomplishments from 2016, while vice president **Dave Buckner** gave us a look at what’s in store for the coming year. Trustee **Dave Shields** updated everyone about our trips planned for this year to Buffalo and Scranton. Dave also arranged for a donation of six lanterns from **Star Headlight & Lantern** as door prizes at the banquet.

The annual Prestigious Fairmont Cup Award™ was presented to volunteer **Mike Guglielmo** by trustee Joe Nugent. The Fairmont Cup is awarded to a volunteer who routinely goes above and beyond what is expected in the service of our museum. Now a freshman at RIT, Mike has been volunteering at the museum since age 16, and was recently named our Shop Manager. He has spent the last year helping spearhead the project to organize our shop as well as performing general clean-up and

maintenance tasks around the property.

The Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to **Jim Johnson**. This award honors a museum member who has made more than 25 years of continuous contributions towards the improvement of our museum. Jim has quietly worked behind the scenes to help with everything from utilities installation and maintenance to making sure the trash cans are all “magically” emptied. Jim previously served on the Board of Trustees for many years as well.

Otto Vondrak presented the Golden Cupcake Awards as a way to recognize our under-appreciated and unsung heroes who perform important tasks to help our museum in many ways. Cupcakes were awarded to **Jeff Hagen** from CNY Chapter NRHS for repairing our toilets during the Fall Foliage Express, **Heather Dow** for helping to train new cashiers and keep the ticket desk in order, and to **Dave Peet** for his years of service to the board and the countless small tasks he tends to each day.

Our guest of honor was **Doug Eisele**, recently retired from a 30 year career with Genesee Valley Transportation. Many of our members may not realize how the growth of GVT began with the preservation of Lehigh Valley 211. Doug recounted the story of how the purchase, leasing, and later donation of LV 211 to the museum led to further opportunities to begin leasing and operating railroads under the GVT name. Doug took us on a tour of all the railroads



River's Edge Party House provided the venue for our 80th Anniversary Museum Banquet on March 18. ABOVE: We celebrated our 80th Anniversary with a fancy cake! ABOVE RIGHT: Dave Peet helps check in guests Joel Shaw and David Kaiser. Guests enjoyed a cocktail social hour prior to seating for dinner. RIGHT: The banquet was well-attended by museum members and guests alike.



operated by GVT, including the Depew, Lancaster & Western (DLWR), the Mohawk, Adirondack & Northern (MWA), the Lowville & Beaver River (LBR), the Delaware-Lackawanna Railroad (DL), and the Falls Road Railroad (FRR).

Thanks to everyone who made this special event a night to remember.

—Otto Vondrak

**RULES CLASS RECAP:  
RESPECT THE RAIL**

More than 50 volunteers attended our 2017 Annual Rules, held at the 40&8 Club on March 25. Our volunteers filled nearly every seat, and there was a great sense of camaraderie among everyone in attendance. **Dave Scheiderich** taught the majority of the class, including Safety, Op-

erations, Train Handling, and Air Brakes. **Otto Vondrak** also taught a brief summary of best practices for customer service. Everyone passed with flying colors, and we're excited to welcome aboard more trained volunteers this season.

Personally, I am afraid of being more than ten feet off of the ground. One day my friend noticed how scared I looked working on a fifteen-foot ladder. From the ground, he called up to me not to be afraid of heights, but to respect them. Easy for him to say standing on the ground! However, that lesson stuck with me, and it is the same way I am learning to view the equipment at our museum; with respect. Each piece of rolling stock and machinery can be dangerous if you are not acting in a safe manner. As a new member, I'm glad to have taken

part in this essential training. The annual rules class is just one way we remind our volunteers to have a healthy respect for the rules and maintain a safe environment at the museum.

—Branden Hummer,  
Communications Intern

**BOTTLES AND CANS  
(JUST CLAP YOUR HANDS)**

As you may know, your museum has a program of redeeming bottles and cans with the proceeds benefiting the museum. **Tony Mittiga** had taken care of this task for years, but he has retired and I have stepped in to help. I have a request that will help the museum: Please, please, do not in any way crush or otherwise mutilate the aluminum beverage cans. They are



not accepted by the recycling center and are thrown out. Thanks to those who have added their personal returnables to the pot, every contribution helps. (By the way, as a non-profit organization, we get six cents per can or bottle.) If you have any questions please contact me at [bobachilles@aol.com](mailto:bobachilles@aol.com) or (585) 421-0876.

—Bob Achilles

**WELCOME NEW SNACKMASTER  
JOHN GUGLIELMO**

You know those snacks and drinks we keep stocked in the depot for our volunteers? They didn't appear by magic, **Dave Peet** kept up the inventory for many years. A few months ago, Dave asked for some relief and new volunteer **John Guglielmo** stepped up to assume the role of "Snack-

master" (a title invented just now by your Editor). John and his son Mike have been volunteering at the museum for a few years now, helping out in a variety of roles. John will do his best to keep the fridge full with drinks and water, and keep snacks in fresh supply. We ask that all volunteers make the suggested contribution to offset the cost so we can continue offering this benefit for everyone to enjoy.

**BR&P CABOOSE UPDATE**

The past four weeks were crazy. In the span of just a few days, a vicious wind storm and winter storm Stella battered Rochester. Despite the severe weather, progress continued on BR&P No. 280.

These past few weeks, **Charlie Marks** and his team finished framing out the

wooden corners of the caboose body. A few warmer days allowed volunteers to apply synthetic sealant along areas of the frame most susceptible to water damage. With spring on the horizon, Marks and his team plan on dedicating their full effort to installing trim pieces along the cupola and roofline. All this hard work is preparing the BR&P No. 280 to rejoin the rest of the museum's fleet outside the restoration shop.

Charlie is completing the last of the roof repairs to prepare for the installation of a new membrane roof. The synthetic rubber compound used in membrane roofing is designed to be long-lasting and effective. Our museum's equipment needs to be weather-tight, and membrane roofs seem to provide the durability and longevity that will be needed to keep the caboose in good



**ABOVE LEFT:** Museum member Dave Monte Verde won one of the six railroad lanterns donated by Star Headlight & Lantern as prizes for our banquet. Star is headquartered in Avon, right down the road from our museum. **ABOVE:** Mike Guglielmo was awarded the Prestigious Fairmont Cup Award™ for outstanding volunteer contributions to the museum in 2016. Mike is a freshman at RIT currently studying computer science and hopes to go into railroad signal design after college. **LEFT:** Guest speaker Doug Eisele (see here with his wife Dyan) is no stranger to Rochester's railroads. His presentation took us through his 30-year career with Genesee Valley Transportation, operator of several shortlines in New York and Pennsylvania.



**RIGHT:** Annual Rules Class was held on March 25 at the 40&8 Club with more than 50 volunteers in attendance! Thanks to Dave Scheiderich for teaching the three sections related to Safety, Operations, and Train Handling & Air Brakes. **MIDDLE:** Your museum had a booth at the Greenberg Train Show at the Dome Arena in Henrietta, N.Y., on April 1-2. Jeremy Tuke, Don Warwyzniak, Dave Shields, and Dave Kehrer helped man the booth on Sunday. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** April 8 was our first Hands-On Training Day for train crew volunteers, including car hosts, brakemen, conductors, and engineers. The class was taught by Jim Otto and Mark Wilczek, with assistance from Ray Howard and Otto Vondrak.



shape. A local contractor has put together a proposal to install a membrane roof on the BR&P and NYC wood cabooses at the same time for one low price.

The BR&P No. 280 restoration project and others like it are crucial to preserving railroad history for generations to come. You can usually find Charlie working on the caboose most Saturday mornings. If you are interested in helping with this unique rebuild, please don't hesitate to get involved!

—Branden Hummer

**RIDER FLATCAR UPDATE**

Rob Burz and his construction crew have made considerable progress on the roof rafters, as well as the ends of the car. **Wayne McIntyre** and **Ron Conrad** are two new volunteers from the Wayland area who have joined the Saturday morning crew.

The entire team is working towards having the car ready for road testing in July, so that any bugs are worked out before our big event featuring steam locomotive Viscose No. 6 this August.

**BUFFALO DAY TRIP  
MAY 6**

Trip chairman **Dave Shields** has organized a special day trip to explore two important pieces of Buffalo transportation history on Saturday, May 6. The trip will depart from our museum parking lot at 9:00 a.m. sharp where we will travel via deluxe motorcoach to Buffalo. We will ride the **Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority's Metro Rail** line, the only light rail transit operation in the state. Following our end-to-end ride, we will tour the NFTA shops located in the old Lackawanna train shed. Following the tour, we will break for





Long-time member Duncan Richards presented "Rochester Post Conrail Split" at our March meeting. The show featured colorful scenes around the Rochester area showcasing operations immediately after CSX acquired the half of Conrail that ran through our city. It was hard to believe that some of the photos were taken 20 years ago.



lunch at a downtown restaurant across from the shops (on your own).

After lunch, we will be the guests of the **Central Terminal Restoration Corp.** for a special private tour of **Buffalo Central Terminal**. Built in 1929 by the New York Central, the last Amtrak train departed in 1979, and Conrail moved their dispatching offices out the following year. CTRC has been working since 1997 to stabilize the property and find a responsible partner for development. Following the tour, we will return via motorcoach to the museum.

Only 50 seats available for this special railfan day trip! Tickets are **\$80.00 per**

**person** (\$75.00 for museum members), and can be purchased from our web site at [www.RochesterTrainRides.com](http://www.RochesterTrainRides.com).

**RAILS AND ALES  
MAY 20**

The craft brew movement is sweeping the nation. According to the New York State Brewers Association, new breweries grew from just 95 in 2011 to more than 240 in 2015! As part of this growth, the Rochester area is home to scores of new breweries with their delicious and unique craft beers. Your museum is hosting **Rails and Ales** on Saturday, May 20. Enjoy tastings

from several local craft brewers including 810 Meadworks, Iron Tug Brewing, OSB Ciderworks, Swiftwater Brewing, Blue Toad Hard Cider, Triphammer Bierwerks, Rootstock Ciderworks, Rail Head Brewing, and the Upstate New York Homebrewers Association. City Newspaper is our media sponsor.

Join us for this exciting new event! Refreshments available for purchase, with free soft drinks for designated drivers. Age 21 and over only. Tickets are \$20.00 for Tasting Tickets, \$15.00 for Designated Drivers. Advance tickets are available now at [www.RochesterTrainRides.com](http://www.RochesterTrainRides.com).

**Saturday  
May 20  
12:00-5:00**

**RAILS  
and  
ALES**



Enjoy fun train rides and sample from great local craft brewers! 21 and over only.

**\$20.00 Tasting Ticket, \$15.00 Designated Driver**

**Get tickets at [www.RochesterTrainRides.com](http://www.RochesterTrainRides.com)**





**THE SEMAPHORE**  
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Find us on Facebook! [facebook.com/rgvrrm](https://www.facebook.com/rgvrrm)



**FIRST LOOK AT THE SUN:** The open-air flatcar project gets its first look at the sun during some switching moves made on April 9. Built on an old 40-foot Army flatcar acquired from the Lowville & Beaver River Railroad, this open air car will be carrying visitors on our museum railroad this summer.