

THE SEMAPHORE

NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCHESTER & GENESEE VALLEY RAILROAD MUSEUM

VOL. 62 NO. 6
JUNE 2019

NEXT MEETING:
June 20
ALL ABOARD!
Enjoy a ride on
your museum railroad!



A little rain didn't dampen the enthusiasm of our visitors during our annual Father's Day Train Rides! Thanks to Regional Transit Service for loaning their restored 1956 GM Transit Bus for display throughout the weekend. PHOTO BY OTTO M. VONDRAK

Peak Performance

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While we dodge the raindrops, we've enjoyed a very successful spring season, with sold out events including Easter Bunny Train Rides, Rails & Ales, and our new Vintage Rails Wine Tasting. Looking forward to the summer, we have our Fathers Day Weekend Train Rides on June 15-16, our new Princesses & Superheroes Train Rides on July 27-28, and the return of steam locomotive Viscose Co. no. 6 on August 17-18 and 24-25.

We currently have three caboose projects inside the Restoration Shop that are making tremendous headway towards completion. Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburgh is getting a new rubber membrane roof. New windows and fresh interior paint will help complete the multi-year restoration as we prepare this car for museum service once again. New York Central 19877 is also getting a new rubber membrane roof as well as some mechanical check-up. The

interior walls of Lehigh Valley 95100 are complete, allowing the crew to turn to other restoration tasks.

Our Tuesday Night Track (TNT) Gang has been engaged in a program of tie replacement through the Hill Block, and around Switch No. 5. Meanwhile, our Construction Dept. has been clearing the right of way to prepare for better drainage ditches from Midway to Switch 6.

Many volunteers put forth tremendous effort each season to keep us running. Not an easy feat for the largest operating railroad museum in New York State. As always, we can use your help. It's not all heavy lifting, and every contribution helps.

I always welcome your feedback on how we can make our museum better. Please email me at ovondrak@yahoo.com or call me at (585) 820-2341.

—Otto M. Vondrak,
Museum President



www.rgvrrm.org

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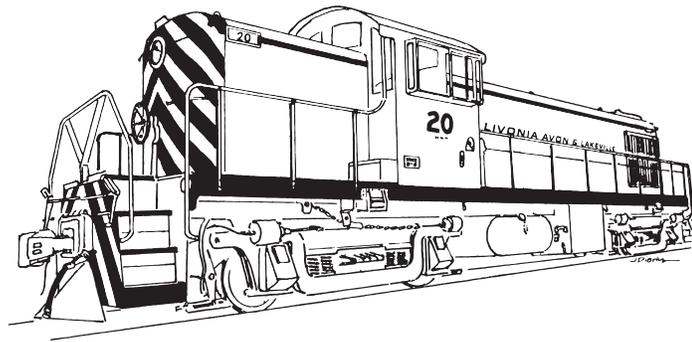
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2019 SCHEDULE

Subject to change. Visit RochesterTrainRides.com for details.

June 15-16 - Fathers Day Train Rides

July 27-28 - Princesses & Superheroes

August 17-18 - Real Steam Train Rides

August 24-25 - Real Steam Train Rides

Sept. 21 - Oktoberfest Rails & Ales

Sept. 22 - Ciderfest Rails Train Rides

Sept. 28-29 - Military Salute Train Rides

Oct. 12-13 - Pumpkin Patch Train Rides

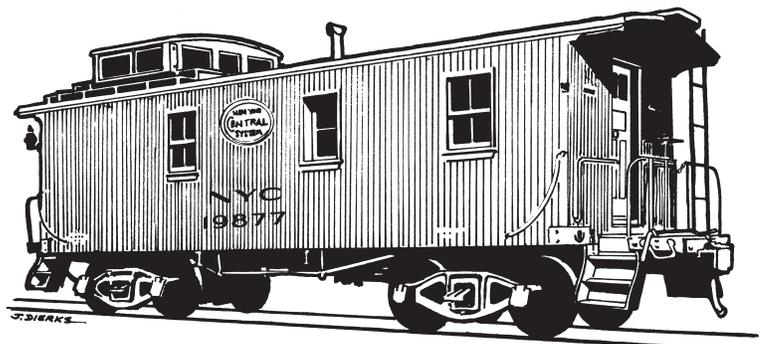
Oct. 19-20 - Pumpkin Patch Train Rides

Oct. 26-27 - Pumpkin Patch Train Rides

Nov. 30 - Santa Trains to the North Pole

Dec. 7- Santa Trains to the North Pole

Dec. 14 - Santa Trains to the North Pole



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MONTHLY PROGRAM

Meetings return to Industry Depot starting **June 20**. 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 **July 18**, and **August 16**.

All museum meetings are FREE and open to the public. Please bring a friend and help spread the word about our museum.

—John Stewart, Program Chair

TASTING EVENTS SELL OUT

For the third year in a row, your museum enjoyed sold-out success for its popular Rails & Ales craft beer tasting event held on Saturday, May 18. More than 400 visitors enjoyed samples from fourteen local vendors including 810 Mead Works, OSB Ciderworks, RailHead Brewing, West Shore Brewing, Roc Brewing, Rising Storm Brewing, Sager Beer Works, Stoneward Brewing, Lost Borough Brewing, Blue Toad Hard Cider, Honeoye Falls Dis-



The Tuesday Night Track Gang has been busy replacing ties in the Hill Block through the month of June. Work will continue throughout the summer. New volunteers are welcome!

tilling, Brindle Haus Brewing, Fifth Frame Brewing, and K2 Bros. Brewing. Thanks to all of our vendors who made our event a success!

On Sunday, May 19, you museum hosted its first ever Vintage Rails Wine Tasting, featuring locally produced wine and spirits. More than 300 visitors enjoyed samples from Arbor Hill Winery, 810 Mead Works, A Gust of Sun Winery, Honeoye Falls Distilling, Deer Run Winery, Schwenk Wine Cellars, Agness Wine Cellars, and Embark Craft Ciderworks.

We are looking forward to hosting our second annual Oktoberfest Rails & Ales on September 21, and our first ever Ciderfest hard cider event on September 22. Stay tuned for developments!

—Otto M. Vondrak, Visitor Ops. Supt.

**FATHERS DAY TRAIN RIDES
JUNE 15-16**

Celebrate Fathers Day Weekend with FREE train rides for Dad (with additional paid child or adult fare)! Enter our historic 1909 Erie Railroad train station and purchase your ticket from the friendly agent inside. You will be welcomed by friendly volunteers as you enjoy your ride aboard our restored vintage trains. Enjoy our special exhibit of a 1956 GM Transit Bus restored by volunteers at Regional Transit Service. See our progress on the restoration of Rochester Subway Car 60! Trains depart every half-hour from Industry depot between 10:00am-4:00pm. Adults (18+) \$12.00, Youth (5-17)/Seniors (65+) \$10.00,

Fathers ride FREE (with additional paid child or adult fare)! Visit www.RochesterTrainRides.com for details.

**PRINCESSES & SUPERHEROES
JULY 27-28**

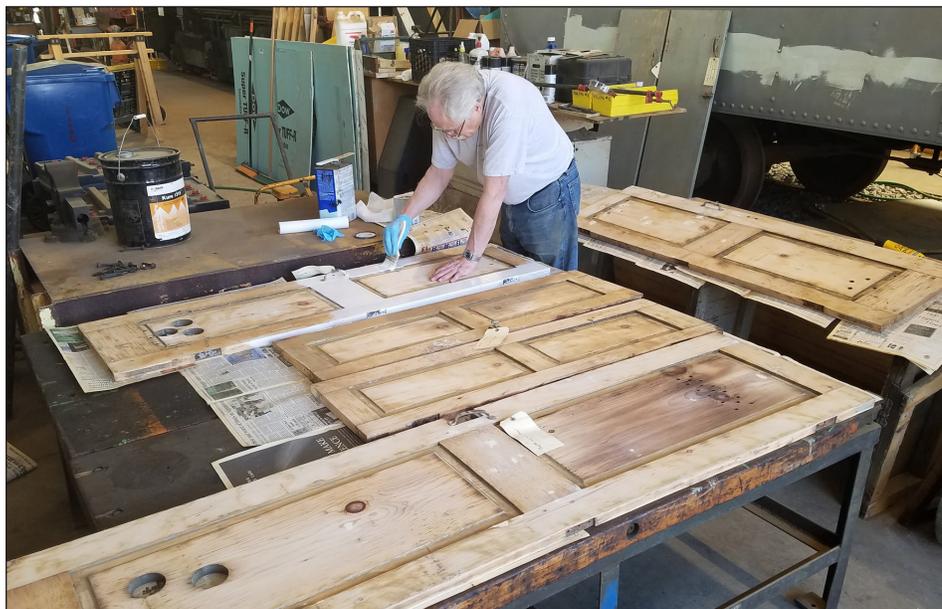
Children come dressed as their favorite characters and meet real princesses and superheroes (thanks to Enchanted Princess Parties of Rochester) while they enjoy fun train rides and other activities. Ice cream treats will be available for purchase from JoJo's Cool Bus, and a bounce castle is being provided by Air Affair of Rochester. Trains depart every half-hour from Industry depot between 10:00am-4:00pm. Adults (18+) \$12.00, Youth (5-17)/Seniors (65+) \$10.00. Visit www.RochesterTrainRides.com for details.

**ONLY 15 TICKETS LEFT FOR
JULY 19-21 WEEKEND RAILROAD
TOUR OF ALTOONA, PENNSYLVANIA**

There's only 15 seats left for our special Weekend Railroad Tour of Altoona from July 19 through 21, including visits to the **Railroader's Memorial Museum, Horseshoe Curve National Historic Landmark**, an **Amtrak** ride from Altoona to Johnstown around Horseshoe Curve, a tour of **Curry Rail Services** located in the old PRR Hollidaysburg Car Shops, a visit to **Allegheny Portage Railroad National Historic Site**, a ride behind ex-Bath & Hammondsport steam locomotive no. 11 at the **Everett Railroad**, a visit to and rides at the **Rockhill Trolley Museum**, and a tour



LEHIGH VALLEY
95100



LEFT: Volunteer Chuck Whalen has been sanding and priming the interior closet doors, preparing them for reinstallation.

BELOW LEFT: With interior walls complete, attention now turns to the closet spaces inside the caboose. Volunteer Joe Steimer uses a needle scaler to remove paint from the lavatory walls.

BELOW: Volunteer Bill Marcotte made a cardboard template to use as a cutting guide to fabricate a new smokestack cap.



of the shops at the **East Broad Top Railroad** PLEASE NOTE: *You must make your own arrangements for lodging and food.*

Get on board! See the complete trip itinerary and reserve your tickets on-line at RochesterTrainRides.com.

—Dave Shields, Trip Chairman

**REAL STEAM TRAIN RIDES
RETURN THIS AUGUST**

We are excited to announce that Scott Symans and the Visco 6 will return to our museum this summer. Real Steam Train Rides will operate on August 17-18 and 24-25. Trains will operate on a special 45-minute schedule over an extended ride north of Midway, thanks to a special track rental compensation agreement with New York Museum of Transportation. We will be pur-

chasing water and coal supplies soon, and making other preparations for the event. Look for event details to be posted soon.

—Otto Vondrak

CABOOSE ROOFING PROJECTS

The roofing contractor is fabricating some metal for the edges to finish the installation on the Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburgh caboose roof. Jeremy Tuke has finished some more interior painting and started attaching the inside window moldings that hold the windows in place. Charlie Marks and Dave Peet purchased lumber to start repairs to the New York Central caboose roof. The old roof covering has been torn off, and many boards were rotten in the cupola roof. Also some drip edge boards along the edge where the roofing

has to be attached were rotten. We expect both roof projects to be completed by the end of July. —Charlie Marks, Project Mgr.

**LEHIGH VALLEY
CABOOSE 95100 UPDATE**

Volunteers Joe Steimer and Bill Bachmann have finished rebuilding the main interior walls and are moving onto the closet and bathroom areas. Chuck Whalen continues with his efforts painstakingly preparing the interior cabinet doors, bunks, and other interior fixtures for refinishing. Sam Rosenberg has been completing crud removal from the undercarriage areas and is preparing the exterior facing portions of the trucks for an application of black paint. Once we're done generating dust and contaminants in the undercarriage area, and we

have a coat or two of paint on the trucks, we'll be cleaning out and inspecting the journals and bearings.

Volunteer Bill Marcotte has been working on end window frame sheet metal repair, reconstructing the roof walk ends, ladder hoops, a new stove smokestack cap, and other items hacked off by Conrail in the 1970s. Bernie Beikirch, owner of sister car LV 95037, has assisted our efforts by creating templates of the missing ladder hoops, sourcing grab irons, and providing the construction details we'll need for rebuilding the stove pipe and smoke deflector.

—Sam Rosenberg, Project Mgr.

COLLECTIONS MANAGEMENT

The Collections Management Committee has been meeting to discuss and evalu-

ate the museum's listing of equipment and other assets including the library, photos and negatives, and other archival materials. The committee has specifically been reviewing some of our railroad equipment in light of our current focus, restoration capabilities, level of volunteer engagement, and responsible equipment management and conservation. The Committee has made a recommendation to the Board of Trustees that R&GV consider making the Lackawanna electric multiple-unit car 2428, former Pennsylvania Railroad Pullman-lounge *Pine Falls*, and the Burro Model 40 Crane available to other organizations with the resources and capabilities to restore and possibly put these pieces to good use.

The Burro Crane is simply not a useful asset to the museum, we have no qualified

operators if it were to be fully reassembled, and we frankly have not found a need for such a piece of equipment in the 20 years it has been on the property.

In spite of applying shrink-wrap to the Lackawanna m.u. car and *Pine Falls*, the covering has failed on both. The roof of the Lackawanna m.u. car requires repairs beyond our means, and the *Pine Falls* has also become a restoration undertaking that the museum is frankly not capable of proceeding with, based on current financial, shop, and volunteer capabilities.

We feel that if there is an organization that can provide a better home for these items, then it is our duty to seek options to keep any further deterioration from happening. Our primary mission of preservation is to be good stewards for the items placed in



**RAILS
and
ALES**

ABOVE: Happy visitors enjoying the sunshine and great local craft beer at Rails & Ales on May 18. The event was completely sold-out.

ABOVE RIGHT and RIGHT: Your museum hosted its first ever Vintage Rails Wine Tasting on May 19. More than 300 visitors enjoyed samples of local wine, spirits, and cider.



**Vintage
RAILS
WINE TASTING**

our trust, and prevent further deterioration. We have also engaged outside third-party professionals to help us make assessments of our collection so we can choose the best path forward. Please contact me if you have any questions.

—Jeremy Tuke,
Chairman Collections Mgt. Committee

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Perhaps you noticed our please for help listed here and in our weekly emails. Some of the jobs might not sound glamorous but they help keep your museum running. What if we can't fill these jobs? In the worst case scenario, it means that certain tasks just won't get done.

It's not easy maintaining the largest and only operating railroad museum in New York State. Some roles we are trying to fill are listed on page 7. There's many other ways you can help, too. Just a few hours a month makes a difference. Reach out to any Trustee or Department Supt., tell us how we can improve, tell us what we can do better. But please, reach out.

—Otto M. Vondrak, President

**JULY TRUSTEES MEETING
RESCHEDULED TO JULY 11, 2019
ON ACCOUNT JULY 4 HOLIDAY**

2019 R&GV Priority Projects

The following priority projects have been approved by the Board of Trustees, effective January 15, 2019. These projects are considered essential to the growth and success of our museum. To contribute, please contact the project manager listed below.

- 1. South Fill Surface and Drainage**
—Scott Gleason, Mgr.
- 2. Track 9 South Extension**
—David Kehrer, Mgr.
- 3. RPO and Baggage Car Roof**
—Otto Vondrak, Mgr.
- 4. Complete Repairs to RG&E 8**
—Joe Nugent, Mgr.
- 5. Complete Caboose LV 95100**
—Sam Rosenberg, Mgr.
- 6. Complete Caboose BR&P 280**
—Charlie Marks, Mgr.

PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD

Buffalo Division Timeable

Effective November 2, 1930

(READ DOWN)		Dist.	Rochester Branch		(READ UP)	
9334 Week Days	9332 Daily		STATIONS		9333 Week Days	9335 Daily
P M	A M		Leave	Arrive	A M	P M
g 4 40	8 00	.0	Rochester N. Y.		g 11 20	7 45
f 5 06	8 26	12.4	Scottsville, N. Y.		f 10 55	f 7 16
f 5 29	f 8 49	23.8	Fowlerville, N. Y.		f 10 33	f 6 54
f 5 40	9 00	29.2	Piffard, N. Y.		f 10 22	f 6 43
5 48	9 08	33.9	Cuylerville, N. Y.		10 15	6 36
5 57	9 17	36.8	Mt. Morris, N. Y.		10 07	6 28
6 06	9 26	40.6	Sonyea, N. Y.		10 00	6 20
f 6 17	f 9 36	45.2	Tuscarora, N. Y.		f 9 48	f 6 04
f 6 24	f 9 42	48.3	Arrive	Nunda Junction, N. Y.	Leave	9 42
6 31	9 54	50.6	Arrive	Nunda, N. Y.	Leave	9 36
6 32	9 59	Leave	Nunda, N. Y.	Arrive	9 35
6 39	10 06	48.3	Leave	Nunda Junction, N. Y.	Arrive	9 28
7 03	10 29	57.5	Portageville, N. Y.		9 07	5 11
.....	f 10 34	58.8	Ambluco, N. Y.		f 5 05
7 15	10 42	63.8	Rossburg, N. Y.		8 54	4 58
7 23	10 50	67.7	Fillmore, N. Y.		8 46	4 48
7 31	10 58	71.9	Houghton, N. Y.		8 37	4 39
7 38	11 13	74.9	Caneadea, N. Y.		8 30	4 32
.....	f 11 16	76.5	Oramel, N. Y.		f 8 25	f 4 27
7 48	11 23	78.4	Belfast, N. Y.		8 20	4 22
f 7 57	f 11 32	82.3	Rockville, N. Y.		f 8 12	f 4 13
f 8 05	f 11 40	86.2	Black Creek, N. Y.		f 8 05	f 4 06
8 17	12 00	90.9	Cuba, N. Y.		7 55	3 56
f 8 34	f 12 17	98.5	Hinsdale N. Y.		f 7 40	f 3 40
g 8 45	12 30	105.4	Arrive	Olean, N. Y.	Leave	g 7 30
P M	P M				A M	P M

✕ -Will not run Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, Memorial or Independence Holidays.

f Stops only on signal or notice to Agent or Conductor to receive or discharge passengers.

g Gas-Electric Car.

k Saturdays only.

w No baggage service.

s Daily except Saturdays and Sundays.

Not Responsible—The Pennsylvania Railroad is not responsible for errors in time tables, nor for inconvenience or damage resulting from delayed trains or failure to make connections. The schedules shown herein are subject to change without notice.

The Time from 12.01 A. M. to 12 o'clock, noon, inclusive, is indicated by light-face type; from 12.01 P. M. to 12 o'clock, midnight, inclusive, by heavy-face type.

Passenger service on the Pennsylvania Railroad's Rochester Branch was reduced in the 1930s to one daily steam-powered train, and a gas-electric car that ran on weekdays only (which in prewar days meant every day except Sunday). In 1937, the Pennsy petitioned to discontinue daily Train 9332/9335 citing reduced patronage and increased cost (See April 2019 issue of THE SEMAPHORE). The railway post office was discontinued on April 23, 1937, and the last passenger trains operated July 4. "Mixed Train" passenger service on the PRR Rochester Branch ended on April 26, 1941.



ABOVE and ABOVE RIGHT: Volunteers stripped the old asphalt roof off New York Central caboose 19877 at the end of May, preparing for installation of new rubber membrane. Project manager Charlie Marks also replaced all of the wood boards in the cupola.

RIGHT: Dave Shields and Dave Luca are coordinating a project to replace the trucks on our New York Central railway post office "Alonzo B. Cornell" with rotating end-cap bearings. This car houses the generator for our excursion set.



HELP WANTED

- **Publicity Manager**
- **Ticketing Manager**
- **Gift Shop Manager**
- **Outreach and Development**

Would you like to see your museum continue to grow? Then we need members to volunteer for these important jobs. Training is available for all positions. Maybe you'll teach us something we don't know. One thing we do know is we can't do it alone. Don't assume someone else will do it. Please help.

To volunteer your time, please call (585) 820-2341.



ROCHESTER & GENESEE VALLEY
RAILROAD MUSEUM



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NEXT MEETING:

June 20

7:00 P.M. INDUSTRY DEPOT

PLAN AHEAD:

July 18

7:00 P.M. INDUSTRY DEPOT

Find us on Facebook! facebook.com/rgvrrm



Union Pacific officially debuted Big Boy 4-8-8-4 no. 4014 during a special event at Ogden, Utah. One of 11 locomotives built by Alco in 1941 and retired in 1961, the massive locomotive was displayed outdoors at the RailGiants Museum in Pomona, Calif. Reacquired by UP in 2014, 4014 underwent a multi-year rebuild and restoration to operation. No. 4014 led a special double-header with UP 844 from Cheyenne to Salt Lake City during the first two weeks of May. The Big Boy will power several excursions this summer as it tours the UP system. Visit www.up.com/steam for details. PHOTO BY OTTO M. VONDRAK