

NEXT MEETING:
Nov. 21
*Annual Elections and
 Members Slide Night*
Bring Slides to Show



We enjoyed beautiful weather for the Fall Foliage Express on October 5! The excursions departed Lakeville and ran round trip to Industry.

Election Special

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Just as we go to the polls in our communities in the month of November, our museum will be holding its annual elections at this month's membership meeting. **You'll find your official ballot on Page 5. Detach it from this newsletter, cast your vote, and mail it in before November 15.** Or, you can bring your ballot in person to the monthly meeting on November 21. Please take the time to cast your vote and make your voice heard.

I'd also like to remind you that your Board of Trustees is here to serve you. As president, my contact information is published in every issue. If you have a matter that you would like addressed by the board, please me so your item can be added to the agenda. Your Board of Trustees are also members at large, active in the growth and development of your museum.

As we wrap up another great regular season, we start preparations for our Santa Train Rides to the North Pole. Not only have all the rides sold out, but we'll be using one of our New York Central coach es as part of the expanded operation. We'll be seeking your help to make sure this event lives up to the expectations of the families who come to ride with us each year.

While the temperature might be dropping, volunteer activity is on the rise as we work on several important projects. Your museum is also making plans for the 2020 season. Where can we improve? 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 Board President



www.rgvrrm.org

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SALUTE TO VETERANS

ABOVE: Re-enactors from the Black Lions 2-28 Infantry Vietnam Living History Group helped coordinate two exhibits for our first "Salute to Veterans" weekend on September 28 and 29. The encampment at Industry featured World War II era tents and equipment.

LFFT: Volunteer engineer Sam Rosenberg (who also doubles as our Membership Chairman).

BELOW: Troops prepare to board the train for the ride up to the Upper Yard. Aside from a Vietnam era encampment, re-enactors also performed weapons demonstrations as well.



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VACANT

UPCOMING MONTHLY PROGRAMS

Meetings return to the 40&8 Club, 933 University Ave., Rochester, N.Y. Free parking is available in Greek Orthodox Church parking lot next door. Doors open at 7:00 p.m., brief business meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. followed by entertainment program. Cash bar available.

Our annual **Member's Slide Night** will be held the same night as our elections on **November 21**. While ballots are being counted, members are invited to present a show of their 20 favorite railroad slides or digital images. Slides should be placed in a carousel, digital images numbered sequentially on a USB thumb drive. Please RSVP if you would like to share images at the meeting.

On **December 19**, RIT student **Jackson Glozer** will showcase images portraying the modern operations of railroading in Rochester and surrounding areas; including CSX, Rochester & Southern, and Livonia Avon & Lakeville. **John Kucko** will be signing copies of his breathtaking 2020



ABOVE: Just some of the many volunteers who helped on the Fall Foliage Express, which operated three round trips between Lakeville and Industry on October 5.

calendar before the meeting. Copies will be available for purchase.

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

Your museum is seeking a new chairman for the Programs Committee. This person would coordinate with program presenters, and make sure audio-visual equipment is available and functioning for each meeting. If you are interested in volunteering, or would like to learn more, please contact Otto Vondrak at ovondrak@yahoo.com.

OKTOBERFEST AND CIDERFEST

Once again, the sounds of happy accordion music filled the air as your museum hosted another sold out Oktoberfest Rails & Ales on September 21. More than a dozen local craft breweries participated in the tasting event, with the vendors split between the big tent erected on the lawn at Industry, as well as inside the Restoration Shop and along Track 6 in the Upper Yard.

On September 22, we hosted our first ever Ciderfest, featuring several local distillers of hard cider. Nearly every train was sold out, and we look forward to hosting both events again next fall!

SALUTE TO VETERANS

Looking to add a new event to our calendar, your museum partnered with the **Black Lions 2-28 Infantry Vietnam Living History Group** to host our first "Salute to Veterans" event on September 28-29. During times of war, the railroads played a

vital role in the movement of supplies and troops. A World War II era encampment was made on the lawn at Industry Depot, while a Vietnam era encampment was pitched in the overlook in the Upper Yard. Visitors enjoyed the exhibits of tents and equipment as well as the weapons demonstrations throughout the day. As thanks, admission was free for all veterans and active duty military. We got a lot of positive feedback on this event, and we look forward to expanding it for next year.

2019 FALL FOLIAGE EXPRESS

Thanks to the cooperation of our friends at the **Livonia, Avon & Lakeville Railroad**, our 2019 Fall Foliage Express was a huge success, with more than 600 passengers riding three departures on October 5. Thanks also to the **Conesus Lake Sportsmen Club** in Lakeville for allowing us the use of their grounds to park cars and board passengers. Printing of our souvenir tickets and timetables were sponsored by three Lakeville businesses including **3 Legged Pig, OSB Ciderworks, and Rising Storm Brewing**. Thanks also to our many volunteers who helped check-in passengers, clean trains, serve snacks, punch tickets and welcome riders, and otherwise made the event special for everyone involved.

Special thanks also to trustee Dave Shields for coordinating the effort to swap the trucks on the mail car *Alonzo B. Cornell* that houses our generator for the excursion set. Working with Dave Luca, Bob Cowan, Peter Gores, and several other volunteers,

RIGHT: Families had a great time riding our trains, visiting our pumpkin patch, and enjoying the Lionel trains exhibit and the friendly petting zoo! This year's pumpkins were purchased from nearby Gro-Moore Farms.

BELOW RIGHT: Jack Pumpkinhead keeps watch over the railroad at Switch 6!

BOTTOM RIGHT: We hosted a meeting with SMART Local 46 Sheet Metal Workers apprentices last night to discuss fabrication and installation of the roof for Car 60 on October 24.

the car is now equipped with rotating end-cap bearings, which will allow for greater operational flexibility if the excursion cars ever travel off-line. The work was funded by a generous \$10,000 grant from the **John H. Emery Rail Heritage Trust**.

PUMPKIN PATCH TRAIN RIDES

Your museum hosted three weekends of popular Pumpkin Patch Train Rides on October 12-13, 19-20, and 26-27. **Spirit Wind Farms** provided a fun and friendly petting zoo for our visitors to enjoy at Industry Depot. Visitors were able to bring home truly great pumpkins from our Pumpkin Patch in the Upper Yard (which we purchased from **Gro-Moore Farms**). Complimentary cider and cookies were available in the Restoration Shop while visitors enjoyed the extensive Lionel display set up by the **Flower City Tinplate Trackers**. **Duke's Donuts** came out on October 19 for a special one-day promotion selling hot and fresh donuts throughout the day.

Cold and rainy weather plagued the first and last weekends of the event. Even with these challenges, your museum hosted record attendance as a finale to a very busy regular operating season.

SANTA TRAIN RIDES TO THE NORTH POLE

Your museum will be trying something different this year when we use one of our New York Central *Empire State Express* coaches to provide young children and their families a magical ride to the North Pole to meet Santa Claus! Trains will depart on November 30, December 7 and 14, at 2:30, 4:00, 5:30, and 7:00pm. After checking in at the ticket window, visitors will board the train at Industry and enjoy hot cocoa and caroling while waiting for departure. After a long and arduous journey across the Arctic Circle, the train arrives at the North Pole where visitors will disembark.





★ ★ ★ **OFFICIAL 2019 BALLOT** ★ ★ ★
ROCHESTER & GENESEE VALLEY RAILROAD MUSEUM

In accordance with Articles III and IV of the RGVRRM By-Laws, the Elections Committee has nominated candidates for election to fill the expiring terms. The names of those selected by the committee are listed below. Vote for candidates by placing an "X" in the appropriate box [].

Trustee Three-Year Term (Vote for TWO candidates)

[] Joe Nugent

[] David Shields

[] Write-In: _____

[] Write-In: _____

Trustee Two-Year Remainder Term (Vote for ONE candidate)

[] Adam Lloyd

[] Write-In: _____

Recording Secretary One-Year Remainder Term (Vote for ONE candidate)

[] David Kehrer

[] Write-In: _____

Corresponding Secretary One-Year Remainder Term (Vote for ONE candidate)

[] Jeremy Tuke

[] Write-In: _____

Elections will take place at the November 21, 2019 membership meeting at 7:30 p.m.
located at 933 University Avenue, Rochester, N.Y.
Please bring your ballot with you, or mail your ballot to:

RGVRRM Ballot, P.O. Box 23326, Rochester, NY 14692
MAIL YOUR BALLOT BY NOVEMBER 15

RGVRRM BALLOT
P.O. BOX 23326
ROCHESTER, NY 14692-3326

PLEASE
PLACE
POSTAGE
HERE



See other side for official 2019 ballot. Please bring your completed ballot to the November 21 meeting or mail your ballot by November 15 to make sure your vote is counted!

bark for their visit with Santa. After their visit, passengers board the train for the return trip to Industry.

Tickets went on sale October 25 and all trains sold out four days later. Volunteers are needed to help with decorations and other preparations at Industry, on the train, and at the North Pole. Please consider contributing a few hours of your time to help make this event a success.

TRACK 9 EXPANSION UPDATE

On November 2, volunteers dropped relay ties (donated by Genesee Valley Transportation) into position on the Track 9 extension behind the restoration shop, onto gravel ballast that was previously spread to provide a solid base. Sections of rail 33-ft. long were dragged into place and bolted

together in preparation for getting spiked down. Once completed, the extension will add about 120 feet of active storage that will allow us greater flexibility in managing our collection of railroad equipment. The goal is to complete construction and use the track for storage by the end of November as long as the weather holds up.

—Adam Lloyd, Project Mgr.

THE SEMAPHORE

Just as a reminder, your museum sends out printed copies of THE SEMAPHORE twice a year; once in November with the official ballot, and once in January with our Annual Report. Print subscriptions are available to members for an additional \$7.00 a year, please contact Membership Chairman Sam Rosenberg for details. Watch your mailbox for your membership renewal! —O.M.V.



All Trains Are SOLD OUT

**UPDATE
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.

- 1. South Fill Surface and Drainage COMPLETED SEPTEMBER 2019**
—Scott Gleason, Mgr.
- 2. Track 9 South Extension IN PROGRESS**
—Adam Lloyd, Mgr.
- 3. RPO and Baggage Car Roof COMPLETED SEPTEMBER 2019**
—Otto Vondrak, Mgr.
- 4. Complete Repairs to RG&E 8 ONGOING**
—Joe Nugent, Mgr.
- 5. Complete Caboose LV 95100 TARGET: APRIL 2021**
—Sam Rosenberg, Mgr.
- 6. Complete Caboose BR&P 280 TARGET: APRIL 2020**
—Charlie Marks, Mgr.



TOP LEFT: Jack Swanson, Pete Swanson, Mike Smith, and Duncan Richards muscle another tie into position for the Track 9 extension on the morning of November 2. The ties for this project were donated by Genesee Valley Transportation.

LEFT: Project manager Adam Lloyd uses the backhoe to pin a rail in place so it can be joined to the next piece.



THE SEMAPHORE
ROCHESTER & GENESEE VALLEY RAILROAD MUSEUM
P.O. BOX 23326
ROCHESTER, NY 14692-3326



NEXT MEETING:
November 21

933 UNIVERSITY AVE, ROCHESTER, N.Y.

PLAN AHEAD:
December 19

933 UNIVERSITY AVE, ROCHESTER, N.Y.

Find us on Facebook! facebook.com/rgvrrm



The public had a rare opportunity to venture inside the gates of Kodak Park for a special night photo session using former KPRR MP15 no. 10 on November 1. The event was part of the opening of a new exhibit of railroad photography in the gallery at the Kodak Visitors Center. PHOTO BY OTTO M. VONDRAK