

**NEXT MEETING:**  
**Dec. 19**  
*Railroad Photography  
 of Jackson Glozer and  
 John Kucko Calendar Signing*



Museum president Otto Vondrak waves a greeting from the dutch door as conductor David Kehrer keeps a watchful eye another run of the Santa Train to the North Pole departs Industry. This was the first time we used one of our New York Central coaches for the popular event. PHOTO BY NORM ISHLER

# Happy Holidays

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As we wrap up another great season at the museum, I'd like to first take the time to thank all of our members and volunteers. We have continued to grow our operation and make significant progress on several projects at the same time. While we have much to look forward to in the coming year, we will also face many new challenges as our museum continues to grow and evolve.

I hope you'll consider a donation toward the installation of a new steel roof on Rochester Subway Car 60. This is an important next step towards making the body stronger, allowing us to start planning the reconstruction of the window frames and car ends. Volunteers have prepped the roof supports for the installation of new steel by the local sheet metal workers union. For just \$160, you can become a "Partner in Panels" to help offset these costs (see page 6 for details).

Besides being home to one of the largest collections in New York State, the fact that we operate trains on a regular basis sets us apart. Not every organization is fortunate enough to have its own demonstration railroad to operate on. Our goal, as always, is to provide the best possible experience for our visitors, and to do it safely. You can be a part of that, whether you join our train crews, help out with the track gang, assist with repairs in the shop, welcome visitors to our museum, or simply lend your membership support. It all adds up, and we appreciate your help in any amount!

As we head into the new year, we are always looking for new volunteers to join us, and we're always looking for your ideas on how we can do better. Please email me at [ovondrak@yahoo.com](mailto:ovondrak@yahoo.com) or call me at (585) 820-2341.

—Otto M. Vondrak, Museum President



www.rgvrrm.org

**MUSEUM OFFICERS**

**President**

Otto M. Vondrak  
(585) 820-2341  
ovondrak@yahoo.com

**Vice President**

Peter Gores

**Treasurer**

Dave Peet

**Recording Secretary**

David Kehrer

**Corresponding Secretary**

Jeremy Tuke

**Trustees**

Rob Burz  
David Kaiser  
Adam Lloyd  
Joe Nugent  
David Scheiderich  
David Shields  
Mark Wilczek



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Otto M. Vondrak

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**LEHIGH VALLEY  
95100**

**TOP:** Volunteer Chuck Whalen has been sanding and prepping the interior wood surfaces getting them ready for primer and paint.

**LEFT:** Bill Marcotte fabricated new grab irons and welded them in place on the cupola.

**BELOW:** Joe Steimer, Bill Bachmann, and Bill Beikirch talk about next steps in the restoration of LV 95100. See page 7 for details.





**MUSEUM CONTACT INFO**

**MUSEUM PRESIDENT**

**Otto Vondrak**

(585) 820-2341 ovondrak@yahoo.com

**BUILDINGS & GROUNDS SUPT.**

**Charlie Marks**

(585) 637-4271 cmarks@frontiernet.net

**MECHANICAL SUPT.**

**Joe Nugent**

(585) 944-1047 joe.r.nugent@gmail.com

**OPERATIONS SUPT.**

**Frank Gough**

(585) 703-4476 fmgough34@gmail.com

**TRACK AND RIGHT-OF-WAY SUPT.**

**David Kehrer**

(585) 576-3843 dkehrer1@gmail.com

**CONSTRUCTION SUPT.**

**Scott Gleason**

(585) 406-6484 scottgleason88@gmail.com

**INTERIM PUBLIC RELATIONS SUPT.**

**Otto Vondrak**

(585) 820-2341 ovondrak@yahoo.com

**MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN**

**Sam Rosenberg**

ALC0251@frontiernet.net

**PROGRAM CHAIRMAN**

**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.

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

Museum member **Pete Swanson** will share his photos documenting Genesee & Wyoming and Rochester & Southern as they transitioned from sleepy short line to regional railroad in the mid-1980s on **January 16, 2020**.

On **February 20**, George Eastman Museum associate curator **Heather A.**



**TOP AND ABOVE:** Volunteers completed spiking and gauging on the Track 9 South Extension behind the shop by the end of November. Some additional work will be required in the coming months before this track can be used for active storage capacity. CHARLES LLOYD AND JEREMY TUKE PHOTOS

**Shannon** will discuss the role photography played in the race to lay tracks across North America in the 1860s.

**Chris Costello**, president of the Salamanca Railroad Museum, will share his personal efforts to preserve and restore **Erie Railroad business car No. 1** and a former Troop Sleeper on **March 19**.

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.

**ELECTION RESULTS**

All ballots were collected and counted at our regular monthly meeting held at the 40&8 Club on November 21, 2019. **Joe Nugent** and **David Shields** were re-elected to another three-year term as Trustee. **Adam Lloyd** was elected to fulfill the two-year remainder term vacated by Trustee John Stewart. **David Kehrer** was elected to fulfill a one-year remainder term as Recording Secretary, and **Jeremy Tuke** was elected to fulfill a one-year remainder term as Corresponding Secretary. At





RIGHT: The 2:30 Santa Train climbs the hill block on December 7. JACKSON GLOZER PHOTO

BELOW: The last few visitors are waiting their turn to see Santa Claus as wet slushy snow falls all around on December 14.

BELOW RIGHT: Operations Supt. and conductor Frank Gough with museum president and host Otto Vondrak. JOE STEIMER PHOTO

BOTTOM: The RIT Encore Acapella Singers entertained our visitors with a fine performance on December 7 and 14.



the December Trustee's meeting, **Mark Wilczek** was appointed to the board and will be up for election in 2020. I would like to thank committee members Chris Hausler, David Kaiser, and Don Wawrzyniak for their service.

—David Scheiderich,  
Elections Committee Chairman

**SANTA TRAIN SUCCESS**

Our regular museum operating season wrapped up on December 14 following three successful Saturdays of sold-out Santa Trains to the North Pole! More than 700 visitors joined us for a fun trip aboard New York Central coach 2571, originally built in 1941 for the *Empire State Express*. Jim Johnson and Dave Luca helped prepare the coach for movement from the West Siding,







as well as installing temporary electrical connections from the car to a gas-powered generator mounted on the deck of the locomotive. The generator provided power for lights and heat on board the coach.

This also marked the first time one of our coaches has been used for museum operations since May 2011. Our visitors had rave reviews for their experience aboard the coach, tastefully decorated by Frank Gough. Train crews seemed to like it too, as passengers were able to board and disembark much easier than with the cabooses. The atmosphere aboard the coach was warm and spirits ran high, thanks to the beautiful performance by the RIT Encore Acapella Singers throughout the day.

Visitors were entertained by Mrs. Claus and Zoe the Elf while they waited for their turn to visit with Santa Claus. Trains operated on a 90-minute schedule departing at 2:30, 4:00, 5:30, and 7:00 p.m. An extended layover was scheduled at the North Pole to allow for the increased capacity of the coach, and a 30-minute gap was scheduled between runs for crew breaks and train ser-



**ABOVE LEFT:** Volunteers Joe Steimer, Dave Avery, Dimitri Avery, Lisa Talty, Colleen Talty, John Talty and John Guglielmo.

**LEFT:** Conductor Charles Bell collects tickets as visitors board the train at Industry.

**BELOW LEFT:** Mrs. Claus, Santa Claus, and Zoe the Elf at the North Pole.

**BELOW:** Visitors enjoying a ride aboard our 1941 New York Central "Empire State Express" coach to the North Pole!





**RIGHT:** Volunteer Dale Hartnett uses a needle scaler to remove decades-old paint and rust from the formed ribs that will support the steel roof panels on Rochester Subway Car 60.

**BELOW RIGHT:** All of the roof ribs had been cleaned and primed by the beginning of December, clearing the way for workers from Sheet Metal Workers Union Local 46 to come in to assist with the installation of new roof panels. Your year-end donation will help make this project possible! Make your donation today at [rgvrrm.org/dontate](http://rgvrrm.org/dontate)

ving. While the extended schedule meant a slightly longer day for our volunteers, there was enough flex in the timetable to allow our crews to catch their breath before the next group of visitors arrived. Thanks to engineers Sam Rosenberg, Jerry Tusch, and Jeremy Tuke, as well as conductors Frank Gough, Dave Kehrer, and Charles Bell. Bill Marcotte, Joe Steimer, and Dave Avery were our car hosts. Dimitri Avery helped out behind the bar, along with new members Lisa Talty and her son John and daughter Colleen.

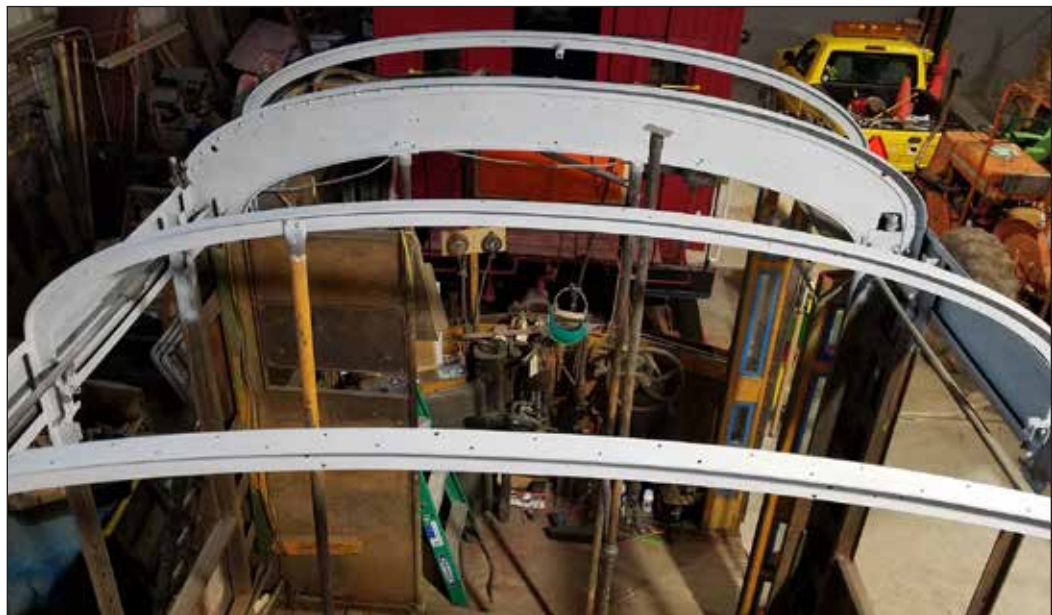
“Snackmaster” John Guglielmo was our expert hot cocoa chef, preparing batches of *chocolat chaud* at the depot ahead of each train departure. Thanks also to Tom Brazda and Dave Peet who helped keep things running smoothly in the ticket office. Many members contributed to our success, and we look forward to continuing this holiday tradition in 2020.

—Otto M. Vondrak, President

**“PARTNERS IN PANELS”  
FOR SUBWAY CAR 60 NEW ROOF**

Originally built in 1916 for Utica Railways, Rochester Subway Car 60 ran in the Rochester Subway from 1938 until the end of service in 1956. As the sole survivor of the Subway fleet, our goal is to complete a cosmetic restoration so that visitors can once again enjoy and learn from this important artifact of local history. The car requires significant repair of its original 1916 sheet metal components. A new letterboard was fabricated and professionally installed in 2016, and the lower portion of the side body panels were replaced in 2018. This year, we are raising \$3,000 to replace the roof panels, which are a major structural component of the car.

We will be working with **Sheet Metal Workers Union Local 46** and their apprentice program to install the roof panels this winter. All the roof ribs have been



cleaned and primed by our volunteers including Dave Luca and Dale Hartnett. The steel for the new roof panels has been ordered and will be cut and rolled in December 2019, with installation to take place in the weeks to follow. Rob Burz has coordinated the purchase of a new hot rivet gun to help with the install.

To date we have raised \$1,500 toward our \$3,000 goal. You can sponsor a panel for just \$160, though a donation in any amount will help move this important restoration project forward. All donations are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law. You can donate online at [rgvrrm.org/donate](http://rgvrrm.org/donate) or mail your check to P.O. Box 23326, Rochester, NY 14692-3326. Become a “Partners in Panels” today!

—Rand Warner, Project Manager

**MANAGER WANTED:  
ERIE STILLWELL COACH**

Our distinctive arch-window steel coach was one of a large number of coaches that made up the Erie Railroad’s commuter fleet. Built by Standard Steel Car. Co. of Hammond, Ind., in June, 1926, our car follows the distinctive design created by Lewis Buckley Stillwell, a pioneering electrical engineer and industrial designer who consulted for the railroads. After serving commuters for many years, coach 2328 eventually made its way into work train service until retired by Conrail and sent to scrap in 1982.

Our museum members identified the car in an Elmira scrap yard and paid to move it to Industry on its own wheels in 1985. In the mid-1990s, the side body panels below

the belt rail were replaced. In 2018, we received a grant to blast, prime, and paint the roof. Now we need a volunteer manager to come forward and help plot the course for the future of this car. It is our goal to return this coach to occasional operation on our museum railroad, and we have a donor waiting in the wings willing to assist. The project is currently stalled because we lack someone to help coordinate volunteer efforts to help us reach the next level. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact [ovondrak@yahoo.com](mailto:ovondrak@yahoo.com).

**LEHIGH VALLEY CABOOSE UPDATE**

Work continues on the restoration of Lehigh Valley caboose 95100. Repairs to the icebox have completed, and it has been moved back into its original position. All of the wooden interior walls have been reassembled. Attention now turns to the cupola, and the areas around the windows where there has been some water infiltration over the years. All wooden surfaces are being sanded down to prepare for the application of primer and paint. With the arrival of cold weather, the car has been sealed up so it can be heated while volunteers are at work. Joe Steimer, Bill Bachmann, and Chuck Whalen continue their interior work each week.

All journals have been inspected and cleaned out by Sam Rosenberg, removing traces of blasting media that had somehow worked its way into the journal box.

Conrail torched off a number of items when the caboose was cycled through their shops to comply with new FRA regulations of the time that prohibited employees from being on the roof of the car for any reason, including ladder hoops, roofwalk extensions, and rooftop grab irons. It was decided to replace these items, which were fabricated and welded in place by Bill Marcotte, with assistance from Bernie Beikirch.

Built in 1941 at the LV shops in Sayre, Pa., 95100 was acquired by the museum in 2011. Our goal is to return the caboose to service in 2021, reunited with LV 211 and our “new” LV boxcar! Donations in any amount will help us meet our goal.

—Sam Rosenberg, Project Mgr.

**MAIL AND EXPRESS, SECOND SECTION**

In 2019 we paid contractors to blast, prime, and paint the roof of our Lackawanna Baggage Car and our Pennsylvania Mail Car. The next steps are up to us. Soon to be

relocated in front of the depot and closer to the street, the Baggage Car needs some minor body repairs and a fresh coat of paint. Housing our growing and popular Signals exhibit, the Mail Car needs to have its primer coat completed and a fresh coat of paint applied. We need to start planning these projects during the winter so we can hit the ground running in the spring. The Baggage Car needs a project manager, David Kehrer is heading up the Mail Car project and is looking for extra hands. Are you willing to help out? These projects are a great opportunity to get your feet wet. Please contact [ovondrak@yahoo.com](mailto:ovondrak@yahoo.com) if you have questions or would like to get involved.

**STEAM EVENT COVERED IN NOVEMBER RAILPACE**

It recently came to my attention that local photographer Jackson Glozer published a very nice article about our August visit with Viscose 6 in the November 2019 issue of *Railpace Newsmagazine*. Jackson is a Spencerport native and a second year student at RIT, studying Imaging and Photographic Technology. We gave him permission to join the crew as they got ready for the day’s operations. “Steam in the Genesee Valley” features many photos of our operation, and the text explains the history of the locomotive and what it takes for our museum volunteers to put on a successful operation.

If you can’t find the November issue at your local store, visit [railpace.com](http://railpace.com), click on “Get Digital Edition Now!” and then click on the link for “November 2019.”

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND BEST WISHES FOR THE NEW YEAR**

Our museum has enjoyed another fantastic year of growth as we continue to serve more visitors with more events using more of our historic collection of trains! We’re looking forward to the coming year, and we’re excited to have you be a part of it. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, we would like to wish you all a very happy holiday season, and best wishes for the new year.

—Otto M. Vondrak, Museum President

**FOR THE LATEST NEWS AND PHOTOS, VISIT US ONLINE AT:  
FACEBOOK.COM/RGVRM  
FLICKR.COM/RGVRM**



**STEAMY SUBJECT:** November 2019 edition of Railpace has a great feature story about our steam operation with Viscose 6.

**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.





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



**NEXT MEETING:**  
**December 19, 2019**

933 UNIVERSITY AVE, ROCHESTER, N.Y.

**PLAN AHEAD:**  
**January 16, 2020**

933 UNIVERSITY AVE, ROCHESTER, N.Y.

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



The weather has just changed over from rain to slushy snow, quickly coating everything in sight. The 4:00 departure of the Santa Train to the North Pole is just getting ready to depart with another train sold out to capacity on December 14, 2019. See page 4 for details. PHOTO BY OTTO M. VONDRAK