

TV
OFFICIAL BALLOT INSIDE

SEMAPHORE

NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCHESTER & GENESEE VALLEY RAILROAD MUSEUM

VOL. 60 NO. 12
OCT.-NOV. 2017

NEXT MEETING:
November 16
ELECTIONS NIGHT
Devan Lawton presents
"Coast to Coast Railfanning"



Our Pumpkin Patch Train Ride is surrounded by beautiful fall foliage up near Midway station. Our 2017 event broke all previous records for single-day attendance, thanks in part to being featured on WHAM-13's "Good Day Rochester" with Ashley Doerzbacher the week previous. OTTO VONDRAK PHOTO

Record-Setting!

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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 13.** Or, you can bring your ballot in person to the monthly meeting on November 16. 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 I can add your item to the agenda. Your Board of Trustees are also members at large, active in the growth and development of your museum. If you're not comfortable talking to me, please reach out to one of them.

As we wind down our 2017 regular season, I am happy to report that both attendance and revenue are well above last year's totals. After a very successful October Pumpkin Patch Train Ride event, our total ticketed attendance stands at **6,664** (versus 5,678 for 2016 season)! Thank you to everyone who made this season a success, we look forward to increased growth next year with your help.

We have fun activities planned for this winter, including our annual Santa Train Rides to the North Pole. Keep an eye on our web site and Facebook pages for announcements! Do you have ideas for next year? I want to hear from you! Would you like to help out but you're not sure where to start? Please contact me at (716) 474-2833 or **mdow@rochester.rr.com**. I'd like to hear from you!

—Mike Dow
Museum President

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ROCHESTER & GENESEE VALLEY
RAILROAD MUSEUM

www.rgvrrm.org

MUSEUM OFFICERS

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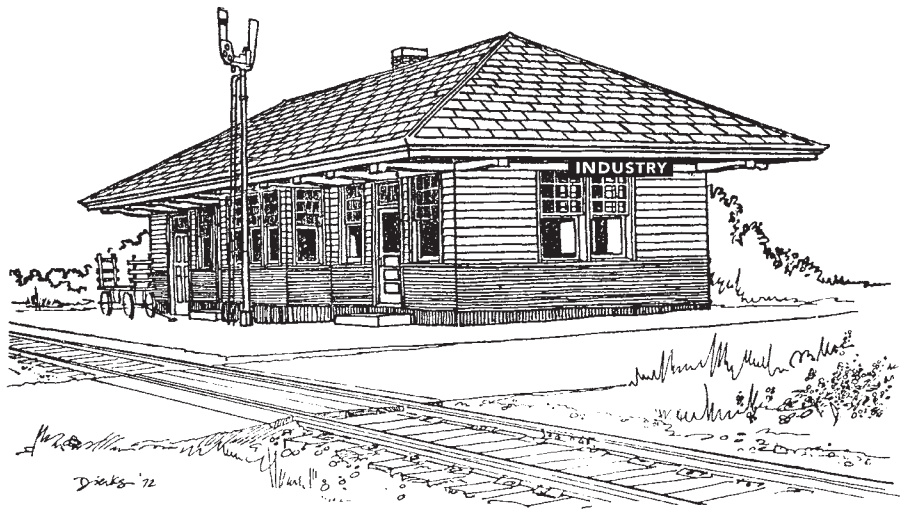
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2017 SCHEDULE

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

December 2 - Santa 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>

**Get tickets at schedules at
 RochesterTrainRides.com**



New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo joined local politicians for the dedication of the new Amtrak station in downtown Rochester on October 6. The first trains to use the new station were the eastbound and westbound Maple Leaf trains (New York-Toronto) that arrived nearly at the same time. The new station is served by two tracks surrounding a new island platform. OTTO VONDRAK PHOTO

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MONTHLY PROGRAM

Beginning in September, meetings return to the newly renovated 40&8 Club located at 933 University Ave. in downtown Rochester, across the street from Gleason Works (parking is available in the Greek Orthodox Church next door to 40&8). Doors open at 7:00 p.m., allowing you to browse our Museum Book Store prior to the meeting which starts at 7:30. A cash bar is available for refreshments.

On **November 16**, we welcome **Devan Lawton** presenting “Coast to Coast with Devan Lawton.” Since 1971, when Devan purchased his first 35mm SLR Nikon camera, he has been covering the railroad scene in North America and Europe. This evening he has pulled out photos from his slide collection taken within the continental USA and Canada for your viewing pleasure, spanning his 45 year career as a locomotive engineer and other duties. Enjoy the night and reminisce the “good ole days” to remember some of our favorite fallen flags.

Our next meetings will be **December 21, 2017**, and **January 18, 2018**, programs to be announced. These events are FREE to attend, so bring a friend! Please contact me with your suggestions for future programs



The 2017 Fall Foliage Express pauses at Industry Depot on October 7 to change ends for the return trip to Lakeville. Despite the gray, wet weather, all trains were sold out. DUNCAN RICHARDS PHOTO

so we can begin planning our meeting calendar for 2018.

—Adam Lloyd, Program Chair

FALL FOLIAGE EXPRESS

The 2017 Fall Foliage Express was a huge success, thanks to the work of many volunteers who contributed. Our Technicians including Jim Johnson and Mike Guglielmo ensured the generator was in top running condition, all electric systems checked out, and the PA system functioning. Our Mechanical Dept. Including Joe Nugent, Dave Luca, and Dave Shields made sure brake inspections were up to date and toilets were functioning. Our cleaning crews including Dave Buckner, Dave Peet, Chris Playford, Norm Shaddick, Dale Hartnett, and others made sure windows, floors, and seats were cleaned and sparkling before the train was shipped to Lakeville. Our Commissary Dept. headed up by “Snackmaster” John Guglielmo worked with Jim Otto to made sure the Snack Bar was fully stocked. John also reached out to the McDonald’s in Lakeville for a donation of hot coffee and hot water for our trip! Otto Vondrak was in charge of publicity and ticketing, and also made sure our expanded Gift Shop was set up and fully stocked.

The day of the trip, Steve Huse headed up our team of parking attendants at Lakeville, including Chair Playford, Rand Warner, Adam Lloyd, and Rick Israelson. On-board car hosts included Kermit Geary, Jr., Dana Fuellhart, Ray Howard,

Dave Kaiser, Dave Kehrer, Jim O’Keefe, Dave Peet, Harold Russell, Jeremy Tuke, and Wayne Turnblom. Mike Dow headed up the ticketing check-in with John Guglielmo, Jim Ziobro, Dave Coon, and others. Jim, Laurie, and Nick Otto once again kept our Snack Bar running smoothly in Car 3, while Florence Wright, Meagan Licata, and Don Warwyzniak staffed the Gift Shop in Car 4. Our On-Board Service volunteers included Joe Nugent, Jim Ziobro, Dale Hartnett, Don Warwyzniak, Jerry Tusch, Linda Tusch, Dan Waterstraat, and others. We also had some new faces volunteering, thanks to the sisters of Alpha Sigma Alpha’s Gamma Iota Chapter at RIT who helped both on and off the train.

We would also like to express our thanks to the **Livonia, Avon & Lakeville Railroad** and their crews for their cooperation and help to operate this trip. Thanks also to the **Conesus Lake Sportsmen’s Club** for allowing us to use their property as parking and boarding area for this trip. Thanks also to our ticket printing sponsors **OSB Ciderworks** and **3 Legged Pig Barbecue!** Together we safely served 900 ticketed riders on this sold-out annual excursion. So many people worked hard to make this possible that its possible some names were overlooked, but every contribution was important. Thanks to everyone who made this possible, and I look forward to working with you all again next year.

—Dave Shields,
Trips Committee Chairman



ABOVE: Mike Dow is heading up a project to extend power and communications all the way to Midway station. Scott Gleason and Mike Bianchi helped dig the trenching, while Jerry Tusch and Syeira Dow helped with wiring.

RIGHT: The Tuesday Night Track Gang celebrated the replacement of their 51st tie of the 2017 season on October 10. This number also includes assisting with the installation of more than 25 ties on the mainline north of MP Point-Four over the summer. DUNCAN RICHARDS PHOTO



PUMPKIN PATCH TRAIN RIDES

Our Pumpkin Patch Train Rides broke all previous records for attendance this year! Of the more than **3,268** who attended over three weeks, your museum hosted **951** ticketed visitors on Oct. 14 alone! This breaks all records for single-day attendance for any of our events. We gave away more than **120 gallons** of apple cider (a portion of which was donated by Wegmans), more than **3,000 packets** of animal crackers, and more than **3,000 baby pumpkins!** Thanks to John Guglielmo for picking up cookies, Dave Peet for picking up cider, and Mike Dow and Mark Wilczek for delivering pumpkins to keep our event fully stocked. Besides the popular petting zoo attraction provided by **Spirit Wind Farms**, we also added a Lionel train exhibit provided by the **FCTT HiRailers** (www.fctt-hirailers.com) that was a big hit with our young visitors. The expanded pumpkin patch and railfan overlook area was enjoyed by young and old alike. Despite cold and rainy weather for the last day of the event, it was very successful overall. We've got great things in store for next year, stay tuned! Thank you to all of the volunteers who gave their time, including the sisters of **Alpha Sigma Alpha** sorority and the brothers of **Theta Chi** fraternity at RIT.

—Otto Vondrak, Event Coordinator

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE AT INDUSTRY DEPOT

Get into the holiday spirit! Enjoy the warm festive holiday atmosphere at our restored 1909 Erie Railroad train station. Enjoy snacks and beverages. Please contact us

if you'd like to bring some holiday treats to share. Everyone is welcome! This event is **FREE** and open to the public, so bring your friends and family. The party begins at 6:00 p.m. and runs through 9:00 p.m.

SANTA TRAINS TO THE NORTH POLE DECEMBER 2, 9, 16

All aboard the only real Santa Train Ride in Rochester! All trains depart from our restored 1909 train station at Industry. Enjoy the festive atmosphere and complimentary hot chocolate while you wait for the conductor to call "ALL ABOARD!" Climb aboard our restored vintage freight train cabooses for a special trip to the North Pole to visit with Santa Claus! Every child will get to meet Santa and receive a candy cane from one of his elves at the North Pole. This is a fun, holiday-themed event geared towards young children and the young at heart! Don't get left at the station, pre-sale tickets only, \$15.00 per person, age 2 and under ride free. Purchase tickets online at www.RochesterTrainRides.com.

RESTORATION UPDATES

Dave Buckner is seeking volunteers to help take over his project to clean up and repaint locomotive EK 6 for next season. Please email dab2457@yahoo.com if you are interested in taking on this project for next season.

Three sides of the Pennsylvania Railroad railway post office have been cleaned and primed by Dave Kehrer, Adam Lloyd, and Otto Vondrak. Primer will be completed in the spring in preparation for a new coat of paint and lettering.

Charlie Marks has fabricated and installed new end doors on our Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburgh caboose. With materials now on hand, we will be installing a new rubber membrane roof on both the BR&P and New York Central cabooses in the spring.

A contractor has submitted a quote for sandblasting and priming the roof of our Erie Stillwell coach. This is the next step in the repair and restoration of this car, supported by donations from the Fred Stillwell family trust. Our goal is to return this car to active service by 2020.

ELECTIONS

You'll find your ballot for the 2017 elections at right. We currently have no candidate for Vice President, two candidates for Treasurer, and two Trustees up for re-election. Write-in candidates are accepted for any position as well. Ballots must be **postmarked by November 13** or brought in person to the **member meeting on November 16** to be counted. All members in good standing may vote.

HISTORIC REGISTER APPLICATION

We are looking for volunteers to help complete our application to have Industry Depot added to the Historic Register. Involved is filling out an application describing the structure and its historical significance, and filing it with the state. If you are willing to complete this task, please contact Otto Vondrak at ovondrak.yahoo.com.

WWW.RGVRRM.ORG



OFFICIAL 2017 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 [].

Vice President (Vote for ONE candidate)

[] Write-In: _____

Treasurer Three-Year Term (Vote for ONE candidate)

[] Mark Wilczek [] Jim Ziobro

[] Write-In: _____

Trustee - Three-Year Term (Vote for TWO candidates)

[] David Kaiser

[] Rob Burz

[] Write-In: _____

[] Write-In: _____

Elections will take place at the November 16, 2017 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 13
TO MAKE SURE IT ARRIVES IN TIME TO BE COUNTED!**

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

PLEASE
PLACE
POSTAGE
HERE



See other side for official 2017 ballot. Please bring your completed ballot to the November 16 meeting or mail your ballot by November 13 to make sure your vote is counted!



Fall Foliage Season Volunteers

ABOVE LEFT: Volunteer Michael Smith donned his Conrail conductor's uniform and helped with pre-sale ticket check-in for Pumpkin Patch Train Rides on October 14. It would turn out to be our busiest day ever with more than 950 visitors coming through our doors! **ABOVE:** The sisters of Alpha Sigma Alpha sorority from RIT helped on our Oct. 7 Fall Foliage Express train, and several members returned to help with our Pumpkin Patch Train Rides in October. Jennifer, Rachel, and Siobhan are interested in train operation and have started conductor and engineer training with us! **LEFT:** The brothers of Theta Chi fraternity at RIT volunteered at our Pumpkin Patch Train Rides on October 28-29. Everyone had a great time and many expressed their interest in returning for future events and volunteer opportunities.



SANTA TRAINS DEC. 2, 9, 16

Ride the only real Santa Trains in Rochester!
Enjoy a fun train ride to the North Pole to meet Santa Claus! Trains depart from Industry Depot at 4:00, 5:00, 6:00, and 7:00 p.m.

TICKETS \$15.00 PER PERSON

Get tickets at www.RochesterTrainRides.com



THE SEMAPHORE
ROCHESTER & GENESEE VALLEY RAILROAD MUSEUM
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Find us on Facebook! [facebook.com/rgvrrm](https://www.facebook.com/rgvrrm)



The FCTT HiRailers exhibited two O-scale model railroad displays to entertain our visitors in the Restoration Shop during our three weekends of Pumpkin Patch Train Rides. Everyone enjoyed the additional entertainment and we look forward to welcoming the club back again next year!