

THE SEMAPHORE

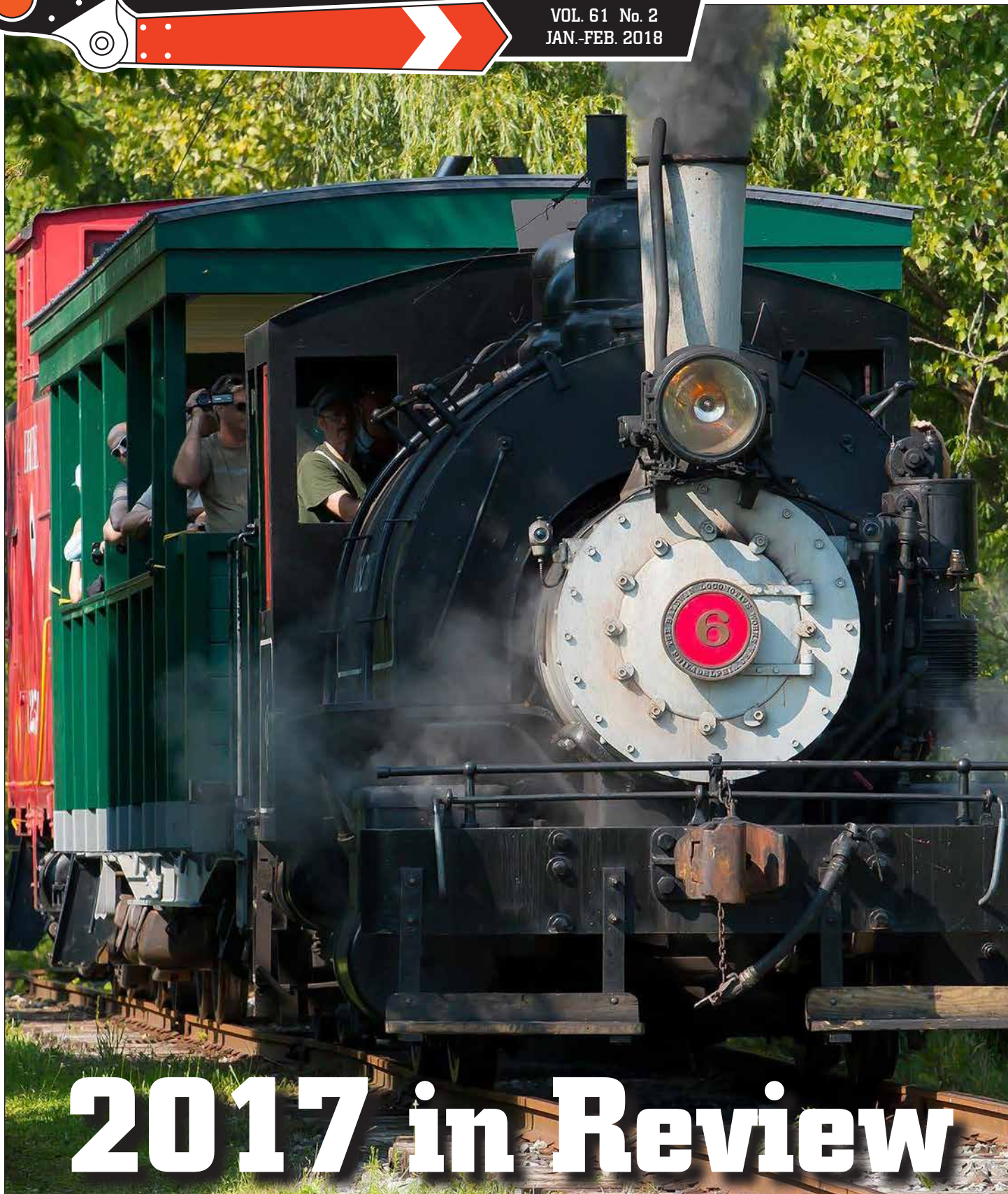
NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCHESTER & GENESEE VALLEY RAILROAD MUSEUM

VOL. 61 No. 2
JAN.-FEB. 2018

NEXT MEETING:

March 15

*Anthony Way presents
Norfolk Southern Heritage
and Southern Tier Scenes*



2017 in Review



www.rgvrrm.org

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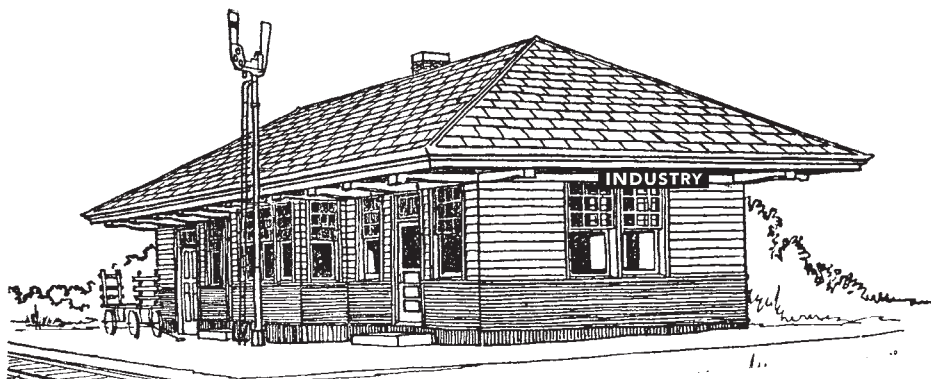
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Message from the President

Thanks to the tireless efforts of our members, volunteers, and supporters, your museum continues to grow and expand its program of railway preservation and education. This year we added several new events that turned out to be a huge success. Our operating season started early with sold out Easter Bunny trains bringing kids up to the upper yard for eggs and a visit with the Easter Bunny. Our next new event was Rails & Ales in May, where we hosted eight local breweries and our trains brought visitors around for tastings in the Upper Yard and at Industry. Our opening day in June featured the new signals display in the RPO car. The center piece of this display is the interlocking machine that our members saved from the tower at Niobe, N.Y., in 1988. Subway Weekend featured the opening of the North waiting room for the first time ever as our dedicated gift shop.

This past summer came a first and long time dream of many members, hosting a real live operating steam engine on our rails. Viscose No. 6 operated for two consecutive weekends in August bringing more than 1,700 visitors through our doors. With the cooperation of NYMT we were able to lease the track north of Midway to BOCES Crossing making a longer ride for the steam train to stretch its legs. For this event we added several new things on the property. A team of volunteers built an overlook from the mezzanine over looking the Hill Block. Another team of volunteers spent over a year building the rider flat car, this was a huge hit with visitors!

Diesel Days featured the reactivation and operation of two Alco diesels recently added to the museum collection: Livonia, Avon & Lakeville RS-1 No. 20 and Nickel Plate Road S-4 No. 79.

This year's Pumpkin Patch Train Rides broke all previous records for attendance with more than 900 visitors in a single day

on October 14! The following weekends saw high attendance as well.

Our last event for the season was our popular Santa Trains to the North Pole where we ran right to Midway Station thanks to the cooperation of NYMT. Volunteers installed a new power conduit along the right of way this year so we didn't need to run a noisy generator for the Christmas lights.

This year we hosted two fan trips, one to Buffalo and one to Scranton, both were enjoyable trips and our members had fun. Our Fall Foliage Express was another sold-out success. Several important things happened behind the scenes this year as well. Power to the B&O tool car was restored. Window coverings for the ESE cars were tested made and hung to save the windows from damage. Our Track Dept. installed more than 60 new ties along our railroad beating last year's record.

This coming year we are hoping to do even more things to add to the museum experience. First on the list is getting our bathrooms back up and running with our new sewer connection. We are working to see the restoration of the BR&P caboose completed, and getting RG&E No. 8 back up and running. We are looking forward to installing new signals along the line as well as making much-needed drainage and grounds improvements on the ROW.

We can't do it alone. We need your help and support throughout the year to make our museum a success. Whether you are an active volunteer, make a financial contribution, or simply support RGVRRM with an annual membership, we thank you. As always, I would like to hear your reactions and what you think we should focus on. You can contact me by phone (716) 474-2833 or you can send me an email at mdow@rochester.rr.com.

—Mike Dow, President

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MONTHLY PROGRAM

Join us for our monthly meetings at the 40 & 8 Club, 933 University Ave., Rochester, N.Y. Free parking in Greek Orthodox Church parking lot next door. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. Brief business meeting followed by entertainment program. Cash bar available and browse our museum bookstore. These events are FREE and open to the public, so bring a friend!

On **February 15** member Rich Carling gives us a look into the museum's past with videos he captured of museum operations from 2005 through 2017.

On **March 15**, Anthony way will present his photos of Norfolk Southern heritage units and various scenes along the Southern Tier Line.

—Adam Lloyd, Program Chair

MARCH 3 - ANNUAL RULES CLASS

Our 2018 Annual Rules Class will take place Saturday, March 3, 2018, at the 40 & 8 Club, located at 933 University Ave., in Rochester, N.Y. The class begins at 8:00 a.m., and if you expect to take all three

parts, plan on staying until at least 4:00 p.m. to complete your tests.

This is the annual rules class required for all volunteers who wish to be qualified in train service this year. Rules Class is the first step for any new volunteers who want to become part of train crew or volunteer at the museum. The class is FREE to attend, but you must RSVP to Operations Supt. Jim Otto so we have enough class materials for everyone attending. The class is split into three parts.

PART ONE: SAFETY – Strongly suggested for ALL VOLUNTEERS, regardless if you are in train service or not. Covers basic rules, safety, radio rules, and customer service.

PART TWO: OPERATING – The second part of the class is devoted to rules of train operation. This second part is required for anyone interested in volunteering for train service (brakeman, conductor, or engineer).

PART THREE: AIR BRAKES – The third part of the class is devoted to air brakes and train handling. This third part is required for anyone interested in volunteering as a conductor or engineer.

Donuts and coffee will be provided in the morning. A collection will be taken up for pizza at lunchtime. Soft drinks are available for purchase from the bar. You must bring a pen in order to complete the tests at the end of each session. Bring your Rulebook and Timetable so it may be updated.

The class is FREE to attend, but you must RSVP to Operations Supt. Jim Otto by email at jamesotto@gmail.com so we have enough class materials for everyone attending.

—Jim Otto, Operations Supt.

MARCH 10 - MUSEUM BANQUET FEATURING JOHN KUCKO

Please join us on Saturday, March 10, and the River's Edge Party House off Scottsville Road near the airport for our Annual Museum Banquet featuring **John Kucko**. You may know our guest speaker not only for his years at WROC-TV Channel 8, but also for his documentation of the Portage Trestle replacement and other railroading adventures around the region.

This is a night you won't want to miss! Not only will we celebrate the rich heritage of our organization, but we will also look forward to the future! Doors open at 6:00 p.m. for cocktail hour (cash bar), dinner seating begins at 7:00 p.m. Award presen-

tations, guest speaker, and dessert service follow buffet dinner. Proceeds from the event go towards funding our various museum activities and restoration projects. Seats are limited! Tickets are \$35.00 per person and are available from our web site at www.rgvrrm.org.

MARCH 31 EASTER BUNNY TRAIN RIDES

Our operating season kicks off a little earlier than usual this year. Join us for the Easter Bunny's annual visit to our museum and ride our special Easter Bunny Train Rides on Saturday, March 31.

During your visit, you will enjoy train rides that tour our museum grounds as you visit New York's largest collection of historic trains. Children will take part in an Easter egg hunt, which includes a visit with the Easter Bunny for photos. Refreshments will be available for purchase. Train rides depart every half hour from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Purchased your tickets today at www.RochesterTrainRides.com.

VOLUNTEER HANDS-ON TRAINING DAYS

Hands-on training for train crews and museum volunteers will take place on April 14, May 12, and June 9. Those interested in helping on train crew (car host, brakeman, conductor, engineer) need to complete Rules Class prior to hands-on training. Orientation for museum volunteers (cashiers and tour guides) will be held on these days, too.

We depend on your support to keep the museum open to the public on a regular basis. Please consider attending training to not only help learn new skills, but to help other volunteers learn from your experience. If you plan on attending hands-on training, please RSVP to Jim Otto at jamesotto@gmail.com or Otto Vondrak at ovondrak@yahoo.com.

2018 TRIP SURVEY

I would like to do another trip survey but I need your suggestions for the trip survey. I would appreciate it if you could email me your trip suggestions to Dave Shields by email at marberth@aol.com or call me at (585) 315-0123. After I receive your trip suggestions, I will develop a trip survey and have you vote in terms of which trips that I should organize for the museum.

—Dave Shields, Trips Chairman



2017 In Review

January 2017: Volunteers led by Charlie Marks framed out the window openings, made roof repairs, and added siding to the cupola on BR&P caboose No. 280. Several members organized and took part in a special “Caboose Campout” using our NYC, PC, and Erie cabooses parked at Midway on January 13. Project manager Rob Burz and Perry Bertsch installed the first uprights on the LBR Rider Flat. Dale Hartnett and Rand Warner installed covers to protect our new Lexan windows on the Empire State Express cars from harmful ultra-violet radiation. Joe Nugent and Otto Vondrak installed the rebuilt Ajax hand-brake mechanism on the LBR River Flat on January 21. Mike Dow cleaned up and installed new wiring for lighting inside the Railway Post Office car as part of the work to install a new signals exhibit. The east sidewall was installed on the LBR Rider Flat on January 28.

February 2017: Charlie Marks continued to make repairs to the roof and install cupola siding on our BR&P caboose No. 280. On February 4, Rick Bohn cleaned up the access hole for the handbrake chains on the LBR Rider Flat; Joe Nugent inspected the air brake system; Rob Burz, Dave Shields, Chris Playford, Dave Buckner, and Bob Achilles completed installation

ABOVE: On January 13, members Charlie Marks, Jesse Marks, John Redden, Rick Israelson, David Buckner, and Justin Micillo enjoyed an overnight winter campout in our cabooses parked at Midway. **RIGHT:** Charlie Marks continued to lead the work to complete framing and trim around the window openings of our BR&P caboose. The goal of the project is to backdate the caboose to its 1930s appearance as much as possible. **BELOW RIGHT:** The sides of the LBR Rider Flat took shape throughout January and February, under the direction of project manager Rob Burz. The Lehigh Valley caboose can be seen in gray primer, patiently waiting for work to resume in re-assembly of the interior. **BELOW:** On February 4, several volunteers helped cut and install parts on the LBR Rider Flat, including Chris Playford, Perry Bertsch, Bob Achilles, Rick Bohn, Dave Buckner, and Otto Vondrak. Organized work parties involving a number of volunteers helped move construction along at a quick pace throughout the season.





TOP LEFT: On February 4, Joe Nugent checked clearances for an upgraded air brake valve to be installed under the LBR Rider Flat. **TOP:** Our first ever Easter Bunny Train Rides were a sold out success on April 15! **ABOVE:** Justin Micillo replaces modern hardware with more period appropriate pieces on February 25. **LEFT:** The steam team of Rand Warner (left), Norm Shaddick (right), and project manager Joel Shaw (in cab) continued to clean the exterior of Brooklyn Navy Yard No. 12 on March 4.

of the sidewalls and roof sills. Mike Dow organized signals and communications equipment stored in the Erie milk car. Rand Warner used a wire wheel to clean up metal frame parts and also inspected, sanded, and primed wooden window frames to be reinstalled on Rochester Subway Car 60. Lynn Heintz and Rand Warner cut up firewood for use in the depot stove on February 11. Charlie Marks completed the siding on the corners of BR&P caboose No. 280, while Jeremy Tuke and John Redden installed an appropriate vintage lockset for the toilet.

On an unusually warm February 18, Justin Micillo helped clean up miscellaneous track parts. On February 25, Rob Burz, Jeremy Tuke, Dave Buckner, Perry Bertch, Rand Warner, Otto Vondrak, Dave Shields, and Chris Playford cut and in-

stalled roof spans on the LBR Rider Flat, while Joel Shaw, Rand Warner, and Norm Shaddick continued clean-up efforts on Brooklyn Navy Yard 0-4-0 No. 12. Charlie Marks, Wayne McIntyre, and Justin Micillo worked on BR&P caboose No. 280.

March 2017: Rob Burz, Sam Rosenberg, Perry Bertch, Jeremy Tuke, and Dave Buckner continued installation of the roof rafters on the LBR Rider Flat. Joel Shaw assessed the wood paneling inside the cab of BNY No. 12, while Norm Shaddick and Rand Warner worked on rust removal and cleanup of exterior appliances. Charlie Marks completed roof repairs to the north end of the BR&P caboose No. 280. On March 18th we held our 80th Anniversary Museum Banquet at the River's Edge Party House, with guest speaker Doug Eisele.

Recently retired from Genesee Valley Transportation, he recounted the history of the shortline operator that was closely intertwined with the development of our museum. Mike Guglielmo was awarded the Prestigious Fairmont Cup Award™ for outstanding volunteer service.

Our Annual Rules Class was held on March 25 at the 40&8 Club with more than 50 attendees. The class was taught by Dave Scheiderich and Mike Dow.

April 2017: Mike Guglielmo helped relocate some wiring in the Restoration Shop to make room for new steel shelving. Adam Johnson and his son Tyler cleaned up branches and brush piles left behind by utility crews. The museum staffed a table at the Greenberg Train Show held at the Dome Arena April 1 and 2. Steve Huse



LEFT: Our 80th Anniversary Museum Banquet was held on March 18 at the River's Edge Party House, and was well-attended. **BELOW:** David Monte Verde and guest speaker Doug Eisele pose with the special cake made for the occasion. **BOTTOM:** On May 6, 30 museum members and guests made a day trip to Buffalo where they toured the NFTA light rail system and shops (in the old D&LW train shed), and enjoyed a private tour of historic Buffalo Central Terminal.



inspected our fire extinguishers and first aid kits throughout the museum property. Our first Hands-On Training Day for train crews was held on April 8, led by Mark Wilczek and Jim Otto. Rob Burz, Jeremy Tuke, Dave Shields, Wayne McIntyre continued work on the LBR Rider Flat, building the end walls. Dale Hartnett removed a broken window from the RPO car for repair. The Rush Volunteer Fire Department and volunteer Dave Coon led fire extinguisher training in the depot parking lot. Ted Kretzner and Mike Dow repaired the radiator in the Army Dump Truck on April 9. Heavier than normal rainfall caused a mudslide along the Track 6 extension, Scott Gleason dumped stone rip-rap and effected an emergency repair on April 10. John Guglielmo stepped up to take over "Snackmaster" duties from Dave Peet, and will continue to keep our pantry stocked with pop, water, and snacks for volunteers.

Some switching moves took place on April 9, giving our LBR Rider Flat and Lehigh Valley caboose a rare moment in the sun. David Kehrer took the lead on the project to repaint our Railway Post Office car, continuing sanding and priming on April 11. Rob Burz prepared the diamond plate steel caps for the ends of the LBR Rider Flat. The Tuesday Night Gang began their annual track inspection and assessment. Primer on the west side of the RPO car was completed by David Kehrer by April 14.

We held our first-ever Easter Bunny Train Rides on Saturday, April 15, which was a sold-out success with more than 600 visitors for the day.

Charlie Marks replaced the curved end



trim on BR&P caboose No. 280 on April 22. Hilton Boy Scout Troop No. 125 camped out at Industry Depot, and we hosted a surprise 40th birthday party and chartered train ride for long-time member Tom Rohatch on April 29.

May 2017: On May 6, 30 museum members took a day trip to Buffalo, where they got a behind the scenes tour of the old Lackawanna trainshed now used by Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority as shops for the light rail system, an end-to-end ride on the MetroRail, and a private tour of Buffalo Central Terminal.

Wayne McIntyre and Ron Conrad installed plywood sheathing on the roof of the LBR Rider Flat on May 6, while Rob Burz and Sam Rosenberg continued work on roof framing on May 13. Dick Holbert

made updates to our radio equipment, while Rand Warner cleaned and painted parts for BNY No. 12.

Adam Lloyd and Otto Vondrak applied primer to the east side of the RPO car on May 14. Pittsford Boy Scout Troop 129 paid a visit to the museum for a private tour on May 15. The Tuesday Night Gang replaced ties north of Switch 6 on May 16.

We hosted our first ever "Rails & Ales" tasting event, bringing together eight local breweries and cider distillers with more than 300 eager visitors on May 20.

Rob Burz, Sam Rosenberg, Jeremy Tuke, and Otto Vondrak continued work on the LBR Rider Flat on May 22. Dave Buckner's cousin Al built several bench seats for our outdoor areas. Safelite replaced the broken window in the RPO car. Mike Dow

began construction of the stairs leading into the RPO car on May 24.

Rob Burz, Mike Byrne, Perry Bertsch, Rick Bohn, and Sam Rosenberg installed windowsills and diamond plate steel ends on the LBR Rider Flat on May 27, while Mike Guglielmo, Jim Johnson, and Dave Kehrer helped rearrange items at the south end of the Shop. Dave Kehrer and Otto Vondrak applied primer to the east side of the RPO car on May 28. Additional plywood roof sheathing was installed on the LBR Rider Flat by Rob Burz on May 30, while the Tuesday Night Gang replaced ties in the Hill Block.

June 2017: Otto Vondrak began framing out the walls for the new Gift Shop in the north waiting room at Industry Depot on June 2. Wayne McIntyre and Rick Bohn

helped install plywood roof sheathing on the LBR Rider Flat, while Dave Peet primed metal braces on June 3. Jim Moore used a wire wheel to clean rust from the exterior of BNY No. 12. Dave Kehrer applied weed control around Industry Yard. Primer was completed on the east side of the RPO car. Mike Dow, Dave Scheiderich, Mike Guglielmo, Otto Vondrak, and David Kehrer inserted and plated 25 new ties on the mainline north of MP .04 on June 3. Otto Vondrak installed safety railings to protect the exhibits inside the RPO car on June 6, while Mike Guglielmo and David Kehrer rearranged the shop floor to make room for a temporary exhibit. Jim Johnson and Mike Guglielmo ran wires for electric service through the new wall framing in the north waiting room. On June 8, the Tuesday

Night Gang spiked the 25 ties previously inserted in the mainline. Otto Vondrak installed new temporary signs for the Signals display inside the RPO car.

A second Hands-On Training day was held on June 10, led by James Otto and Mark Wilczek. Rick Bohn and Chris Playford applied a coat of white paint to the ceiling of the LBR Rider Flat. Charlie Marks installed roof trim on the BRP caboose No. 280. Sam Rosenberg, Otto Vondrak, Ben Shaner, Jeff Davenport, Jerry Tusch, and Mark Wilczek performed switching moves in the Upper Yard to arrange our exhibits for the coming year. Joe Nugent used the forklift to place the stairs to reach the new Signals exhibit in the RPO.

Our first weekend event paid tribute to the old Rochester Subway on June 17-18. Train crews included Dave Buckner, Joe Nugent, Ray Howard, Mike Guglielmo, Mark Wilczek, and Mike Dow; with Jim Moore and Rand Warner guiding in the Upper Yard. Spectrum News paid us a visit to highlight our efforts to restore Rochester Subway Car 60. The restored RTS Vintage Bus was also on display throughout the weekend.



TOP: RGVRM hosted eight local breweries for our first ever Rails & Ales on May 20. **ABOVE:** "Snackmaster" John Guglielmo keeps the pantry stocked with snacks, water, and pop for volunteers. **ABOVE RIGHT:** Subway Heritage Weekend on June 17-18 featured the display of the RTS Vintage Bus alongside our ongoing restoration of Subway Car 60. **RIGHT:** Twenty-five new ties were installed between MP 0.4 and the end of track at Midway on June 3.



Dave Peet applied white paint to the ceiling of the LBR Rider Flat on June 20, with Jeremy Tuke applying paint on June 27. Rob Burz cut back a piece of the flatcar frame to accommodate a new air brake valve, while Adam Lloyd cleaned and primed two signal mast bases. The Tuesday Night Gang replaced ties on the mainline near MP .03 on June 27.

July 2017: Charlie Marks installed more roof trim on the BR&P caboose No. 280 on July 1. Otto Vondrak installed drywall and began mudding the joints on the new Gift Shop wall in the north waiting room at Industry Depot. Sam Rosenberg inspected the journals on the LBR Rider Flat, while Joe Nugent and Dave Buckner installed a new air brake valve. Norm Shaddick, Rand Warner, and Dave Luca worked on the cos-

metic restoration of BNY No. 12. Charlie Marks, Sam Rosenberg, Adam Lloyd, and Otto Vondrak removed the benches stored in Car 60 and placed them inside the LBR Rider Flat (the benches were built in 2014 as an Eagle Scout service project by Jared Rosenberg).

Mike Dow, Syeria Dow, Dave Scheidrich, Adam Lloyd, and Otto Vondrak replaced switch timbers in Switch 5 at Industry Yard on July 2. Jerry Tusch, Perry Bertsch, Sam Rosenberg, Norm Shaddick, Rick Bohn, and Jeremy Tuke applied paint and primer to the LBR Rider Flat on July 8, while Rob Burz reconnected the hand-brake chain, and Joe Nugent and Ben Shaner cleaned and inspected the brake piston. Charlie Marks and Dave Luca took measurements to reinstall grab irons on the

BR&P caboose No. 280. Adam Lloyd used a grinder to clean up cuts and welds so our steel workbenches could be re-assembled. Mike Guglielmo and Adam Lloyd made repairs to our Kubota mower. Otto Vondrak built two new sandwich boards to guide our visitors around the Upper Yard. Jim Johnson inspected the batteries donated by LA&L for use in Alco RS-1 No. 20.

The Tuesday Night Gang spiked up the new switch timbers in Switch 5 on July 11. Scott Gleason and Tim Gifford moved dirty and cleared out additional space in the Construction Yard. Rob Burz and Jeremy Tuke applied a coat of green paint to the LBR Rider Flat.

Your museum hosted its first Craft Show Caboose Rides event inviting local artisans to exhibit their wares at our museum on

BELOW and RIGHT: The LBR Rider Flatcar made its first test run at our July 20 meeting, and passed with flying colors. **BOTTOM:** Volunteers install the foundation of the Railfan Overlook in August. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** During the month of June, Otto Vondrak completed the framing, drywall, and painting for the walls for our new gift shop in the North Waiting Room, and Mike Dow opened our new Signals exhibit to the public in the Railway Post Office car.



RIGHT: Viscose No. 6 charges up the Hill Block as visitors enjoy the view from the Railfan Overlook on August 27. **BELOW:** Thanks to an agreement with NYMT, we were able to rent track to allow the steam engine to run all the way to BOCES Crossing. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** In September, the Motive Power Dept. returned ex-LA&L No. 20 to active service, and made it the star of Diesel Days! **BOTTOM:** Our Fall Foliage Express was sold out for all three runs, seen here preparing to return to Lakeville on October 7.



DUNCAN RICHARDS PHOTO



KERMIT GEARY, JR. PHOTO

July 15-16. Train crew included Jerry Tusch, Jeremy Tuke, David Kehrer, Ray Howard, and Jim Ziobro.

On July 18, Chris Hauf paid us a visit from California to service the batteries and fire up Kodak Alco RS-1 No. 9, while Joe Nugent prepped the battery box on ex-LA&L No. 20. The Tuesday Night Gang replaced ties just north of Switch 6.

On July 20, we performed the first successful test run of the new LBR Rider Flat during our regular museum meeting.

Norm Shaddick helped apply a coat of green stain to the LBR Rider Flat, while John Redden applied primer to the metal railings that were ground smooth by Otto Vondrak on July 29. Rob Burz test-fit a new drop-down stair system. John Guglielmo cleared brush and debris to make way

for the new Railfan Overlook. Joel Shaw cut and installed new wood pieces inside the cab of BNY No. 12. Charlie Marks fabricated and installed new end doors on BR&P caboose No. 280. Joe Nugent and Ben Shaner worked on the batteries and charging system for RG&E No. 1941.

August 2017: Under the direction of Mark Wilczek, John Guglielmo, Mike Guglielmo, David Kehrer, John Redden, David Chapus, Duncan Richards, and Rand Warner assembled and installed the framing for our new Railfan Overlook on August 8, while Rob Burz and Dave Peet installed sheet metal roofing on the LBR Rider Flat. Perry Bertch, Otto Vondrak, Charlie Marks, and Rick Bohn also helped with sheet metal installation.

On August 12, Dave Shields, Dave Luca,

and Mike Guglielmo brought a tank of water down to the ESE coaches to fill the lines and check for leaks as part of the work to get the train ready for our Fall Foliage Express. On August 18, Otto Vondrak applied vinyl lettering cut by Jim Otto for the MDT reefer in the Upper Yard.

The museum fulfilled one of its long-term goals by hosting privately-owned Viscose Co. 0-4-0 No. 6 for two weekends in August. Scott Symans and his crew worked with our volunteers for a very successful event. Thanks to NYMT for allowing us to rent additional track to extend the steam runs to BOCES Crossing. The number of volunteers who contributed to the success of this event is simply too many to list. We also hosted a fun night photo session with lighting coordinated by Steve Barry from *Railfan & Railroad*.

September 2017: Dale Hartnett removed the protective covers from the windows of the ESE cars so that volunteers could work inside to get our coaches ready for service in October. Mike Dow, Scott Gleason, Mike Guglielmo, Joe Nugent, and Jim Johnson worked on ex-LA&L No. 20 to get it ready for diesel days, including re-installing the water pump and inspect-

How Did We Do?

Once again, your museum broke records for attendance and revenue in our third year of independent operation. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of our volunteers, I am pleased to report we had a very successful season, and we are in a great position to start 2018. Income from museum admissions was \$93200.00, up 48% from \$62823.00 in 2016, and a substantial increase from 2014's total of \$19,078.00.

Museum admissions grew significantly in 2016. Total income from museum admissions was \$90293.00. Sales of our "Cab Pass" (a \$5.00 surcharge to ride with the engineer) generated \$945.00, a 35% decrease from last. Additional income was generated from group tours (\$1,162.00) and private charters (\$800.00). Total paid attendance in 2017 was 7,217, up nearly 27% versus 5,678 in 2016.

In 2016 we operated a schedule spread over six weekends, for a total of 16 operating days. This year the schedule expanded to 21 days. If you take our gross income from admissions divided by the number of operating days, you get an average of \$4438.10, a 13% increase over last year's daily average of \$3926.44. For comparison,

the electrical systems. The unit was successfully fired up for the first time on September 9.

Our annual Diesel Days event was well attended on September 16-17, with trains running in two "sections" throughout the weekend including the public debut of ex-LA&L No. 20. Train crews included Jerry Tusch, Pete Gores, Jim Otto, David Kehrer, Ray Howard, Sam Rosenberg, Harold Russell, and Jim Ziobro.

Jim O'Keefe, Dale Hartnett, Dave Peet, Dave Buckner, and Norm Shaddick helped clean our ESE coaches from top to bottom. Rob Burz helped repair a wall panel, while Joe Nugent rebuilt one of the bathroom walls and repaired an toilet air valve.

We held our annual Members' Picnic on September 23, that was organized by Rob Burz and was well attended. Picnic catering was provided by Z Best Foodz operated

2016 GROSS ADMISSIONS

Museum Admission.....	\$59999.00
Cab Pass	1460.00
Private Charters	300.00
Group Tours.....	1064.00
TOTAL	\$62823.00

2016 DONATIONS

Donations	\$14229.00
Grants.....	13000.00
TOTAL	\$27229.71

2016 RAILFAN TRIPS (GROSS)

LA&L Fall Foliage Express ..	\$28896.60
Utica/Big Moose Trip.....	5773.60
Rochester Subway Tour.....	1560.00
TOTAL	\$36230.20

2016 ATTENDANCE (PAID ADMISSION)

16-DAY TOTAL	5678
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son, our daily average in 2014 was \$897.15 spread over a 30-day schedule. As with years past, nearly half of our annual income came in during the month of October.

Income from Railfan Trips was down in 2017. We grossed \$29225.00 from a combination of our Fall Foliage Express, Buffalo Day Trip, and our Scranton Overnight Trip. Because the LA&L reduced the schedule for the FFE from four trains to

2017 GROSS ADMISSIONS

Museum Admission.....	\$90293.00
Cab Pass	945.00
Private Charters	800.00
Group Tours.....	1162.00
TOTAL	\$93200.00

2017 DONATIONS

Donations	\$7994.00
Grants.....	10000.00
TOTAL	\$17994.00

2017 RAILFAN TRIPS (GROSS)

LA&L Fall Foliage Express ..	\$20770.00
Buffalo Day Trip	2355.00
Scranton Overnight Trip	6100.00
TOTAL	\$29225.00

2017 ATTENDANCE (PAID ADMISSION)

21-DAY TOTAL	7217
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three, income was down from last year.

We have experienced an incredible period of growth. Thanks to an outstanding effort by our volunteers and our visitors, we were able to significantly increase our overall museum revenue and attendance, a trend that has continued for the last three years. With your help, we look forward to additional measured growth in 2018. Thanks to Mark Wilczek for the data. ☑



AT THE RIVER'S EDGE PARTY HOUSE, ROCHESTER, N.Y.

Banquet tickets on sale at www.rgvrrm.org

Museum Banquet FEATURING John Kucko March 10

by member Jon Zatyko.

October 2017: We operated a sold-out Fall Foliage Express with three departures from Lakeville on October 7. Locomotives and train crew was provided by the Livonia, Avon & Lakeville, while car hosts and technicians were provided by the museum.

The sisters of Alpha Sigma Alpha sorority from RIT were also a tremendous help both on and off the train. Thanks to our local sponsors OSB Ciderworks and 3 Legged Pig BBQ! Again, the number of volunteers who made this event a success is simply too many to list.

RIGHT: The Tuesday Night Track Gang installed more than 60 new ties this past season, breaking last year's record. From left to right, David Kehrer, John Guglielmo, Dave Chapus, Rand Warner, John Redden, Rick Israelson, Mike Guglielmo, and Duncan Richards (kneeling). **BELOW:** Mike Dow and Jerry Tusch extended communications and power lines north towards Midway on November 24. This allowed permanent electric service to be extended to Midway for the first time, and will support future signals along the line.



LEFT: Pumpkin Patch Trains rolled through beautiful fall foliage and carried a record number of visitors through the month of October. **ABOVE:** The sisters of Alpha Sigma Alpha once again helped out during our Santa Trains to the North Pole in December.

1937 80 2017
ROCHESTER & GENESEE VALLEY
RAILROAD MUSEUM

On October 10, Ashley Doerzbacher from WHAM-13 came out to promote our Pumpkin Patch Train Rides with a series of live spots on "Good Morning Rochester." We enjoyed our highest ever single-day attendance for more than 950 visitors coming through the door on October 14! The following weekends were well attended, with only one rain-out to close out the regular season.

Volunteers led by Jim Johnson extended electrical service to the B&O baggage car on the West Siding so it may once again be used as a workshop.

November 2017: Volunteers led by Mike Dow, Scott Gleason, Mike Bianchi, and Jerry Tusch extended our power and communications line along the right of way towards Midway Station. New equipment boxes were placed along the right of way

to facilitate the extension of power and the installation of new signals.

Preparations were made for Santa Trains throughout the month. Otto Vondrak installed lights and decorations inside Industry Depot, Jim Otto, Laurie Otto, and Nick Otto installed lights inside our cabooses, and Scott Gleason installed lights and decorations at Midway Depot (the "North Pole"). Jim Johnson and Mike Guglielmo installed two new exterior lights under the south end eaves of Industry Depot to improve safety and security.

December 2017: Three successful days of Santa Trains to the North Pole were operated on December 2, 9, and 16. After years of faithful service as one of Santa's Helpers, Ray Howard took some time off this year, which opened the door to hire some actors to portray the Claus Family.

Train crews included Steve Huse, Jeremy Tuke, Mark Wilczek, Sam Rosenberg, Jim Otto, Nick Otto, Frank Gough, Dave Shields, Frank Gough, David Kehrer, and Otto Vondrak. It was a wonderful way to close out a very successful 2017 season.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Of course it is difficult to document and credit every single task and volunteer who contributed throughout the year. If I missed you, it's because I didn't know about your work. Don't be shy and please let me know what you're working on in 2018 (better yet, provide photos). I apologize to anyone I may have overlooked during this very busy season. Thank you all for your contributions.—O.M.V. 📷

COVER PHOTO: Viscose No. 6 arrives at BOCES Crossing on August 24, during our "Steam Returns to Rochester" event. PHOTO BY PETE SWANSON



THE **SEMAPHORE**

ROCHESTER & GENESEE VALLEY RAILROAD MUSEUM

P.O. BOX 23326

ROCHESTER, NY 14692-3326



Find us on Facebook! facebook.com/rgvrrm

2018 R&GV MUSEUM SCHEDULE

Please note some dates and activities are subject to change.

Please visit our web sites at www.rgvrrm.org and www.RochesterTrainRides.com for details.

March 3, Sat. – Rules Class
March 10, Sat. – Annual Banquet
March 31, Sat. – Easter Bunny Train Rides

June 9, Sat. – Hands-On Training Day
June 16-17 – Father's Day Train Rides
July 21-22 – Craft Show Caboose Rides

Oct. 13-14 – Pumpkin Patch Train Rides
Oct. 20-21 – Pumpkin Patch Train Rides
Oct. 27, Sat. – Trick or Treat Train Rides

April 7, Sat. – Rules Class Make-Up
April 14, Sat. – Hands-On Training Day
April 21, Sat. – Members-Only Day

August 18-19 – Steam Train Rides
August 25-26 – Steam Train Rides

Dec. 1, Sat. – Santa Train Rides
Dec. 7, Fri. – Holiday Open House
Dec. 8, Sat. – Santa Train Rides
Dec. 15, Sat. – Santa Train Rides

May 4, Sat. – Boy Scout Camporee
May 12, Sat. – Hands-On Training Day
May 19, Sat. – Rails & Ales Train Rides

Sept. 15, Sat. – Volunteers' Picnic
Sept. 22-23 – Diesel Days Train Rides

RochesterTrainRides.com