

**NEXT MEETING:**  
**April 19**  
 Charlie Lowe presents  
 color slides from his  
 Rochester Subway collection



The Easter Bunny welcomed visitors to our first event of the operating season on March 31! OTTO VONDRAK PHOTO

# Spring Ahead

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With winter snow retreating and temperatures climbing (we hope), it's time to get ready for another great operating season at the museum! See the full schedule of activities on page 2. Note the members-only photo freight and picnic on **April 28**. That event is being coordinated by Otto Vondrak.

We will have three scheduled hands-on training events on **April 14, May 12, and June 9**. Jim Otto will head up instruction for brakemen, conductors, and engineers. Otto Vondrak will coordinate orientation and training for Museum Guides and other non-train crew volunteers.

We have many projects in the works that will help the visitor experience overall. Everything from general clean up, to installation of new staircases, to the construction of new public areas, and more. We can always use your help if you want to get involved in any way.

Trip Chairman Dave Shields is organizing several fun activities for later this year, including day trips and longer overnight adventures.

To all those who have volunteered in the past, I sincerely thank you for your service. To everyone else, please consider donating a few hours of your time this summer to help us ensure a smooth operation for our visitors. After all, we only get one chance to make a good first impression. The best advertisement for us is a happy visitor!

We had a very successful museum season last year. Your contributions will ensure our continued growth into the future.

Do you have ideas to share with us 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](mailto:mdow@rochester.rr.com).

—Mike Dow  
 Museum President



[www.rgvrrm.org](http://www.rgvrrm.org)

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# 2018 R&GV SCHEDULE

*Please note some dates and activities are subject to change.*

**April 7, Sat. – Rules Class Make-Up**

**April 14, Sat. – Hands-On Training Day**

**April 28, Sat. – Members-Only Photo Freight**

**May 4, Sat. – Boy Scout Camporee**

**May 12, Sat. – Hands-On Training Day**

**May 19, Sat. – Rails & Ales Train Rides**

**June 9, Sat. – Hands-On Training Day**

**June 16-17 – Father's Day Train Rides**

**July 21-22 – Craft Show Caboose Rides**

**August 18-19 – Steam Train Rides**

**August 25-26 – Steam Train Rides**

**Sept. 15, Sat. – Volunteers' Picnic**

**Sept. 22-23 – Diesel Days Train Rides**

**Oct. 13-14 – Pumpkin Patch Train Rides**

**Oct. 20-21 – Pumpkin Patch Train Rides**

**Oct. 27, Sat. – Trick or Treat 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**

**RochesterTrainRides.com**



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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 **April 19** New York Museum of Transportation president Charlie Lowe will present color slides from his collection of Rochester Subway images acquired over the years from various sources. These color slides document the final years of Subway operation and provide a rare look back at this interesting operation.

**Meetings return to Industry Depot starting May 19.** 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



Rules Examiner Dave Scheiderich taught the rules class session on March 3 at the 40&8 Club. More than 40 volunteers passed the annual certification, which includes safety rules, operating rules, and air brakes and train handling. A second session was held on April 7.

## June 21, July 19, and August 16.

These events are FREE to attend, so bring a friend! Please contact me with your suggestions for future programs so we can begin planning our meeting calendar for the rest of 2018.

—Adam Lloyd, Program Chair

## IN MEMORIAM:

### STANLEY SWACKHAMMER

Long time life member Stanley Swackhammer died recently after spending several years at the Fairport Baptist Home. He had been a member of our museum since 1985. Stan was an electronics technician retired from Xerox Corp. He put his ability to good use on his extensive HO scale model railroad in the basement of his home, which hosted 100-car freight trains on multi-level track. He also modeled large scale 7.5" gauge trains on an outdoor track around his home in Perinton.

Stan was part of our stalwart group that worked six days a week for six weeks straight to salvage the track material from the General Motors/Delphi yard off Driving Park in the 1990s. Following the delivery of the track material to RGV, Stan came out every week and sorted the parts including tie plates, joint bars, nuts, bolts, and more onto pallets. These materials were later used to build our Upper Yard in 2008.

Stan was an avid supporter of our mu-

seum attending many events and trips with his wife Shirley. We express our sincere condolences to Shirley, their children, and their extended family.

—Rand Warner

## ANNUAL BANQUET WITH JOHN KUCKO

More than 55 members and guests attended our Annual Museum Banquet featuring keynote speaker **John Kucko** on March 17 at the River's Edge Party House. As part of our evening program recognizing the accomplishments of our members, we presented The Prestigious Fairmont Cup Award™ to **Dave Peet** (who accepted via telephone from Florida). The PFCA is selected by members of the board of trustees to recognize a volunteer who goes above and beyond to advance the goals and mission of the museum. Later that evening, emcee Otto Vondrak presented project manager **Rob Burz** with the 2017 Outstanding Golden Flatcar Award™ for his dedication to the completion of our new open-air flatcar.

Our guest speaker John Kucko is a native of Binghamton and a graduate of SUNY Oswego. He has been the familiar face of local television broadcasting for 31 years, the first 29 of those were as a sports anchor first arriving in Rochester in 1989. Around 2010, John took a liking to photography and began taking pictures at Letchworth





**ABOVE:** On March 10, Charlie Marks talked with project manager Sam Rosenberg (right) to discuss near-term goals for the re-assembly of Lehigh Valley caboose No. 95100. Sam recently agreed to take on the project to help oversee the completion of the restoration that was started just a couple years ago. **ABOVE RIGHT:** Rob Burz installs additional trim and bracing in the LBR 23 flatcar to support future tarps and enclosures. **RIGHT:** Charlie Marks continues his work inside the Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburgh caboose to complete interior fixtures and trim. Next steps include installing windows and glazing, and prepping for primer and paint. Our caboose No. 280 was part of a group build in October 1923 by Standard Steel Car in Butler, Pa. It was retired by Chessie System in 1977, and donated to our museum in 1979, and was the first piece of equipment to be moved to Industry Depot for display.



State Park, specifically of trains crossing the 1875 trestle over the Genesee River gorge. It was a turning point in John's life. While he is still a part-time anchor at WROC-TV Channel 8, he now has more time to embrace his love of photography. Aside from discovering the local railroad scene, he quickly became enamored with the project to replace the Portage Trestle over the Genesee River gorge in Letchworth State Park. John has spent the last three years documenting the construction of the new bridge and removal of the old one. We enjoyed his fantastic photos and drone video documenting this historic process, as well as the lively question-and-answer session that followed. We thank John Kucko for sharing his passion with us, and look forward to next year's event.

### LAST COAL TO KODAK

The last coal hopper was unloaded at Kodak Park in Rochester, N.Y., on March 13. Kodak once required train-loads of coal to feed its power plant, but has since converted to natural gas thanks to a project started in 2016. Kodak sold off its utilities to a private firm in 2013. The Kodak Park Railroad serving the sprawling manufacturing site has been operated on a contract basis by Genesee & Wyoming since 2007.

Former Kodak Park MP15AC No. 10 performed the honors, pushing coal hopper CSXT 837158 into the unloading shed. While coal deliveries have come to an end, the company does not plan to permanently end rail operations on the 13-mile line, as Kodak and other tenants at the Eastman Business Park site continue to receive cars.

The Somerset Generating Station in Barker and the Milliken Station in Lansing are the last two coal-fired plants remaining in New York State, both served by rail.

### SOLD-OUT CROWDS FOR EASTER BUNNY TRAIN RIDES

Our second year of Easter Bunny Train Rides was a huge success, with each departure sold out to capacity! We gave away more than 1,500 Easter eggs, dozens of buckets of candy and cookies, and hosted more than 588 visitors! Trying something new this year, we cut back one hour from the schedule to help get our volunteers home a little sooner and help convince late-afternoon stragglers to come visit a little earlier. By all accounts it was a huge success. Thanks to Laura Pufpaff and **Spir-**





**LEFT:** Jeremy Tuke and Bob Lippman talk with guest speaker John Kucko (center) during the social hour before our Annual Museum Banquet at the River's Edge Party House on March 10. Having spent more than 30 years in television broadcasting, John has recently turned to dedicating more of his time to photography and capturing the local railroad scene.

**BELOW LEFT:** Emcee Otto Vondrak and museum president Mike Dow introduce our museum volunteer recognition awards.

**BELOW:** The March 10 annual banquet was well attended by many museum members and guests.



it **Wind Kennels** for providing a great petting zoo, Nick Hadad of **Mascots Unlimited** for the visiting Easter Bunny, and to member Jon Zatyko and **Z Best Foodz** for catering lunch! We'd also like to thank the sisters of RIT's Alpha Sigma Alpha sorority for volunteering their time as well.

—Otto Vondrak, Visitor Ops Supt.

### ANNUAL RULES CLASS

More than a dozen volunteers passed the annual safety and rules class certification held on April 7 at the 40&8 Club as a make up for those who couldn't attend the March session. The classroom portion was taught by Operations Supt. **Jim Otto**, Visitor Ops Supt. **Otto Vondrak**, and Road Foreman of Engines **Mike Dow**. The class covered Safety Rules, Operating Rules, and Air

Brake and Train Handling. If you missed both sessions and still need your rules certifications, please contact Jim Otto as soon as possible (see page 3).

—Jim Otto, Operations Supt.

### LV CABOOSE 95100 PROJECT

While not much activity took place on our Lehigh Valley caboose in 2017, we now have plans in place to continue work and possibly complete this project in 2018. After several weeks of collecting knowledge from Joe Nugent, Rob Burz, and Adam Lloyd, inventorying parts and materials, and collecting additional supplies, we are moving forward with re-insulating and re-assembling the lower portions of the interior walls. Other near-term tasks will

include needle scaling on the south end. If you're interested in helping, please contact me (see page 3). You can help return this caboose to active service on our railroad!

—Sam Rosenberg, Project Mgr.

### TRACK DEPARTMENT VOLUNTEERS

With warmer weather on the way (probably), the Track Dept. is resuming its regular maintenance schedule. The Tuesday Night Track Gang is always looking for new volunteers to join the ranks, as many hands makes light work. We have several projects planned for this season that can use your help. No experience needed, just a willingness to show up and join us on Tuesdays at the depot. You can find my contact information on page 3.

—David Kehrner, Track Supt.





**LEFT:** Produced by the Genesee Society of Model Engineers, the Great Batavia Train Show was held in its new location at the field house at Genesee Community College on March 25. Volunteers staffing the RGVRRM booth include Don Warwyzniak, Dave Shields, Lynn Heintz, and Chris Hausler. These train shows are great opportunities to promote our museum!

**OPPOSITE:** Visitors enjoyed the animals in the petting zoo. Despite chilly weather on March 31, the sunshine helped bring out the crowds for our Easter Bunny Train Rides.

**BELOW:** Visitors enjoyed watching the train climb up and down the Hill Block from our new viewing platform.

**BOTTOM:** Car Host David Kehrler welcomes visitors aboard the LBR 23 open-air car as our Easter Bunny Train Ride prepares to depart Industry Depot on March 31. All trains ran at sold-out capacity throughout the day.

## HANDS-ON TRAINING DAYS APRIL 14, MAY 12, JUNE 9

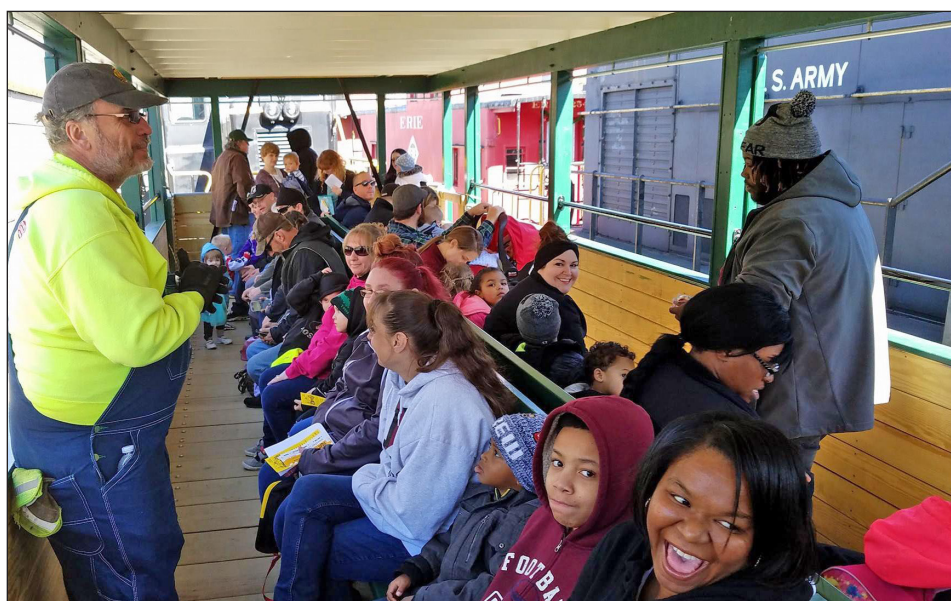
Our first hands-on training session will be held on Saturday, April 14. This training is for train crew volunteers and is open to everyone. Please RSVP to Jim Otto if you plan on attending (see contact info on page 3). Our next hands-on training days will be **May 12** and **June 9**.

## RAILS & ALES - MAY 19

Now in its second year, Rails & Ales will feature 10 local craft breweries participating in a fun tasting event geared towards enthusiasts. Tasting stations will be set up at Industry Depot and in the Upper Yard, and visitors will ride our train between the two locations between 12:00 and 4:00 p.m. Catering will be provided by **Z Best Foodz**, and free popcorn will be available in the Upper Yard. As always, museum volunteers are needed to staff positions on and off the trains.

We'd like to thank our participants and sponsors including **OSB Ciderworks**, **810 Mead Works**, **West Shore Brewing Co.**, **Blue Toad Hard Cider**, **Swiftwater Brewing**, **Rootstock Ciderworks**, **K2 Bros. Brewing**, **Roc Brewing**, **Triphammer Bierwerks**, **Iron Tug Brewing**, **Stoneyard Brewing**, **Upstate New York Hombrewers Association**, the **Rochester Beer Blog** (it's a real thing), and **CITY Newspaper**. Tasting Tickets are \$20.00, Designated Drivers are \$15.00. Tickets are available for purchase now from our web site [RochesterTrainRides.com](http://RochesterTrainRides.com).

—Otto Vondrak, Visitor Ops Supt.







**ABOVE:** The bases of the old Portage Trestle have been set aside and earmarked for preservation.  
PHOTO BY JOHN KUCKO DIGITAL

**LEFT:** Jeremy Tuke led a cleanup of the depot basement at the end of February to apply sealant to the walls as we prepare to reconnect our sanitary sewer line. All permits have been granted, the next step is to put the construction project out for bid to tunnel from the depot to the sewer main.

## WELCOME VICE PRESIDENT DAVE PEET

Since Dave Buckner stepped down late last year due to health reasons, the vice president's position has been vacant. The office remained unfilled after our November election when the winning candidates declined to serve. At our April board meeting, member Dave Peet volunteered his service, and was appointed by unanimous board vote interim vice president to serve out the remainder of Dave Buckner's term which expires in November 2018. Dave Peet is no stranger to the board, having previously served as a trustee and as treasurer for many years.

Your Board of Trustees is always looking for new faces, and any member in good standing is eligible to join. Our monthly

meetings are open to all members, and we encourage you to contact us or come by to learn more about how your board functions.

—Mike Dow, President

## OLD PORTAGE TRESTLE DISMANTLED

With the new steel arch bridge over the Genesee River completed and opened to traffic on December 11, Norfolk Southern's contractors wasted no time dismantling the original 1875 span. Crews worked through the winter to cut and take apart the steel trestle structure. The iconic bases with "1875" cast into them were set aside for preservation, while the rest of the old bridge was cut up for scrap. Much of the scrap metal was loaded into high-side gondolas on the Depew, Lancaster & West-

ern in Batavia for outbound shipment. By mid-April the construction crews and metal workers had packed up their cranes and equipment from the area around the new steel arch. The next phase of construction includes rebuilding trails and reopening access roads, while restoring the landscape and planting trees.

The new \$75 million steel arch span is 963 feet long and can support the standard 286,000 pound freight cars with ease. Trains can travel across the new bridge at 30 m.p.h. in comparison to the restricted 10 m.p.h. on the old trestle.

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THE **SEMAPHORE**

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



The last coal delivery was unloaded at Eastman Business Park (Kodak Park) on March 13, 2018. All power generation has now switched over to natural gas. Kodak was the last coal customer remaining in Rochester since the shut down of RG&E's power generation stations. PHOTO BY OTTO M. VONDRAK