

TV
OFFICIAL BALLOT INSIDE

SEMAPHORE

NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCHESTER & GENESEE VALLEY RAILROAD MUSEUM

VOL. 61 NO. 8
NOVEMBER 2018

NEXT MEETING:
November 15
Elections and
Members Slide Night



Despite cool temps for the three weekends of train operation in October, your museum hosted more than 2,200 visitors. Conductor Jim Otto surveys the scene as another train filled to capacity departs the upper yard on a morning run to Midway. See page 3 for details. PHOTO BY OTTO M. VONDRAK

Election Special

INSIDE

2018 RGV Schedule . .	2
Pumpkin Patch	3
Santa Trains	3
Offical Ballot	5
BR&P Caboose 280. . .	7

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 12.** Or, you can bring your ballot in person to the monthly meeting on November 15. Please take the time to cast your vote and make your voice heard.

We understand that some of you have been agitated by an unauthorized mailing list falsely claiming to represent the museum. Rest assured your board of trustees is using every resource at their disposal to remedy this situation and eliminate the harassing messages. Let us not forget that the primary goal of this organization is the enjoyment of trains and railroading. We are the oldest and the largest operating railroad museum in New York State. Because of the size and transparency of our organization,

minor issues will arise from time to time. Your board works tirelessly behind the scenes to keep everything running smoothly. We thank you for your support and understanding as we resolve the issues currently facing our organization.

I'd also like to remind you that your Board of Trustees is here to serve you. We are also members at large, active in the growth and development of your museum. If you're not comfortable talking to me personally, then please reach out to one of the others. You can find our contact information on page 3.

We also have fun activities planned for this winter, including our **Holiday Open House** on December 7. Our popular **Santa Train Rides to the North Pole** have nearly sold out! We will need the help of many volunteers to make this event, we hope you can spare some time to join in the fun.

—David Scheiderich,
R&GVRRM Trustee



www.rgvrrm.org

MUSEUM OFFICERS

Interim President
John Stewart

Vice President
VACANT

Interim Treasurer
Dave Peet

Recording Secretary
Otto M. Vondrak

Corresponding Secretary
Joel R. Shaw

Trustees
Rob Burz
David Kaiser
Joe Nugent
David Scheiderich
David Shields
Rand Warner
Jim Ziobro



The official publication of
the Rochester & Genesee Valley Railroad Museum

Volume 61, No. 8

EDITOR
Otto M. Vondrak
ovondrak@yahoo.com

PRINTING AND MAILING
Dave Peet

©2018 Rochester & Genesee Valley Railroad Museum. The Semaphore is published monthly by the Rochester & Genesee Valley Railroad Museum. Electronic distribution by e-mail is free. First-Class mailing is available for \$7.00 a year. Non-member mailed subscriptions are \$12.00 and run from January 1 to December 31. Member meetings are held the third Thursday of each month, and the Board of Trustees meets the first Thursday of each month. Any items related to the activities of the Rochester & Genesee Valley Railroad Museum, and regional railroad history and current events are gladly accepted for publication.

THE ONLY REAL SANTA TRAIN RIDES
SO CLOSE TO HOME!

Santa Trains

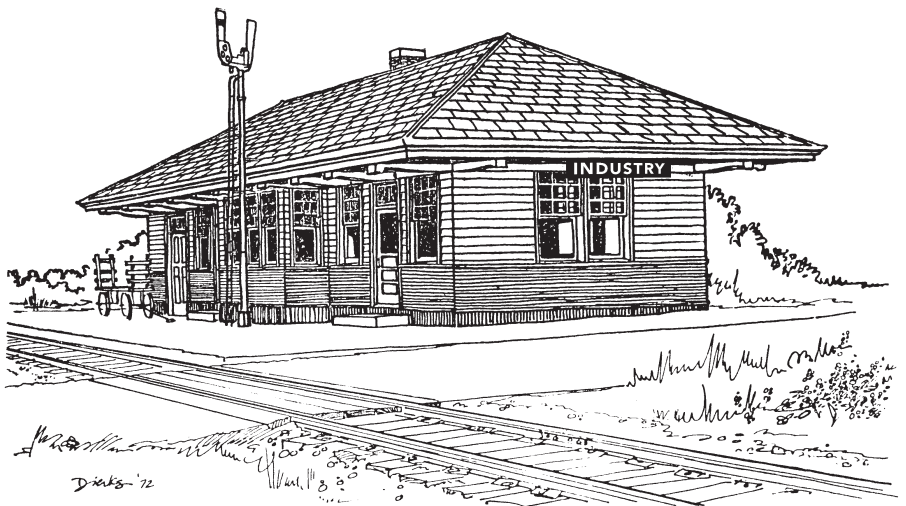
TO THE NORTH POLE

**DECEMBER
1, 8, 15**

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.



RochesterTrainRides.com



MUSEUM CONTACT INFO

INTERIM MUSEUM PRESIDENT

John Stewart
(585) 704-8885 johnrjstewart3@gmail.com

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS SUPT.

Charlie Marks
(585) 637-4271 cmarks@frontiernet.net

MOTIVE POWER SUPT.

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

OPERATIONS SUPT.

Jim Otto
(585) 755-8942 jamesotto@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

VISITOR OPERATIONS SUPT.

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

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

Sam Rosenberg
ALC0251@frontiernet.net

PROGRAM CHAIRMAN VACANT

MONTHLY PROGRAM

For the fall and winter months, monthly meetings return to the 40&8 Club, 933 University Ave. We are now seeking programs for the upcoming season. The Program Committee Chairman position remains vacant, please contact **Otto Vondrak** if you would like to volunteer to coordinate our monthly meeting programs.

Our annual elections will be held on Thursday, **November 15**. As ballots are being counted, we we host a special **Members Slide Night!** We supply the projector, you bring great images to share either in a tray of slides or on a USB stick. Please limit your show to 40 images each so we can leave time for the next presenter.

OCTOBER PUMPKIN PATCH TRAIN RIDES

Your museum hosted more than 2,200 visitors in the month of October for our popular Pumpkin Patch Train Rides and our new Trick or Treat Train Rides. We had 1,031 visitors on Oct. 13-14, 868 visitors on Oct. 20-21, and 337 visitors on Oct. 27.



The Lionel O scale exhibit by the Flower City Tinsplate Trackers was a major attraction at the museum during the month of October. Temporarily installed in the Restoration Shop, the model railroad featured accessories that could be activated by visitors pressing a button.

Despite an unseasonable cold snap which discouraged sales, our volunteers received many compliments for their hard work and dedication. Here's just a few samples gathered off our Facebook pages...

"My husband and I have been taking our sons here for a couple years now. It's a perfect amount of time on the train for two crazy toddlers. I love all the stuff they have for kids. All the volunteers are very friendly and we will continue to come back!"

"Wonderful family event. Very friendly staff members."

"Really great time! Friendly staff. Fun for all ages, and it's affordable!"

"Great day and friendly volunteers!"

Everyone should be proud of the effort put forth during the fall season. Thank you again to **Spirit Wind Farms** for providing a wonderful petting zoo experience, **Flower City Tinsplate Trackers** for their impressive and interactive Lionel exhibit, and thanks also to **Duke's Donuts** for selling delicious fresh donuts. This year, larger pumpkins were provided by nearby **Gro-Moore Farms**. Thanks also to **Wegmans** for sponsoring our apple cider. Together, we have created a wonderful fall experience for our visitors to enjoy.

Trying something new this year, we hosted an afternoon event where visitors arrive in costume and go trick-or-treating around the museum grounds, with help from the sisters of **Alpha Sigma Alpha at RIT**. Due to the cold and rainy weather,

we moved many of the activities inside our exhibit cars and the Restoration Shop. We saw many young visitors arrive in creative costumes, and all left with smiles on their faces. Thanks to all for a job well done!

SANTA TRAINS TO THE NORTH POLE

Train rides to visit Santa and Mrs. Claus at the "North Pole" return on **December 1, 8, and 15**. Visitors will arrive at the depot to enjoy complimentary hot cocoa and cookies while waiting to board their train. Upon arrival at the North Pole, visitors will disembark for a special visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus! Every child will get to meet Santa and receive a candy cane from one of Santa's elves. As evening turns to dark, the soft lighting of kerosene lamps inside the cabooses adds to the festive atmosphere. Trains depart every hour from 4:00pm to 7:00pm. **This event has SOLD OUT!** But we will still need your help to make this event a success. Contact Otto Vondrak directly if you can help on any of the dates.

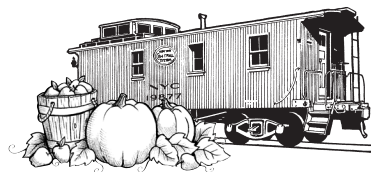
—Otto Vondrak, Events Supt.

ROCHESTER SUBWAY CAR 60 UPDATE

Volunteers from **Sheet Metal Workers Union Local 46** continue to make progress on body panel repairs, supervised by Rand Warner and Peter Gores, with help from Rob Burz and Dave Luca. A whistle similar to what would be found on Car 60



Pumpkin Patch Trains



LEFT: Sisters from Alpha Sigma Alpha sorority at RIT volunteered to hand out candy during our Trick or Treat Train Rides on October 27.

BELOW LEFT: For the first time, we featured Duke's Donuts in the upper yard, selling fresh frycakes and cider donuts during our Pumpkin Patch Train Rides on October 20-21.

BELOW: Despite chilly weather and light rain, we hosted nearly 400 visitors for our first ever Trick or Treat Train Rides on October 27.



was installed, with a temporary air line attached to it. The sounds of the trolley whistle and the repaired trolley gong filled the shop, evoking images of what could be. Rand is working on a proposal to fix up the motorman's cab and temporarily hang the restored headlight on the front end to encourage donations from visitors.

WELCOME OUR NEW BUILDINGS & GROUNDS SUPT.

Please welcome **Charlie Marks** as our new Buildings & Grounds Supt. Thanks also to **Mark Wilczek** for his years of service in that position. Charlie will be helping coordinate projects related to our buildings and grounds, with the support of our volunteers. Charlie prefers contact by email, found on page 3.

PRESIDENT STEPS DOWN

President **Mike Dow** submitted his resignation to the Board of Trustees on October 30, effective immediately. We thank Mike for his years of volunteer service as our president, building upon past success to move our organization forward. **John Stewart** has been appointed by the Board of Trustees to serve out the remainder of Mike's term, which expires in January. A reminder that **elections will take place on November 15, 2018**, at our regularly scheduled meeting. See the ballot on page 5, which must be mailed by **November 12**, or brought with you to the meeting to be counted. Thank you.

WWW.RGVRRM.ORG
FACEBOOK.COM/RGVRRM

NOTICE OF TERMINATION VOTE

Art. II, Sec. 5: The RGVRRM may, at its discretion, terminate the RGVRRM membership of any member whose presence may be detrimental to the RGVRRM. Such action shall be on the recommendation of three-quarters (3/4) vote by the Board of Trustees, and must be ratified by a vote of at least three-quarters (3/4) of the members present and voting. Such a vote must take place at a regular meeting. The members must be notified in writing in advance of the termination to be voted upon, in addition, of the time and place of the meeting.

The Board of Trustees passed a motion to remove member Jim Ziobro at the November 1 board meeting. The final vote to remove Jim Ziobro will take place at the November 15, 2018, meeting at the 40&8 Club, 933 University Avenue, Rochester, N.Y., at 7:30 p.m.



OFFICIAL 2018 BALLOT



ROCHESTER & GENESEE VALLEY RAILROAD MUSEUM

In accordance with Articles III and IV of the RGVRM 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 [].

President Two-Year Term (Vote for ONE candidate)

[] Otto Vondrak [] Jim Ziobro

[] Write-In: _____

Vice President Two-Year Term (Vote for ONE candidate)

[] Peter Gores

[] Write-In: _____

Treasurer Two-Year Term (Vote for ONE candidate)

[] Dave Peet

[] Write-In: _____

Recording Secretary Two-Year Term (Vote for ONE candidate)

[] Write-In: _____

Corresponding Secretary Two-Year Term (Vote for ONE candidate)

[] Write-In: _____

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

[] David Scheiderich [] John Stewart

[] Write-In: _____

[] Write-In: _____

[] Write-In: _____

Elections will take place at the November 15, 2018 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:

RGVRM Ballot, P.O. Box 23326, Rochester, NY 14692

MAIL YOUR BALLOT BY NOVEMBER 12

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

PLEASE
PLACE
POSTAGE
HERE



See other side for official 2018 ballot. Please bring your completed ballot to the November 15 meeting or mail your ballot by November 12 to make sure your vote is counted!

BR&P CABOOSE 280

AS THE STORY GOES, Mumford businessman Oliver Allen proposed the idea to build a railroad connecting Rochester with the coalfields of Pennsylvania. In 1869, the Rochester & State Line Railroad was chartered. Failing to meet its revenue goals, the company was reorganized in foreclosure as the Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburgh Railway in 1885. Headquartered in Rochester, the railroad connected its three namesake cities with a Y-shaped system. In 1932, the railroad was acquired by the Baltimore & Ohio, along with the neighboring Buffalo & Susquehanna.

Caboose No. 280 was part of the third lot of this class built for the BR&P in October 1923 by Standard Steel Car in Butler, Pa. Standard Steel constructed No. 265 through the last in the class, No. 314, between September and December 1923. Prior to this, the prototype class car No. 150 was home built in the BR&P's DuBois, Pa., shops in January 1914. The second group was built by the Mt. Vernon Car Company in Mt. Vernon, Ill., in April and May 1918. These cars were all steel underframe, center cupola cabooses.

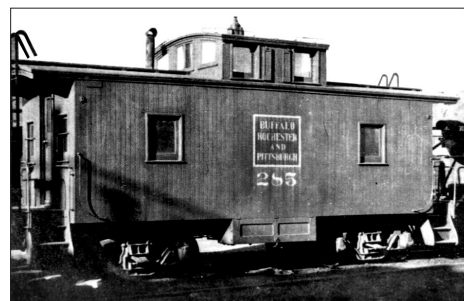
When the B&O took over in 1932, the entire roster of 66 cabooses remained in active service. The cars were re-classified as I-10 by the B&O and were renumbered C2600 through C2665. However, only 62 cars were renumbered since BR&P 260, 261, 271, and 297 were wrecked before gaining B&O numbers C-2611, C-2612, C2622, and C2648. Our No. 280 was renumbered C2631 at Buffalo Creek Yard in 1935. The only other modification came in 1951 when the car's "K" brake valve was replaced with a more modern "AB." According to service records, C2631 was assigned to East Salamanca.

In 1961, the B&O began a modernization program of the I-10's at the DuBois shops which included covering some of the side windows, modifying the toilet facilities, adding water tanks, replacing steps, changing stem handbrakes to Ajax type handbrakes, and modifying the cupola windows. Caboose C2631 arrived at DuBois for rebuilding in May 1961, and was re-



ABOVE: Volunteers are working to complete the modifications to backdate this caboose to its 1920s appearance when it was in service on the Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburgh Railway. The car was modernized with updated steps and Ajax handbrakes in 1961.

RIGHT: A photo of BR&P caboose 285 at an unknown location and date shows the configuration we are trying to replicate, including the rooftop signal lantern.



leased in October.

After rebuilding, it was returned to East Salamanca for regular assignment, though C2631 was briefly assigned to Rochester in July 1970. In January 1971, the caboose received new tongue and groove siding and its final paint job at Chillicothe, Ohio. In October, the car was briefly assigned to Silver Springs, before returning to East Salamanca in August 1972.

Caboose C2631 was retired in January 1974 and shipped to Chillicothe for storage. When the last I-10 was retired in 1977, our museum volunteers contacted Chessie System about a possible donation. A few months later we learned that railroad was shipping B&O C2631 to Rochester. It would become the first piece of equipment to arrive at our Rochester & Genesee Valley Railroad Museum at Industry in 1979.

The car saw a major restoration in 1980 as B&O C2631, led by volunteer Curt Boyer. However, the outdoors is not kind to wooden cabooses, so the car was again in need of a major restoration and placed inside our Restoration Shop in 2000. The goal of the project is to backdate the car as much as possible to its late 1930s appearance as it operated on the BR&P.

Volunteer Chris Hauf led early efforts to backdate the car, applying new facing over the plywood cabinetry in 2003. New benches were constructed as well. Progress picked up again in 2012 with the installation of new closet doors and hardware. Unfortunately, a change of jobs led Chris clear across the country a few years ago. Charlie Marks has picked up where Chris left off, leading volunteers to complete repairs to the roof, exterior siding, framing out the cupola for new windows, and installing trim. Member Sam Ferarra donated a BR&P caboose stove to our project, which will be installed as part of the restoration. Volunteers Dave Luca, Dale Hartnett, John Redden, and Jeremy Tuke have also assisted in many tasks as well.

Currently, No. 280 has a fresh coat of exterior paint, and volunteers are working to complete the interior details and finishing. New windows will be installed, and a new membrane roof is planned for this spring. After a thorough mechanical evaluation, we look forward to placing this caboose back in service on our museum railroad for our visitors to enjoy once again.

Thanks to Brian DeVries for the service history of C2631. —Otto Vondrak

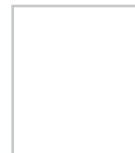


THE **SEMAPHORE**

ROCHESTER & GENESEE VALLEY RAILROAD MUSEUM

P.O. BOX 23326

ROCHESTER, NY 14692-3326



Find us on Facebook! facebook.com/rgvrrm



After the end of electric service in 1931, Erie Railroad passenger service on the Rochester Branch was provided by Brill gas electric motor cars until September 1941. The train shed over the two platform tracks was removed in 1941, so this scene might be right around the end of service. Located on the corner of Court and Exchange streets, the station was razed in 1947, and has remained a parking lot ever since. COLLECTION RGVRRM