



Volunteers have been adding some cosmetic upgrades to Rochester Subway Car 60 to help visitors better understand our restoration goals. The restored headlight has been attached to a temporary dash, along with a destination sign, and more. The modifications were made as part of the "Winterfest" event hosted by New York Museum of Transportation for visiting trolley museum professionals on February 16. PHOTO BY OTTO M. VONDRAK

Always Busy Season

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I often like to joke that we can "take it easy" for about five weeks between the last Santa Train Ride in December and the first preparations we make for the upcoming season in February. Like the famous vaudeville theatre that boasted "We Never Closed" during the war in Europe, likewise our volunteers never rest. We've already begun cleaning up our museum property and planning for several important expansion and improvement projects. Trains are being inspected and repaired, switch crews are rearranging the yards for operation and display.

We will be assisting NYMT with their "Winterfest" event on **February 16** when they host visitors from trolley museums from around the country. Our diesel shuttles will meet the trolleys to bring visitors to our restoration shop for a tour, some refreshments, and hot coffee!

Our Annual Museum Banquet will be held on **Saturday, March 23**, featuring career railroader **John Connelly**, now Vice President of Operations of Genesee & Wyoming's Northeast Region. Tickets are selling fast, visit rgvrrm.org for details.

Annual Rules Class will be **Saturday, March 30**, at the 40&8 Club in Rochester. This classroom session is the first step you need to complete if you are interested in volunteering for train service, but there is important safety instruction in the first part of the class all volunteers should take part in. Please RSVP so we can have enough classroom materials on hand.

We are making plans for the future. What do you want to see at your museum in the years to come? Please email me at ovondrak@yahoo.com or call me at (585) 820-2341.

—Otto M. Vondrak, Museum President



www.rgvrrm.org

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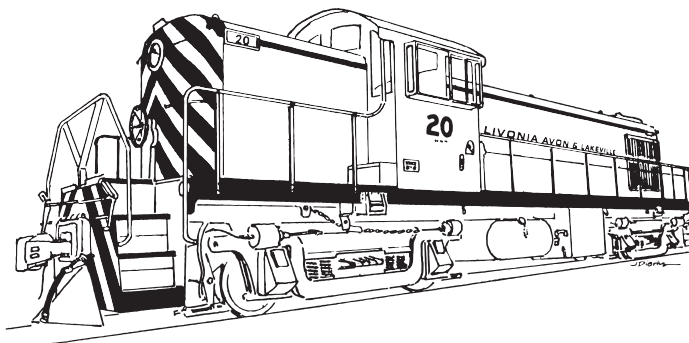
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2019 SCHEDULE

Subject to change. Visit RochesterTrainRides.com for details.

April 20 - Easter Bunny Train Rides

May 18 - Rails & Ales Train Rides

May 19 - Vintage Rails Wine Tasting

June 15-16 - Fathers Day Train Rides

July 27-28 - Princesses & Superheroes

August 17-18 - Real Steam Train Rides

August 24-25 - Real Steam Train Rides

Sept. 21 - Oktoberfest Rails & Ales

Sept. 22 - Ciderfest Rails Train Rides

Sept. 28-29 - Military Salute Train Rides

Oct. 12-13 - Pumpkin Patch Train Rides

Oct. 19-20 - Pumpkin Patch Train Rides

Oct. 26-27 - Pumpkin Patch Train Rides

Nov. 30 - Santa Trains to the North Pole

Dec. 7- Santa Trains to the North Pole

Dec. 14 - Santa Trains to the North Pole



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MONTHLY PROGRAM

For the fall and winter months, monthly meetings return to the 40&8 Club, 933 University Ave., Rochester, N.Y. (across from Gleason Works). Free parking in Greek Orthodox Church parking lot next door. Doors open at 7:00 p.m., meeting starts at 7:30. Brief business meeting followed by entertainment program. Cash bar available. Browse the Museum Bookstore before the meeting.

On **February 21**, Joseph Cermak will present some of his photography from "Western New York and Beyond," taking advantages of new angles made available by using a drone. Joe is a mechanical engineering student at the Rochester Institute of Technology and has been a railfan and photographer for many years. Bring your CSX memorabilia to display!

On **March 21**, member Mike Byrne will present the history of Kodak Park Railroad operations in the 1970s and 1980s. This intra-plant railroad served the sprawling Kodak Park manufacturing facility for a hundred years until declining business



OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT PROMOTIONS: Starting in 2019, volunteer Frank Gough (LEFT) will succeed Jim Otto in the role of Operations Supt., while Peter Gores (RIGHT) will supervise our engineers as Road Foreman of Engines.

forced the operation to be contracted out in 2007. Bring your Kodak memorabilia to display and share!

On **April 18**, graphic designer Steve Boerner will take us back to Adam's Basin of the 1920s, including the Erie Canal lift bridge and Rochester, Lockport & Buffalo interurban line. His detailed three-dimensional illustration is the result of years of intense research. Bring your interurban trolley artifacts to display!

All events are FREE and open to the public. Please bring a friend and help spread the word. If you have ideas for future presentations, please contact me. Thanks also to **Duncan Richards** for volunteering to join the committee.

—John Stewart, Program Chair

WELCOME OPERATIONS SUPT.

FRANK GOUGH

Operations Supt. **Jim Otto** stepped down at the end of 2018 due to increased work commitments. We owe him thanks for his years of dedicated service as superintendent. Don't worry, you'll still see Jim volunteering for train crew! Meanwhile, **Frank Gough** has volunteered to take on the role, managing the continued safe operation of our museum railroad. Frank first passed his Conductor qualifications in 2015, and will begin his Engineer training this year.

Frank's passion for trains started at a young age. "I have railroading in my blood, since my grandfather, great grandfather, and several great uncles worked for B&O, C&O, and Chessie in Covington, Kentucky," he said. If he is not on the south

end of a caboose calling car counts, Frank enjoys spending time with his family. His wife Lorraine, and twin boys Aiden and Maxwell, are regular visitors to and volunteers at the museum.

Aside from coordinating training for brakemen and conductors, Frank will also be responsible for putting out crew calls and issuing Bulletin Orders as needed.

In related news, **Peter Gores** has assumed the role of Road Foreman of Engines. Peter will be using his years of professional operating experience in the railroad industry to supervise our engineers and coordinate training.

We are always looking for new volunteers to join our train crews. Please contact Frank or Peter for more information, and welcome them in their new positions!

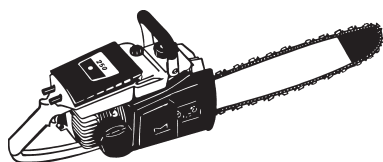
—Otto Vondrak, President

2019 WINTERFEST AT NYMT

FEBRUARY 16

More than a dozen trolley museums comprise the North East Association of Trolley Organizations (NEATO). Their annual "Winterfest" event will be held at the New York Museum of Transportation on February 16. Guest operators from all over the Northeast will visit NYMT for a chance to ride and operate cars 161 and 168, two former Philadelphia & Western "Strafford" cars. Our museum has been invited to operate a diesel shuttle between Midway and the Restoration Shop so visitors can tour our facilities and see our progress on restoring Rochester Subway Car 60.

Volunteers Rand Warner, Peter Gores, and John Redden have helped complete



JANUARY GROUNDS CLEAN-UP

Buildings & Grounds Supt. Charlie Marks organized a special work window to remove some large dead trees that were threatening our equipment stored on Track 6. With the trains removed, volunteers brought the trees down safely an set to work cutting up the logs for removal on January 12. Aside from some very busy chainsaws (ABOVE), several pieces of our heavy equipment fleet were used including our Ford forklift (ABOVE RIGHT), Case backhoe, and Army dump truck (RIGHT). Clean-up was completed on January 15, with further work taking place this spring. Thanks to all the volunteers who contributed!



several cosmetic upgrades to help our visitors better understand our restoration goals. A temporary dash made of masonite was attached to the front of Car 60, and the restored headlight and a cleaned-up electric m.u. connector attached. The front destination sign was installed and lit up as well. A temporary air line has been routed to the car to allow visitors to blow the whistle. The trolley gong has also been repaired as well. Stop by the shop and see the results!

MARCH 23 ANNUAL MUSEUM BANQUET

Join us on **Saturday, March 23**, at the River's Edge Party House for our annual R&GV Museum Banquet featuring **John Connelly**! Our featured guest speaker is Vice President of Operations at Genesee

& Wyoming's Northeast Region, which includes the Rochester & Southern Railroad, Buffalo & Pittsburgh Railroad, and the South Buffalo Railroad. Drawing upon his thirty year career in transportation, John will recount the history of Genesee & Wyoming and the highlights of his career as we celebrate our museum's achievements from the past year.

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 presentations, 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 will be available only on our web site at www.rgvrrm.org.

—Dave Shields, Banquet Committee

MARCH 30 ANNUAL RULES CLASS

Our 2019 Annual Rules Class will take place **Saturday, March 30, 2019**, 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.

Safety Rules are required for ALL museum volunteers, while Operating and Air Brakes are required for all train crew volunteers. The class is split into three parts:

PART ONE: SAFETY — Strongly suggested for ALL VOLUNTEERS, re-

ardless if you are in train service or not. Covers basic safety rules, 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 as a 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. 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 (if you don't have one, these books will be issued to you, so bring a three-ring binder).

The class is FREE to attend, but you must RSVP to Rules Examiner David Scheiderich at boblenon@gmail.com so we have enough class materials for everyone attending.

—Frank Gough, Operations Supt.

JULY 19-21 WEEKEND RAILROAD TOUR OF ALTOONA, PENNSYLVANIA

Please join us for a special Weekend Railroad Tour of Altoona from July 19 through 21, including visits to the **Railroader's Memorial Museum, Horseshoe**

Curve National Historic Landmark, an **Amtrak** ride from Altoona to Johnstown around Horseshoe Curve, a tour of **Curry Rail Services** located in the old PRR Holidaysburg Car Shops, a visit to **Allegheny Portage Railroad National Historic Site**, a ride behind ex-Bath & Hammond-sport steam locomotive no. 11 at the **Everett Railroad**, a visit to and rides at the **Rockhill Trolley Museum**, and a tour of the shops at the **East Broad Top Railroad**.

Our air conditioned and restroom equipped motor coach departs from the R&GV Railroad Museum parking lot (282 Rush Scottsville Road, Rush, N.Y.) on Friday, July 19, at 7:00 a.m. and returns on Sunday, July 21, around 9:00 p.m. **Tickets are \$295.00 per person**, which includes motor coach transportation and admission fees for all the venues. **PLEASE NOTE: You must make your own arrangements for lodging and food.**

We have reserved a discounted block of rooms at the **Quality Inn & Suites** in Altoona. Each room features two queen beds, and the cost per night is **\$104.00** plus 11% room tax. To reserve your rooms for Friday, July 19, and Saturday, July 20, please call the hotel directly at (814) 944-9661 and mention our group name "Rochester & Genesee Valley Railroad Museum."

Get on board! The tour is limited to 56 seats, and ticket sales end April 15. See the complete itinerary and order your tickets online at **RochesterTrainRides.com**.

—Dave Shields, Trip Chairman

HELP WANTED

These positions have an immediate need!

PUBLICITY MANAGER

Part-time position. This volunteer would coordinate posting museum event listings to various community websites, and sending out press releases to local media. Help identify new outlets for event promotion. Copy would be provided, but willingness to write and edit is a plus.

TICKETING MANAGER

Part-time position. Help manage our online event ticketing system! Using Eventbrite, this volunteer would set up ticketing for individual events, monitor sales, and respond to customer service inquiries. A willingness to help with Group Sales and Private Tours is a plus.

GIFT SHOP MANAGER

Your Museum Gift Shop is in need of a manager who is motivated and enthusiastic. This volunteer would be in charge of ordering products, stocking shelves, pricing items, adding items to our PayPal point-of-sale system, and keeping track of inventory. Previous retail experience is a bonus, but not required.

OUTREACH AND DEVELOPMENT

Help make connections with our local community and be an ambassador for your museum! Arrange speaking dates, make connections with other organizations, help find donations and grants, and more. You can help us grow!

TRAINING AVAILABLE!
DON'T WAIT,
please call
us TODAY!

(585) 820-2341



ROCHESTER & GENESEE VALLEY RAILROAD MUSEUM



PUTTING THE PIECES BACK TOGETHER: Volunteers Bill Bachmann and Joe Steimer have been busy reassembling the pieces of the northeast wall inside of Lehigh Valley caboose 95100. This caboose was built in 1941 by the LV in their shops in Sayre, Pa., acquired by our museum in 2011.



LEHIGH VALLEY CABOOSE UPDATE

Re-assembly of the interior of our LV caboose continued through January, thanks to volunteers Bill Bachmann, Joe Steimer, Perry Bertsch. Sam Rosenberg has been managing the project, and assisting with insulation installation and other tasks. Also planned are some minor repairs to a window frame, and the continued cleaning of the under-body for painting.

YOU CAN HELP MAKE OUR TO-DO LIST A LITTLE SHORTER

We have several pieces of equipment would benefit from stabilization efforts as the first step towards eventual restoration. You don't need to do the work yourself, but you can help by making phone calls, getting repair estimates, or scheduling contractors. Here's a list of some of the projects we need estimates for.

Eastman Kodak 6: Replace window glass and seals in cab.

Pennsylvania Railroad 477822: Cover up window and door openings to prevent further deterioration.

Baltimore & Ohio C2493: Cover up window and door openings to prevent further deterioration.

Fruit Growers Express 50220: Seal rooftop hatches, replace missing covers.

Estimating the cost of work is the first step towards creating a plan for restoration. If you're interested in helping save these historic pieces, please contact Mechanical Supt. Joe Nugent for details on how to proceed.

—Joe Nugent, Mechanical Supt.

ABOVE: Volunteer Peter Gores imagines being the motorman of Rochester Subway Car 60, testing out the air whistle that has been temporarily installed in the cab. BELOW: Rand Warner helped install two seats and clean up the inside of the car for our visitors coming from other trolley museums around the Northeast on February 16. The car was built in 1916 and served in Rochester from 1938 through 1956.



EASTER BUNNY TRAINS APRIL 20

We will be hosting our popular Easter Bunny Train Rides on Saturday, April 20. Kids will enjoy train rides, an egg hunt, and visits with the Easter Bunny and our friendly petting zoo. What a great way to kick off our season! Tickets are \$15.00 for adults, \$10.00 for youth and seniors. Tickets on sale now! Please visit www.RochesterTrainRides.com.

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 listed below.

1. **South Fill Surface and Drainage**
—Scott Gleason, Mgr.
2. **Track 9 South Extension**
—David Kehrer, Mgr.
3. **RPO and Baggage Car Roof**
—Otto Vondrak, Mgr.
4. **Complete Repairs to RG&E 8**
—Joe Nugent, Mgr.
5. **Complete Caboose LV 95100**
—Scott Gleason, Mgr.
6. **Complete Caboose BR&P 280**
—Charlie Marks, Mgr.

HI, NEIGHBOR!

Our inspection pit inside the Restoration Shop was always intended to be a shared resource with our neighbors at the New York Museum of Transportation. In the interest of promoting safety and good operating practices, we're offering use of the pit to NYMT so they can inspect and repair their fleet of trolleys on a regular basis. Here's a copy of the letter we sent to their Board of Trustees...



ROCHESTER & GENESEE VALLEY RAILROAD MUSEUM

P.O. BOX 23326 • ROCHESTER, NEW YORK 14692-3326

New York Museum of Transportation
West Henrietta, N.Y. 14586

February 10, 2019

To the NYMT Board of Trustees:

I am pleased to report the trustees of the Rochester & Genesee Valley Railroad Museum have authorized me to make this offer of service to our neighbors, the New York Museum of Transportation. Like your organization, we share the challenges of keeping antique railroad equipment in top operating condition. In the interest of increased cooperation and promoting railway preservation, we are pleased to offer you the use of our inspection pit and indoor shop facilities for you to make regular inspections and repairs to your equipment, specifically former Philadelphia & Western "Strafford" cars 161 and 168.

When we first embarked on the pit project, it was with the understanding it would be for our shared use. Following the designs provided by other museums and railroads across the country, our pit was specifically modified with trolley maintenance in mind. In fact, NYMT consulted on its design, and made valuable suggestions for revisions to the final plans. Completed in 2015, our inspection pit measures 40' long, and is 4' wide. As such, the pit would provide a safe working environment for your volunteers to make periodic inspections and repairs to the electric motors, running gear, and other vital systems to ensure safe, reliable operation.

Our diesels and Trackmobiles stand at the ready to assist in the safe movement of your trolleys from NYMT to the R&GV shop and return, using the drawbar for towing. I've attached a few photos for reference. We would be happy to provide you with viable work windows that would accommodate both of our busy operating schedules.

In return, we ask nothing more than reasonable compensation, trade of services, or other some other form of consideration. We are happy to make this offer of assistance, and we look forward to your response and answering any questions you may have.

Yours Truly,

Otto Vondrak
Otto M. Vondrak
R&GVRRM Board President



PRESERVING THE RAILROAD HISTORY OF WESTERN NEW YORK

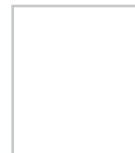


THE **SEMAPHORE**

ROCHESTER & GENESEE VALLEY RAILROAD MUSEUM

P.O. BOX 23326

ROCHESTER, NY 14692-3326



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



Member Jeremy Tuke found the Arcade & Attica northbound freight out of Arcade, N.Y., on February 12. Since the two diesel switchers lack multiple-unit connections, an engineer was in each cab operating the locomotives independently. PHOTO BY JEREMY TUKE