

THE SEMAPHORE

NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCHESTER & GENESEE VALLEY RAILROAD MUSEUM

VOL. 62 NO. 3
MARCH 2019

NEXT MEETING:
March 21
Mike Byrne presents
the history of the
Kodak Park Railroad



Hard to believe when viewing this wintry scene, but in just one month our museum will be alive with the sounds of excited visitors exploring our exhibits. From left to right, Eastman Kodak no. 6, Nickel Plate Road no. 79, and R&GV no. 54 enjoy a dusting of March snow. PHOTO BY OTTO M. VONDRAK

Get Ready, Get Set...

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Since winter won't yet release it's icy grip from Rochester, it's hard to believe we will be hosting our first public operations of the year just one month from now on **April 20!** Your museum is working hard behind the scenes to ensure we will be ready to give our visitors the best possible experience. The first step is Annual Rules Class, on **March 30**. The Safety Rules are required for all volunteers, while the other portions are required for train crews. This will be followed up by a hands-on training and orientation day on **April 13**. There's no trick to volunteering, we're happy to show you what needs to be done, all that is needed is a willingness to show up and put your best foot forward. You hear it every year, but we can't grow without you. Every contribution of your time helps! Please contact me if you have any questions.

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. Please join us as we celebrate the past year of museum accomplishments! Tickets are selling fast, visit rgvrrm.org for details.

Once again, your museum is gearing up to complete many projects this year that will have long-term benefits. Not only projects including track construction and equipment restoration, but also taking steps to ensure your museum organization is doing everything it can to serve its members in the best possible manner.

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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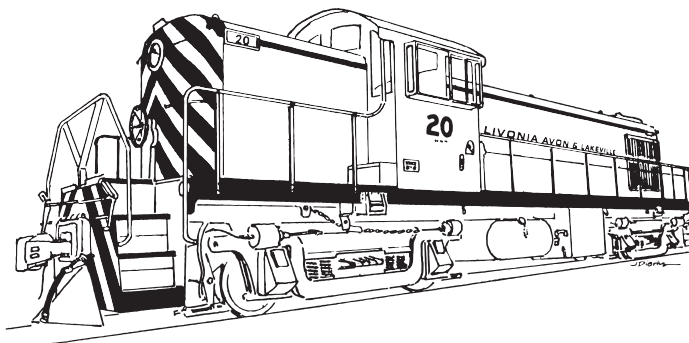
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2019 SCHEDULE

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 **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 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



Photographer Joseph Cermak presented his show featuring his drone photography from Western New York and beyond at our February member meeting. A first for us, the show was also translated into sign language for our hearing impaired guests! PHOTO BY OTTO M. VONDRAK

of years of intense research. Bring your interurban and 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.

—John Stewart, Program Chair

2019 WINTERFEST AT NYMT

More than a dozen trolley museums comprise the North East Association of Trolley Organizations (NEATO), and their annual “Winterfest” event was hosted by New York Museum of Transportation on February 16. Guest operators enjoyed their chance to ride and operate cars 161 and 168, two former Philadelphia & Western “Strafford” cars. Your museum was invited to operate a diesel shuttle between Midway and the Restoration Shop so visitors could tour our facilities and see our progress on restoring Rochester Subway Car 60.

Volunteers Rand Warner, Peter Gores, and John Redden have helped complete several cosmetic upgrades to help our visitors better understand our restoration goals. Improvements include a temporary dash made of masonite on which the restored headlight and a cleaned-up electric m.u. connector were attached. The front destination sign was installed and lit up as well. A temporary air line was connected to allow visitors to blow the whistle. The trolley gong has also been repaired, and two seats were temporarily installed. A table was placed at the rear of the car to hold our flat-

screen TV playing the documentary “The End of the Line” while the walls contained various historic exhibits pertaining to the Subway and Car 60.

We operated a total of four round trips serving more than 75 visitors, thanks to our volunteer train crew consisting of engineer Jerry Tusch, conductor David Kehrer, and car hosts Ray Howard, Chris Playford, and Dave Shields. We provided complimentary refreshments including sandwiches, chips, soda, and hot coffee for our visitors inside the Restoration Shop.

Of course, Car 60 was the star of the show, and we received many compliments on our progress, and very good advice on how to proceed with the restoration. Thanks also to project manager Charlie Marks who answered questions about BR&P 280, volunteers Joe Steimer and Bill Bachmann for hosting visitors in LV 95100, project manager Joel Shaw for showing off BNY 12, and volunteers Joe Nugent and Dave Scheiderich for giving tours of RG&E 8 and LA&L 20. As a result, your museum made valuable networking contacts in the world of railway preservation that we intend to build upon.

On April 27, we will be hosting our own meeting of railroad museums and historical societies. Stay tuned for details.

—Otto M. Vondrak

TRAIN SHOWS

Thanks to Don Wawrzyniak for organizing our effort to staff our museum's tables



WINTERFEST SUCCESS

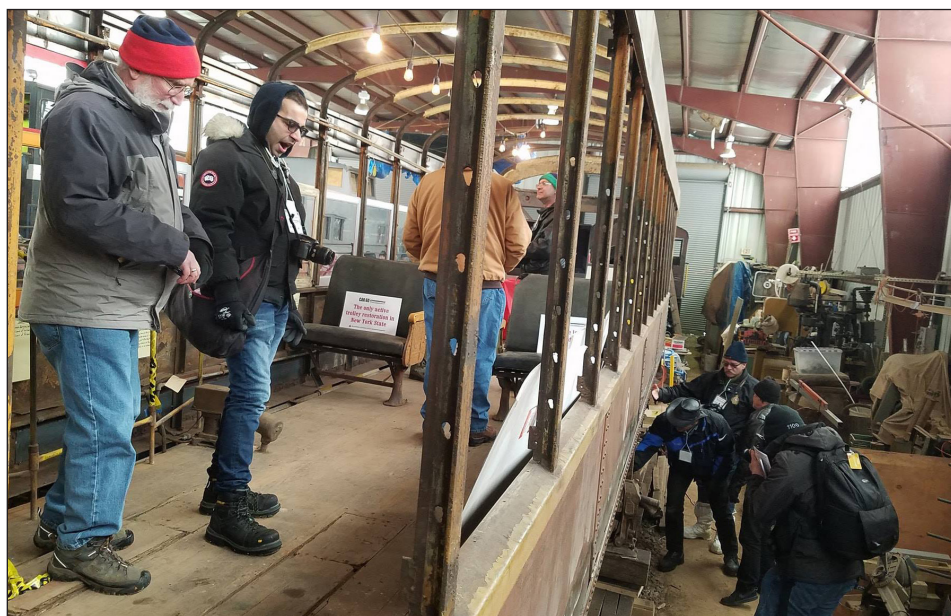
LEFT: Visitors disembark on Track 9 for their visit to the Restoration Shop on February 16. Of the 91 registered guests, 75 toured our facility. **BELOW LEFT:** Rochester Subway Car 60 was the star of the show, with everyone excited to see our progress and learn more about this unique electric trolley car. Built in 1916 as part of a fleet of 12 high-speed cars for Utica and later transferred to Rochester in 1938, Car 60 is the sole survivor. **BELOW:** Winterfest visitors enjoyed our hospitality while they toured our various projects inside the Restoration Shop. **PHOTO BY JOEL SALOMON/ROCKHILL TROLLEY MUSEUM** **BOTTOM:** Visitors tour Car 60 inside and out, learning all they could and sharing their expertise with our volunteers.



at the Greenberg Train & Toy Show at the Dome Center on March 2 and 3. Aside from selling railroad books and select museum merchandise, we also engaged the public and handed out flyers about our upcoming events. Train shows provide excellent opportunities to advertise our events and recruit new volunteers. Our next train show appearance will be at the Genesee Society of Model Engineers Spring Train Show on **March 31** at Genesee Community College in Batavia. Volunteer for all or part of the day, every little bit helps. Please contact Don at donwawr@frontiernet.net to help out for this or any other train show.

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





WINTERFEST

ABOVE: Visitors enjoy the warm stove inside our New York Central caboose on February 16. Winterfest attendees come from trolley museums located all over the Northeastern U.S. and eastern Canada. **LEFT:** Volunteers Joe Steimer and Bill Bachmann share their progress on the re-assembly of LV 95100's interior with Winterfest attendees.

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, regardless 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

will recount the history of Genesee & Wyoming and the highlights of his railroading 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 on sale now at www.rgvrrm.org. All proceeds benefit the museum's various restoration projects and our mission of railway preservation.

—Dave Shields, Banquet Committee

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**

RIGHT: Volunteers Dave Shields and Joe Steimer tell a family about our upcoming train rides at the Greenberg Toy & Train Show in Henrietta on March 2 and 3. Public outreach is an important part of our educational mission.

BELOW: Adam Lloyd and Joe Nugent assemble pallet racking along the east wall of the Restoration Shop. Once they are anchored to the floor, the heavy duty shelving will increase our storage capacity and help keep the shop neat and organized.

BELOW RIGHT: Volunteer Rob Burz is leading the project to reconstruct the bathrooms inside Industry Depot. The first step is reversing 100 years of moisture damage by replacing rotten floor joists and subfloor, followed by installing new plumbing connections to replace old cast iron pipes. We completed the underground connection to the sewer system late last year, an important step in reconnecting our restrooms.



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. I look forward to seeing you all there! Please contact me if you have any questions.

—Frank Gough, Operations Supt.

HANDS-ON TRAINING DAY AND VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION APRIL 13

The Operating Dept. will be hosting a special hands-on training day for all train crew volunteers on Saturday, April 13. Those interested in helping on train crew (car host, brakeman, conductor, engineer) need to complete Rules Class prior to hands-on training. The "advanced" class will be working in the Upper Yard, while first year students will perform their training exercise at Industry Yard. This is a great opportunity to get familiar with the equipment under the supervision of experienced operating personnel.

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 Ops Supt. Frank Gough at fmgough34@gmail.com.

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 (5-17) and seniors (65+). Tickets on sale now! Please visit www.RochesterTrainRides.com.

**ONLY 30 TICKETS LEFT FOR
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.**

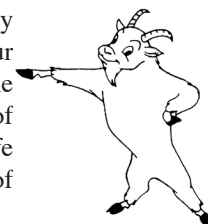
We have reserved a discounted block of rooms at the **Quality Inn & Suites** in Altoona. Each room features two queen beds, and the cost per night is **\$104.00** plus 11% room tax. To reserve your rooms for Friday, July 19, and Saturday, July 20, please call the hotel directly at (814) 944-9661 and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

Get on board! **The tour is limited to 56 seats, and as of this printing only 30 seats remain.** Order your tickets now! See the complete itinerary and order your tickets online at **RochesterTrainRides.com**.

—Dave Shields, Trip Chairman

YARD GOAT (????-2019)

Sad news from Buildings & Grounds Supt. Charlie Marks, who let us know that our "yard goat," affectionately named "Diesel," expired from natural causes in mid-March. Our runaway goat had been living on our museum property under the snow plow since the end of October, living its best life and enjoying the freedom of the outdoors. —O.M.V.



RIGHT: Bill Marcotte and Sam Rosenberg discuss the placement of a Crouse-Hinds receptacle that allows LV 95100 to be connected to "shore power" when parked in the yard. The exact placement moved a few times over the years, resulting in multiple extra mounting holes in the exterior sheet metal.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Volunteer Bill Marcotte has been repairing the doors for Car 60 in his home workshop. We saved as much of the original 1916 construction as we could, and the end result will be stronger than before.



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**
—Sam Rosenberg, Mgr.
- 6. Complete Caboose BR&P 280**
—Charlie Marks, Mgr.





THE **SEMAPHORE**

ROCHESTER & GENESEE VALLEY RAILROAD MUSEUM

P.O. BOX 23326

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Find us on Facebook! facebook.com/rgvrrm



Winterfest is an annual get-together of trolley museum volunteers, sponsored by North East Association of Trolley Organizations (NEATO). This year it was New York Museum of Transportation's turn to host this event, the first time since 2009. R&GV provided a diesel shuttle from Midway to the Restoration Shop so visitors could view our progress on Rochester Subway Car 60. Photographers line up as RGV 54 meets NYMT Car 161 at R&GV's Midway Station on February 16, 2019. PHOTO BY BILL MONAGHAN/FRIENDS OF PHILADELPHIA TROLLEYS