

**NEXT MEETING:**  
**April 18**  
*"Recreating Adam's Basin  
as a Virtual Model"*  
by Steve Boerner



Visitors enjoy the view from the Railfan Overlook as R&GV 54 leads a three car train north through the Hill Block. In the last four years, your museum has opened up more of our grounds to the public, and made a number of historic artifacts accessible to the public for the first time.

# Here We Grow!

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With winter snow retreating and temperatures climbing (we hope), it's time to launch another great operating season at the museum, starting with Easter Bunny Train Rides on **April 20!** See the full schedule of activities on page 2.

We will have a scheduled a special hands-on training event for **April 13**. Jim Otto and Otto Vondrak will head up instruction for brakemen, conductors, and engineers in "beginner" and "advanced" classes. This training is open to everyone, and additional training opportunities will be offered throughout the year.

We have many projects in the works that will help the visitor experience overall. Everything from general clean up, to the construction of new public areas and exhibits, and more. Your museum is also taking steps to expand our storage capacity, both on and off rails. We can always use

your help if you want to get involved in any way. It's not all heavy lifting!

Trips Chairman Dave Shields is hard at work preparing for our special overnight trip to Altoona this July, as well as getting ready for our Fall Foliage Excursion this October. Watch our web sites for updates.

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 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](mailto:ovondrak@yahoo.com) or call me at (585) 820-2341.

—Otto M. Vondrak, Museum President



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

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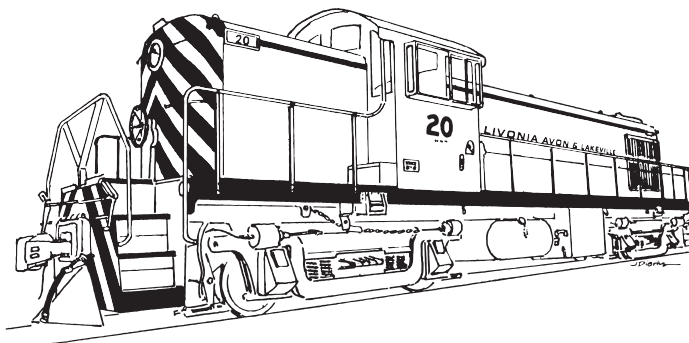
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Dave Peet

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## 2019 SCHEDULE

*Subject to change. Visit [RochesterTrainRides.com](http://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 are held at 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 an entertainment program. Cash bar available. Browse the Museum Bookstore before the meeting.

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 computer rendering is the result of years of intense research on all aspects of the scene. Bring your interurban and trolley artifacts to display!

Meetings return to Industry Depot starting **May 16**. 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



**ABOVE:** Your museum had a booth at the Great Batavia Train Show on March 31, where we sold museum merchandise and handed out fliers advertising our upcoming train rides.

**BELOW:** Mike Byrne presented a history of Kodak Park Railroad steam and diesel motive power to a packed house at our March 21 meeting. Mike authored an article detailing the history of KPRR in the July 1988 issue of Trains magazine.



continue at the depot on **June 20, July 18**, and **August 16**.

All museum meetings 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

## BATAVIA TRAIN SHOW

Thanks to Don Wawrzyniak for organizing our effort to staff our museum's tables at the Great Batavia Train Show sponsored by the Genesee Society of Model Engineers at Genesee Community College on March 31. Aside from selling railroad

books and museum merchandise, we also engaged the public and handed out fliers about our upcoming events. Thanks also to **Dave Shields, Otto Vondrak, Tony Mitiga, Lynn Heintz, and Chris Hausler**. If you are interested in helping out at future train shows, please contact Don by email at **donwawr@frontiernet.net** to help out.

## ANNUAL MUSEUM BANQUET

Once again, our members gathered at the River's Edge Party House for our annual banquet. Museum president Otto Vondrak was our master of ceremonies, recounting the history of our organization as well as



## ANNUAL MUSEUM BANQUET

**LEFT:** Our Annual Museum Banquet was held at the River's Edge Party House on Saturday, March 23, attended by many museum members and supporters.

**BELOW LEFT:** Museum president Otto Vondrak (FAR RIGHT) presided over the award and recognition ceremonies. The Prestigious Fairmont Cup Award™ was presented to Don Warwyzniak by previous year's winner Dave Peet (CENTER).

**BELOW:** Our featured guest speaker was John Connelly, Vice President of Operations at Genesee & Wyoming's Northeast Region, who detailed the history of G&W's growth from salt-hauling shortline to international conglomerate.



highlights of our accomplishments from the past year. As part of recognizing the hard work of our volunteers, **Don Warwyzniak** was the recipient of the prestigious Fairmont Cup Award™, presented by last year's winner, Dave Peet. The Fairmont Cup is presented annually to a museum volunteer who goes above and beyond the call of duty. Not only does Don manage our book store and train show efforts, but he previously served as a trustee and treasurer of our organization for many years.

Our featured guest speaker was **John Connelly**, Vice President of Operations at Genesee & Wyoming's Northeast Region, which includes the Rochester & Southern Railroad, Buffalo & Pittsburgh Railroad, and the South Buffalo Railroad. John's presentation highlighted the history of Gene-

see & Wyoming and how the company has grown over the last forty years from a humble railroad hauling salt into an international shortline conglomerate.

—*Dave Shields, Banquet Committee*

### ANNUAL RULES CLASS

I would like to thank everyone who took the time to attend our Annual Rules Class on March 30. A record 48 volunteers successfully passed Part 1 Safety Rules, 41 stayed for Part 2 Operating Rules, and 31 attended Part 3 Air Brake and Train Handling. We also discussed new policies such as Youth Volunteer Protection, and additional radio maintenance procedures. Many thanks to Rules Examiner **David Scheiderich** for teaching the majority of the classroom portion, and thanks to **Jim Otto** for

helping grade exams with me. I look forward to working with all of you throughout the year.

As we said, Rules Class is just the beginning of your training. A special Hands-on Training Class will be held on April 13, and training is also available throughout the year any time we are operating. If you missed Rules Class and would like information about make-up sessions, please contact me at [fmgough34@gmail.com](mailto:fmgough34@gmail.com).

— *Frank Gough, Operations Supt.*

### FIELD DAY CLEAN-UP

Under the supervision of Buildings & Grounds Supt. Charlie Marks, a number of volunteers came out to the museum on Saturday, April 6, to help get ready for visitors and a new operating season. Grounds were

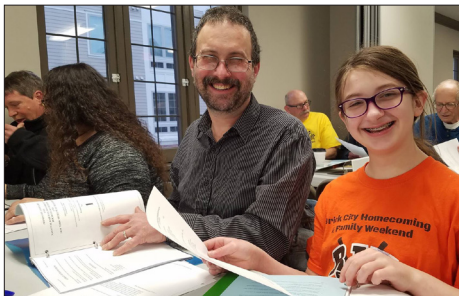


cleared of debris, picnic tables were untarped and inspected, exhibits were swept out, and the gift shop was set up. Thanks to Norm Ishler, John Redden, Jim O'Keefe, David Kaiser, and Dana Fuellhart for their assistance. Plenty more work remains to be done, but this was an important first step to getting us ready. If you see anything around the property that needs to be replaced or repaired, please let me know right away. Even better if you can help me fix it.

—Charlie Marks,  
Buildings & Grounds Supt.

### 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](http://www.RochesterTrainRides.com).

### ONLY 20 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 **Allegh-**

## ANNUAL RULES CLASS

Annual Rules Class was held on Saturday, March 30, providing an overview of Safety Rules, Operating Rules, and Air Brake & Train Handling Rules to our volunteers.

**TOP LEFT:** Operations Supt. Frank Gough explains in detail the procedures for checking out radios and reporting defects.

**LEFT:** Volunteers Mike Smith and his daughter Jordan review the Safety Rules before class.

**BELOW:** A record number 48 active volunteers were present for Safety Rules certification.



# 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 on-line 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**



# Museum Field Day

The Buildings & Grounds Dept. organized a Field Day for April 6 to clean up our grounds and get the museum ready for visitors.

**RIGHT:** Trustee David Kaiser and volunteer Dana Fuelhart swept out the Lackawanna baggage car and helped polish some of the exhibits inside.

**BELOW:** Volunteers Norm Ishler and John Redden discuss clean-up plans with Buildings & Grounds Supt. Charlie Marks (center) at Industry Depot.

**BELOW RIGHT:** Volunteer Jim O'Keefe swept out our Erie and Penn Central cabooses and shined up the windows to get ready for visitors.



ny 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 PLEASE NOTE: *You must make your own arrangements for lodging and food.*

Get on board! **The tour is limited to 56 seats, and as of this printing only 20 seats remain.** Order your tickets now! See the complete itinerary and order your tickets on-line at **RochesterTrainRides.com**.

—Dave Shields, Trip Chairman

## RAILS & ALES - MAY 18 VINTAGE RAILS - MAY 19

Your museum will be hosting two exciting events in May that highlight the contri-

butions of our local craft beverage industry. Our third annual **Rails & Ales** event will be held on **May 18**, and our first annual **Vintage Rails** wine tasting event will be on **May 19**. Both events run from 12:00 to 4:00pm. Tasting stations are set up at either end of the train ride, and refreshments are available for purchase. Tasting tickets are \$20.00 each purchased on-line (\$25.00 at the door), designated drivers are \$15.00. Adults 21 and over, please. For event details and a full listing of vendors, please visit [www.RochesterTrainRides.com](http://www.RochesterTrainRides.com).

## HELP (REALLY) WANTED

I know some of you get tired of the constant begging for volunteers, but your museum really stretched thin and we need your help. Please see the job listings on Page 5

and consider offering just a few hours of your time. Every contribution matters, and we're happy to offer training for any position. If you have a heartbeat, you're hired.

## ON THIS DATE...

While researching some topics of interest, I came across these three articles from the month of April. A note for the Pennsy story, a "Star Route" is a term used in connection with the United States postal service and the contracting of mail delivery services. The term is defunct as of 1970, but still is occasionally used to refer to Highway Contract Routes (HCRs) which replaced the Star routes.

—Otto Vondrak, Editor

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**THE END:** Volunteers under the supervision of Track & Right of Way Supt. David Kehrer installed a new bumper at the end of Track 6 behind the shop on April 6. This bumper was formerly located at the end of Track 4, which was replaced by removable wheel stops last summer.

## Pennsy Proposes End of Rochester-Olean Service

Expect That Additional Star Routes Will Be Set Up If Plan Materializes

ROCHESTER—Removal of the last two passenger trains operating between Rochester and Olean has been proposed by the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, it was announced today. The proposal would be effective April 25 and no plans have been made to carry the few persons who find it convenient to use these trains.

It is the plan of the railroad company to remove passenger train No. 9332 which leaves Rochester every week-day morning at eight o'clock and passenger train No. 9335 which leaves Olean every week-day afternoon at three-thirty o'clock.

According to representatives of the railroad company, the passenger business between Rochester and Olean seems to have

almost completely dried up, these trains running day after day with only a few persons riding, and it is said the Pennsylvania Railroad is losing about fifty dollars every day these trains are operated.

With the removal of these trains, some other arrangement would be necessary to take care of the mail and express business, especially for places between Mt. Morris and Olean, it is believed that this will result in additional star routes being set up.

Several years ago when the Pennsylvania Railroad petitioned the Public Service Commission for permission to remove two of its passenger trains on the Rochester-Olean division there was organized opposition to the plan, and the trains were continued for a time. Eventually they were eliminated and a passenger coach added to the local freight train.

—Olean Times-Herald  
April 16, 1937

## Avon Protests Erie's Removal of Flagman, Asks PSC Hearing

AVON— The Village Board of Trustees has filed a formal complaint with the State Public Service Commission, protesting against the elimination of a flagman at the West Main Street crossing of the Erie Railroad, over which passes U.S. Route 20 and New York State Route 5. This is the main Albany-Buffalo route across the state. It is expected that a hearing will be held upon the matter in the near future, trustees report.

It was generally understood here, trustees say, that when the plans for an expensive grade elimination at this crossing were discarded, a flagman would be maintained at this crossing during the entire 24 hours. The crossing not only carries the railroad traffic over the Attica, Corning, and Rochester divisions, but is used extensively by the railroad in switching cars to service seven or eight industries which lie south of the crossing.

The most important reason assigned by trustees for restoring this flagman is that this crossing carries heavy traffic. A traffic count made in August 1939 between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. of one day disclosed the following number of motor vehicles passing over the crossing: 4,076 passenger cars, 219 trucks, 223 miscellaneous vehicles, and 309 pedestrians, including school children. In the evening of the same day between the hours of 7 p.m. and 7 a.m., the count was as follows: 1,700 passenger vehicles, 215 trucks, and 295 pedestrians.

It is asserted that by reason of the maintenance of a flagman, no serious accident has occurred at this crossing for several years, and that the traffic is increasing and restoration of the watchman is in the interests of the general welfare of the public.

Copies of the protest were sent to the New York State Division of Highways.

—Democrat & Chronicle  
April 27, 1940

## B&O Asks to Cut 2 Trains to City

Because of heavy operating losses, the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad announced yesterday it would ask the Public Service Commission for permission to discontinue two trains between Rochester and East Salamanca. The railroad said each of these trains carries a total of less than 10 passen-

gers a day over the 107-mile route. Passenger, mail and express revenues of the two trains fall short by about \$95,000 a year of meeting the expenses of running the trains, the B&O said.

—Democrat & Chronicle  
April 17 1953



THE **SEMAPHORE**

ROCHESTER & GENESEE VALLEY RAILROAD MUSEUM

P.O. BOX 23326

ROCHESTER, NY 14692-3326



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Volunteer Dave Kehrer practices the time-honored tradition of providing a “roll-by” inspection as the Livonia, Avon & Lakeville’s daily road freight returns to Lakeville at sunset on April 2, 2019. Founded in 1964 to take over a portion of the Erie Lackawanna Rochester Division between its namesake cities, the LA&L purchased the track from Avon north to Genesee Jct. in 1996, marking the beginning of an aggressive territorial expansion that would ultimately include the Bath & Hammondsport, Ontario Central, and Western New York & Pennsylvania. PHOTO BY OTTO M. VONDRAK