

**NEXT MEETING:**  
**July 18**  
**ALL ABOARD!**  
Enjoy a ride on  
your museum railroad!



Three of our primary locomotives are lined up on Track 9 for service, including RGV General Electric 80-ton 54, ex-LAL Alco RS-1 20, and ex-Army Fairbanks-Morse H12-44 1843. We depend heavily on these locomotives for our regular museum operations. PHOTO BY OTTO M. VONDRAK

# Starting Lineup

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Your museum's Mechanical Dept. works tirelessly to keep our fleet of historic trains in top condition for our operating season. More often than not, the "department" consists only of volunteer Joe Nugent. As superintendent, he manages a variety of tasks, from fuel deliveries, to repairs and parts replacement, as well as routine inspections and maintenance. Without his efforts, the museum would literally grind to a halt.

We are looking for additional volunteers to get involved on a regular basis. You could "adopt" a piece of equipment, whether it's operating or for display. You could spend a few hours with Joe performing an inspection or install. Maybe you can make a few phone calls to help track down a part. Whatever it is, every contribution counts. The more people we get involved, the more items we can preserve (see page 6).

Building on our success over the last two years, we are excited to welcome back Scott Symans and Viscose No. 6 on **August 17-18 and 24-25**. Once again our visitors will be able to experience all the exciting sights and sounds of steam railroading. **We will require your help to make it a success.** Everyone will need to pitch in and make a contribution to not only ensure the safety of our visitors, but to create an enjoyable experience for everyone. Even if you only volunteer for a half-day, your contribution helps. Please don't assume someone else will do it. More details about the event are available on page 3.

I always welcome your feedback on how we can make our museum better. 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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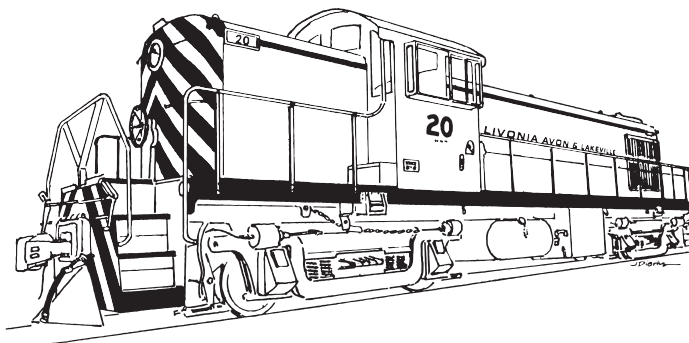
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## **2019 SCHEDULE**

*Subject to change. Visit [RochesterTrainRides.com](http://RochesterTrainRides.com) for details.*

**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**





## MUSEUM CONTACT INFO

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## MONTHLY PROGRAM

Meetings return to Industry Depot starting **June 20**. 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 **July 18**, and **August 16**. **A reminder that our monthly meetings will return to the 40&8 Club starting September 19.**

All museum meetings are **FREE** and open to the public. Please bring a friend and help spread the word about our museum.

—John Stewart, Program Chair

## PRINCESSES & SUPERHEROES

**JULY 27-28**

Children come dressed as their favorite characters and meet real princesses and superheroes (thanks to **Enchanted Princess Parties of Rochester**) while they enjoy fun train rides and other activities. Ice cream treats will be available for purchase from **JoJo's Cool Bus**, and a bounce castle is being provided by **Air Affair of Roches-**



Crane operators from C.P. Ward assisted with our “truck swap” project on June 10, lifting our spare coach and railway post office car off their original trucks and placing them on temporary “shop trucks.” The coach trucks will be refurbished and placed under our railway post office car, which houses the electrical generator for our excursion train set.

ter. Spread the word and tell your friends about our fun new event! Trains depart every half-hour from Industry depot between 10:00am-3:00pm. Adults (18+) \$12.00, Youth (5-17)/Seniors (65+) \$10.00. Please visit [www.RochesterTrainRides.com](http://www.RochesterTrainRides.com) for details and ticket reservations.

## REAL STEAM TRAIN RIDES RETURN THIS AUGUST

We are excited to announce that Scott Symans and the Viscose 6 will return to our museum this summer. Real Steam Train Rides will operate on August 17-18 and 24-25. Trains will operate on a special 45-minute schedule over an extended ride north of Midway, thanks to a special track rental compensation agreement with New York Museum of Transportation. We will be purchasing water and coal supplies soon, and making other preparations for the event.

We are seeking volunteers to help make this event a success. On the ground, this includes parking attendants, cashiers, and guides. Train crew includes engineer, fireman, conductor, and car hosts (Please note: To be steam engineer you must be a current qualified RGV engineer and attend steam training; to be fireman you must be RGV rules qualified and attend training). Support crew includes switch tender, coal tender, water tender, and fire patrol. To sign up, please email [ovondrak@yahoo.com](mailto:ovondrak@yahoo.com) or visit <https://tinyurl.com/rgvsteam2019>

—Otto M. Vondrak

## NEW YORK CENTRAL CABOOSE 19877 ROOF UPDATE

Volunteers Charlie Marks and Bill Marcotte replaced damaged boards in the roof, and also installed a new drip edge around the perimeter. Minor repairs were made to the cupola, which was sealed with caulk and painted. The roofing contractor is expected to return to complete the new membrane roof installation by the end of July. The next steps include reconditioning the brake linkages and returning the car to service for our August steam event.

—Charlie Marks, Project Mgr.

## LEHIGH VALLEY CABOOSE 95100 UPDATE

Volunteer Bill Marcotte fabricated a new smokestack, as well as new rooftop grab irons. New ladder hoops were also made and installed to replace the ones torched off by Conrail in the 1970s. Bill Bachmann and Joe Steimer completed repairs to the ice box and prepared to move it back to its original location. Meanwhile, Chuck Whalen has continued to sand and prime the wooden cabinets that will be reinstalled inside the caboose. Sam Rosenberg continued to clean the undercarriage to address any repairs and get ready for paint. Once some of these items are complete, Bill Marcotte will complete welding of the new window frame inserts on the north and south ends of the car.

—Sam Rosenberg, Project Mgr.





## NYC 19877

**LEFT:** Only a few boards were replaced on the long roof of NYC 19877. Most are in good enough shape to stay in place.

**BELOW LEFT:** All of the boards in the cupola roof were replaced.

**BELOW and BOTTOM:** A new drip edge was installed around the perimeter of the roof by Bill Marcotte and Charlie Marks, and then sealed and painted. Our goal is to have the rehab work completed in time to place back in service for our steam train ride event in August.



## BUFFALO, ROCHESTER & PITTSBURGH CABOOSE 280 UPDATE

While volunteer Jeremy Tuke has been working on interior painting, John Redden has been busy on the outside. During the month of June, John meticulously masked and painted the logo and road number on the west side of the caboose. This is the first time the car has worn proper BR&P lettering since the mid-1930s!

Our caboose no. 280 was built in 1923 by Standard Steel Car Co. and became part of Baltimore & Ohio's I-10 class in 1932 as no. C2631. After a lengthy career that included many refits and upgrades, the caboose was retired in 1974, and donated to our museum in 1979. Thanks to the efforts of numerous volunteers, this restoration project is close to being completed. Your support is appreciated!

## TRACK 9 BOARDING AREA IMPROVEMENTS

During the second week of July, work began on improvements to the boarding area on Track 9 in front of the shop. A shallow trench was dug along the west side of the track, and was leveled off using road





millings. Old relay ties donated by Genesee Valley Transportation were placed and leveled, followed by a second layer placed even with the top of the railhead. This barrier will allow the surface of the boarding area to be raised level to track level without burying the track structure. Besides improving the safety of our operation by negating the need for step boxes, it will also improve the finished look of the area. Thanks to Scott Gleason, Tim Gifford, Adam Lloyd, Duncan Richards, Bill Marcotte, and David Kehrer for their assistance.

—Otto M. Vondrak

### NEW STEP BOXES

Volunteer Bill Marcotte constructed six new wooden step boxes to use in our regular train operations. The boxes were based

on an earlier design built by Joe Werner about 17 years ago. Joe built his boxes based on a design built by Chris Hauf a few years before that! The boxes were painted Safety Yellow by Otto Vondrak, and had fresh grip tape applied to the tread by Justin Carmona. Look for the boxes to be placed in service later this month.

### "TRUCK SWAP" PROJECT

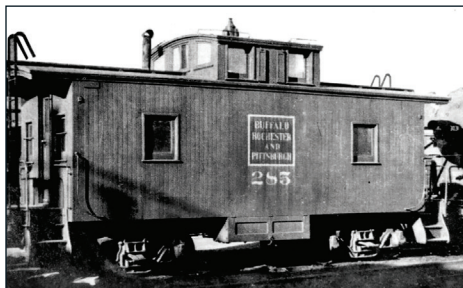
Dave Shields, Dave Luca, and Peter Gores are leading a project to swap the trucks under our ex-New York Central railway post office car no. 5021 with ones that will match the rest of our excursion car fleet. The replacement trucks, which include rotating end-cap bearings, came from our "spare" coach. Built by Budd in 1941 for the *Empire State Express*, our coaches

worked a second career in commuter service after they were rebuilt in the 1960s. Retired in 1985, we purchased six coaches in 1987, plus the railway post office car "Alonzo B. Cornell" to house the electric generator that provides "head-end power" for the lights and air conditioning.

On June 24, crane operators from **C.P. Ward** performed the lifts under the direction of our volunteers. The old trucks were rolled out from under the cars and placed for service and reconditioning. The coach and RPO car have been placed on temporary "shop trucks," which are reconditioned freight car trucks. The work will be completed before the end of September in anticipation of our October 5 Fall Foliage Excursion operated by the Livonia, Avon & Lakeville Railroad.

## BR&P 280

Volunteer John Redden applied a fresh logo and road number to the west side of Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburgh caboose 280 at the end of June, following the example of BR&P 285 (below). All of the lettering was masked and cut by hand. This is the first time the car has worn proper BR&P marks since the mid-1930s. The BR&P was acquired by Baltimore & Ohio in 1932.





## DEPOT BATHROOM RESTORATION UPDATE

I am pleased to announce your museum the recipient of another \$10,000 grant from the Davenport Hatch Foundation to use for the bathroom renovation project. Established in 1952, the Foundation provides funding for programs that support performing arts, human services, museums, and more. Volunteer Rob Burz has been leading the repairs to the sub-floor and walls in preparation for the plumber to install new pipes and fixtures by the end of August. Our goal is to maintain as much of the "original fabric" of the structure, while providing an updated, comfortable experience for our visitors. This grant money will be applied to the remodeling of our depot bathrooms. —*Jeremy Tuke, Trustee*

## FAIRBANKS-MORSE 1843

Sam Rosenberg has been following a factory troubleshooting guide to help track down an issue with the batter charging circuit on our ex-U.S. Army H12-44 no. 1843. Built in 1953 and acquired by our museum in 1993, we look forward to operating this fan-favorite locomotive during our regular operating season.

## OPEN MORE WEEKENDS?

A number of members have asked why we aren't open to the public on more weekends, other than our special events. Some suggested we open Industry Depot and Yard for self-guided walking tours on the days we are not running trains. When we began our new operating schedule in 2015, it was designed to focus on events, and

reduce the pressure on our volunteers. In the past, we struggled to find enough volunteers to keep the museum open every weekend, even without running trains. If a significant number of members are willing to commit the time to open the museum to the public on a regular basis, your board of trustees will certainly consider a proposal brought forth by any member. Contact information is listed on page 2. —*O.M.V.*

## VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Perhaps you noticed our please for help listed here and in our weekly emails. Some of the jobs might not sound glamorous but they help keep your museum running. What if we can't fill these jobs? In the worst case scenario, it means that certain tasks just won't get done.



**LEFT:** Rob Burz continues to make structural repairs to the subfloor in the depot bathrooms.

**BELOW LEFT:** Dan Waterstraat works on the control box for our new railroad crossing signal.

**BELOW:** Justin Carmona helped apply grip tape to the new step boxes built by Bill Marcotte.

**BOTTOM:** John Redden is replacing the wooden walkways on our Kodak tank car.







**LEFT:** Volunteers Adam Lloyd, David Kehr, Scott Gleason, Otto Vondrak, Bill Marcotte, and Tim Gifford helped with the Track 9 boarding area improvement project on July 7. Otto is holding a jig to help determine the level of fill in the trench. PHOTO BY DUNCAN RICHARDS

**ABOVE:** Bill Marcotte and Duncan Richards level out road millings as a base to place ties for the platform edging.



**BELOW LEFT:** Your museum depends on its fleet of heavy equipment, including Case backhoe, Army dump truck, and Pettibone forklift.

It's not easy maintaining the largest and only operating railroad museum in New York State. Some roles we are trying to fill are listed below. There's many other ways you can help, too. Just a few hours a month makes a difference. Reach out to any Trustee or Department Supt., tell us how we can improve, tell us what we can do better. But please, reach out.

—Otto M. Vondrak, President

• VISIT [FACEBOOK.COM/RGVRRM](https://www.facebook.com/rgvrrm) •

# HELP WANTED

- Publicity Manager
- Ticketing Manager
- Gift Shop Manager
- Outreach and Development

We can't do it alone. We need your help.

To volunteer your time, please call (585) 820-2341.



ROCHESTER & GENESEE VALLEY  
RAILROAD MUSEUM





THE **SEMAPHORE**

ROCHESTER & GENESEE VALLEY RAILROAD MUSEUM

P.O. BOX 23326

ROCHESTER, NY 14692-3326

**NEXT MEETING:**

**July 18**

7:00 P.M. INDUSTRY DEPOT

**PLAN AHEAD:**

**August 15**

7:00 P.M. INDUSTRY DEPOT

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



The world-famous Tuesday Night Track Gang has recruited guest volunteers to take part in their exploits! James Hinman (plaid shirt, left) from Lexington, Ky., and Bill Nye from Henrietta join Chuck Whalen, Dave Kehrer, and Rand Warner on July 2. The gang is always looking for help on Tuesday nights, no prior experience needed. Many hands make light work! PHOTO BY OTTO M. VONDRAK