

THE SEMAPHORE

NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCHESTER & GENESEE VALLEY RAILROAD MUSEUM

VOL. 63 No. 1
JANUARY 2020

NEXT MEETING:
February 20
*"Photography and the
Transcontinental Railroad"*
by Heather A. Shannon



2019 in Review



www.rgvrrm.org

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PHOTO BY NORM ISHLER

Message from the President

With each passing year, I'm continually amazed at the progress our organization makes. Just looking back at a year in pictures, the transformation is amazing. We have a great group of volunteers who are dedicated to making this museum the best it can be, and it shows.

Several restoration projects are making great strides towards completion, including the Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburgh caboose 280 (Charlie Marks, Mgr.), Lehigh Valley caboose 95100 (Sam Rosenberg, Mgr.), Brooklyn Navy Yard 0-4-OT 12 (Joel Shaw, Mgr.), Rochester Subway Car 60 (Rand Warner, Mgr.), and Kodak GATX Tank Car 52 (John Redden, Mgr.). As these projects are finished, your board is taking a serious look at protecting our investment by putting more of the collection under cover. Several options are being explored as part of our long-term planning, including the expansion of our storage capacity south of the Restoration Building.

Your museum is also exploring additional revenue streams to augment our income. Everything from additional excursions, to a longer museum season, to bigger, high-profile events are being considered. A marketing agency has been hired to help push our promotions to the next level and increase our visibility in the community.

In the Trying Something Different Dept., we used one of our New York Central *Empire State Express* coaches for our Santa Train this year. Not only did this allow us to increase visitor capacity, but also provide a more festive atmosphere as well.

Feedback was positive from customers and volunteers alike, and I hope we can repeat the performance again this year.

We can't do it alone. We need your help and support throughout the year to make our museum a success. Whether you are an active volunteer, make a financial contribution, or simply support RGVRM with an annual membership, we thank you. It may sound corny to you, but truly every contribution matters. Annual Rules Class is scheduled for March 28, which includes basic safety rules as well as instruction about safe train operation on our museum railroad. I encourage all volunteers to join in so we can continue to grow.

I hope you enjoy this annual summary of our museum activities. Of course, it's possible we missed someone's name or a project. Please don't hesitate to reach out and make sure you're counted. Whether or not you care about recognition, we work hard to preserve the record of the incredible growth of our museum.

It takes hard work and dedication to maintain and grow the largest operating railroad museum in New York State. I've learned so much as we build upon the foundation provided laid down for us by previous generations. As we move forward, what is most important to you? I would like to hear your reactions and what you think we should focus on. You can always contact me by phone at (585) 820-2341 or by email at ovondrak@yahoo.com. I look forward to hearing from you!

—Otto M. Vondrak, President

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UPCOMING MONTHLY PROGRAMS

Meetings return to the 40&8 Club, 933 University Ave., Rochester, N.Y. Free parking is available in Greek Orthodox Church parking lot next door. Doors open at 7:00 p.m., brief business meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. followed by entertainment program. Cash bar available.

Museum member **Pete Swanson** shared his photos documenting Genesee & Wyoming and Rochester & Southern as they transitioned from sleepy short line to regional railroad in the mid-1980s on **January 16, 2020**.

On **February 20**, George Eastman Museum associate curator **Heather A. Shannon** will discuss the role photography played in the race to lay tracks across North America in the 1860s.

Chris Costello, president of the Salamanca Railroad Museum, will share his personal efforts to preserve and restore **Erie Railroad business car No. 1** and a former Troop Sleeper on **March 19**.

All museum meetings are FREE and



ABOVE: Member Pete Swanson presented his slides showing the transition of Genesee & Wyoming and Rochester & Southern from short line to regional railroad in the 1980s and 1990s at our monthly meeting on January 16.

open to the public. Please bring a friend and help spread the word about our museum.

Your museum is seeking a new chairman for the Programs Committee. This person would coordinate with program presenters, and make sure audio-visual equipment is available and functioning for each meeting. If you are interested in volunteering, or would like to learn more, please contact Otto Vondrak at ovondrak@yahoo.com.

MARCH 14 ANNUAL MUSEUM BANQUET

Please join us on **Saturday, March 14**, and the River's Edge Party House off Scottsville Road near the airport for our Annual Museum Banquet, with special guest speaker **Steve Barry** of *Railfan & Railroad* magazine presenting.

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 are \$33 per person, purchase online at www.rgvrrm.org.

MARCH 28 ANNUAL RULES CLASS

Our 2019 Annual Rules Class will take place **Saturday, March 28, 2020**, 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 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 (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.

YOUR SUBSCRIPTION

Two issues of The Semaphore are printed and mailed to all members each year, including the November ballot issue and the January "Year in Review." All issues are distributed free in electronic format, available from our web site at rgvrrm.org. A print subscription can be added to your membership at any time for an additional \$10.00. Please contact our Membership Chairman **Sam Rosenberg** (contact info at top of this page) if you have questions. ☎

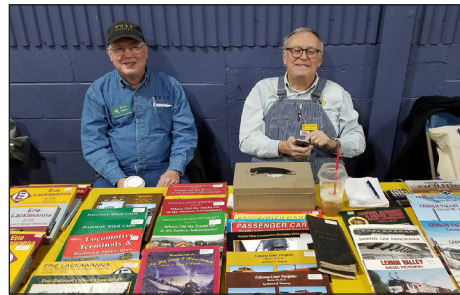
VISIT [FLICKR.COM/RGVRRM](https://www.flickr.com/photos/rgvrrm/)



2019 In Review

January 2019: Bill Bachmann, Joe Steimer, and Chuck Whalen removed paint from LV 95100's icebox as well as prepared wall boards to be reinstalled, while Dale Hartnett stripped paint from cabinet doors on January 5. On January 11, trains were temporarily moved off Track 6 so that dead trees could be safely cut down and removed by volunteers, including Frank Gough, Tim Gifford, Scott Gleason, Don Wawrzyniak, Charlie Marks, Jeremy Tuke, Lynn Heintz, John Redden, Rand Warner, and Otto Vondrak. On January 12, Bill Bachman and Joe Steimer installed wall panels on LV 95100, while Chuck Whalen sanded cupola window frames. Tree removal work continued January 15. On January 17, member David Monte Verde presented "Phoebe Snow Memories" at our monthly meeting. Additional LV 95100 wall panels were installed on January 27 by Bill Bachmann and Joe Steimer.

February 2019: A temporary front dash was installed on Rochester Subway Car 60 by John Redden on February 5, which allowed the temporary installation of the restored headlight and m.u. receptacle as part of our exhibit to encourage project donations. On February 9, Charles Bell and Jeremy Tuke moved trains back to Track 6, and assembled a train for visitors. On February 16, we operated connecting train rides with NYMT and gave tours as part of "Winterfest," an annual gathering organized by volunteers from trolley museums from around the Northeast. Our train crew for the day included Sam Rosenberg, Dave Shields, Ray Howard, and Dave Kehrer. Additional wall panels were installed inside LV 95100 by Bill Bachmann and Joe



ABOVE LEFT: Charlie Marks organized a tree clean up during the first weeks of January. **ABOVE:** In February, We hosted trolley museum volunteers from all over the Northeast as part of "Winterfest," hosted by NYMT. Everyone was very interested in our progress on Rochester Subway Car 60. **LEFT:** Norm Ishler and Don Wawrzyniak at the Dome Center Train Show in March. **BELOW LEFT:** Joe Nugent, Adam Lloyd, and Dave Peet helped install new pallet racking on the east side of the Restoration Shop.

Steimer. On February 16, Chuck Whalen sanded the conductor's desk while Joe Steimer and Bill Bachmann reassembled the southeast wall of LV 95100. On February 22, photographer Joe Cermak presented a selection of his best images from Rochester and the surrounding areas at our monthly meeting. Dale Hartnett continued to clean and polish the window grilles from Car 60 on February 23.

March 2019: On March 2-3, volunteers staffed a booth at the Dome Center Train Show, including Dave Shields, Don Wawrzyniak, Joe Steimer, Chris Hausler, Norm Ishler, and Otto Vondrak. Chuck Whalen scraped gunk and rust from the LV 95100 trucks on March 2. On March 9 and 11, Joe Nugent led the installation of steel pallet racking along the east wall of the Resto-

ration Shop, along with volunteers Adam Lloyd, Jim Johnson, and Dave Peet. Rob Burz installed new floor joists as part of the ongoing structural repairs connected to our depot bathroom renovation. Rand Warner sanded, primed, and painted windows for Car 60. On March 9, Bill Marcotte repaired and rebuilt the folding doors for Car 60 in his home workshop, while Norm Shaddick scraped paint from the motorman's cab. On March 21, member Mike Byrne presented the history of Kodak Park Locomotives at our monthly meeting. On March 23, Charlie Marks installed exterior trim on the BR&P 280 cupola windows. We held our annual banquet on the evening of March 23 with John Connelly, Vice President Operations, Northeast Region, for Genesee & Wyoming as our guest speaker. Trustee David Scheiderich conducted our Annual Rules Class on March 30, along with Operations Dept. Supt. Frank Gough. On March 31, museum volunteers staffed a booth at the Batavia Train Show, with Don Wawrzyniak, Dave Shields, Lynn Heintz, Chris Hausler, Tony Mittiga.

April 2019: Museum members Rob Burz, David Monte Verde, and Peter Gores



traveled to Poland to take part in the “Wolsyn Experience,” which allows visiting “student engineers” to learn how to fire and operate steam locomotives in regular service. On April 6, Track Dept. Supt. Da-

ABOVE LEFT: Annual Rules Class was held on March 30, attended by more than 50 museum volunteers, hosted by Ops. Supt. Frank Gough and Rules Examiner David Scheiderich. **LEFT:** On April 6, the Track Department installed a permanent bumper at the end of Track 6, with the help of David Kehrer, Adam Lloyd, and Dan Waterstraat. **BELOW:** More than a dozen volunteers came out for hands-on training day on April 13. **BOTTOM:** Charlie Marks led the project to remove the old rolled roofing, replace boards and trim, and work with the contractor to install a new rubber membrane roof on New York Central caboose 19877.



vid Kehrer led the installation of a permanent bumper on Track 6, along with Adam Lloyd, Rand Warner, and Dan Waterstraat. Buildings & Grounds Supt. Charlie Marks led a general clean-up around the museum grounds along with volunteers John Redden, Norm Ishler, David Kaiser, Dana Fuellhart, and Jim O’Keefe. Lynn Heintz installed additional seating inside our Penn Central caboose. Joe Steimer and Bill Bachmann reassembled the southwest wall inside LV 95100, while Bill Marcotte cut sheet metal and test fit parts to be welded back on to the body. On April 13 we held our first hands-on training day of the season, attended by more than a dozen volunteers. Graphic designer Steve Boerner presented his research leading to a full-color computer generated three-dimensional illustration of Bushnell’s Basin as it was in the 1920s, including the Erie Canal lift bridge and Rochester, Lockport & Buffalo interurban line, at our April 18 monthly meeting. On April 20, we hosted our sold-out Easter Bunny Train Rides with help from volunteers Tom Brazda, Jerry Tusch, Sam Rosenberg, David Monte Verder, Patricia Gallagher, John Guglielmo, Tony Mittiga, Chuck Whalen, Beth Smith, Jordan Smith, Dave Avery, Dave Shields, Charles Bell, Chris Playford, Will Strasser, Jeremy Tuke, and Otto Vondrak. On April 27, Sam Rosenberg degreased the trucks and underbody, Rob Burz made an exterior repair at the roofline, and Joe Steimer and Bill Bachmann installed ceiling boards inside LV 95100.

May 2019: On May 7, Charlie Marks led volunteers John Redden, Dale Hartnett, and Justin Carmona removing the old rolled roofing from our New York Central caboose. Chuck Whalen made progress on restoring the benches for LV 95100 on May 14, while Charlie Marks removed rotten roof boards from the NYC caboose. On May 16 we hosted our first warm-weather meeting of the season at Industry Depot. Visitors enjoyed a cookout inside the Restoration Shop, thanks in part to volunteer Dale Hartnett who manned the grill. We hosted another sold-out Rails & Ales beer tasting event on May 18, thanks to the support from more than a dozen local craft breweries. Thanks to volunteers Tom Brazda, Dave Peet, Meagan Licata, Dave Avery, Dimitri Avery, Joe Steimer, Jerry Tusch, Frank Gough, Rick Israelson, John Guglielmo, and others. On May 19, we hosted our first ever Vintage Rails Wine Tasting,



with the support of many volunteers. Our “Track Dockneys” replaced ties in the Hill Block on May 21, with a crew consisting of Duncan Richards, John Guglielmo, and Dave Chapus.

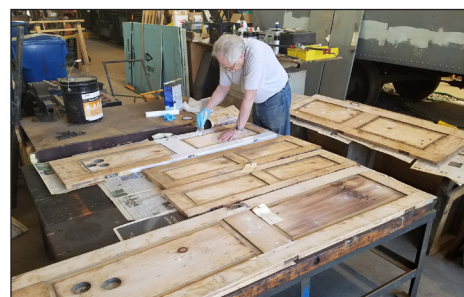
June 2019: On June 1, volunteer Jeremy Tuke prepped and primed grab irons to be installed on BR&P caboose 280. On June 4, Jeremy Tuke used the Ford forklift to move our Schramm air compressor down to the West Siding so Mechanical and Motive Power Supt. Joe Nugent could blow dust and debris from the freight trucks to be used as temporary supports as we rebuild trucks on Railway Post Office Alonzo. B. Cornell. Track Dockneys Mike Guglielmo, David Kehrer, David Chapus, Chuck Whalen, and John Redden replaced ties in the Hill Block. Scott Gleason, Tim Gifford, and Dan Waterstraat put our Komatsu bulldozer, Army dump truck, and Case backhoe to work cleaning up the right of way and drainage ditch along the main-line north of Switch 6. On June 8, volunteer Bill Marcotte took measurements and made templates for a new smokestack cap for LV caboose 95100, while Chuck Whalen continued to strip, sand, and prime cabinet doors. Sam Rosenberg scraped grime and debris from the underbody, while Joe Steimer and Bill Bachmann made repairs to the ice box and striped paint from the bathroom. Charlie Marks installed new boards in the roof of NYC caboose 19877, while Joel Shaw continued reconstruction of the interior cab woodwork on Brooklyn Navy Yard 12. On June 15 and 16 we hosted our popular Fathers Day Weekend Train Rides, thanks to the help of volunteers Tom Brazda, Bill Marcotte, Dave Monte Verde, John Guglielmo, Norm Ishler, Dave Peet, Chris Playford, Mike Root, Jeremy Tuke, Dave

Kehrer, Justin Carmona, Ray Howard, Charles Bell, Will Strasser, Joe Steimer, Dave Avery, Sam Rosenberg, and others. On June 18, Track Dockneys John Redden, Duncan Richards, Chuck Whalen, and Rand Warner helped Adam Lloyd transport and tamp ballast around the base of our new railroad crossing signal display. Charlie Marks installed a new drip edge on the NYC caboose, while Jeremy Tuke continued BR&P 280 interior finish painting. On June 20, we held our second warm-weather

TOP RIGHT: Chuck Whalen primes wooden cabinet doors that will be reinstalled inside Lehigh Valley caboose 95100.

RIGHT: Easter Bunny Train Rides in April.

BELOW: Our Rails & Ales event sold-out in May.



RIGHT: Adam Lloyd, Tim Gifford, and Scott Gleason installing new french drain along Track 6 south of the shop on July 6.

BELOW: Joe Nugent cleans a set of freight trucks that will be used to temporarily support the NYC coach while the trucks are being reconditioned.





LEFT: With the generous support of C.P. Ward, cranes lifted our coaches so trucks could be temporarily rolled out for inspection and refurbishing at the end of June.

BELOW LEFT: The Tuesday Night Track Gang (TNT Gang) replaced a number of ties and corrected wide gauge in the Hill block throughout the summer. Seen here are Mike Guglielmo, David Kehrer, John Redden, and Chuck Whalen.



Kodak tank car. Volunteers Sam Rosenberg and Justin Carmona cleaned out the radiator room inside our Army Fairbanks Morse 1843 on June 29, while Charlie Marks and Bill Marcotte replaced roof boards and end trim on NYC caboose 19877. Otto Vondrak and Justin Carmona applied a coat of safety yellow paint and grip tape to the wooden stepboxes built by Bill Marcotte. Chuck Whalen repaired and primed one of the benches for the interior of LV 95100 on June 30.

July 2019: On July 1, John Redden completed painting the logo and road number on the west side of BR&P 280. On July 3, the Track Dockneys continued their tie replacement project in the Hill Block, with the help of Rand Warner, Dave Kehrer, Chuck Whalen, and guests James Hinman (visiting from Kentucky) and Bill Dye. Rob Burz and Charlie Marks continued structural repairs to the depot floor as part of our bathroom renovations. Bill Marcotte repaired broken panes in one of the bathroom windows. Dan Waterstraat installed a new flasher circuit and wiring for our railroad crossing display. Tim Gifford and Scott Gleason cleaned up debris and discarded ties from along the mainline north of Switch 6. On July 6, Bill Bachmann and Joe Steimer made repairs to the LV 95100 icebox, while Bill Marcotte prepared to reinstall ladder hoops. Volunteers Adam Lloyd, David Kehrer, Scott Gleason, Otto Vondrak, Bill Marcotte, and Tim Gifford helped with the Track 9 boarding area improvement project on July 7, where new platform tie edging was installed. The work continued on July 9, including the delivery of crushed stone to raise the level of the boarding area to the ties. On July 16, Track Dockneys Rand Warner, Dave Kehrer, Dave Chapus, John Redden, and Chuck Whalen continued tie replacement in the Hill Block. Scott Gleason, Tim Gifford, and Adam Lloyd continued the installation of the French drain extension along Track 6. Jeremy Tuke installed vintage lockset hardware on the end doors for BR&P 280



ABOVE: John Redden hand-cut stencils to paint the logo and road number on the sides of Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburgh caboose 280.



meeting at the depot. On June 25, the Track Dockneys continued replacing ties in the Hill Block, with the assistance of Dave Kehrer, John Redden, Dave Chapus, and Rand Warner, while Jeremy Tuke painted the end doors on BR&P 280 and John Redden started hand-painting the BR&P logo

on the west side of the car. Dave Shields, Dave Luca, and Pete Gores coordinated with C.P. Ward crane services to lift our ESE coaches and RPO car so trucks could be rolled out for refurbishing and repair. John Redden rebuilt and replaced a portion of the walkway around the dome of our



ABOVE: Several volunteers assisted with the Track 9 boarding area improvement project, which included a new tie edging and raised platform area.

RIGHT: Track Dockneys hard at work in the Hill Block with volunteers Chuck Whalen, James Hinman (visiting from Kentucky), Bill Dye (of Henrietta), David Kehrer, and Rand Warner.



on July 18. On July 19, we held our third warm-weather meeting night at the museum. Trustee Dave Shields hosted a weekend tour of Altoona railroads on July 19-21. Chuck Whalen reassembled bench tops for the interior of LV 95100 on July 20. On July 26 we hosted a school field trip from Gates-Chili School District. Operations Supt. Frank Gough supervised switching activities in the Upper Yard on July 28 to make room for the arrival of steam engine Viscose 6 the next day. John Redden began painting the logo and road number on the east side of BR&P 280 on July 30.

August 2019: Bill Marcotte placed ladder hoops and rooftop grab irons on LV 95100 on August 3, while John Redden completed painting the logo and road number on the east side of BR&P 280. Dave Shields, Dave Luca, Bob Cowan, and Bill Marcotte worked on ESE trucks. Marker brackets were installed on BR&P 280 and grab irons were painted by Jeremy Tuke on August 13. We hosted our third summer meeting at Industry Depot on August 15, which included a brief appearance by BR&P 280 outside of the shop for the first time in more than ten years! A training day for all steam crews was held on August 16. Real Steam Train Rides were operated on August 17-18 and 24-25, thanks to the assistance of Tom Brazda, Duncan Richards, Valerie Richards, Dave Avery, Dimitri Avery, Dana Fuellhart, Jim Dunnington, Lynn Heintz, David Kaiser, Charlie Marks, David Kehrer, Chris Playford, Rick Israelson, Jeremy Tuke, Justin Carmona, Rob Burz, Jerry Tusch, Jim Otto, Nick Otto, Charles Bell, Joe Steimer, Ray Howard, Dave Peet, Adam Lloyd, Frank Gough, Joe Nugent,



ABOVE: ABOVE LEFT: Viscose 6 returned for two weekends in August, with member Jeremy Tuke's 1940 Buick.

RIGHT: Contractor Blastec sandblasted, primed, and painted the roof of our Lackawanna baggage and Pennsylvania Railroad mail car in September.



Jim Johnson, and many others. Rotten boards were removed from the cupola of LV 95100 by Joe Steimer and Bill Bachmann on August 20. Dave Shields reconditioned parts for the ESE trucks on August 28.

September 2019: Viscose 6 was brought down to Industry Yard for loading onto Scott Syman's trailer on September 3. On September 7, our Lackawanna baggage car was moved to the Upper Yard so the roof

could be sandblasted and painted, thanks to our volunteer train crew consisting of Peter Gores, David Kehrer, Sam Rosenberg, Justin Carmona, Otto Vondrak. Jerry Tusch and Sam Rosenberg made repairs and fired up LA&L 20 on September 10. On September 13, C.P. Ward lifted two of our ESE coaches so trucks could be rolled



LEFT: Bill Cowan, Dave Luca, Dave Shields, and Bill Marcotte reconditioning trucks to go back under our ESE generator car.

BELOW: The Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburgh caboose briefly emerged from the Restoration Shop for the first time since 2007 at our August meeting.



out for refurbishing by volunteers. Also on September 13, Winters Rigging delivered our Lehigh Valley boxcar 62300, donated by Genesee Valley Transportation. New signal 3N was installed by Mike Dow, Jerry Tusch, Scott Gleason, and Dan Watersstraat. Dave Luca reconditioned hoses for the ESE trucks on September 16. Charles Bell continued to apply body filler on the east side of LV 95100 on September 17. Tom Way presented his show featuring locomotives of the Finger Lakes Railway at our monthly meeting on September 19. Your museum hosted our annual Oktoberfest Rails & Ales on September 21, with help from Tom Brazda, Will Strasser, Sam Rosenberg, David Monte Verde, Joe Steimer, Chris Playford, Charlie Marks, Rick Israelson, Dave Scheiderich, and more than a dozen local craft breweries. On September 22, we hosted our first Ciderfest Train Rides, with assistance from Tom Brazda, Duncan Richards, John Guglielmo, Frank Gough, Will Strasser, Joe Steimer, and a number of craft cider distilleries. Charles Bell applied body filler to the exterior of LV 95100 on September 25. On September 28 and 29, we hosted our first ever Salute to Veterans event, with the cooperation of the Black Lions Vietnam Living History Group, as well as volunteers Sam Rosenberg, Jeremy Tuke, Dave Avery, Dimitri Avery, Chris Playford, Joe Steimer, David Kehrner, Tom Brazda, Dave Peet, John Guglielmo, Charlie Marks, and Duncan Richards.

October 2019: On October 5, the Fall Foliage Express operated three round trips between Lakeville and Industry, with the cooperation of the Livonia, Avon & Lakeville Railroad, and volunteers coordinated by Dave Shields including Dana Fuellhart, David Kaiser, Wayne Turnblom, Mike Byrne, Jordan Derleth, Jeremy Tuke, Mark Charles, Charles Bell, Joe Nugent, Dave Buckner, Frank Gough, Dale Hartnett, Dan Waterstraat, Justin Carmona, Jim Otto, Laurie Otto, Nick Otto, Tom Brazda, Dave Coon, Rand Warner, Rick Israelson, Chris Playford, Dave Peet, John Guglielmo, Chris Hausler, Irene Szabo, Bow Cowan, Elaine Redden, John Redden, Jim Johnson, Tony

ABOVE LEFT: Winters Rigging delivered Lehigh Valley boxcar 62300 in September, donated by Genesee Valley Transportation.

LEFT: Dozens of volunteers on and off the train helped make our Fall Foliage Express run smoothly on October 5.

How Did We Do?

Overall attendance and revenue increased over last year's total, experiencing our second-best attendance record since 2015. Income from museum admissions was \$100,970, up 19% from 2018's total of \$84,428, and significant growth from 2014's total of \$19,078.00.

Income from Cab Pass (a \$5.00 upgrade to ride round-trip in the cab of the locomotive) was \$610.00, down 5% from 2019's total of \$645.00. We operated no private charters where admission was collected, but we did operate private charters in the amount of \$480.00. Total paid museum attendance for the year was 6,606.

We saw a slight decrease in donations in the amount of \$16,200, down from last year's total of \$18,431. However, we also received \$20,000 in grants in 2019.

Your museum hosted public operation on 24 days spread out over 14 weekends. If you take our gross income from admissions divided by the number of operating days, you get an average of \$4207.08, a 5% increase over last year's daily av-

2018 GROSS ADMISSIONS

Museum Admission.....	\$82783.00
Cab Pass	645.00
Private Charters	0.00
Group Tours.....	0.00
TOTAL	\$83428.00

2018 DONATIONS

Donations	\$18341.00
Grants.....	0.00
TOTAL	\$18431.00

2018 RAILFAN TRIPS (GROSS)

FGLK Finger Lakes Ltd.	\$14105.00
Hornell Day Trip.....	1423.00
TOTAL	\$15528.00

2018 ATTENDANCE (PAID ADMISSION)

22-DAY TOTAL	6018
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erage of \$3972.76. For comparison, our daily average in 2014 was \$897.15 spread over a 30-day schedule.

Income from railfan trips was up from previous years, grossing \$28,855 from our Fall Foliage Express in October and the Altoona Railroad Tour in July. Attendance was down slightly for the fall foliage trip.

2019 GROSS ADMISSIONS

Museum Admission.....	\$100970.00
Cab Pass	610.00
Private Charters	0.00
Group Tours.....	480.00
TOTAL	\$102060.00

2019 DONATIONS

Donations	\$16200.00
Grants.....	20000.00
TOTAL	\$36200.00

2019 RAILFAN TRIPS (GROSS)

LAL Fall Foliage Express ...	\$16465.00
Altoona Trip.....	12390.00
TOTAL	\$28855.00

2019 ATTENDANCE (PAID ADMISSION)

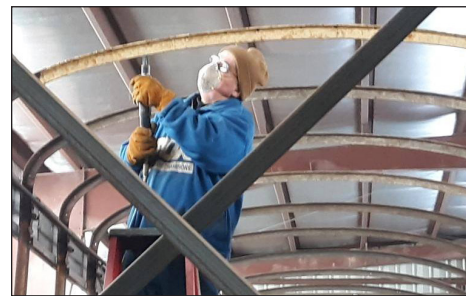
22-DAY TOTAL	6606
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Overall revenue and ticketed attendance increased from last year's total, and overall growth remained positive. Your museum will be investigating some new approaches towards revenue generation in the coming year. With your help, we look forward to measured growth in 2020. Thanks to Dave Peet for the data. 5



Mittiga, and Otto Vondrak. Adam Lloyd spread stone for the Track 9 extension on October 21. Joel Shaw replaced wood and built new window frames for the cab of BNY 12. Your museum operated three suc-

cessful weekends of Pumpkin Patch Train Rides on October 12-13, 19-20, and 26-27, with help from Sam Rosenberg, Rick Rubino, Dave Avery, Dimitri Avery, Charles Bell, Bill Marcotte, Joe Steimer, Chris



ABOVE: Dale Hartnett needle scaled roof ribs on Car 60 to prepare for new steel roof installation.

LEFT: Dave Chapus, Adam Lloyd, John Guglielmo, and Jeremy Tuke helped get a portion of the Track 9 extension spiked up on November 9.

Playford, Charlie Marks, Jordan Smith, Beth Smith, Tom Brazda, Dave Peet, John Guglielmo, Tony Mittiga, Duncan Richards, Jerry Tusch, David Monte Verde, and Rick Israelson. On October 24, Rand Warner led a meeting with representatives from Sheet Metal Worker's Union Local 46 as a kick-off to the roof installation project



TRACK DOCKNEY 2020 ROUND-UP

The Tuesday Night Track Gang (otherwise known as "Track Dockneys") replaced 38 mainline ties in 2019, several of which were part of a larger project to adjust wide spots in the Hill Block. In addition, the bumper on Track 6 was installed with the help of Dan Waterstratt and Joe Nugent. Wide spots were corrected and a switch timber was replaced in Switch 5.

A 15' section north of Switch 6 was manually leveled and tamped. We thank Adam Lloyd for leading the Track 9 Extension project, and we also welcomed guest Dockneys James Hinman (from Kentucky) and Bill Dye (from Henrietta) who helped with the Hill Block project. New volunteers are always welcome. —David Kehrer, Track Dept. Supt.

November 9. Otto Vondrak and Rob Burz installed a new vintage-style lighting fixture in the south waiting room on November 16. On November 17, Adam Lloyd and Charles Lloyd completed spiking down the west rail on the Track 9 extension. Scott Gleason and Tim Gifford made repairs to our mini-excavator on November 19. Frank Gough and Otto Vondrak decorated Coach 3 with lights inside and out. Our annual Members Slide Night was held on November 21 with our officer elections at the 40&8 Club. Adam Lloyd, Dave Scheiderich, Rand Warner, and Jeremy Tuke spiked the east rail of the Track 9 extension on November 23, while Jim Johnson and Dave Luca set up the portable generator to power the heat and lights for the ESE coach for Santa Trains. Scott Gleason hung holiday lights at Midway ("The North Pole"), and Mike Dow installed a new three-high dwarf signal on Track 9 at Switch 6. The Track Dockneys replaced ties in the Hill Block on November 26. You museum operated Santa Trains to the North Pole on November 30, thanks to Sam Rosenberg, Frank Gough, Dave Avery, Joe Steimer, Dave Peet, Bill Marcotte, Tom Brazda, John Guglielmo, Jordan Smith, Beth Smith, and Otto Vondrak.

December 2019: Our sold-out Santa Trains to the North Pole continued on December 7 and December 14, thanks to Rick Rubino, Charles Bell, Jerry Tusch, David Kehrer, Bill Marcotte, Joe Steimer, Dave Peet, Dimitri Avery, Dave Avery, John Guglielmo, Tom Brazda, Joe Nugent, Peter Gores, and Otto Vondrak. We enjoyed train rides for our December 6 Joint NYMT-RGV Holiday Open House, thanks to Rick Rubino and Charles Bell. Jackson Glozer showed his best photography from Rochester and the surrounding areas at our December 21 meeting.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Of course it is difficult to document and credit every single task and volunteer who contributed throughout the year. If I missed you, it's because I didn't know about your work. Don't be shy and please let me know what you're working on in 2020 (better yet, provide photos). I apologize to anyone I may have overlooked during this very busy season. Thank you all for your contributions.—O.M.V. 5

COVER PHOTO: RGV 54 passes a new block signal installed at MP .3. The signal hardware is of New York Central heritage, recently retired by CSX. PHOTO BY OTTO M. VONDRAK



ABOVE: Conductor Charles Bell greets visitors as they board the North Pole Express at Industry. This was the first year using one of our NYC coaches on the museum railroad since 2011.

LEFT: We enjoyed record attendance during our annual Pumpkin Patch Trains during the month of October!



for Car 60. Chuck Whalen installed one of the benches inside LV 95100 on October 29. Mechanical Supt. Joe Nugent drained coolant from LA&L 20 on October 31, and stored the fluid so it can be used again next year.

November 2019: Dave Luca needle scaled and primed Car 60 roof ribs on November 2, continued by Dale Hartnett on November 9. On November 2, Pete Swanson, Jack Swanson, Mike Smith, and Dun-

can Richards placed ties for the Track 9 extension; Later that day, Adam Lloyd and Otto Vondrak placed rail. With the cooperation of LA&L, ESE Coach 3 was brought over from the West Siding, thanks to Adam Johnson, Otto Vondrak, Sam Rosenberg, Joe Steimer, Justin Camona, and Greg Peffers. Bill Marcotte welded replacement ladder hoops and rooftop grab irons on LV 95100, with help from Bernie Beikirch on November 9, continuing November 16. Adam Lloyd, Dave Chapus, John Guglielmo, and Jeremy Tuke spiked 35 feet of the west rail of the Track 9 extension on



THE **SEMAPHORE**

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2020 R&GV MUSEUM SCHEDULE

Please note some dates and activities are subject to change.

Please visit our web sites at www.rgvrrm.org and www.RochesterTrainRides.com for details.

March 14 – Annual Banquet

March 28 – Annual Safety Rules Class

April 4 – Hands-On Training Day

April 11 – Easter Bunny Train Rides

May 16 – Rails & Ales Beer Tasting

May 17 – Vintage Rails Wine Tasting

June 20-21 – Builders & Makers Train Rides

July 18-19 – Princess & Superheroes Trains

August 21 – Hands-On Training: Steam Crews

August 22-23 – Steam Train Rides

August 29-30 – Steam Train Rides

September 19-20 – Salute to Veterans Trains

September 26 – Rails & Ales Oktoberfest

September 27 – Ciderfest Cider Tasting

October 17-18 – Pumpkin Patch Train Rides

October 24-25 – Pumpkin Patch Train Rides

Oct. 31-Nov. 1 – Pumpkin Patch Train Rides

December 4 – Holiday Open House

December 5 – Santa Trains

December 12 – Santa Trains

December 19 – Santa Trains

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