



Kodak Park Railroad GE 60-tonner no. 6, Nickel Plate Road Alco S-4 no. 79, and former Livonia, Avon & Lakeville Alco RS-1 no. 20 bask in late winter sunlight in the Upper Yard on March 7, 2020. PHOTO BY OTTO M. VONDRAK

Paused Progress

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Normally at this time of year, the museum would be a flurry of activity as we get ready to welcome the public once again. Instead, volunteers have laid down their tools and the shop has gone silent. Our trains have been idled, and crew calls have been put on hiatus. Meetings have been postponed and our members are staying home.

As we made our plans for the 2020 season, no one was expecting the nation to be in the grips of a global pandemic. By mid-March, it was clear that our plans would be changing as a ban on large gatherings was put in place and stay-at-home orders were enacted.

Everyone's lives have been temporarily disrupted as we all work together to halt the spread of coronavirus and return to work as soon as we can. At the moment, there's not much anyone can do except stay at home, ride this one out, and wait for conditions

to improve. While there have been many estimates on when everything might return to normal, we probably won't know for sure for at least a few more weeks. As many health experts have pointed out, "The virus sets the timetable."

Rest assured that your board of trustees has taken every precaution to safeguard the museum and its vital assets during this time. We remain in a financially secure position, and we're working on a new schedule for an abbreviated 2020 operating season. Believe me, no one wants to get us all back to work more than I do.

We are working on ways to keep you all connected during this time. Your ideas for future programs are welcome. Please email me at ovondrak@yahoo.com or call me at (585) 820-2341.

—Otto M. Vondrak,
 Museum President



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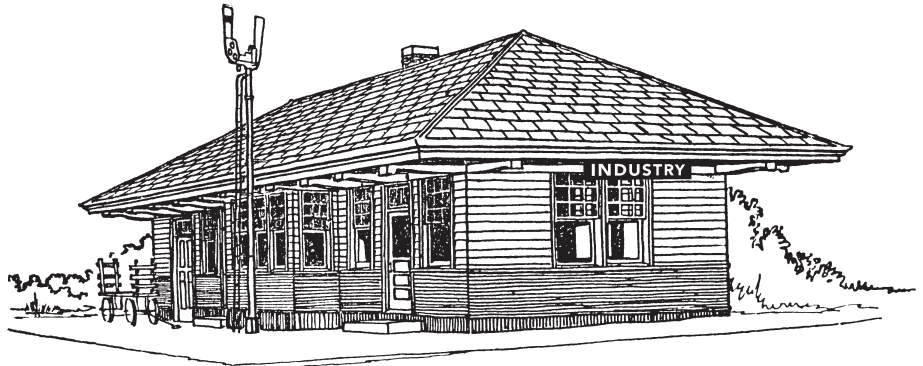
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2020 SCHEDULE

Subject to change. Visit RochesterTrainRides.com for details.

The museum remains closed to the public through May 15, 2020. We will announce our new schedule as soon as conditions permit and restrictions are lifted.



Annual Museum Banquet

TOP LEFT: Museum president Otto Vondrak and board trustee Jeremy Tuke present the Prestigious Fairmont Cup Award™ to an unsuspecting Sam Rosenberg (CENTER) for his outstanding service to the museum above and beyond the call of duty.



LEFT: Otto Vondrak presented the special "Golden Toilet Award" to project manager Charlie Marks (who also accepted on behalf of Rob Burz) for shepherding the rebuilding and restoration of our depot bathrooms.

BELOW: *Railfan & Railroad* editor Steve Barry was the guest speaker for our annual banquet. His well-received presentation included a behind-the-scenes look at how the magazine is put together each month, along with some of his favorite photos from museums and tourist railroads across the country. See page 3.



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UPCOMING MONTHLY PROGRAMS

Due to restrictions on large gatherings, New York State's recent stay-at-home order, and the temporary closure of the 40&8 Club, our monthly meetings will move to virtual space. An email invitation will be sent to all members to join a special meeting on-line for **April 16!**

Programs and presenters will be announced via email. Ideas for future programs would be welcome.

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.

MUSEUM CAMPUS CLOSED TO PUBLIC UNTIL MAY 15

The first priority of the Rochester & Genesee Valley Railroad Museum is the



If you can't go to the power, the power will come to you! Work truck R&GV M250 was put to work on March 7 as a platform for our portable generator which was used to power the block heater and battery charger so RG&E 1941 could be used for switching that day.

safety of its visitors, volunteers, and members. Over the last few weeks, we have taken every precaution in accordance with state and local authorities. However, with new guidance issued by the Centers for Disease Control to cancel or postpone in-person events that consist of 50 people or more throughout the United States, **we have made the decision to close the museum to the public until May 15.** We will be canceling all meetings and events in March and April in the interest of public safety. If you have purchased a ticket for one of our events, please find your original confirmation email and follow the instructions to request a refund if you so desire.

Following New York State's stay-at-home order, we have curtailed our repair and restoration activities, and we are asking our volunteers to please remain at home until the public health crisis has ended and restrictions are lifted. We have asked all project managers to temporarily suspend their activities and refrain from making any new purchases. Your board has prioritized emergency spending on items directly related to safety and security, including insurance, utilities, and fuel. Fortunately, the museum is in a secure financial position, and we can weather the storm together for as long as it takes.

As events evolve over the next few weeks, we will continue to monitor the situation and follow the guidance of federal, state, and local officials. Even though we

are a non-profit educational organization that depends on museum admission to keep our doors open, your health and safety take priority. We thank you for your support, and we look forward to welcoming you back aboard our trains later this season! We are also working on several programs to keep our members and fans connected during this time of "social distancing." Please follow our web sites and Facebook pages for the latest updates.

—R&GVRRM Superintendents and
Board of Trustees

MARCH 14 ANNUAL MUSEUM BANQUET

On Saturday, March 14, we hosted our Annual Museum Banquet at the River's Edge Party House, featuring *Railfan & Railroad* editor **Steve Barry** as our guest speaker. Our museum president opened the evening entertainment program with a brief slide show highlighting the accomplishments of the past year. Membership Chairman Sam Rosenberg presented milestone certificates to those celebrating 10, 25, and 50 years of membership in our organization.

President Otto Vondrak and trustee Jeremy Tuke presented the Prestigious Fairmont Cup Award™ to **Sam Rosenberg**, for his efforts that go above and beyond the normal call of duty. Not only does Sam manage our membership process, but he also chairs our Investment Committee.



SUBWAY CAR 60

RIGHT: Throughout the month of February and March, apprentices working with SMART Local 46 Sheet Metal Workers continued to help with our project to put a new steel roof on Rochester Subway Car 60. Once the sheets were riveted to the roof ribs, excess length was trimmed off using a rotary tool.

BELOW: Once the roof panels were trimmed, they were riveted to the letterboard channel. The new letterboard was installed back in 2016.

BELOW RIGHT: Earl drills a pilot hole for the next rivet installation on March 2.



He is also Project Manager of the Lehigh Valley 95100 caboose restoration, and has also been providing valuable assistance to Joe Nugent in troubleshooting and repairing the electrical systems on our Fairbanks-Morse and LV 211 diesels.

Further recognition was awarded to **Charlie Marks** and **Rob Burz** for managing the depot bathroom restoration project. Special "Golden Toilet" awards honored their contributions to restore this vital facility to our museum campus.

Otto returned to the podium to announce the entire staff of *Railfan & Railroad* was present that night (as Otto is also associate editor). He introduced his boss Steve Barry, who presented a very interesting program that began with a behind the scenes look at how the magazine is put together each

month, followed by some of Steve's favorite photos he took visiting museums and tourist railroads across the country.

It was a fun and enjoyable evening, and we look forward to seeing everyone in person again as soon as possible.

—Otto M. Vondrak, President

EASTER BUNNY TRAINS, BEER AND WINE TRAINS POSTPONED

With restrictions on large gatherings and a stay-at-home order in place, our Easter Bunny Train Rides for April 11, and our Rails & Ales events for May 15 and 16 have been canceled. Tickets have been refunded to customers, and we are looking ahead to developing a special schedule for a modified public operating season. Unfortunately, we have to wait for the virus to

run its course before we plan anything, but we are considering a special schedule to possibly start later this summer.

ANNUAL RULES CLASS AND TRAINING DAYS POSTPONED

Annual Rules Class and our hands-on training days have been postponed until further notice. We are working on a possible solution to allow past attendees to take the training and testing online. We will share more information as soon as we can. We will still need qualified train crews and trainees to help us operate an abbreviated season, and I look forward to seeing you all at the museum soon! If you have questions, please contact me via email at fmgough34@gmail.com.

—Frank Gough, Operations Supt.

ROCHESTER SUBWAY CAR 60 ROOF INSTALLATION UPDATE

Volunteers and apprentices from SMART Local 46 Sheet Metal Workers and Sheet Metal JATC of Rochester continued to work through February and March to secure the roof panels to the letterboard channel. Thanks to help from Bill Marcotte, Pete Gores, and Rob Burz for supervising and assisting the apprentices.

While work has been temporarily suspended, more than two-thirds of the roof riveting has been completed. Work will resume as soon as restrictions are lifted. After the roof is completed, we will focus our efforts on rebuilding the two end vestibules, and then completing the round roof portion on the ends.

Any donations applied to this project will

help speed our work and get us to the next phase of restoration. Please donate online at rgvrrm.org/donate and become a "Partners in Panels" today!

—Rand Warner, Project Manager

BUFFALO, ROCHESTER & PITTSBURGH CABOOSE 280 UPDATE

Jeremy Tuke completed the refinishing of two Dressel standard AAR kerosene marker lamps to be used on the caboose. Jeremy also coordinated with local vendor Anne Michaloski who created brand new cushions for our benches and cupola seats. Bill Marcotte is fabricating a new heat shield for the stove and chimney. Rob Burz has purchased piping and union hardware to fabricate new lines for conductor's brake valves and air gauges inside the caboose.

We are looking forward to completing this restoration and having BR&P 280 carry visitors on our museum railroad for the first time ever later this season! When complete, we will have the only example of a Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburgh caboose in operating condition. —Jeremy Tuke

LEHIGH VALLEY 95100 RESTORATION UPDATE

Lehigh Valley 95100 was relocated to the south end of the shop on March 14. Charles Bell was working on sanding down the body filler applied at the end of last year. Bill Bachmann and Joe Steimer continued their work on the ice box, getting it into final position, and installing the doors and other hardware. Chuck Bell got all interior surfaces primed and ready for paint. Bill Marcotte fabricated parts for the end ladders using two-inch bar stock. Work is temporarily halted, and we hope to resume before the end of summer so exterior painting can be completed.

—Sam Rosenberg, Project Mgr.



LEFT: On March 9, volunteer Bill Marcotte used our 20-ton shop press to cold-bend some bar stock which will be used to fabricate end ladders for the Lehigh Valley caboose.

BELOW LEFT: Charles Bell sands some body filler applied to the exterior of the car. This will help hide some of the weld seam where we replaced sheet metal in 2013.

BELOW: The icebox was wrestled into its proper position, bolted in place, and the doors were reattached on February 29.



JACKSON TAMPER REPAIRS

The electrical generator for our Jackson Tamper was rebuilt by KJ Electric of Syracuse, N.Y., a major component in rehabbing the electrical system. Jim Johnson selected the shop for repair, and Scott Gleason made the round trip to deliver and pick up the generator. Tim Gifford and Scott Gleason continue to make repairs to the GM diesel that provides power to the Tamper, while Jim Johnson continues to trace wires and check for worn components. Work will resume as soon as restrictions are lifted.

FAIRPORT TRAIN-VIEWING PLATFORM

The existing pavilion donated by Rotary Club, located in the Fairport Junction Parking Lot off Liftbridge Lane, will be raised approximately 18" and a new lower fence will to be installed adjacent to the CSX right-of-way. In addition, various train amenities that were donated by CSX will be installed on the premises. The purpose of the project is to provide train viewing enthusiast with an elevated and safe platform to view passing trains. Currently, interested parties park and sit in the privately-owned vacant lot to the southwest of the train tracks near the North Main Street crossing. This project will increase the vitality and local offerings in our community as expected by our residents and visitors. The project will be complete by May 29, 2020. — *Village of Fairport*

**FOR THE LATEST NEWS AND PHOTOS,
VISIT US ONLINE AT:
[FACEBOOK.COM/RGVRRM](https://www.facebook.com/RGVRRM)
[FLICKR.COM/RGVRRM](https://www.flickr.com/photos/rgvrrm/)**

TOP RIGHT: On March 14, volunteers were busy replacing ties in our switch lead at Industry Yard. While this track sees occasional use, it remains an important part of our museum operations.

MIDDLE: New cushions have arrived for Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburgh caboose 280! Supporting local vendors, the cushions were custom-made by Anne Michaloski of Henrietta.
JEREMY TUKE PHOTO

RIGHT: RG&E 1941 was used to do some switching in the Upper Yard on March 21, 2020.





LEFT: New York Museum of Transportation president Charlie Lowe (LEFT) with Connecticut Trolley Museum shop foreman Galen Semperebon (RIGHT) with the acquired Nuttall US-13 trolley base loaded into the trunk of Charlie's car on February 15. RAND WARNER PHOTO

ABOVE: The acquired trolley base is currently stored with Car 60 inside the Restoration Shop. OTTO M. VONDRAK PHOTO

NEW TROLLEY BASE FOR CAR 60

Almost immediately after Rochester Subway Car 60 was donated to our organization in June 1956, and agreement was reached to display the historic trolley at Rail City Museum in Sandy Creek, N.Y. When Car 60 was later acquired by New York State in the 1970s, somehow the trolley pole and base were lost. Since restoration has resumed at R&GVRRM, one of the items sought after was a suitable trolley pole and base.

This year's annual "Winterfest" gathering of trolley museum professionals was held February 14-15 at the Connecticut Trolley Museum in East Windsor. Working with Car 60 project manager Rand Warner,

New York Museum of Transportation president Charlie Lowe located and negotiated with CTM for the acquisition of a spare trolley base. A deal was struck, and the base was loaded into Charlie's trunk for the trip back to Rochester. Thanks to CTM president Robert Brogle and shop manager Galen Semperebon for their consideration.

The hardware in question is a Union Standard Trolley Base, No. 13, made by the R.D. Nuttall Company of Pittsburgh. The US-13 trolley base has four large operating springs. The spring-and-pole assembly swivels on a large central bearing, and the base is attached to the trolley boards by four large bolts.

Charlie took the base home and inspected the hardware and released the spring tension to prepare the base for long-term storage. He also loosened and cleaned the two pole attachment bolts, and provided new lock washers. The base is now stored with Car 60 inside the Restoration Shop.

While Car 60 was not originally equipped with a US-13 trolley base, this piece of hardware will help advance our restoration. The base won't be installed until the roof reconstruction is complete, including insulation and the canvas roof.

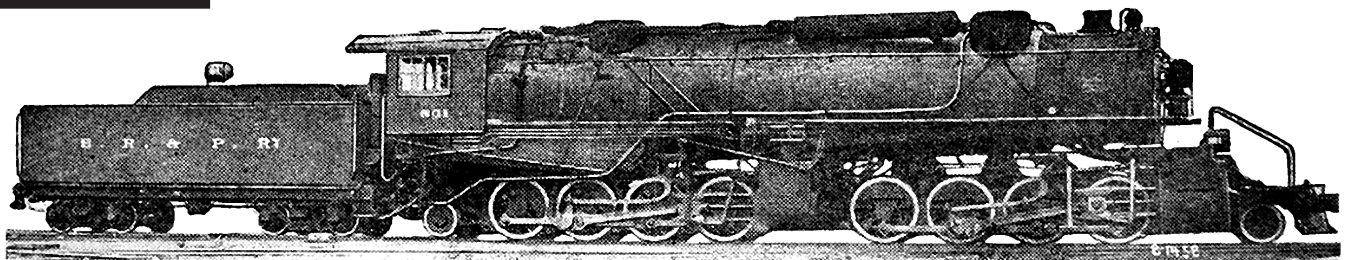
Our thanks to NYMT Charlie Lowe for helping us secure this important piece of hardware for Car 60. —O.M.V.

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ROCHESTER & GENESEE VALLEY RAILROAD MUSEUM

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PLAN AHEAD:
April 16, 2020

VIRTUAL MEETING

PLAN AHEAD:
May 21, 2020

VIRTUAL MEETING

Find us on Facebook! facebook.com/rgvrrm



Railfan & Railroad editor Steve Barry was the guest speaker at our Annual Museum Banquet on March 14. His presentation included some of his favorite photos from museums and tourist railroads across the country, like this shot taken at Steamtown last year. See page 3. PHOTO BY OTTO M. VONDRAK