

THE
OFFICIAL BALLOT INSIDE

SEMAPHORE

NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCHESTER & GENESEE VALLEY RAILROAD MUSEUM

VOL. 63, NO. 11
NOV. 2020

NEXT MEETING:

Nov. 19

**Annual Elections and
"Riding With Norm Shaddick"
presented by Duncan Richards**



Visitors disembark in the Upper Yard to tour exhibits and visit the pumpkin patch. More than 1,800 paid customers visited the museum in October.

Election Special

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Just as we go to the polls in our communities in the month of November, our museum will be holding its annual elections at this month's membership meeting. **You'll find your official ballot on Page 5. Detach it from this newsletter, cast your vote, and mail it in before November 13.** Or, you can bring your ballot in person to the monthly meeting on November 19. Please take the time to cast your vote and make your voice heard.

I'd also like to remind you that your Board of Trustees is here to serve you. As president, my contact information is published in every issue. If you have a matter that you would like addressed by the board, please me so your item can be added to the agenda. Your Board of Trustees are also members at large, active in the growth and development of your museum.

As we close out our limited public operating season, your museum will be able to cover the large majority of its operating expenses for the year, which has been our goal since we decided to cautiously reopen the museum late this year. Thanks to the hard work of many volunteers on the ground and behind the scenes, we were able to make a strong showing in September and October to get us across the finish line, and we did it together. Collectively, we have decided not to operate Santa Trains this year, due to health and safety concerns.

Your museum is also making plans for 2021. Where can we improve? I always welcome your feedback on how we can make our museum better. 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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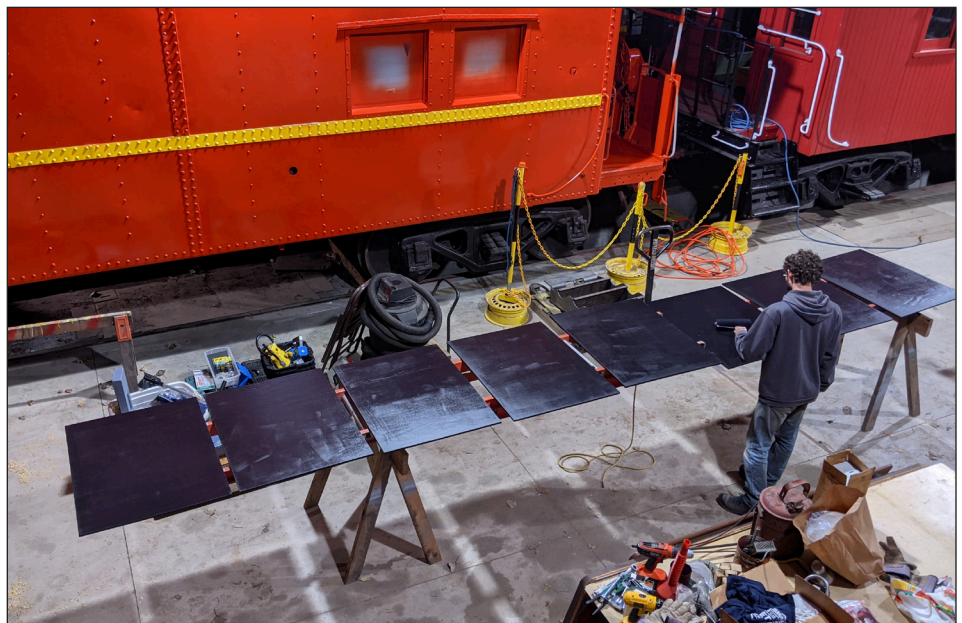


ABOVE: Bill Marcotte cut out the rusted-through metal from the southwest corner of Erie caboose C254 on October 27. The rotted wooden floorboards are further evidence of water infiltration in this corner, and will also be replaced. This car was built in 1946, donated to our museum in 1986, and first restored in 1994.



LEFT: Bill Marcotte poses with the completed stovepipe in BR&P caboose 280 connecting the stove to the chimney, allowing the stove to be used for heating this winter, if so desired.

BELOW: Charles Rothbart paints plywood plugs that will be used as temporary plugs while the window frames are rebuilt and repaired on Erie Stillwell coach 2328. This work was accomplished with financial support by the Stillwell Family.



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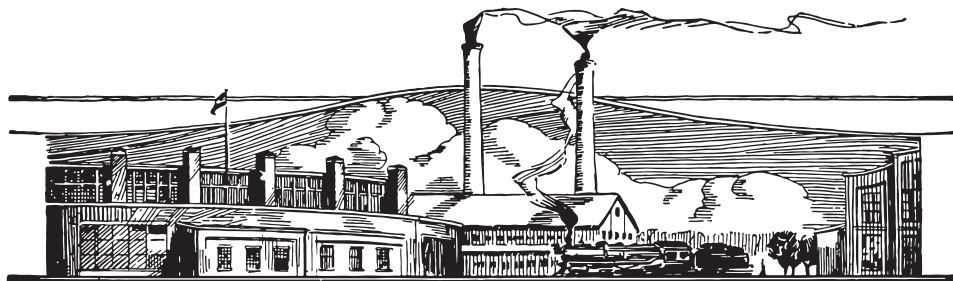
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VACANT



SHOP — NOTES



ABOVE: Jeremy Tuke puts the finishing touches on the railing enclosing the new platform entrance to the Lackawanna baggage car exhibit on October 23. The new platform built by Otto Vondrak and Jeremy Tuke will have a new set of stairs added this coming spring.

"SHOP NOTES" artwork courtesy Ron Amberger, from Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburgh employees' magazine, depicts shops at DuBois, Pa.

UPCOMING MONTHLY PROGRAMS

Meetings return to the 40&8 Club in downtown Rochester! Following the latest guidance and restrictions, **monthly meetings will be restricted to museum members only** until regulations are relaxed by the state.

Our program for **November 19** will be member **Duncan Richards** presenting restored selections from the late **Norm Shaddick's** slide collection. Our November meeting is also Elections Night, where you may drop off or cast your ballot in person.

We are currently seeking programs for future meetings. programs can be on any railroad-related topic, programs with local interest are given preference. Please contact Otto Vondrak at ovondrak@yahoo.com to reserve your presentation slot.

ERIE STILLWELL COACH UPDATE

Significant work took place on Erie Railroad coach 2328 this past summer and fall. Installation of new plywood window plugs has begun with enough installed to replace

all the window sashes that had completely failed. Next step will be the painting and installation of the next batch of plugs, as well as the refurbishment of a handful of windows that are in good enough condition to be sanded, painted, and re-installed. These will allow for some natural light in the car during other restoration work. Transom window plugs also still need to be created so that the few remaining original glass arches can be removed for storage.

Inside the car removal of the original ceiling panels continues with about a third of the paneling still in place. A decent amount of unrelated material still needs to be taken out of the car, including a sewing machine and a shelving unit full of miscellaneous small tools. Parts that were previously removed from the interior of the car also need to be sorted and inventoried before being placed in storage.

Completion of this work over the winter will allow a better inspection of the physical condition of the car. Simultaneously, research is continuing into several areas essential to the restoration effort. It is hoped that by the end of the winter a comprehen-

sive restoration plan can be developed, and that a work program for 2021 can be laid out. Thanks to Charles Rothbart, Jackson Glozer, and Travis Wagner for their continued contributions to this project, as well as to all the other volunteers that have helped along the way. Thanks also to the Stillwell Family for their continued support of this important restoration project. It is great to finally see sustained progress on this car after a many-year hiatus.

—Charles Rothbart, Project Mgr.

ERIE CABOOSE REPAIRS

RIT student Justin Carmona has stepped up to be the project manager for the repair and rehabilitation of Erie Railroad C254. On October 27, Justin Carmona and Kiara Harris removed the obsolete electrical wiring installed by Conrail to power interior lights, while Bill Marcotte cut out rotten metal from the southwest exterior corner of the body and the roof overhang. The northeast corner roof will be next. The window frames were removed from the southwest corner on November 3 to get wall access.

—Justin Carmona, Project Mgr.

BR&P CABOOSE 280

Bill Marcotte and Jeremy Tuke completed the installation of the pipe connecting the stove to the chimney on October 27, culminating in a successful “test fire.” With this addition, the caboose is ready for cold-weather service.

Charlie Marks is working with Jeremy Tuke to fabricate and install new roofwalks, as well as reinstall the rooftop grab irons. Not only will this help with authenticity, it will help protect the rubber membrane roofing when the rooftop must be accessed for service or maintenance.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

Otto Vondrak and Jeremy Tuke completed construction of the new entrance platform for the Lackawanna baggage car exhibit at Industry Depot on October 23. Scott Gleason and Justin Carmona helped position the platform and “plant” it into the ground level with the car. A steel staircase was used for entry on a temporary basis so visitors could access the car during the month of October. Permanent stairs will be built and a fresh coat of stain will be applied this coming spring.

The Avon station bench was removed from the depot waiting room and temporarily placed in the Restoration Shop while the floors are repaired and refinished. We are seeking a qualified professional woodworker to make repairs to the bench so it can stand on its own legs once again, and also replace some of missing armrests. The bench came from the Erie depot at Avon, and was donated to us by the Avon Historical Society in 2012.



Pumpkin Patch Train Rides

TOP: Once again, our Railfan Overlook doubled as the Pumpkin Patch in the Upper Yard. Pumpkins were locally sourced from Gro-Moore Farms.

ABOVE: Kids and families love the Lionel layout operated by the Flower City Tinplate Trackers. Aside from the trains, two cabooses were open for walk-through, we also gave away free snacks, drink boxes, coloring books, crayons, and railroad magazines.

LEFT: The newly reconfigured boarding area at Industry allows for quicker loading and unloading of trains. As a precaution, car hosts wiped down seats and handrails with sanitizer before each group boarded the train, and groups were encouraged to socially distance from each other.



OFFICIAL 2020 BALLOT



ROCHESTER & GENESEE VALLEY RAILROAD MUSEUM

In accordance with Articles III and IV of the RGVRRM By-Laws, the Elections Committee has nominated candidates for election to fill the expiring terms. The names of those selected by the committee are listed below. Vote for candidates by placing an "X" in the appropriate box [].

President Two-Year Term (Vote for ONE candidate)

[] Otto Vondrak [] Write-In: _____

Vice President Two-Year Term (Vote for ONE candidate)

[] Peter Gores [] Write-In: _____

Corresponding Secretary Two-Year Term (Vote for ONE candidate)

[] Jeremy Tuke [] Write-In: _____

Recording Secretary Two-Year Term (Vote for ONE candidate)

[] David Kehrer [] Write-In: _____

Treasurer Two-Year Term (Vote for ONE candidate)

[] David Peet [] Write-In: _____

Trustee Three-Year Term (Vote for TWO candidates)

[] David Kaiser

[] Charlie Marks

[] Write-In: _____

[] Write-In: _____

Trustee One-Year Remainder Term (Vote for ONE candidate)

[] David Monte Verde [] Write-In: _____

Elections will take place at the November 19, 2020 membership meeting at 7:30 p.m.
located at 933 University Avenue, Rochester, N.Y.
Please bring your ballot with you, or mail your ballot to:

RGVRRM Ballot, P.O. Box 23326, Rochester, NY 14692
MAIL YOUR BALLOT BY NOVEMBER 13

RGVRRM BALLOT
P.O. BOX 23326
ROCHESTER, NY 14692-3326

PLEASE
PLACE
POSTAGE
HERE



See other side for official 2020 ballot. Please bring your completed ballot to the November 19 meeting or mail your ballot by November 13 to make sure your vote is counted!

PUMPKIN PATCH TRAIN RIDES

Your museum hosted its popular Pumpkin Patch Train Rides the last three weekends in October, operating at 50% capacity to help maintain social distancing. We served more than 1,800 paid customers, gave away 2,025 pumpkins (locally sources from **Gro-Moore Farms**), as well as hundreds of juice boxes and pre-packaged cookies. New this year were free crayons and coloring books featuring drawings of our museum trains by Jim Dierks. We also hosted a Lionel exhibit built and operated by the **Flower City Tinplate Trackers**, temporarily housed in the Restoration Shop. We would also like to thank our sponsor **Renewal by Andersen of Western New York** for supporting our event during the last two weekends.

Thanks to everyone who came out to lend a hand as we needed extra volunteers to make this event a success under extraordinary circumstances. This closes out our abbreviated public operating season for 2020, and your museum will regroup to make plans for the coming year.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Please join me in welcoming these new members to the museum!

Roland DeLarde Family, W. Henrietta
Norman Rhow, Rochester
John Zachman, Rochester
Michele Baker, Henrietta
Esther Donner Family, Buffalo

Look for 2021 renewals to be mailed out soon. Thank you for your support!

—Sam Rosenberg, Membership Chair

RAILPACE

The November 2020 issue of *Railpace* Newsmagazine features a brief article written by Otto Vondrak about the museum's cautious reopening this past August, featuring several photos from our event. Visit www.railpace.com for details.

THE SEMAPHORE

Just as a reminder, your museum sends out printed copies of THE SEMAPHORE twice a year; once in November with the official ballot, and once in January with our Annual Report. Print subscriptions are available to members for an additional \$10.00 a year, please contact Membership Chairman Sam Rosenberg for details. Watch your mailbox for your membership renewal! —O.M.V.

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



Pumpkin Patch Train Rides

ABOVE: Conductor Frank Gough (also our Operations Supt.) is on the rear platform of the New York Central caboose, giving car counts to the engineer as the train arrives at Industry on October 31.

ABOVE RIGHT: Our Pumpkin Patch Train pauses at Midway, surrounded by colorful fall foliage.

RIGHT: Switch Tender Chris Playford gives a highball signal to Conductor Dave Kehrer at Switch 6 on October 17. The Switch Tender plays an important role helping keep our trains on schedule, and also performing visual inspections as the train passes by. The Switch 6 shanty was rebuilt by Charlie Marks, and we hope to install a small wood stove inside this winter!





THE **SEMAPHORE**

ROCHESTER & GENESEE VALLEY RAILROAD MUSEUM

P.O. BOX 23326

ROCHESTER, NY 14692-3326



NEXT MEETING:
November 19

933 UNIVERSITY AVE, ROCHESTER, N.Y.

PLAN AHEAD:
December 17

933 UNIVERSITY AVE, ROCHESTER, N.Y.

Find us on Facebook! facebook.com/rgvrrm



Conductor Charles Bell waves from the rear platform of our Pumpkin Patch Train paused at Midway on October 25.