

THE

SEMAPHORE

NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCHESTER & GENESEE VALLEY RAILROAD MUSEUM

VOL. 64 NO. 6-7
JUNE-JULY 2021

NEXT MEETING:

July 15

**Take a Ride on Your
Museum Railroad**

MEET AT 6:00PM



This photo opportunity with RGV 54 meeting NYMT 168 at Switch 21 was staged during qualifying runs operated to NYMT on June 5. Several trips with the diesel train were made so RGV engineers and conductors could become familiar with the territory north of Midway Station. OTTO M. VONDRAK PHOTO

Sizzling Summer

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Summertime is here, and we've had a very busy and exciting season so far. At the beginning of June, we operated a few qualifying runs north of Midway up to NYMT at their request to get more crews qualified on the electric territory. On June 12, we hosted our first Trains & Trolleys at Twilight in cooperation with NYMT, followed by Princess & Superhero Train Rides on June 19 and 20. July 10 is our second installment of Trains & Trolleys at Twilight, with Black Diamond Train Rides following on July 17 and 18. As always, having extra volunteers helps everything run smoother.

Meanwhile, we're wrapping up two caboose projects in the Restoration Shop. The multi-year restoration of Lehigh Valley 95100 is coming to a close as Charles Bell leads the effort to apply body filler, primer, and the finished coat of red in time to debut for our night photo event on August 21.

At the same time, Justin Carmona is wrapping up the repairs being made to Erie C254, which includes new glazing in reconditioned window frames. Next up for service will be our New York Central and Penn Central cabooses.

We are also gearing up for some major restoration projects in the coming months, and getting ready for our busy fall operating season. As always, we can use your help to help move us forward. Your museum needs help on train crews, in the restoration shop, on the track gang, in the gift shop, and even behind the scenes working from home. Please get involved so we can continue to grow in our 50th year.

Where do we go next? Your ideas for our museum's future 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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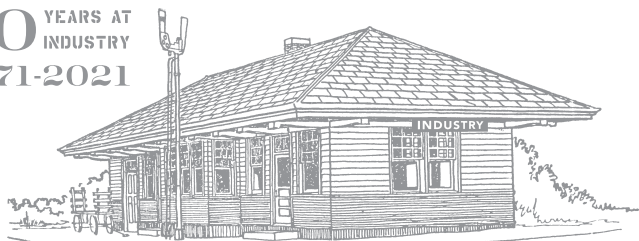
Otto M. Vondrak

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Dave Peet

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50 YEARS AT
INDUSTRY
1971-2021



2021 EVENT SCHEDULE

Schedule subject to change without notice. For your safety, face coverings are required for entry and social distancing protocols are enforced. Reservations required, please visit our web site for details.

Black Diamond Train Rides

July 17-18

Classic Cars and Train Rides

August 21-22

Trolleys and Trains at Twilight

June 12 • July 10 • August 14

Salute to Veterans Train Rides

September 18-19

Pumpkin Patch Train Rides

October 9-10, 16-17, 23-24, 30-31

Santa Trains to the North Pole

December 10-11, 17-18

RESERVE YOUR TICKETS TODAY

RochesterTrainRides.com

Rochester & Genesee Valley Railroad Museum

282 RUSH SCOTTSVILLE ROAD, RUSH, N.Y., 14543
EASY TO FIND FROM EXIT 11 OFF I-390

EST. 1937 • ALL-VOLUNTEER • A 501c3 NON-PROFIT EDUCATIONAL ORGANIZATION

NIGHT PHOTO SESSION - AUGUST 21

NEW DATE! This event will feature a special "photo freight" consisting of Lehigh Valley Alco RS-3 211, LV boxcar 62300, and newly restored LV caboose 95100. Second train will consist of Rochester Gas & Electric GE 45-tonner and PRR coal hopper. Multiple scenes and poses will be staged with and without actors. Lighting provided by Steve Barry, editor of *Railfan & Railroad* magazine. Bring a camera capable of "bulb" setting, a tripod, and a flashlight. Tickets are \$30 each, limited to 25 participants. Visit RochesterTrainRides.com for details and to purchase tickets. Proceeds from this event benefit museum projects.

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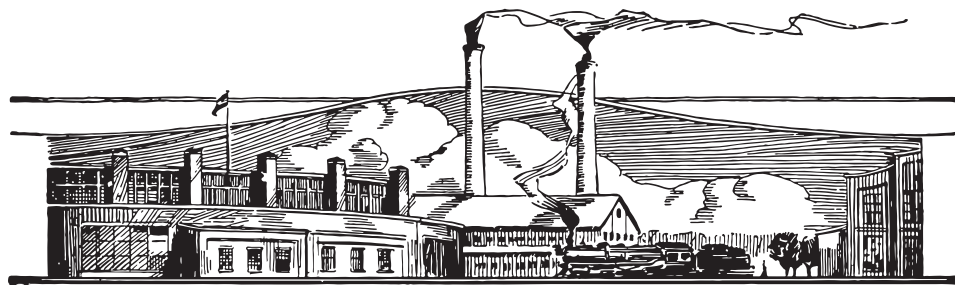
MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

Sam Rosenberg

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PROGRAM CHAIRMAN

VACANT



SHOP — NOTES



We hosted one of our first in-person museum member meetings in more than a year on June 17. Here's the assembled group at Industry before our ride up to the New York Museum of Transportation.

UPCOMING MONTHLY PROGRAMS

If conditions permit, we will host in-person meetings at Industry Depot for **July 15, and August 19**. On July 15, we will meet at Industry Depot at 6:00pm. Following a brief meeting, we will take a train ride on our museum railroad to tour the projects in our Restoration Shop.

We are currently seeking programs for future meetings, of just about any railroad-related topic of local interest. To reserve your slot, please contact Otto Vondrak at ovondrak@yahoo.com.

NYMT QUALIFYING RUNS

On June 5, NYMT invited us to perform some qualifying runs to get RGV engineers and conductors familiar with the territory north of Midway station. In past years, we have operated as far north as BOCES Crossing for special events. On this day, we ran the diesel train all the way to Switch 21, which is the carbarn lead just short of the main entrance at NYMT. As a result, several RGV engineers and conductors got valuable experience on new territory.

TRAINS AND TROLLEYS AT TWILIGHT JUNE 12 • JULY 10 • AUGUST 14

On June 12 we operated our first "Trains & Trolleys at Twilight" in cooperation with the New York Museum of Transportation. Starting at 4:00pm, trains departed every half hour from Industry Depot, meeting the trolley at Midway. Upon arrival at the "Trolley Park" at NYMT, visitors enjoyed live music from the Rochester Metropolitan Jazz Quintet, and complimentary ice cream from Nine-Cone-Cone.

Nearly every departure was sold out, and reaction from visitors was overwhelmingly positive. Thanks to Nancy Uffindell for coordinating efforts on the NYMT end. We will be repeating the event twice more this summer, on July 10 and on August 14, now with expanded capacity. Purchase your tickets now at RochesterTrainRides.com.

PRINCESS & SUPERHERO TRAIN RIDES JUNE 19-20

Your museum enjoyed another sold out event weekend hosting Princess & Superhero Train Rides. Children (and some adults!) came dressed as their favorite char-

acters and enjoyed train rides and activities with the superheroes and princesses who happened to be visiting the museum that day! Thanks to **Enchanted Princess Parties of Rochester** for providing skilled talent that made the weekend so special. Look for this fun event to return to the calendar next season. —O.M.V.

MECHANICAL DEPT.

Former Livonia, Avon & Lakeville Alco RS-1 no. 20 was fired up for the first time this season on July 3, thanks to the efforts of Sam Rosenberg replacing a burst radiator hose. Look for this locomotive to make an appearance later this season.

Upon completion of repairs to the Erie caboose (thanks to Justin Carmona and his volunteer crew), it will be pulled from the shop and added to our regular train in place of the Penn Central transfer caboose, which will be set aside for repairs. But first, our New York Central caboose will be placed into the shop to have its brake valve replaced, and some other minor repairs to get it ready for service this fall.

Joe Nugent repaired the air line on Le-



ERIE C254

ABOVE: Otto Vondrak helps apply primer to the newly installed walls and trim in the southwest corner of the caboose.

ABOVE RIGHT: Kiara Harris and Justin Carmona apply a fresh coat of red paint to the newly refurbished window frames. The old plexiglass has been replaced with new panes of safety glass.

RIGHT: Charlie Marks (RIGHT) helped recondition many of the window frames for the caboose.

high Valley RS-3m 211, so that it can be safely moved around the railroad for our photo event in August. The locomotive remains out of service for this season, however, while we address electrical issues.

On June 26, volunteers Joel Shaw, Peter Gores, Jeremy Tuke, Otto Vondrak, and Joe Nugent helped sort various parts for our Vulcan and Heisler steam locomotives. The parts for the Vulcan (otherwise known as Brooklyn Navy Yard no. 12) were set aside on pallets and brought into the shop as part of the next step in cosmetic restoration.

We're always looking for volunteers to help with locomotive maintenance, inspections, and repair. Your museum needs additional help to keep our vintage fleet in top operating condition. Please contact me if you're interested in helping out.

—Joe Nugent, Mechanical Supt.

LEHIGH VALLEY CABOOSE 95100 RESTORATION UPDATE

The restoration of Lehigh Valley 95100 is coming into the home stretch. By the



time you read this, the caboose should be wearing its first coat of primer and getting ready for the final coat of Cornell Red. Our goal is to have the caboose painted and lettered by the end of July. We are planning a special night photo session on August 21 that will involved the caboose, our LV boxcar, and LV 211. Thanks to Chuck Whalen, Joe Steimer, Charles Bell, Bernie Beikirch, Mark Charles, and Jon and Lisa Talty for their assistance in getting this project over the finish line and into the active fleet.

—Sam Rosenberg, Project Mgr.

ERIE CABOOSE C254 UPDATE

Repairs are wrapping up with the new plywood panels for the wall in the southwest corner replaced at the end of May by Kiara Harris and Justin Carmona. All win-

dows have been rebuilt and repainted, with new panes of safety glass installed, thanks to Charlie Marks. Otto Vondrak helped paint the plywood panels with fresh "battleship gray." The floor has gotten a fresh coat of paint as well. Thanks to Joe Nugent for plumbing the conductor's emergency brake valve and air gauge. Bill Marcotte replaced two missing ladder rungs torched off by Conrail, with an eye toward replacing the ladder hoops and steel walkways on the roof later this year.

By the time you read this, Erie C254 should be back in regular service. There's still some minor work to do here and there, but that can be worked on as time permits throughout the season. Thanks to everyone who contributed to this project.

—Justin Carmona, Project Mgr.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS DEPT.

The depot floors were refinished during the first two weeks of June. Thanks in part to a generous donation by David Monte Verde, the floors in the south waiting room and the agent's office were repaired, stained, and finished. It's amazing how different the floors now look! The floors in the north waiting room (gift shop) are plywood, and will be covered with new vinyl flooring to be installed later this summer. The exhibits formerly in the south waiting room have been taken out of storage and brought back into the depot.

Jordan Smith, with help from her mother Beth, planted colorful flowers in the bed under our sign and in the buckets at the depot entrance on June 6.

All of the lights in the Lackawanna bag-

gage car display and the MDT refrigerator car display have been changed over to LED bulbs, thanks to a donation by Otto Vondrak. Not only will this reduce our energy usage, but it will also cut down on the amount of heat generated inside those cars.

Jim Johnson is installing a new permanent electric line to the exhibits on Track 6, with help from Scott Gleason.

We are always looking for new faces to get involved, contact me for details.

—Charlie Marks,

Buildings & Grounds Supt.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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

Lucas Wickes, Greece, NY

—Sam Rosenberg, *Membership Chair*

A NOTE FROM YOUR EDITOR

I normally do not like to produce “combined” issues like this one, but sometimes they are unavoidable. The month of June was particularly busy both at work and at the museum, and on top of that, I moved into my first house (which also severely disrupted the home office).

As you may have noticed, your museum has hosted a number of successful public events, as well as made tremendous progress with several restoration projects. Make sure to visit our Flickr and Facebook accounts to see way more photos than we could ever fit in a year's worth of THE SEMAPHORE newsletters. —O.M.V.

FACEBOOK.COM/RGVRRM
Flickr.COM/RGVRRM



LEHIGH VALLEY
95100

LEFT: Bernie Beikirch helps sand down body filler on the exterior of LV 95100. Bernie knows a thing or two about these cars, he owns and has restored LV 95037 in Victor.

BELOW LEFT: David Gwilt smooths out body filler with a sander, while Charles Bell starts applying filler on the panels above the belt rail.

BELOW: Member Mark Charles came all the way from Ann Arbor, Mich., to pitch in on the restoration of LV 95100!



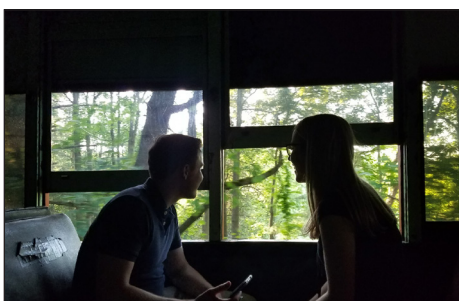


TRAINS and TROLLEYS at Twilight

LEFT: Volunteer Gregory Lund was our engineer for part of the evening on June 12.

BELOW: At the Trolley Park at NYMT, visitors enjoyed a live concert from the Rochester Metropolitan Jazz Orchestra Quintet.

BELOW LEFT: A Couple enjoys a twilight ride aboard NYMT Car 168.



ABOVE: Visitors enjoyed complimentary ice cream at the Trolley Park provided by local vendor Nine-Cone-Cone.

RIGHT: NYMT Car 168 meets the RGV diesel train at Midway Station on June 12. Trains operated on a half-hourly schedule allowing visitors an easy transfer from train to trolley.

BELOW: Enjoying a ride in Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburgh 280 with car host Dave Gwilt.



Princess & Superhero Train Rides

On July 17 and 18, visitors came dressed as their favorite characters, and met real princesses and superheroes at the museum!

LEFT: Volunteer Ray Howard helps young superheroes and princesses disembark from the train safely on July 18.

BELOW LEFT: Thanks to Enchanted Princess Parties of Rochester for providing great performers for our event!

BELOW: Conductor Justin Carmona and Brakeman Jackson Glozer on July 18.



ABOVE RIGHT: Beth Smith and her daughter Jordan helped out in the ticket office and gift shop throughout the day on July 18!

BELOW RIGHT: The bounce castle provided by Air Affair of Rochester helped some of our young guests burn off some of that nervous energy after meeting their heroes!

BELOW: Visitors enjoying a ride on the deck of our Penn Central transfer caboose.





THE **SEMAPHORE**

ROCHESTER & GENESEE VALLEY RAILROAD MUSEUM

P.O. BOX 23326

ROCHESTER, NY 14692-3326

PLAN AHEAD:

July 15, 2021

MEET AT INDUSTRY DEPOT

PLAN AHEAD:

Aug. 19, 2021

MEET AT INDUSTRY DEPOT

Find us on Facebook! facebook.com/rgvrrm



On June 5, we operated several qualifying runs north of Midway Station all the way to Switch 21 at New York Museum of Transportation. Many RGV engineers and conductors were able to qualify on new territory this day. PHOTO BY OTTO. M. VONDRAK