

THE

SEMAPHORE

NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCHESTER & GENESEE VALLEY RAILROAD MUSEUM

VOL. 64 NO. 8
AUGUST 2021

NEXT MEETING:
August 19
Take a Ride on Your
Museum Railroad
MEET AT 6:00PM



VOLUNTEERS MAKE IT HAPPEN! Old and new faces helped make our August 14 Trains & Trolleys at Twilight event a huge success. This was the busiest of the three, with more than 300 visitors carried throughout the evening. See story on page 3, photos on page 7. OTTO M. VONDRAK PHOTO

No Stopping Now

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We are closing in on our 50th anniversary of purchasing the old train station at Industry from Erie Lackawanna Railroad. Volunteers have been busy finishing a number of small projects to help improve our museum and make it more appealing to visitors and volunteers alike.

When I first became president, my goal was to build upon the strong foundation laid by the previous generations of volunteers whose blood, sweat, and tears got us to where we are today. Your board of trustees has worked together to put into motion a number of projects that help move our museum forward and help us meet our goals and mission of historic preservation. Sometimes its directing resources toward a restoration project, other times it might be hiring contractors to complete infrastructure improvements and repairs, and still other times it might be a simple matter of

establishing policy and procedure to help us continue down the right path.

While it's great to have a plan, there's also the times we have to address the unexpected, such as repairs to our vintage equipment, or even the complexities of managing drainage around our property. While it may not be as sexy as fresh paint on a caboose, these maintenance items are just as important to our continued success.

Our volunteers can handle just about anything that is thrown at them. And when they can't, we have to be prepared to use our resources to get the job done. While some may see these as "expenses," I view them as *investments* in our future success.

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



www.rgvrrm.org

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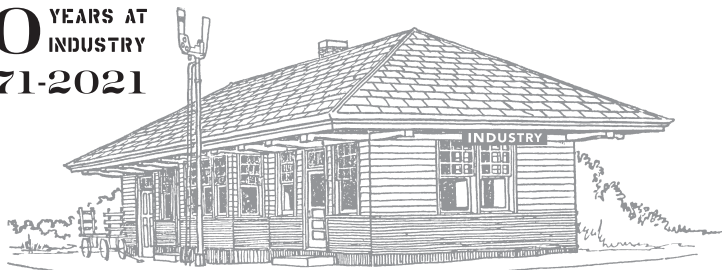
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**50 YEARS AT
INDUSTRY
1971-2021**



2021 EVENT SCHEDULE

Classic Cars and Train Rides

August 21-22

Salute to Veterans Train Rides

September 18-19

NEW!

Rails & Ales • Wine & Cider Train

September 25, 26

NEW!



Pumpkin Patch Train Rides

16-17, 23-24, 30-31

REVISED!

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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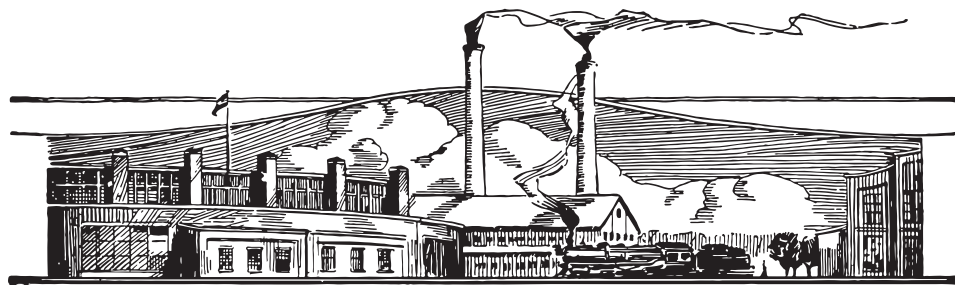
MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

Sam Rosenberg

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PROGRAM CHAIRMAN

VACANT



SHOP — NOTES



Our July 16 museum members' meeting featured train rides hauled by former Livonia, Avon & Lakeville Alco RS-1 no. 20, which was donated to our museum at the end of 2016.

UPCOMING MONTHLY PROGRAMS

On **August 19**, we will meet at Industry Depot, (located at 282 Rush-Scottsville Road, Rush, N.Y.) 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. If you miss the meeting, you might miss the train ride.

As long as conditions allow, in-person meetings return to the 40&8 Club (located at 933 University Ave., Rochester, NY) starting September 16. Doors open at 7:00pm, and meeting begins at 7:30. Cash bar available. The evening program will begin after the brief business meeting. On **September 16**, we welcome back **Devan Lawton** will present highlights of the *Flying Scotsman* (LNER 4-6-2 4472) as it made its way west from Buffalo to San Francisco in September 1971.

If you are showing symptoms or feeling at all unwell, please stay home.

We are currently seeking programs for future meetings, of any railroad-related topic of local interest. To reserve your slot, email ovondrak@yahoo.com.

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

The July 10 edition of Trains & Trolleys at Twilight was another success with more than 260 paid visitors. We welcomed 300 paid visitors for the August 14 event! Visitors enjoyed a live jazz concert by the **Rochester Municipal Jazz Quintet** and complimentary ice cream by **Nine-Cone-Cone**. Thanks again to NYMT trustee Nancy Uffindell for coordinating event details.

BLACK DIAMOND TRAIN RIDES JULY 17-18

Trying something new, your museum hosted two events featuring local artists and live music. On July 17 we welcomed classic rock cover band **Split Decision**. Unfortunately, we had record rainfall the same day. Even with the foul weather, trains were full, and the schedule was maintained despite the rising tide. On July 18, we hosted **Adrianna Noone** and her unique brand of indie pop music. The weather was much nicer on Sunday, and we saw about 100 more visitors than the previous day.

It was great to see the possibilities for

hosting live bands inside the Restoration Shop in the future. Let us know what you think and who we could book for future events! —O.M.V.

CLASSIC CARS & TRAIN RIDES AUGUST 21-22

Several classic cars will be exhibited throughout the weekend. Train rides depart Industry Depot every 30 minutes from 10:00am to 3:00pm both days. If you have a classic car you'd like to exhibit, please contact us! Purchase tickets for the event at RochesterTrainRides.com.

RAILS & ALES RETURNS SEPTEMBER 25-26

After a one-year absence, your museum will be hosting Rails & Ales Oktoberfest on September 25 featuring local craft breweries, and Vintage Rails Wine & Cider Tasting on September 26. The event will run from 12:00-4:00pm on both days, and includes a free souvenir tasting glass with your ticket. Check our web site for participating vendors, and to purchase your tickets. Don't get left at the station!



ABOVE: Bill Marcotte fabricated new “bug eye” number boards for the high hood of LV 211. The originals were removed by Conrail in 1979.

RIGHT: With help from Chuck Whalen and Perry Bertsch, Charles Bell applied the second and final coats of Cornell Red with yellow stripe at the end of July. Next comes lettering.



MECHANICAL DEPT.

On August 4, John Redden repaired the air line on PRR 747803, which included installing a new coupling to join two pipes together. A successful air test was made and a brake application was set for the first time in more than 20 years! Some more fine tuning is required, but now the “temporary” pass-thru line can be removed. On August 5, **Fastsigns of Henrietta** installed appropriate lettering and logos to the car, completing the rehabilitation of this car started just a few years ago. Thanks also to Lynn Heintz for providing the lettering diagrams (and raising significant funds to have the car painted and lettered), and to John Frantz of the **Pennsylvania Railroad Technical & Historical Society** for preparing the artwork used to cut the vinyl lettering. Bill Marcotte also fabricated new stirrup steps for the north end of the car. Built in 1909, this open-top coal hopper was rebuilt over the years to carry heavier loads. After retirement it was used at the Owens-Illinois plant in Brockport to store broken glass for recycling. It was acquired by our museum in 1996.

Joe Nugent and Jim Johnson performed an inspection of RGV 54 (General Electric 80-ton switcher, built 1959) and discovered several failed motor brushes that need to be replaced. Fortunately, brushes can be salvaged from the other two traction motors that are currently disabled.

Justin Carmona and Joe Nugent replaced fanbelts on RG&E 1941 (General Electric 45-ton switcher, built 1941), and took care of other routine maintenance tasks.

Joe Nugent replaced the air brake valve

on New York Central caboose 19877 with a newly rebuilt unit.

Bill Marcotte has fabricated two new “bug eye” number boards for the north high-hood of Lehigh Valley RS-3 211, replicating the ones built by Neil Bellinger for the south end back in 1990. Otto Vondrak painted the numbers on the “glass.”

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. Charles Bell put in extraordinary effort over several days (and in record high temps) to get the final coats of Cornell Red paint applied to the body, finishing up on July 30, with help from Chuck Whalen and Perry Bertsch. Grab irons and ladders are being painted with “safety orange” to complete the job. Chuck Whalen and Perry Bertsch also got several of the interior doors hung for the closets. Otto Vondrak drew artwork for the lettering, which will be applied by Fastsigns. Joe Nugent swapped out the old air brake valve for a rebuilt one. Lock hardware has been sourced for the exterior doors and installed by Jeremy Tuke. The exterior finishing will be completed in time to be the star of our planned night photo session on August 21.

Thanks to the countless volunteers who are helping get this important restoration project over the finish line. Your donations in any amount will help speed our progress. Please donate at rgvrrm.org/donate

—Sam Rosenberg, *Project Mgr.*

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS DEPT.

A brand new “floating” vinyl floor was installed in the North Waiting Room (gift shop) by Charlie Marks and Rick Auburn, thanks to a generous donation by David Monte Verde. New half-round trim completes the installation, and helps improve the overall look of this room.

Millet Masonry & Construction returned on July 30 to pour a new slab on the depot platform between the station and the Sign Garden. The concrete in this section had been damaged for some time, and this new slab not only improves the appearance but also gives our visitors more space to walk around and enjoy the grounds.

Otto Vondrak and Joe Werner expanded the entrance to the MDT Refrigerator Car exhibit in the Upper Yard on August 7, making it another four feet wider. Not only will this make it easier for our visitors to enter and exit, it makes it easier to spot the car for display on Track 6.

At the end of July, Charlie Marks and Rick Auburn cleaned off the deck of our baggage cart so it could be sanded and have wood sealer applied. Fresh paint was applied to other surfaces as well.

On August 3, Rick Auburn, Charlie Marks, Jeremy Tuke, and Scott Gleason worked to reposition the New York Central shanty at Switch 6 on a better foundation

a little farther off from the access road. Adam and Lexi Lloyd applied a fresh coat of primer and silver paint to the signal bungalow at Switch 6.

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

—Charlie Marks,
Buildings & Grounds Supt.

STATION BENCH UPDATE

Our waiting room bench has been sent out for restoration at **John H. Bailey Custom Furniture** in Lima. Besides repairs to the frame, they are also fabricating new legs and armrests so it will look better than new. Donated to us by the **Avon Histori-**

cal Society in 2012, the bench was used in the Erie Railroad station in Avon until at least 1947. When it arrived at our museum, it was already missing some legs. The bench was set on cinder blocks so visitors could use it while waiting for their train at Industry.

Your museum is raising \$3,500 to offset the costs of repair and restoration, and return the restored bench to our depot in time for our 50th anniversary in October. Part of the project involves turning new legs, and carving new armrests to replace pieces that were missing. A donation in any amount will help. Visit <http://tinyurl.com/rgvbench> to donate.



ABOVE: John Redden has been applying fresh paint and markings to Kodak tank car 52. Long time member and Kodak retiree Rand Warner poses with the work in progress. JOHN REDDEN PHOTO

BELOW: Pennsylvania Railroad coal hopper 747803 got fresh lettering applied at the beginning of August, thanks to our friends at Fastsigns of Henrietta. The lettering artwork was prepared by John Frantz from the Pennsylvania Railroad Technical & Historical Society.



WANTED: CONSTRUCTION MANAGER

The Board of Trustees is seeking nominations for Construction Supt. The responsibilities are as follows:

1. Manage the Construction Fleet

- schedule regular maintenance, keep fleet in good state of repair
- maintain budget, request additional funds as needed
- buy, sell, and trade equipment as needed to maintain fleet
- maintain supply of fuel, lubricants, and parts as needed

2. Manage Construction Projects

- coordinate volunteers and operators to assist with projects that require the use of heavy equipment
- coordinate with other departments as needed
- provide reasonable access to services and prioritize various projects

3. Manage and Train Operators

- set policy for heavy equipment operators
- provide training for heavy equipment operators

The Superintendent's position is a manager position. While it is often a "hands-on," being Superintendent does not mean "do all the work yourself." Instead, it means manage your resources and do the best job you can. If you don't have enough resources, approach the Board of Trustees for more.

Please share this with anyone you think would be a good fit for this position, and please contact me with any questions you may have.

—Otto Vondrak, President



BLACK DIAMOND

LIVE MUSIC & TRAIN RIDES

TOP: It rained a lot on July 17, but it didn't faze Engineer Ducky one bit!

ABOVE RIGHT: Just some of the volunteers who helped make our event a success! (LEFT TO RIGHT) Ray Howard, Charles Rothbart, Jackson Glozer, Dave Avery, David Gwilt, Jeff Carpenter, Chris Playford, and Jeremy Tuke.

RIGHT: Local band "Split Decision" entertained visitors on July 17 with a mix of classic and modern rock cover songs. Despite the constant rainy weather, we still had a decent turnout for attendance. It was fun to host a live band inside the Restoration Building!

ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

Three trustee positions will be up for election in November. We are always looking for new voices to join our Board. If you would like your name added to the ballot, please contact me for details by email at cmarks@frontiernet.net.

—Charlie Marks, Committee Chair

MEMBER HAROLD RUSSELL HONORED WITH NEW AWARD

Since 1959, long-time museum member and volunteer Harold Russell has graced the pages of popular model railroad magazines with more than 600 bylines including articles, photographs, and his famous scale drawings. A skilled hobbyist, he earned the title of Master Model Railroader No. 14 through the National Model Railroad Association (There are currently 689 MMRs). To honor his contributions to the hobby and to the service of the NMRA, the Harold Russell Award will go to the First Place winner in the Structure Model Contest at each regional convention, starting in October 2021. Models are judged based on cri-



RIGHT: On July 18, Adrianna Noone and her band played a solid set of indie pop covers and original music.

BELOW RIGHT: Visitors making memories while touring the exhibits in the Upper Yard on July 18.



teria established by the NMRA for national contests. The award is sponsored by the Lakeshores Division, Northeastern Region NMRA. Congratulations to Harold on this recognition! —NER Coupler

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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

Judith Trimble, Clearwater, Fla.



TRAINS and TROLLEYS at Twilight

RIGHT: Visitors disembark the diesel train at Midway Station to transfer to trolley on Aug. 14.

BELOW: Returning visitors transfer from trolley to train at Midway, while inbound visitors wait to board the trolley to the Trolley Park. The shelter once served the Rochester, Lockport & Buffalo interurban, and was preserved by RGV in 1996.



ABOVE: Jay Considine lowers the trolley pole on Car 168 as the crew changes ends for the return trip from NYMT to Midway. The trolley made a special stop at the Main Entrance driveway so visitors could disembark and walk up the road to the Trolley Park activities.



BELOW LEFT: Shadows are growing long as returning visitors disembark at Industry, while other visitors line up in preparation for the 7:00pm departure. The train consisted of RGV 54, Erie C254, LBR 23, and BR&P 280.

BELOW: The Rochester Metropolitan Jazz Quintet put on a great show for visitors throughout the evening on the lawn at NYMT. Activities also included cornhole games, and tours of the outdoor bus exhibits.





THE SEMAPHORE

ROCHESTER & GENESEE VALLEY RAILROAD MUSEUM

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ROCHESTER, NY 14692-3326



NEXT MEETING:

Aug. 19, 2021

MEET AT INDUSTRY DEPOT

PLAN AHEAD:

Sep. 16, 2021

933 UNIVERSITY AVE, ROCHESTER, N.Y.

Find us on Facebook! facebook.com/rgvrrm



As the sun sets at Industry, a northbound train led by RGV 54 climbs the Hill Block on the evening of August 14, 2021. The third and final edition of Trains & Trolleys at Twilight in cooperation with New York Museum of Transportation was a sold-out success with more than 300 visitors carried.