

**NEXT MEETING:**  
**October 21**  
Otto Vondrak presents  
"Railroading Around  
Rochester"

**50 YEARS AT  
INDUSTRY  
1971-2021**



The first work sessions took place in 1972 to stabilize the train station at Industry that had been abandoned by the railroad for more than 20 years. Thanks to the efforts of countless volunteers and donors over the last fifty years, we have grown to become the largest operating railroad museum in New York State! Thanks to your support, we'll keep growing for the next 50 years, and beyond. RICHARD C. BARRETT PHOTO, RGVRRM COLLECTION

# 50 Years Strong

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"Sometime in the future, when most of us are old and gray or dead and buried some enterprising future member of our chapter will look back into the minutes and newsletters of our era trying to find the important and most influencing meetings of our time. And as he sits back in the station agent's chair of the station museum of the Rochester Chapter, he will come to the minutes of the February 1970 meeting and say to himself, 'If it wasn't for those old timers back then and their talk of getting a new meeting room and quarters, I guess I wouldn't be sitting here in our famous museum of that by-gone era.' Thus, my fellow members, I myself believe that our last meeting was the start of a new era for the Rochester Chapter NRHS... The willingness on the part of our members to support this idea of our chapter retaining and fixing up a station for our use

is indeed the start of a new era..."

That passage was penned by editor (and current museum Vice President) Peter Gores in the March 1970 edition of THE SEMAPHORE. A year and a half later, we established ourselves as a non-profit and purchased the old train station at Industry from Erie Lackawanna. In the 50 years since, we have grown into New York State's largest operating railroad museum, all thanks to the tireless efforts of our volunteers and donors. It's an amazing feat that any organization would be proud of. I hope you'll join me as we mark this important milestone in our history, and look forward to the future.

Where do we go next? Your ideas for our museum's future are welcome. Please email me at [ovondrak@yahoo.com](mailto:ovondrak@yahoo.com) or call me at (585) 820-2341.

—Otto M. Vondrak, Museum President



[www.rgvrrm.org](http://www.rgvrrm.org)

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**EDITOR**

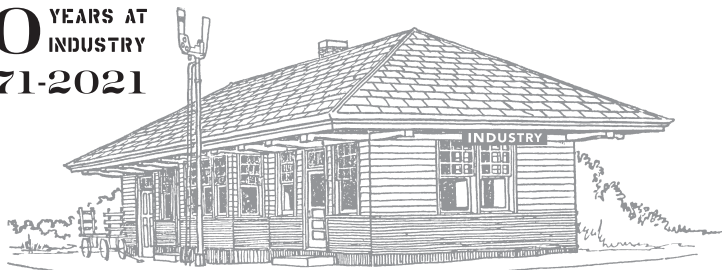
Otto M. Vondrak

**PRINTING AND MAILING**

Dave Peet

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**50 YEARS AT  
INDUSTRY  
1971-2021**



# 2021 EVENT SCHEDULE

**Pumpkin Patch Train Rides**  
16-17, 23-24, 30-31

**Santa Trains to the North Pole**  
December 10-11, 17-18

RESERVE YOUR TICKETS TODAY

**[RochesterTrainRides.com](http://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

**50 YEARS AT INDUSTRY 50th ANNIVERSARY  
1971-2021 OCTOBER 15**

**We're celebrating the 50th anniversary  
of purchasing Industry Depot!**

**2:00 - Press Event and Depot Rededication  
ALL MEMBERS INVITED**

**6:00 - Barbecue Dinner (RSVP Required)**

**9:00 - Informal Night Photo Session**

**Visit [rgvrrm.org/rgv50th](http://rgvrrm.org/rgv50th) to RSVP**



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VACANT

## UPCOMING MONTHLY PROGRAMS

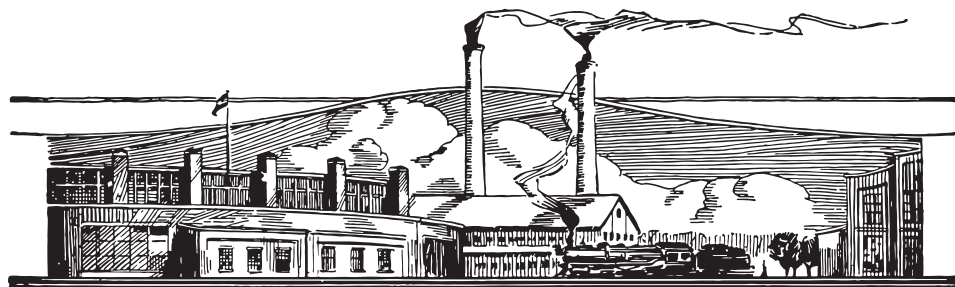
As long as conditions allow, in-person meetings return to the 40&8 Club (located at 933 University Ave., Rochester, NY) starting September 16. Doors open at 7:00pm, and meeting begins at 7:30. Cash bar available. The evening program will begin after the brief business meeting.

On **October 21**, museum president Otto Vondrak will present a slide show of "Railroading Around Rochester." Nominations for elections will also be taken at this time.

**November 18** will be our annual **Elections and Members' Slide Night**. Members are encouraged to bring no more than 20 digital images or slides in a carousel on any railroad topic. Please RSVP to Otto Vondrak at ovondrak@yahoo.com to reserve your presentation spot.

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.



## SHOP — NOTES



**CONSTRUCTION TEAM GROWS:** Jeremy Tuke will be taking over management of the Construction Department, sharing duties with Scott Gleason and Adam Lloyd. OTTO M. VONDRACK PHOTO

## SALUTE TO VETERANS SEPTEMBER 18-19

For the third year in a row, we hosted our "Salute to Veterans" event in cooperation with the **Black Lions Living History Group**, who brought exhibits of both World War II and Vietnam era military encampments and artifacts. Despite beautiful weather, and great exhibits and demonstrations by the military reenactors, attendance was far below average, despite our usual efforts to advertise and promote the event. As a result, we're going to retire this event format for September and find another way to bring back the Black Lions so we can continue to showcase our military history and honor our veterans. —O.M.V.

## RAILS & ALES RETURNS SEPTEMBER 25-26

After a one-year absence, Rails & Ales returned to our museum on September 25, featuring 10 local craft breweries from around Rochester and the surrounding region. Thanks to **Nine Spot Brewing, Swiftwater, Stoneyard, Brindle Haus, Heroes Brewing, West Shore Brewing,**

**Sager Beer Works, Copper Leaf Brewing, Farm House Brewing, and Strange-bird Brewing!** We should also mention West Shore returned with Hammerhead IPA, the beer they brewed to honor Lehigh Valley 211, and our friends at Heroes Brewing debuted their new Rail Yards New England Style IPA to honor the efforts of our museum volunteers. More than 290 visitors attended this sold-out event!

Unfortunately, we could not secure enough commitments from vendors to hold the Wine & Cider Tasting on September 26, so that event was canceled. We look forward to hosting beer, wine, and cider events again as part of our 2022 season!

## PUMPKIN PATCH TRAIN RIDES OCT. 16-17, 23-24, 30-31

It's our most popular event of the year! Pumpkin Patch Train Rides return for three weekends in October. Visitors will ride our train to the pumpkin patch, where kids get to choose their own pumpkin to take home and decorate. Our pumpkins come fresh from our neighbors at **Gro-Moore Farms!** **Flower City Tinplate Trackers** return





## SALUTE TO VETERANS

**ABOVE:** Operations Supt. Frank Gough takes tickets and helps visitors board at Industry.

**RIGHT:** Our train heads up the Hill Block, passing the Vietnam era encampment set up in the Railfan Overlook area.

**MIDDLE RIGHT:** Military reenactors representing World War II American and German forces, as well as Vietnam era soldiers, pose with our train at Industry.

**BOTTOM RIGHT:** Reenactors teach visitors about how portable radar would be set up to mark positions on a map used to call in air strikes in support of ground forces in Vietnam.

with a Lionel layout set up in the Restoration Shop. We also look forward to the return of **Spirit Wind Farms** and their friendly petting zoo! Reservations are required, and tickets are on sale now.

**Your museum needs extra volunteers to keep this event running smoothly.** Everything from keeping our pumpkin patch stocked to Please consider volunteering either on the trains, or as part of the ground crew. It's no secret that the majority of our operating revenue comes from the month of October, so please help us make this event a success! Contact Otto Vondrak at [ovondrak@yahoo.com](mailto:ovondrak@yahoo.com) to volunteer.

### SANTA TRAINS RETURN DECEMBER 10-11, 17-18

We will bring back our popular Santa Trains to the North Pole for 2021, changing up the schedule slightly to offer departures on Friday and Saturday evenings, versus Saturdays and Sundays. Visitors start their journey at Industry Depot, boarding one of our streamlined *Empire State Express* cars for the ride to the North Pole! On board, visitors will enjoy hot cocoa at their seats while carolers entertain them. Upon arrival at the North Pole, Santa and Mrs. Claus will visit with each child before boarding



the train and returning to Industry. Reservations are required, and tickets are on sale now. This is one of our most popular events, and we'll need volunteer support to make sure our young visitors have the time of their lives! Contact Otto Vondrak at [ovondrak@yahoo.com](mailto:ovondrak@yahoo.com) to volunteer.

### LEHIGH VALLEY CABOOSE 95100 RESTORATION UPDATE

Chuck Whalen has constructed a replacement bench for the northeast side of the caboose, which had been removed by Conrail in the 1970s. Now he has turned his attention to cleaning and sanding the floors, in anticipation for primer and paint.

Sam Rosenberg priced out piping to install a new line for the conductor's air valve. The angle cocks for the air brake line



will also be reconditioned or replaced.

In September, the caboose was moved over to Track 7 inside the shop, where it will reside through the winter as we wrap up the interior restoration. Our goal is to have the car fitted with drop-down steps (similar to what is used on the open-air flat-car) so LV 95100 can be used in revenue service in 2022.





# RAILS and ALES

**LEFT:** After a one year absence, Rails & Ales returned to the museum on September 25!



**BELOW LEFT:** Heroes Brewing launched their new "Rail Yards" New England IPA at the event in honor of our museum volunteers.

**BELOW:** Some breweries were set up inside the Restoration Shop, including our friends from West Shore and Sager Brew Works. Others were set up in a tent in the Railfan Overlook.

**BOTTOM:** Five breweries were located in the main tent at Industry. Food service was provided by Z Best Foodz.



Your donations in any amount will help speed our progress. Please donate at [rgvrrm.org/donate](http://rgvrrm.org/donate)

—Sam Rosenberg, Project Mgr.

## MECHANICAL DEPT.

At the end of September, Joe Nugent shipped the air brake valves from Lehigh Valley 211 out for rebuilding. This is part of the periodic maintenance we perform to all of our vintage diesels.

Sam Rosenberg has been keeping U.S. Army 1843 and former Livonia, Avon & Lakeville 20 fired up every two weeks to keep them ready for service as needed.

Bill Marcotte made a repair to New York Central caboose 19877, replacing bolts to correct the alignment of the coupler on the south end of the car.

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.

## BUILDINGS & GROUNDS DEPT.

**J Crew Landscaping** came in on September 13 and completed the infill of the lawn expansion with fresh topsoil and seed. Their services were donated to the museum. The area is finished off with edging ties, and stone ballast will cover bare areas between the track and lawn.

Charlie Marks and Rick Auburn constructed an additional railing on the staircase into the MDT exhibit during the middle of September.

With help from Dave Peet, Charlie Marks and Rick Auburn pressure washed the concrete platform along the depot to remove years of grime at the end of September and early October.

Dave Peet got fresh paint on the exterior door on the west side of the south waiting room, while Charlie Marks sanded and applied a fresh coat of varnish to the bathroom door.

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

—Charlie Marks,  
Buildings & Grounds Supt.

## TRACK & RIGHT OF WAY DEPT.

The Tuesday Night Track Gang continues to make spot repairs to our museum railroad as we get ready for our busy fall season. With display cars temporarily





**ABOVE:** John H. Bailey Custom Furniture in Lima expertly rebuilt, restored, and refinished our Erie Railroad station bench.

**RIGHT:** The completed bench was returned to the depot on September 24. It was donated by the Avon Historical Society in 2012.

**BELOW RIGHT:** Joe Nugent removed the air brake valves from Lehigh Valley 211 and had them sent out for rebuilding as part of our regular maintenance program.

**BOTTOM RIGHT:** Lehigh Valley 211 meets RGV 54 at Switch 6... At least, that's what it looked like while performing some switching moves in the Upper Yard on September 17.

moved off Track 6, a spot tie replacement was made under a rail joint at the end of September, while other ties were marked for replacement.

The TNT Gang will be turning their attention to Track 5, starting with the disassembly and removal of the existing rails and hardware. Replacement of this track will also coincide with improved drainage work in this area. Rail was lifted on October 5 so roadbed reconstruction can begin.

Adam Lloyd is managing the Track 9 South Extension project, working with his wife Lexi to relocate materials off the fill, and grading the roadbed on October 1. Next step will be laying down landscaping fabric and stone ballast. Building off our progress from 2020, completion of this project will give us additional storage and flexibility around the museum.

Volunteers are always welcome to join our efforts. Get in touch to find out how.

—Dave Kehrer, Track & ROW Supt.

## STATION BENCH UPDATE

Donated to us by the **Avon Historical 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.

**John H. Bailey Custom Furniture** of







Lima, N.Y., completed an expert restoration of this important artifact, rebuilding the frame, replacing missing parts, and re-finishing the bench to look like new. You'll be hard pressed to identify what's new and what's original. You have to see it for yourself to believe it.

Your museum is raising \$3,500 to offset the costs of repair and restoration. So far we have raised \$1,500. A donation in any amount will help. Visit <http://tinyurl.com/rgvbench> to donate.

### ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

Three trustee positions will be up for election in November. We are always looking for new voices to join our Board. Nominations will be taken from the floor at our October 21 member meeting. If you would like your name added to the ballot, please contact my co-chair David Kehrer or myself at [cmarks@frontiernet.net](mailto:cmarks@frontiernet.net).

—Charlie Marks, Committee Chair

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



**TOP LEFT:** Chuck Whalen built a new bench from scratch to replace the one Conrail removed from the northeast corner of LV 95100 in the 1970s.

**LEFT:** A preliminary inspection of Penn Central 18526 was made by Charlie Marks, Rick Auburn, and Bill Marcotte on September 11 as we plan next steps for repairs. Donated by Conrail in 1996, this car was first restored in 2002.



**BELOW LEFT:** Rick Auburn and Charlie Marks built an additional railing on the stairs to the entrance into the MDT exhibit.

**BELOW:** Peter Gores and Devan Lawton gave an excellent show at our September 16 museum meeting marking the 50th anniversary of working on the crew that moved the "Flying Scotsman" steam engine and exhibit train from Buffalo to California in September 1971.







THE **SEMAPHORE**

ROCHESTER & GENESEE VALLEY RAILROAD MUSEUM

P.O. BOX 23326

ROCHESTER, NY 14692-3326



**NEXT MEETING:**

**Oct. 21, 2021**

933 UNIVERSITY AVE, ROCHESTER, N.Y.

**PLAN AHEAD:**

**Nov. 18, 2021**

933 UNIVERSITY AVE, ROCHESTER, N.Y.

Find us on Facebook! [facebook.com/rgvrrm](https://facebook.com/rgvrrm)

**50** YEARS AT  
INDUSTRY  
**1971-2021**



The new station as it appeared in 1909. The name of the station was changed to Industry on October 20, 1909. When the new station was built, the old Oatka station was moved over and became the freight house. J.E. BAILEY PHOTO, COLLECTION OF JIM HUTZLER.