

THE

SEMAPHORE

NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCHESTER & GENESEE VALLEY RAILROAD MUSEUM

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AUG.-SEPT. 2022

NEXT MEETING:
September 15
Greg Lund presents
"Pictures from
the American West"



Former Livonia, Avon & Lakeville Alco RS-1 20 leads an excursion train out of the Upper Yard on the morning of August 21. OTTO M. VONDRAK PHOTO

Try, Try Again

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Coming into this summer season, we had no idea what to expect in terms of attendance or revenue. Even with an additional investment in marketing, attendance has been below expectations all summer long. Why? Perhaps it could be this is the first year we are seeing the return of Rochester's summer festivals and events since pandemic restrictions. Maybe it's because our events are no longer interesting to the general public. Whatever the reason, your museum managers and trustees continue to work behind the scenes to make sure the remainder of our season runs smoothly and brings in much needed revenue. Whatever didn't work this year, we'll try another approach next.

We are about to embark on our busy fall season where we make up almost half of our annual revenue. We can't do it without our dedicated volunteers.... literally! Your museum canceled one event because of a lack of volunteers, something that has never happened in at least the last ten years of museum train operation. We cannot allow it to happen again. Everyone needs to roll up their sleeves and pitch in. Don't know where to start? Get in touch with me or any other officer or manager for details.

Your ideas and input for our museum's future are always 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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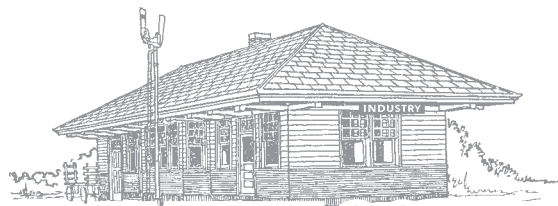
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2022 EVENT SCHEDULE

Schedule subject to change without notice.

Reservations required, please visit our web site for details.

Classic Cars and Train Rides
September 17-18

Oktoberfest Rails & Ales
September 24

Pumpkin Patch Train Rides
October 15-16, 22-23, 29-30

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

MEMBERS' DAY SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

Join your fellow museum members for a special all-day event featuring special trains to photograph and ride, a cookout lunch, and catered barbecue dinner!

TICKETS: \$25

Reservations Required:

rgvrrm.org/membersday

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**UPCOMING
MONTHLY PROGRAMS**

Monthly meetings resume at the 40&8 Club, located at 933 University Ave., across from Gleason Works in Rochester. Doors open at 7:00pm, with the business meeting starting at 7:30pm, followed by an entertainment program. Cash bar available.

On **September 15**, member **Greg Lund** will present "Pictures from the American West," including railroad photos taken during his travels to California, Utah, New Mexico, and other western states.

On **October 20**, **Mike Migliaccio**, vice president of the **Antique Wireless Association** (operators of the Antique Wireless Museum in Bloomfield) will present "Radios and Wireless," which will also touch on the history of railroad radio communication.

Our **Annual Members' Slide Night** will be during our annual Museum Elections on **November 17**. Please contact me to reserve your spot to present a brief show of no more than 25 images of either analog slides or digital media.

If you have ideas for future monthly



On August 12, some of our museum members attended the official ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Fairport Junction train viewing platform located in the public parking lot off Liftbridge Lane. During the ceremony it was announced that CSX is donating a caboose to exhibit. The train watching platform is also equipped with a live radio feed, and is a popular location to watch CSX and Amtrak action on the main line through Fairport. WAYNE TURNBLOM PHOTO

meeting programs, please contact me. Any railroad-related program will be considered. Thanks for your help!

—Dave Drury,
Program Committee

**TRAINS & TROLLEYS AT TWILIGHT
JULY 9 AND AUGUST 13**

The July and August editions of our joint **Trains & Trolleys at Twilight** event with New York Museum of Transportation went well. Attendance was not as high as last year's event. On July 9 we had 152 out an expected 200, while on August 13 we hosted 139 out of an expected 200. Arriving at the Trolley Park at NYMT, visitors enjoyed a live concert by the Rochester Metropolitan Jazz Quintet, complimentary ice cream from Nine-Cone-Cone, as well as games and activities set up on the lawn. Visitor response to the event overall was positive, and will be considered again for 2023.

**PRINCESS & SUPERHERO
TRAIN RIDES - JULY 16 and 17**

This return of this popular summer event was marked with healthy attendance on both days. Our youngest visitors (and some of our older ones!) came dressed in costume, ready to meet their favorite characters! Performers and fun kids activities were provided by Enchanted Princess Parties of Rochester. We also provided complimentary juice, cookies, coloring books and

crayons in the Restoration Shop. We look forward to hosting this event again next summer. —Otto M. Vondrak

AUGUST TRAIN RIDES

In addition to **Trains & Trolleys** event on August 13, your museum hosted two additional weekends of train rides and museum tours to replace the canceled steam engine event. We held our first **Train Rides & Yard Sale** on August 20 and 21, we offered some excess museum inventory up for sale to the public, in addition to some select vendors invited to sell their railroad collectibles inside the Restoration Shop. While attendance was only about one-third of expected capacity, we received favorable feedback from many visitors and volunteers, so we will consider expanding this event in 2023.

We operated train rides and museum tours on August 27, but our August 28 schedule was canceled due to a lack of volunteers, the first time this has happened in the several years of operating diesel trains.—O.M.V.

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

Our **Classic Car Show & Train Rides** returns on September 17 and 18. Train rides will depart every 30 minutes from 10:00am to 2:00pm on both days, with visitors enjoying exhibits of classic cars from all eras at both ends of the ride. We are seeking additional vehicles to exhibit for Sunday, September 18, please message me for details.



TRAINS & TROLLEYS AT TWILIGHT

ABOVE: Visitors arrive at NYMT on the evening of July 9 to enjoy the free outdoor concert and complimentary ice cream at the Trolley Park.

RIGHT: With engineer Jerry Tusch at the throttle, RGV 54 accelerates out of Industry for Midway on the evening of July 9.

BELOW RIGHT: On August 13, former Livonia, Avon & Lakeville leads the train up the Hill Block toward the NYMT connection at Midway. CHRIS PLAYFORD PHOTO

Oktoberfest Rails & Ales returns on Saturday, September 24, from 12:00pm to 3:30pm. This 21-and-over event will feature complimentary craft beer tastings at both ends of the train ride. Tickets on sale now at www.RochesterTrainRides.com.

Our **Annual Members' Day Picnic** will take place on September 25, and will include special trains to ride and photograph, a cookout lunch, and a catered barbecue dinner. Friends and family are welcome. Tickets are \$25 per person, available at rgvrrm.org/membersday. —O.M.V.

OCTOBER PUMPKIN PATCH TRAIN RIDES

Our most popular event of the year returns October 15-16, 22-23, and 29-30! Visitors ride the train to the pumpkin patch to pick out a pumpkin to take home, enjoy the Lionel trains exhibit in the Restoration Shop presented by the Flower City Tinplate Trackers, and visit with the friendly petting zoo at Industry Depot! New this year will be hot, fresh kettle corn available for purchase from **Mountain Top Kettle Corn!** Trains will depart every 30 minutes from 10am to 3pm each day. Tickets available at www.RochesterTrainRides.com. —O.M.V.

MECHANICAL DEPT.

Chuck Whalen is making steady progress on Rochester Gas & Electric GE 110-tonner no. 8, priming and painting the trucks. Working with Sam Rosenberg and



Dave Scheiderich, we have started re-assembly of the components inside the air brake compartment, including the heavy distributing valve reservoir.

Former Livonia, Avon & Lakeville Alco RS-1 20 performed successfully for our public events throughout the month of August (and our member meeting on August 18). Thanks to Sam Rosenberg, Kurtis Hooey, and Justin Carmona who worked together to complete the inspection to put this diesel back in service. An issue recently popped up regarding the wheel slip indicators, which may require the purchase of replacement parts before LAL 20 can be used under load again.

Regarding Lehigh Valley Alco RS-2 211, Joe Nugent got most of the air brake components that were serviced by Multi-Ser-

vice Supply re-installed. Our goal is to bring down LV 211 for display on Track 5 at Industry, and bring U.S. Army Fairbanks-Morse H12-44 1843 back to the Upper Yard for servicing.

Kurtis Hooey and his friend Daniel Gardiner have been working on tending to exterior corrosion spots on the FM and they are also repainting the tiger stripes on the sill. We would like to replace the long problematic original electro-mechanical voltage regulator with a new old stock GE BX/BN card electronic voltage regulator in the coming months. This will make the FM significantly more reliable. There is an air leak on a control air pipe within the radiator room that we would like to fix in the coming months by replacing a section of corroded piping. Most likely we will be sending

out 1843's air brake components for servicing so we can complete a 92-day inspection and keep this locomotive in service through the fall and winter season.

Joe Nugent completed re-installation of RG&E GE 45-tonner 41's air brake components, debugged a hard to pinpoint issue related to one of the feed valves, and completed the unit's 92-day inspection.

R&GV GE 80-tonner 54 is getting a new set of batteries. Justin Carmona and his helper Justin recently removed corrosion

from and primed the two air compressor compartments. Joe Nugent and Sam Rosenberg are getting pricing on replacement air compressor intercooler tubes from Gardner Denver, and we also need to purchase some replacement air brake pistons from Wabco.

We are always looking for new volunteers to join us as we maintain our large fleet of operating vintage diesel locomotives. No prior experience needed, please message Joe Nugent to join in the fun!

—Sam Rosenberg, Mechanical Dept.

**"NEW YORK CENTRAL"
BATAVIA SIGN FUNDRAISER**

The tracks through Batavia, New York, were once part of the mighty New York Central main line between Albany and Chicago. Dozens of freight and passenger trains thundered through the city day and night. Unfortunately, the tracks crossed many streets, and automobile accidents became more frequent. In the years following World War Two, the city and the railroad devised a plan to route the railroad around Batavia to eliminate the numerous grade crossings. Construction on the bypass route started in 1951, and opened to traffic in 1957. A new passenger station was built on the south side of Batavia at Lehigh Ave. A simple brick structure, the street-facing side was adorned with large, three-dimensional letters made from aluminum that spelled out "New York Central."

The Batavia station stop was discontinued in 1970. By this time, Penn Central operated the railroad, and maintenance workers used the station. Even after Conrail took over in 1976, and CSX in 1999, the "New York Central" letters remained outside the building, though a couple were lost to severe weather and age. The remaining letters were removed from the building in August 2008, and unceremoniously tossed into a scrap dumpster. Fortunately, one of

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
Sign up now for September and October events
rgvrrm.org/volunteer



TOP LEFT: Our friends at Enchanted Princess Birthday Parties of Rochester provided great performers for our Princess & Superhero Train Rides on July 16 and 17!

LEFT: This conceptual art shows what the signs will look like once they are installed on the Restoration Shop. The "New York Central" letters came from the old train station in Batavia. Donations to this project can be made online.

BELOW: Kurtis Hooey and his friend Daniel Gardiner have been touching up some of the rust spots on USA 1843, including repainting the hazard strips on the sill. The Fairbanks-Morse H12-44 diesel was built in 1953, and came to our museum in 1993.



RGV's HELPING HANDS

With more than 50 years of railway preservation experience under our belts, it's no surprise that our volunteers are often called upon to assist other like-minded organizations in our region.

Our first opportunity to assist came on August 6, when the Railroad Museum of the Niagara Frontier in North Tonawanda put out the call for volunteers to help rebuild one of their display tracks. Leading the project is Randy Bogucki, a long-time RGV volunteer who relocated for work many years ago. Our faithful "Track Dok-neys" answered the call, with Dave Chapus, Rick Israelson, John Redden, Duncan Richards, and Rand Warner were all present to help assemble a few lengths of new track at the museum site. Additional work sessions will complete the project.

Our next opportunity to help came in August when Western New York Railway Historical Society hired RGV volunteer Charles Bell to apply a fresh coat of Cornell Red to Lehigh Valley 252, the EMD SW8 diesel switcher recently placed on display at the restored Williamsville depot. Working over the weekend of August 13, Charles applied the finish coat of paint to get the unit ready for lettering.

And finally, RGV lent a hand to our friends at the Adirondack Railroad, where Joe Nugent, David Scheiderich, and Justin Carmona helped remove a cylinder liner and piston from New York Central Alco RS-3 8225. The work was performed in the engine house at Old Forge over the weekend of August 27, with a goal of getting the unit returned to service during the first few weeks of September. ✖



TOP RIGHT: Charles Bell applies a fresh coat of paint to Lehigh Valley 252 in display in Williamsville, N.Y. DEVAN LAWTON PHOTO

MIDDLE LEFT: Rebuilt display track in progress at Railroad Museum of the Niagara Frontier in North Tonawanda, N.Y. The building at left is the old Erie Railroad freight house. RMNF PHOTO

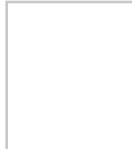
MIDDLE RIGHT: Volunteers Rand Warner and Randy Bogucki wrestle a joint bar into position. DUNCAN RICHARDS PHOTO

RIGHT: Justin Carmona, Joe Nugent, and David Scheiderich successfully removed one of the cylinder liners and piston from NYC 8255 at the Adirondack Railroad in Old Forge, N.Y.





THE SEMAPHORE
ROCHESTER & GENESEE VALLEY RAILROAD MUSEUM
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NEXT MEETING:
Sept. 15, 2022
933 UNIVERSITY AVE., ROCHESTER, N.Y.

PLAN AHEAD:
Oct. 20, 2022
933 UNIVERSITY AVE., ROCHESTER, N.Y.

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



NYMT president Charlie Lowe (on the ground) and RGV engineer Sam Rosenberg (on the deck of 54) give NYMT motorman Bob Achilles the highball signal as Car 168 passes by the Loop Switch on July 23. RGV 54 would meet up with NYMT 168 at Midway to tow (push) the trolley to our Restoration Shop. After 168 was inspected and repaired, it was returned to NYMT on August 13. OTTO M. VONDRAK PHOTO