

The sun finally came out just as our photo freight was being put away for the day during our Members' Day Celebration on September 25. Livonia, Avon & Lakeville loaned us their caboose so we could run a vintage "photo freight" throughout the day. See page 3. OTTO M. VONDRAK PHOTO

# Cozy Season

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The overnight temperatures are dropping, the leaves are beginning to turn, and we're lighting the fires inside the stove in the agent's office. Fall is here, the "cozy season" filled with flannels and hoodies, warm drinks, and all the trappings of the harvest season. Our popular **Pumpkin Patch Train Rides** return for three weekends starting **October 15 through October 30**. It's no secret we earn the majority of our revenue during this month, and it's critical that we have volunteer support to make it happen. I know that not all of the jobs during these events are "cool" jobs, like working on the train crew, but **we need help everywhere**. Keeping the pumpkins stocked or helping in the gift shop may not be "exciting" but we need these positions filled regardless. And the more people who help, the faster the day goes for all of us.

Elections are coming up, and just about every position is up for election, including the office of president. Serving on the Board of Trustees means saddling some of the responsibility for the hard decisions facing our museum, but it also means sharing in our successes as well. If you have an interest in directing the future of our organization and building upon the strong foundation laid for us by the two previous generations of volunteers, I strongly encourage you to toss your hat into the ring. Any member in good standing can be nominated to the ballot. Let's build up our next generation of museum leadership with new voices.

Your ideas and input for our museum's future are always 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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**OCTOBER**  
**15-16**  
**22-23**  
**29-30**

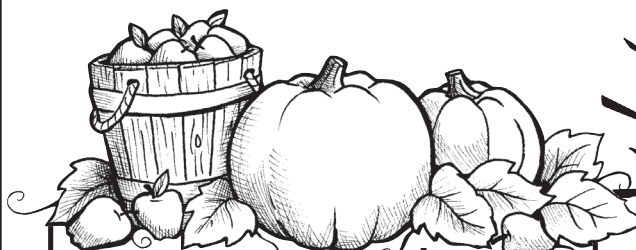
# Pumpkin Patch Train Rides



## All aboard for fun!

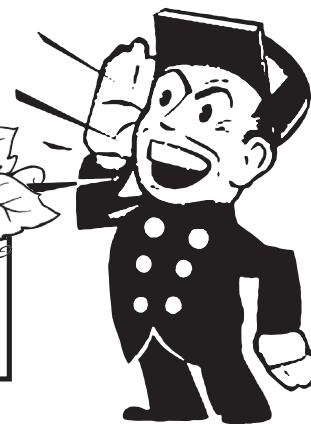
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## UPCOMING MONTHLY PROGRAMS

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

—Dave Drury,  
Program Committee



Museum members, friends, and family enjoying barbecue dinner catered by 3 Legged Pig of Lakeville during our Members' Day Celebration on the evening of September 25. See page 3.

## CLASSIC CAR SHOW SEPTEMBER 17 and 18

On September 17 and 18 we hosted our Classic Car Show & Train Rides. More than 200 visitors came through during the weekend event that also showcased vintage vehicles from many eras. Unfortunately, we were competing against a very large and established car show event being held in Canandaigua on the same weekend, which hurt attendance. We will re-evaluate this event for 2023 and see how we can make it more attractive to visitors. —O.M.V.

## OKTOBERFEST RAILS & ALES SEPTEMBER 24

Once again we hosted our popular Oktoberfest Rails & Ales on September 24, enjoying support from a dozen local craft breweries and related vendors. More than 200 visitors (out of a possible 300) attended the afternoon event, enjoying beautiful weather and delicious samples from our area breweries. Of special note, our friends at **West Shore Brewing** in Clarence attended with a fresh batch of their Hammerhead IPA, named after our Lehigh Valley "Hammerhead" RS-3 211. Thanks to our friends **Z Best Foodz** for providing grill service for our hungry patrons and volunteers. We look forward to hosting this fun event again in 2023. —O.M.V.

## MEMBERS' DAY PICNIC

Trying something new this year, we moved our Annual Members' Picnic to Sep-

tember 25 (taking advantage of the tables and tents rented for the Rails & Ales event). Two special surprises were arranged for the event: Livonia, Avon & Lakeville dropped off their caboose 2603 (former Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburgh 252), and our neighbors New York Museum of Transportation allowed us to borrow their Genesee & Wyoming caboose 8 (overcoming objections from a few NYMT trustees). This was the first time G&W 8 left the NYMT for a trip down the museum railroad since 1997.

Festivities began the morning of September 25, with a special "photo freight" consisting of ex-LA&L Alco RS-1 20, PRR hopper 747803, LV boxcar 62300, and LA&L caboose 2603. Despite the rainy and overcast weather, a dozen photographers joined us for trips up and down the line posing the train at various locations. We were also able to take advantage of a little "rare mileage" posing on track north of Midway with permission of NYMT. The train returned to Industry at noon for a hot dog and hamburger cookout, with president Otto Vondrak manning the grill.

After lunch, photography and more special trips resumed. Unfortunately, an issue with the journal bearing wedges sidelined the G&W caboose, so we weren't able to use it for special runs. However, our members were able to enjoy touring the unique ex-Lackawanna caboose (built 1914) while it was on display inside our Restoration Shop. Dinner was catered by our friends at **3 Legged Pig** of Lakeville, with their amaz-





**ABOVE:** Our Lehigh Valley freight train exhibit on Track 5 was finally completed in September with the addition of Lehigh Valley 211!

**RIGHT:** Visitors enjoy the classic cars on display during our event on September 17. Additional vehicles were on display in the Upper Yard.

**BELOW RIGHT:** Visitors wave to the train from the Railfan Overlook in the Upper Yard during our Rails & Ales event on September 24. More than a dozen local craft breweries were pouring samples at Industry and the Upper Yard.



ing smoked brisket, barbecue chicken, mac and cheese, and salt potatoes on the menu. Following dinner, a few hearty souls continued the festivities by posing the freight train for a few night photos.

The G&W caboose was repaired and returned to NYMT on October 9. We are working on a plan to make further repairs to the caboose so it can be used in public operations at RGV in 2023. The LA&L caboose will be stored at RGV through the winter with possibility of future activity in 2023. Thanks to the LA&L and NYMT for contributing to our Members Day Picnic!

## 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. Get tickets at [www.RochesterTrainRides.com](http://www.RochesterTrainRides.com). —O.M.V.

### MECHANICAL DEPT.

Over the last month, our volunteers have been busy with various projects to repair and maintain our historic fleet. Here's a



roundup of recent activity to date.

**RG&E 41:** Received new air valves and a COTS in the spring; has a current 92-day inspection.

**LA&L 20:** Received new air valves and a COTS in the spring; has a current 92-day inspection. Sam Rosenberg has been chasing down some electrical issues, but the locomotive is running well overall. It will be drained and prepped for winter storage in October.

**R&GV 54:** Received a COTS in the spring; has a current 92-day inspection. Sam Rosenberg is getting quotes on replacement parts for the No. 1 air compressor. Dave Peet has ordered a new set of starting batteries to be delivered in October.

**RG&E 8:** Chuck Whalen has been cleaning and painting the trucks and other areas

around the cab. Sam Rosenberg would like to focus on some of the underside work while the locomotive is over the pit, including truck air hoses, traction motor brushes, traction motor support bolt replacement, and more. Jeremy Tuke is getting quotes on window glass installation/replacement.

**USA 1843:** Kurtis Hooey is working on touching up the paint, including all new stripes along the side sill, and fresh yellow paint on all handrails. Sam Rosenberg is planning on doing some electrical work while the locomotive is out of service through the winter months. There is also an air line that needs to be replaced inside the radiator room at the front of the locomotive.

**EK 6:** Jeremy Tuke is working on getting quotes for window glass replacement. The old window gaskets will need to be removed,



and the areas around the window openings cleaned with a wire wheel, primed, and painted before glass installation.

**LV 211:** Received all new air valves this summer. The air brakes are functional again, although the locomotive could use a COTS. Currently out of service.

**BNY 12:** Awaiting pick-up by Scott Symans, coordinating with delivery of DSI 5.

**DSI 5:** The saddle tank has been removed from the locomotive in preparation for abatement. Pete Gores and Bob Cowan have been doing the prep work to get the locomotive ready to ship to R&GV. We are currently waiting on quotes and work timeline from our contractor.

**BR&P 280:** The end platforms have been repaired and repainted. Charlie Marks is working to reinstall the grab irons on the

cupola roof before winter.

**LBR 23:** The passenger steps on the west side of the car may need some repair work to get us through the October events.

**PC 18526:** Charlie Marks is leading the repair work of the interior walls and floor, along with Rick Auburn. Thanks to the Amann family and Charlie Marks for finishing the interior painting.

**B&O C2493:** A team of Charlie Marks, Charles Rothbart, Rick Auburn, and Bill Marcotte inspected the roof and are making plans for roof repairs. New window glazing is also being considered to further weather-proof the car.

**Rochester Subway Car 60:** Rand Warner is leading an effort to rebuild the rear vestibule of the car. This will allow work on the curved roof sections to continue this

fall, with the assistance of the metalworking apprentices from the local union.

**EKCX Tank Car 52:** John Redden continues to lead restoration work, with help from Justin Mulford to clean, prime, and paint various components. Rick Auburn has assisted in making new wooden wedges to support the tank.

**WAG X-3710 Snow Plow:** Charlie Marks is working on a restoration plan for the car to rebuild the wooden body. The large steel wings will need to be removed before it can enter the Restoration Shop.

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 me to join in the fun!

—Joe Nugent, Mechanical Dept. Supt.

## DESPATCH SHOPS No. 5 UPDATE

Work continues to prep Despatch Shops 0-4-0 No. 5 for transport to our museum. Volunteers Peter Gores and Bob Cowan have been working at the Virgilio property in Henrietta for the last few weeks to remove exterior appliances from the saddle tank and backhead. Another team of volun-

## MEMBERS' DAY PHOTO FREIGHT

**LEFT:** LA&L 20 leads a short vintage freight train out of Industry Yard for the first of several photo run-bys held during the morning of our Members Day' Celebration on September 25. The train included our restored Pennsylvania Railroad hopper and Lehigh Valley boxcar.

**BELOW LEFT:** LA&L 20 leads a freight train past Midway station during one of the multiple photo run-bys conducted for photographers.

**BELOW:** Many members enjoyed rides aboard LA&L caboose 2603, loaned to us for this event.





teers led by Jeremy Tuke and Scott Gleason helped move the engine out of its shed for the first time in many years. On Monday, October 3, our friends from **C.P. Ward** arrived with a crane to remove the saddle tank from the boiler. This has exposed the jacking, which will make remediation efforts much easier for our contractors. Once remediation is complete, the saddle tank will be replaced. We look forward to moving DSI 5 to our museum campus before the end of the year for evaluation.

### "NEW YORK CENTRAL" BATAVIA SIGN FUNDRAISER

We have hired a local sign shop to fabricate the missing letters, make the Restoration Shop sign, and install them on our building. Your donation will help us meet our goal! The money raised will be used to fabricate the missing letters, fabricate the Restoration Shop sign, and also have the signs professionally installed on our building. To date we have raised \$1,000, one-quarter of our goal! Member Roy Wullich has also stepped forward with a generous \$4,000 donation. Can you help us raise the remain-

ing \$3,000 to complete this project? You can contribute to this project by visiting <https://tinyurl.com/batavianyc>.

### ELECTRICAL SHOP UPDATE

Thanks to a crew of volunteers led by Buildings & Grounds Supt. Charlie Marks, the new Electrical Shop in the southwest corner of the Restoration Shop was completed during the first week of October. This fully insulated office and workshop space gives our electricians a safe, secure, and warm place to perform their work year round. The enclosure was also designed to provide additional storage space on the roof, which will help us free up more floor space for projects. Our team of electricians is led by long-time volunteer Jim Johnson, assisted by Mike Guglielmo.

### METAL FABRICATION SHOP UPDATE

The latest addition to the Metalworking Shop area is a Bridgeport mill donated by Rochester Institute of Technology. This machine combines the rigidity of a milling machine with the versatility of a drill press. A Bridgeport is a multipurpose knee mill, having the rigidity and power table feed to be a milling machine and a variable speed head equipped with quill travel for drilling, tapping, and reaming operations. Thanks to Jeremy Tuke for locating the donation, and Scott Gleason for arranging transport. Anyone is welcome to use the shop area, get training on the machines, and learn more about welding, fabrication, and metalworking. The Metalworking Shop is managed by Bill Marcotte, please contact him for more information.

## NEW ELECTRICAL SHOP COMPLETED

**TOP RIGHT:** By September 20, the new Electrical Shop was framed out, and the interior paneled.

**RIGHT:** By September 27, the exterior paneling was complete, and work was starting on the ceiling joists. The ceiling is designed to be load bearing so additional material can be stored on top of the Electrical Shop.

**BELOW:** By October 8, the electrical team had installed lighting and was already using their new space. Next to come are doors to help keep the heat in for the colder seasons.







**LEFT:** Despatch Shops No. 5 enjoys the sunshine for the first time in many years as the engine was pulled from its shed on the private property of the Virgilo estate in Henrietta on September 23. A week later the saddle tank was lifted off to allow access to the jacketing and boiler for remediation activities. JEREMY TUKE PHOTO

**BELOW LEFT:** Kurtis Hooey repainted the hazard stripes along the sill of U.S. Army 1843, a Fairbanks-Morse H12-44 built in 1953 assigned to the Seneca Army Depot near Geneva. It came to our museum in 1993, and is one of the few operating FM diesels in the country.

### ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

Our museum elections will be here before you know it. **This year, every officer position as well as two trustee positions are up for election.** If you are interested in getting more involved with the management of the museum and its future, consider running for office and join the Board of Trustees. We always welcome new voices to the board, any member in good standing is eligible for nomination. You can even nominate yourself. Please contact me or Associate Chair Bill Marcotte if you have questions or want to nominate a candidate for the ballot. The slate of candidates will be finalized at our October member meeting, and the ballot will be mailed out to all members with the November issue of THE SEMAPHORE. Ballots can be cast by mail, or in person at the November meeting.

—Charlie Marks,  
Elections Committee Chairman



### LIVONIA, AVON & LAKEVILLE NEW CEO ROBERT BABCOCK

The Livonia, Avon & Lakeville announced Robert Babcock would become its new president and CEO effective September 26. Babcock will replace interim CEO Carl Belke. Babcock was most recently general manager and vice president of the Indiana Rail Road, where he was responsible for train operations, car and locomotion repair, systems safety and training, customer service, engineering and intermodal marketing and operations. Before that he held management positions at CSX Transportation and BNSF Railway. Founded in 1964, LA&L also owns and operates the Bath & Hammondsport, Western New York & Pennsylvania, and Ontario Midland railroads. In 1996, LA&L purchased from Conrail the portion of the Mortimer Secondary (ex-Erie Railroad Rochester Branch) that runs past our museum to Henrietta and Genesee Junction. ■

## TRIP CHAIRMAN WANTED

After serving many years as Trip Committee Chairman, I have decided to "retire." This is a great opportunity for another volunteer to step up and take on the role. Potential candidates would have good planning and communications skills, and would enjoy organizing, leading, and attending trips. Trips are selected based on feedback from a poll survey of the membership. Types of activities range from overnights to day trips, often held in the spring and fall each year. I will help the person who becomes Trip Chairman with how to organize trips. I have many contacts in the hospitality industry that I will share with you. If you would like to organize one trip or more for the members, please let me know. Email me at marberth@aol.com or call my cell phone (585) 315-0123. Thank you for your assistance and helping develop fun events for our members to enjoy!

—Dave Shields, Trip Committee Chair (Ret.)





THE **SEMAPHORE**

ROCHESTER & GENESEE VALLEY RAILROAD MUSEUM

P.O. BOX 23326

ROCHESTER, NY 14692-3326



**NEXT MEETING:**

**Oct. 20, 2022**

933 UNIVERSITY AVE., ROCHESTER, N.Y.

**PLAN AHEAD:**

**Nov. 17, 2022**

933 UNIVERSITY AVE., ROCHESTER, N.Y.

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**SURPRISE!** New York Museum of Transportation loaned us their Genesee & Wyoming caboose 8 (ex-Delaware, Lackawanna & Western 619, built 1914, sold to G&W in 1930) to use during our Members' Day Celebration on September 25. RG&E 41 did the honors pulling the caboose from the NYMT carbarn on September 22, much like it did the last time the car took a trip on our museum railroad in 1997. See page 3. OTTO M. VONDRAK PHOTO