

THE

SEMAPHORE

NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCHESTER & GENESEE VALLEY RAILROAD MUSEUM

VOL. 66 NO. 4
FEB.-MAR. 2023

NEXT MEETING:

April 20

**Mark Charles presents:
"Lehigh Valley Steam
in Ithaca"**



The Easter Bunny waves a friendly greeting from the rear of Livonia, Avon & Lakeville caboose 2603 (currently on loan to the museum) in the Upper Yard during our sold-out Easter Bunny Train Rides on April 8. See page 3 for details. PHOTO BY OTTO M. VONDRAK

Spring Has Sprung

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We had a wonderful opening to our 2023 season with our sold out Easter Bunny Train Rides on April 8. We hosted more than 660 ticketed visitors throughout the day, and we had plenty of volunteers to help make sure everyone had a great time. Hopefully we can continue this momentum into the rest of the season.

A few folks asked me about the revised schedule that will keep us pretty busy through the summer months. Some asked why we couldn't keep the old schedule, or even reduce the number of days we are open to the public. Others mentioned the stress on volunteers, whether working at an event or trying to make progress on a project behind the scenes. What if the new schedule doesn't work out?

Your museum board knew the challenges the new schedule would present when the

revised schedule was approved, but the fact of the matter is that we cannot keep conducting our business the same way year in and year out. Just to fund our programs and keep the lights on, we rely on revenue from museum admissions. In order to grow, we need to continue to try new things. That includes a new schedule where we are open more weekends. One hope is that the increased activity brings in additional members and volunteers who want to help advance our museum's mission of historic railway preservation. Another is that we increase revenue. Either way, we're certain to learn a lot this year.

Where do we go next? Please contact me with your ideas for the future by email at ovondrak@yahoo.com or call me at (585) 820-2341.

—Otto M. Vondrak, Museum President



www.rgvrrm.org

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2023 R&GV OPERATING SCHEDULE

Visit RochesterTrainRides.com for tickets and details

- April 8 - Easter Bunny Train Rides
- May 13 - Mothers Day Train Rides
- May 20 - Rails & Ales
- May 21 - Members Day Spring Picnic
- June 3 – Trains & Trolleys at Twilight
- June 10 - Train Rides to the Horse Farm
- June 15 - June Meeting at Industry
- June 17 - Fathers Day Train Rides
- June 24 - Train Rides
- July 1 – Trains & Trolleys at Twilight
- July 8 - Train Rides
- July 15 - Princess & Superhero Train Rides
- July 20 - July Meeting at Industry
- July 22 - Train Rides
- August 5 – Trains & Trolleys at Twilight
- August 12 - Train Rides
- August 17 - August Meeting at Industry
- August 19 - Classic Car Show and Train Rides
- August 26 - Train Rides
- September 9-10 - Steam Train Rides
- September 16-17 - Steam Train Rides
- September 23 - Rails & Ales
- September 24 - Members Day Fall Picnic
- October 14-15 - Pumpkin Patch Train Rides
- October 21-22 - Pumpkin Patch Train Rides
- October 28-29 - Pumpkin Patch Train Rides
- December 8-9 – Santa Train Rides
- December 15-16 – Santa Train Rides

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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.

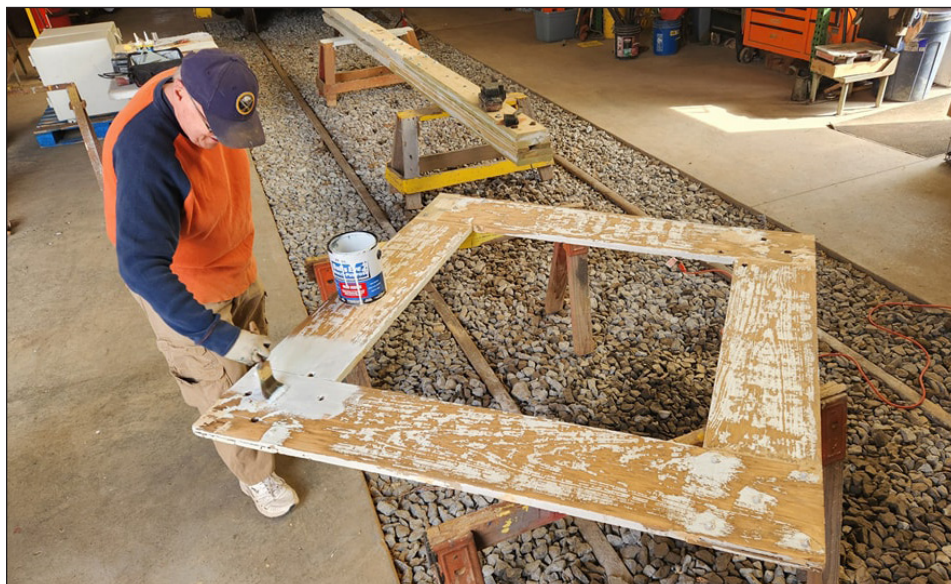
On **April 20**, member Mark Charles will present "Lehigh Valley Steam in Ithaca" recalling the LV steam era around the Finger Lakes in numerous photographs.

May 18 will be "Final Days of the Montana Rail Link" by Joe Cermak, Jackson Glozer, and Charles Rothbart.

Our June, July, and August meetings will take place at Industry Depot starting at 7:00pm. After a brief meeting, we will enjoy a ride on our museum railroad and tour our latest projects.

Meetings return to the 40&8 Club starting in September. If you have ideas for future programs, please contact me by phone or email.

—Dave Drury,
Program Committee Chair



Ernie Cole applies the first coat of primer to our New York Central railroad crossing sign on April 11. When completed, this vintage sign will be installed in the Upper Yard guarding the crossing at Track 6. It was previously on display inside the Lackawanna Baggage Car for the last 20 years, but was recently removed to make room for new exhibits.

EASTER BUNNY TRAIN RIDES

APRIL 8

Your museum opened its 2023 operating season with a day of sold out train rides on April 8. Our trains carried more than 660 ticketed passengers, with 11 departures departing every half-hour starting at 10am. We handed out almost 2,000 Easter eggs to eager hunters throughout the day, and handed out hundreds of coloring books, crayons, juice boxes, and cookies. New exhibits were installed in the Lackawanna Baggage Car and the MDT Refrigerator Car. Visitors also enjoyed our expanded Railfan Overlook. Thanks to our friends at Niagara Downunder for providing the petting zoo exhibit at Industry Depot! A fun time was had by all in the warm sunshine.

BUFFALO DAY TRIP

APRIL 29

Join us for a fun day exploring some of Buffalo's interesting historic railroad sites and museums! A climate-controlled, restroom equipped motorcoach will transport you from Industry Depot to four railroad sites in Buffalo, including **Lehigh Valley Williamsville Depot, Railroad Museum of the Niagara Frontier, Heritage Discovery Center**, and the **Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburgh Orchard Park Depot**. Included in your ticket is morning coffee, bus transportation, all museum admissions, and a box lunch. Seats are limited to 40, so reserve your tickets today! Purchase your tickets online at rgvrrm.org/buffalodaytrip.

MOTHER'S DAY TRAIN RIDES

MAY 13

Enjoy a fun day out with mom! Train rides depart every 30 minutes from 10am to 2pm. Tickets on sale now at www.RochesterTrainRides.com.

RAILS & ALES TRAIN RIDES

MAY 20

Enjoy complimentary tastings from more than a dozen local craft breweries on Saturday, May 20, from 12:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Ride the train to visit all of the tasting stations! Train rides depart every 30 minutes so you can ride between the two tasting stations as often as you like. Ticket purchase includes museum admission and free souvenir tasting glass. Refreshments available for purchase. Free soft drinks for Designated Drivers. Tickets on sale on our website at www.RochesterTrainRides.com.

TRAINS & TROLLEYS AT TWILIGHT

JUNE 3

Take a trip back in time and experience an old fashioned "Trolley Park" just 20 minutes south of downtown Rochester! Your journey begins at the historic Industry Depot on Route 251 where you board a vintage freight train for a ride through the bucolic countryside. Transfer to an authentic electric trolley at Midway that will transport you to our Trolley Park where you will enjoy complimentary ice cream and a free jazz concert. Bring a lawn chair! After your visit, board the trolley and train



ABOVE: We held our first hands-on training session of the season for train crew volunteers on April 1.

ABOVE RIGHT TOP: Jeff Davenport radios instructions to the engineer during hands-on training in the Upper Yard.

ABOVE RIGHT MIDDLE: Mark Amann unlocks and throws Switch 6 so our training train can head into the Upper Yard on April 1.

RIGHT: On April 1, Adam Lloyd, Scott Gleason, and Mike Guglielmo used our bucket truck and backhoe to carefully lower the Pennsylvania Railroad position light signals so the mast with a cracked base could be replaced with a new one suited for this installation.

for the return trip home, enjoying all the sights and sounds of the rail at dusk! Presented by the Rochester & Genesee Valley Railroad Museum and New York Museum of Transportation. Tickets on sale now at www.RochesterTrainRides.com.

MECHANICAL DEPT. UPDATE

Thanks to **J.C. McHugh** of **McHugh Locomotive & Equipment** in Fairless Hills, Pa., for donating a pair of high voltage shunts which were used to replace the ones that burned out in Rochester Gas & Electric 41 earlier this season. We appreciate their generosity, and thank them for their support of our museum.

Your museum was the recipient of an \$11,500 grant from the **John H. Emery Rail Heritage Trust** that will fund the fabrication of four new vestibule steps for our Erie Stillwell Coach. Our grant was one of 19 awards made by the Emery Trust, out of



29 total applications.

RGE 41: Currently operable; a 92-day inspection will be performed later this month. Jim Johnson is working on rebuilding RG&E 1950's reverser so that it can be swapped into the 41.

LA&L 20: Out of service. The locomotive has been moved back outside for the operating season. It will be put back into service once the weather warms up.

R&GV 54: The No. 1 air compressor has been reinstalled, along with new belts and fresh crankcase oil. The repair work was successful and the air compressor works as it should. A 92-day inspection was performed to get the locomotive ready for the Easter event. Brake valves have been sent out for this locomotive and should return within the next week.



RG&E 8: Sam Rosenberg and Chuck Whalen are working with Rob Burz to install air lines and valves for the air brake system. Chuck Whalen continues to clean and paint the underside of the locomotive. Sam Rosenberg has also gathered tools and materials to replace the traction motor suspension bolts on two combo units. Jim Johnson is working on cleaning up some electrical components for the locomotive.

USA 1843: Out of service. Sam Rosenberg is working on building a new reverse current rectifier for this locomotive. Electrical and mechanical repairs will continue this spring.

BNY 12: The locomotive is awaiting pick-up from Scott Symans. The cab has been tarped (a couple times) for weather protection.

DSI 5: Some site work may be required at the Virgilio estate to firm up the driveway before the engine can be moved.

BR&P 280 Caboose: A leaky union was tightened up last weekend. The angle cock on the north end of the car will need to be better anchored to the car body to prevent strain on the brake pipe.

PC 18526 Caboose: This car has returned to active service.

B&O C2493 Caboose: This car has been moved into the Restoration Shop for roof repairs, window replacement, and repairs to the vestibules and hand brakes. Once these repairs are complete, the car will be evaluated for further restoration and repair.

RTC Car 60: Rand Warner is leading an effort to piece together the rear vestibule of the car. His team is also working on restor-

ing the car's air compressor.

EK 52 Tank: John Redden continues to lead the restoration work on the car. The pipe that goes between the air valve pipe bracket and the emergency reservoir will need to be replaced. Charlie Marks is working on making new wooden saddles that support the ends of the tank.

—Joe Nugent,
Mechanical Dept. Supt.

LIBRARY/ARCHIVES UPDATE

Several volunteers helped accomplish tasks through the month of March. A number of excess books were donated to East Rochester Public Library. Additional books were sold at local train shows, membership meetings, and to local book dealers. Excess bookshelves and safes from the old library

were sold off as well.

Some Lehigh Valley items were donated and delivered to the Lehigh Valley Historical Society in Shortsville. A box of Canadian National photos were shipped to the Canadian National Historical Society. As a result, everything we are keeping for the time being has been moved to a smaller room at the storage facility, reducing our monthly rental cost. The project to digitize the Woodbury Collection negatives is nearly 50% complete. We will be opening a second Flickr account to house our scanned archival material and share it with the public.

For the month of April, we will continue to clean out the old storage space, and move the remaining bookcases and safes off-site. We hope to complete this task by the middle of the month to reduce our rental costs.



Easter Bunny TRAIN RIDES

LEFT: Visitors enjoyed the Easter Egg Hunt and meeting the Easter Bunny in the expanded Railfan Overlook on April 8. The Livonia, Avon & Lakeville caboose was open for tours and made an attractive backdrop for the egg hunt.

BELOW LEFT: Thanks to "Snackmaster" John Guglielmo for arranging delivery of the Easter eggs, juice and cookies, and re-stocking our gift shop with snacks and souvenirs!

BELOW: Once again, the petting zoo at Industry Depot was a hit with our youngest visitors! Thanks to our friends at Niagara Downunder.



RIGHT: Mike Guglielmo, Tim Gifford, Scott Gleason, and Rick Auburn helped Charlie Marks extend the fence in the Railfan Overlook on March 25.

MIDDLE: Mechanical Supt. Joe Nugent and Jeremy Tuke discuss next steps after the repaired No. 1 air compressor is reinstalled on R&GV 54 on March 25.

BOTTOM: John Stewart, Bob Lipman, Dave Shields, and Jeremy Tuke manned a booth to promote our museum activities at the Great Batavia Train Show at Genesee Community College on March 26.

Going forward, we need to formulate a plan for our collection of thousands of slides, and well as develop a new policy and paperwork to record the intake of archival donations.

Your feedback is important as we move forward with this process. Interested members should contact John Stewart by email at johnrstewart3@gmail.com.

UPPER YARD EXHIBIT AREA

In April we made some changes to the Upper Yard exhibit area. On Track 6, the Livonia, Avon & Lakeville caboose brings up the rear of a short freight train with LA&L Alco RS-1 20 on the head end. The U.S. Army Fairbanks-Morse diesel has moved over to Track 7, which will also make it easier to work on as Sam Rosenberg and Mark Bowen install a new voltage regulator circuit inside.

Buildings & Grounds and Construction Dept. have been busy extending our fence in the Railfan Overlook area. We will also be expanding our landscaping alongside the Railway Post Office car, extending the fence, and adding a new gate across the driveway to help contain our visitors during the days we are open to the public. A new gate was also installed at the north end of the Railfan Overlook area.

The boarding area on Track 9 was expanded another 24 feet north, and fresh crusher fines were laid in the boarding area, the drive way in front of the Shop, and between Track 6 and 7.

A new exhibit inside the MDT refrigerator car loops two documentary films made at the museum that tell the story of how refrigerator cars were developed.

A new electric circuit is being extended along Track 7 to make it easier to work on locomotives and put their batteries on trickle charge when not in use. More improvements coming this spring! 📧



BUFFALO DAY TRIP APRIL 29

- Williamsville Depot Museum
- Orchard Park Depot Museum
- WNYRHS Discovery Center
- Niagara Frontier RR Museum

Includes bus transportation
departing Industry Depot,
admissions, and box lunch.

Reserve tickets at
rgvrrm.org/buffalodaytrip

TRAIN SHOW CHAIRMAN WANTED

Appearances at local train shows are just one way we promote our museum activities, solicit donations, and attract new members. We are seeking a Train Show Chairman to help coordinate our appearances at these events. The Chairman would be responsible for identifying local shows, making reservations for table space, submitting required payments, coordinating volunteer staffing and arranging for museum materials to be transported and set up at the show. The position of Chairman is a manager role for you to coordinate and delegate responsibilities. If you are interested in helping your museum grow, please contact Otto Vondrak at ovondrak@yahoo.com.

—Otto Vondrak, Museum President

Arcade and Attica Railroad Corporation

TIME TABLE NO. 30
Effective May 5, 1940
Eastern Standard Time

NORTH BOUND		SOUTH BOUND
No. 1 Daily Except Sunday A. M.	STATIONS	No. 2 Daily Except Sunday A. M.
6:00	Lv. Arcade	Ar. 11:05
6:04f	Arcade Center	10:50f
6:20	Curriers	10:32
6:28	Java Center	10:24
6:43	North Java	10:09
6:48f	Perrys	10:04f
6:58	Johnsonburg	9:52
7:07	Varysburg	9:43
7:12f	Earls	9:37f
7:18f	Sierks	9:30f
7:45	Ar. Attica	Lv. 9:20
Read Down		Read Up

f signifies flag stop. Railway Express Agency, Inc. operates over this line. All Trains are mixed trains. All Trains handle U. S. Mail and Express. Connections at Arcade with Pennsylvania R. R. and at Attica with Erie and New York Central Railroads.

R. I. CARTWRIGHT,
General Manager.

LEFT: Dating back to 1870, today's Arcade & Attica Railroad was formed in 1917 to operate freight and passenger service between its namesake cities. Passenger service ended in 1951, and the line between North Java and Attica was abandoned after severe washouts. Steam excursions began in 1962, and continue to this day. COLLECTION OTTO M. VONDRAK

The Marion Railway Corporation

Operating trains between
Marion, N. Y. and Newark, N. Y.

TIME TABLE NO. 4.
In effect May 24th, 1920.

Daily except Sunday.

EASTBOUND		No. 32	No. 36
Lv. Marion	.....	7:45 a.m.	3:35 p.m.
Ar. Newark, N.Y.C. Sta	.....	8:25 a.m.	4:15 p.m.
Ar. " Penn. R.R. Sta.	.....	8:35 a.m.	4:30 p.m.
WESTBOUND		No. 31	No. 35
Lv. Newark, Penn R. R. Station	.....	9:40 a.m.	5:20 p.m.
Lv. Newark, N. Y. Central Station	.....	9:45 a.m.	5:25 p.m.
Ar. Marion	.....	10:25 a.m.	6:00 p.m.

Stops made on signal at the following points:
Rich Siding, Manders, Jaggers, Fisher's
Crossing, Beals' Crossing, Town Line
Road, Sand Hill Siding,
Water Works.

Right is reserved to change or withdraw
this schedule without notice.

M. L. White, Supt.,
Marion, N. Y.

RIGHT: The Newark & Marion Railway began as a trolley line connecting its namesake cities in 1906. Entering receivership in 1915, it was reorganized as the Marion Railway in 1917. It was acquired by the Pennsylvania Railroad in 1930, and passenger service was discontinued. Operation passed to Ontario Midland Railroad in 1979, continuing until July 1984. COLLECTION OTTO M. VONDRAK



THE **SEMAPHORE**

ROCHESTER & GENESEE VALLEY RAILROAD MUSEUM

P.O. BOX 23326

ROCHESTER, NY 14692-3326



NEXT MEETING:

Apr. 20, 2023

933 UNIVERSITY AVE., ROCHESTER, N.Y.

PLAN AHEAD:

May 18, 2023

933 UNIVERSITY AVE., ROCHESTER, N.Y.

Find us on Facebook! facebook.com/rgvrrm



Jackson Glozer takes the throttle of R&GV 54 on a training run at Industry Yard on April 7, passing restored Lehigh Valley caboose 95100 on Track 5. Would you like to learn more about the safe operation of trains at our museum? We always welcome new members! Visit rgvrrm.org/join for details.