



In a 2019 view, a westbound Amtrak Empire Service train crosses over the top of the Genesee River High Falls in downtown Rochester, N.Y. Photo by Otto Vondrak

Rochester Rails: the 2022 R&LHS annual meeting

Tours, trip, speakers will be highlights of convention

Learn about the rich history of transportation in western New York state and enjoy the beautiful scenery at *Rochester Rails 2022*, the annual meeting of the Railway & Locomotive Historical Society.

This event will be based in Rochester, N.Y., from June 1 through June 5. Planned highlights include rare-mileage excursions on former New York Central trackage (Finger Lakes Railroad) and the Arcade & Attica Railroad.

A dinner charter is scheduled aboard the 149-seat tour boat *Colonial Belle* on the Erie Canal.

The group will visit American Motive Power in Dansville, N.Y. Founded in 2005, AMP maintains a 650,000-square-foot facility for locomotive repair and overhauls, paintings, wreck rebuilds, modifications, and installation of Positive Train Control, air starters, electric starters, and remote-control operation.

Railroad museums on the schedule to be visited are:

- Rochester & Genesee Valley Railroad Museum, Rush, N.Y.
- Martisco Railroad Museum, Martisco, N.Y.

On Friday, June 3, graphic designer, illustrator, and author Otto Vondrak will present a program of his work.

Other speakers will appear at the annual banquet.

They are Len Wagner (Genesee & Wyoming Railroad),

Mike Smith (Finger Lakes Railroad) and David Monte Verde (Genesee Valley Transportation).

Registration:

- \$450 R&LHS members (spouse or significant other may also register at this rate)
- \$480 Non-members (includes one year R&LHS national membership dues)

Price includes:

- Social hour hors d'oeuvres (cash bar) on June 1.
- AMP tour, lunch, RGVM tour, *Colonial Belle* ticket, dinner and motor-coach transportation on June 2.
- Arcade & Attica excursion, lunch and motor-coach transportation on June 3.
- Finger Lakes excursion, lunch, admission to Martisco Railroad Museum and motor-coach transportation on June 4.
- Annual banquet on June 4.
- Annual members' breakfast meeting on June 5.

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Details, schedule for 2022 R&LHS annual meeting

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Hotel Information

The Hilton Garden Inn – Rochester Downtown (155 E. Main St.) has reserved a block of rooms for R&LHS members until May 2, 2022, at a special rate of \$149 (plus taxes) per room (king or queen bed) per night. This rate includes breakfast each morning in the hotel lobby. To secure this rate, call 1-800-HILTONS or book online using the promotion code **RLHS22** at www.hilton.com.

After entering www.hilton.com, look up Rochester, N.Y., for the dates June 1-5. Enter **RLHS22** in the special rates section. It will take you to a selection of Rochester Hilton properties. Click on Hilton Garden Inn Downtown and you will see the room selection at our group rates.

On or after May 3, 2022, reservations will be accepted on a space-available basis at the best rate available at the time of booking.



Railroad author Otto Vondrak waves from a 1921 New York Central Railroad wooden caboose. He will be a speaker at R&LHS's 2022 annual meeting. Photo by Blair Kooistra

Schedule of Events

Wednesday, June 1

- 3:00 pm Registration (Hilton Garden Inn Downtown) – Eggleston Ballroom
- 5:00 pm Social hour with hors d'oeuvres (cash bar) – Ritter Room
- 6:00 pm Dinner on your own
- 7:30 pm R&LHS Board meeting – Eggleston Ballroom

Thursday, June 2

- 6:00 am Complimentary breakfast in hotel lobby
- 7:45 am Buses depart hotel
- 9:00 am Tour plant of American Motive Power, Dansville, N.Y.
- 10:30 am Buses depart AMP
- Noon Box lunch at Rochester & Genesee Valley Railroad Museum – Rush, N.Y.
- 1:00 pm Tour RGVM
- 5:30 pm Buses depart RGVM
- 6:30 pm Dinner charter on Erie Canal (*Colonial Belle* tour boat)
- 9:30 pm Boat returns to Fairport, N.Y.
- 10:00 pm Buses arrive at hotel

Friday, June 3

- 6:00 am Complimentary breakfast in hotel lobby
- 7:45 am Buses depart hotel
- 9:30 am Arrive Arcade, N.Y. – Arcade & Attica train excursion (lunch included)
- 4:30 pm Buses depart Arcade, N.Y.
- 6:00 pm Buses arrive hotel, dinner on your own
- 8:00 pm Railroad history presentation by speaker Otto Vondrak – Paul Louis Room

Saturday, June 4

- 7:00 am Complimentary breakfast in hotel lobby
- 8:30 am Buses depart hotel
- 10:00 am Arrive Geneva, N.Y. – Finger Lakes Railroad train excursion (lunch and tour of Martisco Railroad Museum included)
- 4:00 pm Buses depart Geneva
- 5:00 pm Buses arrive hotel
- 6:00 pm Social hour (cash bar) – Ritter Room
- 7:00 pm Annual banquet with Len Wagner (G&W), Mike Smith (FGLK), David Monte Verde (GVTR) – Ritter Room

Sunday, June 5

- 8:00 am Members' breakfast meeting – Ritter Room
- 11:00 am Closing remarks and adjournment

***** Registration form on next page *****

Rochester Rails 2022 Registration Form

Rochester, N.Y. • June 1-5, 2022

Your Name: _____
(As you want it to appear on your meeting name badge)

Spouse or significant-other name: _____
(required to pay separate registration fee if attending official events – see below)

Street address or P.O. Box: _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Email: _____ **Cellphone:** (for last-minute updates) _____

Cost: \$450 members (spouse or significant other may also register at this rate)

\$480 non-members (includes 1-year R&LHS membership)

Please register _____ guests for the program @ \$ _____ each.

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Make checks payable to Railway & Locomotive Historical Society. Send form and check to: John Atherton, 16 Coachlight Drive, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603-4241

Your choices for lunch:

Thursday, 6/2

___ham/cheese

___turkey/cheese

___vegetarian

Friday, 6/3

___ham/cheese

___turkey/cheese

___vegetarian

Saturday, 6/4

___ham/cheese

___turkey/cheese

___vegetarian

**** Registration form and payment must be RECEIVED no later than May 24 ****

For further information, contact Paul Barnes at pbarnes7627@gmail.com.

Important notes:

1. The R&LHS makes every effort to accommodate the physically challenged; however, the train excursion equipment, as historic railroad cars, is **not** wheelchair accessible. Train boarding may occur in locations with unstable footing unsuitable for the physically challenged. Please contact Paul Barnes for further information regarding any specific needs.

2. No refund of purchased tickets after May 2, 2022, other than by operator's cancellation of the trip, reselling of the space, or official cancellation due to COVID. The operator suggests that attendees independently obtain trip insurance to cover cancellations resulting from personal emergencies, illness, or other causes.

3. Registrations are not transferable and may not be resold without the written consent of the operator.

4. Package does not include gratuities or personal incidental charges except as described above.

5. Schedules of train and bus departures and arrivals subject to change without notice by operators. Operators reserve the right to substitute equipment.

6. Attendees with dietary needs must notify the reservations agent in writing at least two (2) weeks prior to the event(s).

7. A \$35 fee will be assessed for checks returned for insufficient funds.

8. Long pants and closed-toe shoes are required for the tour of American Motive Power – **NO EXCEPTIONS!**

9. Visitors touring the AMP facility **must** abide by **all** safety requirements and follow guidance provided by AMP personnel **at all times** while on AMP property.

10. **Buses do not have restrooms on board – please plan accordingly.** We will be traveling for an hour to an hour and a half on each bus segment.