

# GNRHS Convention

## July 27-31, 2013 • Chicago/Naperville, IL

The 2013 GNRHS Convention is just around the corner. Join us July 27-31, in Naperville, Illinois for this annual tradition. You'll have a chance to meet old friends, make a few new ones, and spend several days talking Great Northern.

Our headquarters will be the Marriott Hotel. The Marriott was recently totally renovated to an almost new hotel. If you would like to stay with us at the Marriott, please call 1-800-514-4684 to reserve your room. The convention rate is \$99 per night, for a limited number of rooms.

Saturday will take us on a lengthy tour of the Illinois Railway Museum in Union, IL. It is the largest railway museum in North America with over 400 pieces of equipment. There are ten storage bams, with two miles of track under cover. In addition to several Great Northern cars, they have one of only two North Shore Lines Electroliners ever built, the oldest operational trolley bus in the world, the Nebraska Zephyr, the first Fairbanks-Morse locomotive ever built, the Santa Fe 4-8-4 Northern #2902, and others too numerous to mention. Lunch is included. In the evening at dinner we will have an optional informal get-together.

Sunday morning the GNRHS Board will meet for their annual meeting. Also, those participating in the Rail Fair will set up, along with those wishing to participate in the model contest and visual/photo/and similar material display and contest. In the afternoon the Rail Fair will be full speed ahead, with the usual interesting and attractive displays and items for sale. In the evening there will be the first of many presentations. All of the presentations will reflect the history of the Great Northern and its sister Hill lines, or modeling.

Monday features numerous historical presentations throughout the day, with a morning and early afternoon tour that provides another option. This tour will be to the Chicago Historical Museum. At the



*Two CB&Q E units lead the Empire Builder out of Chicago Union Station in August, 1969. (Photo by Mike Condren)*

museum there will be a one hour guided tour, Crossroads of America, which will include rail transportation. We will see the first "L" car to be used in Chicago to transport people to the 1893 World's Fair, the first operational locomotive in Chicago, the Pioneer locomotive built by Baldwin in 1937, and other exhibits. Afterward you will have time to see the rest of museum on your own. The included lunch will be at the restaurant that invented the pan pizza.

On Tuesday there will be no presentations. We will have numerous tours. The basic tour, beginning in the morning, will be to the Museum of Science and Industry, the largest museum of science in the world. Included will be a 20 minute interactive experience in the Pioneer Zephyr, and you will be able to spend time at the HO layout which is a stylized version of the Great Northern route from Chicago to Seattle. This layout has 1400 feet of track and runs thirty locomotives at a time. It is not computer controlled, but uses mechanical relays and isolated blocks. The layout took forty people one year to build, and cost three million dollars. Technical people will be

available to answer your questions.

Also at the museum is the NYC 999, which set the land speed record of 112.5 MPH in 1893. You will also have time to see the U-505 German Submarine, a coal mine, and many other exhibits. A box lunch will be included.

Later in the afternoon we will have a lottery tour to Electro Motive Diesel (EMD). We could only obtain twenty eight slots for this tour. EMD made a lot of the Great Northern engines. There will be a 20 minute film, and then tour the factory where they manufacture the power plant, wiring, etc. for the locomotives. Fortunately we will have an EMD presentation at the convention for everyone.

There are four great locations for our Model Railroad Tour. We will have to leave early to make three of the four locations. On the wall of the presentation room, we will post more complete data on the four locations, and have a sign up for the choice of three locations. We cannot guarantee that everyone will get their choices, but all four locations are great.

The layouts included are: Bob Hanmer

- Great Northern/Duluth, Missabe & Iron Range, which is based in the year 1958 on the 3rd subdivision of the GN's Mesabi Division from Floodwood, MN, west to Cohasset, MN. It also involves trackage rights for the DM&IR, as well as the Soo Line. Don Cook - Great Northern, Spokane Division which has been featured in national publications and includes scratch-built and kit-built structures. Some of the scenes include Wenatchee, Olds, Chelan, Adrian, Ephrata, and the Columbia River. He recently received the Master Model Railroader award from the NMRA. Greg Bedlek - GNP Hydra Division models the pre-merger GN & NP about 1970 in HO scale. Seven railroads are modeled, including the BRC (Belt Railway Corp) & MJ (Manufacturers Junction) in Chicago, CB&Q between Chicago and Minneapolis, GN & NP separate mains between Minneapolis and Seattle, Camas Prairie branch off the NP, and the Nez Perce branch off the Camas Prairie. The layout is fully CTC signaled, including 176 blocks, 100+ computer controlled switches, 10+ power districts, etc. and Bob Perrin - Illinois Central is a huge, nearly 3000 sq. ft. layout, that models the St. Louis Division, in 1966. This railroad features some double track which allows running at high speed (up to 100 scale MPH) around the major hubs of Carbondale and Du Quoin, IL. All traffic on the IC moving north or south passed through this area.

Wednesday features presentations in the morning and early afternoon. An Architectural tour will also be available. This tour will include a one and a half hour boat tour on the Chicago River, conducted by a local guide from the Architectural Society of Chicago. Afterward we will go to Navy Pier for its many attractions. Lunch will be on your own at one of Navy Pier's many restaurants.

Wednesday will conclude with a No-Host bar, followed by the Banquet. There will be three choices for your meal...Corn Crusted Walleye, Sage Roasted Chicken, and Grilled New York.

Each meal includes a starch, vegetable, Garden Salad, freshly baked bread, and a Fruit Tart with a Passion Fruit Sauce for dessert. For the Corn Crusted Walleye, it will include Maque Choux, and Grilled Lemon, for the Sage Roasted Chicken, it will include Truffle Demiglaze, and for the Grilled New York, it will include Port Glaze, and Wild Mushroom Hash.

We look forward to renewing friendships and seeing you at the 2013 GNRHS Convention. Incidentally, if anyone knows of a great topic and presenter for a 50 minute presentation, there still are a few slots that need to be filled.