

2017 Sioux Falls Convention Tours

Friday, September 15:

Midwest Railcar Repair Facility Tour

Bus Loads at 1:30 pm

This tour is limited to 56 participants.

We have a NEW TOUR added to the convention agenda and a GREAT opportunity for those of you who may be arriving into Sioux Falls on Friday, September 15. MIDWEST RAIL CAR REPAIR has agreed to open its doors to the GNRHS for a tour of their facility. Begun in 1954, Midwest Rail Car, Inc. has grown into a regional rail car repair leader. Their capabilities allow companies to bring a car for cleaning, qualification, interior lining, exterior paint, mechanical repair, inspection and testing. They offer Tank Car Repair, Tank Car Requalification, BOV and Safety Valve Reconditioning, Tank/Hopper & PD Car Cleaning, Interior Coating, Exterior Paint, Wreck Repairs and Maintenance & Repair Programs for their customers.

Saturday, September 16:

Prairie Village in Madison, SD

Bus Loads at 9:00 am

Transportation is wheelchair accessible; however, this tour involves walking distances on unpaved surfaces; wheelchair participants should have a family member or friend to assist with wheelchair.

This tour is limited to 102 participants.

Spend a day in the PAST! Prairie Village has agreed to open a SPECIAL DAY for GNRHS members only! View the Round House with Engine No. 29, a 0-6-0 coal-fired switch engine build in Lima OH in 1944; No 11, a 0-4-0T type, built in 1924 in Pennsylvania; the Wihelmine Victoria No 5 steam engine, manufactured in 1927 on Ruhr Valley Germany; the Combi-Car, built in 1909 and used by the CNW between Huron and Aberdeen for passengers; the Railroad Turn Table, the Wentworth Depot, the Chapel Car, and the Junius Depot AND that's only the start! There are over 60 late 1800 and early 1900 attractions to explore on the site. A detailed visitor's guide to Prairie Village will be provided to all registrants in advance of the tour so that you can plan your day.

An on-site catered lunch will be provided.

Monday, September 18:

Old Courthouse Museum, Pettigrew House and Cathedral of St. Joseph

Bus Loads at 9:00 am

This tour is handicap accessible

This tour is limited to 56 participants

The Old Courthouse Museum offer a dynamic history experience through innovative and informative exhibits. This beautifully restored 1800's quartzite building features three floors of regional history exhibits, historic murals and a museum store featuring several Dakota-made products for the whole family.

Tour the elegant 1889 Queen Anne style home of South Dakota's first senator R.F. Pettigrew. Take a guided tour of the historic home and discover the Sioux Falls of the late 1800's through artifacts, videos and more. The Pettigrew Home features detailed original woodwork, gorgeous silk damask wall coverings and beautiful jeweled glass windows.

Enjoy an extensive salad buffet luncheon at Minerva's in downtown Sioux Falls.

The Cathedral of St. Joseph offers a grand exterior and an inspiring interior in a blend of classic Romanesque and French Renaissance architecture. This guided tour will take you through the grandeur of the Cathedral with its magnificent stained glass windows, custom designed chandeliers, the twelve medallions of the Apostles, the Stations of the Cross, its Shrines, its grand organ in the Loft, its artwork and its Mother's Garden.

Monday, September 18:

Model Railroad Tour

Bus Loads at 6:45 pm

Due to logistics, this tour is NOT wheelchair accessible.

This tour is limited to 86 participants.

Sioux Valley Model Engineers Society (SVMES) Layout: *This club as existed for over 50 years in Sioux Falls. Its layout, located on the W H Lyon Fairgrounds, is in a building totally dedicated to the organization's activities. The layout is a multi-level HO scale layout that is entirely DCC. The club owns the layout; the operating equipment on the layout belongs to the individual members of the organization – thus a variety every time one visits the layout. Scenes run from large operating yards to the Black Hills of South Dakota with Mt. Rushmore, Crazy Horse and the Needles Highway. The city scene in the front of the layout is illuminated with LEDS – look closely at the activities in the buildings – you may see a body being embalmed.*

Jay Manning Layout: *This layout consists of 16 modules constructed to N Trac Standards; it is affectionately named the Beer Valley Railroad. It is not a continuous running scene. There are 4 mainlines running on two levels using both DCC and DC. The layout modules are designed to be pulled out and displayed at train shows in conjunction with other modelers. The two cornerstone modules are "Church of the Rails" with a wedding scene in front of the church with about 150 hand painted N scale figures; and "The Bridges of Beer Valley", a corner module with 12 railroad, automobile and people bridges – can you find all 12? Both modules have appeared in N Scale magazine. There are stories behind nearly every module and there are lots of hidden things to find throughout the layout. As with every model railroad layout, it is continually evolving. Jay does not model an era; his thought is he models bright colors because that is what kids see. Jay and his wife Marion have been involved in modular railroading since 1992 working together on the modules.*

David Feller Layout: *This layout is a large HO scale layout that is also continually evolving. It is noted for a large rock quarry and its beautiful scenery. There are lot of bridges, varying scenes, and deep valleys. It is one of those layouts that every time you visit, you see something that you did not see before. The layout is entirely DCC. The layout features the Chicago and North Western and the Milwaukee Road railroads. These are the two railroads that served his town when he was growing up. There are lots of scenic vistas*

throughout the layout which bring out new ideas, and are ideal for lots of picture taking. Be sure to observe the memorabilia Dave has attached to the walls of the train room.

Tuesday, September 19:

Tour of Milwaukee Rd Shops Historic District and GN 1355:

Bus Loads at 9:00 am

Transportation is wheelchair accessible; however, this tour involves walking distances on unpaved surfaces; wheelchair participants should have a family member or friend to assist with wheelchair.

This tour involves walking.

This tour is limited to 102 participants.

This site became the second largest shop complex (next to the Milwaukee Road's main shops in South Milwaukee; it was also the division headquarters for the Sioux City and Dakota Division. In 1923 this complex dispatched, serviced and repaired an average of 72 freight and passenger trains each day. This walking tour is designed to take you around the Milwaukee Rd Shops complex—stopping at each of the remaining structures—and provide you with background information for each location. Structures include the Roundhouse, the Machine/Blacksmith Shop, Car Shop, Engineers Tool Shed, Sand House, Sand Tower #2, South End Water Closet and Water Well Pump Houses #1, #2 and #3. Former Buildings (in some cases you can see foundations or floors). A “self-guided” walking tour book will be provided to each registrant.

GN 1355 – a steam engine restored with grant assistance from the Great Northern Railway Historical Society – will be on display and, weather permitting, outside on the turntable for your picture-taking pleasure. This steam engine is an official project of the “Save America’s Treasures Program”, by the White House & the National Trust of Historic Preservation and it is also listed on the National Register of Historic Places as nationally significant for its mechanical and technological attributes.

An on-site catered lunch will be provided.

Wednesday, September 20:

Excursion to Falls Park, 8th and Railroad St Shoppes and Wine/Beer Tasting at Prairie Berry

Bus Loads at 10:30 am

This tour is not wheelchair accessible.

We must have a minimum number of 40 participants for this tour; maximum number is 56 participants.

Spend approximately 45 to 60 taking your own walking tour of Falls Park; view Sioux Falls quartzite – this “pink rock” is the hardest rock second to diamond. The density of this rock, resulting from cementation and compaction in the floor of an ancient continental sea, makes it very resistant to erosion as shown by the falls at this present site. The Big Sioux River has been flowing in its present course here for over 10,000 years. View the Falls where, every second, an average of 7400 gallons of water drop 100 feet over the course of the falls.

Gather at the Falls Overlook Café for your lunch (provided in your registration fee).

First Established as the Wilson Terminal in the 1930's, this area on Sioux Falls' East Bank now hosts the 8th and RR Shoppes; spend leisure browsing time in the Boutique Shoppes. When your feet are tired, we will

head across the street to Prairie Berry; here you will be able to sit, relax and enjoy your choice of wine or beer tasting before heading back to the hotel.