



GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2023 ST. CLOUD CONVENTION INFORMATION PACKET



We welcome you to the GNRHS 2023 National Convention! This convention will celebrate the 50th anniversary of our organization. Members and their families are invited to join us in St. Cloud, Minnesota, beginning on Saturday, July 22 and running through Wednesday, July 26, 2023.



Visit Greater
ST. CLOUD
www.visitstcloud.com

REGISTER USING THE ENCLOSED REGISTRATION FORM OR REGISTER ON-LINE AT www.GNRHS.org.

Complete the form for the GNRHS member, spouse or significant other and up to 2 children less than 18 years of age. Please note this change in family member registration on the GNRHS member's number. If family members older than 18 years of age wish to accompany you, please have them join the GNRHS as a "new member." They can then register themselves under their new member number.

We need to have you register by June 16 so that we can assure that tours, meals, and apparel are available to you! Register with confidence – in the event that the convention must cancel a tour or breakfast buffet due to lack of registrations for that option, we will refund any money you have paid for the option we cancel. If you must cancel your attendance, please let Mary McGlothlin know by 4 PM on Friday, July 7; Refunds will NOT be given for any convention cancellation received after July 7.

GETTING TO ST. CLOUD

- » **By Car:** St. Cloud is 80 miles northwest of the Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN metropolitan area, and 172 miles southeast of Fargo, ND. You can easily reach St. Cloud by two major highways -- Interstate 94 or US Highway 10.
- » **By Train:** Both Amtrak from Chicago and from Seattle/Portland stop in St. Cloud. On time arrival from the east will get you into St. Cloud at 1:09 AM; Arrival from the west is at 6:32 AM. The Kelly Inn does NOT currently offer shuttle service to/from the St. Cloud Amtrak station so please make arrangements for transportation to the hotel.
- » **By Air:** Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport is a destination for many airlines so air transportation into the Twin Cities is generally easy to accomplish. You will need to have a rental car (or a friend) to get to St. Cloud. If you are adventurous, you can arrange local light rail transit from the airport to the Union Depot in St. Paul and then hop on Amtrak for the final leg of your journey.

FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO CAMP IN THE AREA

- St. Cloud Campground and Park 320-251-4463 info@stcloudcampground.com
- St. Cloud Clearwater RV Park 320-558-2876 stcloudclearwaterrvpark@msn.com

WEATHER

July tends to be hot and humid in Minnesota, with an average high temperature of 83 degrees and low of 58 degrees. You may expect a few thundershowers. The hotel, meeting room, and buses will be air-conditioned. You may want to think about bringing a sweater or light jacket if air-conditioning tends to get too cool for you. We will be providing water for all bus excursions.

CONVENTION HOTEL

The Best Western Plus Kelly Inn, located at 100 4th Ave South, is the hosting hotel for our 2023 convention. The Nightly Room Rate for this convention is **\$119 + tax**. Both King, Queen, and Double Queen Rooms are available. This rate is good from Thursday, July 20 through Friday, July 26, 2023. **YOU MUST RESERVE YOUR ROOM BY JUNE 20, 2023.** Rooms not reserved by that date will be dropped from the GNRHS convention room block and will not be available at the group rate if you reserve after June 20.

You can book on-line at: www.bestwestern.com/en_US/book/hotel-rooms.24113.html?groupID=N20PK6H1

Book directly with the hotel at (320) 253-0606 and mention the “GNRHS Convention” to get your group rate; the confirmation number for this group contract is: **578494**

If you encounter any difficulties in making hotel reservations, please contact Mary McGlothlin, National Convention Officer, at ncognrhs@gmail.com



HOSTING HOTEL FOR THE 2023 GNRHS CONVENTION; BEST WESTERN PLUS KELLY INN IN ST. CLOUD. HOTEL IS LOCATED IN THE HEART OF DOWNTOWN, OVERLOOKS THE BANKS OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER, AND IS WITHIN WALKING DISTANCE OF UNIQUE SHOPS AND RESTAURANTS



SPECIAL FOOD EVENTS AT THE KELLY INN

- **Daily Buffet Breakfast** – Saturday through Wednesday
 - » The hotel does NOT offer a free breakfast. It does have a restaurant where you can purchase a breakfast if you desire. For our attendees’ convenience, we have arranged the opportunity to purchase a buffet breakfast each morning. This will be served in an area for convention attendees. The price of the breakfast is \$14 each. This price includes tax and gratuity. We have priced this buffet to be similar to what you would pay in the restaurant for a similar meal. The menu will generally include scrambled eggs, a breakfast meat, potato choice, fresh fruit, caramel rolls, muffins, pastries, and coffee/tea.
 - » You can order your breakfast on the registration form. We must have a minimum of 50 persons purchase the buffet each day or it will be cancelled.
- **Convention Banquet** – Sit down dinner with choice of:
 - » Cordon bleu stuffed chicken breast with smoked Gouda cheese, wild rice, and mushroom, topped with garlic cream sauce; or
 - » 8 oz. Charbroiled Choice Top Sirloin with bordelaise sauce; or
 - » 9 oz. Broiled Canadian Walleye with garlic mashed potatoes.



INCLUDED WITH YOUR REGISTRATION FEE

- One convention mug for the GNRHS Member.
- See GN 400 *Hustle Muscle* and GN #192 at the St. Cloud Yard.
- Welcome Reception on Sunday Evening with a cash bar and Hors D' Oeuvres. We will be honoring our 50-year members!
- Models, Displays, and Photos on Sunday. We encourage attendees to have discussions with each other for sharing, trouble shooting, and learning. Your projects do not need to be finished and we will NOT be having a contest.
- Presentations – many topics and speakers have been organized. Sessions are open to all attendees.
- Participation in the Convention Raffle!
- Free Shuttle Bus to STARail and St. Cloud Depot/Yard on a scheduled, sign-up basis. Sign-up for the shuttles will be at the convention registration table

STARail: At the 2011 Convention in St. Cloud, the GNRHS entrusted the promising but unproven St. Cloud Area Rail Legacy Museum (STARail) with the ownership and repair of the X-240 Caboose. Since that time, STARail has done this and has leveraged that Heritage Fund Investment into four GN Railcars on a display track adjacent to the beloved Waite Park Car Shops.

This shuttle will operate on Monday Evening and Wednesday Afternoon. Sign up at the registration table for a small group shuttle bus trip to Waite Park and a private tour of the STARail consist.

See and hear about major developments in the project, including:

- The repair, reroofing, reconfiguring, and restoration of X-240 Caboose.
- The discovery of a well-graffited 1948 express boxcar on a siding in St. Paul, and the sandblasting, priming, painting, and re-lettering of it into its original GN 2537 *Empire Builder* colors.
- The discovery of a 1941 boxcar (the GN 27429) in Tuscan red MOW service at Northtown, that was slated for destruction, and its last minute rescue, restoration, and return to its 1961 rebuilt GN colors.
- The years-long effort to acquire a nearby SW 1 locomotive identical to the GN 80 that worked the Car Shops for decades, that came to fruition in January 2018, with the arrival of the Xcel Energy 1364, a 209,000 pound SW 1 locomotive, which is now returned to GN livery.

St. Cloud Depot Yard

BNSF is opening its railyard to host GN 400 *Hustle Muscle* and GN #192 for our members' perusal and photo opportunities. In addition, the St. Cloud Depot will be opened for member tours on a scheduled, small-group basis on Monday morning and Wednesday morning.



Photos above courtesy Lake Superior Railroad Museum



RAIL TOURS THAT REQUIRE PRE-REGISTRATION



1. Saturday, July 22 ST. CLOUD TO WILLMAR \$60 *Tour includes a catered lunch*

Early arrivals to the St. Cloud convention will have the opportunity to join an exclusive tour led by veteran GNRHS Archivist Stu Holmquist, to the Kandiyohi County Historical Society in Willmar. The Willmar GN depot, which houses the Historical Society, will be toured and a rarely seen group of color steam locomotive photos taken in Willmar in 1956 and 1957, by then-teenager Howard Patrick, will be shown and explained by Stu Holmquist.

The last P-2 Mountain (4-8-2) #2523 locomotive purchased by the GN also is on display at the Kandiyohi County Historical Museum. The 2523 was built in 1923, to speed the name trains like the *Empire Builder* and the *Oriental Limited* across the country. The popularity of the *Empire Builder* after its introduction in 1929 led to more cars being added to its consist, and a more powerful locomotive being needed. The P-2 met that need. The 2523 will be open for cab visits to tour members.

A visit to the BNSF Willmar Depot and yard has also been arranged for tour members. **Limited seats for the Willmar tour are available.**



Photos from the Howard Patrick Photo Collection



Left: GN #2523 on display at the Kandiyohi County Historical Society



2. Monday, July 24 MARTIN MARIETTA BALLAST QUARRY \$25

The Martin Marietta Quarry in St. Cloud is an American-based company and a leading supplier of railroad ballast quarry in the Midwest area. We will be able to view the quarry and hear about the mechanisms and systems for producing this product.





3. Tuesday, July 25

PRINCETON DEPOT TOUR \$60

Tour includes a catered lunch

Just 27 miles east of St. Cloud, the Princeton Depot holds many GN secrets. Why was a perfectly good standard wooden small-town depot removed and replaced in 1902 with a 215-foot long brick and stone “palace on the prairie”? See the “smoking-gun” letter to James J. Hill that made this happen. Did the last Princeton stationmaster and his family actually live in the Depot? We have photos! What were Italian prisoners of war doing at the depot in 1943? We have photos and autographs.

You’ll hear the clatter of telegraph dots-and-dashes in the Princeton stationmaster’s office; connected to the nearby Long’s Siding GN Depot. This is the **ONLY** live telegraph line connecting two GN depots in America today.

You’ll tour the restored little, 12-foot by 34-foot “portable” wooden depot, built in the Waite Park Car Shops in 1914, and delivered on a flat car to nearby Long’s Siding, Minnesota.



You’ll tour the Burlington Northern caboose which was rescued after being in a disastrous head-on-crash in Montana in 1991 and now sits trackside at the Princeton GN Depot.

You will time travel back to 1856 when you walk into the one room country school just outside the Princeton Depot which opened before Minnesota became a state.

Lunch and a surprise souvenir also await you in Princeton.



Long’s Siding warehouse scene - 1918



Trainload of onions & potatoes from Princeton.
September 20, 1937



NON-RAIL TOURS THAT REQUIRE PRE-REGISTRATION

We need to have a minimum of 25 registrants for each of these tours, and we will be limiting registration to no more than 38 participants on each. If we reach capacity, a wait list will be created. If we do not reach the minimum of 25 participants, the tour will be cancelled. *Refer to following pages for additional information on the non-rail tours.*

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| • Sunday, July 23 | Lunch At Anton’s & Home Décor Heaven | \$45 (Lunch Included) |
| • Monday, July 24 | Munsinger and Clemens Gardens | \$35 |
| • Wednesday, July 26 | Hill Museum and St. John’s Abbey | \$50 (Lunch Included) |



LUNCH + ANTIQUE SHOPPING

Sunday, July 23rd

11:30am – Board the Bus

Noon – Lunch

Built in the 1920's by a gentleman named Cy Brick, Bricky's was a speakeasy during prohibition. For many decades after the repeal of prohibition, Bricky's became a haven for young people to meet & socialize.

Now known as Anton's, you will enjoy an eclectic atmosphere while also enjoying an amazing lunch, featuring their giant popovers with honey butter. Following lunch, there is a short presentation discussing the restaurant's history and more about the MN 13 Moonshine.



Repurposed Furniture & Home Decor

Salvage Sisters – A Repurposed Store– offers high quality repurposed furniture and home decor. Our 8,000 sq ft showroom features a wide array of unpredictable furnishings. Over 30 vendors keep their inventory changing daily. Something for every taste and budget.



Modern Barnyard takes pride in providing stylish new and repurposed furniture and home decor from some of the best national brands and artisans in the St. Cloud, Minnesota area.



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MUNSINGER *and* CLEMENS GARDENS

Monday, July 24th

**9:00am – Board the Bus
Return at noon**

Explore over 20 acres of world-class gardens, plant collection, and historic hardscape along the banks of the Mississippi River.

Features include:

- **The Virginia Clemens Rose Garden (1,000+ roses)**
- **The Janney Crane Fountain**
- **The Virginia Clemens Memorial**
- **Rest Area Garden features 24-ft. tall Renaissance Fountain with Cranes and the Clemens Memorial Dome**
- **See the Resident Peacocks**

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ST. JOHN'S ABBEY HILL MUSEUM & MANUSCRIPT LIBRARY

Wednesday, July 26th

Tentative Agenda
10am – Board the Bus
INCLUDES LUNCH
Return at 3pm

The Hill Museum & Manuscript Library (HMML) is a nonprofit organization that photographs, catalogs, and provides free access to collections of manuscripts located in libraries around the world.

HISTORIC OVERVIEW

HMML prioritizes manuscripts located in regions endangered by war, political instability, or other threats. Currently, HMML is digitizing manuscripts in Croatia, Egypt, Gaza, India, Iraq, Italy, Lebanon, Mali, Malta, Montenegro, Nepal, Pakistan, and Ukraine. HMML's mission is to preserve and share the world's handwritten past to inspire a deeper understanding of our present and future.

HMML was founded in 1965 on the campus of Saint John's Abbey and University in Collegeville, Minnesota. The creation of HMML was a response to the global threat of the Cold War and the loss of manuscripts and books in European libraries during World War I and World War II. Preservation copies were made by microfilming each manuscript page then cataloging (library science) the photographic copies.

Tour the museum & library and then tour the beautiful St. Johns Abbey.



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APPAREL AND MUGS

Apparel and mug orders **must be received by June 16**; we will not be able to fill any orders for apparel or mugs after this date.

CONVENTION MUG DESIGN

Artwork shown will wrap around the cup starting at one side of the handle and wrapping to the other side of the handle. The switch stand will be on the front of the cup and the heralds will be on the back of the cup.



CONVENTION CAP

> ONE SIZE FITS ALL <



CONVENTION POLO SHIRTS



MEN'S POLO SIZES

PORT AUTHORITY.

Port Authority® Heavyweight Cotton Pique Polo with Pocket. K420P

PRODUCT MEASUREMENTS

| | S | M | L | XL | 2XL | 3XL |
|---------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Chest Width | 20 1/2 | 21 1/2 | 23 1/2 | 25 1/2 | 27 | 28 1/2 |
| Sleeve Length | 18 1/2 | 20 3/4 | 22 | 23 1/4 | 24 1/4 | 25 1/4 |
| Body Length at Back | 27 | 30 1/2 | 31 1/2 | 32 1/2 | 33 1/2 | 34 |

CHEST WIDTH

Measured across the chest one inch below armhole when laid flat.

BODY LENGTH AT BACK

Measured from high point shoulder to finished hem at back.

SLEEVE LENGTH

Start at center of neck and measure down shoulder, down sleeve to hem.

MEN'S POLO SIZES

MEN'S POLO SIZES

WOMEN'S POLO SIZES

PORT AUTHORITY.

Port Authority® Ladies Heavyweight Cotton Pique Polo. L420

PRODUCT MEASUREMENTS

| | S | M | L | XL | XXL | 3XL |
|---------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Bust | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 1/2 | 27 |
| Sleeve Length | 15 3/4 | 16 1/4 | 16 3/4 | 17 1/4 | 17 3/4 | 19 |
| Body Length at Back | 26 1/2 | 27 | 27 1/2 | 28 | 28 1/2 | 28 1/2 |

BUST

Measured across the chest one inch below armhole when laid flat.

SLEEVE LENGTH

Start at center of neck and measure down shoulder, down sleeve to hem.

BODY LENGTH AT BACK

Measured from high point shoulder to finished hem at back.

WOMEN'S POLO SIZES

WOMEN'S POLO SIZES



This year, 2023, marks the 50th anniversary of our organization, the Great Northern Railway Historical Society. Originally founded as the Fraternal Order of Empire Builders, the organization set out to preserve the legacy of the Great Northern Railway. The founders were visionary.



At this year's convention, the Society will have a special recognition of our 50 year members. They are:

Robert Bye
Theodore Doyle
Harold Hall
Arthur Marr
E Gary Masshoff
Alvin Osborn Jr

Ronald Sherry
Ronald Schwartz
Thomas Sweeney
Donald Thomas
Arie Voskuil



Renowned railway artist, Larry Fisher, along with his agent is an invited guest at the 2023 GNRHS Convention in St. Cloud. Courtesy of Heritage Art Editions, Mr. Fisher will have his art on display and for sale at the Rail Fair on Sunday, July 23. While in attendance he hopes to visit with convention-goers who share his interest and passion.

Larry has strong railroad ties. His father worked on the railroad for over thirty years. The family's first home was an old boxcar placed near the tracks. Larry's father was often away from home and his dad's letters to the family would often include a pencil drawing of a train scene. In mom's return letter, Larry would include his own train drawings for his dad to enjoy.

Larry continued drawing through his adult years. He spent time in Alaska with the Air Force. After that, he found work in Fargo and Las Vegas in television production. Following retirement, Larry devoted his time to painting original works of railroad art and traveling to railway art shows. His passion is still very strong going into his eighties. One of his recent works, "Memories of Fargo," was a tribute to his late wife, and was featured prominently in recent GNRHS publications. He truly is a Master of Rail Art.

All Copyrights belong to Heritage Art Editions, Inc. and Artist Larry Fisher. www.heritagearteditions.com





2023 GNRHS CONVENTION TIMECARD

ST. CLOUD, MN



Friday, July 21

7 pm to 9 pm: Registration

Saturday, July 22

7:30 am to 8:30 am: Registration

8 am: Buffet Breakfast (by purchased ticket only)

9:30 am to 4 pm: RAIL TOUR -- St. Cloud to Willmar with visits to Kandiyohi County Historical Society and Willmar BNSF Depot (Lunch Provided)

12 pm: Lunch Speaker at Willmar -- "Howard Patrick's Steam Era Photos" Speaker: Stu Holmquist

5 pm to 7 pm: Registration

7 pm to 8:30 pm: Welcome Reception with Cash Bar and Free Appetizers

"Old Goats Roundtables" Meet and talk with former employees of the Great Northern/Burlington Northern

Sunday, July 23

8 am: Buffet Breakfast (by purchased ticket only)

8 am to 9 am: Registration

9 am to 12 pm: GNRHS Board of Directors Meeting

8 am to 10 am: Set up for RailFair and Display Room

10 am to 4 pm: RAILFAIR

11:30 am to 3:30 pm: NON-RAIL Excursion -- Lunch at Anton's Restaurant and Home Décor Heaven

Lunch on Your Own (if not on excursion above)

1 pm to 3 pm: GNRHS Business Meeting

4 pm to 6 pm: Registration

Dinner on Your Own

6 PM: CONVENTION OPENING:

GNRHS President Mac McCulloch

50 Year Anniversary Overview of the History of the Fraternal Order Empire Builders and the Great Northern Railway Historical Society; Recognition of 50 Year Members

2023 MAIL-IN PRE-CONVENTION RAFFLE DRAWING

7 pm to 8 pm: "A Heritage Fund Donation Investment: 2006 to 2022 -- STARail in Waite Park MN"

Speaker: Barry Schreiber

Monday, July 24

7:30 am: Buffet Breakfast (by purchased ticket only)

8:30 am to 12:30 pm: Shuttle Visits to St. Cloud BNSF Depot and Locomotives (by sign-up at registration table)

8:30 am to 9:30 am: "History of the GN Railroad in St. Cloud" Speaker: Joseph Farry

9 am to 12 pm: NON-Rail Excursion -- Self-Guided Tour of Munsinger and Clemens Gardens

9:45 am to 10:45 am: "Economic Impact of the GN in St. Cloud" Speaker: Louis Johnston

11 am to 12:30 pm: "History of the GN Car Shops in St. Cloud" Speaker: Ray Schouville

Lunch on Your Own

1:30 pm to 4 pm: **RAIL TOUR to Martin Marietta St. Cloud Ballast Quarry**

5 pm to 9 pm: Shuttle Visits to STARail and Car Shops site (by sign up at registration table)

Monday Evening, cont.

Dinner on Your Own

6:15 pm to 7:10 pm: "The Baron's (Hill heir Lawrence Dorsey) Visit to LSTM" Speaker: Ken Buehler

7:20 pm to 8 pm: "A Short History of the Princeton and Long-siding Depots" Speaker: Barry Schreiber

8:10 pm to 9 pm: "GN Telegraphy in Princeton in 2022" Speaker: Gary Lenz

Tuesday, July 25

7:30 am: Buffet Breakfast (by purchased ticket only)

9 am to 4 pm: RAIL TOUR -- Princeton MN Depot and Mille Lacs Co Historical Museum (Lunch Provided)

12 pm: Lunch Speaker at Princeton: "Back from the Future: The Restoration of the Princeton and Long's Siding Depots" Speaker: Ron Euteneuer

Dinner on Your Own

7 pm to 8:30 pm: "St. Cloud to Fargo Line"

Speaker: Norm Priebe

Wednesday, July 26

7:30 am: Buffet Breakfast (by purchased ticket only)

8:30 am to 9:30 am: "St Paul to Seattle -- a Tour of the GN/BN Main Line" Speaker: Fr. Dale Peterka

9 am to 1 pm: Shuttle Visits to St. Cloud Depot and Locomotives (by sign-up at registration table)

9:30 am to 10:30 am: "Why Grand Forks was Great!"

Speakers: Bob Bye and Mike Lunak

10:00 am to 3:00 pm: NON-RAIL Excursion -- Tour of Hill Museum/Manuscript Library and Tour of St. John's Abbey (Lunch included)

10:45 am to 11:45 am: "Great Northern Steam Engines from A to Z" Speaker: Dennis Bartholow

Lunch on Your Own

1:30 pm to 4:30 pm: Shuttle Visits to STARail and Car Shops (by sign-up at registration table)

1 pm to 2 pm: "Modeling the GN in St. Cloud and surrounding areas" Speaker: Rich Remiarz

2:15 pm to 3:15 pm: "Western Fruit Express" Speaker: Tyrone Johnsen

3:30 pm to 4:30 pm: "Modeling GN in Superior WI" Speaker: Scott Thompson

EVENING EVENTS

6 PM Social Hour with Cash Bar

6:45 PM Convention Banquet

8 PM "Remembering Bob Downing"
Speaker: Don Hofsommer

9 pm CONVENTION RAFFLE
10 pm CLOSE OF CONVENTION