

FIRST TIME EVER
HILL LINES JOINT CONVENTION
GNRHS / NPRHA / SP&SRHS
SEPTEMBER 9 to 14, 2025
ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA

INFORMATION PACKET

**ROCKY SAYS -
"TO FIND OUT
MORE, TURN THE
PAGE AND LOOK
INSIDE !"**



We welcome you to the FIRST EVER Joint Hill Lines Convention sponsored by the GNRHS, the NPRHA and the SP&SRHA. You are invited to join us in St. Paul, Minnesota beginning on Tuesday, September 9, 2025 and running through Sunday, September 14, 2025. Tuesday and Sunday are OPTIONAL event days; the Convention convenes the evening of Tuesday, September 9 with a “Meet and Greet”; presentations will start Wednesday, September 10; the Convention ends with the banquet on Saturday evening, September 13, 2025.

REGISTER USING THE ENCLOSED REGISTRATION FORM OR REGISTER ON-LINE AT:
www.hilllines2025.com

Complete the registration form for the GNRHS member and your spouse/significant other. Other family members are welcome to attend with payment of the registration fee; we do not require membership in a Railway organization for this special event. If you are planning to attend with a family member who is less than 18 years of age and who wants to participate in any tour or the banquet, please contact Mary McGlothlin at ncognrhs@gmail.com for more information.

We need to have you register by August 22 so that we can assure you that we have everything ready for you! Register with confidence – if the convention must cancel any paid event, 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, August 16; Refunds will NOT be given for any convention cancellation received after August 29.**

GETTING TO ST. PAUL

» **By Car:** St. Paul is located on both Interstates 94 going east and west and Interstate 35 going north and south. The hotel is in downtown St. Paul so simply set your GPS to “411 Minnesota, St. Paul MN”; that heading will take you directly to the hotel. The parking ramp for the hotel is just adjacent; it is the “Town Square Ramp.”

» **By Train:** Amtrak’s *Empire Builder* serves St. Paul Union Depot in both directions daily. The *Empire Builder* #7 from Chicago arrives at approximately 10:50 pm; the *Empire Builder* #8 from Seattle arrives in St. Paul at approximately 8:30 am. Service from Chicago aboard the *Borealis* leaves Chicago daily at 11:05 am and arrives at St. Paul Union Depot at 6:29 pm; return trip leaves St. Paul at 11:50 am and arrives in Chicago at 7:14 pm.

» **By Air:** Minneapolis St. Paul International Airport is served by all major airlines. You will need to consider a rental car (or a friend) to get to St. Paul. Taxi and Uber services are available but may be costly. You can also consider the Metro Light Rail system. You would take the Metro Blue Line from Terminal 1 or Terminal 2 to downtown Minneapolis and transfer to the Green Line to St. Paul. The Light Rail runs about every 15 minutes during peak travel times. There will be a several block walk from the Green Line station in St. Paul to the hotel. I would not recommend taking the Light Rail if you are arriving after 9 pm.

WEATHER

St. Paul has a general range of temperature from highs in the low 70s to lows in the 50s in September. Air tends to be crisp and breezy. You will likely see a mix of clouds and sun and rain is always a potential – however, there should be no snow! Layered clothing and a rain jacket are good choices. The hotel, meeting room, and buses will likely 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.

CONVENTION HOTEL

The St. Paul Downtown Doubletree Hotel is located at 411 Minnesota St. The nightly room rate for this convention is \$125 + tax. Both King and Double Queen Rooms are available. This rate is good from September 9 through September 14, 2025. **YOU MUST RESERVE YOUR ROOM BEFORE SUNDAY, AUGUST 17.** Rooms not reserved by that date will be dropped from the convention room block and will not be available at the group rate if you reserve after August 17.

The best option is to book directly with the hotel at 651-291-8800 and refer to Group Code 907 to get your group rate.

You can also book on-line by going to WWW.HILTON.COM/EN/ATTEND-MY-EVENT/HILL-LINES-2025-NATIONAL-CONVENTION/ or you can scan the QR code that was provided in the March 2025 *GOAT*.

INCLUDED WITH YOUR REGISTRATION FEE

- » *James J. Hill's Saint Paul, A Guide to Historic Sites*, a special print edition made available by permission of the James and Mary Hill Foundation. This printed document is no longer available for public purchase and will only be made available to convention attendees.
- » A Railroad Map of the Twin City Terminal Area dated October 1934. This large map will be on display at the convention; a smaller sized map will be available in your registration packet for your "railfanning" use. This map shows the 1934 routes of following railways: Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul & Pacific; Great Northern; Northern Pacific; Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha; Minneapolis, St. Paul & Sault St. Marie; Chicago, Burlington & Quincy; Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific; Minneapolis & St. Louis; Chicago, Great Western; Mpls, Northfield & Southern; Minnesota Western; Minnesota Transfer; and Mpls, Anoka & Cuyuna Range Rwy.
- » Access to all scheduled tours, including the pre-convention scenic RT train ride from Osceola to Withrow Junction
- » Access to the Swap Meet
- » Access to all presentations – see enclosed preliminary agenda. Many topics and speakers have been scheduled.
- » Opportunity to visit area railroad layouts.
- » Opportunity to visit the St. Paul Union Depot and view GN 400 *Hustle Muscle*, NP 3617 and SP&S Baggage Car (pending confirmation of move of this equipment by BNSF to St. Paul)
- » AND BEST OF ALL – the opportunity to greet old friends and meet new friends!

FOOD AND REFRESHMENTS

At the time we booked this hotel, it had two restaurants and a bar on site. In the intervening months, one restaurant and the bar have closed. The hotel has a remaining small restaurant on site; it does NOT serve a free breakfast. There are many counter service eateries, restaurants, coffee shops and places to enjoy craft beers and spirits in the skyway and within walking distance of the hotel. We will provide you with information about these at the registration table.

Convention Banquet

We will have a plated dinner with choices of :

- » Grilled chicken, Garlic Green Beans, Roasted Potato, Dijon cream sauce
- » Roasted Pork Medallions, Apple Confit, Goat Cheese Potato Gratin
- » Butternut Squash Ravioli, Rosemary Herb Cream, Wilted Spinach. Balsamic Reduction (Vegetarian Choice)

All meals will include a salad, rolls/butter, dessert and Lavazza Coffee Service

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

PRE-CONVENTION TRAIN RIDE ABOARD THE MTM OSCEOLA EXCURSION TRAIN

Arrive early and you can experience a round-trip ride aboard the MTM Osceola Excursion Train. You will board your bus at 11 am at the Convention Hotel for a 1-hour ride to Osceola, Wisconsin, where you will board the excursion train. The 3-hour train round trip will take you from Osceola, Wisconsin crossing the St. Croix River into Minnesota through scenic northern Washington County to Withrow Junction. The train will turn at Withrow Junction and make the return trip to Osceola where you will take your bus back to the hotel arriving back in St. Paul at approximately 5 pm. A box lunch will be provided. Docents will be on board to answer questions.

There is a limit of 110 Participants for this tour so REGISTER EARLY.



PRELIMINARY AGENDA - 2025

⇒ **SUBJECT TO**



I look forward to your visit in St. Paul



Interior of the St. Paul Downtown Doubletree Hotel, the convention's hotel



Tour the James J. Hill Mansion

Tuesday September 9, 2025	Wednesday September 10, 2025	Thursday September 11, 2025
<p>REGISTRANT ARRIVAL DAY</p> <p><u>PRE-CONVENTION EVENT</u></p> <p>Scenic RT Rail Excursion Osceola WI to Withrow MN Train Trip Box Lunch Included</p> <p>11am: Load Buses 12:30: Board Train for 3-hour excursion 4 pm: Return to Osceola and board buses for return to St. Paul 5:30 pm: Arrive back at hotel</p> <p>4 pm Hotel Check-in</p> <p>REGISTRATION OPEN 5 PM TO 9 PM</p> <p>7 pm to 8:30 pm “Meet and Greet” Cash Bar & Appetizers</p>	<p>REGISTRATION OPEN 8 AM TO 10 AM</p> <p>9 am to 10:30 am Ken Buehler “Overview of Hill Lines History”</p> <p>10:45 am to 11:45 am TBD</p> <p>LUNCH OYO</p> <p>1 pm to 2 pm Chris Atkins Laurel/Billings “Evolution between 1901 (Q acquisition) and 1970”</p> <p>2:15 pm to 3:15 pm Larry Haeg “NP Corner and Northern Securities Company”</p> <p>3:30 pm Load buses for Jackson St. Archives and Minnesota Transportation Museum</p> <p>3:45 pm to 6:00 pm Open House at Archives and MTM</p> <p>DINNER OYO</p> <p>7:30 pm to 9 pm Eileen McCormack “James J. Hill: The Man Behind the Empire”</p>	<p>9 am to 11 am Bill Kuebler “4 Dome Train West”</p> <p>11:15 to 12:15 am Bob Hale “Try and Try Again; the GN and NP reorg the SP&S 1921 - 1933”</p> <p>LUNCH OYO</p> <p>1:30 pm to 2:30 pm Bill Edgar “Mergers that <i>SHOULD</i> have Happened”</p> <p>2:45 pm to 3:45 pm Jim Ruffing “BN Merger Musings”</p> <p>4pm to 5 pm John Gaertner “The Hill Lines in Oregon”</p> <p>DINNER OYO</p> <p>7 pm to 8 pm Robert Hanmer “Iron Ore by Rail”</p> <p>8:15 pm to 8:45 pm Scott Kotnaur “GN Slides of the Twin Cities”</p> <p>8:45 pm to 10 pm Dean O’Neill “300 Slides You’ve Never Seen Before”</p>



Tour the GN & NP Archives at the
Jackson Street Roundhouse

and

Explore the Minnesota
Transportation Museum



5 HILL LINES CONVENTION

NO CHANGE ←

Friday September 12, 2025	Saturday September 13, 2025	Sunday September 14, 2025
<p>9:30 AM TO 12 PM BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND ANNUAL MEETINGS; INDIVIDUAL SOCIETY RAFFLES</p> <p>LUNCH OYO</p> <p>1 pm to 2 pm Gerald Edgar “Burlington Escorted Tours”</p> <p>2 pm to 3 pm Paul Hobbs “Snapshots of Scheduled Trains on SP&S”</p> <p>3:15 pm to 4:15 pm Jim Singer “Hill Lines Passenger Oddities”</p> <p>DINNER OYO</p> <p>7 pm to 8 pm Richard Remiarz “Modeling GN Boxcars, Part II”</p> <p>8:15 pm to 9:15 pm TBD NP Modeling Presentation</p>	<p>7 AM TO 9 AM SWAP MEET AND MODEL DISPLAY SET-UP</p> <p>9 am Swap Meet Opens to Registered Attendees</p> <p>10 am Swap Meet Opens to the Public</p> <p>10 am to 4 pm Visit GN 400 <i>Hustle Muscle</i>, NP 3617, and SP&S Baggage Car at Union Depot (dependent on BNSF Transfer)</p> <p>1 pm to 4 pm (Non-Rail Tour) James J. Hill House Tour</p> <p>4 pm Swap Meet Closes</p> <p>6:30 pm Social Hour 7:15 pm Banquet</p> <p>8:30 pm - Speaker Don Hofsommer “Railroad Campaigns to Populate the American West”</p> <p>9:30 pm Closing of Convention</p>	<p>10 AM TO 3 PM OPTIONAL RAILROAD LAYOUT TOURS</p> <p>POV, On Your Own Maps will be Provided</p>



Buy, sell, or trade at the Swap Meet



Meet and talk with the GNRHS's Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting



Visit the Minnesota History Museum



Dine at one of the several restaurants that offer the Twin Cities local creation affectionally known as a "Juicy Lucy"

Visit the Stone Arch Bridge. The bridge's downtown side was closed in December for repairs, but the St. Anthony Main side is open for pedestrians and bicyclists.



WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

JACKSON STREET ROUNDHOUSE AND MINNESOTA TRANSPORTATION MUSEUM TOUR

Visit the GN and NP Archives at the Jackson Street Roundhouse! Your Archives volunteers will lead a tour of the archives and tell you all about how you can access GN and NP historical documents for research and modeling purposes. This is an important historical resource for all to access. Meet and talk to the primary volunteers at your archives: Don McGlothlin, Doug Complin, Rich Remiarz, Kevin Foley and Archivist Stu Holmquist. Hear about their work and how YOU can access historical railway documents of the GN and NP. If you are a local Twin City resident – find out how you can help at the Archives!

And tour the Minnesota Transportation Museum! Hear about the restoration efforts undertaken at the MTM. See the work being done on James J. Hill's Business Car (located at a restoration site about 5 miles from MTM) and the GN International Coach-Diner 1146. See the CB&Q Doodlebug and many other exhibits. Access all the restoration bays at the Roundhouse as well as the main exhibit hall at the Museum. Docents and guides will be available to answer questions and talk about the Museum's important work in preserving and restoring railroad history.

This is a private event for our group. Bus transportation will be provided to MTM and the James J. Hill A-18 Business Car Restoration site; an entry ticket must be purchased on the convention registration form to enter the museum on this date. You may decide to drive your own car, but there will be NO discount on the entry fee for using your own transportation. Entry tickets will be collected at the door.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

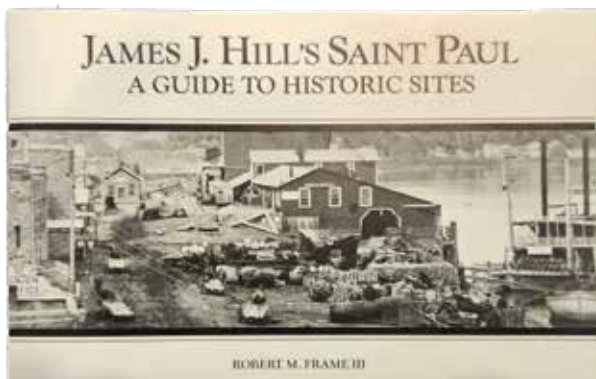
Attend and participate in the Society's annual membership meeting. Meet and talk with Board Members and Officers. Hear your Officer's reports on activities being done on behalf of the membership. Find out what is happening in the organization and give your feedback and ideas on issues. Find out how you can help the GNRHS carry out its mission. Be there to recognize and honor our 50-year members for 2025:



- » Richard Wolven
- » Daniel Mitchell
- » Richard Randall
- » Stanley Townsend
- » Jeff Haertlein

The GNRHS Convention Raffle will be held at the Membership Meeting this year. One of the top prizes for raffle will be a three-box collection of Challenger Imports, Ltd Brass Great Northern Railway Heavyweight *Oriental Limited* Passenger Cars, factory painted: a total of 11 cars – New, never used, in the boxes. Other prizes will be on display at the convention. See Bob Showers early to get your raffle tickets!

THERE WILL NOT BE A PRE-CONVENTION RAFFLE THIS YEAR.



All registered convention attendees will receive a special print edition of the book titled *James J. Hill's Saint Paul, A Guide to Historic Sites*.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

SWAP MEET

Get your table(s) early for this year's JOINT EVENT with the NPRHA and the SP&SRHA. This event will start with set-up at 7 am; doors will open to convention attendees at 9 am. The Swap Meet will be open to the public at 10 am. If you have any questions about participating in the Swap Meet, please contact Bob Kelly at mvmvmv@comcast.net

Display your models, photos, and collectibles during the Swap Meet. We encourage attendees to discuss with each other for sharing, troubleshooting, and learning. Your projects do not need to be finished, and we will NOT be having a contest.



TOUR THE JAMES J. HILL HOUSE

Tour the house built for railroad titan James J. Hill. This 36,000-square-foot Gilded Age mansion was once the largest private residence in the State of Minnesota. With 13 bathrooms, 22 fireplaces, 16 chandeliers, a reception hall nearly 100 feet long, and a two-story, skylit art gallery, the house was a symbol of success, personal taste and family life.



You will have a 60-minute guided tour of the entire house and self-guided access to the first floor of the mansion. Guided tours are limited to 25 people at a time; we will be forming a group of 50 people per hour divided into two touring groups each hour and we will stagger our groups to start at 1 pm and end at 3 pm (so tours at 1pm, 2pm and 3pm). Bus transportation will be provided. We have been advised that parking at the site is extremely limited, so we strongly encourage everyone to plan bus transportation. A ticket will be required to board the bus and to join the tour. Discount will not be given if you choose to use your own car for transportation to the site.

Participation is limited to 150 people so REGISTER EARLY.



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

MODEL RAILROAD LAYOUT TOURS

10 AM to 3 PM (TIMES SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

Six to eight local model railroad layouts will be open to tour for our registered attendees. These will be “on your own” by private vehicle. We strongly encourage ride-sharing due to limited parking at the homes. A navigation system such as Google Maps, Apple Maps, or Waze is essential. Addresses and further information will be provided at the convention.



ROCKY WANTS YOU TO KNOW

He will be there, will you?

Don't delay in making your reservations for the hotel, the train ride, and other convention activities. Seats are filling up fast so don't miss out on your chance to participate in this first ever joint convention. Come and meet the other mascots from the NP and the SP&S.

STILL NEED THINGS TO DO WHILE IN ST. PAUL ???

- Visit North Oaks Farm, also known as the Hill Farm. This is an open-air museum in North Oaks, Minnesota, preserving buildings of a 3,300-acre demonstration farm established by James J. Hill in 1883. This museum is sponsored by the Hill Farm Historical Society. For a preview of what you can see, go to hillfarmhistoricalsociety.com

- SHOP TIL YOU DROP at the Mall of America. This shopping center has over 300 stores; it is a short 17-minute drive (13.2 miles) from the hotel. Don't want to drive? - take the Metro Rail.

- Do you like Art? The Twin Cities have several galleries. Three of the best are: the Walker Art Museum, the Minneapolis Institute of Art and the MN Museum of American Art. This last one is in downtown St. Paul within walking distance from the hotel.

- Do you or your children like LEGOs? Then plan a visit to Brickmania. Brickmania creates historically accurate military building kits, custom printed minifigures, and related accessories using genuine LEGO® building bricks. Yes, they do make train sets with LEGOs. To learn more, visit Brickmania.com

- Sports Fans:

- > The Saint Paul Saints, the Minnesota Twins Minor League AAA affiliate, are in town the entire time of our convention. They are playing the Columbus Clippers on Tuesday through Saturday at CHS Field in downtown St. Paul. Game time is 6:37 PM. Google "St. Paul Saints" for ticket information and sales.

- > The Minnesota Twins are at home at Target Center on Friday (7:10 start) and Saturday (6:10 start); they are playing the Arizona Diamondbacks. You can take the Green Line from downtown St. Paul straight to Target Center. No need to drive to or park at the ballpark! Google "MN Twins" for ticket information and sales.



JOINT CONVENTION SHIRT

Use the registration form to purchase a convention shirt.

The shirt is available in multiple sizes.

The Joint Convention's logo is embroidered onto the shirt, which will provide you with many years of durability.



A special "Thank You" to Mary McGlothlin from the GNRHS Publication Staff are expressed for her work and time spent in organizing this year's convention and all other conventions as she departs from her position as National Convention Officer.

GREAT NORTHERN
A Dependable Railway