

Billings, Montana

Please join us in Billings, Montana this summer for an inside look at Montana's trailhead to the West. The convention will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in historic downtown Billings – Montana's largest city. We'll start off the week with a special reception at the former NP Billings Union Depot that once served the Northern Pacific, Chicago Burlington & Quincy and the Great Northern. The depot was restored with the help of federal and local grants and now serves as a local event center. The rest of the events will be held at the Crowne Plaza.

Rooms have been blocked at the Crowne Plaza listed above. The hotel will operate a shuttle to the airport for those arriving by air. Hotel parking is available at the city garage off N 27th Street and also off First Ave North with a convenient sky bridge connecting both buildings. Those arriving in over-sized vehicles will need to contact the convention chair for alternative parking.

Billings enjoys direct air travel to Salt Lake City, Denver, Minneapolis/St. Paul and Seattle. Due to a federally mandated construction project, making airline reservations today is strongly recommended. The Billings Airport will be closed for six (6) consecutive weekends in July and August 2013 due to runway construction. Closures begin at 9:00 a.m. on Fridays and the airport reopens at 6:00 p.m. on Sundays. If alternatives are needed to meet your needs one can fly to Cody, Wyoming or Bozeman and rent a car. Cody is a 2-hour drive of 104 miles. Bozeman's Gallatin Field is two hours 30 minutes, from Billings.

Convention Highlights

Tuesday Evening: We will have a pre-convention reception at the NP Billings Depot for early arrivals. A no host bar will be open with complimentary hors d'oeuvres and music for your enjoyment.

During the Convention: The Company Store will be set up on the third floor in the convention venue along with the welcome table. Modeling activities are scheduled for the third floor. Aaron Gjermundson is serving as modeling chairperson.

Wednesday and Thursday: Participants are invited to attend a variety of hour-long presentations. These will include topics like: How NP Shaped Billings, The new Elkhorn Grant, Recently acquired NP photo collections, NP Land Grants, The Billings Depot, A Miles City NP Depot Update, and a veterans' panel, modeling and much more. Evenings will be open to slides, the company store and social activities along with model layout tours.

Friday: Tour of Montana Rail Link's Laurel Yard (Cost is \$55). We will assemble at Crowne Plaza and board buses for the largest classification yard in the region. We also have a request to BNSF for a tour of their Rail Manufacturing Plant which is still tentative at press time. The day will end back at the Crowne Plaza. Cost of the tour is \$55 per person and includes lunch. (**Steel-toed safety boots are required for the Rail Plant Tour. If you own a pair please bring them. NPRHA is currently working on a plan to supply slip on style accessories.*)

A Spouse's Bus Tour is being organized to travel to Beartooth Pass south of Red Lodge, Montana. Information will be at the registration desk when you check in. Spouse's Bus Tour fee is \$25, which includes lunch.

Saturday: Swap Meet at the Crowne Plaza. Modeling events will take place on the third floor. The general meeting, no host social, banquet (\$35,00 per person additional), and raffle will follow.

Precise details of the Convention may change, as the date gets closer. Those not taking the Friday tour will have lots of things available to do in Billings.

Convention Chair:

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