



2012 NPRHA Convention - Butte, Montana

Come join us in historic Butte for a unique journey into the region's mining, railroading and cultural past. The entire convention will be held at the magnificent Butte Front Street Station (formerly the NP depot) nicely restored by owners Tom and Janel Madrazo who use it as an event center. The depot does not have elevators.

Rooms have been blocked at two hotels listed above. Participants may stay wherever they like. Bus shuttles will run between the two hotels and the depot. Those staying elsewhere may either park at the hotel lots and ride the shuttle, or drive to the depot on their own. There's plenty of parking.

Air travel into Butte is limited. **Delta** operates flights out of the Salt Lake hub, but the planes are small. Book early. Alternatives are to fly to Missoula or Bozeman and rent a car. Both are about 120 miles from Butte, but have better air connections. The nearest **Amtrak** station is Havre - 240 miles north. **Greyhound** operates bus service through Butte. The **Quality Inn** provides free airport shuttles, so if flying, it would be best if you stayed there. It also has a restaurant, lounge, swimming pool and most other services. The **Finlen Hotel** is the historic uptown grand hotel. The old section has been renovated into small suites, and there is a newer motel addition attached. It does not have a restaurant, but several are close. Most other franchises have hotels in Butte.

Convention Highlights:

Tuesday Evening: We will have a pre-convention reception (convention starts Wednesday morning) at the Front Street Station. A no host bar will be open with complimentary hors d'oeuvres. Marcus Daly and Butte's troupe of Irish Dancers are scheduled to make welcoming appearances.

During the Convention: The Company Store will be set up on the second floor in the front office. Modeling activities are scheduled for the balcony area on the second floor. Chris Frissell is serving as modeling chairperson. Refreshments and rest rooms will be available in the depot or express building.

Wednesday and Thursday: Participants are invited to attend a variety of hour-long presentations in the express building. Presentations will include: veterans' memories of Butte service, local photographers' railroad photos, area geology, mining history, a recently completed NP locomotive data base, research in the Butte Archives, modeling and much more. There will be an hour and a half for lunch, and local sandwich shops are planning to set up in the complex for participants to purchase meals on site. Seating is available. Other restaurants in the historic district are close. Be sure to try the pasties. Dinner will be on your own after 5:00 PM. Evenings will be open to slides, the Company Store and social activities.

Friday: Tour of Butte (Cost is \$55): We will assemble at Front Street Station and board two Butte trolleys (www.cvb.com) for a narrated above ground tour which will include the Berkley Pit, MRI, Uptown, the Anselmo Mine railroad display (BA&P), the Granite Mountain Mine Memorial, the Copper King Mansion (Clark's), Montana Tech and much more. For those not inclined to walk, most will be quite visible from the trolley. Lunch will be a barbecue (price included) in the western village at the **World Museum of Mining** (www.miningmuseum.org). In the afternoon the group will enjoy the museum, photo archives and take the underground tour of the former Orphan Girl Mine. Some walking is required. The day will end at the station about 5:00. Cost of the tour is \$55 per person and includes the lunch barbecue. (Note: due to the size of the group, it will be divided into two sections. Both groups will do both tours and come together for lunch.)

Saturday: Swap Meet in the waiting room. After the swap meet, modeling events will take place on the second floor. The general meeting, no host social, banquet (**\$35-priced separately**), and raffle will follow. Our guest speaker will be Dick Carlson. Shuttles will run to the hotels afterward.

Note: Precise details may change as the convention gets closer. Those not taking the Friday tour will have lots of things available to do in Butte. A spouse's tour is being organized to go to historic Philipsburg (65 miles) either Wednesday or Thursday. Information will be at the registration desk when you check in..

Convention Chairperson:

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