

# **CHICAGO & NORTH WESTERN HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

## **2017 Annual Meeting \*\*\* May 18-21 \*\*\* Rockford, Illinois**

**Holiday Inn, 7550 East State St., Rockford, IL 61108**

For reservations call 815-398-2200 and ask for special C&NWHS Rate of \$79.95 per night + tax  
All reserved rooms will be released April 18, 2017, but available at the meet rate until gone

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

- Railfan picnic with brats, hamburgers and hot dogs at Rochelle Railroad Park
- Bus tour of past and present Rockford, Belvidere and Caledonia railroad sites
- Presentations and photos of the C&NW in Rockford, Freeport, Belvidere and Caledonia
- Day trip to Illinois Railway Museum with one-of-a-kind special tours and photo opportunities
- Groundbreaking for the C&NWHS Archives at IRM
- Must-see evening keynote presentations by Mike McBride, Mike Schafer and Nick Fry
- Silent Auction -- Model & Photo Displays & Contest -- Modeling Clinics
- Swap Meet -- Layout Tours -- Layout Operations -- "KD" Line Segment Trolley Ride
- Feel free to bring photos and models to display -- awards given for best in show

### **Questions? Looking to Volunteer?**

Registration questions: Registrar John Berg [jberg@hbc.com](mailto:jberg@hbc.com)

Meet questions and volunteer requests: 2017 Meet Chair Rick Woods [rwoods613@gmail.com](mailto:rwoods613@gmail.com)

## **DAILY MEET ACTIVITIES (TIMES ARE APPROXIMATE)**

### **Thursday, May 18**

- Mid-Morning: - Rochelle Railroad Park Picnic, food @ 11:30 (food advance sign up)
- Afternoon: - Silent Auction and Model/Photo Display
- Presentations and Clinics
- Evening: - Happy Hour with cash bar
- Pasta buffet dinner (included in fare)
- After Dinner: - NON-RAIL "Beautify a Birdhouse"
- Presentation -- "Working On the North Western" by Mike McBride
- Open showing of members' slides, movies & videos

### **Friday, May 19**

- Morning: - Bus Tour of area railroad hotspots and historical sites
- NON-RAIL: Nicholas Conservatory/Anderson Japanese Gardens
- After Bus Return: - Silent Auction and Model/Photo Display
- Deli Lunch (and Board Meeting with working lunch)(included in fare)
- Afternoon: - Presentations and Clinics
- Silent Auction and Model/Photo Display
- Evening: - Membership Meeting including Archives Update
- NON-RAIL "Mixed Media Project"
- Presentation: "Growing Up With the North Western", Mike Schafer
- Brief Board Meeting

## **Saturday, May 20**

- Morning:
- Breakfast Buffet at the hotel (included in fare)
  - Spend the day at Illinois Railway Museum (included in fare)
- Afternoon:
- NON-RAIL: Midway Village Museum and Urban Farm Girl Market
  - BOTH RAIL & NON-RAIL Lunch at IRM (included in fare)
  - C&NWS Archives Groundbreaking
  - Return to hotel – final Silent Auction, Model/Photo Contest voting
- Evening:
- Happy Hour, Pick-Up Silent Auction Items, Pick-Up Models/Photos
  - Banquet (included in fare, choice of 3 entrees with dessert)
  - Keynote Speaker, Nick Fry of the Barriger National Railroad Library
  - Raffle Drawings

## **Sunday, May 21**

- Morning:
- Swap Meet, (contact Rick Woods, \$15 first table, all others - \$10)
- Afternoon
- Trolley rides on the C&NW “KD” Line remnant (extra fare, sign-up)
  - Layout Tours
  - Layout Operations (must sign up in advance)

## **NON-RAIL EVENTS**

**Thursday Evening** – Join other non-rail attendees in a “Beautify Your Birdhouse” project

**Friday Daytime** – Visit the new Nicholas Conservatory & Gardens, ride the Rockford Trolley on the old “KD Line, lunch (on your own) and explore the grounds of Anderson Japanese Gardens -- one of finest Japanese Gardens in North America

**Friday Evening** – Join other non-rail attendees in a “Mixed Media project”

**Saturday Morning** – Visit Midway Village Museum and Urban Farm Girl Market. Then lunch and groundbreaking of the C&NWS Archives at the Illinois Railway Museum (IRM) in the afternoon.

## **2017 MEET MAJOR DAYTIME ACTIVITIES**

**Thursday: Railfanning and Picnic At the World Famous Rochelle Railroad Park**

<http://www.rochellerailroadpark.org> -- Located at the very busy crossing of the UP (ex-C&NW) Chicago-Omaha mainline and the BNSF (ex-CB&Q) Chicago-Twin Cities mainline, this crossing sees as many as 120 trains per day. This is an all weather event as the park has a shelter. We will feast on burgers, brats and hot dogs with sides. There is no fee but registration is required in advance and there will be a freewill donation collected to offset the costs.

**Friday: Railroad-Focused Bus Tour of the Rockford Area**

Hop aboard as we cruise in comfort in a deluxe motor coach while viewing all the railroad historic sites and current hotspots that the Rockford area has to offer. Each bus will have a guide on board to point out structures still standing (and those that have been removed) as well as sharing a wealth of information and answering questions. Featured will be the C&NW in Rockford, Belvidere and Caledonia, but we will also see and hear about the CB&Q, MILW, IC steam lines as well as the Rockford & Interurban and Elgin & Belvidere traction lines.

## **Saturday: Spend the Day At Illinois Railway Museum**

<http://www.irm.org> -- Located in Union, IL, IRM is the largest railroad museum in the country with over 450 pieces of prototype equipment. The museum will be pulling out all the stops for "C&NW Day" with static and moving displays featuring C&NW motive power and rolling stock. Expect to see the first EMD GP7 (C&NW #1518) as well as EMD's F7 C&NW #411 and SD40-2 C&NW #6847. They have also agreed to conduct special "members-only and behind the scenes" tours of their Steam Shop and Electrical/Wood Shop as well as Spaulding Tower.

## **Sunday: Take a Trolley Ride On a Segment of the C&NW "KD" Line (Extra Fare)**

<http://rockfordparkdistrict.org/facilities/attractions/trolley-car-36> -- Hop aboard the Rockford Park District trolley car #36 for a pleasant and scenic ride along the Rock River while learning about Rockford's history. The line traverses a segment of the old "KD" (Kenosha Division) line which was built as the Kenosha, Rockford & Rock Island Railroad from 1859-1862 and acquired by the C&NW in 1864. The ride features rare "street running" down Rockford's Madison Street. The cost to ride will be \$10 per person -- reservations must be made in advance using the meet registration form.

## **MODEL RAILROAD OPERATING SESSIONS (subject to change)**

**MIKE MCBRIDE'S C&NW "IRON CROSS"** – <http://www.rockrail.org/c-nw-southern-illinois-line>

Located in Dixon, IL, approximately 54 miles southwest of Rockford, this session is recommended for travelers returning home via west and south.

**GENE WHEELER'S C&NW STERLING SUB** – <http://www.rockrail.org/canw-sterling-subdivision>

Located in suburban Rockford, this session is recommended for those returning home via north and east including Chicagoland.

**RICK FRESE'S C&NW GALENA DIVISION** – <http://www.rockrail.org/canw-galena-division>

Located in suburban Rockford, this session is recommended for those returning home via north and east including Chicagoland.

## **MEET PRESENTATIONS (subject to change)**

**THURSDAY EVENING: MIKE SCHAFFER – GROWING UP WITH THE NORTH WESTERN**

**FRIDAY EVENING: MIKE MCBRIDE – WORKING ON THE NORTH WESTERN**

**SATURDAY EVENING: NICK FRY, JOHN BARRIGER III NATIONAL RAILWAY LIBRARY**

## **THURSDAY & FRIDAY AFTERNOONS (Line-Up Subject to Change)**

- Jerry Pyfer – 50 Years Along the "KD" Line
- Randy Garnhart – CGW Eastern Division Slides – Oelwein to Chicago
- Lance Wales – Rockford Area C&NW in Color in 1980's
- Bill Shapotkin – Galena Division, Belvidere Sub from Chicago to Freeport
- Rick Woods – Overview and History of Rockford Area Railroads
- Frank Carlson – C&NW Rockford Area Train Wrecks
- Mark & Mike Nelson – C&NW/CGW in Southern WI / Northern IL
- Bill Wimmer – Belvidere Chrysler Assembly – Building the C&NW Rail Facilities
- Pete Deets – C&NW #1365 Restoration (1907 ALCO 4-6-0 steam locomotive)
- Illinois Railway Museum – C&NW-Related Equipment in the Collection