



Friends of the Burlington Northern RR 2018 Convention Aurora, Illinois

**BNSF ES44DC 7393 leads WB TOFC train past
parked stack train on the ex-CB&Q's Aurora sub.
Boras Rosser Photo**



**Advance Slides by Mouse Click.
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PowerPoint slides by Patrick Lana, MMR. Photos as noted.
Photos have been compressed to reduce file size so quality may vary.**

Friends of the Burlington Northern RR 2018 Convention Aurora, Illinois



Introduction

The Friends of the Burlington Northern Railroad (FOBNR) historical society was chartered in 1993 to gather, preserve, and share information about the history and the current operations of the Burlington Northern Railroad. In 1996 following the merger between Burlington Northern and Santa Fe, the group voted to follow the Burlington Northern from 1970 to 1995 and the BNSF from 1995 to the present. The Group's quarterly publication, *The BN Expediter*, is the voice of the organization that shares news about the group's activities, BN historical data, and current operations of the railroad. The society also has an annual convention at some location on the BNSF system with programs, tours, displays, a banquet with a keynote speaker, lots of railfanning, and a business meeting.

This slide show highlights the June 6-9, 2019 FOBNR Convention and Membership Meeting in Aurora, IL. The convention planning committee was Benjamin Hucker (left) and Dave Poplawski (right front).

We hope you N-Joy!



(photo by Kent Charles)

Friends of the Burlington Northern RR

Wednesday June 6, 2018



Railfanning on the way to the convention.

An empty oil can train is westbound out of Rochelle and passing through Flagg Center, IL. - a few miles NW of Rochelle.

Gary Seymour Photo

Friends of the Burlington Northern RR

Wednesday June 6, 2018



Optional pre-convention operating session at Ted Schnepf's Milwaukee Road O-Scale layout in Elgin, IL. Calmar (IA) Yard on the layout. For more on this railroad see: <http://railsunlimited.ribbonrail.com/FoxValley/layout.html>

Benjamin Hucker Photo

Friends of the Burlington Northern RR

Wednesday June 6, 2018



Railfanning the west end of the Racetrack from my hotel room...Holiday Inn Express is the best hotel in town!

Benjamin Hucker Photo

Friends of the Burlington Northern RR

Wednesday afternoon June 6, 2018



John Adams (left), Ben Hucker (middle back) and Dave Poplawski (right) at Registration table in hotel.

Kent Charles Photo



Friends of the Burlington Northern RR

Wednesday Evening June 6, 2018

HISTORY OF THE ROUNDHOUSE

The Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad Roundhouse and attached backshop complex are among the oldest railroad shop buildings in the United States. Built between 1855 and 1866, the complex is of pre-eminent national significance in American transportation history.

It began with a meeting of business men from Aurora and Batavia in late 1848 that led to the issuing of a state charter for the Aurora Branch Railroad on February 12, 1849. Twelve miles of track from Aurora to the Galena & Chicago Union Railroad junction soon became consolidated with the Quincy & Chicago and the Peoria & Burlington, putting into place the main Illinois lines of the C.B. & Q. system in 1864. Such growth demanded appropriate repair shops and terminal facilities, thus construction on the roundhouse complex began in 1855. Designed by Levi Waterhouse and built by J. R. Coulter Builders under the supervision of C. F. Allen, architect, the structure cost \$150,000.00.

Throughout the years, the complex was expanded and improved upon utilizing Fox River limestone from Batavia and a local quarry. The three sections of the existing roundhouse were constructed in 1855, 1859, and 1866 respectively. The first section housed twenty-two stalls, the second added eight, and the third had ten stalls, combining to become the "erecting shops" where engines were built and repaired from the late 1860's to the 1920's. The three sections were built in semi-circular fashion to form a complete circle. This was done to accommodate the turntable, situated in the center. The locomotives entered through the large portal at the south end of the roundhouse onto the turntable. In this manner, they could be "steered" into the appropriate stall for inspection or repairs. Also noteworthy are the iron Fink roof trusses which are supported by both the exterior and interior circular walls and date back to 1878.



Machine Shop A was where the major repairs and construction activities took place during the first decades of operation. Erected in 1856 as a two-story building, a fire in 1863 destroyed the second story walls leaving behind the one-story structure you see today.

Machine Shop B was constructed in 1863 as a connecting building between the roundhouse and Machine Shop A. It served as the principal erecting shop until activities were moved into the roundhouse.

At its peak, the complete roundhouse complex boasted almost two thousand employees and seventy acres of land serving more than 13,000 miles of track. During the twentieth century, changes from construction and repair of steam locomotives to the construction of streamlined passenger cars paralleled developments throughout the railroad industry. Shop operations were discontinued in 1974.

1855 ————— 1974



"All Aboard" dinner at the Two Brothers
Roundhouse

Kent Charles Photos

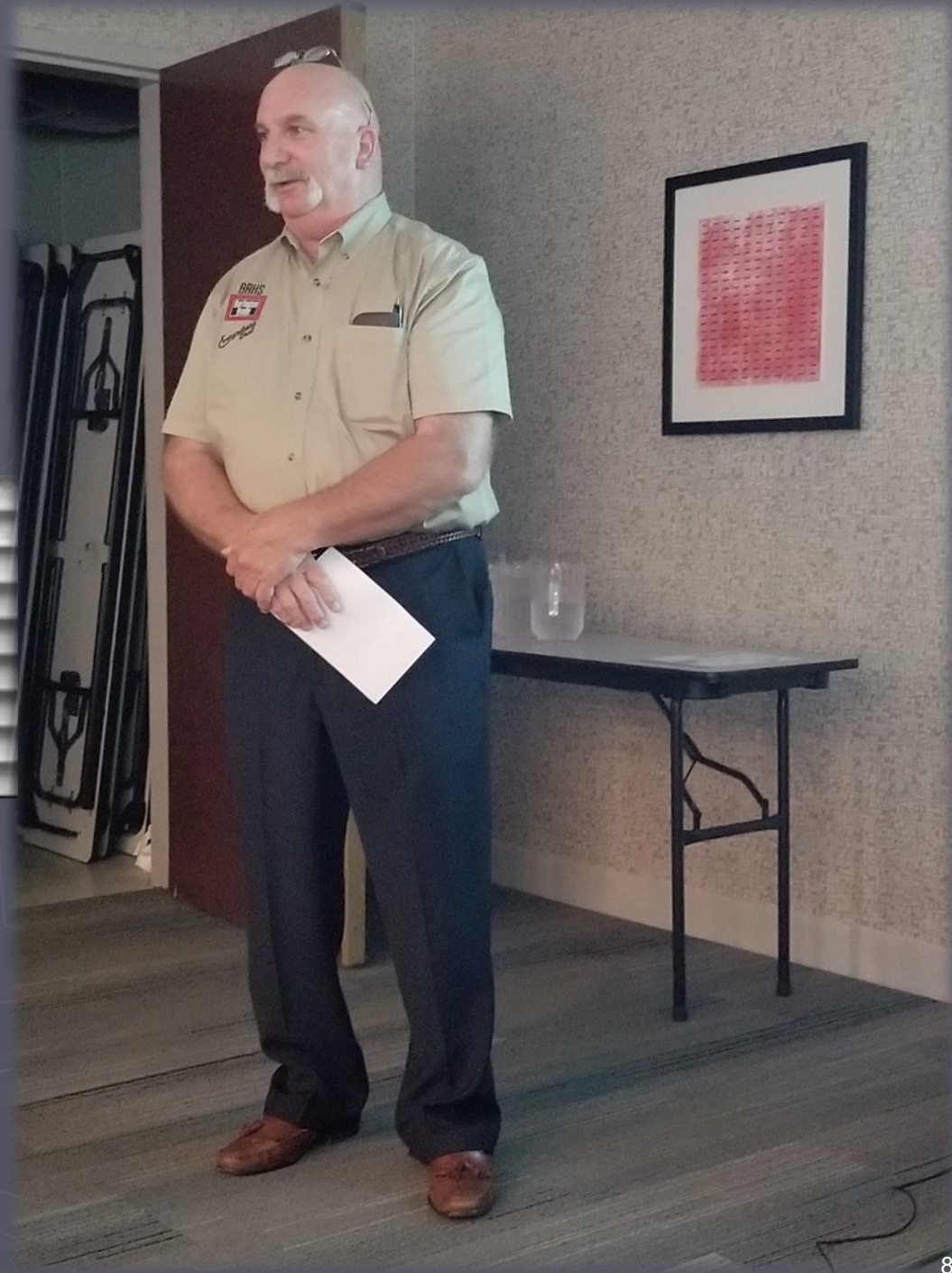
Friends of the Burlington Northern RR

Wednesday Evening
June 6, 2018

Burlington Route
Historical Society

Tom Whitt, President of the
Burlington Route Historical
Society (BRHS), introduced Leo
Phillipp.

Kent Charles Photo



Friends of the Burlington Northern RR

**Wednesday Evening
June 6, 2018**

**Leo Phillipp telling stories of his
work in Aurora on the BN
during the 1970's.**

**Leo Phillipp has also authored
for the BRHS, a series of
articles about railroading in and
around Aurora, Illinois, as
experienced by the employees
of the CB&Q.**

Kent Charles Photo



Friends of the Burlington Northern RR

Thursday Morning June 7, 2018



BNSF LPC Intermodal Ramp bus tour.

The entrance to Logistics Park Chicago (LPC) intermodal facility, the largest intermodal ramp in the world.

John Parker Photo

Friends of the Burlington Northern RR

Thursday morning June 7, 2018



BNSF LPC Intermodal Facility bus tour.

Mark Herzberger, Assistant Manager Hub Operations at BNSF's Logistic Park Chicago facility answers questions about the facility for some of the attendees.

David Poplawski Photo

Friends of the Burlington Northern RR

Thursday Morning June 7, 2018



BNSF LPC Intermodal Facility bus tour.
Truck drivers pass thru this building where several cameras take pictures of the container, the pictures are reviewed for damage by an office that is off site.

Kent Charles Photo

Friends of the Burlington Northern RR

Thursday Morning June 7, 2018



BNSF LPC Intermodal Facility bus tour.
Work in progress unloading a stack train.

John Parker Photo

Friends of the Burlington Northern RR

Thursday Morning June 7, 2018



BNSF LPC Intermodal Facility bus tour.
Another view of work in progress unloading a stack train.

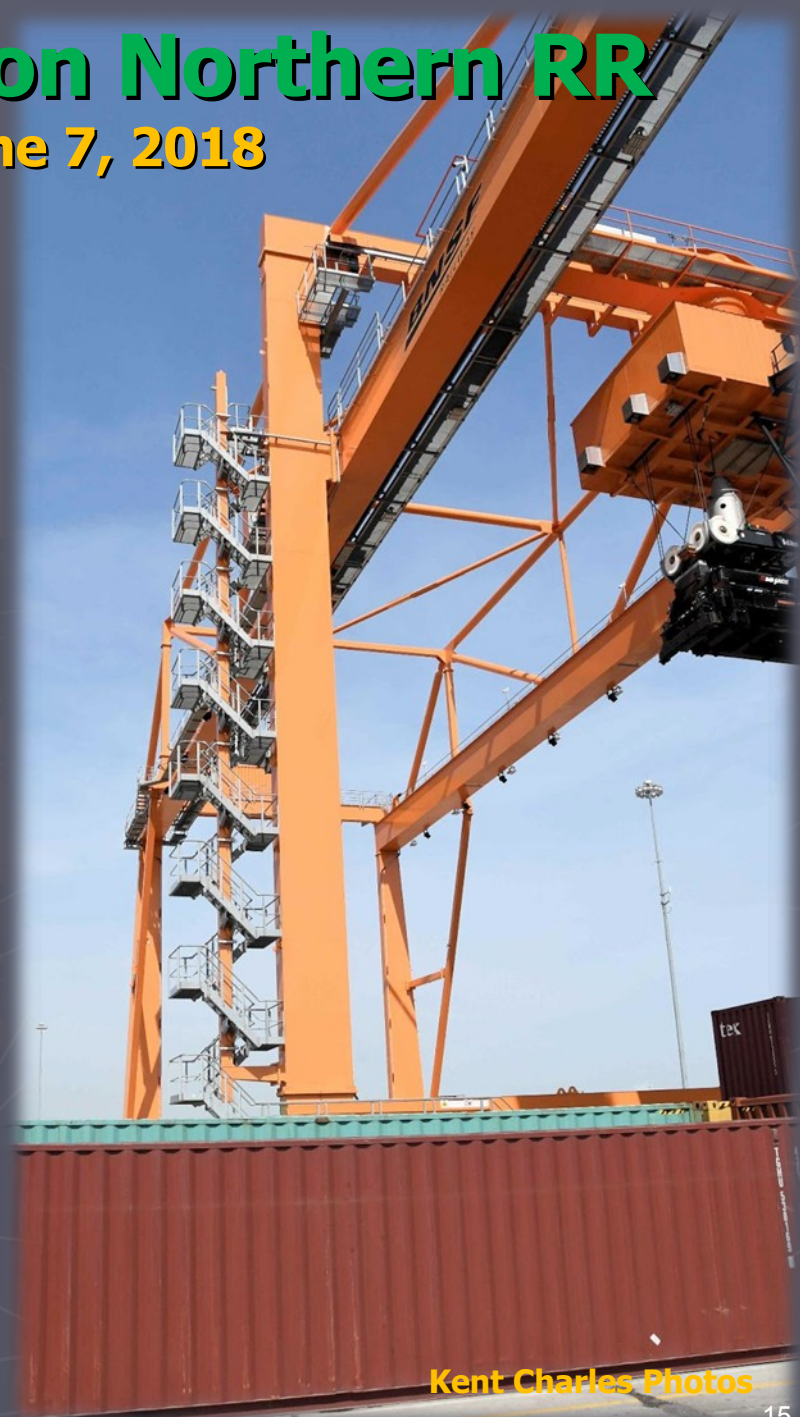
John Parker Photo

Friends of the Burlington Northern RR

Thursday Morning June 7, 2018



**BNSF LPC Intermodal Facility bus tour.
The size of the main cranes is massive.**



Kent Charles Photos

Friends of the Burlington Northern RR

Thursday Morning June 7, 2018



**BNSF LPC Intermodal Facility bus tour.
BNSF Logistics Park Ramp and Wheeled Crane**

Kent Charles Photo

Friends of the Burlington Northern RR

Thursday Morning June 7, 2018



BNSF LPC Intermodal Facility bus tour.

This photo shows the number marks on the ramp so the truck driver knows where to spot his container or where to receive his load.

Kent Charles Photo

Friends of the Burlington Northern RR

Thursday Morning June 7, 2018



**BNSF LPC Intermodal Facility bus tour.
BNSF unloading auto racks at Logistics Park auto facility. Auto racks are unloaded
in groups of six rail cars to maximize efficiency.**

John Parker Photo

Friends of the Burlington Northern RR

Thursday Morning June 7, 2018



BNSF LPC Intermodal Facility bus tour.

Newly unloaded cars are parked in the lot at The BNSF Logistics Park Chicago. Note that all cars are parked with the drivers side wheels on the line. That prevents damaging these sparkling new cars when the driver's door is opened. Hundreds of cars are parked that way here. Can we re-train 200 million American drivers to do this?

Gary Seymour Photo

Friends of the Burlington Northern RR

Thursday Morning June 7, 2018



**BNSF LPC Intermodal Facility bus tour.
Ready to load more cars to deliver to a local dealer.**

John Parker Photo

Friends of the Burlington Northern RR

Thursday Morning June 7, 2018



**BNSF LPC Intermodal Facility bus tour.
The bus has just returned us to the office.**

Kent Charles Photo

Friends of the Burlington Northern RR

Thursday Afternoon June 7, 2018



BNSF LPC Intermodal Facility bus tour.

Vasyl and John are part of the photo line as a westbound intermodal approaches the N. River Road grade crossing just a few miles southwest of the LCP facility.

David Poplawski Photo

Friends of the Burlington Northern RR

Thursday Afternoon June 7, 2018



Railfanning the Transcon in the Joliet area

A few guys headed over to Joliet to capture a few trains from the platform of the old Joliet Union Station. A westbound approaches the diamond with the old Rock Island (now CSX) line as Gary, Terry and Thomas save a few images.

David Poplawski Photo

Friends of the Burlington Northern RR

Thursday Afternoon June 7, 2018



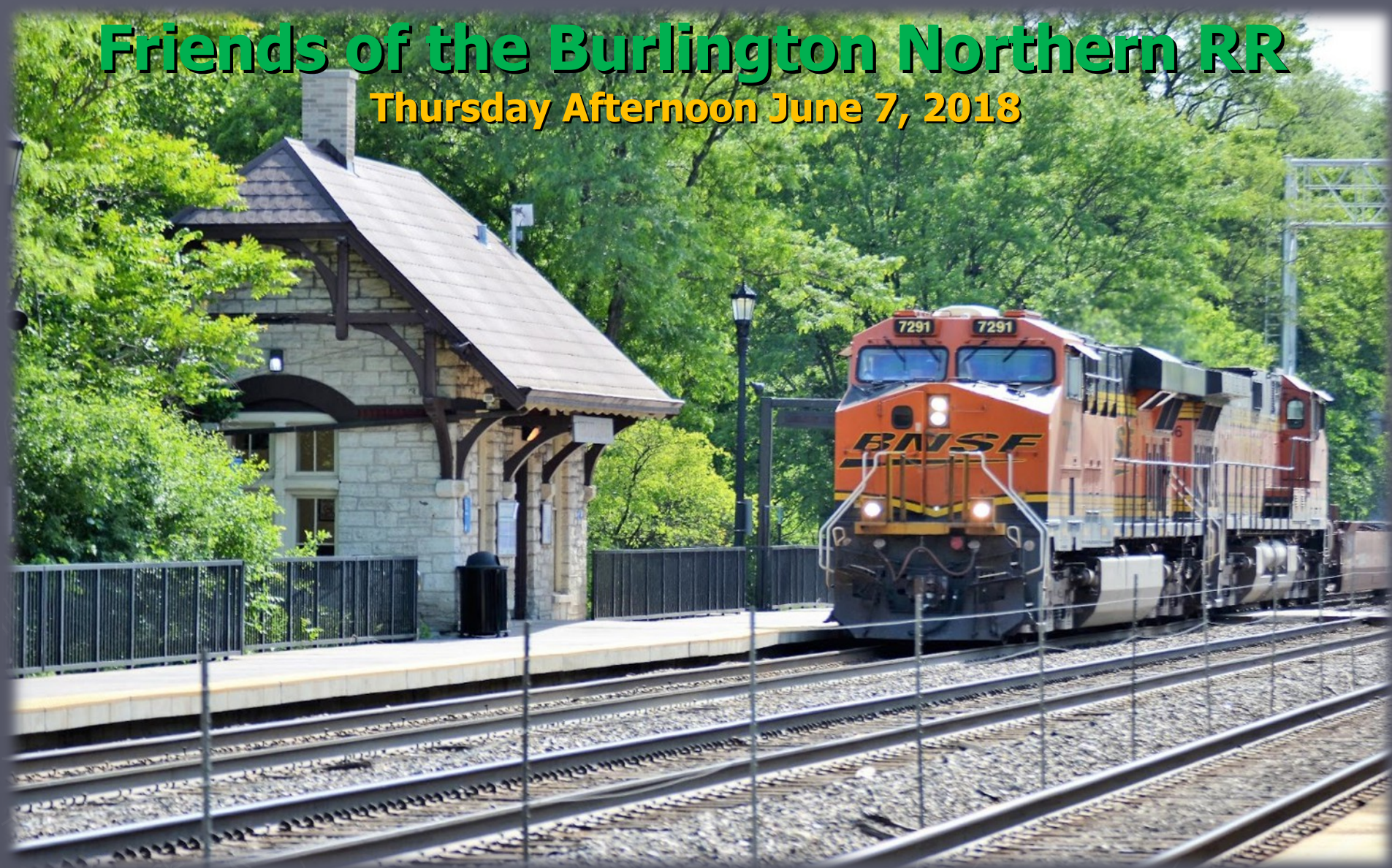
Railfanning the Transcon in the Joliet area

Amtrak Train 21, the Texas Eagle, approaches the new Joliet Union Station southbound from Chicago. AMTK 822, the Phase III Heritage-painted P40, is the sole power on this train.

Benjamin Hucker Photo

Friends of the Burlington Northern RR

Thursday Afternoon June 7, 2018



Railfanning the Transcon in the Joliet area
A BNSF bare-table train inbound on The Racetrack at Hinsdale's picturesque Highlands Station.

Benjamin Hucker Photo

Friends of the Burlington Northern RR

Thursday Afternoon
June 7, 2018



Railfanning the Transcon in the
Joliet area
A BNSF bare-table train inbound
on The Racetrack at Hinsdale's
picturesque Highlands Station.
Benjamin Hucker Photo



Friends of the Burlington Northern RR

Thursday Afternoon June 7, 2018



Railfanning the Transcon in the Joliet area
A Metra push-pull meet at Highlands, IL. The train on the left is outbound from Chicago. The train on the right is inbound to Chicago.

Gary Seymour Photo

Friends of the Burlington Northern RR

Thursday Afternoon June 7, 2018



**Railfanning the Transcon in the Joliet area.
Railfanning Lisle.**

Kent Charles Photo

Friends of the Burlington Northern RR

Thursday Afternoon June 7, 2018



Railfanning the Transcon in the Joliet area.

Railfanning Lisle, IL.

Kent Charles Photo

Friends of the Burlington Northern RR

Thursday Afternoon June 7, 2018



Railfanning the Transcon in the Joliet area.
Railfanning Lisle.

Kent Charles Photo

Friends of the Burlington Northern RR

Thursday Evening June 7, 2018



No photos were available of the Membership meeting followed immediately by the FOBNR Board meeting and Member Photo Show.

Friends of the Burlington Northern RR

Friday Morning June 8, 2018



The next morning at Aurora Metro Station to ride Metra downtown to 14th Street facilities.

Kent Charles Photo

Friends of the Burlington Northern RR

Friday Morning June 8, 2018



The FOBNR group riding Metra into Chicago.

Benjamin Hucker Photo

Friends of the Burlington Northern RR

Friday Morning June 8, 2018



The view from the Metra cab car on the trip into Chicago.

Benjamin Hucker Photo

Friends of the Burlington Northern RR

Friday Morning June 8, 2018



Tour of Metra's 14th Street Facilities.
FOBNR attendees were all given vests and hard hats as they unloaded from the gallery car to start our tour of Metra's 14th Street maintenance facility.

David Poplawski Photo

Friends of the Burlington Northern RR

Friday Morning June 8, 2018



Tour of Metra's 14th Street Facilities.

Clayton Johanson, Terminal Manager-Suburban Operations (in white hard hat at far right) leads the group through the facility on our way to the conference room for lunch and a presentation.

David A. Poplawski Photo

Friends of the Burlington Northern RR

Friday Afternoon June 8, 2018



Tour of Metra's 14th Street Facilities.

Larry eyes the snow-jet, a surplus jet engine used to generate a hot blast of air to quickly clean out frozen switches, an impressive, but noisy, process.

David Poplawski Photo

Friends of the Burlington Northern RR

Friday Morning June 8, 2018



Box lunch at 14th Street facilities.
Metra Lunchroom Art.

Kent Charles Photo

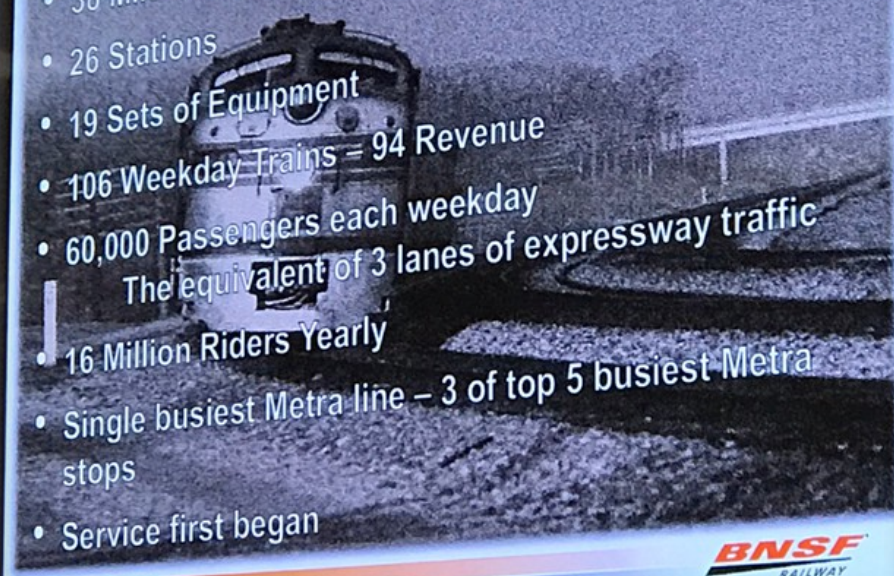
Friends of the Burlington Northern RR

Friday Morning June 8, 2018



BNSF Suburban Service

- 38 Mile territory between Chicago and Aurora
- 26 Stations
- 19 Sets of Equipment
- 106 Weekday Trains = 94 Revenue
- 60,000 Passengers each weekday
- The equivalent of 3 lanes of expressway traffic
- 16 Million Riders Yearly
- Single busiest Metra line – 3 of top 5 busiest Metra stops
- Service first began



BNSF
RAILWAY

Above: Interesting statistics along Metra's Suburban Service Line, operated by the BNSF Railway.

John Parker Photo.

Left: Presentation by Metra's Clayton Johanson at 14th Street facilities.

Kent Charles Photo

Friends of the Burlington Northern RR

Friday Afternoon
June 8, 2018



**Tour of Metra's 14th Street
Facilities.**

**Left: FOBNR members toured
Metra's 14th Street Facility,
operated by the BNSF Railway.**

John Parker Photo



Friends of the Burlington Northern RR

Friday Afternoon June 8, 2018



Tour of Metra's 14th Street Facilities.
Storage.

Kent Charles Photo

Friends of the Burlington Northern RR

Friday Afternoon June 8, 2018



Tour of Metra's 14th Street Facilities.
The guys look out over the four track facility.

David Poplawski Photo

Friends of the Burlington Northern RR

Friday Afternoon June 8, 2018



**Tour of Metra's 14th Street Facilities.
Inside the Shop; 3 tracks for cars, 1 for locomotives.**

Kent Charles Photo

Friends of the Burlington Northern RR

Friday Afternoon June 8, 2018



**Tour of Metra's 14th Street Facilities.
Need a Part?**

Kent Charles Photo

Friends of the Burlington Northern RR

Friday Afternoon June 8, 2018



Tour of Metra's 14th Street Facilities.
Metra's newer commuter car #7489 at the 14th Street Facility.

John Parker Photo

Friends of the Burlington Northern RR

Friday Afternoon June 8, 2018



Tour of Metra's 14th Street Facilities.

Metra's newest paint scheme on the 183 (F40PH) at the 14th Street Facility.

John Parker Photo

Friends of the Burlington Northern RR

Friday Afternoon June 8, 2018



Tour of Metra's 14th Street Facilities.

FOBNR Group photo at 14th Street Shops next to an EMD F40PHM-2, Metra #197.

Clayton Johanson Photo

Friends of the Burlington Northern RR

Friday Afternoon
June 8, 2018



Metra ride back to Union
Station.

On the way back to the gallery
car for a ride back into Chicago
Union Station and a tour of
BNSF's operations center.

David Poplawski Photo



Friends of the Burlington Northern RR

Friday Afternoon June 8, 2018



Metra ride back to Union Station.

The group riding on Metra from the 14th Street Yard back to Union Station.

Benjamin Hucker Photo

Friends of the Burlington Northern RR

Friday Afternoon June 8, 2018

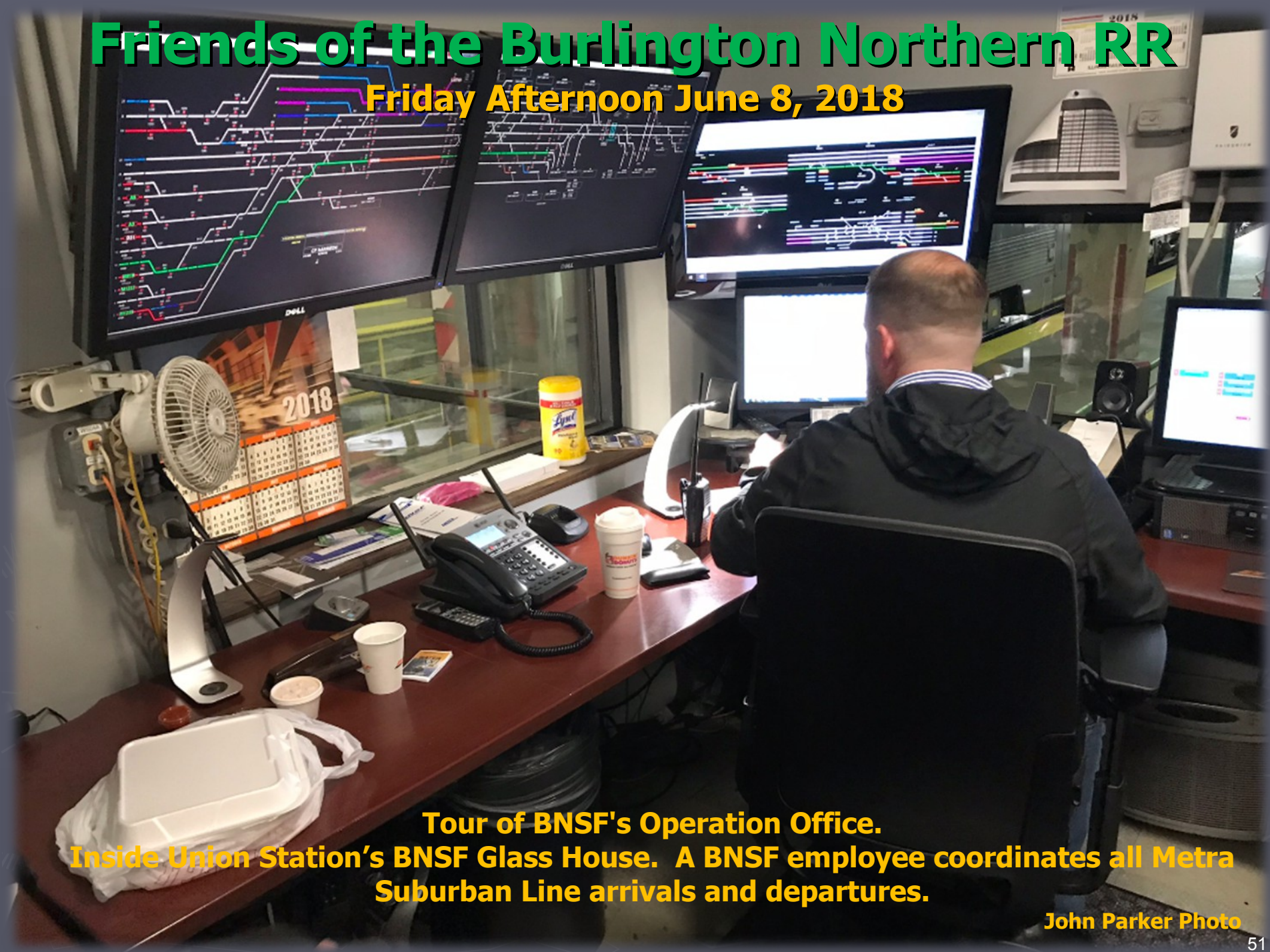


Clayton Johanson, Terminal Manager - Suburban Operations, introduces the BNSF switch crew responsible for switching the 14th Street Yard, on our way to visit the Glass House (BNSF's Operations Center) in Union Station.

Benjamin Hucker Photo

Friends of the Burlington Northern RR

Friday Afternoon June 8, 2018



**Tour of BNSF's Operation Office.
Inside Union Station's BNSF Glass House. A BNSF employee coordinates all Metra
Suburban Line arrivals and departures.**

John Parker Photo

Friends of the Burlington Northern RR

Friday Afternoon June 8, 2018



Line	Train	Destination	Track	Time	Status
BNSF	1235	Aurora	2	2:30P	ON TIME
230P EXPRESS STOPS DOWNERS MAIN THRU AURORA					
BNSF	1237	Aurora	6	2:34P	ON TIME
SOUTHWEST	819	Orland Pk. 179th	8	2:40P	ON TIME
HERITAGE	915	Joliet	4	2:45P	ON TIME
BNSF	1239	Aurora	2	3:18P	ON TIME
318P EXPRESS STOPS DOWNERS MAIN THRU AURORA					
BNSF	1241	Aurora	8	3:21P	ON TIME
BNSF	1243	Aurora	2	3:58P	ON TIME
358P EXPRESS STOPS DOWNERS MAIN THRU AURORA					
BNSF	1245	Fairview Avenue	6	4:02P	ON TIME
BNSF	1247	Aurora	2	4:28P	ON TIME
SOUTHWEST	823	Orland Pk. 153rd	16	4:30P	ON TIME
BNSF	1249	Fairview Avenue	8	4:37P	ON TIME
METRA South Departures Friday				6/8/2018	1:46P

Tour of BNSF's Operation Office.
Dispatcher Screen at Union Station.

Kent Charles Photo

Friends of the Burlington Northern RR

Friday Afternoon June 8, 2018



Metra Ride back to Aurora.
Inside Union Station after Metra tour.

Kent Charles Photo

Friends of the Burlington Northern RR

Friday Evening June 8, 2018



Layout display by BSA Venture Crew 57's HO-scale modular model railroad layout. Their layout is a modular layout used to get young adults (male and female, 14 to 21) interested in railroading and model railroading, as that is the focus of this Venture Crew.

Above left: This locomotive was custom detailed by one of the high school aged scouts--a superb job.

Right: The yard that the scouts built was complete with bi-polar LED indicator lights to indicate the direction of the power routing to the tracks.



Gary Seymour Photos

**Friends of
the
Burlington
Northern RR**
Friday evening
June 8, 2018

**Display by BSA Venture
Crew 57 with their HO-
scale modular model
railroad layout.**

Kent Charles Photo

Baden Powell

MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

VENTURE CREW 57



Prairie State Model Railroad Club
- Lombard



Outing to the Fox Valley
Trolley Museum



A new modular as
the old American
Pullman - LaGrange



Southland Railroad - Oaklawn

Full membership is open to those ages 14 and over, but anyone 10 and older is welcome to join us, along with a parent or guardian. Each member will have the opportunity to build a 2 foot x 4 foot module and design it how he or she likes!



Holiday display sale

Our meetings are held at the United Church of Christ, 1111 N. 1st St., Chicago, IL 60610. Meetings start at 7:00 PM. Each session is a great time to learn.

Baden Powell Model Railroad Club

B.S.A. Venture Crew 57

Free Take One



Annual BSA Picnic Supper

We display our HO scale modular layout at many popular model railroad shows in the Chicago land area. We also visit other model railroad clubs and organize various activities geared around trains. We hold our Annual BSA Picnic Supper in February as a fundraiser for the club. We also have a downtown Downers Grove storefront display in the winter if a store is available!



Model train - Crew 57 founder



Before - Making a Module



After - Module finished



Town Show - BSA Picnic - BSA



Holiday display sale

Friends of the Burlington Northern RR

Friday evening June 8, 2018



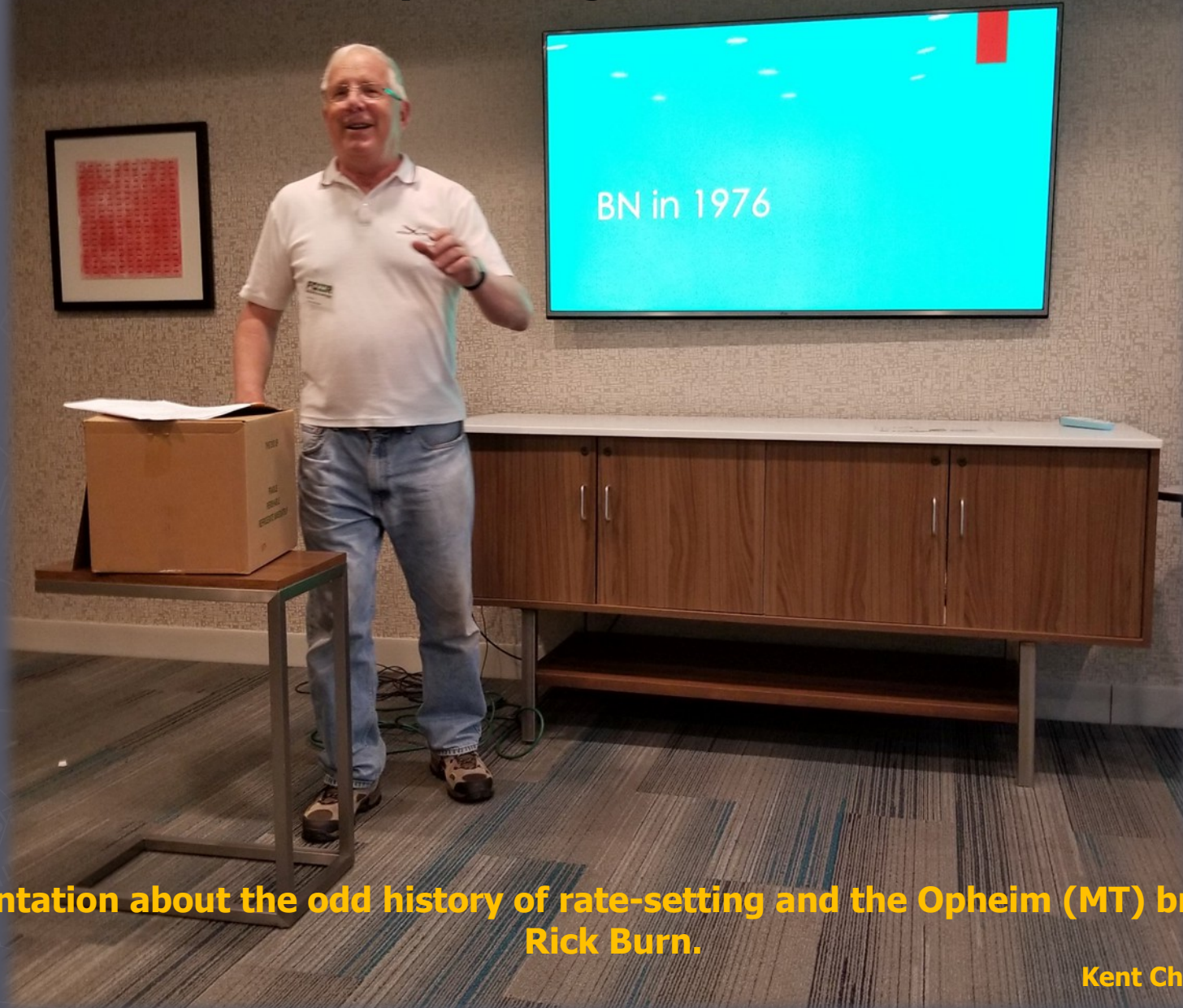
Layout display by BSA Venture Crew 57.

Ben Hucker of the FOBNR convention planning committee handing out an FOBNR pen and a BNSF pin to each of the Venture Crew members as a "thank you" for bringing and operating the layout. The pins were donated by the staff at BNSF Logistics Park Chicago (intermodal terminal) and the pens were donated by an FOBNR member.

Kent Charles Photo

Friends of the Burlington Northern RR

Friday Evening June 8, 2018



Presentation about the odd history of rate-setting and the Opheim (MT) branch by Rick Burn.

Kent Charles Photo

Friends of the Burlington Northern RR

Saturday Morning June 9, 2018

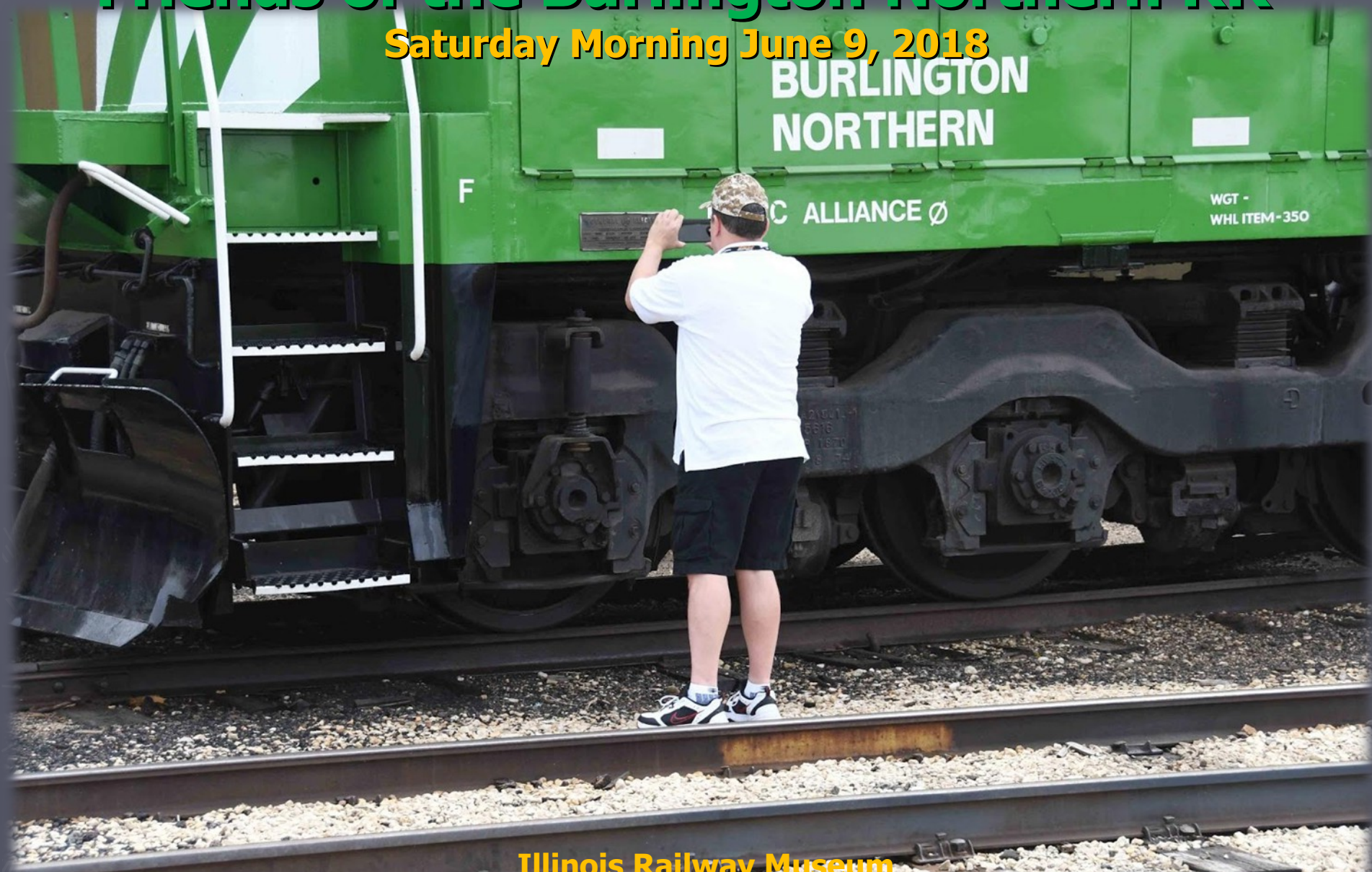


Illinois Railway Museum.
FOBNR Convention Group Photo.

IRM Host Photo

Friends of the Burlington Northern RR

Saturday Morning June 9, 2018



Illinois Railway Museum
John Parker up close and personal with BN U30C #5383.

Kent Charles Photo

Friends of the Burlington Northern RR

Saturday Morning June 9, 2018



Illinois Railway Museum
FOBNR members ride the trolley at the Illinois Railroad Museum.

John Parker Photo

Friends of the Burlington Northern RR

Saturday Morning June 9, 2018



Illinois Railway Museum
BN-1 and BN-2 at the Museum

John Parker Photo

Friends of the Burlington Northern RR

Saturday Morning June 9, 2018



Illinois Railway Museum
A newly restored shay at the
Illinois Railroad Museum in
Union, IL. We were told it was
about a week away from being
put into service at the museum.

Gary Seymour Photo

Friends of the Burlington Northern RR

Saturday Morning June 9, 2018



Illinois Railway Museum
The BN Lineup.

John Adams Photo

Friends of the Burlington Northern RR

Saturday Morning June 9, 2018



Illinois Railway Museum

Tom and Ben, two budding railfans, check out the cab of an Amtrak AEM-7 on display at the Illinois Railway Museum. Tom, from Connecticut, recalled watching plenty of these go by along the Northeast Corridor near his home and was thrilled to be able to climb up in one.

David Poplawski Photo



Friends of the Burlington Northern RR

Saturday Afternoon June 9, 2018

**Railfanning to Rochelle
Railfan Park and back to
Aurora.**

**CSXT ES44AH 817 leads an
EB loaded crude oil train
thru Flag Center on the ex-
CB&Q Aurora Sub.**

Boras Rosser Photo

Friends of the Burlington Northern RR

Saturday Afternoon June 9, 2018



Railfanning to Rochelle Railfan Park and back to Aurora. Several attendees headed over to the Rochelle area to catch some action on the Aurora Division (locally known as the C&I). An eastbound loaded oil train approaching S. Center Road in Flag Center, a few miles west of Rochelle. With the CSX power, it is likely it will be handed over to CSX in Chicago later in the day.

David Poplawski Photo

Friends of the Burlington Northern RR

Saturday Afternoon June 9, 2018



Railfanning to Rochelle Railfan Park and back to Aurora.

On the way back to Aurora, we spotted a short intermodal/autorack train parked on one of the two tracks near Elva Road, just north of Steward. While John and Ben tried to fish out the car keys from between the drivers seat and the console of John's rental car, the rest of us took pictures of the train. You can just barely make out the headlight of the CSX powered oil train stuck behind the closer train, both of which were waiting the arrival of a westbound intermodal train.

David Poplawski Photo

Friends of the Burlington Northern RR

Saturday Afternoon June 9, 2018



Railfanning to Rochelle Railfan Park and back to Aurora.
Along the BNSF Aurora Subdivision at Elva Road, MP 78.5. (Apparently John found the car's keys by this time!)

John Parker Photo

Friends of the Burlington Northern RR

Saturday Afternoon June 9, 2018



Railfanning to Rochelle Railfan Park and back to Aurora.
EB BNSF Intermodal Train at M.P. 86.64 of the Aurora Subdivision (C&I Line) in
Flagg Center, IL.

Benjamin Hucker Photo

Friends of the Burlington Northern RR

Saturday Afternoon June 9, 2018



Railfanning to Rochelle Railfan Park and back to Aurora.

Bill Webb "gets the shot" as an EB crude oil train passes through Flagg Center, IL.

Insert: Bill Webb patiently waiting for the next train.

Benjamin Hucker Photo



Friends of the Burlington Northern RR

Saturday Evening June 9, 2018



Banquet at the Riverside Diner. Following the banquet was a speaker and auction which wrapped up the 2018 convention activities.

Kent Charles Photo

Friends of the Burlington Northern RR 2018 Convention Aurora, IL



Credits

My Thanks to:

- **Ben Hucker and Dave Poplawski for their leadership in organizing this great convention.**
- **The contributors (John Adams, Kent Charles, Ben Hucker, John Parker, Dave Poplawski, Boras Rosser and Gary Seymour) who provided excellent photos and information to use in this presentation.**
- **Dave Poplawski for posting this PowerPoint on the FOBNR Website.**
- **and most of all, to the Officers, Board Members and volunteers who keep the FOBNR running well.**

Great Job, Guys!

Some Final Notes:



Why do I attend conventions like the FOBNR?

- Because of the lifelong friendships I form,
- the places I can get into that I normally would not be able to see, and
- because of the knowledge I gain.

What more could you ask for?

**Hope to see you in the Kansas City area
for the 2019 FOBNR Convention!**

Patrick Lana

**NO
EXCUSES!**

BNSF, in partnership with the International Fitness Club Network (IFCN), is now offering **discounted gym facilities** equipment and fitness facility memberships.

Wherever you live is possible, we can help.



At a Club

Memberships are available at a discounted rate of \$100 per year. This includes access to all BNSF member clubs and facilities. For more information, visit www.bnsf.com/fitness.



At Home

Memberships are available at a discounted rate of \$100 per year. This includes access to all BNSF member clubs and facilities. For more information, visit www.bnsf.com/fitness.