

Friends of the Burlington Northern Railroad 2025 Convention and Membership Meeting (June 18-21)

GENERAL INFORMATION (see agenda page for dates and times)

Pre-Convention Activity (optional, no charge, address will be sent to you when you sign up)

Operating sessions on Chris Atkins's HO-scale "Sheridan & Everywhere West" layout, Greg McComas's HO-scale "Michigan Interstate St. Clair Subdivision" layout, and Ole Melhouse's "Dakota Northern" N-scale layout. Chris's layout can accommodate 13 people and Greg and Ole's layouts can only accommodate 4 people each, so it will be first-come-first served, and you should sign up as early as possible. We will notify you immediately if you were able to secure a spot, and if not, you will be put on a waiting list and informed as soon as possible if someone drops out. For more information about the layouts, go to <https://www.ldsig.org/chris-atkins-the-sheridan-and-everywhere-west>; <https://www.ldsig.org/greg-mccomas-michigan-interstate-st-clair-subdivision>; and <https://www.ldsig.org/olaf-melhouses-dakota-northern-model-railroad>.

TOURS:

While the BNSF tours will not require Personal Protection Equipment (PPE), if we're able to set up other tours, some may require various forms of PPE, i.e., hard hats, safety glasses, visibility vests/shirts, and steel-toed shoes. If that is the case, we'll notify registrants via the contact information they provide at registration. When registering, please make sure you provide a phone or email address that you regularly monitor.

BNSF Alliance Yard and Corporate Headquarters Bus Tour

We will be given a guided tour of the BNSF Alliance Yard and corporate headquarters in Fort Worth. The yard tour will be a driving tour, viewed from the bus and the headquarters tour will be a walking tour. Details of exactly which portions of the facilities will be at the discretion of BNSF based on operational needs at the time of the tour. There is a 19-person limit on the yard tour and the cost is \$20/person to cover the cost of the bus from the hotel, through the yard, and return.

Additional Tour Possibilities

As of early April, we are still attempting to get additional tours lined up, but that has proven challenging. Unfortunately, several interesting options no longer allow tours or would not return messages asking to discuss. Check www.fobnr.org for any updates.

Museum of the American Railroad Museum

We will visit the museum (<https://www.historictains.org/visit>), located in Frisco, TX, and receive a guided walking tour of their outdoor collection. We recommend participants wear comfortable walking shoes, wear sunscreen if needed (there is no shade), and bring water to drink. Our visit will also include admission to their indoor "TrainTopia" model railroad exhibit. The cost of this tour will be \$18/person.

Railfanning

There will be plenty of time for railfanning the greater Fort Worth area; the popular Saginaw diamonds area is just minutes from the hotel! Typically, we meet up at the hotel and arrange carpooling so we can minimize the number of cars involved. You are welcome to join the group, or you can head off on your own to places you are interested in.

Friday will include a railfan trip up the BNSF Wichita Falls subdivision, anticipating visits to Decatur, Bowie, and Wichita Falls. The area between Decatur and Bowie is scenic (for north Texas). "Decatur Hill" runs through the LBJ National Grasslands and has a significant enough grade that it has been a helper district at times. The half-dozen passing sidings through that stretch are often busy as trains queue up into and out of Alliance Yard or Fort Worth proper. Highway bridges at Bowie near the BNSF/UP diamond still retain "Fort Worth & Denver" and "Rock Island" decoration. While in Wichita Falls, we're working on an opportunity to tour an HO-scale model railroading manufacturer, and an HO-scale layout. Check www.fobnr.org for updates!

Member Photo/Video Shows

Bring digital photos and/or videos you'd like to share for member shows. We'll provide a computer, projection equipment and a screen. Bring your photos on a CD/DVD or USB drive. If you have slides you'd like to show and need a slide projector, note that on your registration or send an email to store@fobnr.org and we'll do our best to track one down and have it available.

Banquet

The Saturday night banquet is the culmination of our convention. It will be held at Shady Oak Barbeque & Grill and include a BBQ buffet including brisket, sausage, coleslaw, potato salad, beans, condiments, bread, BBQ sauce, and a non-alcoholic beverage. Cost will be \$30/person which covers the food and the room rental. As of early April, we are still working on arranging a speaker to follow the meal. Watch our web site for an update when arrangements have been finalized. Following the speaker, we will hold our annual auction of various BN/BNSF/MRL related items.

Hotel Rooms

The convention is being held at the Holiday Inn Fossil Creek, 6351 North Freeway, Fort Worth, TX 76131. For reservations at our group rate, call the hotel directly: 817-234-9033. Rooms are \$115 per night, plus tax. Mention you are with **Friends of Burlington Northern Railroad** convention when making your reservation to get the group rate.

More Information

Check the **FOBNR** website: www.fobnr.org for up to date information or contact Ben Hucker at store@fobnr.org if you have any questions.