



# WMRHS 38<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION

## October 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019

### Northumberland, Pennsylvania

This year our annual convention will be held in Northumberland Pennsylvania starting on Friday, October 4<sup>th</sup> and concluding on Sunday October 6<sup>th</sup>. Headquarters for this year's convention will be the **Econo Lodge Inn & Suites Shamokin Dam, 3249 N Susquehanna Trail, Shamokin Dam, PA 17876. Phone: (570) 743-1111.** We have 30 rooms in various configurations blocked for our group at this particular hotel. The room block expires on September 4<sup>th</sup> so be sure to reserve your room before then. Please mention group WMRHS when calling and use **group code: EA17Z3** to make your reservations. Our group rate per night is as follows:

2 Double Beds or 1 King Bed or 2 Queen Beds - \$109 plus 9% tax, single or double occupancy.

Click or enter this link into your browser to book online: <https://www.choicehotels.com/reservations/groups/EA17Z3>

These rates include continental breakfast, individual call in/individual pays own charges, 2 night minimum stay is required. Room Cancellation Policy: Rooms must be canceled within 24 hours of stay or guest will be charged for two nights. Please note the weekend of the convention is also Family Weekend at a local university which considerably reduces available hotel rooms so it is advisable to book your room as soon as possible.

In the unlikely event the Econo Lodge sells out or does not appeal to your liking, alternate hotels with current availability in the area include:

- Comfort Inn Selinsgrove, 613 N Susquehanna Trail, Selinsgrove, PA 17870. Ph: (570) 374-8880
- Days Inn Lewisburg, 313 North Derr Drive Lewisburg, Pennsylvania 17837. Ph: (570) 616-4823
- Super 8 Danville, 35 Sheraton Road Danville, Pennsylvania 17821. Ph: (570) 284-6505

In past years a number of members expressed interest in camping vs a hotel. As an added accommodation option this year, we will offer a campground. The campground is very close (in walking distance) to the train boarding area, just across the bridge from Northumberland on Packers Island. Fantasy Island Campground 401 Park Dr, Sunbury, PA 17801. Phone: (570) 286-1307. [www.fantasyislandcampground.com](http://www.fantasyislandcampground.com) This is a full hook-up campground with a pool and mini-golf. The rate is \$42 a night. So, if you have a camper and like to bring your own bed on wheels like I do, feel free to stay at the campground with your chairman.

**On Thursday October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 1:00 PM** we will offer a bonus event before the convention officially begins. You can take a tour of the Bowser Manufacturing Company in Montoursville, PA. Bowser is the manufacturer of many of the Society's special run locomotives and freight cars. Mr. Lee English, CEO of Bowser has kindly agreed to offer our members a 30-40 minute tour of Bowser's manufacturing area. Bowser is about a 45 minute drive north of our hotel at Shamokin Dam. Although this tour is free of charge, you will be required to register so we can keep track of participants. Due to space and time constraints, this tour will be limited to the first 40 registrants wishing to tour Bowser. Confirmation of registration for this event and further instructions will be emailed to those who sign up for this tour.

**On Friday October 4<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM** we will have a tour of the ACF Car manufacturing and repair facility in Milton, PA. This is just north of Northumberland on the east shore of the West Branch of the Susquehanna River. ACF, originally known as The American Car and Foundry Company was founded in 1899. They manufacture railcars and components thereof, as well as perform railcar repairs. The ACF Milton plant covers 48 acres and has 7 miles of storage track. Our tour will be guided by ACF employees in smaller groups to ensure a safe experience. Be prepared to wear provided safety equipment and dress accordingly in long pants with closed toed shoes. No shorts or flip flops. Due to the tour group size restriction and limited time slot available, this event will be limited to the first 40 registrants that sign up for this tour. We will meet at the ACF plant in Milton, PA on Friday at 12:50 PM. Confirmation of registration for this event and further instructions will be emailed to those who sign up for this tour.

**On Friday October 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM** we will kick off our convention with an introductory meeting and slide show at the meeting room area of the Econo Lodge Inn & Suites Shamokin Dam. Those who wish to share slides during this time are encouraged to do so. Please check the box on the registration form and note the subject matter you will present.

**On Saturday October 5<sup>th</sup> starting at 9:00 AM** we will board an 85-mile round trip diesel powered excursion behind vintage first or second-generation diesels on the former DL&W Bloomsburg Branch, now operated by the North Shore Railroad. This excursion is sponsored by the Lackawanna & Wyoming Valley Railway Historical Society, and the Ontario & Western

Railway Historical Society. The proceeds from this trip benefits the restorations of Boston & Maine #3713 and NYO&W #105 at the Steamtown National Historic Site in Scranton, PA. Our excursion will cover the full length of the North Shore's trackage from Northumberland to Beach Haven, over 42 miles one way. We will depart from Northumberland at 10:00 AM and return to the same location at 7:00 PM aboard a vintage PRR train set that has been immaculately restored. Our primary car will be the PRR diner Chillisquaque Creek with overflow seating in the adjacent coach. Seating will be first come first served in our cars. The boarding location is approximately a 4-mile drive north from Shamokin Dam in Northumberland at the baseball fields directly **behind the Priestly House 472 Priestley Ave, Northumberland, PA 17857**. The trip will include 3 planned photo run-bys (time permitting). Be sure to wear shoes and clothing appropriate for possible uneven terrain if you plan to take part in the photo run-bys. Please also be prepared to maintain an orderly photo line. No food service will be available aboard the train so please be sure to pre-purchase a lunch on the registration form. Since the train will return to Northumberland at the rather late hour of 7 PM, dinner will be on your own, at your leisure that evening.

*DISCLAIMER: Due to the popularity of this rare mileage trip, the train is expected to sell out. To ensure seat availability, the society has pre-purchased from the railroad, one entire diner and seats in an adjacent coach equaling 70 seats aboard Saturday's train. We are only guaranteed these 70 seats and these 70 seats are on a first come - first served basis. This will be based on convention registration form order of receipt. We will have the option of purchasing additional tickets for seats in the adjacent car, if they are still available at the date we exceed 70. It is strongly recommended to return your convention registration form and payment as soon as possible to ensure you will have a seat. It is possible that we will need to inform late registrants exceeding 70 persons that the event is sold out if additional seats are unavailable for purchase. Be sure to include your email and phone number on your registration form in the unfortunate event this becomes necessary.*

**On Sunday October 6<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 AM** we will have our banquet at the Front Street Station, 2 Front St, Northumberland, PA 17857. Phone 570-473-3626. The restaurant is housed in a former PRR station completed in 1910. The station closed in 1958 and was purchased in 1981 for use as a restaurant which it remains today. The banquet room is truly unique as it includes 2 real Pullman cars as part of the structure. While it is unconventional to hold our banquet on a Sunday morning, this venue is well worth the adjustment. We have our introduction at 10:30 AM and start eating at 11:00 AM. The meal will be a deli-deluxe buffet consisting of Soups, Salads, Sliced Meats, Cheeses, Breads, Pickles, and Coffee, Tea, Soda. A guest speaker (to be determined) will address us after the meal.

At the conclusion of the banquet around 1:00 PM as a final event, we will drive north approx. 20 minutes to tour the grounds at the White Deer Station complex at 148 Depot Rd, New Columbia, PA 17856. The brick building, a former Reading station, is now a museum operated by the Central Pennsylvania Chapter of the NRHS. The station also once served the narrow gauge White Deer Valley Railroad. Their collection is comprised of several northeastern style cabooses, coaches, speeders, and a center cab switcher. There is no admission charge, however as another similar museum to ours, your donations here are greatly appreciated.

#### **Thursday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> (Bonus Event)**

1:00 PM: Tour of Bowser Manufacturing, Montoursville, PA.

#### **Friday, October 4<sup>th</sup>**

1:00 PM: Convention opens with a tour of the ACF plant in Milton, PA.

3:00-5:00 PM: Registration in the lobby of the Econo Lodge Inn & Suites Shamokin Dam. Tickets for convention activities can be picked up at this time or at later points during the convention.

7:00 PM: Slide show at the meeting room of the Econo Lodge Inn & Suites Shamokin Dam.

#### **Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 AM: Boarding begins at Northumberland

10:00 AM: Train departs Northumberland

Lunch: Subway bagged lunches are available for \$10 each. Be sure to sign up for one on the registration form if you want a lunch. The train will have no food service available.

7:00 PM: Train returns to Northumberland, Dinner on your own.

#### **Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup>**

10:30 AM: Banquet at the Front Street Station, Northumberland, PA.

1:30 PM: Tour at the White Deer Station complex 148 Depot Rd, New Columbia, PA 17856, PA

3:00 PM: Convention conclusion

You may send any questions about the convention details to the following email address: [wmrhs2019convention@yahoo.com](mailto:wmrhs2019convention@yahoo.com)



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## October 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019

### Northumberland, Pennsylvania

**DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION: September 7, 2019**

Return this completed form with a check or Money Order payable to WMRHS, Inc.

Mail to: Mike Rakes  
16209 Eylers Valley Rd  
Thurmont, MD 21788-1028  
Phone (301) 271-2271 after 6pm weekdays

✂ Cut here ✂

### REGISTRATION FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  Phone can accept text messages

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_ \*Required for confirmation email

WMRHS MEMBER REGISTRATION No. \_\_\_\_\_ \$10.00 each \_\_\_\_\_

FAMILY MEMBER REGISTRATION No. \_\_\_\_\_ \$5.00 each \_\_\_\_\_

Thursday, October 3, 2019 (Bonus Event)

Bowser Mfg. Tour No. \_\_\_\_\_ FREE FREE

Friday, October 4, 2019

ACF Plant Tour No. \_\_\_\_\_ FREE FREE

Saturday, October 5, 2019

North Shore Railroad Excursion (85 mile roundtrip) No. \_\_\_\_\_ \$99.00 each \_\_\_\_\_

Optional (but recommended) Boxed Lunch (choose sandwich below)

Ham sandwich  Veggie Sandwich No. \_\_\_\_\_ \$10.00 each \_\_\_\_\_

Turkey sandwich All Boxed Lunches also include: chips, cookie, assorted soda or water

Sunday, October 6, 2019

Front Street Station Buffet Banquet (price includes tax and gratuity) No. \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 16.25 each \_\_\_\_\_

White Deer Station Complex Tour No. \_\_\_\_\_ FREE

GRAND TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I plan to present at the Friday evening slide show.

Subject matter: \_\_\_\_\_