

2019 NGRC Newsletter

October 2018



August 27th - 31st, 2019

Register online at www.ngrc2019.org/

A Message from the Convention Chairmen

Registration for the 2019 National Convention in Portland opened at noon on August 30th. Because of the limited number of cab rides, we expected many people to register early. Usually registration for a convention is sluggish until spring, but we had a lot of activity in the first 30 days. Hotel registration is now open. Use the link on our website to obtain special rooms rates (<http://doubletree.hilton.com/en/dt/groups/personalized/R/RLLC-DT-LNY-20190826/index.jhtml>). Parking will be free during the convention days and the Labor Day weekend to all attendees of the convention staying in the DoubleTree Hotel. There will be a reduced rate to park in the hotel parking lot for convention attendees not saying in the hotel.

As of October 15th, we have had 129 registrations covering 269 attendees.

Every day we get more people signing up for this newsletter.

Both the Monday and Tuesday Willamette Shore trolley rides and dinner at the Old Spaghetti Factory sold out in the first 48 hours. We are hoping a second trolley can be added on both Monday and Tuesday evenings with dinner. But we won't know for several months because they are planning to convert one of the trolleys to internal battery and it may be out of commission. You can sign up for the waiting list for this event if you are interested, and we will notify those on the waiting list if it becomes available.

The four Tuesday ops sessions open to a total of 32 people are also full.

Doyle McCormak, the man who restored 4449 and was chief engineer on the 1976 bicentennial Freedom Train has proved a great draw for our banquet. We have already sold over 118 meals to the banquet. We have a capacity of 450 people, and we now expect that will sell out.

We have already sold 210 tickets to the BBQ and train ride. This event is limited to only 660 people because each of the three train rides have cars that will only hold 220 people. We feel the BBQ will sell out well in advance of the convention, so don't wait too long to register.

We have only reserved a maximum of 200 hotel rooms per night because we have to pay for any that don't sell, so we had to be conservative. By contract, we can expand that number by only 10%. We will try to increase that number as we get closer to selling out the hotel room block. But Hilton hotels are popular, and we may not be able to increase the number of discounted rooms, so don't wait too long to register and get a hotel room reserved. Portland is a very popular summer destination, and rooms in the city are scarce during the summer. The other hotels in the area are not within walking distance of the DoubleTree Lloyd Center.

We look forward to everyone coming to visit Portland, and the 35th National Garden Railway Convention, next summer.

Bill Derville

2019 National Garden Railway Convention Chairman

German TV Show showing Portland Layouts

Wolfgang Schumacher led a German TV crew to Portland last year to visit layouts for the Eisenbahn Romantic TV show which aired in Germany last month. You can watch this professionally produced TV show on the Internet at <https://www.swr.de/eisenbahn-romantik/abr-folge-935-gartenbahnen-portland/-/id=98578/did=22051992/nid=98578/ugxct0/index.html>. The title of the show is "Gartenbahnen in Portland". This is a half hour TV show narrated in German, but you will see trains running on several of the larger layouts that will be on our layout tours. There is even one smaller layout that is on the deck of a house boat!

Most of us are working hard to make further upgrades to our layouts so they will be in top condition for the convention next year. You will notice many if not most of the structures on these layouts are scratch built. Gary Lee, owner of the Baker and

Grande Ronde Railroad hosts building sessions twice a month during the rainy season in his large shop where many of us go to build structures with Gary's help and guidance. This results in many wonderful one of a kind structures on many of our layouts. Gary Lee was awarded Master Model Railroader designation by NMRA last year, as was Warner Swarner, another club member featured in the video.

You can sign up for a two-day Make and Take clinic Gary is conducting on Thursday and Friday at the convention. If you sign up for this clinic, you will take home a model of the Guston flag stop station in 1:24 scale. All tools and materials will be supplied. There is a \$65 charge for this seminar. Eight people have already signed up for this clinic. A UPS store will be available for you to ship items from the convention.

Convention Registration Process

The convention registration process has proven to be a bit confusing. The chosen software program, Wild Apricot, requires registrants to create an account on the NGRC web site. This account helps to accomplish two important and useful entities that will benefit all.

First, it lets convention personnel know who to email important convention updates and newsletters (it is possible to "opt out" of receiving the emails and newsletters at any time). Second, it provides a secure and simple way to sign up and pay convention and optional event fees.

To help with understanding the registration process, detailed "Registration Instruction" are available on the convention web site (Note: you do not need an account to access the instructions). The instruction can be found at <https://ngrc2019.org/resources/Documents/Newsletters/Registration%20Instructions.html>.

Since hotel reservations are now open, you may reserve a hotel at the special convention rates (while rooms last) by using this link: <http://doubletree.hilton.com/en/dt/groups/personalized/R/RLLC-DT-LNY-20190826/index.ihtml>.