Capsule Summaries of NPRHA Conventions

Compiled by Kurt Armbruster
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1985 Minneapolis/Roseville, Holiday Inn, chair Gary Wildung: First convention, getting NPRHA on its feet, tour to Lake Superior Transportation Museum, Duluth, train ride with NP 328.

1986 Tacoma, chair Rick Leach: tour to Lake Whatcom Railway, train ride with NP 1070, Stampede Pass/Lester hike with Jim Fredrickson.

1987 Fargo, Holiday Inn, chair Duane Durr: first slide shows, tours to Dilworth, Stockwood fill, Manitoba Junction, Bonanzaville, steam threshers.

1988 Yakima, Red Lion, chair Karl Hammerstrom: tour to Naches Branch, Pasco Yard.

1989 Duluth, chair Dave Carlson: first presentation 'clinics', first veterans panel with Bill Kuebler featuring Jamestown engineers Bob Donegan and Gene Gossett, tour to Lake Superior Transportation Museum, dinner speaker ex-NP supt. Don King.

1990 Bozeman, Montana State University, chair Rufus Cone, tour of Bozeman Pass, Livingston Shops, dinner speaker dynamometer technician Bill Wolverton. Kurt Armbruster says, "A very memorable NPRHA convention with fine presentations and camaraderie, and dinner on Livingston station platform as the sun set over the Rockies and trains passed on the former NP."

1991 Jamestown, Gladstone Hotel, chair Duane Durr: train ride on Burlington Northern to Casselton, veterans panel with Bill Kuebler.

1992 Portland, Lewis and Clark University, chair Walt Ainsworth: tour to Lewis & Clark Railroad, train ride to Yacolt, SP&S 700 steam-up, Brooklyn Yard; vets panel with Bill Kuebler.

1993 St. Paul, Kelly Inn, chair Ken Zieska: Theme "Four-Dome Train West," Burlington Northern train ride to White Bear Lake including ex-NP business car, vets panel with Bill Kuebler featuring Como Shops employees, dinner speaker NP vp Norm Lorentzsen.

1994 Spokane, Cavanaugh's Inn, chair Gene Carlson: tour to Palouse & Lewiston and Camas Prairie railroads, vets panel with Bill Kuebler, dinner speaker Tacoma Shops supervisor Elmer Smoak.

1995 Glendive, Jordan Hotel, chair Lowell Vomhof: tour MRL yards, vets panel with DeLonce Synstegaard, dinner speaker loco engineer/road foreman Roy Peterson.

1996 Missoula, Red Lion, chair Alan Burns: Montana Rail Link "Montana Daylight" train ride to St. Regis-Paradise-Evaro, vets panel with Bill Kuebler, dinner speaker engineer/road foreman Bud Cain.

1997 Bismarck-Mandan, chair DeLonce Synstegard: tour to NP Museum, Mike Booth's model layout, vets panel with Bill Kuebler, dinner speaker passenger traffic rep. Ed Rowell.

1998 Tacoma, Sheraton, chair Warren Broderick: Amtrak train ride to Thorp/Stewart Anderson ranch, vets panel with Bill Kuebler featuring stewardess-nurse Loraine Nygaard-Taylor, dinner speaker div. supt. John Hertog.

1999 St. Paul, Radisson, chair James Dick: tour to Iron Horse Central Museum in Chisago, vets panel with Bill Kuebler, dinner speaker Norm Lorentzsen.

2000 Helena, Colonial Hotel, chairs Warren Broderick and Phil Beach: MRL "Montana Daylight" train ride to Missoula, vets panel with Bill Kuebler, dinner speaker telegrapher/dispatcher Jim Fredrickson.

2001 Duluth, chair John Bratt: clinic with fireman Lee Tuskey, joint NPRHA-GNRHS train ride to Stillwater with NP 328, vets panels with Bill Kuebler, first year of Author Awards to Jim Fredrickson and John Strauss, President's Award to Joy Wildung.

2002 Portland, Holiday Inn/Airport, chair Jim Russell: tour to Brooklyn Yard roundhouse, stewardess-nurse vets panel with Bill Kuebler featuring Barbara Person/Hancock, Joan Reitz/Dolan, President's and Service Awards to Lorenz Schrenk.

2003 Billings, Sheraton, chair Jon Bratt: Theme "Warren McGee Country," MRL "Montana Daylight" train ride to Whitehall-Livingston, vets panel with Bill Kuebler, dinner speaker Personnel Dept. Richard Beulke, Author Award to Lorenz Schrenk, plaque to Ruth Eckes, tribute to Warren McGee.

2004 Pasco, Red Lion, chair Phil Beach: tour of Pasco Yard, vets panel with Bill Kuebler, dinner speaker trainman/union rep. Charles Kilbury.

2005 Fargo, Holiday Inn, chair Duane Durr: tour to John Deere factory, vet panel with Bill Kuebler, dinner speaker Norm Lorentzsen, Author Award to Bill Kuebler for *North Coast Limited*, President's Award to Art Pew and John Robinson.

2006 Bozeman, GranTree Inn, chair Jan Taylor: bus tour to Livingston, train ride on Rarus RR Copper City Express to Anaconda, Montana Rail Link engineers panel with Phil Beach, dinner speaker Washington Transportation Group president Bill Brodsky.

2007 Mandan, Seven Seas Inn, chair Michael Booth: Theme “Where the West Begins,” tour Mandan-North Branch, visit N. Dakota Railroad Museum, dinner speaker historian Frank Vyzralek, Service Awards to Bob Horne and Ed Ursem, Author Award to John Lubetkin for *Jay Cooke’s Gamble*.

2008 Tacoma, Sheraton, chair Jerry Pickell: Theme “Jim Fredrickson Country,” Tacoma Rail train ride to Eatonville, vets panel with Bill Kuebler, dinner speaker Dr. Ronald Magden “Tacoma Rails to Sails.”

2009 White Bear Lake, White Bear Country Inn, chair James Dick: tour to Iron Horse Central Museum, Jackson St. roundhouse, vets panel with Bill Kuebler and Jack Christensen, dinner speaker NP vet Jim Walkowaik.

2010 Spokane, Mirabeau Park, chairs Mike Lustig and Mike Applegate: MRL train ride Sandpoint-Paradise, tour with Mike Gelhaus to Inland Empire RR Museum in Reardan, vets panel with Jack Christensen, dinner speaker Bud Cain.

2011 Carlton, Black Bear Casino, chair James Dick: first RPM format convention, vets panel with Dennis Hendry, tour to Thomson Junction site of ‘first spike’ of NP, Lake Superior Transportation Museum, dinner speaker engineer Jack Christensen.

2012 Butte, Front Street Station, chair Bill Taylor: second RPM format convention, tour of World Mining Museum, vets panel with Alan Burns, dinner speaker NP vet Dick Carlson. Bill Taylor says, “Butte welcomed us with lots of publicity, it was marvelous being in the old depot, the Madrazos (owners) were very accommodating.”

2013 Billings, Crowne Plaza, chair Kyle Brehm: tour MRL facilities, vets panel unhosted, dinner speaker collector Ron Kaminski.

2014 Yakima, Yakima Valley Hotel and Convention Center, chairs Doug Shearer, Andy Breeding, Larry Price: trolley ride, tour to Yakima Valley Rail & Steam Museum at Toppenish, vets panel with Doug Shearer, dinner speaker Jack Christensen.

2015 Fargo, Holiday Inn, chair Duane Durr: tour to Bonanzaville, train ride on Red River Valley & Western.

2016 Wallace, Wallace Inn, chair Shauna Hilman: tour to NP Lookout Pass right of way and Wallace, vets panel with Bruce Flohr, dinner speaker Bruce Flohr.

2017 Duluth, Inn on Lake Superior, chair Paul Anderson: tour to Lake Superior RR Museum, train ride on North Shore Scenic RR, vets panel with Jack Christensen

2018 Centralia, Comfort Inn (Tumwater), chair Bill Zidel: tour to Pacific NW RR Archive, Washington State Historical Society, layouts; train ride on Chehalis-Centralia Railroad, vets panel with Bill Zidel.

2019 Brainerd 1, Arrowhead Lodge, chair James Dick.

2020 Cancelled due to COVID.

2021 Missoula, Holiday Inn Downtown, chairs Jan and Bill Taylor: tour of MRL yard, vets panel with Dave Franz, dinner speaker MRL vp Ross Lane. Bill Taylor: "Holiday Inn and the staff were super to work with, Washington Corp was helpful with the Montana Rail Link tour, and the Glacial Lake Missoula speaker was a hit and the weather was perfect."

2022 Brainerd 2, Arrowhead Lodge, chair Ken Zieska: tour to Lake Superior Transportation Museum, train ride on North Shore Scenic RR with NP 3617, dinner speaker Bill Zidel.

2023 Tacoma, La Quinta Inn, chair Bill Zidel: tours of layouts, dinner reenactment of artist Abby Williams Hill. Kurt Armbruster says, "Four days of fascinating presentations, modeling clinics, and tours of model layouts. My first convention in years and loved it."

2024 Everett, Delta Marriott, chairs Kent Sullivan and Dean O'Neill: town walking tours, tour to Northwest Railway Museum at Snoqualmie, train ride with NP 924. Armbruster: "Great presentations and train ride, the perfect NPRHA convention."

2025 St. Paul, chair Steve Fuller, joint GNRHS-SPSHS convention: 300 attendees, DoubleTree by Hilton, chairs Steve Fuller (NPRHA), Bob Willer (SP&S), and Mary McGlothlin (GNRHS): train ride on Osceola & St. Croix Valley Railroad through scenic St. Croix River country, tour of Jackson St. Roundhouse and East End Archive.

2026 Toppenish, Yakama Legends Casino Hotel, chair Doug Shearer: Restored NP Ten Wheeler 1364 steams again, dinner in North Coast Ltd. diner, NP Railway Museum. Kurt Armbruster: another perfect Convention in a charming town, perfect weather, excellent accommodations, and great people!