

Missouri Pacific Historical Society Annual Meeting

Joplin, MO 2014

The Missouri Pacific Historical Society Annual Meeting will be held in Joplin, MO, on October 9 - 12. Using last year's format, we will have activities from Thursday afternoon through Sunday morning. In addition, this year's meeting will be held jointly with the members of Frisco.org. This will be a unique opportunity for members from the two groups to get together and share time learning more about their favorite railroad(s). Given the close geographical relationship between the two roads, the vast majority of attendees will find all the activities interesting and worthwhile no matter which one is their favorite.

Missouri Pacific and Frisco were both well represented in the Joplin area and the history in this area is rather unique and interesting. The schedule is designed to provide equal representation for both railroads. There are a large number of great activities in the schedule and you should make plans to attend the entire event, if possible.

Speakers. Presentations are always the core of our meetings. This year, we have over 16 hours scheduled for speakers and presentations. They begin on Thursday evening and continue through Saturday night. The schedule is full, but if you have a presentation that you would really, really like to give you, should contact the convention host immediately. At the end of the last presentation on Friday evening, the facilities will be available for attendees to show their own images relating to the Missouri Pacific. We will do the same thing on Saturday for images related to the Frisco.

Model Display. Similar to the well-known Railroad Prototype Modeling events across the country, we will have space for Missouri Pacific and Frisco modelers to set up displays of their favorite projects. This can be completed models, works in progress, your plans for a model, structures, layout items, and tips and techniques you find useful and of interest. We want to be open to just about anything related to Missouri Pacific, Texas and Pacific, C&EI, Frisco and all subsidiaries that a member wants to show off or talk about. We encourage members who are looking for information for their projects to set up a display of what they are looking for or where their project needs help. That can be a modeling project, but it can also be a place to get help and exchange information on articles for the Eagle, historic preservation, digitizing information, the sky is the limit. If you have a layout, how about showing a video of it?

All entries in this event will be entered in a prize drawing. There is no fee to participate.

Swap Meet. This event will be open to members and commercial vendors. Keep in mind that Missouri Pacific, Texas and Pacific, C&EI and SLSF materials will sell the

best. We will allow early setup, but the exact schedule is still undetermined. In order to be fair, we ask that no selling go on during setup.

MPHS and Frisco.org members can reserve one free table with their registration. Additional tables for members from both groups will be \$10 each. We have a large room reserved, but space cannot be guaranteed. So, get your reservation in early. Commercial vendors desiring tables should contact the convention host for details.

Local Area/Layout Tours. The Joplin area has a lot of interesting local attractions, including the relocated MP depot which is now a restaurant, Joplin Union Depot which is scheduled for renovation, and the Frisco Building. Blair Line, a manufacturer of model structures, is close by as are several former MP and Frisco facilities that are used by the Missouri and Northern Arkansas Railroad. Tours of these facilities will be on the agenda. A group tour of the area is planned for Sunday morning, as well. Look for more details in the near future.

Railfanning in the Joplin Area. The Missouri Pacific and Frisco are both long gone from the scene at Joplin, but there is plenty of rail activity on the MNA and KCS.

The Missouri and Northern Arkansas operates most of the former Frisco and Missouri Pacific trackage in Joplin, Webb City and Carthage. They operate the former Frisco Ruth Yard in Joplin and their headquarters are in nearby Carthage in the former MP depot. Tours of these facilities are in the works. More details will be forthcoming.

The Kansas City Southern has a busy mainline with numerous coal, manifest and intermodal trains passing through daily. In addition, the dodger from Neosho shows up on a regular basis to handle the local industries.

Group meals. There will be a self-pay, buffet type dinner on Saturday evening. It will be located in the hotel's atrium. We are also planning to have a group dinner at the restaurant in the old MP depot on Friday evening. Both of these dining experiences are optional, but we do hope you will want to participate. There will be an informal breakfast meeting on Sunday morning.

Pre and Post Meeting Plans. There are several attractions in the area for those that want to extend their trip to the convention. The Arkansas and Missouri Railroad is located about 75 miles south of Joplin. They offer excursions on select days in October. The Heart of the Heartlands railroad museum is located a little over 30 miles away in Carona, KS. There are several non-railroad attractions in the area. One of these is the Precious Moments chapel in Carthage. A list of other attractions will be available in the near future.

Location. The meeting hotel is the Holiday Inn – Joplin. It is located alongside I-44 at Rangeline Rd. exit. The postal address is 3615 S. Rangeline Rd. Joplin, MO 64804. The phone number is (417) 782-1000.

This is a nice facility and it is the only one in Joplin that is large enough to host our convention. A block of rooms has been reserved for attendees. The hold on this block of rooms will drop on September 25. So make your reservation prior to this date. The contracted room rate is \$84.00 per night. This includes a hot breakfast. In order to get the special rate, you must call the number above and mention the Missouri Pacific Historical Society.

Getting to Joplin. If you are driving, Joplin is on I-44 and the junction of I-49 with I-44 is just to the east. Much of the old Missouri Pacific is visible along I-49 between Harrisonville and Carthage.

The closest viable Amtrak station is Kansas City. It is served by the Southwest Chief and the Missouri River Runner. It is about a three hour drive from KC to Joplin.

For those that like to fly, the Joplin Regional Airport is served by American Eagle. The largest major airport in the vicinity is Kansas City International with several airline and flight options available. Tulsa, OK, Springfield, MO and Northwest Arkansas Regional Airport also offer numerous commercial flights and are closer to Joplin.

Registration. To attend all days of the event, the cost is \$40.00. Friday only or Saturday only will be \$20.00. The bus tour on Sunday morning will be \$15.00 in advance or \$20.00 after the convention starts. Space will be limited, so reserve your spot, now. The registration form is available on this site.

Contact. If you have questions, would like to volunteer to help at the convention or if you need more info on the model display or swap meet, please get in touch with me. Let's make Joplin 2014 the best meeting ever. Thank you.

Kevin Love, President & 2014 Convention Host
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