



St. Louis Convention

September 1-3, 2007

***Plus an excursion to Memphis & Little
Rock***

September 4 & 5, 2007

ST. LOUIS CONVENTION HEADQUARTERS

St. Louis, a hotbed of traction until after World War II, has again become a center of electric railway activity. Missouri is the "Show Me" state, and many of its residents doubted that modern light rail could be successful. But MetroLink has proved all of the nay-sayers wrong. With the opening of the first segment of the system in 1993, passengers began flocking back to mass transit, and now the system covers 46 miles, connecting Lambert Airport in St. Louis with downtown, and then operating interurban-style through the Illinois cornfields to Belleville and Shiloh. The new Shrewsbury line, opened just last year, became an immediate success.

The Crowne Plaza Hotel in downtown St. Louis, at 200 North 4th Street, will be our convention headquarters. It is only a short walk from the 8th & Pine station of MetroLink, and convention participants may reach it easily from both Lambert Field and the Amtrak station. This full-service hotel offers such amenities as a health and fitness center, and an outdoor swimming pool. Single, double and twin accommodations are priced at only \$99 plus tax per evening. Our annual movie/slide show and banquet will be held at the Crowne Plaza. To avoid missing a single convention activity, plan to arrive in St. Louis no later than Friday afternoon, August 31.

SPECIAL BONUS IN ST. LOUIS

A Day Ticket, valid for unlimited use on MetroLink from Friday, August 31 through Monday, September 3, will be sent to all those participating in our Sunday activities. This will allow convention goers to travel free of charge from the airport or railroad station upon their arrival in St. Louis, and will be usable for riding light rail trains at any time during our stay. The cost of this "ride-at-will" ticket is included in your payment for our Sunday excursion and will be sent with your convention tickets

FRIDAY NIGHT, AUGUST 31

Our convention will begin at 7 p.m. at the Crowne Plaza with an opportunity to meet local traction fans. At 7:30 Dave (Andrew) Young will present a slide show featuring bygone days of street railways in our nation's heartland. Dave is the dean of Missouri's streetcar historians, and author of

the definitive histories of traction in St. Louis, as well as the soon-to-be-published *When Missouri Took the Trolley*, which will be available for sale.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

Today is a very busy day, as we have to travel quite a distance to get to the Midwest Electric Railway in Mt. Pleasant, Iowa. Our chartered coach(es) will leave the hotel at 7 a.m. sharp. Our destination is the Old Threshers Reunion, where a fleet of streetcars and interurbans operate continuously over a loop connecting the RV parking area with the fairgrounds. Admission is included. There will be ample opportunity for lunch at this huge gathering, and participants may also wish to ride and photograph the steam-operated trains of the Midwest Central Railroad. In addition, there will be demonstrations of old-time steam-powered farm equipment. We'll break up the return trip to St. Louis by stopping for a full sitdown dinner (at extra cost).

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

The MetroLink light rail system is the subject of today's activities. In addition to riding LRVs out to Shiloh and Shrewsbury, we will tour MetroLink's carhouse, maintenance facility and Operations Control Center. After an interurban trip through the western Illinois prairie, the afternoon will be available for touring more of the light rail system on your own, using your unlimited-ride day ticket. In fact the ticket will be valid from Friday, August 31 through Monday, September 3, and will be mailed to you with your convention tickets. Our shop tour will leave from Grand station at 9:30 a.m., connecting with the westbound MetroLink train leaving from 8th & Pine at 9:16.

SUNDAY NIGHT, SEPTEMBER 2

E. R. A.'s annual banquet will be held in a private room at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. An hour-long informal reception and cash bar will begin at 7:00 p.m., and dinner will follow promptly at 8:00. Our guest speaker is Mark Goldfeder, president of the St. Louis Railway Enthusiasts, and a traction historian of substantial esteem. His slide program will cover the large street railway systems of St. Louis, including the Illinois Terminal and the Waterworks Railway.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

Our chartered coaches will leave from the hotel at 10:55 a.m. and after a stop for lunch, take us the Museum of Transport and its operating streetcar line. Barring no unexpected circumstances the museum's entire fleet will be up and running for us. Among the cars are former St. Louis Waterworks No. 10 (1914), ex-SEPTA PCC 2740, and former CTA PCC "L" car 44. The Trolley Barn will be open this afternoon, allowing participants a rare opportunity to inspect the remainder of the organization's streetcar collection, which is undergoing preservation at this site. The museum's massive collection of mainline railroad motive power, including steam, diesel and electric locomotives and railcars will also be on display. Included is the only remaining Milwaukee Road bi-polar electric.

LOGISTICS FOR MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

Unless you plan to stay at the Crowne Plaza overnight, you must bring your luggage to our chartered coaches, where they will be stored securely. One bus will head south at the conclusion of our museum visit, carrying those participating in our excursion to Memphis and Little Rock. There will be a dinner stop en route. The other coach will carry the remainder of our group to the airport, where they can connect with their air carriers. The bus will then continue to the Crowne Plaza for its final stop. Expected arrival time at Lambert Airport will be 4:00 p.m.

MEMPHIS/LITTLE ROCK ADD-ON

Limited Capacity -- first come, first served

This tour will cover the heritage streetcar systems in Memphis and Little Rock. Our hotel is the Comfort Inn in downtown Memphis, overlooking the Riverfront streetcar line, which contains a rooftop swimming pool and fitness center. A free deluxe continental breakfast on the mornings of September 4 and 5 are included in the \$104 (plus tax) price for singles, doubles and twins. Memphis has three streetcar lines with 5 different types of cars, while Little Rock has a fleet of 5 Gomaco-built replica Birneys. Our chartered bus will take us to Little Rock on Wednesday morning and later in the day will return us to Little Rock Airport, Memphis (for those desiring train connections) and St. Louis.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

At 9:00 a.m. we will gather at the Main Street/Jefferson Avenue stop (southbound) for our charter trip on the Memphis streetcar system. Our heritage streetcar will take us out on MATA's newest line, Madison Avenue, and then carry us to the system's maintenance facility and carhouse for a tour. We will then continue aboard different equipment for a circle trip on the Riverfront line. The remainder of the day is free for you to ride using your Day Ticket. With each of the three lines running on a ten-minute headway, there will be plenty of opportunities for more photographs. And you may also wish ride the Monorail to Mud Island (extra fare) in the middle of the Mississippi River or see the ducks swimming at the Peabody Hotel. On Tuesday evening you will be on your own for dinner. Among your options in the Birthplace of the Blues and the Home of the King (Elvis), are sampling Memphis-style barbecue and listening to blues or rock-and-roll along Beale Street. You can reach most of the restaurants and clubs via a short streetcar ride.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

Our chartered coach will leave Memphis at 8:55 a.m. and take us to Little Rock, a two-hour journey. We hope to have our own chartered car to cover the system, including the recently-opened extension to the Clinton Library. In any case each participant will be given an unlimited-ride day ticket to enjoy the Gomaco-built Birney replicas on the two-line heritage system that crosses the Arkansas River to connect Little Rock and North Little Rock.

LOGISTICS FOR WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

For flexibility, we will offer participants the opportunity to leave the trip in Little Rock, Memphis or St. Louis. Our chartered bus will pick up the group at 3:30 p.m. and first travel to the Little Rock airport. It will continue from there back to the Comfort Inn in downtown Memphis (2 hours) and then will return to the Crowne Plaza Hotel in downtown St. Louis (a little over 4 more hours).

So come to St. Louis for the big Labor Day weekend. Ride light rail in the Gateway City and the cornfields of western Illinois, as well as traditional streetcars and interurbans in Iowa and at the Museum of Transport. And join us for our visit to the heritage streetcar systems in Memphis, Tennessee and Little Rock, Arkansas!

SEND THIS COUPON TO:

Electric Railroaders' Association, Inc.
P. O. Box 3323
New York, N. Y. 10163-3323

Please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope with this coupon and make check or money order payable to the E. R. A. Thank you.

Yes, I plan to attend the E. R. A.'s 2007 convention in St. Louis. Please send me tickets for the following events.

_____	Excursion to the Mt. Pleasant, Iowa (Old Threshers)	Saturday, September 1	\$64 each:	_____
_____	MetroLink Light Rail Shop Tour and Ride	Sunday, September 2	\$15 each:	_____
_____	Banquet*	Sunday, September 2	\$40 each:	_____
_____	Visit to the Museum of Transport	Monday, September 3	\$33 each:	_____

--OR--

_____	COMBINATION TICKET FOR ALL OF THE ABOVE		\$136 each:	_____
_____	Memphis, Little Rock add-on trip	September 4 & 5	\$90 each:	_____

*Check here if you want to substitute Fish or Vegetarian for Chicken *TOTAL* _____

I will will not be staying at the Crowne Plaza in St. Louis

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, POSTAL CODE _____

TELEPHONE NUMBERS _____

Please send the following coupon to: The St. Louis Downtown Crowne Plaza, 200 N. Fourth Street, St. Louis, MO 63102. Or register by telephone at 800-925-1395. Your reservation must be received by July 31 to obtain the \$99 rate, and your room must be guaranteed by one night's deposit.

**HOTEL RESERVATION REQUEST
ELECTRIC RAILROADERS' ASSOCIATION**

NAME: _____
MAILING ADDRESS: _____
CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____
BUSINESS TELEPHONE: _____ HOME TELEPHONE: _____
ROOM TYPE: _____ SINGLE (1 PERSON) \$99 ARRIVAL DATE: _____
 _____ TWIN (2 PERSONS, 2 BEDS) \$99 DEPARTURE DATE: _____
AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____ NAME OF PERSON SHARING ROOM (if applicable) _____
CREDIT CARD GUARANTEE: AMERICAN EXPRESS MASTER CARD
 DISCOVER VISA DINERS CLUB
CREDIT CARD NUMBER: _____
EXPIRATION DATE: _____
SIGNATURE: _____

DEPOSIT REQUIREMENTS: To guarantee your reservation you must send a one-night's deposit. If you are not using a credit card, please enclose a check or money order payable to the CROWNE PLAZA ST. LOUIS DOWNTOWN with this coupon.
CANCELLATIONS: Cancellations must be received 24 hours prior to arrival for refund. Your cancellation number MUST be obtained.

CROWNE PLAZA ST. LOUIS DOWNTOWN · 200 N. 4th St. · St. Louis, MO 63102 · (800) 925-1395 · (314) 621-8200

For those participating in the Memphis-Little Rock add-on, please send the following coupon to: Comfort Inn Downtown, 100 N. Front Street, Memphis, TN 38103, or call 901-526-0583. Your reservation must be received by July 31 to obtain the \$104 rate, and your room must be guaranteed by credit card or one night's deposit. Your arrival date should be September 3.

**HOTEL RESERVATION REQUEST
ELECTRIC RAILROADERS' ASSOCIATION**

NAME: _____
MAILING ADDRESS: _____
CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____
BUSINESS TELEPHONE: _____ HOME TELEPHONE: _____
ROOM TYPE: _____ SINGLE (1 PERSON) \$104 ARRIVAL DATE: _____
 _____ TWIN (2 PERSONS, 2 BEDS) \$104 DEPARTURE DATE: _____
AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____ NAME OF PERSON SHARING ROOM (if applicable) _____
CREDIT CARD GUARANTEE: AMERICAN EXPRESS MASTER CARD
 DISCOVER VISA DINERS CLUB
CREDIT CARD NUMBER: _____
EXPIRATION DATE: _____
SIGNATURE: _____

DEPOSIT REQUIREMENTS: To guarantee your reservation you must send a one-night's deposit. If you are not using a credit card, please enclose a check or money order payable to the COMFORT INN DOWNTOWN MEMPHIS with this coupon.
CANCELLATIONS: Cancellations must be received 24 hours prior to arrival for refund. A cancellation number be obtained.

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