

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE FOR 2016 SLHTS CONVENTION
& 50th ANNIVERSARY OF THE POTATO CAR
DULUTH, MN



The Soo Line Historical & Technical Society (SLHTS) officers and board of directors invites the SLHTS members, their guests, former railroad employees, and other interested individuals to attend the 38th Annual SLHTS Convention in Duluth, Minnesota. The Convention Headquarters will be the Radisson Hotel HarborView, 505 W. Superior Street, Duluth, MN.

A block of rooms is being held for our group at the Radisson at the convention rate of \$129 plus applicable taxes per night. These rooms will be held at this rate until August 21, 2016. To secure a room at the convention rate you must call the Radisson Hotel HarborView at (218) 727-8981 **PRIOR** to August 21st and make your reservation. Be sure that you mention that you will be at their location for the Soo Line Historical & Technical Society Convention.

2016 marks the 50th anniversary of the acquisition of the first "potato cars" by the Soo Line Railroad. During the last three decades, models of these cars have been an ongoing and important part of SLHTS activities. This year we are having a "Potato Car Reunion" at our annual meeting in Duluth. Over the past few decades we've had a lot of fun with our models of these cars. The prototypes were unique to the Soo Line railroad in purpose and unique within the Soo Line in having blue doors, indicating their use in bulk loading. Our models of these cars have reached legendary status in our annual meeting auctions, spurred on by the search for that elusive very last potato car to be found.

The 50th Anniversary Potato Car Reunion is our attempt to bring back together as many as possible of these valuable and beloved models from our attendees' displays, collections and rosters. Therefore, all those attending our annual meeting in Duluth are invited to bring these cars with them. We'll check them in, add tags with their owner's names, and arrange them into trains. The Soo Line had only 40 of these cars acquired in 1966 and 1969, but we hope to have many more than that number on display in Duluth. We also invite you to bring any other Soo potato car-related models and other items. Examples of some potato car-inspired models have already shown up at previous annual meetings, so we know there's a lot of creativity and imagination out there. You can all count on an interesting display, activities, and some surprises related to this event. Let's make it memorable!

Delta and United Airlines fly into Duluth International Airport. Amtrak via bus, Jefferson Bus Lines, and Greyhound Bus all arrive and depart from Duluth. Below is the tentative convention agenda. Registration form enclosed.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2016

5:00 - 8:30 PM	Registration in the Viking Room of the Radisson Hotel Harborview, Duluth, MN
6:00 - 7:00 PM	Meet & Greet with hors d'oeuvres and cash bar in the Viking Room
7:00 - 8:15 PM	<u>Interest Session # 1 - Grand Central to Portal</u> Ron Kaminem and Dave Rasmussen
8:30 - 11:00 PM	Sharing of Slides - SLHTS Members - a projector will be provided (load your slides in a Kodak Carousel, JPEG, or you can use a stack loader that will be provided.)

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2016

7:00 - 8:30 AM	Registration in the Viking Room
7:00 - 8:30 AM	Breakfast Buffet in the Viking Room
9:00 - 3:00 PM	<u>Interest Session # 2 - All Day Tour</u> - On this all day tour we will begin with a visit to the Lake Superior Transportation Museum. The Museum opens up at 9:00 a.m. and is across the street from the Radisson so you'll have to walk. Convention attendees are free to view the Soo Line, DSS&A, and Copper Range rolling stock on their own. At 10:30 engine cab rides will begin in the Museum Yard. A \$5.00 donation is recommended and all monies go to the Soo Line Fund at the Museum. The cab rides will end at 12:00 when we will all board the train for a ride to Lester River with a box lunch on board. There will be a special opportunity for a select few to ride in the in the Soo Line caboose A \$20 donation one way is requested for this to help restore Soo Line equipment at the Museum. The ride will get back to the Museum at 2:00 where attendees are free to continue to look at the vast rolling stock of the museum. Museum hours are 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. and by wearing your name badge you will have free admission all weekend.

5:00 - 6:00 PM Buffet dinner (*broiled walleye*)
 7:15 - 8:00 PM Registration in the Viking Room
 7:15 - 8:00 PM **Interest Session # 3 - Railroading in Copper Country** Ron Kaminem presenter Viking
 9:00 - midnight The sharing of slides - SLHTS Members - a projector will be provided. (Load your slides in a Kodak Carousel, JPG, or you can use a stack loader that will be provided.)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2016

6:30 - 8:30 AM Vendor Set-Up - Please let vendors set up during this time - no sales please
 7:00 - 8:00 AM Registration in the Viking Room
 6:45 - 8:00 AM Breakfast Buffet in the Viking Room
8:30 AM - 3:15 PM Vendor sales open in Lower Lobby

8:45 AM - 3:30 PM Ladies Only All Day Tour - The tour begins with the breakfast buffet at the Radisson Viking Room from 6:45 - 8:00 a.m. The transit bus will leave from the Radisson Lobby at 8:45 a.m. The tour includes an historical tour of the famous Glensheen Mansion now operated by the University of Minnesota Duluth. Lunch will be back at the Radisson. The tour will continue after lunch with an afternoon harbor cruise of the Duluth and Superior ports on the Vista Queen. We will shop at the cruise gift shop and return to the Radisson at 3:30 PM.

8:00 - 9:30 AM **Interest Session # 4 - Modelers Show & Tell** - Tom Dowling will facilitate this session in the Great Room. Bring your models, in progress or completed, to share with us. Perhaps you want to share a digital picture or pictures of your layout, or models. Bring these on a JPG that we can use.
 9:45 - 10:45 AM **Interest Session # 5 - Photographers Show & Tell** - Rick Martin will facilitate this session in the Great Room. Bring your digital/JPG pictures to share with the group.
 11:15 AM - Noon **Interest Session # 6 - History of Railroads in Ashland, WI** - Tom Tardiff presenter
 12:00 - 1:00 PM Soup and Sandwich Buffet in the Viking Room
 1:30 - 2:45 PM **Interest Session # 7 - Annual Business Meeting** - President David Leider Great Hall
 3:15 - 4:00 PM **Interest Session # 8 - What I Learned Doing the Freight Car Book** - Ken Soroos Viking
 4:15 - 5:00 PM **Interest Session # 9 - Soo's St. Paul 7th Street Yard and Freighthouse** - Bob Sterner presenter in Viking Room
 5:00 - 6:00 PM Attitude Adjustment Hour with Cash Bar in Great Hall
 6:00 - 9:00 PM **Annual Convention Banquet in Great Hall-** The banquet is a plated meal with vegetables, potato, salad, choice of meat (top sirloin or lemon garlic chicken), and dessert. Master of Ceremonies: Gregg Condon. **Guest Speakers Ken Buehler and/or Tim Schandel.** Ken is the Executive Director of the Lake Superior Railroad Museum and Tim is the Curator and Director of Operations LSRRM.
 9 pm - ??? **Annual Auction and 50th Anniversary of the Potato Car** - Auction proceeds go to the SLHTS Archives.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2016

7:30 - 8:30 AM Breakfast Buffet Plus - Heading Home Breakfast in the Viking Room
 8:30 - 9:30 AM **Interest Session # 9 - Board of Directors Meeting**
 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM On your way home, a number of layout tours will be available for you to visit as well as another visit to the Museum if you wish, entrance is free to all attendees.