



2016 RPCA Annual Conference

January 15-18, 2016

Tyler Texas



Paying it forward – getting the next generation aboard!

Texas State Railroad is proud to be the 2016 host for the Railroad Passenger Car Alliance Annual Conference on January 15-18, 2016 in Tyler Texas, the “Rose capital of the world.” The Texas State Railroad is a subsidiary of short line holding company Iowa Pacific Holdings and they are both ardent supporters of the RPCA mission. We are particularly excited about hosting the first ever RPCA conference with a theme and it is a good one!

We are focusing on how to attract and retain young people into our industry, hobby and passion. We have reached out to a number of people and organizations that have successful programs so they could tell us how they have accomplished this. We are also having a number of programs presented by younger people talking about what they are looking for and what they have done.

When it comes to getting young people involved, RPCA has put its money where its mouth is. Anyone under the age of 30 can attend all of the Conference activities for a **flat \$50 registration fee** (this does not include the pre-Conference activities on Thursday.) We are hoping that this will bring a substantial number of newcomers and encourage the sort of interaction that will “pay it forward.”

Don’t think for a minute, though, that there will not be lots of things of interest to us old-timers! We will have a full schedule of the types of seminars traditionally offered by RPCA at its Conferences: updates by the FRA and Amtrak, UMLER, insurance, etc. We also will take full advantage of the excellent shop facilities at the Texas State Railroad at Rusk. In addition to mechanical seminars, we will be offering hands-on involvement with steam and diesel locomotives as well as shop tools and how to use them. This will culminate on Monday with an all-day class on rebuilding passenger car trucks in a hands-on setting.

Of course, it won’t be all work and no play. We will be taking a motor coach trip to visit the BNSF headquarters and a steam powered dinner train on Thursday prior to the Conference. We will feature another steam powered excursion train on Sunday, which will include a photo run by. We will be pulling the famous Texas and Pacific Railway 2-10-4 steam locomotive #610 out for photographs. There will also be a reception at the local aviation museum.

Return your registration form by November 29, 2015 to obtain discounted registration. You are encouraged to register on line at: www.rpca.com

Here is some more information about what you can expect in order to help you make your plans to attend the Conference.

Tyler, Texas

Tyler is located close to the center of the United States in the heart of the piney woods, a delightful area of rolling hills and lakes in East Texas. It is less than a day's drive for one-third of Americans. It is nicknamed the Rose capital of the world and has the largest rose garden in the country! With a number of attractions and museums, a pleasant downtown district, shopping and a full range of dining options, there is a lot to see and do. The average temperature in Tyler for January is a high of 57°/ low of 38° and the average rainfall is 3.3 inches for the entire month. It is certainly warmer than most parts of the country.

LODGING – CONFERENCE VENUE

The 2016 Conference will be held at the Holiday Inn South Broadway, located on the south side of town. When making room reservations, be sure to ask for the RPCA rate. You must call the hotel to make your reservation. There is no 800 number or internet option. RPCA Conference attendees will receive a special rate of \$99. Reservations should be made as early as possible. The deadline to guarantee that you will receive the RPCA rate is December 30, 2015. Parking is available at no charge on the grounds of the Hotel.

Holiday Inn Tyler - South Broadway
5701 South Broadway, Tyler, TX 75703
(903) 561-5800

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TRAVEL CONSIDERATIONS

Tyler Pounds Regional Airport (TYR)

Distance: 10.0 MI/16.09 KM SOUTH WEST to Hotel,
Complimentary Shuttle Available

Dallas Love Field (LOV)

Distance: 115.3 MI/185.56 KM EAST to Hotel

DFW International (DFW)

Distance: 122.0 MI/196.34 KM EAST to Hotel

Complimentary Local Area Shuttle

Radius 5.0 MI

Driving Directions

From the East: Use I-20/Westbound

From the West: Use I-20/Eastbound

From the North: Use US 69/Southbound

From the South: Use US 69/Northbound

From I-20: Use Exit 556 (US 69 Southbound). Travel 7 miles to Loop 323, turn right, travel 8 miles to Broadway Ave. (US 69 again), turn Right. Hotel is 1 mile South on the Right.

From all major cities and surrounding areas South of Tyler: Take US 69 North to Tyler. Hotel is on the Left ½ mile after Grande Blvd. If you reach of Loop 323, you have gone one mile too far.

From all major cities and surrounding areas North of Tyler: Take US 69 South to Tyler, turn Right on Loop 323, travel 8 miles to Broadway Ave. (US 69 again), turn Right. Hotel is 1 mile South on the Right.

Shuttle

Shuttle service is being coordinated from all airports and Amtrak for those people who choose not to drive or rent a car. Please be sure to tell us about your travel arrangements or your need for them when you register. We will contact you with shuttle specifics (and costs, if there are any). In particular, we intend to meet all Amtrak trains that we know have attendees that need transportation.

Silent Auction

Once again this year, there will be a Silent Auction to benefit the Fuehring Fund for Future Leaders. You are invited to bring donations to the Silent Auction Tables located at the Vendor Area beginning on Thursday, Jan. 14 through 10:00 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 16 at any time attendants are available. Bidding will close after the end of the Banquet on Saturday, the exact time to be announced at the Banquet. Items may be paid for and picked up beginning 45 minutes after the close of bidding until closing of the Auction Table and again on Sunday from 8:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. You may use cash, checks, or credit cards to pay for auction items. Removal and transportation of auction items purchased will be solely the responsibility of the purchaser.

When registering for the upcoming Conference in Tyler, here are some things to consider:

~ In order to participate in any of the Conference activities with the exception of the Annual meeting and Banquet, you must be registered for the Conference.

~ All participants (registrants, vendors, & sponsors) must be members of RPCA or members of a member organization. RPCA membership is included in the Youth registration fee.

If you have any questions please email 2016Conference@rpca.com – subject RPCA 2016
or call Ken Bitten at 410-336-1605

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Recommend coming to the conference to a friend--especially a young one!

Is there a young person that you know that might be interested in being a part of this youth oriented railroad passenger car experience? Please consider recommending the conference to someone you know. Better yet, perhaps you or your organization can help arrange for transportation, or cover lodging costs. Join forces with RPCA to help make this affordable for a potential future car owner.

Let us make this a real statement about our commitment to the future! Registration includes all activities, including Friday, Saturday, and Sunday breakfast, all seminars and classes at the hotel, Friday evening reception at the Aviation museum, transportation to and from Rusk on Sunday, barbecue lunch at the station on Sunday, all seminars at the Rusk shop on Sunday, and truck class at Rusk on Monday.

Youth registration includes all of the above as well as the Saturday banquet, excursion train ride on Sunday, Mexican buffet on Sunday evening, transportation to truck seminar and buffet lunch on Monday. It does not include the pre-Conference BNSF tour or the dinner train, or the Tyler tour during the Conference.

Pre-Conference BNSF tour and steam powered dinner train events include motor coach transportation to and from the hotel.

Be sure to fill out the complete registration form or register online at rpca.com to help us coordinate transportation and other activities. Thanks!

Make certain you take a look at the schedule, which is jam-packed with seminars, some of which repeat, so you have two chances to attend.

About the Activities

Pre-Conference

Thursday, January 14, 2016

BNSF Headquarters Tour Extra cost \$39 Limited capacity of 80

Deluxe motor coach from hotel to the BNSF headquarters in Fort Worth TX, includes equipment displays, executive offices, and a look at the dispatching center. Motor coach will bring you back to hotel or take you to the Texas State Railroad for the steam powered dinner train. There will be a stop at noon for lunch. Lunch is not included.

Steam powered dinner train Extra cost \$79

Steam powered train departs from Rusk, Texas. In addition to three entrees (bacon wrapped chicken breast with basil cream sauce, sliced pork loin with apple brandy glaze, grilled salmon steak with white wine sauce) and three dessert choices (carrot cake with cream cheese frosting, Italian cream cake, chocolate chip crème brûlée), the menu includes a Spring Mix salad with toasted almonds, strawberries, and raspberry vinaigrette, long grain wild rice with almonds, grilled asparagus spears, a sesame seed roll, Tender Leaf sweetened and unsweetened tea, gourmet regular and decaf coffee, and iced water. Transportation from hotel to and from Rusk included. Be certain to indicate both your entrée and dessert selections as you register.

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Friday, January 15, 2016

Reception at Aviation Museum Included in registration

The Historic Aviation Memorial Museum is the setting for a relaxed chance to enjoy cocktails, a meal of hors d'oeuvres and finger foods, and fellowship while admiring relics of a different form of transportation. Transportation from and to the hotel is included.

Saturday January 16, 2016

Tyler tour Extra cost \$42

Includes transportation, guide, tour of the Tyler Municipal Rose Garden and several historic homes, and a wine tasting. Lunch not included.

Banquet Extra cost \$49

Your choice of a 10 oz grilled Rib eye steak, Chicken with Boursin stuffing, or grilled Salmon with creamy dill sauce. Sides are green beans Southern style and oven roasted new potatoes. All include seasonal mixed greens salad, pie for dessert, rolls, iced tea and coffee. Special dietary restrictions can be accommodated by noting them as you register. Please be sure to make your entrée selection as you register.

Sunday, January 17, 2016

Steam train ride Extra cost \$35

Includes motor coach transportation to Palestine station, viewing of T & P 2-10-4 #610, and steam train ride to Rusk, where you will join the rest of the group for the barbeque and afternoon activities. Transportation back to hotel from Rusk is also included.

Mexican Dinner Buffet Extra cost \$24

Grilled beef fajitas, chicken enchiladas, Includes flour tortillas, tortilla chips and salsa, refried beans, Spanish rice and apple crispitos. Also includes guacamole, homemade pico de gallo, sour cream, shredded lettuce, and cheese.

Post-Conference

Monday, January 18, 2016

Bonus post-Conference class Included in registration. Transportation & lunch are extra cost items

Rebuilding a passenger car truck to Amtrak specifications

An all-day seminar on the ins and outs of rebuilding a passenger car truck at the Texas State Railroad shop in Rusk. Plenty of opportunities for questions and up close inspection of the process. There is no additional cost to participate in the class. Bus transportation to Rusk and return to the hotel is available for an additional cost as is a buffet lunch at the shop.

Bus to Rusk & return Extra cost \$29

Note: truck class is free. This is transportation only for those who need it. If enough carpool arrangements can be made, this fee will be refunded.

Buffet Lunch Extra cost \$14

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