



2017 SPRING HERITAGERAIL ALLIANCE CONFERENCE
HOSTED BY THE GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS RAILROAD
BRYSON CITY, NC
APRIL 27 – APRIL 30

Wednesday, April 26 2017

3:30pm-6pm: Vendor Set up-Harper First Class Car
9am-3pm: Strategic Planning Session (location tba)

Thursday, April 27 2017

7:30am-10am: Registration at the Bryson City Depot
7:30am- 10:30am City wide shuttle service provided by Wildwater Limited
Pick up/Drop off locations – Bryson City Depot /Sleep Inn/Microtel Inn & Suites
Every 15mins
Personal vehicle parking is available at the GSMR Parking Lot

8am-3pm: Vendor Display Open – Harper First Class Car
8am-9:30am: Board Meeting on the MacNeill First Class (Stationary) Passenger Car
Buffet style brunch provided

9:30am -9:45am: **Break**
9:45am-10:15am: Boarding for the Nantahala Gorge Steam Excursion – First Class Cars
10:30am: Train Departure to the Nantahala Outdoor Center
11:45am-1pm: Lunch – Served on all First Class Cars
1pm-1:50pm: Free Time- Layover at the Nantahala Outdoor Center
1:50pm-2pm: Boarding and Departure for Bryson City
2pm-3:30pm: Return trip to Bryson City Depot
3:30pm-8pm: City wide shuttle service provided by Wildwater Limited
Pick up/Drop off locations – Bryson City Depot /Sleep Inn/Microtel Inn & Suites
Every 15mins
Personal vehicle parking is available at the GSMR Parking Lot

3:30pm-5pm: **Break**
5pm-6pm Welcome Reception –Smoky Mountains Trains Museum
Hour d'oeuvres with Beer & wine service
6pm-6:15pm: Short walk to the Swain County Heritage Museum OR TurnTable



Thursday, April 27 2017 (cont'd.)

- 6:15pm-7pm: Swain County Heritage Museum self-guided tour
The Swain County Heritage Museum is filled with rich history and culture of Southern Appalachia and the Great Smoky Mountains.
- OR**
- Stick around for the Turn Table showcase of #1702
Located at the GSMR Parking Lot

Conference attendees can enjoy dinner on their own

Friday, April 28 2017

- 8:30am- 12:30pm: City wide shuttle service provided by Wildwater Limited
Pick up/Drop off locations – Bryson City Depot / Swain County High School/ Sleep Inn/Microtel Inn & Suites
Every 15mins
Personal vehicle parking is available at the GSMR Parking Lot and the Swain County High School
- 9am-10:15am: Seminar #1 Public & Private Partnerships – Swain County High School
Keynote Speaker – Dr. Steve Morse, Director of Hospitality & Tourism of Western North Carolina University.
- 10:15am-10:30am: **Break – Light refreshments**
- 10:30am-11:45am: Seminar #2 Panel Discussion- Business partnerships & the effect on local economy
- 11am-3:30pm: Vendor Display Open – Harper First Class Car
- Noon - 12:30pm Shuttle back to Bryson City Depot / Break
- 12:30pm-1pm: Boarding for private Diesel Excursion to Dillsboro, NC with Steam Shop Tour
- 1pm: Departure for Dillsboro, NC
- 1:15pm: Lunch- Picnic-style served on the train on the way to Dillsboro
Catered by The Filling Station: Ham, turkey, or veggie sandwich with seasonal fruit cup, banana, potato/pasta/or macaroni salad
- 2pm-3:15pm Deboard at GSMR Rail Shop for Steam Shop Tour
Guided tour of the GSMR Steam Shop. Meet and greet with the members of GSMR's 1702 restoration crew and Steam Services of America Owner, Rob Franzen
- 3:15pm: Re-board and depart for Dillsboro
- 3:30pm-5pm: Free Time- Layover in Dillsboro
During this time, conference attendees can explore the town's shops and restaurants
- 5pm-7pm: Dinner at The Jarrett House in Dillsboro (walking distance from train)
A Southern Tradition since 1884. Southern fare served family style
- 7pm-8:30pm: Re-board and depart for Bryson City
- 7pm-8:30pm: Vendor Display Open – Harper First Class Car
Enjoy post dinner cocktails and desserts



Saturday, April 29 2017

- 8:30am-9am: Boarding charter buses for Biltmore Estate – Bryson City Depot
Those who are participating in the Biltmore tour and free afternoon on the grounds MUST use the bus for transportation.
Personal vehicle parking is available at the GSMR Parking Lot
- 9am-10:30am: Transport from Bryson City to the Biltmore Estate – Asheville, NC
- 10:30am-11am: Arrival - Biltmore Transportation to Estate Grounds
- 11am-2:30pm: Biltmore House self-guided tour –**House entry time: TBD** and free afternoon on the estate grounds.
Lunch on your own: Options include: Bistro, Cedric’s Tavern, Deerpark Restaurant, Stable Café, The Courtyard Market, The Smokehouse.
- 2:30pm- 3pm: Regroup at Biltmore House entry and transport back to charter busses
- 3pm: Depart Biltmore Estate for Closing Dinner
- 5pm: Closing Dinner
- 8pm: Depart Dinner for Bryson City
- 8:30pm- 10pm: Vendor Display teardown- Harper First Class Car

Sunday, April 30 2017

- 8am-Noon: Vendor Display teardown- Harper First Class Car
- 8am-1pm: **POST-CONFERENCE OPTIONAL EVENT:**
Bryson City to Andrews, NC Motorcar Ride - Bryson City Depot
Pre-Signup is required; \$60/per person

GSMR is home to one of the steepest rail grades in the eastern US. If you would like to experience our three mile long 5+% grade firsthand, we will be offering a Bryson City to Andrews 70 mile round trip journey by the use of antique railroad inspection motorcars. Be warned that vehicle seating will vary from a flat bench with no back support to some attached seats. Also, you will be out in the elements regardless of weather conditions. Restroom stops will be limited to one midpoint stop each way and at our turn around point. Lunch will be cooked and served trackside by a unique rail-b-que motorcar that will be part of our consist for the day. Seating is limited, so early sign up is a must. Work attire and leather boots are required.