

GNRHS Fargo 2019 Convention Tours  
**Saturday 20, July 2019**

**Western Minnesota Steam Threshers Reunion Grounds, Rollag, MN**

Railroad tracks surround a lake and pass the Great Northern depot from Baker, MN, a Northern Pacific depot, and a Milwaukee Road depot, and an operating railroad turntable and a multi-stall engine house. This late morning to midafternoon tour will allow us to view the largest collection of vintage railroad equipment in the area. The WMSTR uses a former Soo Line 0-6-0 to pull former GN stock cars and Soo Line box cars which have been modified to allow visitors to view the grounds while circling the area and the lake.

We will be served a hot lunch in the dining hall. This area includes a number of older town buildings moved to this site. On the other side of the lake is located a log pond and saw mill, and the main railroad facilities.

The grounds are filled with vintage equipment and buildings. The grounds are open to the public only one time a year on Labor Day weekend, but there will be a special opening for our group only during our convention.



**Monday 22, July 2019**  
**Railroad Tour of the Greater Fargo Area**

Fargo was served by three railroads: the Great Northern and Northern Pacific mainlines and a Milwaukee Road branch line. This bus tour will start in the morning after a brief orientation presentation; and will return in the late afternoon. A box lunch will be provided at the railroad park in Dilworth where a NP steam loco, caboose, and depot are on display.

Both the GN and NP passenger depots have been restored and repurposed; as has been the Milwaukee Road freight depot. The Fargo GN Yard was positioned between the diverging lines: northward to Grand Forks, and northwest to Surrey and Minot. The BNSF still utilizes this yard but most of the buildings are now gone. Off the Surrey line was the site of the West Fargo union stock yard and an Armour Packing plant which were served by both the GN and NP. North of Fargo at Harwood the old coal bin and grain elevator still stand. On the east side of the Red River is Moorhead, MN where the GN mainline crossed the NP mainline; but neither of the depots stand. Across the street from the location of the GN depot, the Fairmont Creamery building still stands. On the north side of Moorhead is an American Crystal Sugar plant. East of Moorhead in Dilworth is the NP Yard still used by the BNSF. Farther east at Glydon is the crossing of the NP and GN (originally the St. Paul & Pacific and then the St. Paul Minneapolis & Manitoba) where the joint GN and



NP frame depot still stands. South of Moorhead is a gravel pit near Sabin and the (repurposed) Barnesville frame depot along the old mainline from St. Paul and Willmar.

Travel time and distance between sites of interest are not long but numerous. There will be a limited number of stops where we will have time and permission to get off the buses. We do expect to be able to visit part of the interior of the Fargo NP depot and the GN caboose on display, but other structures and properties may not be open to us. There are no museum stops included on this tour.

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**Monday 22, July 2019**  
**Wineries and Lunch**

We will travel south of Fargo by bus to Dakota Vines Vineyard and Winery for lunch, wine tasting and a tour of the Vineyard. Afterward, we will travel back to Fargo to Prairie Rose Meadery. Mead is a wine-like beverage from honey, and we will sample their products and see how it is produced. Then we will travel to Drekker Brewery, one of the first beer breweries in the area. They have opened a new brew house inside one of the original Northern Pacific Railroad car shops that were built in the late 1800s when the NP was based in Fargo. After seeing their brewing space, we can sample their products as well. We will return to the hotel afterward. The entire tour is by 28 passenger bus and is expected to take 4 hours.



**Tuesday 23, July 2019**

**Bonanzaville Museums and Service Oil Railroad Equipment & Shops**

Bonanzaville & Pioneer Museum in West Fargo is home to the Spud Valley Model Railroad Club housed in one of the two NP frame depots on display. The only remaining NP 4-4-0 steam locomotive is on display.

The village includes many small-town buildings, most with original interiors on display, and large buildings contain a wide display of modes of land and air vehicles. A large modern brick building at the entrance to the grounds displays many vintage artifacts.

This afternoon tour will also include a stop to view the railroad equipment on site at the Service Oil Company. The passenger car shop will be open for viewing. This facility is a functioning oil distributing company, but it includes a large number of vintage

equipment in various states of condition. It is expected that an operational SW-1 will be on site along with tank cars including former GN tank cars. Often private railcars are in the shop for storage or various levels of work.



**Wednesday 24, July 2019**

**Hjemkomst Center & Clay County Museum and Plains Art Museum**

The Hjemkomst Center is home to a Viking longship and a stave church. This full size replica of a Viking longship was sailed from Duluth to Norway before being returned and put on display. This location is also the Clay County Museum which includes some area railroad photographs on the lower level. This afternoon tour will also include a visit to the Plains Art Museum.

