

Burlington  
Route

# Burlington Route Historical Society

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Route

Annual Meet

Mendota, IL

September 19-21, 2024

## Information and Registration

**PLEASE NOTE: All registrations must be RECEIVED no later than  
Friday, September 6, 2024!**

**After this date – meals and bus seats are not guaranteed!**



### Meet Hotel

#### Quality Inn & Suites of Mendota

1307 Kailash Dr,  
Mendota, IL, 61342

[View the meet hotel website](#)

Or call 815-538-3355

(use Burlington Route Historical Society – NOT BRHS!)

BRHS Room Rate \$99.00 (single or double)

**Room Block is available through August 29 OR UNTIL SOLD OUT!**



# Burlington Route Historical Society

## Welcome to Mendota!



Mendota is an Indian word which means crossing of the trails. This is where the CB&Q RR and the Illinois Central RR crossed in the summer/fall of 1853. This was the beginning of Mendota. The Milwaukee Road RR would later cross at this junction in 1904. This was an important junction, not only for the railroads, but the entire state of Illinois and the expanding America. The Q became the gateway to the west and the Illinois Central to the south. Mendota was a railroad town with many employees living here due to it being a subdivision to the Galesburg division. The Burlington Route had a big yard in Mendota and branch lines with locals stationed out of this town: the Zearing, Earlville, and Denrock branches.

In the Roaring 20s and into the 30s there were 39 daily passenger trains that stopped in Mendota. Being 83 miles southwest of Chicago one could access other passenger trains of that day, and travel anywhere in the country from this station. You still can today via Amtrak. Mendota has six daily Amtrak trains stopping here - the Southwest Chief, the Carl Sandburg, and the Illinois Zephyr. The California Zephyr stops nearby in Princeton, Illinois. There is a lot of history in these old lines. Abe Lincoln in 1858 came from Galesburg on the Q and then boarded an IC train to the second debate with Stephen A. Douglas in Freeport, Illinois.

A section of the former Union Depot built in 1888, to replace the Passenger House, serves as a fine railroad museum along the old Burlington Route, and an Amtrak Station where folks can catch a train. The museum grounds also have the old CB&Q 4978 steam locomotive with a fresh coat of paint given to it on its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary last summer. Along with 4978 is the "all wood" Waycar 14451 built in the Q Aurora shops in 1911. The area where 4978 sits is the site of Mendota's first depot that the IC and Q shared, the "Passenger House", built in 1853. Be sure to wander in the fenced area to capture a nice photo of old 4978 and the various right-of-way markers. You will be walking where Lincoln once stopped in 1859, one year after the debates.

Come, spend time at the **Union Depot Railroad Museum**, and see the largest collection of CB&Q HO scale steam locomotives you will probably ever see in one room. In the same room is a large operating HO scale model of Mendota with train yards and downtown areas, accurate to circa 1940. We have a lot to see for the railroad enthusiast and especially Burlington Route rail fans. You can sit back and watch multiple freight trains and Amtrak trains go by the Museum. WELCOME BRHS.

Also open for attendees will be the **Prairie Agriculture Museum** (located across the street from the Depot Museum) and the **Hume Carnegie Museum** (located 3 blocks away).



# Burlington Route Historical Society



## Meet Overview

### Thursday

Our weekend will start Thursday evening with a Meet and Greet reception at the Mendota Railroad Museum. Snacks and refreshments will be available in the Dining Car.

### Friday

During the day on Friday, we will be traveling (from the hotel) to La Moille, IL to visit the depot and waycar there. We have arranged to have access to the depot. From there, we will go to Cherry, IL to visit the "Cherry Mine Museum". After the museum, lunch will be in Ladd, IL at "Ripp's" – famous for their fried chicken. After lunch, we will return to the hotel.

### Saturday

Saturday will follow our traditional schedule

- The morning will include
  - The Swap Meet setup
  - The Annual Business meeting
  - The Swap Meet
- Lunch will be box lunches served at the Civic Center. The cost will be included in your "Day" or "Full" fare registration.
- The afternoon will feature clinics by various presenters (not necessarily in this order)
  - "The Burlington in Mendota" – Leo Phillip
  - "Towers – Aurora to Galesburg" – Steven Holding
  - "Navigating the BRHS Website" – Jack Schroeder
  - "BRHS and SmugMug" and "An Archive Update" - Rich Gortowski & Jim Singer
- The evening will be our traditional Happy Hour, Banquet, Raffle
  - Keynote Speaker: "#4978 Big Move" – Mike Cerveny

### For the Ladies

Sorry, no official Ladies events are planned. However, the two-story Hume-Carnegie Museum is 3 blocks west of the Depot. There are chairs available on the lower level. Across the street from the depot, we have the Prairie Agriculture Museum and the Country Chapel available to visit. On Saturday morning there is a Farmers Market right next to the depot. 8:00- Noon. Some crafters are there too.

Utica, IL is about a 30-minute drive. There are shops, wine tasting and the LaSalle County Historical Museum available.

## Schedule of Events

### Thursday – September 19<sup>th</sup> (at Mendota Railroad Museum)

- 03:00p – 07:00p - Registration Open
- 04:00p – 08:00p – Welcome Reception\*
- 04:00p – 08:00p – Mendota Railroad Museum Open\* (includes all museums listed in Overview)

### Friday – September 20<sup>th</sup> (at Hotel)

#### During the Day

- 06:30a – 07:45a - Registration Open
- Bus Tour
  - 07:15a – 07:30a – Bus loading
  - 07:30a – 08:50a – Bus trip to La Moille – visit Depot and CB&Q waycar
  - 09:00a – 10:50a – Bus to Cherry, IL – visit Cherry Mine Museum
  - 11:00a – 12:30p – Lunch at “Ripp’s” Tavern – Ladd, IL
  - 12:30p - Bus Return to Hotel

#### Evening:

- **Dinner on your own**
- 04:00p – 08:00p – Mendota Railroad Museum Open\*
- 06:00p – 08:00p – Registration Open (at Museum)
- 12:00p – 08:00p – Hospitality Room Open (at hotel)

### Saturday – September 21<sup>st</sup> (at Mendota Civic Center)

#### Morning:

- 06:00a – Registration Open
- 06:00a – 08:00a – Swap Meet set up
- 08:00a – 09:30a – Annual Business Meeting (all members are encouraged to attend)
  - **Swap Meet room closed to ALL during Annual Meeting**
- 09:30a – 01:00p – Swap Meet
- 09:30a – 04:00p – Model/Photo Display

#### Afternoon:

- Lunch (box lunches provided [selected when you register] or on your own)
- Clinics (starting at 01:30p) – presentation order may vary
  - 01:30p – “The Burlington in Mendota” – Leo Phillipp
  - 02:30p – “Towers – Aurora to Galesburg” – Steven Holding
  - 03:30p – “Navigating the BRHS Website” – Jack Schroeder
  - 04:30p – “BRHS and SmugMug” and “An Archive Update” – Rich Gortowski & Jim Singer

#### Evening

- 06:00p – 07:00p – Social Hour
- 07:00p – 08:30p – Banquet/Raffles/Awards
- 08:30p - Keynote Speaker – “#4978 Big Move” – Mike Cerveny

\* Museum rail cars are not handicap accessible

**Please retain this page for reference.**



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## Pricing & Registration

Please fill out pages 5 and 6 and return with your registration

OR

Online registration is available via the BRHS website  
([www.BurlingtonRoute.org](http://www.BurlingtonRoute.org)).

	# ATTEND	COST	TOTAL
<b>Full Fare</b> (includes ALL events)	___	\$140.00	\$_____
<b>Thursday Activities</b>			
<b>Reception</b> (no cost but number requested for planning purposes)	___	N/C	N/C
<b>Friday Activities</b> (ONLY if not using Full Fare)			
Bus Trip Only	___	\$55.00	\$_____
<b>Saturday Activities</b> (ONLY if not using Full Fare)			
Day Fare (Swap Meet and Clinics)	___	\$45.00	\$_____
Banquet Only	___	\$55.00	\$_____
<b>Swap Meet Tables</b> (Minimum "Saturday Day Fare" Required)			
Members (please include Member # on registration – membership will be verified!)	___	\$10.00	\$_____
Non-Members	___	\$20.00	\$_____
<b>Total Amount Due</b>			\$_____

Please Note: Checks for mailed registrations will not be deposited until after the event.

**No Refunds after September 6, 2024**



# Burlington Route Historical Society



## Registration Information

\*Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Member Number: \_\_\_\_\_ (required for Swap Tables)

\*City: \_\_\_\_\_ \*State: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

(used for registration confirmation only!)

### Meal Selections

Friday Lunch (Bus Only): \_\_\_ \* 1/4 Light (Breast/Wing) \_\_\_ 1/4 Dark (Thigh/Leg)

Saturday Lunch: Ham: \_\_\_ \* Turkey: \_\_\_ Tuna: \_\_\_ None: \_\_\_

\* - DEFAULT Selections

I am willing to volunteer time to help at the meet: Yes \_\_\_ / No \_\_\_

I/we will be arriving/departing Mendota via Amtrak: Yes \_\_\_ / No \_\_\_

Arrive: Date: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ Train #: \_\_\_

Depart: Date: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ Train #: \_\_\_

## Guest Registration Information

Guest Name: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Friday Lunch (Bus Only): \_\_\_ \* 1/4 Light (Breast/Wing) \_\_\_ 1/4 Dark (Thigh/Leg)

Saturday Lunch: Ham: \_\_\_ \* Turkey: \_\_\_ Tuna: \_\_\_ None: \_\_\_

Guest Name: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Friday Lunch (Bus Only): \_\_\_ \* 1/4 Light (Breast/Wing) \_\_\_ 1/4 Dark (Thigh/Leg)

Saturday Lunch: Ham: \_\_\_ \* Turkey: \_\_\_ Tuna: \_\_\_ None: \_\_\_

For more than two guests, include additional pages

### Mail Registration To:

(Must be RECEIVED by Wednesday, September 6, 2024)

BRHS 2024 Annual Meet

P.O. Box 93

Zumbrota, MN 55992