



The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Historical Society Martinsburg, West Virginia Annual Convention Oct. 2– Oct. 5, 2025

The Officers and Directors of the Society invite and encourage you to attend the 2025 Martinsburg, West Virginia, Convention from **Thursday, October 2 to Sunday, October 5, 2025**, and visit a historic section of the B&O Railroad. In 1842, the Railroad reached Martinsburg, West Virginia, where a roundhouse was built in 1849, along with other shop buildings. Martinsburg became a division point and the central maintenance facility between Baltimore and Cumberland. In 1862, the Confederate Army raided the city, destroying the depot, roundhouse, and shops. In 1866, the west roundhouse was built as a sixteen-sided building with a domed roof supported by an early, unique cast iron framing, and later, other associated buildings and a second roundhouse were built. The Martinsburg Roundhouse complex is a rare existing example of 19th-century industrial design and a National Historic Landmark. The roundhouse and shops will be included in the Friday tour. The roundhouse and shops were where the Great Railroad Strike of 1877 started before spreading to other states and cities. The Friday tour will also visit historic Harpers Ferry, where the B&O mainline crosses the Potomac River and the B&O branch line and former Winchester and Potomac Railroad joined the mainline. The tour will end with our boarding a MARC train at the Brunswick, Maryland passenger station to ride the main line to Martinsburg. We will cross the Potomac River at Harper's Ferry and ride on sections of the original main stem.

On Thursday evening, Henry Freeman will provide a history of the Cumberland Division from Weverton to Orleans Road, Mike Shylanski will speak on Pearson Yard. On Friday evening, Greg Smith will present Cumberland Division slides and photographs from the archive's collection. Saturday will be a full day of presentations on the Washington County Branch, Magnolia Cutoff, the Sandman, the B&O Blockhouse Project of 1929, and John W. Garrett.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

NOTE: All events are subject to cancellation, substitution, or schedule change on short notice.

Thursday, October 2, 2025 (all hours are EDT)

- 1:30 – 4:00 PM: Board of Directors meeting at the Holiday Inn & Suites Martinsburg
- 3:30 – 5:30 PM and 7:00 – 10:30 PM: Convention registration at Holiday Inn & Suites Martinsburg
- 4:00 – 5:30 PM and 7:00 - 10:00 PM: Company Store Sales located at the Holiday Inn & Suites Martinsburg
- 5:00 – 7:15 PM: Dinner on your own
- 7:30 – 10:00 PM: Evening Presentation:
 - Henry Freeman: **The History of the Cumberland Division: from Weverton to Orleans Road**
 - Mike Shylanski: **Pearson Yard and the General Motors facility**

Friday, October 3, 2025

- 8:50 AM: Load buses
- 9:00 AM: Visit Martinsburg, Shenandoah Junction, Harpers Ferry, WV, and other B&O RR locations. End the day by riding on the B&O Railroad from Brunswick, MD to Martinsburg, WV, on the MARC train
- 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM: Lunch at Martinsburg
- 1:00 PM: Depart for Harper's Ferry and Shenandoah Junction
- 4:50 PM: Buses leave Harpers Ferry for the Brunswick, MD, passenger station
- 5:38 PM MARC train leaves Brunswick, Maryland, for Martinsburg, West Virginia
- 6:39 PM: Arrive at Martinsburg passenger station
- 7:00 PM: Arrive at the hotel and have dinner on your own. The hotel restaurant will have a buffet with chicken or fish entrees, salad, a vegetable, starch, dessert, and coffee or tea for \$16.95 plus tax and gratuity.
- 8:30 - 10:00 PM: Company Store Sales
- 8:30 – 9:30 PM: Evening presentation
 - Greg Smith: **Cumberland Division slides and photographs**

Saturday, October 4, 2025 (there will be a break between presentations)

- 8:45 AM – 5:00 PM: Company Store Sales will be open during the day
- 8:45 AM: Randy Anderson: **Washington County Branch**
- 10:10 AM: Henry Freeman: **The Magnolia Cutoff**
- 11:20 AM: Greg Smith: **The Last Days of the Sandman: Conclusion of 100 Years of Freight Trains**
- 12:20 PM - 1:20 PM: Break for lunch
- 1:25 PM: Sharon Harwood: **Lost and Found: The B&O Civil War Blockhouse Project of 1929**
- 2:30 PM: Kathleen Waters Sander: **John W. Garrett**
- 3:35 PM: **Annual Business Meeting**
- 5:45 – 6:15 PM: Cash bar and socializing before the banquet in the area adjacent to the banquet room
- 6:30 - 9:30 PM: Banquet followed by presentation:
 - 8:00 PM: **TBD**

Sunday, September 5, 2023

- 9:00 AM: Visit Harper's Ferry National Park on your own
- 10:00 AM: Randy Anderson will lead a tour of the Washington County Branch with members using personal transportation.
- 12:00 AM: The Martinsburg Roundhouse Museum will be open for members to visit



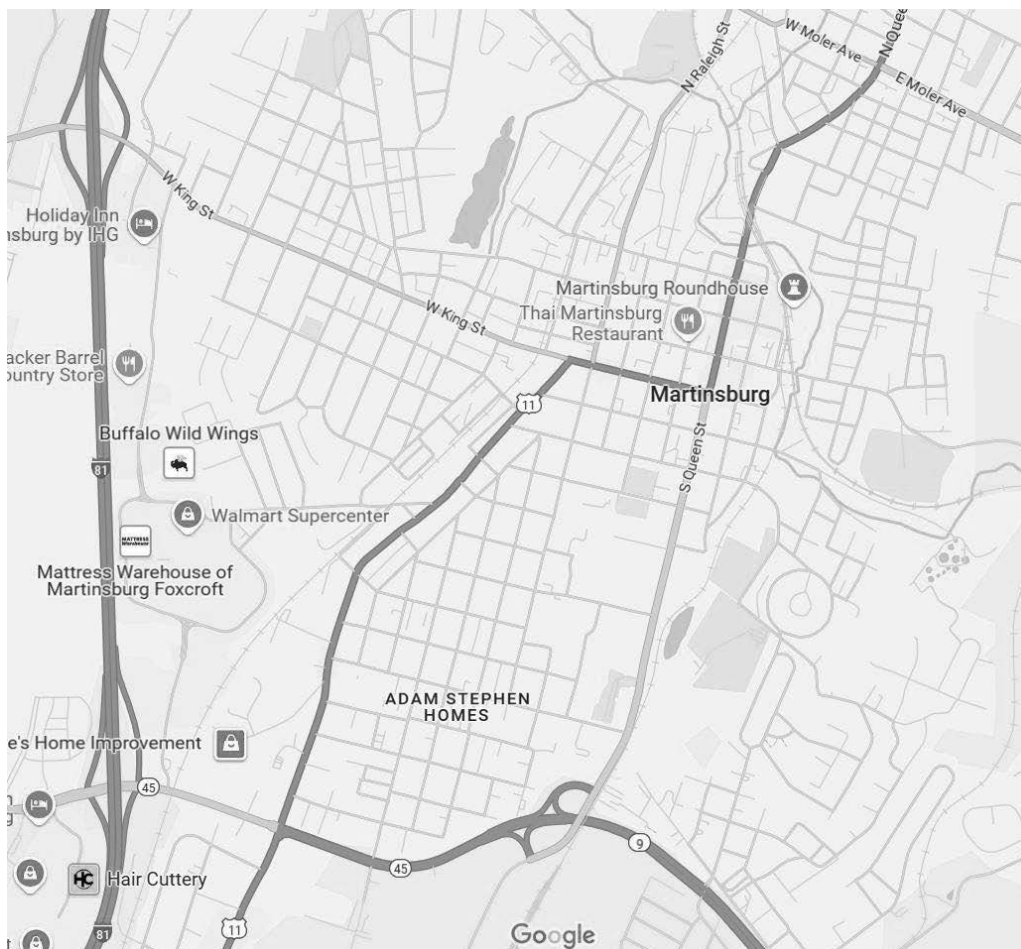
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➤ CONVENTION HOTEL AND DIRECTIONS

The **Holiday Inn Martinsburg, 301 Foxcroft Avenue, Martinsburg, West Virginia**, is the convention headquarters hotel, and it will be the location for registration, presentations, and the model/photo display. The Society **hotel room rate is \$134.00** per night plus 14 % tax for a standard room, including the full breakfast buffet. The hotel parking is free. Reservations are made by calling the hotel directly at **1-304-267-5500** or Guest Services at **1-800-465-4329**. Please state that the reservation is for block code **BOH**, the code for the **Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Historical Society** block of sleeping rooms. **Please book your room reservation on or before September 10, 2025.** After that date, rooms reserved for our group block will be released and available only on a space-available basis. Based on availability, the group sleeping room rate will be honored one day before group arrival and one day after group departure.

Air and Rail Transportation:

- **Rail:** Amtrak's Floridian serves Martinsburg each day with the eastbound train scheduled at 11:01 AM (but often quite late) and the westbound train scheduled at 5:45 PM. MARC, Maryland rail commuter service, has three trains that run eastbound from Martinsburg to Washington, DC, in the morning and three westbound from Washington, DC to Martinsburg in the evening. MARC operates only Monday through Friday. The hotel is located two miles from the train station. On the registration form, indicate if you are traveling by train and your scheduled arrival time.
- **Air:** Martinsburg is served by 3 Washington-area airports. Dulles International Airport is 54 miles from Martinsburg. The next closest airport is Ronald Reagan National Airport, 80 miles away, but it may be a longer drive than Baltimore/Washington Airport, which is 94 miles, because of the congested Northern Virginia traffic. From Dulles, the car must have EZ-Pass to use VA Rt 267W, else use VA Rt 28N to VA Rt 7W.
- **Driving:** The hotel is conveniently located off I-81. Driving East or West on I-70, take Exit 26 onto I-81 south toward Roanoke. If driving south on I-81, take Exit 13 at County Route 15/West King Street, turn left onto West King, and turn first right onto Viking Way or at traffic light onto Foxcroft Drive. Viking leads directly to the hotel, else from Foxcroft take first right onto Viking Way then turning left to the hotel. If driving north on I-81, take Exit 13 at West King Street, turn right onto West King, and then the same as preceding. If driving WV Rt 9, continue to I-81: from westbound Rt 9, go north; from eastbound go south. If using WV Rt 45 Moler Ave, continue straight to I-81 and go south. For all driving, it is strongly suggested that you check a navigation system such as Maps/Google to obtain the best routing option for your preference.



QUESTIONS: For hotel, registration, or convention questions, please call Andy White at (301) 596-3845. Any messages left on the telephone voicemail will be promptly returned.



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CONVENTION MODEL AND PHOTO DISPLAYS

You are encouraged to bring your models and photos to share with fellow members. Bruce Elliott will be our Chief Administrator for the model and photo activity again this year.

There will be no judging, whether by popular vote or otherwise. Instead, modelers and photographers are encouraged, but certainly not required, to provide some information about their work, with the idea that there are probably other fellow modelers who are interested in their techniques. It is suggested that the information listed below be provided, for example, on a 4" x 6" index card. The data may be provided in a larger or smaller format, but 4"x 6" is suggested as being sufficient to contain the most important data and at the same time not taking up too much space. Downloading the card by going to the **EVENTS** tab on the Society website and scrolling to **FORMS** is recommended. Blank cards will be available at the convention, or you can e-mail Bruce Elliott at agelliott88@yahoo.com to request a template.

To help facilitate planning and make sure we have enough tables set up, you are encouraged to e-mail Bruce to let him know what you are bringing, especially if it involves any special requirements such as electrical outlets.

- Models and photos should represent a prototype of the B&O, a subsidiary, or a predecessor line.
- However, models of equipment that never existed but which might have under imaginary scenarios (e.g. a 2000's-era diesel lettered in traditional B&O colors) are welcome also.
- Models should demonstrate some aspect of the owner's modeling abilities, e.g. custom paint, scratch-built, kit-built, kit-bashed, assembled from a craftsman kit, detail parts, or interiors added, etc.
- Photos should be 8"x10", 8"x12", or 10"x12" in size. It is recommended that they be mounted, unframed, on mat board with the photographer's name, address, and phone number on the back. For the purposes of sharing, it is recommended that a 4"x 6" data card with the photographer's name, location, date, subject matter, and any relevant camera and/or film information be completed and positioned next to the photo. This is also important if we want to contact you to reproduce your photo in *The Sentinel*.
- Modelers consent to having their models moved, if necessary, to a location suitable for photography (with care, of course.) We will try to get DECENT photos since the lighting of models *in situ* is often suboptimal.
- All models and photos remain the property of the owner and must be removed from the display after the Saturday banquet dinner. The Society assumes no responsibility for loss, theft, or damages. Any models NOT so removed become the property of Bruce Elliott (just kidding to see if you were reading!).
- Displayed entries may be featured in *The Sentinel*.

Suggested information to be provided on a 4"x 6" data card to accompany each model:

- ✓ Road Number/Type of Equipment/Class (for a structure, type of structure and location)
- ✓ Origin of model (kit-built, scratch-built, kit-bashed—and what did you start with)
- ✓ Source of information
- ✓ Any unusual construction techniques to be shared
- ✓ Finish/decals
- ✓ Feel free to provide any drawings or other supplemental information
- ✓ Finally, and very importantly, modeler's identity and contact information

No more than five entries will be permitted per member for the photo display and five entries for the model display. This would allow a total of ten entries per member. If you have any additional questions about the above, please contact Bruce Elliott at agelliott88@yahoo.com. Let's have a robust turnout of models and photos this year!



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CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

******* CONVENTION REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 25, 2025 *******

Only members in good standing of the B&O RR Historical Society and members of the Chessie and CSX Historical Societies and their families, and approved exhibitors may attend the convention. Non-members may send in their registration form and request an application for membership at the same time (membership application forms are available on our website at borhs.org > Membership). This registration form is for one family only. Please complete a separate form for each family. Your payment must accompany this form. We must receive your registration by the date noted above to guarantee accommodation in convention activities. Preference for events will be given to members of record paying the full registration fee when submitting this form. Some events may have a limited capacity; space will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. **If you do not have your convention registration submitted by Thursday, September 25, 2025, you must contact Andy White at (301) 596-3845 to confirm availability.**

Mail registration form to:

B&ORHS, c/o Andy White, Convention Registration, 6240 Bright Plume, Columbia, MD 21044.

Member Name: _____ Membership #: _____

Additional Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone Number: (____) _____ - _____ E-mail Address: _____

IS THIS AN ADDRESS CHANGE? Yes ___ No ___ IF 'Yes', IS IT PERMANENT? Yes ___ No ___

___ Will be traveling by train with scheduled arrival time of ___:___ AM/PM

Selected Fee Total

REGISTRATION FEE:

The member must register and will receive the convention packet.

_____ @ \$45.⁰⁰ \$ _____

Pay an additional fee for each additional packet (the convention book and convention pin)

TOURS AND MEAL SELECTIONS – PLEASE INDICATE FOOD CHOICES:

- **FRIDAY, October 3, 2025: Visit Martinsburg, Harpers Ferry, WV, and other B&O RR locations. End the day by riding the B&O Railroad from Brunswick, MD to Martinsburg, WV on the MARC train.**

Lunch: Ham _____ Turkey _____ Veggie _____ # _____ @ \$68.⁰⁰ \$ _____
Includes: chips, cookies, soda, water

- **SATURDAY, October 4, 2025 – Presentations**

No charge; covered by Registration Fee @ \$00.⁰⁰ \$ 0

Banquet Dinner: Entrees consist of sliced roast beef or baked chicken breast with olive oil/herbs, including tossed garden salad, mixed vegetables, roasted redskin potatoes, rolls and butter, dessert, coffee (regular and decaf) or tea (hot and cold)

Dinner: Sliced Roast Beef _____ Herb Baked Chicken _____ # _____ @ \$28.⁰⁰ \$ _____

- **SUNDAY, October 5, 2025 – Guided tours using personal transportation** @ \$00.⁰⁰ \$ 0

GRAND TOTAL OF PAYMENT PROVIDED FOR CONVENTION ACTIVITIES: \$ _____

(Make check or money order payable to “B&O Railroad Historical Society”)

CREDIT CARD PAYMENT

US and Canada only. For MasterCard, VISA, Discover, or AmEx, please provide the information required below.

CARD # _____ Expiration: ____/____ (MM/YY)

Security Code []

Signature _____