

Texas Convention

September 2-6, 2005

CONVENTION HEADQUARTERS

The Marriott Houston Medical Center Hotel at 6580 Fannin Street, adjacent to Houston's new MetroRail line; and the Hampton Inn, in the West End of Dallas at 1015 Elm Street, near DART's Light Rail System, are conveniently located in the two traction capitals of Texas. These full-service hotels offer such amenities as fitness/exercise centers, swimming pools and remote-controlled color television with complimentary cable channels. Single, double and twin accommodations are priced at only \$69 plus tax per evening. Our annual movie/slide show and banquet will be held in private rooms at the Houston site.

FRIDAY NIGHT, SEPTEMBER 2

At 8 p.m. our annual movie/slide show will begin at the Marriott. Paul DeVerter, the dean of Houston traction historians, will present a talk with overhead slides and a rare 8 mm movie devoted to the Houston North Shore interurban line. He is the co-author of the CERA book on that subject, and can also be depended on to provide reminiscences of electric railway operation in Houston. Be with us to relive interurban memories from bygone days in Texas.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

Galveston will be the main focus of today's activities. Our chartered coach(es) will pick us up at 8:45 a.m. and take us to the Lone Star State's most famous seaport, located on the Gulf of Mexico. Diesel streetcars are now a major attraction in Galveston's tourist-oriented economy. Using steel-wheeled replicas, the line has been extended on several occasions, and has trackage both in the street and on reservation. We have scheduled a charter trip aboard the deck-roofed cars with a stop for lunch. On our return to Houston Paul DeVerter has offered to lead us along portions of the old Houston North Shore interurban, now a very active freight carrier, allowing our group to view various remnants of the former electric line, including the remains of its last interurban, car 524.

SATURDAY EVENING, SEPTEMBER 3

E. R. A.'s annual banquet will be held in a private room at the Marriott. An hour-long informal reception and cash bar will begin at 6:30 p.m. and dinner will follow promptly at 7:30. Our main guest speaker, Rich Krisak, a long-time railfan and transit professional, is currently Metro's Senior Director of Rail Operations. He will present an illustrated program about the reintroduction of streetcars in Houston and describe MetroRail's plans for the extension and expansion of light rail service. Before Rich speaks, Steve Baron, author of *Houston Electric*,

the definitive history of Houston's streetcar system, will present an illustrated talk about the long-abandoned local trolleys.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

Today we concentrate on Houston's brand new light rail system. The morning will be free for riding and photographing the 7.5-mile long line. We suggest you obtain a day pass (\$2.00) from the fare machines located near the hotel. We will gather at 12 noon at the Fannin South station (the southern terminal of the line), and then continue by foot to the Light Rail Storage and Maintenance Facility, to inspect the system's shop and test track. We will then return to the Marriott by LRV. Our chartered coach(es) will pick us up, along with our luggage, at 2 p.m., and then transport us to our hotel in Dallas, with a stop for lunch en route.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

Today is a very busy day, as we will be riding both the DART light rail system and the McKinney Avenue heritage streetcar line. We will board our private unique LRV at DART's West End station in the northbound direction bright and early at 8:00 a.m. The station is a short walk from our hotel. We will cover the northern portions of both the Red and Blue lines, as well as the new branch to the American Airlines Center at Victory station. In addition, we will visit the Texas Electric interurban museum in Plano. DART day tickets will be distributed to allow tour members to ride from Union Station back to City Place, where they can connect with the McKinney Avenue streetcar line. We have contracted with the McKinney Avenue Transit Authority to operate all their available rolling stock over the line starting at about 12:30, and our tour members will have continuous on and off privileges. This will allow you to ride and photograph the heritage cars (including the Tandy Subway PCC) to your heart's content, and still have time for lunch at one of the many eating establishments along the route. You will be able to walk back to the hotel from the inner end of the line or ride back from City Place.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6 (A Convention Extra)

The DART day pass issued on Monday will also be good on Tuesday, to allow tour members to complete their Dallas experience with rides on DART's two southern branches (and to revisit the entire system). Additionally, it will permit travel aboard the RDC cars of the Trinity Railway Express from Union Station to West Irving. Self-propelled RDCs currently operate during the morning into Union Station at 7:09, 8:31 and 10:39, and depart from there at 11:05. All other TRE service is provided by GO-Transit type double deck cars. Tickets for travel beyond West Irving to Fort Worth, where an interurban car is on display, will be available at extra charge from ticket vending machines.

Come to the Lone Star State for the big Labor Day weekend. Ride light rail lines and both diesel and electric streetcars. Stay over to cover Trinity Rail Express RDC and double-deck commuter rail operations. Join us!

SEND THIS COUPON TO:

Electric Railroaders' Association, Inc.
P. O. Box 3323
New York, N. Y. 10163-3323

Please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope with this coupon and make check or money order payable to the E. R. A. Thank you.

Yes, I plan to attend the E. R. A.'s 2005 convention in Houston and Dallas. Please send me tickets for the following events.

_____	Coach to Galveston and fantrip	Saturday, Sept. 3	\$34 each:	_____
_____	Banquet*	Saturday, Sept. 3	\$37 each:	_____
_____	Houston Shop Tour and Coach to Dallas	Sunday, Sept. 4	\$31 each:	_____
_____	DART and McKinney Avenue fantrips	Monday, Sept. 5	\$32 each:	_____

--OR--

_____ COMBINATION TICKET FOR ALL OF THE ABOVE \$120 each: _____

*Check here if you want to substitute Fish or Vegetarian for Chicken *TOTAL* _____

I will will not be staying at the Marriott in Houston.

I will will not be staying at the Hampton Inn in Dallas.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER _____

Please send the following coupon to: **Marriott Houston Medical Center Hotel, 6580 Fannin Street, Houston, TX 77030**, or call **1-713-796-0080**. Your reservation must be received by **August 5**. (Note: If you are proceeding to Dallas by ERA coach, your departure date will be September 4.)

HOTEL RESERVATION REQUEST

ELECTRIC RAILROADERS' ASSOCIATION

NAME: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

BUSINESS TELEPHONE: _____ HOME TELEPHONE: _____

ROOM TYPE: _____ SINGLE (1 PERSON) \$69 ARRIVAL DATE: _____

_____ TWIN (2 PERSONS, 2 BEDS) \$69 DEPARTURE DATE: _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____ NAME OF PERSON SHARING ROOM (if applicable) _____

CREDIT CARD GUARANTEE: AMERICAN EXPRESS MASTER CARD
 DISCOVER VISA DINERS CLUB

CREDIT CARD NUMBER: _____

EXPIRATION DATE: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

DEPOSIT REQUIREMENTS: To guarantee your reservation you must send a one-night's deposit. If you are not using a credit card, please enclose a check or money order payable to the MARRIOTT HOUSTON MEDICAL CENTER HOTEL with this coupon.

CANCELLATIONS: Cancellations must be received 72 hours prior to arrival for refund. Your cancellation number should be kept for reference.

MARRIOTT HOUSTON MEDICAL CENTER HOTEL 6580 Fannin Street Houston, TX 77030 (713) 796-0080

Please send the following coupon to: Hampton Inn Dallas West End, 1015 Elm Street, Dallas, TX 75202, or call 1-214-742-5678. Your reservation must be received by August 5. (Note: If you are arriving on the ERA coach from Houston, your arrival date will be September 4.)

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CANCELLATIONS: Cancellations must be received 72 hours prior to arrival for refund. Your cancellation number should be kept for reference.

HAMPTON INN DALLAS WEST END □ 1015 Elm Street □ Dallas, TX 75202 □ 214-742-5678