

**Burlington
Route**

Burlington Route Historical Society

Information and Registration

**Burlington
Route**

Annual Meet Burlington, Iowa September 10-12, 2026



Meet Location: Great River Casino Resort

Hotel: Hampton Inn & Suites

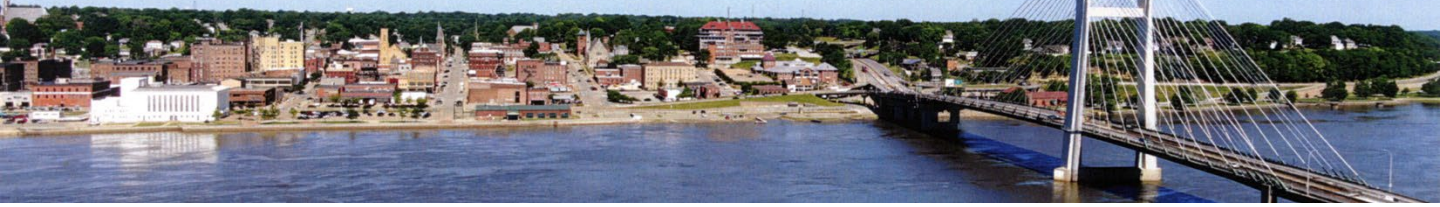
3001 Winegard Drive

Burlington, IA 52601

Phone: (319) 237-0700

The block name is "BRHS Meet"

[Make Hotel Reservations Here](#)



Burlington, Iowa, Railroad History

Burlington, Iowa, is one of the Midwest's most important railroad towns, with its story rooted in the mid-19th-century expansion of railroads across the western frontier.

Founding and Early Operations

The city's railroad history began in 1852 when the **Burlington and Missouri River Railroad (B&MRR)** was incorporated in Burlington itself. The goal was to build a trans-Iowa line connecting the Mississippi River to the Missouri River. The CB&Q reached East Burlington in 1855, and operations on the B&MRR began on **January 1, 1856**, with only a few miles of track. By 1857, the line reached Ottumwa, and by 1868 it extended to Osceola. The final stretch to the Missouri River was completed on January 1, 1870. The B&MR used wood-burning locomotives and wooden passenger cars, serving freight and passengers alike.

Strategic Location and Growth

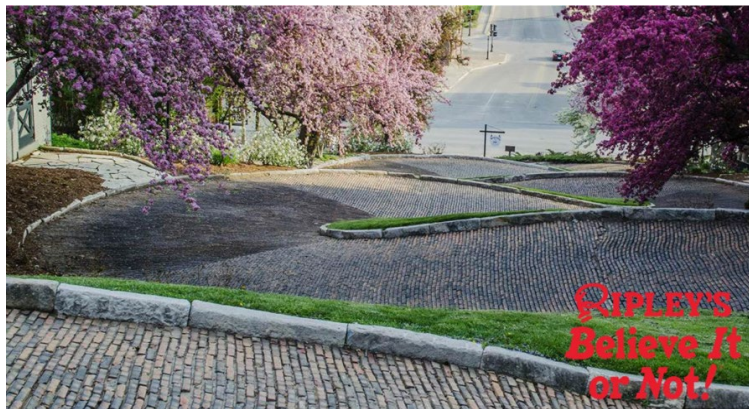
Burlington's position along the Mississippi River made it a natural junction for river and rail traffic. The arrival of the B&MRR transformed the city into a hub for grain, livestock, lumber, and manufactured goods. Passenger trains carried settlers, entrepreneurs, and travelers, while freight trains moved agricultural products to markets.

Integration with the CB&Q

In 1872, the B&MRR was acquired by the **Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad (CB&Q)**, which was headquartered in Burlington for many years led by Charles E. Perkins. The CB&Q expanded the B&MRR's reach, linking it to the Union Pacific at Kearney, Nebraska, on September 18, 1872, and later that year to Denver. The CB&Q's presence brought skilled workers, technological advances, and economic prosperity to the city. To read a complete history, see our *Burlington Bulletin* No. 23, available for purchase at the swap.

Be sure to see Snake Alley

Did you know, Snake Alley is one of the most unbelievable spots in America, on the Mississippi River in Southeast Iowa? Situated in the community of Burlington, is the town's most famous landmark. Here, at Ripley's Believe It or Not! we are officially calling Snake Alley one of the most unbelievable, curious spots in America! But wait, WHY? Well, picture this: Snake Alley consists of five half-curves and two quarter-curves! Believe it or not, that only spans 275 feet (one block), which means the alley was quite complicated to build. To drive down it (one way) Go to the intersection of Columbia St. and N. 6th or GPS here: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/gW37n8ZtSVFes3H8A>



Burlington Route Historical Society

Schedule of Events

Thursday (September 10, 2026)

- 10:28 a.m. – Shuttle for Guests arriving on the eastbound *California Zephyr*
- 5:00 p.m. – Meet & Greet and registration check-in at Hampton Inn Breakfast Room
- 5:34 p.m. – Shuttle for Guests arriving on the westbound *California Zephyr*

Friday (September 11, 2026)

- 6:30 a.m. – 7:30 a.m. – Registration Open at Hampton Inn Breakfast Room
- 7:45 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. – Bus Boarding at Hampton Inn
- 8:00 a.m. – 5:45 p.m. – Southeast Iowa Depot Tour & Lunch (see next page)
- 10:28 a.m. – Shuttle for Guests arriving on the eastbound *California Zephyr*
- 5:34 p.m. – Shuttle for Guests arriving on the westbound *California Zephyr*
- 5:45 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. – Dinner on your own
- 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. – Early Swap Meet Set-up in Hall A of the Convention Center
- 6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. – Burlington Model Railroad Engineer's Society Layout, near Gladstone, Ill.
(9.6 miles east of the Hampton Inn maps will be provided for carpooling)

Saturday (September 12, 2026)

- 6:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. - Swap set-up in Hall A of the Convention Center
- 7:00 a.m. – Registration Open at Convention Center
- 8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. - Business Meeting (all members encouraged to attend)
Swap Meet Room closed during business meeting
- 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. - Swap Meet in Hall A
- 9:30 a.m. – 2:15 p.m. – Model/Photo Set-up & Display in Hall B-1
- 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. – Lunch Buffet (provided)
- 1:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. - Clinics in Hall B-1 & B-2
- 1:30 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. – Clinic 1 - (Tim Ewinger – "A Lifetime of Railroading")
- 2:15 p.m. – Pick up Models/Photos
- 2:30 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. – Clinic 2 - (Steve Holding - "Track Charts 101")
- 3:30 p.m. – 4:15 p.m. – Clinic 3 - (Leo Phillipp – "Passenger Train Crew Assignments @ BN")
- 4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. – Clinic 4 – (David Lotz) – "Narrow Gauge in Burlington?"
- 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. - Happy hour
- 7:00 p.m. - Buffet dinner
- Move to B Halls for Awards and Speaker (Terry Abrisz – "Burlington – The Heart of the CB&Q")

Sunday

Safe Travel Home – Thanks for attending!

- 8:00 – 11:00 – Board Meeting at the Hampton Inn
- 10:00 a.m. – Shuttle for Guests departing on the eastbound *California Zephyr*
- 5:00 p.m. – Shuttle for Guests departing on the westbound *California Zephyr*

For the Ladies

Although there are no formal activities planned, the Casino and Convention Center offers numerous activities located in the same complex as the meet hotel.



Burlington Route Historical Society



Friday SE Iowa Depot Tour Itinerary September 11, 2026

- 07:45 a.m. - Board bus – Hampton Inn
- Ft. Madison – CB&Q & Santa Fe (Amtrak) Depots
- Donnelson depot
- Farmington
 - Hel-Mart layout – doll houses – 3 block walk to photograph depot (now a private residence)
- Oakland Mills – CB&Q passenger shelter being restored
- Mt. Pleasant
 - Hy Vee Box Lunch
 - Yarmouth Narrow Gauge and Hillsborough Depots
 - Trolley rides - Midwest Electric Railway to Yarmouth depot
- Winfield Narrow Gauge depot
- New London
 - Dover Museum & Mt, Pilot Depot
- 5:45 p.m. - Arrive at Hampton Inn
- Evening - Dinner on your own
- 6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. - Burlington Model Railroad Engineer's Society Open House
1063 Third St, Gladstone, IL 61437 (20-minute drive – maps for carpooling)

Saturday Menu Options

Lunch

Assorted Sandwich Buffet

Honey Ham and American on Hogie Roll
 Roast Beef and cheddar in ciabatta
 Grilled Chicken Caesar wrap
 (Vegetarian and gluten free option is available)
 Freshly baked rolls and butter
 Pasta Salad, Soup de Jour
 Gourmet cookies and brownies
 Kettle Chips, pickle and condiments
 Beverage station regular and decaffeinated coffee, hot and iced tea

Evening Banquet

Catfish Bend Dinner Buffet

Domestic cheese board with crackers, etc.
 House Salad
 *Roasted sirloin of beef with demi glaze
 *Pulled pork with barbeque sauce
 *Cheese tortellini with roasted vegetables and light marinara
 Potato au gratin
 Roasted sweet corn, Green beans
 Assorted display desserts
 Beverage station regular and decaffeinated coffee, hot and iced tea
 * can be made gluten free – please specify choice on registration form.

Our Saturday Evening Keynote Speaker – Terry Abrisz

“Burlington, the Heart of the CB&Q”

Terry is a native of Burlington, a graduate of Burlington High School, Southeastern Community College and the University of Iowa with a B.A. in American History. After working in Wisconsin for 17 years, he returned to Burlington in 2014 and began presenting excellent monthly programs on the city's history, first at the Des Moines County Heritage Center and later at the Burlington Public Library.



Burlington Route Historical Society

Pricing & Registration



Please fill out the remaining pages and return with your registration

	# ATTEND	COST	TOTAL
Full Fare (includes ALL Thursday, Friday, Saturday events)	___	\$140.00	\$ ___
Thursday Activities			
Reception	___	N/C	N/C
Friday Activities (select ONLY if NOT using FULL FARE)			
Bus Trip Only	___	\$65.00	\$ ___
Bus Trip Box Lunch Selection: (Select one per rider) (Includes whole fruit, cookie, water) (Please let us know if you have dietary needs)			N/C
Ham (default)	___		
Turkey	___		
Roast Beef	___		
Saturday (select ONLY if NOT using FULL FARE)			
Swap Meet Only		\$10.00	\$ ___
Day Fare (Swap Meet, displays & clinics and banquet)	___	\$85.00	\$ ___
½ Day Fare (Swap Meet, displays & clinics ONLY)	___	\$30.00	\$ ___
Banquet Only (Let us know if you have dietary needs)	___	\$55.00	\$ ___
Swap Meet Tables – (Must pay Swap Meet Fare or higher)			
Members: (Please provide Member Number) _____	___	\$15.00	\$ ___
Non-Members:	___	\$20.00	\$ ___
Total Amount Due			\$ ___
If riding Amtrak please indicate the number of travelers and your arrival and departure dates and times here.	Arrival	Depart	# Riders

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

No Refunds after Friday, August 28, 2026

Registration Information

(Continued - please print legibly)



Name: _____

(as you want it to appear on your name tag)

Please enter guest (not you) information on back of this form.

City: _____ State: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

(used for registration confirmation only!)

Guest Information (as it will appear on their name tag)

Name: _____ City: _____ State: _____

Check your Friday Box Lunch Selection (for Full Fare or Friday Only Fare)

Select One: Ham (Default) _____ Turkey _____ Roast Beef _____ Gluten Free? _____

Guest Information (as it will appear on their name tag)

Name: _____ City: _____ State: _____

Check your Friday Box Lunch Selection (for Full Fare or Friday Only Fare)

Select One: Ham (Default) _____ Turkey _____ Roast Beef _____ Gluten Free? _____

Guest Information (as it will appear on their name tag)

Name: _____ City: _____ State: _____

Check your Friday Box Lunch Selection (for Full Fare or Friday Only Fare)

Select One: Ham (Default) _____ Turkey _____ Roast Beef _____ Gluten Free? _____

I am willing to volunteer time to help at the meet: Yes _____ No _____

If "YES" – I have a carpool vehicle for Friday Evening. How many passengers? _____

I'm not going to the Friday night layout and can help with Swap set up. _____

Can you shuttle folks from Amtrak, If so which train(s) _____

How else would you like to help? _____

Mail Registration To _____ or

Register Online

BRHS 2026 Annual Meet

<http://www.burlingtonroute.org>

P.O. Box 93

Zumbrota, MN 55992

Please Note: To ensure meals

All registrations **MUST** be RECEIVED no later than

Friday, August 28, 2026