

KATY RAILROAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2023 ANNUAL CONVENTION • APRIL 20-23 PALESTINE, TEXAS



Operating steam and diesel-powered excursions at the Texas State Railroad headquartered at Palestine, Texas. TSR website photos

Unfortunate delays with the Texas State Railroad in publishing its 2023 train schedules and ticket prices are addressed in this updated special information sheet. We apologize if you have been unable to order your ticket(s) from the TSR for the excursion.

To simplify ticket ordering for our Friday April 21st four-hour round trip from Palestine to Rusk, Texas (with one-hour layover), **order your ticket(s) directly from the KRHS.** We will ride as a group in a First-Class closed coach. Tickets cost \$65.00 each for the train trip and include a tasty box lunch. This is a special 10% group discount for the KRHS. Make your check payable to "KRHS" and mail before March 31st to KRHS, 22016 Senna Hills Drive, Garden Ridge, TX 78266. Or order your excursion ticket(s) online using PayPal at our KRHS website, www.katyrailroad.org.

Headquarters for the Katy Railroad Historical Society's 2023 annual convention at Palestine, Texas for the weekend of April 20-23, 2023 are the Comfort Suites, 301 Willow Creek Parkway, Palestine, TX 75801. Phone: **903-723-0284** to make your room reservations. Ask for the KRHS' room rate of \$100.80 per night, plus tax, for a single king bed, double occupancy. The rate for two queen beds is \$109.60 per night, plus tax. The cutoff date for our rates is March 19, 2023.

Thursday evening's 6:30 meet & greet session at the Comfort Suites will be followed a talk by Mr. Ben Campbell about the history of the I-GN at Palestine, including its control by the MK&T in the 1880s. Presentations every evening will focus on Katy operations in East Texas and on the system. Bruce Blalock and John

B. Charles will make special presentations on the Katy's steam-era operations at Galveston and its East Texas branch lines. Tom Palmer will present an updated Katy freight car clinic. Other activities will include our annual business meeting, a swap session where dealers are welcome, and our annual model contest. Visits on your own can be made to KRHS member Devin Jackson's extensive HO-scale Katy layout and to the Palestine Rail Heritage Museum. Schedules and directions will be available at our registration table.

Friday April 21st is our excursion on the historic Texas State Railroad (TSR). This railroad dates back to 1881 and was originally an industrial line built to transport raw materials for an iron smelter at Rusk, Texas. We will visit the TSR's engine house at Palestine after the trip. In the evening slide programs will be presented

Our Saturday evening April 22nd annual KRHS banquet, to be held between 5:30 and 7:30, has been moved to The Historic Palestine Event Center, 201 W. Crawford, Palestine, Texas. Our dinner, catered by the renowned Shep's Bar-B-Q, features brisket, sausage, beans, potato salad, bread, tea and a dessert.

We are honored to have as our after dinner guest speaker former M-K-T Executive Vice President—Financial Karl R. Ziebarth. Mr. and Mrs. Ziebarth will also join us for our Friday April 21st Texas State Railroad train trip. More outstanding slide and video presentations by members follow at the Comfort Inn.

Sunday is breakfast and farewells at the hotel until next year, then tour on your own and visit the local railroad attractions.



Mail this registration and ticket order form no later than March 31st to: KRHS Convention, 22016 Senna Hills Drive, Garden Ridge, TX 78266. Or register and make payment online at www.katyrailroad.org. If you have questions or concerns, contact Convention Co-Chairman Robert Barnett by e-mail at Barnett6@sbcglobal.net.

Name(s) _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____ e-mail _____

Registration fee: (\$70 per person, \$75 after March 31st) includes Thursday– Sunday activities and annual KRHS banquet. **April 21st train ticket & box lunch (\$65 ea.)** _____. Number for train trip and banquet _____. Number for Saturday banquet only **(\$40 per person)** _____. **Total amount Enclosed** _____. Make check payable to "KRHS." No confirmation can be mailed prior to the convention. Pick up your packet(s) at the KRHS' hotel registration table. Make reservations SOON.

HOTEL HEADQUARTERS INFORMATION

COMFORT SUITES

301 Willow Creek Parkway
Palestine, Texas 75801
Direct Phone: 903-723-0284

To receive our special room rate, call our Comfort Suites headquarters and ask for a room in the Katy Railroad Historical Society's block. Rooms are \$100.80 per night, for a single king bed, double occupancy, plus tax. The rate for two queen beds is \$109.60, plus tax. This rate is good until March 19th.

If you have questions regarding your room accommodations, contact the hotel directly. All other questions concerning the convention may be directed to Co-Chairman Robert Barnett by e-mail at Barnett6@sbcglobal.net.

On the way to or from our meet, the following railroad museums are offered:

Coupland Katy Depot Museum, Hoxie at Broad, Coupland, TX 78615. Visit <https://couplandtx.org/depotcaboose.html> for more information.

Elgin MKT/H&TC Depot Museum, 14 Depot Square, Elgin, TX 78621. Regular hours: Friday and Saturday 12 PM – 4 PM.

LaGrange Katy Depot Museum, 260 North Washington Street, La Grange, TX 78945. Phone: 979-206-3200. Hours: Saturday 10 AM – 4 PM.

Smithville Railroad Museum, 100 Northeast First, Smithville, TX 78957. Phone 512-237-2313. Hours: Monday–Friday 10 AM – 3 PM.

Rockdale I-GN Depot Museum, 11 Main Street, Rockdale, TX 76567. Hours: Saturday 10 AM – 4 PM and Sunday 1 PM – 4 PM.

New Braunfels Railroad Museum, 302 W. San Antonio St., New Braunfels, TX 78130. Phone: 830-627-2447. Hours: 12–4 PM Thursday – Monday.

Red River Railroad Museum, 124 W. Main Street, Denison, TX 75021. Open Thursday through Saturday 11 AM – 4 PM. Phone 903-463-5289.

Museum of the American Railroad, 8004 North Dallas Parkway #400, Frisco, TX 75034. Open Wednesday – Saturday 10 AM – 5 PM, and Sunday 12 – 5 PM. Phone: 214-428-0101.

We are grateful for the work of co-chairing our 2023 Palestine, Texas convention by Robert Barnett, Bruce Blalock and Mike Barnette.



Above: The Comfort Suites in Palestine, Texas is our 2023 KRHS convention headquarters.



The Comfort Suites is off of TX-256 Loop at 301 Willow Creek Parkway.

From the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex: Take US-175 East to Athens where you will merge onto TX-31 West/TX-7 Loop West. Stay in the right lane to take the TX-19/287 South ramp to Palestine. Turn right onto TX-256 Loop and right on Willow Creek Parkway.

From south central Texas: Take FM 2104 to US 290 West. Follow US 77 North to Rockdale, then US-79 North to Palestine. Turn right onto TX-256 Loop and right on Willow Creek Pkwy.

From Houston: Get on I-45 North to Huntsville where you get on TX-19 North and US-287 North to Palestine. Turn left onto TX-256 Loop and left onto Willow Creek Pkwy.

TRAVEL TIPS

AMTRAK:

The nearest Amtrak station is Mineola, Texas (55.78 miles from Palestine). This gives you an opportunity to travel on Nos. 21 and 22, Amtrak's Texas Eagle. Arrangements for a rental car at Mineola would be needed for the drive to Palestine.

AIR TRAVEL:

The nearest airport to Palestine is Pounds Regional Airport in Tyler, Texas that is served by American Skywest Airlines/American Eagle. Arrangements for a rental car at Tyler would be needed for the drive to Palestine.

Please check or complete all that apply.

I would like to reserve space to sell Katy or other train memorabilia or models on Thursday or Friday evening.

I will be entering the Friday Model Contest.

For Thursday, Friday or Saturday nights I plan to bring: Slides; Videos; Movies. A Carousel slide projector, digital projector, and video equipment will be available each night.

I would like to contribute a door prize(s) for the banquet. Description: _____

I require special assistance. Please explain: _____

I want to volunteer to help during the KRHS' Palestine, Texas, Convention. (Thank You!)