

SWITCHER

February 2026

The Journal of the Lionel® Operating Train Society

Vol. 47 No. 1



LOTS 2026 Convention Car Order Form



The LOTS 2026 Convention Car pays homage to one of the nation's Class I railroads. The New York Central (NYC) operated from 1853 until 1968 when it merged with the Pennsylvania railroad. This year's offering features the famous art deco Buffalo Central Terminal train station. The station was built in 1929 and served the Buffalo area for just over 50 years. The car is decorated with the NYC

cigar band logo along with an image of the Buffalo Central Terminal station. Behind the station is a map of the NYC system. The "Water Level Route" slogan was famous for NYC trains operating east of Buffalo with portions running alongside the Hudson River. This car is a must for all operators or collectors. Order yours today! The 6464 sized Lionel-manufactured car is 10 1/4" long and features a stamped metal frame, metal brake wheel, and die-cast trucks with operating couplers. It is designed to operate on O-27 or larger curves.

Deadline to order April 1, 2026! Anticipated Delivery: August 2026

SPECIAL OFFER - Order one NYC Buffalo Central Terminal boxcar and purchase the cars listed below at a discounted cost of \$65 each, price includes S&H. Discounted cars will ship 5-7 business days after your order is processed. The anticipated delivery of the NYC Buffalo Central Terminal boxcar is August 2026.

QUANTITY DESIRED: NYC Buffalo Central Terminal Boxcar - includes S&H! x \$99.99 \$

SPECIAL OFFER: Samuel Adams Zephyr Boxcar x \$65.00 \$
 Joshua Dairy Car CPKC Sunflower Tank **SUBTOTAL:** \$

Sales Tax (OH): Ohio residents must add 7.8% sales tax. **Subtotal =** x \$.078 \$

Postage Required: Canadian/Alaskan/Hawaiian residents – add \$20 extra per car. \$
All other foreign members – add \$25 per car.

Total (if paying with a check): \$

Credit Card Fee: 3% convenience fee due, if paying with a credit card. **Total:** x .03 \$

Grand Total Due (if paying with a credit card): \$

Type of Payment (U.S. Funds Only): ☐ Check # ☐ Money Order ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover
If check or money order, make remittance payable to "LOTS" (U.S. dollars only.) All payments will be processed upon receipt, not when shipped. All orders are final - no refunds will be issued. Anticipated shipping date is August 2026, or sooner, if possible.

Billing Address (if paying with credit card):

Credit card number: Expiration Date: CVV #:

Name on card (please print): Signature: Date:

By my signature, I authorize LOTS to charge my credit card account for the amount indicated above.

Shipping Address: Please circle one: **Residential** **Commercial/Business**

Name: Member Number:

Street or P.O. Box: E-mail:

City: State: Zip: Phone No:

Orders accepted online at www.lots-trains.org, or mail your order to:
LOTS – 2026 Convention Car Order, 6376 W Fork Road, Cincinnati, OH 45247-5704
(Form may be photocopied)

SHUFFLE OFF TO BUFFALO WITH LOTS!

A time to celebrate anniversaries! The 250th birthday of the USA, the 200th anniversary of the Erie Canal, and the 47th Annual Convention of LOTS! Make your plans now to join us in Buffalo, NY from July 5-11, 2026 to celebrate all that Western New York has to offer.

Buffalo was incorporated in 1810 with settlers flocking to the area after the Revolutionary War. Burned by the British and rebuilt after the War of 1812, the city experienced an economic boom when the Erie Canal was completed in 1825. Known as the “Gateway to The West”, Buffalo was the link between New York City and the the Great Lakes, opening the Midwest to trade. What had been a sleepy village quickly grew to an economic and industrial powerhouse.

The 1901 Pan-American Exhibition (where President McKinley was assassinated) paid homage to Buffalo’s importance. (2026 is the 125th anniversary of the exhibition.) Buffalo earned the title “City of Lights” by being an early adopter of electricity generated from Niagara Falls. A post-WWII decline in the city’s industrial base has been largely overcome by recent efforts at revitalization.

Our convention hotel is the luxurious Buffalo Marriott Niagara located at 1340 Millersport Hwy., Amherst, NY.

Located just NE of Buffalo, our hotel is centrally located near many of the attractions we will visit during our

convention week. Having recently completed a renovation, the hotel has an indoor/outdoor pool, fitness center and loads of free parking. Your room will feature plush bedding, a flatscreen TV, free Wi-

Fi access, coffee makers, and a mini-fridge. The BlueFire Bar and Grille is a great space to enjoy a meal or sip a drink with some of



your train buddies. Our preferred room rate is \$159.00 for single to quad occupancy (no extra charge for children under 18 years.)

Reservations are being accepted now at 800-228-9290. Tell the hotel that you are with LOTS and give the group code BBEBBEB (LOTS - HPN)

to receive the group rate. Reservations must be received by June 8, 2026 and will be available thereafter only on a space and rate availability basis.

Our **Buffalo-Niagara Model Train Show** will be held on Saturday, July 11 at the Marriott. The show be open to the public from 9 am to 2:30 pm but will open to convention registrants at 8:30 am to get first shot at all the bargains. A highlight of every train meet, our train drag racing track will be

set up for you to compete for the title of fastest loco in Buffalo.

If you have any questions or require additional information not contained in this brochure, please call Paula Smith at 513-598-8240 or email Scott Kuntz at scktrains@aol.com.



Tour #1: Buffalo Transportation Pierce Arrow Museum, Hofbrauhaus, and City Sites Tour

Monday, July 6. Time: 9:00 am–5:00 pm
Adults: \$125, Children: \$115

Buffalo Transportation Pierce-Arrow Museum. Join us to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the Pierce-Arrow Motor Car Company. Our journey starts off with an international flair as we board our authentic English double-decker bus at the hotel and head to the museum perched high over traffic.



Manufactured in Buffalo from 1901-1938, Pierce-Arrows were lavish, hand-crafted vehicles that incorporated many innovations into their designs.



The choice of royalty, tycoons and Hollywood's elite, Pierce-Arrows were the official White House vehicle for presidents from Howard Taft to

Franklin D. Roosevelt, and the vehicle of choice for John D. Rockefeller, J. Edgar Hoover, Orville Wright, Babe Ruth, Ginger Rogers, and Charlie Chaplin, among many other luminaries of the period

During our visit, you will see many of these impressive cars. The company also built bicycles and motorcycles in its early years. In later years, the line expanded to include trucks, buses and travel campers, all of which are highly collectible today.



Due to quality of construction and length of their frames, some Pierce-Arrows were converted to other uses. One noteworthy example is the Rio Grande Southern Railroad's conversion of five Pierce-Arrows into its *Galloping Goose* motorized railcars (seen during our 2017 Denver convention.)

During our **behind-the-scenes tour**, you will enjoy a wide variety of collectible cars and automobilia, much of which is not regularly on display. Also included is an extensive collection of mint post-war Lionel trains never before shown to the public. Perhaps the most unusual display is a life-sized "gas station of the future" designed by Frank Lloyd Wright later in his career – the only one ever built from his plans.

City Sites Tour. After lunch, we will reboard our double-decker bus and be greeted by our tour guide, Officer O'Connor (a reincarnated Irish cop from the 1800s), who will bring to life many of the hidden stories and history of Buffalo. We'll see the Naval and Military Park (home to a guided

missile cruiser, destroyer, and WWII submarine), Millionaire's Row, the notorious Canal District, and



other quirky highlights of Buffalo's past from a decidedly unique perspective. Among these is the Buffalo State Asylum for the Insane, a National Historic

Landmark built in the Richardson Romanesque style with grounds designed by Fredrick Law Olmstead. Formerly abandoned, parts of the complex are being redeveloped into a hotel and museum.

Lunch. Continuing with our international theme, lunch will be served at the *Hofbräuhaus Buffalo*. One of only a few beer gardens licensed in the US by the famous *Hofbräuhaus* of Munich, we'll enjoy authentic German atmosphere and a buffet featuring salad, potato pancakes, grilled chicken, spätzle, grilled pork sausages, mashed potatoes, and seasonal vegetables. The *Gemütlichkeit* will be flowing!

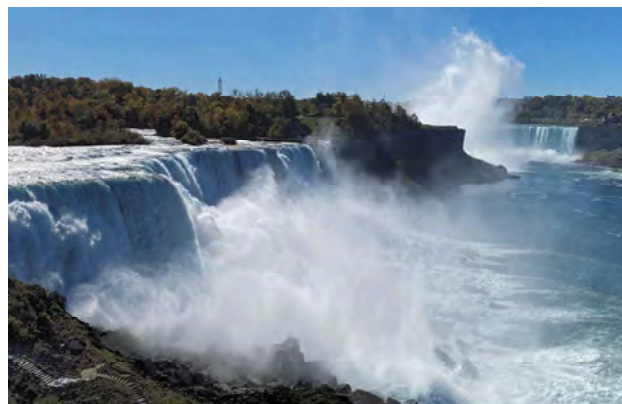
Note: This tour is limited to the first 60 people who register for the tour, so make sure to register early.

**Tour #2: Niagara Falls,
NYPA Vista Visitor's Center, and
Jim Zeames Layout**

Tuesday, July 8. Time: 7:45am–5:30 pm

Adults: \$88, Children: \$88

Niagara Falls. It may be a law that you have to visit Niagara Falls if you spend any time in Buffalo!



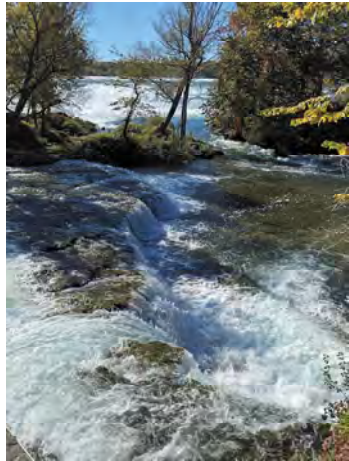
This natural wonder has drawn visitors for centuries and is a "must see" for people around the world. Our motor coach will whisk us to Niagara Falls State Park

where, after a brief wait in line, we will board the *Maid of the Mist* to experience the power and

majesty of the falls close up. While the cruise is fairly short, your memories will last a lifetime. For those who are adventurous, the *Maid* site provides access to a trail that leads up to part of the American Falls. For those less adventurous, the site also has a viewing platform that offers the best views of the falls from the American side.



After our cruise, you are free to explore the park on your own. Tickets will be provided to board a tram that will take you to the highlights of the park. Among the most popular sites are Goat Island stops including Three Sisters Islands (small islands where water rushes past just before taking a plunge over the Falls,) Terrapin Point (a great overlook of Horseshoe Falls,) and Stedman's Bluff (sweeping views of the American Falls.)



Niagara Power Vista Visitor's Center. At the visitors center, we'll be joined by Jim Zeames and his daughter to act as guides. Jim is a retired NYPA employee who served on the Illuminations Committee (the group responsible for lighting Niagara Falls at night) during his tenure with the company. The center does a wonderful job of explaining how power is generated using the Niagara River, how the US and Canada work together to maintain the river level, and (surprise) how the Falls don't actually play a role in the production of power. We may even learn how a railroad once ran where the dam now generates power for upstate New York!



Jim Zeames Layout. Jim diverts some of the energy he helped generate to power his well-crafted and wonderfully detailed layout. Everywhere you look, people are bustling about town, workers are getting jobs done, canoers are paddling down a river, and citizens are enjoying a beautiful



day. Jim's industrial background is evident in the number and variety of commercial activities on his layout. If you lived closer, you'd probably think about moving to this thriving metropolis.



Lunch. Lunch will be on your own at the food court of the Fashion Outlets at Niagara Falls. Be it Greek, Indian, Chinese, Italian, or Southern fried chicken, you'll be sure to find something to tickle your taste buds.

Note: You may get wet on board Maid of the Mist, so plan accordingly.

Tour #3: Jim Strom Layout, and Arcade and Attica Train Ride

*Wednesday, July 8. Time: 8:30 am– 4:30 pm
Adults: \$110, Children: \$105*

Jim Strom Layout. Jim is extremely active in the local train community having serving as President of the local TTOS division for many years. He also owns and operates RailTronix LLC, an authorized service station for most model train makers. Specializing in the repair or replacement of modern electronics in newer locomotives, Jim takes orders from not only the US but around the world for this technically demanding work. When you visit the layout, we'll twist Jim's arm to let us see the workshop where all the magic happens.



Jim's technical background is evident in the impressive pike he built. The layout is about 400 square feet and is nicely detailed.

A fan of the Southern Railroad, you'll find many Southern models lining the walls around his layout.

A muscle car and motorcycle enthusiast, Jim's layout is filled with vehicles, as is his garage where his life-sized collection is kept.



Arcade and Attica Railroad. The Arcade and Attica Railroad ("A&A") traces its history back to 1880 when the Pennsylvania RR acquired and merged several small (and often unfinished) short lines to serve farmers in the Alleghany River Valley. When

plans were announced to abandon the line in 1917, merchants and community members formed the

A&A, raising \$79,000 to buy part of the line and assure continued rail service. In 1962, the A&A started to run steam passenger excursions to offset



revenue losses from Freight service. One of the more unusual customers of the A&A was Attica Prison – home of an infamous riot in 1971.

The railroad continues to run both revenue and passenger excursion runs today over rails originally spiked in 1881. The A&A runs the only operating steam loco in New York State. No.18 is a 2-8-0 American locomotive acquired in 1962 from the Boyne City (MI) Railroad.

Lunch: We'll enjoy a buffet at Beer Justice Brewing Company in Arcade, NY (owned by a retired judge.) Our party menu includes pizza, Ceaser salad, veggie and fruit trays, cheese and meat trays, and tortilla chips with dips. Sip on soda or lemonade included with your meal, or try one of their great brews.

Get Acquainted Party:

Herschell Carrousel Factory Museum and Ice Cream Social

Wednesday, July 8. Time: 6:45pm -8:45pm

Adults: \$38, Children: \$30

Herschell Carrousel Factory Museum. Who can resist ice cream? Add in a piece of entertainment history and you have an event not to be missed.

Allen Herschell was the force behind a succession of four separate carrousel manufacturers that operated in North Tonawanda, NY. The Herschell Carrousel Factory Museum occupies the space of his last business – The Allan Herschell Company. Herschell was a

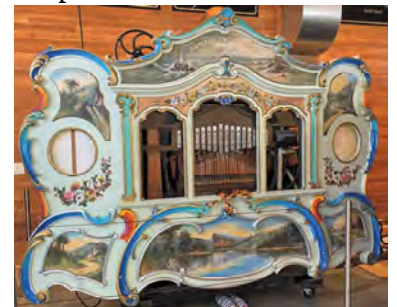
prolific manufacturer creating over 3,000 hand-carved wooden carrousels.



The company specialized in making portable rides used by traveling operators and earned a world-wide reputation for quality. Of the 148

hand-carved carrousels known to exist today in the US, 71 were made by companies associated with Allen Herschell.

During your visit, you'll see where the wooden horses were carved. We may even have a craftsman present to share his skills. The



museum also houses a collection of band organs that produced the music we associate with carrousels. Many were made by Wurlitzer which also had a factory in North Tonawanda. Also on display is the only known public display of equipment that produces paper music rolls. These

rolls create the music the band organs played and work similarly to player piano rolls. The museum maintains an impressive collection of 1,600 hand-punched music roll masters.

Tour #4: Home Layout Tours

Thursday, July 9. Time: 9:00am-5:15pm

Adults: \$75, Children: \$75

I recently read a post on the OGR Forum from noted hobbyist Marty Fitzhenry lauding Buffalo for the number of high quality layouts in the area. I'm sure you will agree after seeing all that this tour has to offer.

Lou Merzacco Layout. Lou's layout focuses on the western US, evoking images of the wide open spaces of Colorado and Utah. Lou built his first layout when he was nine years old and has been working on his craft ever since. A retired music teacher and musical director, Lou applied his attention to detail to his layout. Many of the bustling streets, automobiles and buildings represent personal memories. Measuring a hefty 750 square



feet, the general form of the current layout was built in about three weeks. Lou has had the joy of enhancing it ever since. Using FasTrack® track and remote switches helped to speed the construction process. Running mostly Lionel

products, some MTH is thrown in for fun. No particular time period is modeled – Lou runs whatever looks good to him. When the lights go out, this layout comes to life with lit buildings, streetlights, and auto headlights.

Frank Pastore Layout. Frank is an HO enthusiast of the highest order, having won multiple NMRA awards for his work. He describes his pike as an around-the-room shelf layout, although none of my

shelves looks this good and there is more than one room! At 52' x 27', there is plenty of space to run trains. And run he does – every other Tuesday



throughout the winter, modelers of all gauges join him to run trains in prototypical fashion. The layout generally models West Virginia and Frank has even

created his own railroad – the Allegheny Central. Many of his locos and rolling stock bear the markings of this mythical pike. Having so much space allows Frank to run really long coal drags that would be common sights in mountainous WV.

Frank Battaglia Layout. Frank is an icon in the model train industry, having been featured three separate times in national magazines such as OGR and CTT. Videos of Frank's current layout are featured on YouTube posted under "Tidewater312."



This is Frank's third layout and undoubtedly the most impressive. The first two were in the attic of his former home which provided lots of space but limited access. The first layout was lost to a fire which is dramatically described in the OGR Video *Up From the Ashes* (available on YouTube.) With help of many wonderful friends, the layout was



rebuilt in his old house and then relocated to his current home. Now situated in his basement, the layout is limited only by the size of his four walls. This pike was begun in 2001 and is beautifully detailed. Frank focused on scale realism with many of the buildings on his layout being custom built. Besides basement walls displaying

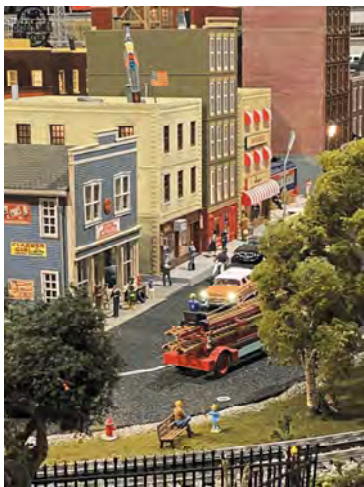
row upon rows of amazing trains, you see an original Lionel dealer display from 1955.

Paul Stengel Layout. Paul and Frank Battaglia are close friends and it shows in the similarities of their layouts. Both like BIG LAYOUTS (Paul's is 42' x 22'), both like lots of buildings, and both like plenty of detail.

Paul has a preference for big steam and owns many of the behemoth steamers that Lionel has

produced in recent years. UP and Santa Fe motive power appear regularly during running sessions.

The layout is modeled for the transition period



between steam and diesel so he has an excuse to run either on his pike. The detail is outstanding with many realistic scenes and humorous photo opportunities to be found. One notable example is a car being towed out of a pond with a "road closed" sign protruding through the front

windshield. A diverse abundance of diecast vehicles motoring about town screams that Paul's city is a vibrant place to live.

Lunch: Historic railroad photos are part of the décor at The IronTon. A classic neighborhood eatery, you can have your choice of a BLT sandwich, Ham and Cheese club, Cuban sandwich, roasted turkey with brie, or Veggie Salad. Tea and soda included.

Tour #5: Lockport Locks and Erie Canal Cruise, Al Zamorski Layout, and Kelly's Country Store

Friday, July 10. Time: 9:00am-5:15pm

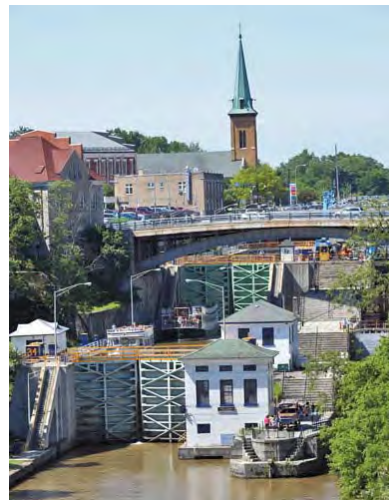
Adults: \$115, Children: \$110

Lockport Locks and Erie Canal Cruise. The Erie Canal runs east-west between the Hudson

River and Lake Erie. Completed in 1825, the canal was the first navigable waterway connecting the Atlantic Ocean to the upper Great Lakes above Niagara Falls, vastly reducing the costs of transporting people and goods across the Appalachians. The canal promoted the westward expansion of the United States and was a major driver in the economic ascendancy of New York State in general and Buffalo specifically. When constructed, the canal was deemed a landmark of civil engineering, traversing 363 miles with an elevation difference of 565 feet. To overcome this difference, 35 locks were built to raise and lower boats to the next level of the canal. The



canal's peak commercial year was 1855 with 33,000 commercial shipments. The canal and railroads were competitors through the 1800s with railroads gaining the upper hand by the end of the century. Commercial traffic declined further as the Interstate Highway System expanded, trucking became a viable option, and the St. Lawrence seaway was completed in 1959. Today, the canal is used mostly by recreational watercraft but has spawned numerous museums and parks along its path.

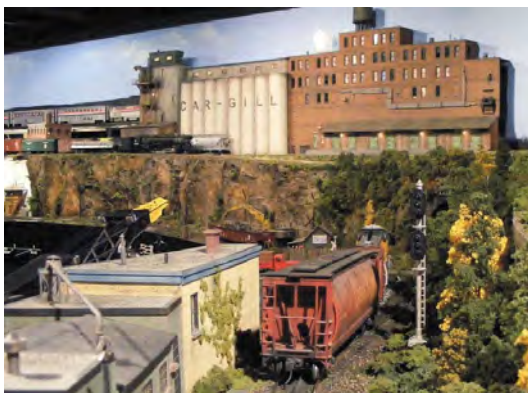


On our cruise, we will pass through Locks 34 & 35, the only double set of locks on the Erie Canal. As we pass thru, three million gallons of water will fill these locks, raising and lowering our boat 50 feet. We'll pass under Lockport's "Upside Down Bridge," the "Big Bridge" (the

widest bridge in the U.S. at 399 feet wide,) through the "deep rock cut" and under lift bridges in the quaint town of Lockport.

Al Zamorski layout. Al owns and operates Millhouse River Studio, makers of quality turntables and transfer tables. Made in the USA, these intricate products are hand-crafted and built from aluminum to last a lifetime. Al has applied his

manufacturing prowess and attention to detail to his layout. A fan of the Union Pacific, Al runs both Lionel and MTH products. The layout has two levels providing plenty of opportunity for some great tunnels.



A logging operation and large Cargill plant are prominent industries found on the layout. Al promises some new layout additions and surprises by the time we arrive this summer.

Kelly's Country Store. Kelly's is a fun and quirky country store located on Grand Island. From an old-fashioned candy counter to a Christmas in July display, you'll have opportunities to buy all sorts of mementos you



didn't know that you needed before arriving!

Lunch: We'll enjoy the Lockport Lunch buffet at Big

Ditch Brewing Company in historic Lockport. Lunch features fruit and vegetable displays, pinwheel turkey wraps, chicken Caesar wraps, fried green tomato wraps and a caprese salad. Coffee and soda are included.

LOTS Annual Business Meeting and Future Convention Site Preview

Thursday, July 9. Time: 8:00 pm

Buffalo Marriott Niagara, Ballrooms 2-3

Your officers will report on the club's activities during the past year and receive your input on various topics. A presentation about the LOTS 48th Annual Convention in Baltimore, Maryland will be given as well. Door prizes will be awarded. Free to ALL LOTS Members and guests.

Buffalo Niagara Model Train Show

Saturday, July 11. Time: 8:30 am-2:30pm

Buffalo Marriott Niagara, Ballrooms 1-5

LOTS members *registered for the convention* and their guests can attend the show free of charge beginning at 8:30 am. Join your fellow members for a chance to get some great bargains. At 11:00 am, join us for our model train drag races - a highlight of every LOTS convention.



Bring your own loco or borrow one of our loaners to compete. Door prizes will be awarded with tickets given to all who attend the show. Remember: Members *registered for the convention* get exclusive access to the show before the public, and non-registered members are admitted at 9:00 am!

LOTS Annual Banquet

Saturday, July 11. Time: 6:00-9:00 pm

Buffalo Marriott Niagara, Ballroom 5

Our annual banquet is a LOTS tradition where we get a chance to relive the memories of an amazing week and enjoy the company of a wonderful group of model train enthusiasts. A cash bar will be available beginning at 6:00 pm in the pre-function space outside of our ballroom with dinner served at 7:00 pm. Dinner will



be a buffet style meal featuring a mixed green salad, fruit salad with fresh berries, parmesan roasted red potatoes,

baked rigatoni, sliced sirloin with Bordelaise sauce, grilled chicken breast with fresh bruschetta & balsamic glaze, and vanilla cheesecake with caramel sauce.

Children's meals will be kid-friendly chicken tenders and French fries. As with all past LOTS banquets, door prizes, table favors, a silent auction, and unparalleled camaraderie are also included.



LOTS 2026 Annual Convention Registration Form

Special Offer: Register BEFORE April 1, 2026, and receive \$25 of LOTS Loot redeemable for LOTS merchandise, except membership dues, shipping and handling, sales tax, and raffle sales. The certificate will be included in your registration packet.

Member Name: _____ Phone # _____ LOTS # _____
 Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Email: _____ Arrival Date and Time: _____ Departure Date and Time: _____
 Via: Car Air Train Accommodations: Marriott Camping Local Willing to Volunteer? Yes or No
 Names of those attending the Convention: _____

Member Registration Fee: One fee covers the member, spouse or companion, all family members under 18 and includes one set of registration commemoratives. Must register by June 1, 2026			\$70	
Non-Member Registration Fee: One fee covers the non-member, spouse or companion, all family members under 18 and includes one set of registration commemoratives. Must register by June 1, 2026			\$100	
Guest/Extended Family or Friends (over 18 years of age) Registration Fee - No commemoratives:			\$10	
Monday, July 6 - Tour #1: Pierce-Arrow Museum, Hofbrauhaus and City Sites Tour	Adult		\$125	
	Child		\$115	
Tuesday, July 7 - Tour #2: Niagara Falls, Vista Visitor's Center and Jim Zeames Home Layout	Adult		\$88	
	Child		\$88	
Wednesday, July 8 - Tour #3: Jim Strom Home Layout and Arcade and Attica Railroad	Adult		\$110	
	Child		\$105	
Wednesday, July 8 - Get Acquainted Party - Herschell Carrousel Factory and Museum	Adult		\$38	
	Child		\$30	
Thursday, July 9 - Tour #4: Home Layout Tour	Adult		\$75	
→ Tour #4 Lunch Selection: ☐ Ham & Cheese Club ☐ BLT Sandwich ☐ Cuban Sandwich	Child		\$75	
☐ Turkey w Brie and apple sandwich ☐ Veggie Salad				
Friday, July 10 - Tour #5: Lockport Locks Boat Cruise and Al Zamorski Home Layout	Adult		\$115	
	Child		\$110	
Saturday, July 11: LOTS Annual Banquet (Buffet Style Meal)	Adult		\$75	
	Child		\$25	
Hard Plastic LOTS Membership Badge: ☐ Magnetic or ☐ Pin Fastener			\$20	
→ RM - ☐ Name: _____ City: _____ State: _____				
Convention Bar/Dangle for Membership Badge: "Buffalo, NY '26"			\$5	
		Total by Check:		
A 3% fee is due, if paying with a credit card.		Total _____ X .03 =		
		Grand Total Due:		

- Tours are not handicap-accessible. All tours are subject to change based upon demand and facility availability.
- **No personal vehicles are allowed to follow the buses - NO EXCEPTIONS!**
- Child: ages 2 - 12 years old. Children under 2 are free. Children under 2 must sit on an adult's lap during travel time and lunch is not available.
- **Do you need to cancel?** All refunds must be requested in writing to LOTS. No refunds will be given for registrations cancelled after June 15, 2025.
- LOTS Loot is good towards the purchase of anything from LOTS except membership dues, shipping and handling,

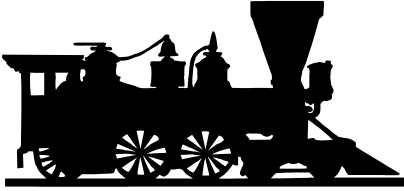
Type of Payment: ☐ **Check # _____ ☐ Money Order ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover
 Credit card number: _____ Expiration Date: _____ Sec Code: _____

Signature: _____ Billing Address: _____
 By my signature, I authorize LOTS to charge my credit card account for the amount indicated above. If check or money order: Payable to "LOTS" - US Dollars Only!

****If you want to have your bank mail a check directly, or are willing to download the app "Plaid" to pay with an electronic check, free of charge, via an online link, please call 513-598-8240 to register by phone.**

Mail to: **LOTS 2026 Convention, 6376 W Fork Road, Cincinnati, OH 45247** Register online at: **www.lots-trains.org**

Buffalo-Niagara Model Train Show



July 11, 2026: 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Buffalo Marriott Niagara Hotel

1340 Millersport Hwy, Amherst, NY 14221

The LOTS Annual Train Show will be held at Buffalo Marriott Niagara Hotel, 1340 Millersport Hwy, Amherst, NY 14221. Attendance to the show is free for all "registered" LOTS Members and their guests beginning at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, July 11, as long as they are wearing their 2026 Convention name badges. It's important to remember that only registered LOTS members get exclusive access to the show until 9:00 a.m.! Parking is free at the hotel.

Vendor tables (8' x 30") are available at \$39 each. **Register Early!! Tables will be assigned in the order they are received, starting closest to the entrance.** If you want your table next to another Member, please list their name as a special request below. Electrical hook-ups are available for a \$45 fee.

No flashing lights, sirens, blowing horns, etc. are allowed. All train items must be clearly marked and priced.

Unloading and set-up will be on Friday, July 10, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Saturday, July 11, from 6:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. No trading will be allowed during set-up times. Violators will be asked to leave and will not be allowed to sell at the meet.

Show Times: Saturday, July 11, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. (Registered LOTS Members have exclusive access from 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.) Several modular train groups will bring their large layouts to fill the 20,000 sq. foot hall with wailing whistles and clouds of smoke. **Train drag racing will begin at 11:00 a.m.**

Send this coupon along with your payment information (checks payable to "LOTS") to the address below.

(A 3% fee will be assessed when paying with a credit card.)

Name _____ LOTS Member #: _____ Date: _____
Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____
Phone: (____) _____ E-mail Address: _____
Arrival Date & Time: ____ Friday at _____ p.m. or ____ Saturday at _____ a.m. Cargo Trailer: ____ Yes ____ No
Description of sales items and special requests: _____

**Deadline to register:
June 1, 2026 -- or when
we are sold out!!**

Table(s) (8' x 30" w/ 1 chair): _____ @ \$ 39 = _____

Electricity: _____ @ \$ 45 = _____

Extra Vendor Buttons (2 are included): _____ @ \$ 5 = _____

Total: \$ _____

If paying by credit card: Total: _____ X .03 \$ _____

Grand Total Due: \$ _____

Type of Payment: ____ Check *payable to "LOTS"* ____ Money Order ____ Visa ____ MasterCard ____ Discover

Credit Card Number: _____ Exp Date: _____ CVV: _____

Billing Address: _____

By my signature, I authorize LOTS to charge the total amount due. Signature: _____ Date: _____

Send Form to: Buffalo-Niagara Model Train Show, c/o LOTS, 6376 W Fork Road, Cincinnati, OH 45247

If you have any questions, call Javen - 316-253-5918 or e-mail: lotstrainshow@gmail.com

Lionel Operating Train Society's 47th Annual Convention

Buffalo, New York July 5 - 11, 2026

Sunday, July 5

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm Member Registration – Salon A
8:15 pm - 10:00 pm Board of Director's Meeting – Ballroom I

Monday, July 6

9:00 am - 5:00 pm **Tour #1: Pierce-Arrow Museum, Hofbräuhaus, and Double-Decker Bus City Sites Tour**
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm Member Registration – Salon A

Tuesday, July 7

7:45 am - 5:30 pm **Tour #2: Niagara Falls - *Maid of the Mist*, Vista Visitor's Center, and Jim Zeames Home Layout**
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm Member Registration – Salon A

Wednesday, July 8

8:30 am - 4:30 pm **Tour #3: Jim Strom Home Layout, and Arcade and Attica Railroad Steam Train Excursion**
4:00 pm - 6:30 pm Member Registration – Salon A
6:45 pm - 8:45 pm **Get Acquainted Party - Herschell Carrousel Factory and Museum**

Thursday, July 9

9:00 am - 5:15 pm **Tour #4: Home Layout Tour**
5:00 pm - 6:00 pm Member Registration – Salon A
8:00 pm - 9:00 pm **2026 Annual Business Meeting and 2027 Convention Preview – Ballroom II**

Friday, July 10

9:00 am - 5:15 pm **Tour #5: Lockport Locks Cruise, Al Zamorski Home Layout and Kelly's Country Store**
11:00 am - 5:00 pm **Buffalo-Niagara Model Train Show Dealer Setup – Ballroom I-V**

Saturday, July 11

6:30 am - 8:30 am **Buffalo-Niagara Model Train Show Dealer Setup – Ballroom I-V**
8:30 am - 2:30 pm **Buffalo-Niagara Model Train Show – Ballroom I-V**
11:00 am **LOTS Annual Train Drag Race – Ballroom I-V**
6:00 pm - 7:00 pm **Cocktails and Cash Bar – Ballroom Pre-Function Area**
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm **Annual Banquet – Ballroom V**
10:00 pm Convention Closes. See you next year!

- Registration will not be open each morning. Please pick up your tickets and registration packet the night before your first tour, or call Paula Smith at 513-598-8240 to make other arrangements.
- All tours depart from the Buffalo Marriott Niagara Hotel Front Entrance.
- Boarding will begin as soon as the bus arrives (usually 15 minutes prior to the tour departure time).
- You must have a ticket to board.
- Front row seats are reserved for tour volunteers. No saving seats for others.
- Buses will leave at the scheduled departure time.
- If you are late you will miss out! No refunds will be issued.
- No personal vehicles are allowed to follow the tour buses. No exceptions.

Note: All Times are EDT (Eastern Daylight Saving Time)