

# The 2014 Hoosier Traction Meet

## What is it? When? and Where?

**On Friday–Saturday, September 5–6** in quiet western Indianapolis, the 31st HOOSIER TRACTION MEET is an annual educational conference recognizing mass transportation, especially electrically powered rail-based systems for urban and regional mobility in the past, present and future. Place-specific presentations typically focus on transit in IL, IN, IA, KY, MI, MN, MO, western NY, OH, ON, PA, WV or WI. Discussion of technologies or trends may draw examples from anywhere in North America or beyond.

**What is the format?** The Meet includes two aspects:

- 1 Anyone can visit the **exhibition** for free Friday 12 NOON–10 PM and Saturday 8 AM–4 PM EDT. Exhibitors offer items illustrating the principles and nature of mass transportation systems: photos, books, miniature models, timetables and other collectibles.
- 2 The hotel's 150-seat theatre-style auditorium hosts 10 different **audio-visual presentations**, some repeated to increase capacity (see the opposite panel). Speakers provide live narration along with photos or maps. Media and format may vary.

**What is the cost for the auditorium sessions?** You can purchase a ticket onsite for \$40 (cash, check or money order) valid for your admission to any or all auditorium presentations (subject to the theatre occupancy limit). You can select which sessions to attend and when to take meal breaks. *The same privileges now are half price by mail.* Please make check or money order for **\$19.50** payable to **Hoosier Traction Meet, Inc.** and mail in ample time to **Roy G. Benedict, 3511 N. Pittsburgh Ave., Chicago IL 60634-2837.**

**What are the accommodations?** Again our location is the *Clarion Hotel*, a no-smoking convention center at 2930 Waterfront Parkway West Dr., Indianapolis IN 46214. The Clarion offers rooms, if you guarantee your reservation with a major credit card or prepay by **August 10**, at a special rate (single or double) of \$72 per night plus tax. Call (317) 299-8400, 8 AM–5 PM EDT weekdays, ask for Group Sales, and mention the *Hoosier Traction Meet*.

**DRIVING DIRECTIONS:** From the west leg of I-465, the expressway belt around Indianapolis, take Exit 16A. At the first traffic signal go west onto U. S. 136, then drive 0.4 miles to the *second* Waterfront Parkway and turn right. The Clarion is in sight across the fields.

### 2014 auditorium sessions and speakers

Friday–Saturday, September 5–6

- Adjustments are possible. An updated Schedule of Events will be distributed at the greeters' table.
- You can personalize your meal breaks by skipping a "prepeat," a "repeat," or another session.
- Sessions typically last 1 to 1½ hours. "Stretch your legs" breaks (about 30 minutes) between most sessions.
- Last scheduled session ends about 10:30 PM Friday, 10 PM Saturday.

EASTERN DAYLIGHT TIME

- Fr 9:30 AM** only: **Chicago south suburban transit.** "Million Mile" operator **JOHN LEBEAU** tells us how the mass transportation needs of this large region have been met over the decades to the present.
- Fr 11:30 AM** prepeat, **Fr 3:30 PM** repeat: **Buckeye State samplings.** **KEN SCHRAMM** and **RICHARD ANDREWS** provide a look at various streetcar and other electric railway operations throughout Ohio.
- Fr 1:30 PM** prepeat, **Fr 5:30 PM** repeat: **Sesquicentennial of Indianapolis transit.** **DAVID MILLER** commemorates local transportation in the Meet's hometown, where track construction began 150 years ago.
- Fr 7:30 PM** only: **Current transit industry news, pt. 1** } Two different
- Fr 9:30 PM** only: **Current transit industry news, pt. 2** } sessions narrated by **CHARLES BOGART**, author of histories of streetcar systems in numerous Kentucky localities.
- Sa 8:30 AM** only: **Cleveland via Erie to Buffalo by trolley.** Author **KEN SPRINGIRTH** shows how you once could travel by interurban trolley routes along half the length of the Lake Erie shore—plus a side trip from Westfield (N. Y.) to Sheffield (Pa.). His 21 books include both railroad and trolley subjects.
- Sa 10:30 AM** prepeat, **Sa 4:30 PM** repeat: **Chicago's North Side 'L'.** **BRUCE G. MOFFAT** recounts its development, beginning with Charles Yerkes' battle with the city to extend rapid transit into the north side, followed by upgrading a steam railroad to extend 'L' trains into the suburbs. Also covered: Joint operations with steam-powered freights, electric interurbans, and the 'L's own electric freight.
- Sa 12:30 PM** prepeat, **Sa 6:30 PM** repeat: **Minneapolis–St. Paul streetcars.** **AARON ISAACS**, an author of *Twin Cities by Trolley*, tells us about past local transit in the Minnesota conurbation.
- Sa 2:30 PM** only: **A railfan's tour of the last three streetcar lines in Indianapolis.** **MARTY BIEMER** and **KEN HOUSER** present still photos depicting the final months of streetcar operation in the Hoosier State. Born, living and attending school along streetcar streets in Indianapolis, Ken began railroad and streetcar photography in 1943.
- Sa 8:30 PM** only: **A ride on the Lake Shore Electric.** **EARL W. CLARK** escorts us along the other half the length of Lake Erie—from Cleveland to Toledo—aboard one of the last classic interurban railways.

Issued May 2014 by Roy G. Benedict, registration manager

For your use en route, please download or print a copy of this page.

### EASY MAIL-IN COUPON • COME, PARTAKE AND PARTICIPATE IN THE 2014 HOOSIER TRACTION MEET

Your name in the form you prefer on your badge .....

Postal address .....

City, state, ZIP code .....

Email address, if we may use electronic communication in future (please print clearly) .....

**AUDITORIUM ADMISSION TICKETS**  
 ← How many persons attending any or all auditorium sessions (subject to occupancy limit) **Now 1/2 price preregistration, \$19.50 per person \$** .....

Names of the others, if more than one person will attend sessions .....

**TABLES FOR YOUR EXHIBIT**  
 ← How many tables (maximum 3 tables per exhibitor). Please enclose a description of your product line (up to 25 words including your name). Compliant with Indianapolis–Marion County code, Title IV, Chapter 951, Article III, space is **not** made available to exhibitors for the sale, exchange, or purchase of used or second hand goods. Table price **does not** include any auditorium admissions. **\$20 per table \$** .....

Names of the others, if more than one person will staff tables .....

Prefer table by .....

Exhibitors need ADA space  Need electricity

**TOTAL ENCLOSED Mail your registration now for the half price! → \$** .....

Please make your check or money order payable to: **Hoosier Traction Meet, Inc.**

Mail with this coupon to: **Roy G. Benedict**  
**3511 N. Pittsburgh Ave.**  
**Chicago IL 60634-2837**

Secure accommodations of your choice.

Arrange travel of your choice.

You may want to bring with you a copy of the accompanying information.

Come and enjoy the Meet! You don't need to bring any ticket.

For registrar's use:  
 Date received: .....

Amt. paid: .....

Form of paym't: .....

Deposit batch: .....

Coupon Tally  
**A**

Compare addr. list

Record on addr. list as prereg.

Email At–Near: .....

Badge no. **B**

Pre-validated

Record on exhib. list

## More information about the

# Hoosier Traction Meet

Friday-Saturday, September 5-6, 2014

- ★ Historical programs on classic traction
- ★ Presentations about current events
- ★ Exhibits

**Eastern Daylight Time** is in effect in Indianapolis and most of Indiana. When it's 4:00 in Indianapolis, it's 3:00 in Illinois and it's 4:00 in Ohio.



### Travel to the Meet

 (see the accompanying maps)

Indianapolis is accessible by Interstate highways 65, 69, 70, 74 and by ✈️ air. Amtrak, Greyhound and Hoosier Ride all reach the downtown Indianapolis Amtrak station. Taxis from there include Indianapolis Yellow Cab, (317) 487-7777. Distance to the Meet is under 9 miles.

Megabus delivers passengers to a downtown stop for IndyGo city bus 8 going west to Indianapolis International Airport every 30 minutes in daytime. Going directly to the airport are Star of America from Bloomington, Ind., Hoosier Shuttle from Fort Wayne, and Lafayette Limo.

Major car rental agencies have airport locations. We are 12 miles from the airport via I-70 east and I-465 north. Or, if you have reserved a room at the Clarion, a hotel shuttle is available until Sunday noon, except 6 AM-8 AM each day. Call (317) 299-8400 for pickup at the airport. Arrange at the hotel front desk for delivery to the airport.

### Dining near the Meet

Join your friends or make new friends and sample restaurants appealing to a variety of palates and wallets within a few miles.

Speedway Shopping Center and its neighbors 1.5 miles from the Meet include an MCL cafeteria (lunch and supper), a 24-hour Denny's, several other restaurants, supermarkets and pharmacies. See the accompanying map of western Indianapolis.

### Who operates the Meet?

Hoosier Traction Meet, Inc. is an Indiana nonprofit public benefit corporation. Its directors are Roy G. Benedict, Charles H. Bogart, James H. Graebner and George M. Smerk. William M. Shapotkin arranges the auditorium sessions. Richard K. Baldwin arranges for the venue and manages the exhibit space.

The Meet was founded in 1984 by Howard R. Blackburn, a radiologist. To ensure its perpetuation "Doc," George K. Bradley and Larry R. Zimmerman incorporated it in 1996. It has been determined by the Internal Revenue Service to be a 501(c)(3) educational organization.

### What is "traction"?

This historical term for rail transit was used both generically and in the corporate title of numerous cities' street railways. In the Meet's name it honors an industry which now has served mankind for over 180 years.

**Register now** and your ticket will be ready for you in the Clarion Hotel lobby on September 5. If you need a receipt sooner, just say so and we'll be glad to mail it. The registration manager is: **Roy G. Benedict, 3511 N. Pittsburgh Ave., Chicago IL 60634-2837.**



### At the greeter station in the hotel lobby

A greeter will be present or "on call" 8 AM-10 PM Friday and Saturday. A RED AND YELLOW sign on the table will tell how to contact him if he is not in sight.

If you have registered by mail by August 30, your admission credentials will be ready for you by 8:30 AM Friday or 8 AM Saturday. We'll also have printed pages with: (1) a full-page map identifying individual restaurants, stores and banks near the Meet, plus a few other central Indiana attractions "not so near," and (2) the Meet's most recent Schedule of Events.

And if the expected starting time of individual sessions is rescheduled during the Meet, the greeters will post the information on a table easel.

### The "free materials" table next to the greeters' table

Participants often bring printed matter that may interest you. And if you have current or historic mass transportation items surplus to your needs, in any quantity from 1 to 100, feel free to bring them. They may be just what the next person will appreciate! Printed announcements of current or forthcoming relevant events, services or products are welcome.

### An Indianapolis transportation anniversary

This year marks 150 years of transit in Indianapolis. Construction of streetcar track started September 5, 1864 near Union Station. Cars began running in the evening of October 3. The route extended 9 blocks along Illinois, Washington and West streets. The company owned 10 cars and 25 mules.

### A few words to exhibitors

- Table availability is limited as we leave wide aisles for visitors to reach your table. Please use the accompanying coupon, first come, first served!
- We provide exhibitors free name badges (not valid for auditorium admission). The hotel drapes the tables. You can pin a name poster to the table skirt.
- Setup begins at 9 AM Friday. Unloading space is directly outside the room.
- First 18 exhibitors: We'll introduce your products in our guide "at and near the Meet." Please enclose a description (up to 25 words including your name).

### The "small print"

Speakers and subjects have been confirmed. However, Hoosier Traction Meet at its discretion reserves the right to reschedule, substitute or cancel due to circumstances beyond its control. Distributed materials, links, mention of transportation services and nearby enterprises, and contents of exhibits and presentations do not imply endorsement by Hoosier Traction Meet, Inc.

**Thanks to** Tom Morrow who hosts this information at [trolleybuses.net](http://trolleybuses.net), Herb Pence for naming it the prospectus, William Keirce for a formatting suggestion, and **thank you** for planning to attend this year's Hoosier Traction Meet!

## For this prospectus in large print

Request it from Roy G. Benedict, 3511 N. Pittsburgh Ave., Chicago IL 60634.

