

# 2021 SER Convention



## SER Convention Update

The Swamp Rabbit Express will be held September 9-12, 2021 at the Hilton Hotel on Orchard Park Drive in Greenville, SC. Several of our Prototype Tours have been finalized and you can reserve your spot on the Convention website. Currently we have the following planned.

### **Thursday, 9/9/21, starting at 3:30pm**

#### **Motorcar Rides and BBQ Dinner at the G&W Rwy.**

Starting at 3:30 on Thursday afternoon there will be motorcar rides thanks to the Greenville & Western Rwy. And the volunteers from the Carolina Railroad Heritage Association. The G&W is a short line on the ex-Piedmont and Northern Railway in Belton, SC. At 5:50 we will have a catered BBQ dinner from Charlies BBQ in Greenville. This is a drive yourself tour, with no bus transportation. Stop at the G&W Rwy. on your way to Greenville and enjoy the motorcar rides and BBQ before you check into the hotel. Please wear closed toe shoes and dress comfortably. This event will happen rain or shine.



### **Friday, 9/10/21, morning**

#### **BMW Factory tours**

We have arranged to have a several one-hour walking tours of the BMW auto manufacturing plant. There will be a bus to take you from the Hotel to the BMW plant. We have scheduled two different bus times. Please check the website to sign up for the time you prefer. The BMW plant produces almost every X-series SUV that BMW makes. They export 70% of the cars which involves a unit train from the plant to the Port of Charleston. We are hopeful that we will be able to see the loading area of the auto-rack cars.





**Friday, 9/10/21, 9:00am**

**Walking Tour of the Greer Depot**

Steve Hawkins, owner of the Greer Depot, will give us a walking tour of the recently renovated replacing the clay tile roof and the creation of an event space in the ex-Piedmont & Northern Railway depot. Coffee, danish, donuts, and more will be provided in the depot rose garden. The depot also houses the offices for the parent company of the G&W Rwy. This is a drive yourself tour.

**Saturday, 9/11/21, 10:00am**

**Walking tour of River Junction, Greenville**

Marv Havens will provide a clinic at 9:00 Saturday to provide the background to the River Junction area of Greenville. This was a location where numerous rail lines converged and also housed maintenance facilities for some of the railroads. At 10:00 we will board a bus that will take us from the Hotel to River Junction. Marv will be our guide and will point out locations in the area that have a great deal of railroad history. There will be several stops on this tour and boarding and exiting the bus will happen a number of times. Please dress appropriately for this tour, which will happen rain or shine.

**Saturday, 9/11/21, 6:00pm**

**Banquet Dinner**

The banquet dinner will be a plated dinner held at the Hotel and will include convention awards presentations followed by our Guest Speaker for the evening, Mr. Wilson Casey. Wilson has written a very interesting book about the last train robbery in the Country, entitled "Bedlam on the West Virginia Rails". Wilson spent several years interviewing Lu Ramsey, who robbed the B&O train after it left Washington, DC in 1949. Lu retired to Spartanburg, SC following quite a colorful career. Wilson will explain the story line and will also dress in costume as Lu towards the end of his presentation. We are looking forward to an entertaining evening.

