

a rocky mountain convention

RTA Holds 86th Annual Convention In Beaver Creek, Colo.



Photos courtesy Vail Valley CVB

From Staff Reports

High in the mountains of Avon, Colo., is the village of Beaver Creek, the cornerstone of which is the Park Hyatt Resort, a beautiful hotel and spa.

Known as one of the finest ski-in/ski-out resorts in all of Colorado, the Park Hyatt Resort and Spa will host this year's RTA Convention Sept. 13-16.

Whether it is spring, summer or fall, the beautiful Park Hyatt offers a stunning view of the 11,000-foot peaks that surround the Swiss Alpine village around the resort. In mid-September, the aspens should be in full bloom, treating visitors to a one-of-a-kind convention experience.

And what a convention is in store for those who attend. Golfing on one of the most beautiful mountain courses in the Vail Valley, ultra-informative business presentations, great activities for spouses and guests to enjoy, and a Western-themed banquet featuring the incredibly funny Tim Gard are just a few of the fantastic events that will take place at the convention.

On the business side of the convention, several forums have been developed to bring attendees up to date on everything from preservatives to election-year forecasts and from purchasing and engineering challenges to an in-depth mini-symposium on tie disposal, recycling and re-use.

A special session has also been arranged with the National Railroad Construction and Maintenance Association Inc. (NRC) in which new cooperative efforts between RTA and NRC will be outlined. These efforts include reciprocal membership campaigns, increased legislative efforts and promotion of the upcoming combined conference of the NRC and the Railway Engineering-Maintenance Suppliers Association in January 2005.

Ed Hamberger, president and CEO of the Association of American Railroads (AAR) will keynote the business luncheon with a presentation titled "Go Rail!" The presentation will focus on the grass-roots efforts being made by AAR and the railroads to create opportunity for increased market share for railroads in the 21st century.

Walt Heide, president-elect of the American Railway Engineering and Maintenance of Way Association (AREMA), will address attendees on many topics of interest, including AREMA membership and Amtrak's plans to perform future track maintenance.

Presentations on latest developments in research will also be part of the first day's events and will include an update by Jeff Lloyd of Nisus Corporation on how railroads are using remedial treatments and pre-treatments utilizing borates. Representatives from Osmose and Merichem will

RTA Reaches For Higher Ground

Beaver Creek, Colo., serves as a year-round meetings destination, where breathtaking vistas and spectacular sunsets punctuate the natural beauty of majestic soaring mountains and pristine national forest land.

Autumn, when the aspen trees turn the mountains gold, is the perfect time to experience this majestic spot, 7,400 feet high in the Colorado Rocky Mountains, according to local hospitality industry officials. The Railway Tie Association (RTA) will convene in Beaver Creek for its 86th annual convention Sept. 13-16. "It's just going to be beautiful, and September is a great time to come here," said Lori Rippstein, director of sales for the Vail/Beaver Creek Convention and Visitors Bureau. "It's a value time then, not just for lodg-

ing, but also for dining and all activities."

Beaver Creek is the sister city to skiing mecca Vail, Colo., five miles away, and is a village with a decidedly European flavor, Rippstein said, adding that it is filled with interlocking shopping areas and lodging facilities.

One of the area's premier hotels is the Park Hyatt Beaver Creek Resort and Spa, which will serve as the site of the RTA convention. The hotel spa, Allegria, lures guests with luxurious treatments such as a stress-relieving traveler's massage and a hot stone massage. It also offers a unique Feng Shui treatment.

There are several challenging and well-designed golf courses in the area, including the Eagle Ranch Golf Course, where the RTA annual golf tournament will be held Sept. 14.

Surrounded by the Sawatch Mountains, this is a new Arnold Palmer-designed course that accommodates players of all skill levels. To pose more of a challenge, there are several water hazards as the course plays through the Branch Creek Valley.

For those who would enjoy planning a pre- or post-convention trip, outdoor activities abound in the area. Kayaking in Gore Creek, driving Jeeps down old mining roads, hiking and biking are great ways to experience the dry climate and sunny fall days. Horseback riding is another popular option as is a dining adventure trip on horseback to Beano's Cabin in nearby Avon. Here, gourmet cuisine is prepared in wood-burning ovens. §

—Eileen George