



**VALLI HOSKI, NORTH TEXAS NEWS EDITOR**

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**Chapter Meeting & Announcements**

**October 7, 2008 – Chapter Meeting, Old City Park, Dallas.**

**Meet ‘n’ Greet, 7pm. Meeting, 7:30 pm.**

**Program:** meeting at the KATY depot. Railroad hotel, section house also open. Limited seating; bring your own portable chair, if possible.

**Location:** Old City Park, 1515 South Harwood St., Dallas.

**Map and driving instructions at:**

<http://www.dallasheritagevillage.org/MapsDirections.aspx>

**Special Feature – Steve Siegerist Receives Al Coppinger Award**



*Left:* Al Coppinger Memorial Award recognizing Steve Siegerist. (Final Award plaque stated correct date of “Sept. 2, 2008”) (Photo credit: Claude Doane)

*Right:* Steve proudly displays the Al Coppinger Memorial Award, with Skip Waters (left) and Claude Doane (right). (Photo: © 2008 Dan Pagel, Paga-One Publishing, Colleyville, TX.)

**Award Recognizes Captain Transit For His Achievements**

By Valli Hoski and Claude Doane

Steve Siegerist, “our very own Captain Transit”, received the Al Coppinger Award in recognition of his contributions and loyal chapter membership with the North Texas Chapter.

Claude Doane and Skip Waters bestowed the award upon the Chapter’s behalf at the September Chapter meeting. Steve’s many accomplishments include (but are not limited to):

- ◆ Serving as Chapter Treasurer since the Chapter’s founding until August, 2008



- ◆ Leading the Chapter's efforts, along with Claude Doane, in support of the NRHS National Directors Meeting held in Dallas in the early 2000s
- ◆ Coordinating all bus transportation for Lone Star Rails 2008 convention
- ◆ Serving as a mass transit activist and role model for those committed to quality mass transit services in the community today and tomorrow
- ◆ Being an all-around nice guy and occasionally humorous curmudgeon.

Steve was heard to comment that he appreciated the accolade, but the best honor was being recognized as worthy of an award dedicated to Al Coppinger's memory. The NTC established the Al Coppinger Memorial Award in honor of Al, a very active and long-time chapter member, who is remembered with much fondness and admiration by his friends and NTC family. Dennis Hogan was the first recipient of the Award; Steve is the second recipient.

## Special Feature – LSR 2008 Dinner

### LSR 2008 Thanks Its Volunteers

Lone Star Rails 2008 recognized and thanked many Chapter volunteers with dinner at the September Chapter meeting. LSR 2008 Chair Skip Waters and Volunteer Coordinator Wayne Smith recounted the fine service provided by the many, many volunteers, and distributed certificates of appreciation to the volunteers present at the meeting. Dinner was tasty Tex-Mex, provided by the caterer of the dinner at the LSR 2008 T&P evening event. The Chapter thanks Terry King for her efforts in coordinating the dinner, and to LSR 2008 for funding the food and certificates.

## North Texas Rail News

### DART To Texas' Best Fried Food Fall Fest With Big Tex!



Hop aboard the Big Tex Express! (Art credit: DART)

With DART, you're just four steps away from the winning tastes of chicken fried bacon, fried banana splits, fried grilled cheese sandwiches and deep fried S'mores.

Every Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 27 to Oct. 19, the DART State Fair Shuttle takes you directly from Pearl Station, in downtown Dallas, to the country's biggest state fair. Plus, you get a coupon for \$2 off fair admission just for riding.

#### Big Tex Express

Also on Saturdays and Sundays, motorists can ride the free "Big Tex Express" train from auxiliary parking at the fairgrounds to a gate near the Cotton Bowl. The State Fair of Texas offers acres of lighted and secured parking off Haskell west of Dolphin Road -- easily accessible from I-30. Parking is \$10. The service operates continuously from 10 a.m. to midnight on Saturdays and from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Sundays. **Source:** 9/5/08, **DART News Release** at <http://www.dart.org/news/newsrss.asp?ID=808>

### North Texas Sets New Rail Ridership Records

North Texas commuters and travelers are turning to the rails in record-breaking numbers, as reported recently in the [Dallas Morning News](#) and [Trains News Wire](#). In July, ridership rose to over 70,000 average weekday trips a new first in DART's 25-year history. The Trinity Railway Express ridership increased nearly 20%. In all, an average of 10.8 million-weekday trips was taken on DART in July, eclipsing June's high of 10.4 million. With 11,721 riders in July 2008 compared to 8,362 in July 2007, Amtrak's Oklahoma City-Fort Worth Heartland Flyer ridership was up 17% for the 10 months ending July 31, 2008. **Source:** 9/3/08, [Trains News Wire](#) at <http://www.trains.com/trn/default.aspx?c=a&id=3895>

### FTA Gives The ROD To The Orange Line

The Federal Transit Administration has issued a Record of Decision (ROD) for the Orange Line. With receipt of the ROD, work will be able to begin on the corridor including the purchase of rail to be used on the Orange Line.

DART awarded a contract for rail for the Blue Line extension to Rowlett earlier this summer. Rail storage locations are identified along both lines and DART expects to begin delivery of the rail November/December.

Review of design-build contract proposals is scheduled for both the Orange and Blue lines in late October. Irving will have representation on the bid evaluation team for the Orange Line and Rowlett will have representation on the Blue Line evaluation team. The cities previously were involved in selecting the teams competing for the two projects. DART and its Board anticipate awarding both projects in the December/January time frame. **Source:** 9/9/08, [DART Board Chair Report](#) at <http://www.dart.org/about/board/boardchairreport/DARTBoardChairReport09sep08.pdf>

### Railfan Weekend, Temple, Oct. 10-11, 2008

The Railfan Weekend is coming to Temple's Railroad and Heritage Museum. Register soon! Tentative events include:

- **Friday, Oct. 10** – Museum tour, dinner, keynote speaker Steve Grabman



- **Saturday, Oct. 11** – BNSF Yard tour, lunch, model train and train watching activities, carpool to double track project, other rail fan “hot spots”
- Registration is \$45, or get on-board with a special fare of \$80 for both Museum membership and Railfan Weekend registration.

For additional information, please contact the Railroad and Heritage Museum by calling 254-298-5165. Complete details are available at [www.rhnm.org](http://www.rhnm.org) or at the Railroad and Heritage Museum in Temple, Tuesday through Saturday between 10 am and 4 pm. **Source:** 8/6/08, Railroad and Heritage Museum news flyer at <http://www.rhnm.org/TempPages/RailfanDay.html>

### **Halloween On The McKinney Ave. Streetcar, Oct. 30, 2008**

*Think It's Too Early To Get Ready For A Halloween Treat?*

Maybe So — But this is one DINE-A-ROUND you don't want to miss! You need to make your reservations early or you WONT HAVE A GHOST OF A CHANCE TO GET IN!!!! Seating is limited to 32.

- **DATE:** Thursday, October 30, 2007. **TIME:** 6:30 PM. (Streetcar leaves promptly at 6:45 PM)
- **LOCATION:** MEET & PARK ON CITYPLACE WEST BLVD. OR RIDE DART RAIL TO CITYPLACE STATION, exit to surface and walk 1/2 block to Streetcar waiting shelter.
- **COST:** \$85.00 PER PERSON. (Includes food, 2 glasses of complimentary wine, tax and tip)
- **DRESS:** SMART CASUAL.
- **RSVP:** ON LINE AT [www.mata.org](http://www.mata.org) ONLY

Let a streetcar take you on an Epicurean adventure! **Source:** 8/6/08, **MATA news flyer** at <http://www.mata.org/halloween-d-a-r.shtml>

### **Grapevine Heritage Railroad Envisions 3<sup>rd</sup> Locomotive**

As reported in the [Fort Worth Star-Telegram](#), the Grapevine Vintage Railroad may soon be on the search for an additional locomotive. In August, staff from the Grapevine Convention & Visitors Bureau, a city entity that operates the excursion railroad, rolled out a proposal to buy a third locomotive. The additional locomotive is needed as backup and to keep flexibility in running the line, said George Kakos, assistant executive director of the railroad.

The railroad operates Puffy, an 1896 steam locomotive, and a diesel locomotive. A small 1950s GP-7 diesel frequently fills-in for Puffy when it is undergoing maintenance and repairs. During festivals and at Christmas, the railroad does special eight-mile runs east. A second locomotive is needed for the return trip because of a lack of a turntable at the other end. When the diesel engine breaks down or needs extended maintenance, a leased engine is used to keep things running smoothly, Kakos said. "Over three to five years, those leases amount to us buying one," he said.

Lorne McCasin, the railroad's general manager, said he plans to look for a General Motors F-7 diesel, a streamlined diesel primarily used for freight hauling that was the first replacement for steam locomotives in the 1940s. The extra locomotive would open the door to possible longer runs, such as to Dallas, McCasin said. **Source:** 8/24/08, **Fort Worth Star-Telegram** news article by Bill Teeter, titled "Grapevine May Get New Locomotive", originally posted at <http://www.star-telegram.com/local/story/854472.html>.

### **"Madame Queen" SF No 5000 Reigns In Amarillo**

As reported in the [Amarillo Globe-News](#), Santa Fe No. 5000, also known as the "Madam Queen", is regal and resplendent in her restored glory. Restoration occurred over 3 years, with 1,800 volunteer hours and 40 gallons of paint. The engine is 108-feet long, and weighs approximately 900,00 pounds. Relocated from the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Depot to downtown display several years, the move was the subject of an episode of Discovery Channel's "Mega-Movers" series.

Now the one-of-a-kind Madam Queen stands less than a quarter-mile from where today's Santa Fe trains rumble down the tracks through Amarillo. Starting in 1930, the train chugged up and down the Santa Fe railroad lines between New Mexico and Kansas via the Texas Panhandle, Brasher said. The locomotive retired from service in 1953, and was donated to Amarillo in 1957. **Source:** 8/13/08, **Amarillo Globe-News and Amarillo.com** article by Janelle Stecklien, at [http://www.amarillo.com/stories/082408/new\\_news4.shtml](http://www.amarillo.com/stories/082408/new_news4.shtml)

## **General Rail News**

### **Railroads Resume Service After Ike Leaves Town**

As reported in [Trains News Wire](#), railroad service in Texas' Gulf Coast is resuming as debris is cleared from tracks and power is restored. However, service to Galveston Island has not yet resumed. Union Pacific has reopened lines west of Houston toward San Antonio; lines running south to Angleton, Bloomington, and Brownsville; line between Hearne and Longview; restored operations at Houston's Englewood Yard. After September 16, routes connecting Houston to Hearne, Palestine, and Shreveport, La., were to reopen. UP tracks to Galveston remain shut down. BNSF Railway's core routes through the region are open; most traffic is able to move. BNSF' route to Galveston Island is



the only BNSF line not yet reopened, but is estimated to return to normal after September 21. Kansas City Southern's main line to Mexico remained closed, but is expected to reopen after September 20. The railroad has reported damage to tracks is minimal, and lines should be reopened soon. Amtrak continues to substitute buses for its Chicago-New Orleans City of New Orleans south of McComb, Miss. The Chicago-San Antonio Texas Eagle returns to its full route today. The Los Angeles-New Orleans Sunset Limited began running as far as San Antonio on September 17, but the railroad doesn't yet know when it will return to its full route. **Source:** 9/17/08, **Trains News Wire** at <http://www.trains.com/trn/default.aspx?c=a&id=3955>

## **UP Steam At 2008 Democratic National Convention**

### **UP Vintage Steam Provides "Sound Track" For Convention**

During the Democratic National Convention in Denver, August 25 – 28, No. 844, also known as Union Pacific's "Living Legend," was on proud public display across the street just south of Denver's Union Station. The locomotive also provided some steam "sound bites" during televised coverage of the convention, undoubtedly surprising the news commentators and viewers.

No. 844 was the last steam locomotive built for Union Pacific Railroad and was delivered in 1944. A high-speed passenger engine, it pulled such widely known passenger trains as the Overland Limited, Los Angeles Limited, Portland Rose and Challenger. When diesel-electric locomotives took over all passenger train duties, No. 844 was placed in freight service in Nebraska between 1957 and 1959. It was saved from being scrapped in 1960 and held for special service. No. 844 has the distinction of never being retired from Union Pacific's locomotive fleet. **Source:** 8/13/08, **Union Pacific Railroad** news release at [http://www.uprr.com/newsinfo/releases/community/2008/0813\\_convention.shtml](http://www.uprr.com/newsinfo/releases/community/2008/0813_convention.shtml)

Press time: 9/18/2008, noon. File: NTx Newsletter 2008-10 vB1.doc

## **Chapter Features & News**

### **Change Approved To Chapter By-Laws**

The following change (see text at right) to the Chapter By-Laws was voted upon and approved at the September, 2008 Chapter meeting.

### **Editor's Mark-Up**

By Valli Hoski, VP Publications

The October 2008 issue of the North Texas Zephyr starts a new distribution tradition for the Chapter. The editor thanks Jim King, Chapter Treasurer, for his suggestion and management of newsletter distribution through the USPS automated mailing process. This will help to get a quality newsletter out to the membership while managing costs and time effectively.

Looking toward 2009, the Chapter has both a challenge and an opportunity to improve the quality, coverage, and features of the newsletter by moving to electronic distribution without abandoning paper distribution. Mail distribution of the newsletter through the USPS is limited to 8 pages (4 sheets) and black-and-white copying only. Electronic distribution would allow use of color photographs, better images, and clearer print in the newsletter. The electronic newsletter could also be viewed in larger font size and greater detail.

Jim King, Treasurer, adds three major benefits to electronic distribution of the newsletter:

- ◆ You can keep the newsletter PDF files "forever" on your computer; they are much easier (and smaller) to archive than printed copies, and they won't degrade over time
- ◆ Files are immediately accessible, particularly for referencing upcoming event dates and information - no digging through your desk or office to find a newsletter
- ◆ You can use the search feature in Windows to search newsletter PDF files for keywords

Your editor sees many advantages to both means of distribution – traditional print mailing and electronic file through e-mail. Newsletter contributors deserve the best quality production of their work in balance with cost-effective use of the Chapter's funds. This change is deserving of consideration by the Chapter members as we look towards the post-LSR 2008 evolution of the Chapter in 2009.

### **Newsletter Deadline Change, Now 12<sup>th</sup>/Month**

By Valli Hoski, VP Publications

Due to the change to a new copying and mailing process, the news deadline for the North Texas Zephyr is now the 12th of the month. The editor needs to receive all articles, news, images and information must be received by the 12th in order to prepare a quality newsletter file for the USPS. Any item received after the 12th/month will be held until the next issue, if the news is still current. Apologies in advance for any writer's block or cramp this may cause, but the USPS process will not wait for rain, snow, sleet, nor dark of night in the writer's mind, in the photographer's camera, or in the editor's efforts. (This deadline is consistent with several other quality organizations' newsletter cutoff dates, including the Gulf Coast Chapter, the St. Louis Chapter and other rail clubs.)

Paragraph 1.03 - Second paragraph:

Reads as Follows: The name of the Registered Agent of the corporation at such address as set forth in its Articles of Incorporation is: Steven D. Siegerist

Change to read: The Registered Agent of the corporation at such address as set forth in the Articles of Incorporation is the Secretary of the Corporation. The name of this person will be recorded with the Texas Secretary of State whenever the incumbent in the position changes, in accordance with the following paragraph.



## Chapter Meeting Minutes, September 2, 2008

**NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER, NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, MEETING MINUTES AND NOTES, DATE: September 2, 2008. Founders Building, Grapevine.**

A catered Mexican dinner preceded the meeting, held at the Grapevine Founder's Building, for all the chapter volunteers who participated in the National Convention. Dinner entertainment was a 20-minute documentary film on 'The Crash at Crush' followed by a presentation by Skip Waters on the play by the same name currently running in Dallas. He handed out flyers and two souvenir DVDs as trivia question prizes after the presentation. President Ron Anderson called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. There were 23 members of the chapter present.

Wayne Smith presented volunteer appreciation certificates to all members who volunteered to work during the convention.

Skip reported he had several copies of the local newspapers with articles of the Quanah rail trip for viewing. He again thanked all members for their help at the convention and read an article from the editor of Trains magazine who called the convention a 'success'.

President Ron, having already called the meeting to order welcomed all members present and introduced Wayne Smith as the Nominations chair for the upcoming annual chapter officer elections. All positions are open and anyone interested in running for any of the chapter offices should see Wayne.

VP Programs Jon Shea reported on an article written by Dr. Richard Francaviglia in the Fronteras newsletter from UTA on the meet at Promontory, Utah and recapturing its glory.

- ◆ October meeting - Dallas Old City Park with a tour of the grounds.
- ◆ November meeting - Grapevine with the annual member auction. Meeting will be moved to the 2nd Tuesday due to Election Day on the 1st Tuesday.
- ◆ December meeting - annual Christmas Party with place TBD.
- ◆ January 2009 meeting - Grapevine with the annual officer elections and membership showcase.

VP Publications Valli Hoski reported the newsletter would be moving to a different format starting next month. It will be printed and mailed by the US Postal Service. In the future, we are considering emailing the newsletter to those members who want to receive it that way so that color photos can be utilized. Next newsletter due date Sept 8.

Rail News – Skip and Claude Doane presented outgoing Treasurer and soon departing this area member Steve Siegerist with the chapter Al Coppinger Award for his service to the chapter.

Jim King reported on the membership process from National. He discovered that a problem many chapters were having using the database were caused by their using a different version of MS Excel than what it was written in. The problems have now been resolved and membership renewals will be rolling out shortly.

As previously reported last month, the membership was asked to vote on changing the Bylaws to change the chapter's corporate Registered Agent from 'Steve Siegerist' to the 'Chapter Secretary'. Future changes will not require a change to the Bylaws, only a memo to the TX Secretary of State with the information for the new agent. The motion was unanimously carried.

Russ Covitt reminded the members of the two upcoming local model railroad shows and that the chapter is responsible for working approximately 8 hours at each show in order to be eligible for any share of the show proceeds. Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

## Chapter Directory

### North Texas Chapter Officers

- **President, Ron Anderson**, [rra\\_nrhs@yahoo.com](mailto:rra_nrhs@yahoo.com)
- **Vice President/Programs, Jon Shea**, 972-480-9054.
- **Vice President/Trips and Events, Skip Waters**, 214-987-2888.
- **Vice President/Publications, Valli Hoski**, [ntx.valli@yahoo.com](mailto:ntx.valli@yahoo.com)
- **Secretary, Dave Gramm**, [dgramm@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dgramm@sbcglobal.net)
- **Treasurer, Jim King**, [jgking@swbell.net](mailto:jgking@swbell.net).
- **National Director, Dale Wilken**, [d-mwilken@sbcglobal.net](mailto:d-mwilken@sbcglobal.net).

### Chapter Business Address

North Texas Chapter, NRHS,  
 P.O. Box 600304  
 Dallas, Texas 75360

## North Texas Chapter History

Founded and chartered in 1996, the **North Texas Chapter** is one of the newest chapters of the **National Railway Historical Society\***. The chapter is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) educational organization incorporated under the laws of the state of Texas. Emphasis of the chapter is activity, history, and enjoyment of railroading past and present. **Meetings are held 7:30-10:00 PM, first Tuesday of each month**, usually (but not always) at the Grapevine Tourist & Visitor Information Center at Main St. and the FWWR railroad tracks. **Visitors and newcomers are welcome.** Effective August 2007, regular membership is \$46 a year (\$33 national dues + \$13 chapter dues). Additional family members are \$7 per individual. Regular membership includes: a) subscription to the NRHS Bulletin (5 issues/year) and our monthly chapter newsletter, the North Texas Zephyr. Chapter mailing address: **North Texas Chapter NRHS, P.O. Box 600304, Dallas, Texas 75360.** \*Reminder, effective Feb. 2008, NRHS has a new mailing address: National Railway Historical Society, 100 N 20th Street, 4th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19103-1443.



## North Texas Calendar

<i>Fri. Oct. 3 – Sat. Nov. 15, 2008</i>	<b>Railroad and Heritage Photography Exhibit.</b> Temple Railroad and Heritage Museum, 315 West Avenue B, Temple, TX 76501. More details see <a href="http://www.rrhm.org/TempPages/PhotoContest.html">http://www.rrhm.org/TempPages/PhotoContest.html</a>
<b>Tues. Oct. 7, 2008</b>	<b>North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m.</b> Location: Old City Park, 1515 South Harwood St., Dallas, Texas. Program: Old City Park visit. Map, directions at <a href="http://www.dallasheritagevillage.org/MapsDirections.aspx">http://www.dallasheritagevillage.org/MapsDirections.aspx</a>
<i>Sat. Oct. 10 – Sun. Oct. 12, 2008</i>	<b>Railfan Weekend.</b> Temple Railroad and Heritage Museum, 315 West Avenue B, Temple, TX 76501. More details see <a href="http://www.rrhm.org/TempPages/RailfanDay.html">http://www.rrhm.org/TempPages/RailfanDay.html</a>
<b>Tues. Nov. 11, 2008 Different Date!!</b>	<b>North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m.</b> Founder's Building (by Cotton Belt depot), 701 S. Main St., Grapevine, Texas. Program: Program: Annual Chapter auction.
<b>Dec. meeting date to be confirmed</b>	<b>North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m.</b> Location: to be confirmed. Program: Annual holiday dinner. ** Note – <b>Dec. meeting date might be changed</b> due to KCS Holiday Train in Wylie on Dec. 2, 2008.
<i>Sat. Dec. 13 – Sun. Dec. 14, 2008</i>	<b>Fort Worth Train Show,</b> Fort Worth Convention Center, 1201 Houston Street Ft. Worth, TX.. Sponsored by North Texas Council of Railroad Clubs. Schedule, discount coupon, see <a href="http://dfwtrainshows.com/phpwebsite/">http://dfwtrainshows.com/phpwebsite/</a>
<b>Tues. Jan. 6, 2009</b>	<b>North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m.</b> Founder's Building (by Cotton Belt depot), 701 S. Main St., Grapevine, Texas. Program: Annual chapter election, and Member Show'n'Tell (bring your favorite tall tale or item.)
<i>Sat. Jan. 17 – Sun. Jan. 18, 2009</i>	<b>Dallas Area Train Show, Plano Centre,</b> 2000 East Spring Creek Parkway, Plano, TX. Sponsored by North Texas Council of Railroad Clubs. Schedule, discount coupon, see <a href="http://dfwtrainshows.com/phpwebsite/">http://dfwtrainshows.com/phpwebsite/</a>
<b>Tues. Feb. 6, 2009</b>	<b>North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m.</b> Founder's Building (by Cotton Belt depot), 701 S. Main St., Grapevine, Texas. Program: to be confirmed.