



VALLI HOSKI, NORTH TEXAS NEWS EDITOR

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Chapter Meeting – Nov. 11, 2008

November 11*, 2008 (*2nd Tues/month!) - Chapter Meeting, Grapevine.

Please note – vote on Nov. 4, come to the meeting on Nov. 11!

- **Meet 'n' Greet**, 7pm. **Meeting**, 7:30 pm.
- **Program**: Annual Chapter Auction
- **Location**: Founders Building, Grapevine.
- **Where**: Founders Building, 701 S. Main St., Grapevine, Texas.

Driving? Go west on Hwy 114, exit Main St. for Grapevine.
 Drive just north of RR tracks, building is on the right.

Special Feature – NTC @ DFW Train Shows

Do Your North Texas Duty – Serve At Train Shows

By Russ Covitt

With the Fort Worth and Plano train shows coming up in December and January, the North Texas Chapter has job assignments, which are required to complete to receive our share money.

Please contact Russ (RussRStuff@aol.com) to sign up and confirm your assignments.

- ◆ December 13-14, 2008, Fort Worth Show – I [Russ] will handle ALL the assignments of obtaining tickets, door prizes and assistant show manager. That should cover all hours for Ft Worth.
- ◆ January 17-18, 2008, Plano - Russ will handle the same assignments as above **chapter members need to complete the remaining 8 hours of job assignments.**
- ◆ The list below is tentative and subject to change at next Council Meeting;

Saturday, Jan. 17, 2009

- 10-11 AM LAYOUT TOUR BOOKLET PASS OUT _____
- 11-12 AM TICKET SALES _____
- 1-2 PM TICKET SALES _____
- 4-5 PM TICKET SALES _____

Sunday, Jan. 18, 2009

- 10-11 AM LAYOUT TOUR SUPPORT _____
- 12-1 PM SWITCHING CONTEST _____
- 1-2 PM TICKET SALES _____
- 3-4 PM INFORMATION TABLE _____

[Editor’s note: see the **DFW Train Shows** web site for a **discount coupon** and directions at <http://www.dfwtrainshows.com/coupon-form>]

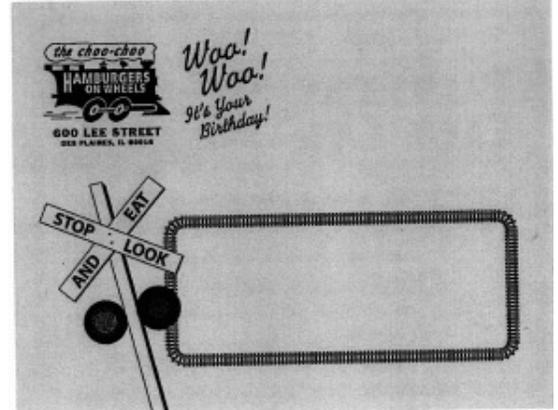


Special Feature – Making Tracks On Your Birthday

Chew, Chew, Then Move Your Caboose!

By Valli Hoski

When your birthday next rolls down the track, **high ball** on up north to the Choo-Choo for a treat worthy of the most avid rail enthusiast! Bib optional, but recommended. Remember, “chew-chew, then move your caboose!”, so sez The Choo-Choo crew!



All above: Choo-Choo card and birthday club car invitation. (Graphic credit and all rights held by The Choo-Choo.)

The Choo-Choo is dearly beloved by many locals, young in heart, spirit, and tummy. Here's a “taste” of the history of this vintage landmark.

“...In 1951, a young entrepreneur and his wife opened a diner in Des Plaines with the hopes that they could operate a successful business that would be an entertaining experience for all ages.

They were James Ballowe and his wife Marilyn, and the diner was the Choo-Choo Restaurant. As James Ballowe once said, “Trains go fast, and that's how we wanted our customers to be served.” The diner quickly became a source of popularity among adults and children alike.

The idea for the Choo-Choo style of restaurant was conceived by younger brother Roy Ballowe, while a soldier in the Philippines. The rations served were less than ideal, and Ballowe dreamed of the kinds of food he'd like to have. After a complaint by a fellow soldier who was tired of the “gravy train,” the idea began to further take shape in Roy Ballowes mind.

“Gravy train,” thought the young Private. “Why not serve hamburgers on a model train? Kids love both of ‘em.” ... **Source:** 10/19/08, **The Choo-Choo** restaurant and its web site at <http://www.thechoochoo.com/history.html>



All above: Choo-Choo track instructions. (Graphic credit and all rights held by The Choo-Choo.)

While you're in the neighborhood, stop by Ray Kroc's original McDonald's, now a local historic site, just down the street. Burgers aren't as tasty though. And, drop in at your editor's caboose, just east of the DeValle yard (really!) and a few blocks west of The Choo-Choo.

North Texas Rail News

A-Train DLRT Line Getting On Track In Denton County

As reported in Railway Age, North Texas Rail Group, a consortium comprised of Herzog Contracting Corp. and Archer Western Contractors, has been chosen by the Denton County (Tex.) Transportation Authority to oversee final design and construction of the "A-train," a 21-mile diesel light rail transit (DLRT) line. NTRG's contract is a design-build-operate-maintain (DBOM) agreement, similar to that used to construct the first U.S. DLRT line linking Trenton and Camden, N.J. The consortium would operate and maintain the rail service for its first five years. The line would link Denton with Carrollton, Tex., where riders could transfer to Dallas Area Rapid Transit light rail service also being advanced.



Denton County expects the A-train to begin revenue service by December 2010. **Source:** 10/17/08, **Railway Age Late Breaking Industry News** at http://www.railwayage.com/breaking_news.shtml

BNSF Ethanol Express™ Comes To Town

As of November 1, BNSF Railway Co. is delivering unit trains to Musket Corporation's newest ethanol storage terminal. With storage capacity of 10 million gallons, the Dallas/Fort Worth Musket Ethanol Terminal is one of the area's largest ethanol storage facilities and is designed to meet the daily needs of the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex. Located in the Mark IV industrial area in North Fort Worth, the facility maintains its own rail spur and is designed to completely unload a unit train of 95 cars every 24 hours.

The new facility will receive shipments exclusively from BNSF Railway's Ethanol Express™, a 95-car unit train service specifically created to move ethanol from a single origin or gathering place to a single destination. The Ethanol Express™ will save ethanol producers and end-users time and money through increased fleet utilization, lower inventory carrying costs, and logistics coordination and support each and every day around the clock. BNSF moves more than 370 million gallons of ethanol per year through the Ethanol Express™ program. **Source:** 10/9/08, **BNSF Press Release** at <http://www.trains.com/trn/default.aspx?c=a&id=3895>

DART Continues To Break Service Records

Another ridership record for DART - 400,000 daily trips on buses, trains and HOV lanes! Each weekday DART is delivering more than 400,000 passenger trips on its growing network of buses, trains and high occupancy (HOV) lanes, setting records in average weekday ridership on DART Rail and combined fixed route (bus, rail and Trinity Railway Express) services. Average weekday ridership was up in all fixed route modes and HOV. To put the August 2008 ridership data into perspective, the 407,000 weekday trips are more than the combined populations of the DART Member Cities of Garland, Richardson, Rowlett and Addison. **Source:** 9/25/08, **DART Press Release** at <http://www.dart.org/news/news.asp?ID=811>

Latest Commuter Service Addition To Tarrant County

Kickoff Held For Partnership with The T Bringing Commuter Bus Service into Arlington

More commuter service has come to the Metroplex as noted by this kickoff event "to launch nonstop commuter bus service", which began Tuesday, Sept. 2. The Kick-off event was held by City of Arlington officials, representatives from the Fort Worth Transportation Authority and Sue Pope Fund. Immediately after remarks and ribbon cutting with one of The T's new CNG commuter buses, everyone was invited to climb aboard for a short test ride along a portion of the route.

About the Commuter Bus Program

Through a partnership with the City of Arlington and a \$75,000 grant from the Sue Pope Fund, the Fort Worth Transportation Authority, also known as The T, offers non-stop commuter bus service from two Park and Ride Lots in Arlington, as of Sept. 2. The locations are: The Lamar Boulevard Park and Ride Lot at I-30 and Cooper/Lamar and the South Park and Ride Lot at I-20 and Park Springs Boulevard. From the Park and Ride Lots, shuttles will go to the Intermodal Transportation Center located in downtown Fort Worth. The ITC is home to The T's largest transfer center, offering access to buses, trolleys, taxis and the Trinity Railway Express. Arlington's nonstop commuter service program offers three morning peak-period trips to Fort Worth and three evening peak-period trips back. This service is a pilot program scheduled to last for one year. Daily round-trip passes for the commuter service will be \$5, and monthly passes will be \$80. Daily passes are available at the ITC or on board commuter buses. Monthly passes can be purchased at Arlington City Hall in the One Start Center, at the ITC or online at www.The-Tstore.com. Schedules can be found online at www.arlingtontx.gov/bus or www.The-T.com. For more information about this pilot program, call Planning Project Manager Lyndsay Krodell at 817-459-6653. **Source:** 8/29/2008. **City of Arlington news release** at <http://www.the-t.com/newsrelease/News%20ReleaseArlingtonNonStopCommuterBusProgram.pdf>

General Rail News

Amtrak Rides To 11+% Growth

All Amtrak trains across the system saw increases in ridership. The 28.7 million total for the period October 1, 2007-September 30, 2008, topped the 25,847,531 for the previous 12 months by 11.1 percent. Total ticket revenue for the fiscal year reached \$1.7 billion, a 14.2 percent increase over the \$1.5 billion in FY07. "After another record-breaking year, in which the railroad achieved double-digit growth, Amtrak has solidified its role as a leader in the nation's transportation network and proven intercity passenger rail's relevance in today's world," said Alex Kummant, President and CEO of Amtrak. "Highway and airway congestion, volatile fuel prices and increasing environmental awareness all contributed to Amtrak's successful year, as did our continually improving service and on-time performance." **Source:** 10/13/08, **Amtrak news release** at

http://www.amtrak.com/servlet/ContentServer?pagename=Amtrak/am2Copy/News_Release_Page&c=am2Copy&cid=1178294235258&ssid=180



Positive Train Control Standards Gain Traction

Union Pacific Corporation (NYSE: UNP), Burlington Northern Santa Fe Corporation (NYSE: BNI) and Norfolk Southern Corporation (NYSE: NSC) have reached an agreement on establishing interoperability standards for Positive Train Control (PTC), a critical component to safely implementing PTC technology across all rail systems. PTC is a predictive collision avoidance technology that can stop a train before an accident occurs. PTC is designed to keep a train within authorized limits on a track and under its maximum speed limit. To accomplish this, sophisticated technology and braking algorithms will automatically bring PTC-equipped passenger and heavy freight trains to a safe stop. This will help prevent train-to-train collisions, over-speed derailments and casualties or injuries to the public and railway workers. Passed October 1, 2008, The Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2008 requires all Class I railroads and passenger railroads to implement a PTC system by December 31, 2015 on all main line track where intercity passenger railroads and commuter railroads operate, as well as on lines carrying toxic-by-inhalation hazardous materials. Train signal systems such as Automatic Train Control (ATC) and Automatic Train Stop (ATS) are used across many rail networks today, but these are not PTC systems. **Source:** 10/8/08, **Union Pacific Railroad news release** at http://www.uprr.com/newsinfo/releases/safety/2008/1008_all-ptc.shtml

Rail Improvement Safety Act Now History

As reported in *Progressive Railroading*, the Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2008 (H.R. 2095/S. 1889), signed into law by President Bush in October, 2008, tightens rail worker training standards, require conductor certification, and mandate installation of positive train control on lines used for passenger trains and to move hazardous materials no later than 2015. Meanwhile, H.R. 2095 companion bill the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008 reauthorizes Amtrak for five years at a total of \$13 billion. Amtrak's previous authorization expired in 2002. During the next five years, Amtrak will receive \$2.9 billion in operating subsidies and \$5.3 billion for capital projects, such as new cars and infrastructure upgrades. The national intercity passenger railroad also will receive \$1.9 billion to develop new state passenger-rail corridors. **Source:** 10/17/08, **Progressive Railroading** at <http://www.progressiverailroading.com/news/article.asp?id=18317>

Press time: 10/22/08, noon. File: NTx Newsletter 2008-11 vB1.doc

Chapter Features & News

President's Column – Ron's Rumblings and Ramblings

By Ron Anderson, Chapter President

Going once, going twice, SOLD! I enjoy our annual Chapter Auction that is held every November. I sometimes am a 'stuff' type of person. Someone else's stuff always looks better than my old stuff, so what better way to spread it around? It is really neat to look at old timetables, magazines, hardware, books, videos, photos, prints, maps, etc, etc. The list goes on and on. For some of our new members, they might like to know that you can bring any rail related item and donate it to the Chapter at the regular meeting in Grapevine, and our illustrious Auctioneer will cheerfully get the best bid he can for it. The Chapter gets a buck or two, and everyone goes home with a new prize. It is a lot of fun, and I hope everyone who can come will be there. Don't forget your cash or check!

Editor's Mark-Up

By Valli Hoski, VP Publications

Field report from the northern midwest branch lines of the organization. Your trusty editor has begun exploring the Blackhawk and Chicago subs of the NRHS lines up north here in the autumnal forests. She is delighted to report that management personnel still have a long memory of branch history, and plan to expand operations in the future. Both subs welcome the editor back to the Great Lakes fold, and thank the north Texas sub for the reassignment of this needed staffperson. Valli is on the boards again in Lockport and LaGrange, and can be seen operating under the branch lines' auspices on the first 2 Fridays of the month. *Your editor is also doing field inspections of noteworthy track-side activity – see her field report on "The Choo-Choo" diner in this issue's Special Features.*

Small Change Corner – The Treasurer's News

From Jim King, Chapter Treasurer

In reviewing the membership list provided by NRHS National, several address errors and omissions have been found pertaining to nine new members. In several cases, the entire street address was omitted although the city, state and zip were correct. In some cases, apartment numbers were omitted, street address numbers had digits missing, and in one case, the name of the street was changed to something similar sounding, but incorrect. None of the errors were present in the source information we provided to Fernley & Fernley, the consulting firm that manages the national membership database. We are working to rectify the situation, and since this is the list used for membership dues notices, it is likely that the dues notices for these members have not been received. We apologize for the delay and will contact the affected members directly as necessary. If you have any questions or concerns about your membership information, please contact me by email at jgking@swbell.net, or by regular mail at the return mailing address shown on this newsletter. To all other members, please forward your dues payments to the chapter mailing address as soon as possible.



Chapter Meeting Minutes, October 7, 2008

NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER, NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, MEETING MINUTES AND NOTES, DATE: October 7, 2008. Old City Park, Dallas, Texas.

The meeting was held in the old depot in Dallas' City Park and started at 7:26pm with Skip Waters presiding in the unavoidable absence of President Ron Anderson. There were 12 members in attendance and Dr. Gillespie, our presenter last month, returned to visit with us and contemplate joining our group.

[Editor's note: highlighting below added at editor's discretion.]

- ◆ Skip announced that due to November 4 being national Election Day, **the chapter will move its November meeting one week later to the 2nd Tuesday of the month, November 11.** VP-Programs Jon Shea reported November's meeting will be at Grapevine and will feature the annual auction of donated materials from members. Bring your stuff!
- ◆ The **December meeting will be the annual Christmas banquet.** Since the timing will coincide with the Wylie Christmas Train event, Jim King proposed we go to Firewheel or some other **restaurant in the Garland area for the banquet**, then everyone is free to go see the Christmas train on their own afterwards. It was agreed by the members to do this on December 2, and Jim will check with the restaurants for reservations.
- ◆ The **January meeting will be back at Grapevine.** In addition to officer elections, it will be 'Show & Tell'. Bring your favorite RR book, item, story, etc. and have 5 minutes to talk about it.

Jon also presented an article in the latest edition of 'Military History Quarterly' about railroad guns used in WWII.

Jon reported we are still solvent, post convention. Treasurer Jim King remarked that he reviewed the national convention policy manual on what portion of the convention income we should remit to national. We will split 50/50 our first \$10K in income and then 80/20 in our favor any additional income after the first \$10K.

A question about the annual dues billing was asked. Jim responded that billing will probably take place in October like it did last year, where the national office will bill each member for national and local dues on one statement and the total payment will be remitted to the local chapter. The chapter will need to send dues statements to those members who are chapter only members.

Claude Doane reported past Treasurer Steve Siegerist is getting settled in his new loft apartment in St. Louis, Mo. He is still as irascible as ever. Claude reported that Leroy King was holding his own after having to be hospitalized recently. Claude also reported he derailed one of the McKinney Ave trolleys last weekend. He and another fellow took about 45 minutes to re-rail the trolley, much to the amusement of the passengers on board.

Skip reported member Dave Eckhardt passed away recently. He had donated a baggage cart on behalf of our North Texas NRHS chapter to the Grapevine Vintage Railway. Skip reminded everyone that election of club officers will take place at the January meeting with all offices open for candidates. Volunteers are needed to run for every office.

Discussion of the new format club newsletter was met with good reviews. Jim King reported the cost was 65 cents/copy, printed and mailed, which is cheaper than previous issues printing costs alone. Jim also reported we need to empty the 5x10 club storage locker and find a home for all the materials stored there. We are currently spending \$65/month for its rental. He has a garage we can use, and with next month's meeting to be the annual auction meeting, some items may be included in the auction.

Russ Covitt reported the next weekend, Oct 10-12, would be the LMRA annual train show, which will also feature layouts from the Circus Modelers' annual convention.

Jim King reported he [editor's note: and his wife Terry, also a member of the Duluth09 team] recently went to Duluth, Minnesota and talked with the 2009 convention planners. He commented that two steam engines are tentatively being arranged for, with several rail trips in the planning stages. Overall, Jim opined that the Duluth convention will be smaller than ours in terms of # of events but the events being planned for promise to provide good enjoyment to the attendees.

National Director Dale Wilken reported he had recently returned from a trip to Alaska and showed pictures of areas he visited on the way. While there, he rode the Skagway Railroad. He also visited New England and rode the cog railroad on Mt. Washington in New Hampshire. He reported the next NRHS board meeting will be in Chicago, the first week of November. Skip and Dale will both attend to give a final report on the 2008 Convention.

Skip presented Dale with a convention committee appreciation award for his outstanding efforts during the convention. Dale joined the convention committee midstream in the planning and took on any and all duties that were necessary without being asked to do so. Skip lastly reported he had attended SP 745's steam up last weekend. The engine didn't move under its own power but held steam pressure fine. As part of the evening's entertainment, we viewed a video on 'The Rebirth of SP 745' which covered the complete rebuilding of the engine.

Chapter Directory

North Texas Chapter Officers

- **President, Ron Anderson**, 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
- **Secretary, Dave Gramm**, dgramm@sbcglobal.net
- **Treasurer, Jim King**, jgking@swbell.net.
- **National Director, Dale Wilken**, 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

Tues. Nov. 11, 2008 Different Date!!	North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m. Founder's Building (by Cotton Belt depot), 701 S. Main St., Grapevine, Texas. Program: Annual Chapter auction.
Dec. 2, 2008	North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m. Location: to be confirmed. Program: Annual holiday dinner. ** Note – Dinner likely to be held after KCS Holiday Train in Wylie on Dec. 2, 2008.
Sat. Dec. 13 – Sun. Dec. 14, 2008	Fort Worth Train Show , Fort Worth Convention Center, 1201 Houston Street Ft. Worth, TX.. Sponsored by North Texas Council of Railroad Clubs. Schedule, discount coupon, see http://dfwtrainshows.com/phpwebsite/
Tues. Jan. 6, 2009	North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m. 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.)
Sat. Jan. 17 – Sun. Jan. 18, 2009	Dallas Area Train Show, Plano Centre , 2000 East Spring Creek Parkway, Plano, TX. Sponsored by North Texas Council of Railroad Clubs. Schedule, discount coupon, see http://dfwtrainshows.com/phpwebsite/
Tues. Feb. 6, 2009	North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m. Founder's Building (by Cotton Belt depot), 701 S. Main St., Grapevine, Texas. Program: to be confirmed.