



VALLI HOSKI, NORTH TEXAS NEWS EDITOR

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Chapter Meeting – Dec. 2, 2008

December 2, 2008 - Chapter Holiday Dinner, Garland.

- **2008 KCS Holiday Express Train**, starting at 4:00pm, located in Wylie, Texas on Marble Street. Visit www.kcsouthern.com for more info on the train.
- **NTC Holiday Group Dinner at Outback Steakhouse** at 7:00pm, Address: 4902 N President George Bush Hwy, Garland, TX 75040, Phone: (972) 495-3699

Special Feature – NTC @ Plano Train Show

Update – Call For Service

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 – 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 but ...
- ◆ **A few more chapter members need to complete the remaining job assignments, shown below.**

Saturday, Jan. 17, 2009

4-5 PM TICKET SALES WEST DOOR _____ (NOTE. This is slowest hour of show. you can snooze through it.)

Sunday, Jan. 18, 2009

12-1 PM SWITCHING CONTEST _____

[Editor's note: see the **DFW Train Shows** web site for a **discount coupon** and directions at

<http://www.dfwtrainshows.com/coupon-form>

In Memory Of Dave Eckhardt

A Smile From A Generous Heart

By Skip Waters

I didn't know Mr. Eckhardt very well either. But what I remember of him was ... He always greet you with a smile. His love for the railroads came from his dad who I believe worked for the railroads all his life. Dave would always have a great story from the heart during the show and tell meetings about his dad. Personally, I loved his stories. A few years ago he donated a baggage cart to the Grapevine Vintage Railroad on behalf of our chapter. You can see it today at the Cotton Belt Depot when you go to the meeting in Grapevine. He always brought good stuff for the chapter auction too. We will miss his presence for some time.



NRHS National Directors Meeting

Fall Board Meeting, Nov. 1-2, 2008, Chicago

By Dale Wilken, NTC National Director

The National Directors held their fall board meeting in Chicago on November 1 and 2 hosted by the Chicago chapter. Meeting at the Renaissance Chicago O'Hare Suites Hotel, the Directors representing approximately 75 of the local chapters conducted the society's business and also had an opportunity to experience some of Chicago's rail history and current activity.

The primary society business at this meeting was the review and action on a national society budget for 2009. Among the changes from 2008 are that the National Convention Committee will host the 2009 convention with resulting increases of income and expenses reflected in the budget. There was considerable discussion of how the attendance at the Duluth convention may compare to our LSR 2008 given the current economy. The budget also reflects the beginning of an initiative to substantially improve and upgrade the NRHS website which could ultimately include the ability for members to renew memberships electronically and would support a proposal to permit all members to renew directly with the national office. As part of the initiative, printing and mailing costs would be reduced approximately \$10,000 by electronic distribution of the NRHS Telegraph and corporate materials to chapter leadership now receiving these documents. It was also noted that a \$10,000 savings in membership records costs will be realized through having a volunteer (already on board) assemble and mail new member materials.

The Board approved the electronic distribution of the Telegraph and corporate materials but deferred action on the website work until the winter meeting pending development of a more detailed proposal. The Board also supported President Malloy's proposal to establish two working groups to oversee the effort—a group to address priority features and how to use them and a group of technical experts. With these revisions the 2009 budget was approved. The budget committee also presented information on society operational cost increases over the past two years and projected to 2010 and indicated that a national dues increase of \$3 will likely be needed in 2010 to keep pace.

In other business, it was reported that we now have 175 active chapters, the Challenge Grant initiative has moved past halfway, the Winter 2008 Bulletin is in the mail, and the next issue of the NRHS News will go to the printers on November 3. A successful RailCamp program was reported with 3 teen camps and 1 adult camp in 2008. Advertising in Trains Magazine has caused increased interest. Nominations for the 2009 camps are due January 15. The dues renewal process operated by Fernley & Fernley continues to improve and approximately 150 chapters experienced no problems after 6 chapters tested the spreadsheets. A monthly communication process between F & F and the chapter electronic contact has been set up and due dates for chapter spread sheets and check submittal have been established. If there is a problem, send an email to info@nrhs.com including chapter name and number.

As part of the convention reports, I gave a semi-final report of LSR 2008 income, expenses and attendance and presented a \$5000 check as the first part of the revenue sharing of convention proceeds. I received a number of positive comments about the operations and the events at the convention. National Convention Chair Carl Jensen expressed hope that the convention account will be closed by January 1 so that final proceeds can be determined and the account audited. John Goodman gave a report on the Duluth convention August 10-16 indicating they plan to operate a special train between St. Paul and Duluth before the convention.

Aside from business attendees had the opportunity to ride a CTA chartered train of Budd rail cars originally introduced on the Kennedy and Dan Ryan lines in the 1960's. We rode portions of the O'Hare, Lake and Jackson Park lines including some of the historic "L" lines through the Loop. As some of the lines parallel current railroads, we had the opportunity to see some of the UP "Race Track", the Global 1 container yard, the St. Charles Air Line and former C&NW rail with Metra commuter rail service. We were also briefed on some of the current proposals for streamlining Chicago's rail service. The National Directors winter meeting will be held in Philadelphia February 7 and 8.

North Texas Rail News

Motoring Down To "Railroading In Texas"

Russ Covitt, member NTC, reports that he and Skip Waters motored down to College Station on November 22 to attend the "Railroading in Texas" program presented by the Texas Eagle Chapter, NRHS. Included were presentations by Steve A. Goen on



the Katy Railroad "Our State's Trans Texas Corridor", member Ken Fitzgerald's presentation of his covering the Union Pacific's Heritage Fleets train visits to both the Democratic and Republican conventions. Also, Bruce Blalock, UP Engineer on the history of the MKT around San Antonio. The presentation was followed by a model railroad tour of 5 local layouts.

DART & TRE Celebrate 20 Millionth Rider!

Coming off a year of record-breaking ridership, the Trinity Railway Express (TRE) boarded its 20 millionth customer the morning of November 6 at CentrePort/DFW Airport Station, the mid-point of the 34-mile line connecting Dallas and Fort Worth. The TRE is a joint service of Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) and The T in Fort Worth. It is operated for the two agencies by Herzog Transportation Services.

The customer, chosen by TRE staff, boarded an eastbound train at CentrePort and was escorted to a reserved seat for the trip to Dallas.

"Wow, this is amazing!," Trinity Railway Express customer Tim Clark of Bedford told reporters after being recognized as the 20 millionth customer of the commuter rail line linking Dallas and Fort Worth. Clark rides daily to his teaching job in downtown Dallas.

They were presented with a number of gifts to mark the occasion including a gift certificate to the Y. O. Ranch Steakhouse (courtesy Herzog), a gift certificate from Sundance Square merchants (courtesy Sundance Square), tickets to a Dallas Stars hockey game (courtesy Dallas Stars), and a model train set of TRE rail cars donated by Athearn, manufacturer of the models. Customers at CentrePort were treated with coffee and cookies through the morning rush hours.

Record TRE ridership in October

Fresh from a record-breaking fiscal year 2008 (2.7 million total trips, average weekday ridership of 10,309), the TRE notched its highest ridership month ever with 327,455 trips. This is the first time the TRE has delivered more than 300,000 trips in a single month. It also marks an increase of 24.1% over October 2007, the previous record-high month. October's average weekday ridership, 11,102, was the third-highest ever, and an 18% increase over October 2007. The highest weekday ridership for TRE was 11,234 set in August 2008. **Source: 11/6/08, DART Press Release** at <http://www.dart.org/news/newsrss.asp?ID=817>

DART Goes Higher As Gas Goes Lower!

Despite the ongoing decline in gasoline prices DART ridership continued to grow in October setting records in total passenger trips in bus,

DART Rail and the Trinity Railway Express. Those modes along with the agency's High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes report growth in both average weekday and total ridership. The table below compares October 2008 with October 2007.

DART Rail

Average weekday = 71,400 (11.8% increase)
 Total = 1,851,300 (11.3% increase)
 Previous high month, August 2008, 1,806,621

Trinity Railway Express

Average weekday = 11,100 (18% increase)
 Total = 327,500 (24.1% increase)
 Previous high month, October 2007, 263,765

Bus

Average weekday = 173,000 (7.2% increase)
 Total = 4,533,100 (8.7% increase)
 Previous high month, October 2001, 4,488,439

HOV

Average weekday = 163,928 (40.1% increase)
 Total = 4,695,900 (42.2% increase)

General Rail News

St. Louis And Amtrak Sure Aren't Blue*

The City of St. Louis and Amtrak are pleased to announce the official grand opening of the Gateway Transportation Center (GTC), the city's new \$26.4 million multimodal transportation hub. Mayor Francis G. Slay, Comptroller Darlene Green, Amtrak Board Member Thomas Carper, Greyhound, Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT), Citizens for Modern Transit and other local officials dedicated the facility today. It is located at 430 South 15th Street. For nearly twenty years, a multimodal station to connect Amtrak, Greyhound, MetroLink and Metro Bus service has been an important concept in the overall design of St. Louis City's transportation systems, but until recently, it was only a concept. When he was first elected Mayor in 2001, Francis Slay



joined with other city officials to make the completion of this facility a top priority. This vision has now become reality, thanks to the cooperation of a variety of wonderful partners.

Today, the Gateway Transportation Center is the City's state-of-the-art multimodal transportation hub operated by the City of St. Louis Comptroller's Office, led by Comptroller Darlene Green. It is conveniently located in the heart of downtown St. Louis where Amtrak, Greyhound, MetroLink and Metro Bus service converge. This new facility provides passengers with a clean, safe and friendly transportation center featuring 24-hour operations staff, security and food service. Since the March 2006 groundbreaking, the City of St. Louis worked in partnership with Bi-State/Metro, MoDOT, the Federal Highway Administration, Amtrak, and Greyhound to complete the new Gateway Transportation Center. Construction was managed by the City's Board of Public Service and built in three phases.

Amtrak Service

The first Amtrak trains from the Gateway Station operated on Wednesday morning, November 19. The Gateway Transportation Center is just south of the Scottrade Center (NHL Blues) and a short light rail ride or walk to Busch Stadium (MLB Cardinals), America's Center/Edward Jones Dome (Convention Center/NFL Rams), the Gateway Arch and riverfront casinos. In addition to easy intermodal connections, the new St. Louis station has free WiFi access, a Metropolitan Lounge for Texas Eagle sleeping car passengers and a food court offering deli sandwiches, snacks and other foods and beverages. The Amtrak ticket office is open from 3:30 a.m. – 11:30 p.m.

MetroLink and Metro Bus Service

The MetroLink Civic Center station (located immediately adjacent to the Gateway Transportation Center) offers daily arrivals and departures to destinations like Lambert Airport, Scott Air Force Base and Shrewsbury. The Metro Bus terminal (located just east of the GTC) offers daily routes to destinations throughout the St. Louis metro area. For a complete listing of all MetroLink and Metro Bus routes, visit www.metrostlouis.org or call 314-231-2345 from Missouri or 618-271-2345 from Illinois. **Source:** 11/21/08,

Amtrak news release at <http://www.amtrak.com>

*But the Chapter sure is, without our Captain Transit. Steve, in case you wondered, yes, this news is in honor of you. The Chapter misses your smile.

Auto Train Service On The Road Again

Amtrak announced that Auto Train service resumed Saturday, Nov. 22, 2008, from both its terminals. Auto Train carries passengers and their automobiles between Lorton, Va., in the Washington, DC area, and Sanford, Fla., in the Orlando area. The service was temporarily suspended Nov. 19 when cracks were found in the underframes of the rail cars that carry automobiles. No passenger-carrying cars were affected.

Amtrak acting President and CEO William Crosbie said, "Although no incidents resulted from these cracks, we suspended service in the interest of safety. We deployed welders and materials to both Auto Train facilities and worked round-the-clock in 12-hour shifts to resume this very popular service as soon as possible.

Amtrak owns 80 of the auto carriers and will apply modifications to all of them. Between 36 and 52 auto carriers are required each day to operate Auto Train service. Amtrak expects maintenance crews to have repaired 36 auto carriers by Saturday, enough to resume the daily overnight runs that eliminate nearly 900 miles of driving between the Northeast and Central Florida. **Source:** 11/21/08, **Amtrak news release** at <http://www.amtrak.com>

Press time: 11/21/08, noon. File: NTx Newsletter 2008-12 vA1.doc

Chapter News & Views

Editor's Mark-Up

By Valli Hoski, VP Publications

Field report from the northern midwest branch lines of the organization. No minutes, no President's column, no Treasurer's small changes jingling in the press. We must all be out chasing trains. Speaking of looking down that long rail line, your loyal editor has a temporary abode within hearing distance of a rather aptly name rail hot spot – **Deval Tower, Des Plaines**. With apologies (and full credit) to Trains and Kalmbach Publications, here is their take on the busy yards just a few blocks away from where I (and Harry when he's not in TX) live in downtown Des Plaines.

"Deval Tower, Des Plaines: The active interlocking tower (Deval is short for **Des Plaines Valley**) sits amid three sets of diamonds where UP's Northwest Line, UP's freight cutoff for Wisconsin trains, and CN's Wisconsin Central all cross.



So, we cheated - we've given you more than 10 top hot spots. Add the extra one in Blue Island to Hammond's three, and you get 13. Actually, we've mentioned dozens if you're liberal on the CN&W and BN routes. Enjoy all of them, and more, in the Railroad Capital."

So consider the door open to a friendly knock from a fellow (or gal) rail enthusiast from North Texas. Just give a call before stopping by and I'll be glad to show you some of the best of northwest suburban Chicago's rail and eating spots.

Source: *Trains Magazine*, <http://www.trains.com/trn/default.aspx?c=a&id=514>

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

Dec. 2, 2008	North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m. Program: Annual holiday dinner. Pre-dinner event: KCS Holiday Train, Marble St., Wylie, Texas. Location: NTC Holiday Group Dinner at Outback Steakhouse at 7:00pm, Address: 4902 N President George Bush Hwy, Garland, TX 75040, Phone: (972) 495-3699
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/
Sat. Jan. 17, 2009	4th Annual Dallas Area Slide Show and NRHS Open House . Location: Southfork Hotel, Chinaberry Room, 1600 North Central Expressway, Plano, Texas 75074. Time: 6:00pm to 10:00pm. Accepting presenters now. Contact Skip Waters at 214-987-2888 or email to wgcrush@swbell.net to sign up.
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.