



VALLI HOSKI, NORTH TEXAS NEWS EDITOR

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Chapter Meeting – Jan. 6, 2009

February 3, 2009 - Meeting, Founders Building, Grapevine.

Meet 'n' Greet, 7pm. Meeting, 7:30 pm.
Program: Ken Fitzgerald will do a presentation on his photos from the 2008 National Political Conventions where he was serving as the Official Photographer for the Union Pacific Railroad.
Where: Founders Building, 701 S. Main St., Grapevine.
 Driving? Go west on Hwy 114, exit Main St. for Grapevine.
 Drive just north of RR tracks, building is on the right.

Election Results

The 2009 North Texas Chapter election results, as posted in the January 6, 2008 meeting minutes:

- ◆ President - **Wayne Smith**
- ◆ 1st VP Programs - **Jon Shea**
- ◆ 2nd VP Trips/Events - **Skip Waters**
- ◆ 3rd VP Publications - **Claude Doane**
- ◆ Secretary - **Dave Gramm**
- ◆ Treasurer - **Jim King**
- ◆ National Director – **Dale Wilken**

Special Feature – News From The New NTC President

Open Letter to the NTC Membership

By Wayne Smith

The story is told of a horse pull in Canada. One horse pulled 9,000 pounds, another 8,000. Together you would expect them to pull 17,000 pounds. Not so! When teamed together, they pulled 30,000 pounds. The principle is called synergism. By definition, the simultaneous action of separate agents working together has a greater total effect than the sum of their individual efforts. More can be done in a team than can be accomplished solo.

In order for the principle of synergism to work like it should there has to be teamwork. Everything we do takes teamwork and trust. That is why I am thrilled about being the president of the North Texas Chapter for 2009. I experienced firsthand the ability of this chapter to pull multiples of 30,000 pounds (figuratively, of course) during the Lone Star Rails 2008 NRHA Annual Convention in North Texas.

Last year was a banner year for our chapter due to the synergism of the members of this chapter. That is why it is so important to renew your membership and to participate in the membership meetings. Each of you is invited to present or participate in a program for our chapter.

I challenge each of you to renew your membership in NRHS and to invite as many people to join our chapter and attend our meetings as possible. In the last week, I have already invited three railroad enthusiasts to join our chapter and attend our meetings. Every person in the local chapter is valuable and needed. This chapter is a team and together we can assist the national organization in building for the future of the NRHS.



Special Feature – Bringing Them to the Valley

Railroads Were The Route To Harlingen's Growth

By Jon Shea, VP Programs

This note is from an article on Harlingen, Texas in the January/February issue of The Medallion, a publication of the Texas State Historical Commission. As nearly as I can determine, the railroad was the St. Louis, Brownsville, and Mexico Railway, which later became part of the Missouri Pacific system.

"Harlingen's economic growth intensified when the railroad arrived in 1904 connecting the burgeoning town to the big coastal cities of Brownsville and Corpus Christi. The railroad put Harlingen on track to early prosperity. The region's plentiful produce was packed in the city's icehouses and shipped north on the rails to Texas locales and beyond. Despite modest growth and commercial development, Harlingen didn't see a significant population increase until the 1920s, when land developers often found creative ways to entice Northerners to the Texas tropics. According to [Cheryl] LaBerge [Harlingen's Main Street Manager], local legend claims the railroad companies advertised the region's abundant and fertile property to Northerners before loading people on the trains to see this 'land of opportunity'. When the trains reached the desolate coastal plains in the King Ranch area, developers reportedly lowered the window shades and opened the liquor bottles so prospective land buyers would be in good spirits by the time they arrived in the Valley's tropical paradise. 'Apparently people were enthusiastically buying plots of land immediately on site,' LaBerge says. 'The population went from around 1,700 people to 12,000 in the course of a decade.'"

Anyone who has ever driven from Corpus Christi to Brownsville can easily understand why the window shades were lowered and the booze was freely dispensed. It's rough thornscrub country where few would want to think of settling.

Source: 1/15/09, **The Medallion**, at http://www.thc.state.tx.us/medallionmag/medallionPDFs/md_01_09.pdf

You can get a free subscription to The Medallion at: <http://www.thc.state.tx.us/medallionmag/mddefault.shtml>

The Early Days faces the railroad tracks between Jackson and Van Buren. Painted in 2001 by Jermain Steed of Davenport, Iowa, this work depicts aspects of Harlingen's founding and early years.

The calm waters of the Arroyo Colorado and a man representing the Hispanic pioneers who first settled the area are central images. **The steam locomotive signifies the coming of the railroad in 1904.**

Photo credit: **Harlingen Mural Project**, City of Harlingen at

<http://www.myharlingen.us/default.aspx?name=pd.downtown.murals>



National Rail News

Amtrak Prepares for Presidential Run

Throngs of well-wishers are expected to line the tracks as President-elect Barack Obama travels by train from Philadelphia to Washington the weekend before his swearing-in as the 44th president, prompting heightened security along the rails, according to a story from The Associated Press. Crowds are expected to gather at numerous spots, including overpasses, parking lots, and commuter train stations, as Obama retraces the journey of President Abraham Lincoln, who also rode to his inauguration on a train from Philadelphia. Lincoln was smuggled under cover of darkness from one train station to another to avoid a feared assassination attempt.

The Associated Press said Obama and the first family will start their "Whistle Stop Tour" on Jan. 17 with an event at Philadelphia's 30th Street Station before boarding a private charter train and picking up Vice President-elect Joe Biden and his family in Wilmington, Del. During his years in the Senate, Biden regularly commuted by train from Delaware to Washington. The president-



elect and Biden will then make a stop in Baltimore before making their way to Washington. *Source: 1/9/2009, Trains News Wire, <http://www.trains.com/trn/default.aspx?c=a&id=4478>*

UP Sets New Coal Records at SPRB

Union Pacific surpassed several all-time records for delivering coal out of Wyoming's Southern Powder River Basin (SPRB). During 2008, UP set an all-time record by loading 13,212 trains out of the SPRB, 332 more trains than in 2006, the previous year record. Union Pacific also loaded 204.6 million tons of coal out of the SPRB during 2008, eclipsing another all-time mark set in 2007 by 5 percent. During December, Union Pacific moved 1,118 trains out of the SPRB for an average of 36.06 trains per day. Union Pacific's average train-per-day record was set during November 2007 at 38.63 trains per day. *Source: 1/9/09, Trains News Wire, at <http://www.trains.com/trn/default.aspx?c=a&id=4479>*

Local Rail News

Wylie Seals Its Railroading History

City Council members unanimously passed a resolution adopting a new City seal during the December 9 City Council meeting. The new design focuses on the rich history of Wylie and its incorporation in 1887. The seal is the legal symbol that documents have been executed by the Mayor or City Manager and made part of the attesting by the City Secretary.

Source: 12/31/2008, eWYLIE, the City of Wylie's e-newsletter.



DART Names New CFO

Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) has named David Leininger as its new chief financial officer. Leininger's duties at DART will include overseeing all financial activities, such as budgeting, financial planning, federal funding, accounts payable and general accounting. Before coming to DART, Leininger worked at the City of Irving for five years, serving initially in the capacity of CFO and subsequently as Managing Director of Development Services and Economic Initiatives. *Source: 12/31/2008, DART News Release, at <http://www.dart.org/news/news.asp?ID=828>*

Chapter News & Views

President's Column – Congratulations to the Board

Wayne Smith, newly elected Chapter President, sent this welcome to the 2009 Board of the North Texas Chapter:

Congratulations on your "election" (or re-election) into the NTC of the NRHS Board of Directors. All of you have been strong supporters of the chapter and were a very vital part of the huge success of "Lone Star Rails." To become President of a Board and have the experience and influence of its Directors that all of you possess is very satisfying and calming. I know how hard all of you work for the betterment of the chapter and the NRHS. I share your passion for railroading and the conservation and promotion of all things railroading. Also, we appreciate Valli staying on as Editor of the North Texas Zephyr. It is a big job and Valli continues to demonstrate the talent to provide us with a great monthly newsletter. Here's to a great year! Thanks to all, Wayne

Ham Radio Operators + Rail Enthusiasts = Camaraderie

By Harry Fasick, K3EYL

The Eastern New Mexico Amateur Radio Club, www.ka5b.org, celebrated 100 years of railroad history in Clovis, NM, by operating a Special Event ham radio station from the Clovis Depot Train Museum on Saturday, January 10th. Most stations in contact with Clovis were received well in Wylie. Many of the hams in contact were recalling their favorite locomotive, such as the E-8, or telling of their trips to see live steam on the East Coast including Steamtown. **There seems to be a great camaraderie between Rail Enthusiasts and Ham Radio Operators.**





This ham radio operator, Harry, K3EYL, was not able to hear KA5B, but did hear many other stations in contact with the special event station. Clovis, NM, is too close to Dallas to receive signals. At the frequency being used, KA5B's signal was bouncing off the ionosphere over North Texas, not hitting the ground. North Texas was skipped over.

Ponderings From Publications

By Claude Doane, VP Publications

Greetings from your new VP of Publications. Thanks to everyone for their vote of confidence. The job should be relatively easy since we already have a great Editor. I am going to start in by requesting everyone submit items for publication, We have over 50 renewed memberships so far. That means that if everyone submits one item, there would be more than four new submissions per issue of the NTZ. I know that will make our Editor and me happy. (Believe it or not, even this request counts!) But, that doesn't mean I am done for the year. If you go rail fanning and spy something cool or unusual, let us know. A paragraph or two is sufficient. Digital photos are always welcome. If they aren't digital, and you do not have a scanner, contact me and I will see if I can scan it and forward it for you. Send submissions to ntz.news@yahoo.com or to Valli directly at her ntz. email. I can be reached at claudedoane@hcahealthcare.com or 972-566-5991 days, 972-272-3958 evenings and weekends.

Editor's Mark-Up

By Valli Hoski, NTZ Editor

Field report from the northern midwest branch lines of the organization. The Canadian National and E&JE acquisition is all the news up here in greater Chicagoland. Even my local town, Des Plaines, is in the news. With the STB's close-to-the-wire approval of the deal, Des Plaines mayor Tony Arredia expressed local support but also caution about the reduction of local CN freight train traffic. As reported in The Daily Herald (12/28/08):

Tony Arredia may be the mayor, but just like all other Des Plaines residents, he has to live with about 240 trains per day traversing the city on 33 different grade crossings..."Nobody could fault Des Plaines for being in favor of a deal that would cut our train traffic through town." The \$300 million purchase will give CN additional trackage to reroute some freight trains from the crowded city and inner suburban rails to lines 20-30 miles west. Des Plaines is expected to be one of the main beneficiaries of the merger. CN is only one of several railroads that run through Des Plaines. But Arredia is concerned that rail officials are predicting a 30 percent increase in freight traffic over the next five to 10 years. If that's true, Des Plaines may still see even more congestion than now.

(Source: 12/28/2008, Daily Herald, by Jean Murphy. <http://www.dailyherald.com/story/?id=260816>)

Chapter Meeting Minutes, January 6, 2009

NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER, NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, MEETING MINUTES AND NOTES, DATE: January 6, 2009. Founders Building, Grapevine, Texas. Minutes submitted by Dave Gramm, NTC Secretary.

VP-Trips & Events Skip Waters called the meeting to order at 7:35pm in the absence of President Ron Anderson. There were 15 members in attendance.

Skip reported that UP 1983 was to be in Fort Worth as he spoke (7:30 pm). He also reported the Greenville, TX RR Museum is looking to revive the 'Crash at Crush' play that ran in Fort Worth a few months ago. He also reminded all members in attendance about the 4th annual Dallas Area Slide Show, to be held on Jan 17 from 6pm-10pm at Southfork Hotel in Plano. Volunteers are needed to help run the event as he will set it up but cannot be there for the event.

Treasurer Jim King reported he would write the final convention check to National Headquarters later this week after Jon closes out the convention account. He reported that we had 53 renewed chapter memberships so far with 35 unrenewed still pending. Claude Doane reported the Plano Conservancy, operators of the Plano Interurban Museum, had requested a grant from the chapter in the amount of \$1500 to restore the pot bellied stove at the museum. The museum has been renovating and adding to the museum and this was one of the last items on their list of projects to be done. The board will take under advisement and vote on pending completion of the convention bank account closure.

Two events at the Sheraton-Dallas this month: Jan 14-16 Southwest Region Rail Conference. Jan 17-19 Private Rail Car Owners Convention.

VP-Programs Jon Shea reported the February meeting is TBA and may or may not be held at Grapevine Visitors Center. He will contact Valli with the info as soon as possible. Watch the newsletter for an update. The March meeting is still scheduled for SOKOL Hall in Dallas and will feature Pat Coughlan presenting a UP/KCS program.



Skip asked Nominations Chair Russ Covitt to read the slate of officers for the coming year. They are: President – Wayne Smith. 1st VP-Programs – Jon Shea. 2nd VP-Trips & Events – Skip Waters. 3rd VP-Publications – Claude Doane. Secretary – Dave Gramm. Treasurer – Jim King. National Director – Dale Wilken. Russ asked if there were any nominations from the floor and received a motion and a second to close nominations in response. motion carried. A motion was then made to elect the slate as presented by acclamation and seconded. Motion carried and all nominated officer candidates were railroaded back into office.

Newly elected president Wayne took over the meeting at this point and proceeded with the program for the evening, 'Show & Tell', by leading off with his reporting about his father who worked as the railroad clerk in Amarillo for the Ft. Worth & Denver, and his grandfather who was a roadmaster for the Rock Island. He passed around photographs of his father at his office and his grandfather at work on the steam engine he was assigned.

Jon Shea talked about visiting the 'Gold Camp Road' area of Cripple Creek and Victor in Colorado. He remarked about driving the entire distance from Cripple Creek to Colorado Springs along the old roadbed. He accented his report with maps and pictures of the area. Russ Covitt showed a book entitled "Route 66 Railway" by the LA Historical Society, which documented Route 66 and its relationship to the railroad. Dr. Robert Gillespie continued his research on medical facilities and the railroads with various artifacts from several railroad company hospitals including prescription bottles, medical manuals for the surgeons, postcard pictures of many RR hospitals and an AAR Surgeons proficiency plaque. Skip Waters showed off several SP artifacts including an SP Bulletin from 1943 with Roy Rogers on the cover and another with SP 745 on the cover (this loco was subsequently restored). Bill France reminisced about several Rock Island stories he had heard from ex-employees back when he was a teenager. Don Ross reported about going on a railfan trip while serving in the military in Korea back in 1953-54. Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

Press time: 1/15/09, 6pm. File: NTx Newsletter 2009-02 vC.doc

Chapter Directory

North Texas Chapter Officers, 2009.

- **President, Wayne Smith**, kwsmith@uta.edu
- **President/Programs, Jon Shea**, 972-480-9054.
- **Vice President/Trips and Events, Skip Waters**, wgcrush@swbell.net.
- **Vice President/Publications, Claude Doane**, claude.doane@hcahealthcare.com
- **Secretary, Dave Gramm**, dgramm@sbcglobal.net
- **Treasurer, Jim King**, jgking@swbell.net
- **National Director, Dale Wilken**, d-mwilken@sbcglobal.net.

Chapter Business Address

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North Texas Zephyr, newsletter of the North Texas Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society
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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. Feb. 3, 2009	North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m. Founder's Building (by Cotton Belt depot), 701 S. Main St., Grapevine. Guest Speaker: Ken Fitzgerald, Photography from the 2008 National Political Conventions.
Tues. Mar. 3, 2009	North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m. Sokol Dallas Center , 7448 Greenville Ave, Dallas. Map: http://www.sokoldallas.com/id13.html Guest speaker: Pat Coughlan, UP and Kansas City Southern Railroads.
Tues. Apr. 7, 2009	North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m. Sokol Dallas Center , 7448 Greenville Ave, Dallas. Map: http://www.sokoldallas.com/id13.html Guest speaker: Roger Bee, Texas Shortline Railroads.