



VALLI HOSKI, NORTH TEXAS NEWS EDITOR

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Chapter Meeting

July 7, 2009 - Meeting, Plano Interurban Railway Museum

Meeting, 7:30 pm.

Program: Museum Tour

Where: Plano Interurban Railway Museum, 901 East 15th Street in Plano, TX. (a few blocks east of Central Expressway). Take Red Line north to Plano, get off at 15 St. Downtown Plano station. Their new archivist will tell us about what’s new at the museum. We will tour the museum and Texas Electric Car and see the stove our chapter donated money to help restore. Plus there will be some surprises.

NRHS 2009 Convention

Steam on the Range 2009, Aug 11-16, 2009

Join fellow chapter members and NRHS colleagues for Steam on the Range 2009 in Duluth, Minnesota.

Tickets are still available for some events. See

www.SteamOnTheRange2009.com
for a complete list of events and prices



Special Feature – Success @ Saginaw 2009

President’s Roundhouse

By Wayne Smith

From my perspective, and from all comments I heard by attendees, “24 Hours at Saginaw” was a complete success and the best of the four so far. As we all know, Skip almost single handedly coordinated and ran the entire event. Also, thanks to board members Claude and Dave who lent a hand on-site when needed. Our thanks to the BNSF Railway, and the Saginaw Chamber of Commerce for the use of the depot and surrounding property. The non-stop programs were excellent and officially we had 101 people sign-in. I know that there were many more people that did not sign-in, including a Boy Scout Troop (and their leaders) working on their Railroad Merit Badge. I am not clear on the final train count, but it is approximately 55. That is not close to the number of trains we recorded for the first annual event, but we have no control over that aspect. Many thanks also go out to all local “railroad celebrities and enthusiasts” that volunteered to make audio/video presentations and to Ken Fitzgerald with his collection of air horns. For those of you that missed the event, there were non-stop programs and lots of door prizes were given away. Through donations, we were able to cover the high cost of insurance and most of the operating expenses. That demonstrates the quality of the event. I know there were several attendees from as far away as Houston and Oklahoma. There was also a gentleman from New York in town for training. He heard of the event from someone while riding the Grapevine Vintage Railroad. I did not get a count of how many people were actually there for the entire 24-hour period or stayed through the night. Be sure to thank Skip for all that he does the next time you see him.



Special Feature – NTC Field Trip - Texas Electric Railway

Join The TER Treasure Hunt, July 19

On Saturday, July 18, the North Texas Chapter invites you to join the "hunt" for the Texas Electric Railroad. We will trace the original route from the Monroe Shops to Waco, Texas. Mr. Johnnie Myers, author of the book Texas Electric Railway, is our Historian and Tour Guide. Tour ticket price is \$30. Parking and lunch are on your own. For more information, please see the flyer enclosed in this issue. To purchase your ticket, send a check or money order payable to the North Texas Chapter to this address: "Down the Texas Electric Treasure Hunt", North Texas Chapter, NRHS, P.O. Box 600304, Dallas, Texas, 75360-0304. For more information or questions, contact Skip Waters at (214) 987-2888 or wgcrush@swbell.net.

You're invited to a North Texas Chapter, NRHS field trip event.



"Down the Texas Electric" A Railway Treasure Hunt!

All Aboard to explore the Texas Electric Railway route between Dallas and Waco, TX. We will attempt to expose, uncover and document original TE landmarks and historical TE sites as we tour the original line of the TEXAS ELECTRIC RAILWAY to Waco!

We will trace the original route from the Monroe Shops to Waco, TX, uncover locations of Interurban stations and hear stories of how the Texas Electric operated along the route to Waco from Dallas. Discover hidden tracks and bridges and more... Mr. Johnnie J. Myers, author of Texas Electric Railway, is our Historian and Tour guide. Join us on this rare adventure to re-discover the TEXAS ELECTRIC!

WHEN: Saturday, July 18, 2009
TIME: 8:30am-5:00pm
WHERE: Monroe Shops, (Illinois DART Station)
 Denley Drive, north of Illinois Ave., Dallas, TX
COST: \$30.00 per seat

Parking and lunch is on your own. We suggest parking at one of the DART Light Rail Stations and ride DART to Illinois Station, or park at the Monroe Shops (free parking). We plan to eat lunch at an affordable place.

For more information or questions:
 contact Skip Waters
 214-987-2888 or
 email at: wgcrush@swbell.net

To purchase your ticket:
 Make a Check or Money Order out to
 "North Texas Chapter, NRHS"
 and mail it to:
 "Down the Texas Electric Treasure Hunt"
 North Texas Chapter, NRHS
 P.O. Box 600304
 Dallas, Texas 75360-0304

Limited to 45 seats on a first come basis, get yours today!



Special Feature – Join SP 4449 Excursion To Battle Creek

Travel In Style With Chicago NRHS – July 19, '09

On July 19, 2009, join SP 4449 as she travels from Chicago to Battle Creek on a summer Sunday morning and early afternoon. Enjoy a lunch in Battle Creek, then relax with comfortable bus ride back to Chicago, arriving in early evening.

The Chicago Chapter of the NRHS is delighted to share news of this very exciting and rare steam trip, pulled by the unique and memorable SP 4449 locomotive. Please share the attached trip flyer (in this issue) with your chapter members and public.

For any questions, please see the ticket form below, feel free to contact the Chicago Chapter or email Valli Hoski at ntx.valli@yahoo.com.

Ride a Steam Train



Photo by Mike Bechtel, used with permission.



*Chicago Chapter NRHS Announces
Steam Excursion*

Steam Train Excursion – July 19th.

Ride a steam train excursion from Chicago to Battle Creek, MI pulled by the famous Daylight steam engine #4449. The trip to Battle Creek will be behind steam and the return will be by bus.

Timetable:

Depart	Chicago Union Station	8:00am
Arrive	Battle Creek	1:00pm
Return by bus	Chicago	5:00pm

Fare: Coach: \$149.00

See reverse side for ordering details.

ORDERING INFORMATION

Coach ___ @ \$149.00 = _____

Method of Payment: ___ Check ___ Money Order ___ VISA ___ MasterCard

Name: (Please print) _____

Your Street Address _____ Apt./Suite _____

City: _____ State/Prov: _____ ZIP/PC _____

Telephone – Day: () _____ Evening: () _____

Credit Card No.: _____ Expiration: _____

Signature: _____

To Order by mail: Return this order form with payment to the Chicago Chapter, NRHS Post Office Box 2023 Elmhurst, Illinois 60126-2023. Or: Place your order by phoning (708) 579-1905 or by Fax: (708) 354-1753. You may use VISA or MasterCard for telephone orders. Leave a message with your name, address and telephone number so we may process your order.

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS

This excursion will require some walking and stair climbing while boarding trains. Those persons having mobility impairments or requiring the use of wheelchairs will be required to provide their own attendants, if necessary, as the Chicago Chapter does not permit its staff to perform in such a role. Additionally, mobility impaired persons are asked to contact our office to discuss available accommodations prior to ordering.

ORDER PROCESSING AND DISCLAIMER

Your order will be processed in a timely manner by our volunteer staff. Timeliness depends on the number of events prior to this excursion that have to be processed. Boarding location information and other excursion related material will be mailed to you as far in advance as possible. Chicago Chapter, Inc has no control over the various transportation companies and other entities providing services for this excursion, and it thus must be understood that changes in motive power, equipment, dates, times, or accommodations, though highly unlikely, can occur.

Keep us up-to-date on your address changes. nrtfand@vol.com or NRHS, P.O. Box 2023, Elmhurst, IL 60126-2023



Special Feature – Reminder: Daylight in July

SP 4449 Makes Tracks to Train Festival 2009 – July 23-26, '09

For those who love steam, lots of famous steam, starting making your travel plans for Train Festival 2009, July 23-26 in Owosso, Michigan! **Southern Pacific 4449 "World's Most Famous Steam Locomotive"** will travel from its home in Portland, OR 2500 miles to Owosso, MI for America's Largest Celebration of Railroading in July. Southern Pacific steam locomotive no. 4449 known as the "Daylight" will **appear at Train Festival 2009 in Owosso, MI July 23-26**. The massive undertaking to organize this train is being jointly coordinated by The Steam Railroading Institute of Owosso, MI, The Friends of the 4449 of Portland, Oregon and The Friends of the 261 of Minneapolis, Minnesota. See SP 4999's latest news at <http://www.sp4449.com/trainfest.html>

Southern Pacific no. 4449 was built in 1941 as a GS-4 "Northern" type locomotive. A 4-8-4 wheel arrangement, she is 110' long, 10' wide and 16' tall. The locomotive and tender weighs 433 tons, and it operates with a boiler pressure of 300 psi. Her eight 80" diameter drivers and unique booster truck can apply 5,500 horsepower to the rails and exceed 100 mph. The only remaining operable "streamlined" steam locomotive of the Art Deco era, Southern Pacific no. 4449 pulled Southern Pacific "Daylight" coaches from Los Angeles to San Francisco over the scenic Coast Route and then on to Portland until 1955. In 1974, she was selected to pull the American Freedom Train throughout the United States, and was subsequently rebuilt. Southern Pacific no. 4449 ran for three years to the delight of over 30 million people. She is arguably one of the most beautiful locomotives ever built -- and kept that way by the all-volunteer Friends of SP 4449!

Anyone who loves steam might want to drive up for this outstanding event, put on by the nice folks of the Steam Institute (and operators of the Pere Marquette, 1225.) **Train Festival 2009 is America's Largest Celebration of Railroading and will include 8 steam locomotives under steam**, vintage and modern diesel/electric locomotives, various train rides, huge model train layouts, miniature train rides, art exhibit, locomotive cab tours, railroad vendors and much more. See details at <http://www.trainfestival2009.com/>

Special Feature – 2nd Annual Railfan Weekend, Temple

Includes Special Tour of Army Base Railhead – Oct. 23-24, '09

The Railroad and Heritage Museum invites all railroad enthusiasts to the **2nd Annual Railfan Weekend, Friday and Saturday, October 23-24, 2009**. The weekend begins Friday afternoon with a model railroad "operating" session, not normally offered to the general public. During the session remote controlled model trains will be operating on a "mainline subdivision" using a complete "train crew" and under the direction of the "train dispatcher" and the "trainmaster." If you ever dreamed of being an engineer, this is a must-see for you. The Friday evening activities will conclude with a Museum tour, dinner, and special speaker.

On Saturday, we will re-convene at the Museum for another model railroad "operating" session along with a tour of the Museum rolling stock prior to the **trip to Ft. Hood Army Base Railhead**. After an Army-style lunch the attendees will go to the Railhead. Ft. Hood Army base normally does not offer tours of the Railhead to the general public, so **this is something you will not want to miss!** Army personnel will take us on an adventure that will include stops at the maintenance facility and the yard where loading and blocking of military trains takes place before delivery to BNSF. After this tour, you will have a new appreciation of military train operations.

Registration for Railfan Weekend is now open. The Railroad and Heritage Museum is offering a **special rate of \$45 per person through September 4**. After September 4 registration will be \$50. **You may register at the Museum (10 am – 4 pm, Tuesday-Saturday), through our website (www.rrhm.org), or call Jeremy Krauss at 254-298-5165.**

Source: 6/15/2009: *The Railroad and Heritage Museum News Release*. Point of contact: Jeremy Krauss 254-298-5165

Local Rail News

2009 Museum Railroad Lecture Series, Temple, June 28.

The Railroad and Heritage Museum in conjunction with the Central Texas Chapter of the National Railroad Historical Society invites everyone to the second in the **2009 Museum Railroad Lecture Series** to occur in the Museum lobby at 2 pm on **Sunday, June 28th**. Former **Santa Fe Railroad employees will share their experiences of the Mobile Locomotive Simulator Training Car** described as the "first mobile locomotive training simulator in existence." (1968, Santa Fe Railroad magazine). Santa Fe Railroad committed \$750,000 and two full years of research toward the design of the car. The car contained a full scale mock up of a modern SD-45 diesel locomotive, complete with throttle, brake, and other controls, all housed inside a former railroad car. The car was also fully equipped with a visual system, motion system, and sound system allowed for truly realistic operating experience to prepare and reassure the new locomotive engineer prior to the first "on the job" experience. Prior to the inception of the car, it took locomotive engineer trainees four years of training with qualified personnel.

During the latter half of 1969, the Santa Fe introduced it for public inspection at Washington D.C, Chicago, and Los Angeles prior to its first stop in Temple, TX for the first 6 week training program which began in October 1970. You will hear the fascinating first hand accounts of the training program from a former simulator instructor and from two of the six "incubator engineers" trained in Temple.

The format will be a round-table discussion with ample time for questions from the audience. The Museum is located at 315 West Avenue B, Temple, TX 76501. The gift shop and 2nd floor museum will be open at the conclusion of the program. For additional information about the program, please contact Jeremy at 254-298-5165.



DART and the T Explore Alternative Growth Strategy

Dallas Area Rapid Transit and the Fort Worth Transportation Authority want to find out if an increasingly popular method to jump start highway projects will work for transit projects in the United States. The two transit agencies have issued a Request for Information (RFI) seeking firms who would be interested in a public private partnership (PPP) to design, construct, operate, maintain and finance a cross-regional passenger rail service starting as early as 2013.

The 67.7-mile project, known as the Cotton Belt Rail Line, will operate principally on a 54-mile DART-owned rail corridor of the same name. The DART corridor extends from Wylie in Collin County, north and east of Dallas, west to Fort Worth. Some of the cities on the corridor include Plano, Richardson, Dallas Addison, Carrollton and Fort Worth as well as DFW International Airport.

The line is presently used by freight lines and both DART and The T have plans for introducing passenger rail service. DART's current long-range system plan calls for Cotton Belt service starting by approximately 2027. The T is developing plans for rail service on another corridor in southwest Fort Worth, which could be part of the PPP, and connecting to the Cotton Belt in the northern part of the city.

The Cotton Belt Rail Line would connect the current DART Light Rail Red Line and the future Light Rail Green Line. It would also connect in downtown Carrollton with the planned Denton County Transportation Authority (DCTA) passenger rail service between Denton and Carrollton, and the TRE line at the Intermodal Transportation Center and T&P Stations in Fort Worth. Information about the project is available at

www.DART.org/CottonBeltPPP.

Source: 5/29/09, **DART News Release** at <http://www.dart.org/news/news.asp?ID=858>

Chapter News & Views

Ponderings From Publications

By Claude Doane, VP Publications

JULY ALREADY?

Yes, it is. It does not seem possible but the year is half over. The email process seems to be working well for those that can and have chosen to receive the Zephyr electronically.

We thank you for working with us to help reduce our costs of operation. As a thank you, the Publications Team (really Valli) will be putting out a "Photo Special" for electronic distribution only. This will be pictures/captions only so anyone not getting the Zephyr via email will not miss any news, schedules, or chapter information.

The first planned special issue will focus on our excellent "24 Hours At Saginaw" event.

Since I won't be able to make the July meeting to make this plea in person again, I will do it right here..

SEND IN THOSE PICTURES!

While the first issue will focus on Saginaw, other future issues will include miscellaneous railroad photography. So send us your vacation pictures of the trains you rode and the railroad museums you visited. Even Dale can send in pictures on the model railroad layout he and his wife visited in Germany. You can send them directly to Valli @ (ntx.valli@yahoo.com). Thank you from the Publications Team.

Remember, if you have not supplied us with your email, but want to make the change, please send an email to Jim King @ jgking@swbell.net. In the subject line reference "E mail Zephyr" and your name in case your email address does not match your name.

If you do not have email or you wish to continue to receive a hard copy via the postal service, do nothing at this time.

Watch this space for more information coming your way in future issues

Editor's Mark-Up

By Valli Hoski, NTZ Editor. Field report from the northern midwest branch lines of the organization.

The convenient, immediate wonder of digital photography has given a different feeling to photo-documenting of the rail hobby. Often images are in such abundance that they overwhelm the eye, one's personal ability to appreciate and differentiate, and become a blur of one forgotten image after another. Then, a rare talent emerges who transforms all we see and how we see it.

The **Blackhawk Chapter of the NRHS** sponsored such a transformational evening for visitors and members on May 5, 2009. **Nick Suydam** presented an evening of his **evocative photographic images of the Chicago Transit Authority system, commuter rail and commercial railroad environs around the Chicago area**. Superb is faint praise for this young man's talent and ability to capture and present **remarkable rail images that freshen and delight even the most-traveled rail enthusiast's vision of railroading**.

Here are a few of **your editor's thoughts** about Mr. Suydam's breathtaking visual program:

- ◆ **Night hawks, night shots, hot shots, intense color not faded by day's glare. Livery illuminated by streetlights, turn rail into a surrealistic ribbon of dreams. Empty stations seeking the few night hawks in flight.**
- ◆ **Slumbering locomotives lumber awake with a slow, pensive, tractive crawl. City lights, night lights, glow a backdrop for bright diesels casting their highballing illusions coast to coast.**



Take your own visual journey by visiting this talented photographer's collection at www.nichsuydam.com Railroads, locomotives, train sheds, stations, and people – all will look new and fresh. Photography will never look or be the same to you again.

Best regards to all my friends and colleagues in the North Texas Chapter and rail fanning community, Valli

Chapter Meeting Minutes, June 2, 2009

NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER, NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, MEETING MINUTES AND NOTES, DATE: June 2, 2009. Ennis Railroad and Cultural Heritage Museum, **Ennis, Texas.** *Minutes submitted by Dave Gramm, NTC Secretary.*

[Editor note: revised with 6/22/09 corrections from Jim King, Treasurer.]

Meeting was held at the Ennis Railroad and Cultural Heritage Museum. President Wayne Smith called the meeting to order at 7:45 pm. There were 13 members and one guest, Ted Phelps. Accolades were given by the chapter members to VP Skip Waters for his excellent work on the 4th annual '24 Hours @ Saginaw' event, which was termed a huge success.

VP –Trips & Events Skip Waters reported he turned in the final \$120 in donations collected for insurance to Treasurer Jim King in anticipation of the bill. VP Claude Doane had the remaining \$300 collected and the chapter came out \$20 ahead on insurance. Skip had also spent some funds for ice, water and other essentials from his budget along with over \$100 donated to buy 15 pizzas on Friday night. Although 101 people officially signed in, there were more people present including a Boy Scout troop who were earning a Merit Badge. Next years event may be moved to June in conjunction with other planned city events the chamber would like to see coincide.

Next event planned is 'Down the TX Electric' interurban track route tour from Dallas to Waco. It has been rescheduled for Saturday, July 18 from 8:30am - 5:00pm. Cost to participate is \$30 and chapter member & interurban guru Johnnie Meyers will be our guide. See Skip for additional details or to sign up.

VP – Programs Jon Shea brought some artifacts from the Marshall, TX railroad museum for Show and Tell. He presented some T&P shops postcards and some T&P ticket reproductions along with some anecdotal stories. Jon also reported that the chapter's IRS Form 990 for last year had been filed since we had earned income from the 2008 convention.

- ◆ July's meeting will be on the 7th at the Plano Interurban Museum. The station stove that the chapter made a donation for is on site and will have a plaque attached naming the chapter as donors.
- ◆ August's meeting TBD.
- ◆ September's meeting will be at the Grapevine Visitors & Convention Bureau building and will be presentations from the Duluth National Convention and Wayne Smith on the Fort Worth & Denver.
- ◆ October's meeting TBD.
- ◆ November's meeting in Grapevine for the annual member's auction.
- ◆ December's annual Christmas party is in work.

VP – Publication Claude Doane requested members to submit pictures on '24 Hours @ Saginaw' to newsletter editor Valli for inclusion in the first 'EXTRA' publication.

Jim King reports that we have two new members, one from Minnesota and one from Washington state. Both were individuals who needed to join NRHS because they wanted to attend the convention in Duluth in August. Jim and Terry are handling registration duties for the convention and offered to assist these individuals in becoming members of the North Texas Chapter.

National Director Dale Wilken reported viewing a large RR model display in Hempstead, Germany. Pictures will be available at the next meeting and copies will be sent to Valli for inclusion in the newsletter.

A member reminisced about riding the SP 'Texas Sunbeam' from Dallas to Houston back in the 1940's. The SP advertising poster displayed in the Ennis museum claimed the 'Sunbeam could cover the 265 miles in 265 minutes' with a 98% on time record. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm. Program was two short videos presented by the Ennis RR Museum titled; 'Ennis Heritage Railroad Museum' reliving the story of Ennis' founding and the railroad coming to town, and 'Downtown Ennis: A Historical Perspective' telling the story of the city of Ennis growth through the years.

The city was named after Colonel Ennis, a director on the Houston & TX Central RR which had built a line to the area in 1871. The town was founded in 1872 when the railroad bought 600+ acres to build RR shops and a yard.

Press time: 6/22/09, noon. File: NTx Newsletter 2009-07 vD.doc



Chapter Directory

North Texas Chapter Officers, 2009.

- **President, Wayne Smith**, kwsmith@uta.edu
- **Vice President/Programs, Jon Shea**, 972-480-9054.
- **Vice President/Trips and Events, Skip Waters**, wqcrush@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

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

North Texas Zephyr, newsletter of the North Texas Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society

Editor, Valli Hoski
ntx.news@yahoo.com

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 FWRW 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. July 7, 2009	North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m. Plano Interurban Railway Museum, 901 East 15th Street in Plano, TX. (a few blocks east of Central Expressway) on 15th St. Program: Tour of Museum and Texas Electric Railway car.
Sat. July 11, 2009	"Down The Texas Electric" Chapter Field Trip – 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Depart Monroe Shops. Mr. Johnnie Myers, author of the book <u>Texas Electric Railway</u> , is our Historian and Tour Guide. Tour ticket price is \$30. Parking and lunch are on your own. See flyer in July issue of the North Texas Zephyr. For more information or questions, contact Skip Waters at (214) 987-2888 or wqcrush@swbell.net .
Tues. August 4, 2009	North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m. Location to be determined.
Sat. Aug 11 – Thurs. Aug. 16, 2009	Steam on the Range 2009, NRHS Convention, Duluth, Minnesota – Tickets still available for some events. See more information at www.steamontherange2009.com
Tues. Sept. 1, 2009	North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m. Founder's Building (by Cotton Belt depot), 701 S. Main St., Grapevine, Texas. Program: 2009 NRHS Convention – Report from Duluth, by NTC members. President's Program, by Wayne Smith.
Tues. Oct. 6, 2009	North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m. Location to be determined.
Tues. Nov. 3, 2009	North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m. Founder's Building (by Cotton Belt depot), 701 S. Main St., Grapevine, Texas. Program: Annual Members' Auction.
Tues. Dec. 8, 2009	North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m. Chapter Holiday Dinner. Location to be determined.

