



VALLI HOSKI, NORTH TEXAS NEWS EDITOR

OPINIONS EXPRESSED HEREIN MAY NOT REFLECT THE OFFICIAL POSITION OF THE NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER OR THE NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY. ALL CONTENT RIGHTS RETAINED BY ORIGINAL AUTHOR. EVERY ATTEMPT HAS BEEN MADE TO COMPLY WITH FAIR USE AND COPYRIGHT LAW.

CHAPTER MEETING..... 1
 FEBRUARY 2, 2010 – TRAIN DYNAMIC SYSTEMS, FORT WORTH..... 1

2010 CHAPTER ELECTION RESULTS 1
 CONGRATULATIONS TO 2010 OFFICERS AND BOARD..... 1
 DUES ARE DUE – REMEMBER 2010 CHANGE!..... 1

SPECIAL NEWS - HOLIDAY FUN HAD BY ALL..... 1
 SCENES AND SMILES FROM THE NTC 2009 HOLIDAY DINNER 1

SPECIAL NEWS - NRHS DIRECTORS MEETING 2
 WINTER 2010 DIRECTORS MEETING - MINUTES 2

NATIONAL RAIL NEWS..... 2
 AMTRAK TOWN HALL MEETING – MARCH 6, 2010 2
 BNSF STOCKHOLDERS MEET FOR MERGER VOTE - FEB. 11, 2010.... 2
 UP GOES LONG ON TX/CA FIELD..... 2
 MISMATCHED SOX? NO PROBLEM, SAYS AMTRAK 3
 WiFi ROLLS DOWN AMERICAN TRACKS..... 3

CHAPTER DIRECTORY 3
 NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER OFFICERS, 2010..... 3

CHAPTER NEWS & VIEWS..... 3
 DID YOU KNOW? – OUR READERS REPLY 3
 BEE-ING SOMEBODY ON THE RAILROAD 3
 EDITOR’S MARK-UP 3
 CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES, JANUARY 5, 2010..... 4
 NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER HISTORY..... 4

NORTH TEXAS CALENDAR..... 4

Chapter Meeting

February 2, 2010 – Train Dynamic Systems, Fort Worth. Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

Program: Field trip to manufacturer of simulators and onboard systems for the railroad industry

Where: New York Air Brake, Train Dynamic Systems, 8912 Oak Grove Road, Fort Worth, Texas. 76140.

Directions: Take I35W south out of downtown Fort Worth, exit Everman Parkway to the east (left) and turn right on Oak Grove Road. The building is across from a school.

2010 Chapter Election Results

Congratulations to 2010 Officers and Board

Congratulations and best wishes for a successful year to the Chapter officers and Board members were elected at the January 2010 meeting.

- ◆ President, Wayne Smith
- ◆ Vice President/Programs, Jon Shea
- ◆ Vice President/Trips and Events, Skip Waters,
- ◆ Vice President/Publications, Claude Doane
- ◆ Secretary, Dave Gramm
- ◆ Treasurer, Jim King
- ◆ National Director, Dale Wilken

Dues are due – Remember 2010 Change!

Both the Chapter and National appreciate timely payment. NRHS National: \$36 individual + \$5 per extra family member. NTC: \$16 individual + \$2 per family member

- ◆ **2010 Total Dues** for NRHS & NTC: \$52 individual. \$7 per extra family member.

Special News - Holiday Fun Had By All

Scenes and Smiles from the NTC 2009 Holiday Dinner

Many thanks to Russ for sharing his photos of the fun, frolic and food at the Chapter’s December 2009 holiday dinner. Current and chapter members (see below middle) enjoyed the dinner and historical setting, as stated best in the December meeting minutes: “*The chapter held its annual Holiday Dinner on December 2, 2009 at the T&P Station, Ft. Worth, Texas. The party was held in the refurbished African-American waiting room and catered by the T&P Tavern and Grill. There were 34 persons in attendance making this one of our most attended holiday parties in recent years.*”

As part of the celebration, Chapter President Wayne Smith recognized current officers and Board members for their service. Wayne distributed plaques, which were gratefully received, as shown below with (left) Dave Gramm, Secretary and (right) Jim King, Treasurer all smiles with their plaques.

(Photo credit: Russ Covitt)





Special News - NRHS Directors Meeting

Winter 2010 Directors Meeting - Minutes

By Dale Wilken, NTC National Director

The NRHS Board of Directors held its winter meeting January 8-10, 2010 in Charleston, South Carolina hosted by the local Charleston area chapter. The winter meeting is entirely a working meeting with no scheduled rail events and includes a Regional Vice Presidents meeting on Friday evening, which I attended in behalf of our Southwest RVP Claude Doane, an all day work session on day Saturday and the official Board meeting on Sunday morning. This meeting was particularly productive as actions were taken on several matters relating to the future direction of NRHS that have been under study for some time. The major actions taken by the Board at this meeting were:

- 1) Authorization to begin development and implementation of a multi-year strategic plan for NRHS focusing on the mission of NRHS which is to support rail history preservation. Declining membership and finances, a need for a clear business model and products that appeal to potential younger members including modernized web pages and rebranding of NRHS, and a need to improve our working relationships with other rail preservation organizations all point to the need to have a plan that gives direction to our organization.
- 2) Approval of the governance study in principle and authorization to proceed with the development of new bylaws for NRHS. The study recommends that the governance of NRHS be separated from the administration of NRHS. Governance will be concerned with long-term goals, strategic direction, and priorities of the organization and provide oversight of administration. Administration will be concerned with staffing, funding and the business of the Society which is most of the agenda at current board meetings. The specifics of the organizational structures will be hammered out in the bylaw phase. The governance structure will be based on having two representatives (directors) elected from each of a series of districts of nearly equal membership (current regions are not) plus several nationwide elected directors with the total governance board membership not greater than 25 including President and Vice President (as compared to the current board which exceeds 170). The Administration structure would have regions similar to the current regions but adjusted for greater ease of travel and administration. An elected or appointed representative in each region would communicate with and assist new and existing chapters, encourage interaction with other preservation efforts and provide feed back and advice to the national office. Each chapter will have a contact person for ongoing communication with the national office and region. The governance study committee and the bylaws committee were tasked to begin development of the bylaws.
- 3) Approval of a NRHS investment policy for funds at the national level. Several bequests have increased the balance of funds and will be treated as an endowment to build income. The policy provides for diversification of investment in stocks and bonds from highly rated and stable companies. A volunteer committee will manage the funds; the initial committee was appointed from the committee, which developed the policy including Claude Doane and Steve Siegerist. It is likely a fundraising consultant will be hired to assist NRHS, as volunteers have not come forward.
- 4) Approval of the Heritage Grants policy statement, which formalizes policies and procedures, developed over the years.

Other items from the meeting included Railcamp, which received discussion because of Nevada Northern's withdrawal from the program so that only the Steamtown railcamp is set. Contacts have been made with sites in the NW, NE and SE and an adult camp may yet be possible. The National Convention Committee is looking for ways to increase participation and revenue from the conventions. Seeking sponsorships is a possibility. Membership renewal was at 51% at January 1, same as a year ago. Amtrak has published a new timetable containing a less restrictive policy regarding photography on their property. A revised and upgraded website for NRHS was presented as well as a new, modernized logo, which should roll out in June. It has the possibilities of a Facebook page, Twitter and You Tube link and could result in a new class of membership known as subscribers. Regarding future conventions, the brochure for the June, 2010 Scranton, Pa. convention should be mailed in early February. The 2011 convention will be held in Tacoma, Washington June 20-26. The Board approved the 2012 convention for Cedar Rapids, Iowa, June 11-18 to be hosted by the National Convention Committee with rail events involving the Chinese steam locomotives, Iowa Northern and Iowa Interstate Rail. A \$5000 incentive was offered by the Convention and Visitors Bureau toward holding the convention in Cedar Rapids. The spring board of directors meeting is scheduled for April 8-11 in Huntington, West. Virginia.

National Rail News

Amtrak Town Hall Meeting – March 6, 2010

In a first of its kind for Amtrak, a town hall meeting will be held with Amtrak CEO Joe Boardman and board Chairman Tom Carper. This meeting will cover three issues of importance to railroad enthusiasts: photography policy, locomotives and passenger cars, future of the long-distance passenger train. Trains magazine is a meeting co-sponsor. **This meeting is available to the first 300 guests who pre-register in advance.** See the Registration Form at www.TrainsMag.com/amtrak or call 800-533-6644, extension 66. Event Information - **Saturday, March 6, 2010, 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.** Merchandise Mart Conference Center, 222 Merchandise Mart Plaza, Chicago, Illinois 60654 **Source:** 12/11/2009, **Trains Magazine** announcement at www.TrainsMag.com/amtrak

BNSF Stockholders Meet for Merger Vote - Feb. 11, 2010

On February 11, 2010, Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad stockholders will meet to vote on the merger agreement entered into by and among BNSF, Berkshire Hathaway Inc. and a wholly owned subsidiary of Berkshire, pursuant to which BNSF will be merged into a subsidiary of Berkshire. See BNSF's merger informational brochure at <http://www.bnsf.com/investors/berkshire-hathaway/pdf/berkshire-hathaway-brochure.pdf> **Source:** 12/10/2009, **BNSF news release** at http://www.bnsf.com/investors/berkshire-hathaway/pdf/berkshire_pressrelease20091210.pdf

UP Goes Long On TX/CA Field

As reported in **Trains News Wire** (1/13/2010), it won't go down as the longest train in the world, or even the U.S., but at 3.5 miles in length, Union Pacific's IDILBF-08 was just one heckuva train. It left the Dallas intermodal ramp at 10:08 a.m. Friday, Jan. 8, and made it in one piece and without major problems to Long Beach, Calif., at 4:45 p.m. two days later. UP spokesman Tom Lange says the 18,061-foot, 15,498-ton train was assembled to test acceleration,



braking, and the continuity of distributed power radio control, in addition to rail and wheel wear. Some of the 618 containers contained export goods, and the remainder were empties. Nine General Electric ES44ACs powered this monster, three on the point and three more two-locomotive sets of power after each 100 or so container platforms, in distributed power mode. As far as acceleration and braking go, IDILB should have proven a star performer. Two and a half horsepower per trailing ton is more than enough to reach track speed of 70 mph across the desert. Brakes could be set or released simultaneously from four points on the train. The title of longest U.S. freight goes to the 500-car train of loaded coal run by Norfolk & Western (now Norfolk Southern) on Nov. 15, 1967, between laeger, W.Va., and Portsmouth, Ohio. It measured almost 21,425 feet and weighed 48,584 tons. Guinness World Records says BHP Iron Ore ran the world's longest train. On June 21, 2001, a 24,119-foot train carried 82,262 tons of iron ore from Newman to Port Headland, 171 miles, in Western Australia. - Fred W. Frailey. **Source:** 1/13/2010 *Trains News Wire* at <http://www.trains.com/trn/default.aspx?c=a&id=6161>

Mismatched Sox? No Problem, Says Amtrak

The national passenger railroad has launched an advertising campaign exclusively at O'Hare that is aimed at luring air travelers to trains. Fifty Amtrak trains operate to and from Chicago daily. The marketing effort is hard for passengers to overlook as they toss their carry-on items into plastic bins at airport security checkpoints. The X-ray trays are lined with the image of an Amtrak train and contain humorous slogans promoting the advantages of train travel over flying.

- ◆ "Wear mismatched socks -- we'll never know," one ad says. Amtrak passengers are not required to remove their shoes for security purposes.
 - ◆ "Upgrade to Coach," says the other advertising come-on, a subtle ribbing of the tightly spaced seats and lack of legroom found on most passenger planes.
- "Our goal here is to get a smile from passengers and also get them to think twice about going through the frustration of flying, or driving," Amtrak spokesman Marc Magliari said. "Amtrak most often is the most comfortable way to travel. Some would say more civilized."

Source: 1/15/2010 *Chicago Tribune* news article, by **Jon Hilkevitch** at http://www.chicagotribune.com/travel/chi-talk-amtrak-ohare_15jan15,0,4855609.story

WiFi Rolls Down American Tracks

Amtrak plans to offer Wi-Fi service on its routes nationwide, with the offering to start in March on the railroad's premier Acela Express trains that travel from Boston to Washington, officials told Nextgov. Shortly thereafter, the federally funded national passenger railroad will offer wireless Internet connections on its Northeast regional trains, which also serve the Boston-Washington corridor with additional routes south to Lynchburg, Va., and Newport News, Va., according to Karina Romero, an Amtrak spokeswoman. She did not say when Amtrak planned to roll out Wi-Fi service nationally. The railroad initially will offer the service free to passengers on its Northeast corridor routes, but "no decision has been made on whether or not it will be free forever," Romero said. The service will give Amtrak a tremendous competitive advantage in passenger rail, according to Kris Erickson, who helped manage the deployment of Wi-Fi on 13 commuter rail lines operated by the Massachusetts Bay Transportation. **Source:** 1/11/2010 email from **Dave Williamson** for Bluewater Sentinel Online, Bluewater Chapter NRHS.

Chapter Directory

North Texas Chapter Officers, 2010.

- **President, Wayne Smith**, 940-300-4407.
- **President/Programs, Jon Shea**, 972-480-9054.
- **Vice President/Trips and Events, Skip Waters**, wgcush@swbell.net.
- **Vice President/Publications, Claude Doane**, claudedoane@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

Chapter News & Views

Did You Know? – Our Readers Reply

Jimmy Barlow (1/6/2010) writes... "In the January issue of "North Texas Zephyr," chapter prez Wayne Smith in his "Did You Know?" column on page 2 reminds us of the four rail names found on the Monopoly game board. But I ask in return, "Did You Know..." that Monopoly's Short Line Railroad is NOT named for a railroad at all?! A few years back I wrote Parker Brothers, owner of the game, and inquired about that very rail name, which was the only one of the four I'd never heard of in the prototype realm. Altho their reply included no specifics, it did state that the name came from a BUS company!"

Bee-ing Somebody On The Railroad

By Jon Shea, VP Programs

An Offbeat Railroad Story

"100 years ago on 17-Mile Grade, B&O: Engineer McHugh used a barrel of sugar to gain traction when his engine ran out of sand and every bee in Preston County' has become attracted to it. Train crews have been attacked by swarms of bees to the point where they have requested that trains be run after sundown only. One brakeman was attacked so badly that his partner had to drive the bees off with a shovel. A caboose was so infested that it could not be used, and another brakeman, while his train was in a siding, was attacked on the banks of the Little Savage River and swam/waded to the locomotive. So be careful what you use in place of sand. (Brunswick Herald)." (Source: submitted by Jon Shea from [Headlights and Markers](#), September 2009 newsletter of the Cincinnati Railroad Club)

Editor's Mark-Up

By Valli Hoski, Editor

On dark midwestern winter evenings, a good book on one's favorite railroad, warm beverage of choice, and comfortably illuminated chair are fine companions. Mid-January finds your editor enjoying a ride in the cab of UP and BNSF motive power in the Powder River Basin. In **Uncommon Carriers**,



John McPhee continues his well-known conversational exploration of the people and every-day life of usual, unusual and sometimes over-looked places, work and events. McPhee narrates his "sketchbook" of the engineers, machines and power that moves the world of coal in the mines and roads of Powder River. Carriers move all matter of life and energy in the 21st century – be it truck transport, railroading, maritime movement of men and materials. The trip through the Powder River Basin evokes the power, sensation, responsibility and fragility of moving 7200+ feet of coal unit train across the country, from the Nebraska almost-flat lands, through the miles of North Platte's Bailey Yard, guided by the automatic and human-monitored mysteries of CTC. McPhee's writing style, evocative and involving, offer a ride on carrier journeys across the many miles of these great states. Take a trip soon.

Reviewed book: McPhee, J. (2006). *Uncommon carriers*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux.

Chapter Meeting Minutes, January 5, 2010

NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER, NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, MEETING MINUTES AND NOTES, DATE: January 5, 2009. Founders Building, Grapevine, Texas. Minutes submitted by Dale Wilken, for Dave Gramm, NTC Secretary (Editor made minor format changes)

President Wayne Smith called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. with 18 members and 1 guest present. Wayne and others expressed positive comments and thanks to **Jon Shea for arranging the Christmas dinner meeting** and tour at the former T&P depot in Fort Worth. Wayne announced that in the latest **Cowcatcher magazine** were listed the contest winners of the best rail and model railroading sites, shows, events, and layouts. The North Texas Chapter **"24 Hours @ Saginaw" received second place as best special event**. The Saginaw depot won the award for best rail watching site. Wayne then presented certificates of appreciation for work done in behalf of the chapter during 2009 to Claude Doane and Dale Wilken who were unable to attend the Christmas dinner meeting. A similar award will be sent to Valli Hoski our faithful Zephyr editor living in Illinois.

Jon Shea, in behalf of Jim King, Treasurer, presented the 2009 year end financial report which reflects the over \$50,000 income transferred to the club account from the 2008 Lone Star Rails convention account. Wayne indicated that the chapter board is considering how the income can best be applied in the future including projects and investments. Claude mentioned that as RVP he is serving on a committee at the national level that is developing a NRHS investment policy and that information may be useful to the chapter.

In other reports, Jon Shea, VP Programs, indicated he is working on the 2010 programs and if anyone has suggestions to contact him. **Dale Wilken, National Director, discussed the upcoming NRHS Winter Meeting** he will be attending in Charleston, SC where matters related to governance, administration, rail camp, upgraded web site as well as the investment policy will be considered and some decisions made.

Skip Waters, VP Trips and Events, indicated that he is working on a field trip to a company in the area which manufactures locomotive operation simulators. He also encouraged attendance and participation in the **upcoming 5th Annual Slide Show** sponsored by the chapter in connection with the Plano Train Show on January 16 noting that 8 presenters are already scheduled. The show will be at the Southfork Hotel, Plano, 6-10pm. Russ Covitt asked that all who have signed up to work at the Train Show be sure to sign in by 10 minutes before their shift time.

The annual election of chapter officers was conducted by Russ Covitt who announced the following candidate list: Wayne Smith, President; Jon Shea, VP Programs; Skip Waters, VP Trips and Events; Claude Doane, VP Publications; Dave Gramm, Secretary; Jim King, Treasurer; Dale Wilken, National Director. No additional nominations were received from the members so **by acclamation the candidates were elected for the 2010 year**.

Wayne then recognized new member Jerry Nunn who has attended several previous meetings.

The evening's program was member "Show and Tell". Among the items displayed were a framed collection of commemorative railroad postage stamps from around the world, pieces of silverware imprinted with the Dallas Union Terminal RR and the Southern Pacific Sunbeam logos, a collections of 28 railroad emblems packaged in Post cereals in the early 1950's, a collection of towels and headrest covers from several railroad passenger trains and a C, M, St.P &P switch lock. Comments were made by a member about the good condition of preserved rail equipment during a recent visit to the rail museum in Oklahoma City which also has 3 miles of operating track. Another member reported on the experience of moving a static displayed steam locomotive and restoration work done while a member of the Spokane, Washington chapter. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Press time: 1/19/2010, 7am. File: NTx Newsletter 2010-02 v2b.doc

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**. For 2010 on, regular membership is \$52 a year (\$36 national dues + \$16 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. 2, 2010	North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m. New York Air Brake, Train Dynamic Systems, 8912 Oak Grove Road, Fort Worth, Texas. <i>Program: Project and facilities visit.</i>
Tues. Mar. 2, 2010	North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m. Sokol Hall, 7448 Greenville Ave., Dallas, Texas. <i>Presenter: Pat Coughlin. Program: The Gulf, Mobile, & Ohio Railroad.</i>

