



VALLI HOSKI, NORTH TEXAS NEWS EDITOR

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Chapter Meeting

May 4, 2010 - Texas Western Model Railroad Club, Fort Worth.

Program: Model Railroad Layout Tour. **When:** 7:30 p.m.

Where: 6807 Anglin Drive, Fort Worth, TX. Joe P. Williams Air Compressor Sales and Service building.

Driving Directions: See article below.



Image rights: Texas Western Model Railroad Club.

Special Features

May Meeting Location - Texas Western Model Railroad Club

By Jon Shea, VP Programs

The **Texas Western Model Railroad Club** members have graciously invited our chapter **to meet at their club and see their model railroad layout in action**. Their website says: "Come on in for a look at the best and the biggest HO scale Model Railroad layout in the North Texas area."

Location: 6807 Anglin Drive, Fort Worth, Texas 76140. Located in the Joe P. Williams Air Compressor Sales and Service building.

Directions: Located in southeast Fort Worth, (Forest Hills, actually).

Coming from the East or North - Take the Anglin Drive exit off of I-20, just west of where Loop 820 East joins I-20. Anglin Drive is the first exit west of the Loop 820 - I-20 junction. Proceed down the Anglin Drive exit ramp to the stop sign. Anglin Drive comes in from the north (right) at this stop sign, becomes the frontage road for about 100 yards, then crosses over I-20. Go straight off the exit ramp after the stop sign, then turn left (south) and proceed over I-20. Be in the right hand lane when you cross over I-20. Continue south on Anglin Drive past the Conoco gas station, about 3/10 mile. Just south of the Oaks Mobile Home Ranch on the left side of Anglin Drive is a private street. (This used to be Century Drive.) You will see Joe P. Williams Air Compressor Sales and Service on your left. Turn left on the private street. Park in front of the building or along the side.

Coming from the West - Exit Anglin Drive off of I-20. It is the last exit off of I-20 before the junction with Loop 820 East. At the exit ramp stop sign turn right onto Anglin Drive. A Conoco gas station will be on your right. Proceed south on Anglin Drive past the Conoco gas station, about 3/10 mile. Just south of the Oaks Mobile Home Ranch on the left side of Anglin Drive is a private street. (This is called "Century Drive".) You will see Joe P. Williams Air Compressor Sales and Service on your left. Turn left on the private street. Park in front of the building or along the side. For more information check out their website:

www.texaswesternmrc.com

5th Annual '24 Hours @ Saginaw', May 28-29, 2010

Location: Saginaw Depot, Saginaw. **Start Time:** Friday, May 28, 2010 at 7:00pm. **End Time:** Saturday, May 29, 2010 at 7:00pm

We continue the tradition of North Texas railfanning this year as the 5th Annual "24 Hours @ Saginaw" 2010 starting Friday, May 28th and ending 24 hours later on Saturday, May 29th. For more info: **contact Skip Waters, wgcrush@swbell.net**



Slide Shows, presenters and more – all celebrate our railfan/rail enthusiast hobby. For the past 4 years the North Texas Chapter, NRHS has had the privilege of hosting a 24 hour rail watching event at the Saginaw Depot over Memorial Day weekend starting on Friday evening and ending Saturday evening for a full 24 hours. In past years we have had approximately 100 or more railfans attend this event to watch trains day and night. In addition to watching trains we schedule programs to entertain guests including slide shows, speakers, clinics, videos and railroad trivia to keep guests entertained between trains.

Due to the success of the event and its location, recently the Saginaw Depot was awarded the Cowcatcher Round Up Magazine 2009 Gold Rail Awards as the number one "Best Railfanning Spot" in the 4 state region and "24 hours @ Saginaw" event was awarded number two spot for "Best Rail Special Event"!

National Rail News

National Train Day, May 8, 2010

National Train Day commemorates the **141st anniversary of the first transcontinental railroad's inception** by bringing to life the rich narrative of how trains transformed America. "National Train Day celebrates the train's impact on our country and provides an opportunity for Americans to further understand the influence rail has on the future of transportation in America," said Emmett H. Fremaux, Amtrak vice president, marketing and product development. On May 8, Amtrak will host free events, 11:00am– 4pm, in four of its gateway stations across the U.S.: Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, Chicago and Los Angeles, all designed to help people "discover the rail way." These large scale events will feature live entertainment, interactive and educational exhibits, kids' entertainment, model train displays and tours of notable private railroad cars, Amtrak equipment, freight and commuter trains. In addition, local communities across the country are encouraged to develop and host their own National Train Day celebrations. More than 140 local celebrations took place in 2009 and Amtrak expects even more in 2010. *Source: 3/31/2010, Amtrak News Release at <http://www.amtrak.com/servlet/ContentServer?c=Page&pagename=am%2FLayout&cid=1241267278292>*

Harris RR Switch Tower On The Air, April 25, 2010

Contributed by Harry Fasick, K3EYL

At 80 years young, the Harris Railroad Switch Tower, Harrisburg, PA is a former Pennsylvania Railroad control tower that once governed all train movements through the capital of Pennsylvania. The tower has been fully restored and is open to the public as an interactive museum from May through October. **To commemorate 80th Anniversary, special event station with the call sign W3H will be operated by the Harrisburg Amateur Radio Club and the Harrisburg Chapter of The National Railway Historical Society on Sunday, April 25, 2010, from the Harris Tower.** The station will operate in both voice and CW modes. Work is underway to recruit former railroad telegraphers to put their fists to use for a portion of the CW work. All amateur operators are invited to contact the station on 14.135 Mhz (CW) and 14.280 or 7.180 Mhz (SSB). QSL Certificates will be issued confirming the contact. To receive a certificate, send \$1.00 to N3WL. For additional information or if you are a former railroad telegrapher and would be interested in operating the station, contact the Harrisburg NRHS at HarrisTower@verizon.net

North Texas Rail News

D2 Light Rail Alternatives Unveiled

DART's Downtown Dallas (D2) Transit Study announced the remaining alternatives for the Light Rail project. Project Manager Ernie Martinez is asking employers, transit users, downtown residents, and interested others for input on four remaining alternatives for a potential new light rail alignment through downtown Dallas. Public input and technical review have helped DART narrow options to the four remaining alternatives.

DART has completed its Downtown Dallas Transit Study (D2), an Alternatives Analysis and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (AA/DEIS). There are several opportunities for the public to review and comment on the study results. DART, on behalf of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), has published and made the AA/DEIS document available to the public as of April 2, 2010. An AA/DEIS is an in-depth evaluation of an area's natural and human environment, project alternatives, and the potential for the proposed project to adversely affect the environment. It also considers the social and economic impact of a project and alternatives.

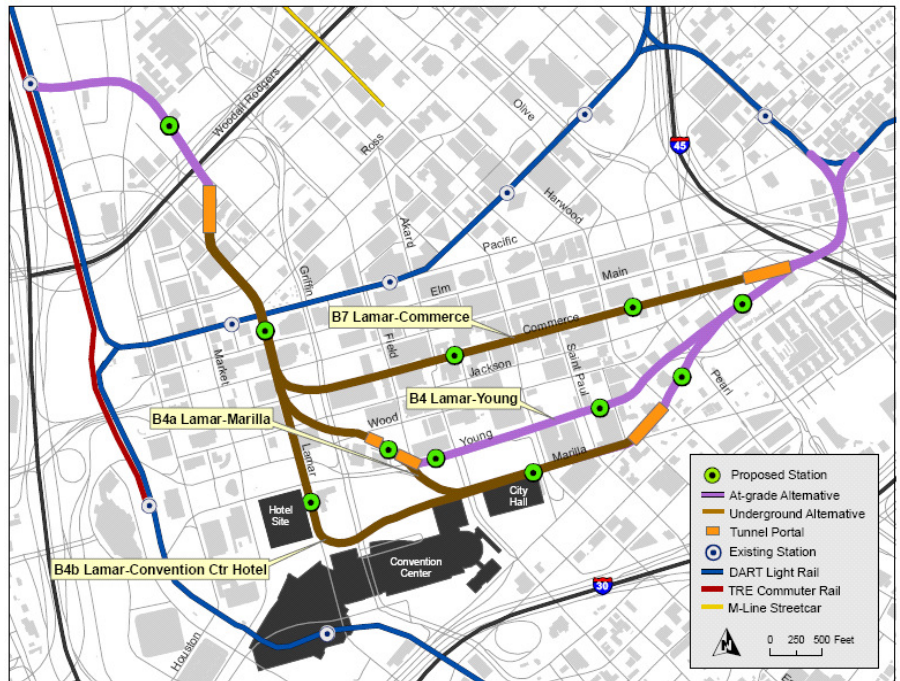


Common Characteristics to Remaining Alternatives

Each of the light rail alternatives:

1. Follow the same route from Victory Station to the West End and follow DART-owned right-of-way through Victory Park
2. Turn south on the east side of Houston Street to a station adjacent to the future Museum of Nature and Science
3. Follow the same route from Victory Station to the West End and follow DART-owned right-of-way through Victory Park
4. Turn south on the east side of Houston Street to a station adjacent to the future Museum of Nature and Science
5. Pass under Woodall Rodgers Freeway, crossing the frontage roads at-grade and descending into a tunnel to become fully underground at Lamar Street
6. Continue south under Lamar Street and the existing transit mall
7. Use a new underground station that facilitates West End Station, West Bus Center, and future Rosa Parks Bus Plaza transfers
8. Converge at a common point south of the Deep Ellum Station on the Southeast Corridor (Green Line).

Below: D2 Light Rail Line Alternative Routes
 (Image credit: DART)



The AA/DEIS can be viewed at the DART web site (<http://www.dart.org/about/expansion/downtowndallas.asp>), or a hard copy can be found at any of the main/central libraries of DART member cities (Addison, Carrollton, Cockrell Hill, Dallas, Farmers Branch, Garland, Glenn Heights, Highland Park, Irving, Plano, Richardson, Rowlett, University Park). **Source: DART Downtown Dallas Transit Study project page at <http://www.dart.org/about/expansion/downtowndallas.asp>.**

Chapter Directory

North Texas Chapter Officers, 2010.

- President, Wayne Smith, 940-300-4407.
- Vice President/Programs, Jon Shea, 972-480-9054.
- Vice President/Trips and Events, Skip Waters, wgcrush@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.

North Texas Zephyr, newsletter of the North Texas Chapter
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North Texas Zephyr Archive

<http://www.gogeoaching.com/gorailfanning/home/northtexaszephyr.html>

North Texas Chapter @ Facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=409467244127&ref=search&sid=100000091828340.3519021572..1>



Chapter News & Views

President's Roundhouse

By Wayne Smith, Chapter President

My article last month about railroad tunnels in Texas sparked an interest for more information. To recap, there were six railroad tunnels constructed in Texas. These tunnels included two on the Fort Worth and Denver South Plains; two on the Southern Pacific; one with the San Antonio, Fredericksburg and Northern; and one on the lesser known Rio Grande Northern. Five of the six tunnels still exist, none of which are currently used for railroads. The details are explained in last month's issue. These were standard gauge railroad tunnels. Other "rail" tunnels in Texas include the former M&O Subway (Tandy Center Subway) in Fort Worth and the DART light rail tunnel in Dallas. One website names the Santa Fe Terminal Complex in Dallas as a former tunnel. I remember as a kid riding the Leonard's Department Store Subway, also known as the M&O Subway. The subway connected a system of parking lots to the store and to downtown Fort Worth. As kids, my sister and I always had our parents park near the last depot, far away from the tunnel, so that we could ride the subway longer. The last depot was near the car barn. Tandy Corporation bought out the store complex and it was renovated to become the Tandy Center in downtown Fort Worth. At one time, this subway was the only existing private subway in the United States. It was closed down a few years ago. The DART tunnel was bored when the DART light rail system was constructed. It is obviously still in use. I had heard that a second tunnel was originally planned for DART, but the proposal was rejected by voters or by the Dallas City Council, I forget which. There are several existing and former "automobile" tunnels in Texas, most are along the coast, but we won't burden ourselves with them. Until next time, happy railroading.

Chapter Meeting Minutes, April 6, 2010

NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER, NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, MINUTES, DATE: April 6, 2010. Founder's Building Grapevine, Texas.

Report submitted by Dave Gramm.

President Wayne Smith called the meeting to order at 7:37pm. There were 14 members present in addition to Wayne's son, Garrett.

VP-Programs Jon Shea reported that next month's meeting will be a field trip to the Texas Western Model Railroad Club in Forest Hills, TX. The club has a 4400 Sq. Ft. HO/HOn3 layout with three classification yards and features recreations of the T&P Station and Freight House as well as other Ft Worth landmarks. There will be a layout tour followed by an operational session for the attendees. Check the monthly newsletter for directions and location.

Jon also reported the June Meeting would probably tie into the '24 Hours @ Saginaw' event mentioned later in the newsletter. He passed around a copy of 'North & South', a magazine dedicated to the Civil War with pictures of a RR depot in Nashville, TN during the Civil War and a steam engine on its side after being blown up by guerillas. He also mentioned the 'Katy Flyer' newsletter had pictures of the old depot in Highland Park.

Council rep Russ Covitt reported on the results of the 2009-10 show season. Attendance was 2500 in Ft. Worth and 5500 in Plano, both up over preceding years. Our one share earned \$347.20 after paying \$250 for next year's share and \$20 for the chapter' annual dues. Show dates for the 2010-11 season are October 30-31, 2010 for Ft. Worth and January 15-16, 2011 for Plano.

National Director Dale Wilken attended the National board meeting in Huntington, VA last month. Wayne remarked for clarification that Dale and Regional Vice President Claude Doane will officially swap positions at the chapter level after the Scranton convention.

Treasurer Jim King reported we have money in the bank and that final renewal notices had been mailed to those members who haven't already renewed their memberships. Only 10 people haven't renewed yet with three of them non-locals. Those who are local will be followed up to determine their desire to continue their membership. Dale reported National is currently at 85% renewal rate.

VP-Trips & Events Skip Waters reported the '24 Hours @ Saginaw' annual event has been approved by the Saginaw City Council and will be held on Memorial Day weekend, May 28-29, 2010. We will need to provide proof of insurance to the city prior to the event.

He also reported on UP Steam engine 844 coming through North Texas this weekend. It will pass through Denison, overnight in Ft. Worth, and then travel down the Midlothian Sub on its way to Harlingen, TX.

Wayne passed out registration forms for a cartography (mapmaking) lecture @ UTA library on October 8, 2010 which is part of the Seventh Annual Virginia Garrett Lectures on the History of Cartography series. Carlos Schwantes is giving a lecture on 'Railroad



Images Claimed the American West: The Map Curiosities of the Northern Pacific. Additional speakers will also lecture on several other cartography titles. See Wayne for additional information or check out the newsletter.

Wayne also showed several articles from *Texas Highways* on the 64 mile long Caprock Canyon Trail, made from the old FTW & Denver roadbed, and a partly submerged UP tunnel in Amistad Reservoir. Several other tunnels in Texas (6 in all) were mentioned.

Russ Covitt asked where the chapter will meet once Grapevine completes their new Convention & Visitor Center across the street from the Founder's Building. Jon will check with our city liaison to get answers on what meeting space will be available in the future.

Skip reported that with Newsletter Editor Valli Hoski's encouragement, the chapter now has a Facebook page and Skip encouraged all members to sign up and get information about the chapter online now.

Program for the evening was a DVD provided by Jon entitled 'UP Big Boy Collection' which showed the massive 4-8-8-4 locos of the 4000 series in operation during their heyday.

Press time: 4/19/2010, 10am File: NTx Newsletter 2010-05 vB.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 FWR 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. May 4, 2010	North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m. Texas Western Model Railroad Club , 6807 Anglin Drive, Fort Worth, TX. Joe P. Williams Air Compressor Sales and Service building
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