



VALLI HOSKI, NORTH TEXAS NEWS EDITOR

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Chapter Meeting

July 6, 2010 – Interurban Museum, Plano.

When: 7:30 p.m.

Where: Interurban Museum, 901 East 15th Street
 Plano, TX 75074-5807. (972) 941-7250

Program: Update on museum’s latest projects.

Directions: DART – Red Line north to downtown Plano
 station, then walk west on 15th St. to museum.

Drive – North US 75 to Plano, exit 15th St. Turn east on 15th
 St., museum is on the north side at Haggard Park.

Map and more information at:

[http://www.plano.gov/Departments/ParksAndRecreation/Rec
 enters/Interurban/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.plano.gov/Departments/ParksAndRecreation/Rec

 enters/Interurban/Pages/default.aspx)

Special Features

Locomotive Repaint Project? No Problem for an Eagle Scout!

Contributed by Peter Nicholson. All photos by Peter Nicholson. Edited by Valli Hoski.

Pride. Determination. Persistence. Valuable service given. An Eagle Scout lives up to these values and more. Add rails, power, history into the mix and one has the tale of the locomotive repaint project by Alex Kaper of Troop 103 in Mahomet, Illinois.



5/22/2010. 191 in "before" condition outside the MRM Engine House.



5/27/2010. By the following Thursday, the entire tender has its finish coat of black and the locomotive is in primer.

The project involved a cosmetic repaint of Eng. 191. Alco built the 0-6-0 switcher in 1916 for the Republic Steel plant in Massillon, Ohio. The Monticello Railway Museum (MRM) is Engine 191’s current home.



The locomotive repaint project involves four weekends of work organized by Alex, with other scouts in the troop and Alex's family assisting. Kent McClure, MRM Chief Mechanical Officer facilitated the project.



5/22/2010. Team gathers to complete surface prep. Alex in the middle



5/23/2010. The next day, the black finish coat is applied to the tender. The coupler has (incorrectly) been painted.

That was about as far as they got while I was in Monticello. They worked until sundown on the 27th and started the finish coat on the locomotive, but did not complete it nor re-appear to do so on Memorial Day weekend. So the "after" picture will have to wait until my next trip down there.

Rail History Calendar - NRHS and Beyond

The NRHS and other rail history groups have a new publicity vehicle for their activities –Calendar of Events sponsored by Rail History Initiative. According to initiative, the new venture is ...

“the first issue of the joint planning calendar for the railway heritage community of interest. The first issue is far from complete. We are looking for your help to expand the distribution of the list and the number of events listed.

Sponsorship: This planning calendar is sponsored by the Railway Heritage Initiative, an informal cooperation among many groups, organizations, publications and individuals interested in the preservation of our railway history and heritage. As one of the members of the initiative, the National Railway Historical Society (NRHS) agreed to lead and support this calendar project.

Purpose: The members of the Initiative recognize the need for more active sharing of information among our widespread and diverse community of interest. Traditionally, the various organizations have operated in isolation from each other. One result of that isolation has been the scheduling of meetings and events on conflicting dates. Another problem has been missed opportunities for organizations and individuals to interact because they were simply not aware of each other's plans and gatherings.

The Railway Heritage Planning Calendar is intended as a forum for sharing of information among the community regarding the scheduling of meetings, conventions, educational programs and other events of interest. “

Source:: 6/18/2010 email from NRHS National. Thanks to Claude for submission of this news.

Northeast Texas Rail News

Tower 55 Fix Funding Sought

The Fort Worth Star Telegram reported that “ effort to fix a dangerous and congested rail intersection near downtown Fort Worth known as Tower 55 may finally be on track.” In late May, “Texas Department of Transportation officials said Thursday that they will formally endorse an application for federal funding for the Tower 55 project, a \$93.7 million proposal to modernize crossings often used by children on the way to school. The proposal also calls for adding a third north-south crossing at Tower 55 and about 9,000 feet of new track, to reduce congestion in an area where railcars carrying hazardous materials such as chlorine often pass.



It will be the second time in a year that the federal funding has been pursued for Tower 55. Last year the state decided not to endorse specific projects, leaving it to local officials to apply for federal dollars. The so-called TIGER funds were awarded in a nationwide competition to projects considered crucial for economic recovery. But the state's inaction proved to be a strategic error as the Tower 55 project -- which was listed as the state's highest-priority rail need and seemed to meet all the federal criteria for TIGER dollars -- did not receive funding when grants were announced in February" **Source:** 5/28/2010, **Fort Worth Star Telegram** article by Gordon Dickson at <http://www.star-telegram.com/2010/05/27/2223227/texas-leaders-to-try-again-for.html>

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**, claude.doane@hcahealthcare.com
 - **Secretary, Dave Gramm**, dgramm@sbcglobal.net
 - **Treasurer, Jim King**, jkking@swbell.net
 - **National Director, Dale Wilken**, d-mwilken@sbcglobal.net.
- North Texas Zephyr, newsletter of the North Texas**
- **Editor, Valli Hoski**, ntx.news@yahoo.com

Chapter Business Address

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North Texas Zephyr Archive

<http://www.gogeocaching.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

The 5th Annual "24 Hours at Saginaw" has come and gone. It just keeps getting bigger and better each year! This year, for the first time, there was an opportunity to participate in a Fort Worth and Western Photo Night Shoot at Hodge Yard in Fort Worth on Friday evening of the event. Special thanks go to Patrick Phelan and Ken Fitzgerald for hosting the event. Even though Ken Fitzgerald had been seriously ill, he managed to make himself available to represent FWWR and it make possible for our group to be on FWWR property. We especially thank the Fort Worth and Western Railroad, the BNSF for access in Saginaw and the Saginaw Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber really went out of their way to make sure that we felt welcome. We also had our usual hourly line-up of scheduled activities presented by local rail enthusiasts. Skip Waters, VP of Trips and Events, can be thanked for all of this. We appreciate the time and energy that Skip puts into making this a great event.

Chapter Meeting Minutes, June 1 2010

NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER, NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY Meeting Minutes, DATE: June 1 2010. Report submitted by Dave Gramm.

June 1st, 2010 meeting was held in the Katy depot at Dallas Heritage Village (Old City Park). In President Wayne's absence the meeting was called to order by VP-Publications Claude Doane at 7:30pm. There were 10 members present and two guests from the Keller Old Town Merchants Association.

Claude reported on the Board meeting and the board's decision to make a \$500 donation to the Jack County Museum for the purchase of a display case for their railroad memorabilia. He also asked for any members who took pictures of the Valley Eagle during its trip through the area to submit them for a picture essay evening at an upcoming meeting. VP-Trips & Events Skip Waters also asked for pictures from '24 Hours at Saginaw'. VP-Programs Jon Shea reported the July meeting will be at the Plano Interurban Museum to view their recent additions. The August meeting will be at the Garland Depot and feature member's pictures/slides of 844 and Saginaw and Skip reported the September 7 meeting would be at the Keller roundhouse where they have an E-unit and are currently building a museum.

Guest Becky Harness, from the Keller Old Town Merchants Association reported that they are working on building a viewing platform near the tracks to facilitate train watching and to provide access to the static engine Skip turned in \$395 as donations from '24 Hours @ Saginaw' to put toward the cost of the insurance bill that will be due as soon as we receive it. He reported that 94 people signed in with another 10% there without signing in. Twenty-three attendees went to Hodge yard for the night photo shoot and Skip broadcasted a live show on the internet. The Operation Lifesaver presentation by Sonia Grigsby was so good that few attendees left the presentation even when a train passed by. A big hand to member Eric Davis for working the graveyard shift along with Claude, Jon and the other chapter members who helped out providing an enjoyable and successful event. The depot lighting was repaired and working along with the refurbished restrooms. Attendees were noted from Enid and OKC, OK, Houston, N. Little Rock, and Wichita Falls.



Member Jeff Phelps reported on railroad preservation group that has purchased the Milwaukee Road #261 4-8-4 steam engine and are currently rebuilding it for operations. The 'Friends of 261' are soliciting donations to help with the rebuild. After a short break and a scramble to find an audio patch cable, the evening's program started at 8:15pm. Jeff Phelps presented a program that he recorded in 2007 at the Katy employees' 19th anniversary party of the buyout by UP in August 1988. Numerous ex-employees were interviewed and told stories of their experiences while employed by the Katy.

Press time: 6/21/2010, 8:00 pm CDT File: NTx Newsletter 2010-07 vC2.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 FWRW 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. July 6, 2010	North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m. Location: Plano Interurban Museum. Program: Update on the Interurban Museum's latest activities and projects
Tues. Aug. 3, 2010	North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m. Location Garland Santa Fe Depot., by Garland Landmark Museum, 200 North 4th Street, Garland Program:: Members' presentations, each 5-10 minutes. Please bring your pictures or videos of the recent Union Pacific 844 trip to Texas or any other rail related pictures.
Tues. Sept. 7, 2010	North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m. Location: Keller, TX Program: A visit to the Keller, TX Roundhouse and other railroad related sites there. Details to follow later.