



VALLI HOSKI, NORTH TEXAS NEWS EDITOR

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Chapter Meeting

September 6, 2011 – Founders Building, Grapevine

When: Tues. Sept. 6, 7:00 p.m.

Where: Founder’s Building. 701 S. Main St., Grapevine, Texas.

Program: Abo Canyon Railroading, by Ken Fitzgerald.

Special Features

Leviathan #63 Operates In First Revenue Service

by Valli Hoski and the Illinois Railway Museum (all photo credit Valli Hoski)



The **Leviathan #63** met a major service milestone at the Illinois Railway Museum. August 13th was the first day that Leviathan has ever pulled coaches and passengers.

The Leviathan’s Story

In 1868, the Central Pacific Railroad purchased four steam locomotives from Schenectady Locomotive Works. They were The Jupiter #60, The Storm #61, The Whirlwind #62 and The Leviathan #63.

This **Leviathan #63** replica is America's newest operating steam locomotive that was built from scratch by Kloke Locomotive Works, LLC beginning in 1999. It is a fully operable steam locomotive that has been on display under steam at a few events around the midwest.

Operations at the IRM

The August 13 and 14 operations were the first time that Leviathan #63 pulled a pair of coaches and hauling passengers. The August passengers experienced the sights and sounds of an 1860's steam locomotive in true Leviathan style.

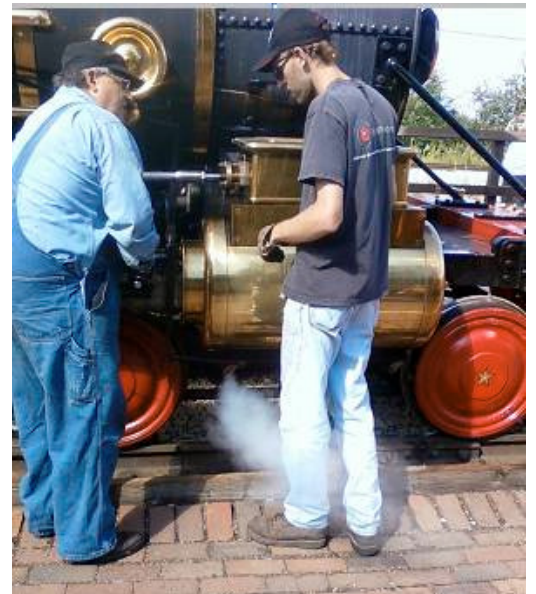
IRM's service updates tell more of the story behind the Leviathan's preparation, test and readiness for public operation.



Initial operating dates were planned for Sunday, August 7th, Saturday, August 13th, Sunday, August 14th, Saturday, September 3rd, 2011, Sunday, September 4th, Monday, September 5th, Saturday, September 17th, 2011 and Sunday, September 18th, 2011.

August 12, 2011, 10:00 p.m.

On Saturday, August 13th and Sunday, August 14th, Leviathan was originally planned to operate as a light engine only, not pulling cars. This was due to specific requirements and standards that must be met in order to place the locomotive in service pulling cars and passengers.



*Above: Last chance for spit 'n' polish.
Left: Checking directions on the line.*

*Above: One last check before moving
#36 out on the line.*



An air compressor issue is the last item to be resolved. Some new parts were ordered from around the country but did not arrive in time to complete the rebuild of a new compressor. The new compressor was completed and installed on Leviathan after this weekend, and before Labor Day Weekend. IRM expected all requirements and tests for Leviathan to be completed in the coming two weeks of idle time during the Day Out With Thomas event, and it would be ready for service pulling cars and passengers on Labor Day Weekend.

August 13, 2011, 9:00pm

During the morning hours today, repairs were completed on the air compressor and all required tests were completed and passed. August 13th was the first day that Leviathan has ever pulled coaches and passengers. Sunday August 14th operations included the Leviathan pulling coaches again with rides between 11:00am and Noon, and operations continued as required through late afternoon.



Above: Leviathan #63 in movement on IRM grounds, to meet up with coach consist.

On the weekend of August 13th and 14th, the Leviathan performed run-bys across from the East Union Depot as well as made trips the entire length of the IRM Main Line. The full trips were near 12:00PM, 2:00PM and 4:00PM with the other run-bys being announced between those times.



Above: View of the "elite seat" in tender car.

Leviathan #63 is planned to be on display, staged for photos, for IRM's Day Out With Thomas event on Friday, August 19th, Saturday, August 20th, Sunday, August 21st, Saturday, August 27th, and Sunday, August 28th.

Sources: 8/27/11: **Illinois Railway Museum Leviathan news site** at: <http://www.irm.org/events/Leviathan63.html> . **Leviathan 63 information site** at <http://www.leviathan63.com/>

Train Festival 2011 – A Steamy Event

by Dale Wilken (article and all photo credit)



Above: Nickel Plate #765 Locomotive between tours

On July 21-24, 2011, the **Train Festival 2011** was held on the banks of the Mississippi River in Rock Island, Illinois. Started in Ohio in 2004, this Train Festival was last held in 2009 in Michigan. An estimated 50,000 attendees came to the four day event. As the Midwest was experiencing its version of a heat wave with temperatures in the mid-90's and thundershowers each night, there was no lack of steam either from the locomotives or the weather.

This year's steam locomotives featured a variety of unique equipment:

- Two Chinese built QJ 2-10-2's owned by the Iowa Interstate System
 - Nickel Plate 2-8-4 #765 which is quartered in Fort Wayne, Indiana
 - The recently constructed Leviathan 4-4-0 #6
- A pair of small tank locomotives, an 0-4-0 and 0-6-0, used in coal mining operations

Vintage diesels were also on hand including an early Alco switch in Burlington Route colors, an F7A with Chicago North Western trim, and the Nebraska Zephyr which at one time operated between Chicago and Omaha and is now at the rail museum in Union, Illinois. The three large steam locomotives pulled excursions in eastern Iowa and western Illinois during the festival and the Nebraska Zephyr operated as a dinner train. A sizeable number of leased and private passenger cars were on hand including a group of Milwaukee Road cars with Hiawatha observation car which had also attended the 2009 NRHS convention in Duluth.



Above: ISIA #513 in Rock Island heritage colors



Above: Vintage switcher in Burlington Route colors



Right: Lehigh Valley Coal 0-6-0 Tank Engine

Aside from viewing the rail equipment and making cab visits, the main activities of the festival were the train rides. Twice daily 2-hour trips were made over IAIS rails, former Rock Island trackage, via Davenport, Iowa to Walcott, Iowa using one of the OJ locomotives. The cars used on these trips were not air-conditioned so passengers were able to experience Midwest summertime rail travel as in the "old days".



Above: IAIS Chinese built QJ class 2-10-2 locomotives.
 Americanized version has the single headlight.



Above: #6988 does photo run-by at speed, West Liberty, Iowa

The two major trips were a day long 120 mile round trip to Bureau Junction, Illinois on the IAIS pulled by Nickel Plate #765 and a day long 90 mile round trip to Iowa City. The Iowa City trip was also over a former Rock Island route and was led by QJ #6988 which has been "Americanized" including the addition of a steam whistle that once worked on an Illinois Central mainline locomotive. On both trips two Amtrak P-42 locomotives in heritage markings provided support and head end power to the 16 car trains. Both trips including photo run-bys and operated on schedule. On the Iowa City trip I had the opportunity to visit briefly with Henry Posner, president of IAIS and owner of the QJ locomotives and a major sponsor of the festival. Other festival trips included the Rock Island Express from Chicago to Rock Island, which delivered the passenger cars and the Muscatine Flyer with a train ride down-river to Muscatine, Iowa followed by a riverboat ride on the Mississippi River back to Rock Island.

For the children, young and old, there were model railroads of all gauges set up in a large tent including a Lionel display housed in large 3 axle trailer with windows on three sides. Also, on hand was miniature live steam with an operating track for rides which were well used all day long. A number of vendors were on hand selling a variety of historical rail related merchandise.



North Texas Rail News

DCTA A-Train Rail Cars Arrive Via Galveston

(submitted by Skip Waters)

The first shipment of new rail cars for the Denton County Transportation Authority's A-train has arrived. Officials have been eagerly awaiting the cars, which they say will operate more smoothly and accommodate passengers better than the rail cars currently in use.

The agency received two of the rail cars made by Stadler Bussnang AG, a Swiss company. Each \$7.5 million vehicle comes in three pieces shipped on flatbed semis. The cars arrived in the port of Galveston a few weeks ago and were then shipped north. The cars will be assembled at the rail maintenance and operations facility in Lewisville and then testing will begin, Leggett said. Testing will be done at times when regular service is not running, during the middle of the day and some Sundays.

Source: 8/21/11 **Denton Record-Chronicle**, article by Bj Lewis, Staff Writer at http://www.dentonrc.com/sharedcontent/dws/drc/localnews/stories/DRC_Rail_Cars_0821.e5c8cf00.html

Keller Plans For Rail Hot Spot

Move over Saginaw: Keller is stepping into the train-watching arena. The Old Town Keller Merchants Association recently bought a 1917 train car that will be part of the city's locomotive display, including a viewing platform, in the historic downtown area. Terry Thomas, president of the association, said plans for the train car include a fresh coat of paint, lighting inside and out, air conditioning, heat and a radio so watchers can listen to dispatchers and engineers.

The vintage train car would be positioned between the engine and the flatcar already at the display, one block west of South Main Street at Vine Street. The display will overlook a Union Pacific rail line and will give north Tarrant County a second spot for "railfans" to view trains. A few miles to the west in Saginaw sits the Saginaw Heritage Center, an authentic train depot that has become nationally known as a train-watching hot spot.

Source: 8/13/11 **Fort Worth Star-Telegram**, article by Susan McFarland, at <http://www.star-telegram.com/2011/08/13/3288921/old-town-merchants-all-aboard.html>



Above: Workers install an articulation bracket on one of the DCTA's new A-train cars in Lewisville. (Photo credit: DRC/AI Key)

Chapter Directory

North Texas Chapter Officers, 2011.

- **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/Communications, Dale Wilken**, d-mwilken@sbcglobal.net
- **Secretary, Dave Gramm**, dgramm@sbcglobal.net
- **Treasurer, Jim King**, jgking@swbell.net
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North Texas Zephyr, newsletter of the North Texas

- **Editor, Valli Hoski**, ntx.news@yahoo.com

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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>

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Chapter News

Chapter Meeting Minutes, August 2, 2011

NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER, NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, MINUTES, DATE: August 2, 2011. Founders Building, Grapevine, Texas. Report submitted by Dave Graham.



President Wayne Smith was unable to attend so Vice President-Programs Jon Shea called the meeting to order at 7:38pm with 12 members and guests present.

VP Jon reported that he is trying to get Ken Fitzgerald to give a program sometime in the next two months. The November meeting will be held in Grapevine and will be the annual auction of member railroad-related memorabilia. VP-Trips & Events Skip Waters is working on a venue in Carrollton for the December Christmas Party.

Jon showed a photo of the Milford, TX depot of the TX Electric interurban that is being converted into a restaurant. The owner still has a way to go before it is open, but progress is evident. Jon also passed around an article in Classic Trains on the T&P's Louisiana Eagle and a photo of MKT #400 in front of the Denison depot.

Skip reported the annual Bush Library Symposium will be held the second weekend in November. More info on presenters will be forthcoming in coming months. He also mentioned an idea for the members to take a ride on the DCTA 'A' train on a Saturday in the future, coupled with a ride on the DART 'Green' Line as well. He remarked that we could possibly make the event a charity fund raiser by getting pledges for each mile ridden.

NTC council rep Russ Covitt reported he had reserved a table at the Plano Train Show for use by our NRHS chapter.

VP-Communication Dale Wilken reported on the Board of Directors meeting at the NRHS Tacoma National Convention. All the constitutional changes proposed were passed. Directors were elected for the current year since the directorships will change next June when the constitutional changes take effect. Next year's convention will be in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm. Program started after a 5 minute break.

Dale started the program with pictures from the Tacoma convention. He reported that there were approximately 700 attendees and they experienced numerous railroad-related events. He commented on the Northwest Rail Museum in Snoqualmie and the Stampede Pass Excursion behind SP4449. After leaving Tacoma, he attended the Steam Train Festival in Rock Island, IL where he reported 30,000 tickets were sold for the 4 day event. The Nebraska Zephyr and Nickel Plate 765 were both in attendance.

Member Ed Pegelow also showed pictures of the convention including ones he shot while riding the Talgo train and the Mt. Rainier Scenic Railroad and his visit to the Rail Museum in Eatonville, where all kinds of railroad logging equipment is on display.

Member Jeff finished the program with slides of his recent visit to the Cumbres& Toltec fundraising event.

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.**

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**. Reach the NRHS at National Railway Historical Society, 100 N 20th Street, 4th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19103-1443.

North Texas Calendar

Tues. Sept. 6, 2011	<i>North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m. Location:</i> Founder's Building. 701 S. Main St., Grapevine, Texas. <i>Program:</i> <i>Ken Fitzgerald, Abo Canyon railroading.</i>
Tues. Oct. 4, 2011	<i>North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m.</i> Location and Program to be announced.
Tues. Nov. 1, 2011	<i>North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m. Location:</i> Founder's Building. 701 S. Main St., Grapevine, Texas. <i>Program:</i> <i>Annual auction.</i>
December, 2011	<i>North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m.</i> Date, Time, Location: to be announced. Program: Holiday dinner meeting.
January 3, 2012	<i>North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m. Location:</i> Founder's Building. 701 S. Main St., Grapevine, Texas. <i>Program:</i> <i>Chapter election and member reports.</i>