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Chapter Meeting

June 7, 2011 – Sokol Hall, Dallas

When: Tues. June 7, 7:00 p.m.

Where: Sokol Hall, Walnut Hill Lane, east of Greenville Ave.
 Driving directions: from Central Expressway go east on Walnut Hill Lane. Pass Greenville Avenue. You will see the Sokol Dallas Sign immediately on your right.

Program: To be announced.

Didn't Renew?

Final renewal notices were mailed out by NRHS at the end of March. **Non-renewals as of May 7 are dropped from the membership roll.**

Special Features

National Train Day in Dallas & Fort Worth, May 7, 2011

by Danny Sisk

Saturday was a great day ! I picked up my 10-year-old nephew and we took the TRE to Dallas along with where we ran into more friends and to ok in all the stuff and took lots of pix!

(Below) Lots of fun for the kids – no matter what the scale! (all photo credit: Danny Sisk)





Returning to Ft Worth we took in face painting and got some more free stuff ! Then it was off to Smiley Face BBQ in Saginaw for lunch. I then dropped off my nephew and headed home ! It was a good day and I like that ! Hope the rest of you had your good day too ! *[Editor's note: Many thanks to Mr. Sisk for sharing his Train Day and Temple pictures with the North Texas Chapter.]*

Temple's Old Fashioned Train Day

by Dale Wilken

On April 30, the Temple Railroad and Historical Museum in Temple, Texas celebrated "Old Fashioned Train Day" featuring a consist of heritage passenger cars from the Santa Fe Railroad brought to the city by BNSF. Several members of the North Texas Chapter traveled to Temple to help them celebrate the day and to ride the train.



(Above) The renovated Santa Fe depot and museum (Photo credit: Dale Wilken)

The museum in itself is worth spending some hours looking at the displays related to Temple and local rail history. They include furnishings from the Temple Harvey House, the Santa Fe Hospital that operated for many years, a communications room, a lantern display and many historic photos. All of this is housed in the former Santa Fe depot built in 1910, which was renovated in 2000 and currently serves Amtrak. Outside there is a nice display of elderly rail equipment including a 1921 Baldwin Pacific locomotive, a 1937 diesel switcher and assorted freight and passenger equipment.



(Above) Vintage and modern equipment at Temple (Photo credit: Danny Sisk)

The main event of the day was a trip on a heritage passenger train. The consist included Observation car Missouri River, Diner Lake Superior, Lounge Car Mountain View, 4 high level passenger cars built in the 1960's-Flathead River, Powder River, Colorado River and Fox River, and crew cars Marias Pass and Glorieta Pass. Power was furnished by two BNSF ES44DC locomotives so the train was somewhat overpowered but with one on each end, the train was in "pull" mode both directions. The trip was southeast out of Temple on the BNSF main line toward Houston. We traveled about 30 miles to the Cameron area before returning to Temple. This is a busy single-track main line as we met several unit grain trains and one intermodal during the trip. Back at the depot, we had a chance to watch BNSF action passing through the wye and the arrival of the southbound Texas Eagle before we headed back to Fort Worth after an enjoyable day of rail watching and riding.

Colorado Railroad Museum Trip Report

by W Richard (Dick) Watkins

Here is my rendition of the Colorado Railroad Museum trip. We highly recommend trips run by the Museum. This was their first attempt at running a tour and they did a great job. The Colorado Railroad Museum had their first trip between April 30 to May 5, 2011. We flew out a few days early to spend some time at Lake Tahoe. They had a bad winter in the mountains this year with 20 feet of snow at Tahoe. Although all



the roads and parking lots were clear and dry several cabins, especially on the west side had snow up to their eaves. They were still skiing at Squaw Valley and plan to be open through June 1 and also be open on July 4 so you could say you skied on that day. Onto the train trip. We met the rest of the group at the Reno airport on Saturday. Our first stop was at the Nevada Railroad Museum in Carson City. We had a ride around the museum grounds on a restored Edwards motor car that came from the Tucson, Cornelia & Gila Bend Railroad. Toured the exhibits that were open and got to work a hand pump paddy car. Our second ride was on the Virginia and Truckee railroad from Virginia City to about half way to Carson City. The train was diesel powered as all of their steam engines were in the shop for maintenance. Along this ride we saw a herd of wild horses in a meadow near the train. On Sunday we went to Sacramento through Donner Pass. The past winter dumped 70 feet of snow on Donner and the UP fired up their rotaries for the first time since 1999. Plenty of snow was evident in the Sierras. Then on to Sacramento to visit the California Railroad Museum. This is one of the finest railroad museums in the country and deals mainly with California railroad history. The museum pieces were immaculate with not a speck of dust anywhere. They even had one of the gold spikes from Promontory Point on exhibit and well protected like the Hope diamond. Lunch was served on the Sacramento Southern Railroad's El Dorado observation lounge. The train was pulled by a 0-6-0 tank steam engine on a three mile - 40 minute trip along the Sacramento river. The Huntington-Hopkins hardware store is near the museum for touring. Dinner was aboard the dinner train ran by Yolo Short Line Railway on track that was in need of some tender loving care. On Monday we visited the Western Railway Museum, which is mainly an electric railway museum in Suisun. The museum has restored over 100 pieces of electric equipment to exact period restoration. We had a 15-minute, mile long streetcar ride around the grounds, and a 50-minute interurban ride over the re-electrified portion of the former SN interurban mainline to Gum Grove. Lunch was served in the interurban car. On Tuesday were in Fort Bragg for a ride into the redwoods on the California Western Railroad. This train, pulled by a diesel, (steam engine only used in the summer) went to Northspur, which is about half way to Willets. The scenery is spectacular through the redwoods with open air cars to fully appreciate the scenery. A barbecue lunch was served in Northspur before the return to Fort Bragg. Wednesday was spent riding the Napa Valley Wine Train. We rode in their ex Milwaukee Hiawatha dome car now named Champagne Vista and had a true gourmet meal. Their equipment was the best restored of any we saw on the trip. Being a wine lover we found this train very enjoyable. Thursday was off to the Oakland airport for the flight back to Dallas. This was the Museum's first tour and it was very well organized. Rooms were in first class hotels and the few meals included were excellent. There were 24 people on the tour and we all meshed well. I definitely recommend any tour run by the Museum.

Why I Do Not Walk Bridges

by W Richard (Dick) Watkins

Jay Gould was a railroad robber baron about 100 years ago. He said that he did not build railroads, but bought them. He was pretty good at rescuing railroads that were in bad financial (and physical) health. One of his last acts, before being wiped out in a financial panic, was to assemble a transcontinental railway. He did this by acquiring, from west to east, the Western Pacific, Denver and Rio Grande Western, Missouri Pacific, Wabash, Nickel Plate Road, and the Western Maryland Railroad. He had a gap between Pittsburgh Junction Ohio and Connelsville Pennsylvania. To fill this gap he built the Wabash Pittsburgh Terminal Railroad. Gould was thinking big. He bought land wide enough for four tracks, graded and installed bridges for two tracks, and laid one track. In Pittsburgh he built a very large passenger terminal near the Point Gould even had a stub line leaving the terminal heading northeast. This could possibly have been for a connection with the defunct South Penn railroad. About the time Gould had his lines assembled the financial panic came and his empire fell apart. In the various reorganizations the Wabash Pittsburgh Terminal was renamed the Pittsburgh and West Virginia Railway (P&WV). It is interesting to note that Gould ventured on sacred soil of the mighty Pennsylvania Railroad in their private domain of Pittsburgh. In 1947 the P&WV terminal in Pittsburgh burned. Was the fire caused by the Pennsylvania? We will never know.

The P&WV crossed the Ohio River south of Follansbee on a beautiful double track bridge. A similar bridge, although slightly longer, crossed the Monongahela River for their entrance into their Pittsburgh terminal. After the fire the Monongahela bridge was removed. On the Ohio side of the river was the Steubenville works of the Wheeling Steel Co. Several mill workers in order to shorten their drive and avoid bridge tolls would park on the West Virginia side and walk the bridge to the mill. The railroad even built steps from the highway to the bridge and had a walkway between the tracks. Two tracks were laid across the bridge with one terminating at the West Virginia end of the bridge.

I always wanted to walk the bridge, however, my father, with more wisdom than me, would not let me do it. Ha! I turned 16 and obtained my drivers license. I borrowed the family Hudson and drove to the bridge to walk it. By this time the railroad had removed the stub track on the bridge to increase clearance for the containers that were beginning to be carried by the railroads. They did have a five-foot walk along the north side of the track and centered the remaining track in the center of the bridge. So off I went on the on my venture across the river. The bridge and its approaches were approximately 800 feet long. When I was about 2/3 of the way across the bridge I see this bright white spot in the tunnel about a mile west of the Ohio end of the bridge. There is only one thing that is bright white in tunnels on a railroad—A TRAIN! I started running toward the Ohio end of the bridge; however, the train meets me when I am about 50 feet from the end and safety. I am pressed against the railing with the train flying by 2 feet from me. The engineer radioed the conductor in the caboose about me. As the caboose went by the conductor yelled, "Don't do that again". I won't! That cured me of my desire to walk railroad bridges.



NRHS News

Summary of Spring 2011 NRHS Conference

by Claude Doane

Report of actions and activities at the **Spring 2011 NRHS Conference - Urbana , Illinois April 15, 2011 through April 17, 2011.**

- Activities included a mixed slide show Friday evening that was unfortunately held at the same time as the RVP meeting. Steve reported that there were not enough streetcars.
- Saturday began with a bus ride in the cold rain to the Monticello Railroad Museum where we boarded the special train behind Southern 4-6-0 #407 for the ride into town. Once there we toured the depot museum which has an excellent collection that is well displayed. The rain even stopped for the photo run by on the way to town. Once we were back at the Museum, there was opportunity to tour the shops and the display cars. Due to the 40 degree temps and the now heavy rain, most folks elected to sit in the warm buses until the return trip.
- The banquet Saturday night with the speaker being head of the Railroad program at the University of Illinois was well received. I found his talk timely and very informative.
- The Board meeting was held Sunday morning and the only real action taken was to approve the new budget. It was announced that the position of VP, Public Relations is vacant. (Skip, are you reading this?)
- There were the usual reports on past and future (through 2012) conventions. There was also a request for Hosts for upcoming conferences. Thus far fall 2011 (Wilmington) and fall 2012 (Fishers, IN) are spoken for, but winter and spring 2012 are open as is all of 2013 and beyond.
- The new Governance plan will be voted upon at the convention June. This plan reduces the Board size and institutes term limits for the National Officers. I strongly urge everyone vote for this plan. Believe it or not, we actually adjourned early at about 11:30.

NRHS Museum Discounts

NRHS discounts for its members at hundreds of tourist roads and railroad museums at <http://nrhs.com/pdf/2011-discount-list.pdf> The list will be published in the next issue of NRHS News, which will be mailed to all members whose dues, are current. There's also a .pdf version of the 2011 list that's been posted on the NRHS website (see link above.)Thanks go to Wes Ross, regional vice President for his efforts on this project. **Source: Bluewater Sentinel Online, May 19, 2011, by David Williamson.**

Upcoming NRHS Events

June 20 - 26, 2011
2011 National Convention
 Tacoma, WA
 Tacoma Chapter
www.cascaderails2011.com

July 10 - 16, 2011
RailCamp
 Steamtown
 Scranton, PA
www.railcamp.com

October 28 - 30, 2011
Fall Conference
 Wilmington, DE
 Wilmington Chapter

2012 Winter Conference – location,
 dates to be determined

June 18 - 25, 2012
2012 National Convention
 Cedar Rapids, IA
 NRHS

November 15-19, 2012
Fall Conference
 Fishers, IN
 Hoosierland Chapter

Source: NRHS Telegraph, May 2011

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>



Chapter News & Views

Chapter Meeting Minutes, May 5, 2011

NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER, NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, MINUTES, DATE: May 5, 2011. Saginaw Depot, Saginaw, Texas.. *Report submitted by Dave Gramm.*

The meeting was held at the Saginaw Depot. President Wayne Smith called the meeting to order at 7:32 PM. There were 14 members present for the meeting and Linda Nunn, spouse of member Jerry Nunn.

Due to a meeting conflict with the Chamber, we held our meeting on the balcony on the back side of the depot, where in between reports we watched trains pass by. Wayne asked each board member present for their reports, if any.

Secretary Dave Gramm had nothing new to report. NTC council representative Russ Covitt reported there are still two upcoming shows on tap that the members will need to volunteer to work at a later date.

National Director & Regional VP Claude Doane reported on his attendance at the national board meeting. He reported there are no major surprises. National is currently running a deficit budget and looking for a convention site for 2012. This year's convention is June 22-26, 2011 in Seattle, WA, and Claude reported most events are pretty well sold out.

VP-Programs Jon Shea reported that since tonight was the 40th anniversary commemoration of the founding of Amtrak, the program for the evening was to be a retrospective look back on Amtrak's history by member Garl Latham. Jon also read a short article on the history of the Lone Star and Texas Chief under Amtrak. He reported that June's program was not yet nailed down but would be named in the newsletter. As a future program, Jon recommended a railroad themed movie night.

Treasurer Jim King was attending other duties and unavailable.

VP-Trips & Events Skip Waters reported that UP has published the schedule for the steam train trip from Kansas City to Little Rock via St. Louis. It will leave Kansas City on Tuesday, May 31st. S

Saturday, May 7 is National Train Day and events will be held in Dallas from 10am-2pm at Union Station and 11am-3pm at the Fort Worth Intermodal facility. Houston, Mineola, Marshall, San Antonio and other Texas cities are planning similar events.

The 6th Annual '24 Hours at Saginaw' will be held starting at 7pm on Friday, May 27 through 7pm Saturday night, May 28. The Saginaw Chamber of Commerce is interested in supporting this event. Skip is working on a caterer, vendors, new trivia questions, a new Facebook page, a night shoot at the FWWR and a live broadcast during the event.

Member John Miller reported the Denton 'A' train is scheduled to start running June 20 with rumors that the first week of operation will have free rides.

Member Jerry Nunn reported on the continuing Kennedale grade crossing street pylons project.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm and the evening's program was given by member Garl Latham, who spoke about the beginning of Amtrak, 40 years ago. Garl served as both an onboard and station worker for 10 years during that timeframe.

Press time: 5/27/2011, noon. Filename: NTx Newsletter 2011-06 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 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.** Reach the NRHS at National Railway Historical Society, 100 N 20th Street, 4th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19103-1443.

North Texas Calendar

Tues. June 7, 2011	North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m. Location: Sokol Hall, Dallas, TX. From North Central Expressway, exit at Walnut Hill Lane. Go east past Greenville, look for "Sokol Hall" sign. Program: to be announced.
Tues. July 5, 2011	North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m. Location: Founders Building, Grapevine, TX. Program: Skip Waters will give a program on his Union Pacific excursion.