



VALLI HOSKI, NORTH TEXAS NEWS EDITOR

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**Chapter Meeting**

**July 7, 2011 – Founders Building, Grapevine**

**When:** Tues. July 5, 7:00 p.m.

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

**Program:** Skip Waters, UP Excursion Surprise! with "lots of videos".

**Special Features**

**6<sup>th</sup> Annual “24 Hours @ Saginaw”, May 27-28, 2011**

*by Dale Wilken*

Despite some very warm and windy weather, the North Texas Chapter hosted another very successful **24 Hours @ Saginaw** on Memorial Day weekend, May 27 and 28, 2011.

This was the 6th annual event and under the leadership of our resourceful Skip Waters, the participants had a wide array of activities to keep them occupied even when the trains weren’t rolling by A total of 105 participants registered for the event and others joined in as well. Many came for Friday or Saturday afternoon and a few hardy watchers completed the whole 24 hour experience and even more as they began before the official start on Friday evening. They were the ones caught napping in their cars or their lawn chairs in the cool morning hours of Saturday.



(Above) Lots of action rolled past at Saginaw (all photo credit: Dale Wilkin)

The official count of trains watched was 49 including several passings of the Heartland Flyer Amtrak train between Fort Worth and Oklahoma City as well as coal, grain, manifest, intermodal including Triple Crown trailers on rail led by a pair of Norfolk Southern locomotives, Genset transfers and rock trains on the three BNSF and UP lines. There were several instances when two trains were present at the same time and in one instance there were three simultaneously passing through the interlocking. Meanwhile, there was an opportunity to observe the continuing large numbers of grain semis arriving at the very large grain elevators across the tracks, a source for future unit train grain shipments.



(Above) Train watchers photographing the NB Heartland Flyer (all photo credit: Dale Wilkin)

A night photo shoot at the Fort Worth and Western rail yard, led by Ken Fitzgerald and Patrick Phelan, was the main event of Friday evening. There was good participation and according to all reports it was well received. For those who stayed closer to the base of operations at the air-conditioned Saginaw Depot, former Houston & Texas Central RR depot moved from Kosse, Texas, there were activities throughout the 24 hours.

Presentations included multimedia shows, a midnight movie "Railfans Chasing Trains", and presentations on such subjects as "Towers of Dallas/Fort Worth". There were also opportunities for audience participation, which also helped the train watchers stay awake, with the "Great Locomotive Race" trivia game.



(Below) Skip at his entertaining best at Saginaw (all photo credit: Dale Wilkin)

New features this year were a special edition of "Railspot" Radio Show and "Lets Talk Trains" Radio Show, live broadcasts from the Depot hosted by Skip which were available on [www.BlogTalkRadio.com](http://www.BlogTalkRadio.com). Also, this year Skip made several promotional videos posted to YouTube to promote the event. You can see these by searching "24 Hours @ Saginaw 2011" on YouTube.com.

Special thanks go to members from the chapter that staffed the event at the depot. They include Dale Wilken, Dave Gramm, Claude Doane and Jon Shea. Skip says each one played a vital role to the success of the event.

The North Texas Chapter really appreciates the support and assistance provided by the Saginaw Chamber of Commerce in sponsoring this event. All the train watchers who participated let us know that they are looking forward to another 24 Hours at Saginaw in 2012.



## 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](mailto:wgcrush@swbell.net).
  - **Vice President/Communications, Dale Wilken**, [d-mwilken@sbcglobal.net](mailto:d-mwilken@sbcglobal.net)
  - **Secretary, Dave Gramm**, [dgramm@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dgramm@sbcglobal.net)
  - **Treasurer, Jim King**, [jgking@swbell.net](mailto:jgking@swbell.net)
  - **National Director, Claude Doane**, [claudedoane@hcahealthcare.com](mailto:claudedoane@hcahealthcare.com)
- North Texas Zephyr, newsletter of the North Texas**
- **Editor, Valli Hoski**, [ntx.news@yahoo.com](mailto: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>

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## 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

<b>Tues. July 5, 2011</b>	<b>North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m.</b> Location: Founder's Building, 701 S. Main St., Grapevine, Texas. Program: Skip Waters will give a program on his Union Pacific excursion.
<b>Tues. August 2, 2011</b>	<b>North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m.</b> Location: Founder's Building, 701 S. Main St., Grapevine, Texas. Program: 2011 NRHS National Convention, Tacoma, Washington: member reports. This will also be an opportunity for any member to report on their summer railroading or railfanning activities.

