



VALLI HOSKI, NORTH TEXAS NEWS EDITOR

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Chapter Meeting

October 4, 2011 – Sokol Hall, Dallas.

When: Tues. Oct. 4 7:00 p.m.

Where: Sokol Hall, 7448 Greenville Avenue, Dallas, Texas 75231

Program: Pat Coughlin.

Directions: From LBJ, take Greenville Avenue South approximately 2 miles. From 75, take Walnut Hill East approximately 1 mile. We are behind Salt Water Willy's and the Presbyterian Heart institute.

Map at

<http://sokoldallas.org/page5.php?SessionID=df368744e76b9f9e9279>

Special Features

Train Show Season Coming Up the Track

The DFW area train shows are coming up the track, and now's the time to plan the Chapter's required coverage of hours. Russ Covitt, the Chapter's North Texas Council Rep, has committed to covering the Fort Worth show.

Won't you please do the same and commit an hour (or more) to help the Chapter meet its coverage needs for the Plano Show? Pick your Plano assignment of choice and let Russ know at "RussRStuff@aol.com".

For more information on the shows, see <http://www.dfwtrainshows.com/>

Ft. Worth Train Show - Nov 12-13, 2011

- Russ Covitt our North Texas Council Rep is doing all 4 of our required hours.

Dallas Area Train Show (Plano) - January 21-22, 2012

***** Chapter needs help for the following hours *****

Saturday, January 21, 2012

- 10-11 AM LAYOUT TOUR SUPPORT EAST DOOR_____
- 11-12 AM TICKET SALES _____
- 12-1 PM TICKET SALES*_____
- 1-2 PM TICKET SALES*_____

*NOTE LOCATION of ticket sales will be announced next month

Sunday, January 22, 2012

- 9-10 AM ASSISTANT SHOW MGR Russ Covitt
- 10-11 AM LAYOUT TOUR SUPPORT EAST DOOR_____
- 12-1 PM SWITCHING CONTEST_____
- 1-2 PM TICKET SALES EAST DOOR_____
- 3-4 PM INFORMATION TABLE_____

Summer Travels: Planes, Trains, Automobiles, Boats and Mules!

by Wayne Smith, Chapter President (Photo credit: Valli Hoski. Image credit: Historical Jefferson Railway)

President's Roundhouse, October 2011

The movie, Planes, Trains and Automobiles, with John Candy and Steve Martin is one of my all-time favorite movies. This is true even though the "Trains" part was a little skimpy. I added "Boats" to my article title and my summer travels included all of the modes of transportation named here in. Read on to also learn about the mules.

During the heyday of rail travel, which includes the decades of the 30's and 40's, automobile travel was starting to come into its own to start competing with the railroads. In my mind, there were two major reasons for this. First, automobiles were becoming more affordable and the famous "Route 66" was allowing families to take fun and exciting car trips through a large segment of America. **This summer, my family and I spent four days and three nights following the old Route 66 from Oklahoma City to Tulsa.** We tried to visit as many existing structures from this bygone era as possible.



Above: Beverly's Pancakes, route 66 icon, Northwest Highway, Oklahoma City. (VH)



Above: Round Barn, class Route 66 landmark, east of Oklahoma City. (VH)

A good part of the trip felt like we took a trip back in time. We even stayed in historical hotels in OKC and Tulsa that were built prior to when Route 66 was even conceptualized. This trip on the mother road was my historical automobile experience.



Above: Pop's Soda (and gas), a new, already famous Route 66 icon, east of Oklahoma City. (VH)



Above: Rainbows on Route 66, the many colors and flavors of Pop's Soda, east of Oklahoma City. (VH)

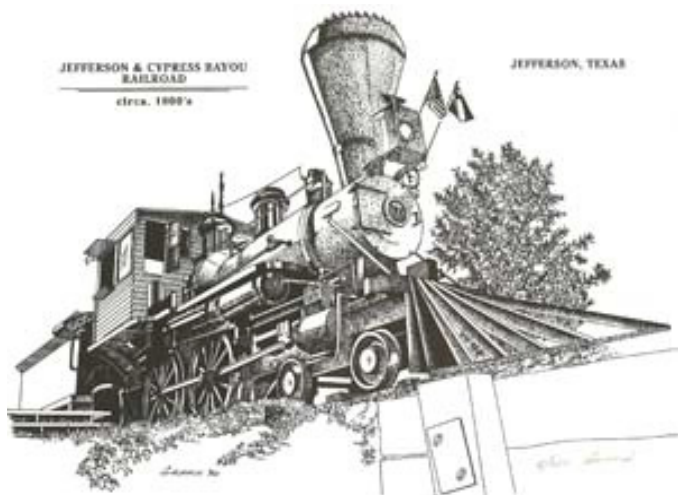


My work paid for me to attend a conference in Seattle and I took advantage of it by taking vacation at the same time. I flew to Seattle and met my sister and brother-in-law at the airport. **We then rented a jeep and drove into British Columbia. We caught a ferry from one of the Vancouver terminals and sailed to Vancouver Island.** The island is a cross between Colorado and Hawaii with mountains, oceans, rivers, and mild temperatures with lush and blooming vegetation. We had a wonderful family reunion, as my mother is from Canada. We would have ridden the historical Esquimalt and Nanaimo RDC train, but it was closed indefinitely due to poor track conditions. I did read in a recent Trains Magazine that the provincial government may step in to assist with the funding of this project, but I don't recall off-hand the actual conditions of the financial assistance. Taking the ferry back from Vancouver Island to the mainland was especially enjoyable. About midway through the two-hour trip, we saw multiple schools of dolphins in multiple directions. If you have never experienced a trip on one of these ferries, it is something to add to your "must do" list. Most of the vessels in the ferry fleet have multiple parking levels that can easily accommodate buses and eighteen wheelers. There are restaurants, souvenir shops, arcades, etc. to occupy your time if you are not "into" looking at breathtaking scenery and ocean views.

I did return to Seattle to attend my conference. Of course, I managed to squeeze in some sightseeing time. **Even though there are multiple commuter rail systems in the Seattle area, we were only able to ride the Monorail built for the 1962 World's Fair that runs from downtown to the Space Needle.** However, I was able to witness the various light rail systems in the city including Sounder, Central Rail Line and South Lake Union Streetcar. Sounder commuter rail is a regional rail service operated by BNSF on behalf of Sound Transit. Service operates from Seattle, north to Everett and south to Tacoma.

One of the highlights of our stay in Seattle was to visit Mount Rainier National Park. No words can describe the beauty and majesty of this very recognizable mountain/volcano. At the top of the mountain, we saw glaciers and even snow drifts (in July) that were still 20-25 feet deep. Lots of critters as well. You have to visit Mount Rainier and experience it to really appreciate all that it is. On our way back to Seattle, at the base of the mountain, we stopped in the town of Elbe for dinner at the Mt Rainier Railroad Dining Company. They have multiple pieces of passenger equipment connected side by side and end to end to create a restaurant, lounge, gift shop and kitchen. At this location, there is also a caboose motel (Hobo Inn) and the Cascadian Dinner Train. Some of the equipment on the Cascadian Dinner Train were from the American Freedom Train. I am not certain that the Cascadian Dinner Train is currently running. If all of the cabooses were not booked for the night, the proprietors would have allowed us to view inside one of the cabooses. However, they did have a neat slide show about the equipment. On the other side of town is the more famous Mount Rainier Scenic Railroad.

Our last trip for the summer included a trip to the town of Uncertain, TX and Caddo Lake. Caddo Lake is hauntingly beautiful with its Cypress Trees and Spanish Moss. We stayed in a cabin and experienced a couple of different boat rides through the various waterways of Caddo Lake.



Above: Jefferson and Cyprus Bayou Railroad, circa 1870s, Jefferson Texas. (Image credit: Historical Jefferson Railway)

We were wanting to ride the Graceful Ghost, the last remaining steam powered paddle wheel boat in regular service, but high winds prevented the sailing of this vintage vessel. We did spend a day in historic Jefferson while in East Texas, which included a tour of the town while riding in a covered wagon, pulled by two mules.

We also rode on the "Ghost Train." When my wife and I went to Jefferson 19 years ago, it was called the Jefferson and Cypress Bayou Railroad. It is now called the Historic Jefferson Railroad. It is live narrow gauge steam and we rode the train in the dark. We met at the depot early and heard ghost stories about Jefferson and they continued the ghost stories during the excursion.

This is also where Big Foot supposedly lives. My ten-year-old son was actually disappointed that some sort of creature did not come out of the woods to scare the riders on the train. We were expecting "something" to appear. The train was built in 1964 for Six Gun Territory amusement park in Florida and moved to Jefferson in 1986. It is a Crown Metals reproduction of the 1870's



American Class 4-4-0 steam locomotive christened the Robert E. Lee and known as Engine #7. The current marking on the locomotive show Texas and Pacific. The open car coach seats still carry the custom medallions cast into them and designed especially for the Six Gun Territory amusement park. I believe the railway went into bankruptcy a couple of times in the 90's but has become so popular under new ownership that it was nominated as one of the Best Excursion Railroad Theme Trains for its Ghost Train by the readers of Cowcatcher magazine for the First Annual 2009 Gold Rail Awards.

Anyway, our summer was composed of multiple modes of transportation, locations, experiences and scenery. My favorite mode of transportation has been, continues to be, and will always remain anything sitting on rails. Until next time, happy railroading.

Field Reports from Rail Correspondents

by Valli Hoski

Our friendly exchange partners share their club or chapter newsletters with the Chapter in the collegial spirit of the rail hobby. Here are some new ideas for the Chapter and 'interesting' news bites received this summer from local and regional rail organizations.

The Bulletin Board - Newsletter of The Trinity Valley Railroad Historical Association & the South Central States Chapter of the Railway & Locomotive Historical Society. 2011 issues.

- **'Henry Timken's Railroad Legacy'** – The January 2011 Bulletin Board features a special look at the life, work and contributions of Henry Timken and his wheel bearings. Another article highlights the Reader Railroad #2 locomotive featured in recent films, including True Grit (2010), and 310 to Yuma (2007) among others.
- **Compound, articulated steam locomotives in North Texas** – The Mallet, a compound, articulated steam locomotive, "represented the height of locomotive technology" in the early years of the 20th century. The August 2011 Bulletin Board highlights Mallets and their service with several major railroads in North Texas, including Kansas City Southern 2-8-8-0 #765, Santa Fe #1167, Kansas, Oklahoma & Gulf Mallet #304, and others.
- **Ride the Rails in Pontiac Station Wagon Comfort** – The Fairmont Hy-Rail Car offers a unique perspective on 'riding the rails' in a passenger station wagon. The April 2011 issue features the history and an ad of the "34 series B Hy-Rail Car" with the body of a Pontiac Station Wagon, V-8 engine with 252 horsepower, Hydra-Matic drive, with hydraulic rail wheels which are mechanically locked into position. Quite the style for its time.
- **Trains and Automobiles, Hillsboro, Texas** – In 1948, a daily scene in Hillsboro Texas offered a unique view of the mid- 20th century's popular transportation modes – trains, cars and car garages, as highlighted in the March 2011 issue. The Texas Electric Railway operated in Hillsboro, as part of its North Texas network between Fort Worth, Dallas, Denison, Cleburne, Waco and Corsicana. Hillsboro also saw its first automobile garage in 1906, which quickly expanded in the 1920s. Grime's Garage became world-famous, with sign distribution campaigns that posted the garage's famous name in almost every state and even a few countries. Grimes Garage's service, maids, lounge and other amenities were extraordinary for a garage of its time. A glimpse at the Garage's guest register reveals many famous names over the years.

The Newsletter of the Red River Valley Railroad Historical Society, Inc. – 2011 issues

- **Our Treasures - Artifacts, Rolling Stock and Depot** – The RRVRHS has 'accumulated' and stores assets around town, awaiting displayed and future movement to the McNeill Street Pumping Station and adjacent area. Photos and more on these treasures are shown in the June, 2011 Newsletter, including the Ex-Santa Fe 2-6-2 Prairie No. 1140 Steam Engine and Tender, Union Pacific Caboose 25868 and Canadian Pacific Dining Car 1378.
- **The '40 & 8' Voiture Local 37 Train Returns to Shreveport** – In January, 2011, the 'train' of the local "40 & 8" organization returned to Shreveport after its engine overhaul. Originally built in 1953, the train and parts were made at the Frymaster Corp. The April, 2011 Newsletter presents a colorful history of the "40 & 8" organization, and the 50-car "Merci" (Gratitude) train sent with 52,000 gifts from the French to the American people in 1949. The train was sent in reciprocity for the 1947 700-car American Friendship Train, filled with food and supplies from Americans to offer relief and help to France and Italy.
- **Red Cross Canteen at Shreveport Union Station** – Between 1917-1919, over 40,000 soldiers received treats, smiles and kind service at the American Red Cross canteen at Union Station. In August 1918, over 7,000 soldiers came through the station, with watermelons, candy, punch, coffee, hot chocolate, iced tea among the treats available to the troops, according to the May 2011 Newsletter.



- **'The Time a Locomotive Rode Red River'** – The September, 2011 Newsletter reprints a *Shreveport Times* article on the 100th anniversary of the arrival of the first locomotive in Shreveport. The *Louisiana* did not arrive on rails but rather on “a specially built barge plying the milk-chocolate current of the Red River.”

Gateway Railletter, St. Louis NRHS Chapter - August, September, October 2011 issues

- **Directory of Area Rail Clubs** - Over 10 rail clubs in the St. Louis and Illinois area are highlighted in the Gateway September issue. *Editor's note: Would NTC find a list of north Texas area clubs useful? Email your editor the info on area rail club(s). Watch for a list in a future issue, if news comes in.*
- **'Round' em up, bring 'em in!** – Prizes and more prizes for bringing in new members Sept-Dec. 2011!! 1st prized - Bring in at least 2 new members and get your 2012 national and local dues paid free! 2nd prize – Bring in 1 new member and get your local dues paid free! *Editor's note: How about a NTC Membership Challenge too?*
- **Meet you in St. Louis!** - Union Pacific 4-8-4 Northern #844 made a Whistlestop at Kirkwood, MO on Thursday June 2, 2011... The event was well attended with an estimated crowd of about 1000 people, including an enthusiastic group from the Chicago Blackhawk Chapter NRHS. *Editor's note: Check out Spencer's Grill if you're ever in Kirkwood. Good food.*
- **Texas, here they come** - VP Trip Director: Rick Sprung announced the trip to San Antonio is being arranged for October 26th through November 1st. *Editor's note: NTC members can travel south to visit our northerly neighbors – only in Texas.*
- **Just go home** – At the August and September meetings, Steve Siegerist made the motion to adjourn the meeting. *Editor's note: Seems Captain Transit's not changed track at all.*

National and Regional Rail News

BNSF Launches Rail Advocates Web Site

On September 13, 2011 BNSF Railway (BNSF) launched a website dedicated to providing exclusive content to the friends, allies and advocates interested in BNSF or freight rail transportation. Those who join the 'Friends of BNSF' website gain access to articles, documents, photos and videos, many of which are not available anywhere else.

John Ambler, BNSF vice president, Corporate Relations, said "Rail fans, freight rail advocates, members of communities in which BNSF operates, and of course our employees and retirees are all welcome at Friends of BNSF." Members will be able to view special news articles and videos, explore a one-of-a-kind resource library packed with company information, download exclusive wallpaper, ringtones and a screensaver. Members can explore the long history of the railroad and its predecessors through historical photos and videos, authentic maps and documents, and classic brochures and advertisements.

Membership at Friends of BNSF is free, but visitors are required to provide an e-mail address in order to join the site. Friends of BNSF will be updated with new content regularly. Members can elect to receive e-mail notifications when new content is posted in their selected areas of interest. Visit <http://friendsofbnsf.com> to join and spread the word to your family, friends and neighbors!

Source: 9/13/2011, BNSF News Release at <http://www.bnsf.com/media/news-releases/2011/september/2011-09-13b.html>

North Texas Rail News

TSRR - 9/11 Special Remembrance



To recognize and honor those who put their lives on the line in the call of duty, the TSRR would like to invite all active military personnel, firefighters, EMTs, police officers, dispatchers and other first responders **to ride the train as our guests from now until November 12, 2011**. Thank you for your service to our community and to America.

Offer is valid for Standard-Class tickets, meal not included. Not valid on special events, upgrade to Lone Star Class available. Please call 1-888-987-2461 to make your reservation. Please show ID showing service status when picking up your tickets at the Rusk Depot. For more information visit www.TexasStateRR.com.

Source: 9/8/11 Texas State Railroad media release. Thanks to Skip Waters for news submission. *Image credit: Texas State Railroad, American Heritage Railways.*



Corn Dogs, Pig Races Ala DART

Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) is your pass to corn dogs, pig races and prize-winning fun at the State Fair of Texas® from September 30 to October 23.

The fairgrounds are connected to two DART Rail Green Line stations -- Fair Park, located on Parry Avenue at the entrance to the fairgrounds, and MLK, Jr., located south of R.B. Cullum Blvd. and convenient to the Gate 6 entrance and the Cotton Bowl Stadium.

Extra Green and Red Line trains are being added each weekend. DART Rail and Trinity Railway Express (TRE) passengers can transfer easily to the Green Line:

Southbound Red and Blue passengers transfer at Pearl or St. Paul stations and Northbound Red and Blue passengers should transfer at Akard Station. TRE passengers transfer to the Green Line at Victory Station. The Trinity Railway Express will operate on Sundays. Details are at TrinityRailwayExpress.org.



Image credit: DART

Red River Rivalry visitors can ride the DART Rail Green Line to two stations - Fair Park Station, located on Parry Avenue at the entrance to the fairgrounds, and MLK, Jr. Station, located south of R.B. Cullum Blvd. and convenient to the MLK fairground entrance (Gate 6) and the Cotton Bowl Stadium. Special connections are planned for Saturday, October 8, and some passengers may use buses to complete their trip. Added DART Rail service will begin as early as 7 a.m. - four hours prior to the scheduled 11 a.m. kickoff.

Source: 9/14/11 DART media releases at <http://www.dart.org/news/news.asp?ID=973>, www.DART.org/StateFair and <http://www.dart.org/statefair/statefair.asp?zeon=redriverrivalry>

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
- **National Director, Claude Doane**, claudio.doane@hcahealthcare.com

North Texas Zephyr, newsletter of the North Texas

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

Chapter Business Address

North Texas Chapter, NRHS,
 P.O. Box 600304
 Dallas, Texas 75360

North Texas Zephyr Archive

[Http://www.gogeocaching.com/gorailfanning/ Home/northtexaszephyr.html](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](http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=409467244127&ref=search&sid=100000091828340.3519021572..1)

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Chapter News & Views

Chapter Meeting Minutes, September 6, 2011

NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER, NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, MINUTES, DATE: September 6, 2011. Founders Building, Grapevine, Texas. Report submitted by Dave Graham.

- **President Wayne Smith** called the meeting to order at 7:35pm with 14 members and guests present.



- Wayne reported he had recently returned from east Texas where he had ridden a narrow gauge, live steam train at the Historic Jefferson Railway near Jefferson, TX and Lake Caddo.
- **VP Trips & Events Skip Waters** had no major announcements. No word on rescheduling the interurban field trip yet. He did scout out a location near Big Sandy for a possible field trip in the future. Skip also reported that at next year's convention in Cedar Rapids, IA, tickets for many of the events will be available for purchase on-line within the next few months. Go to NRHS.com web site for information and to order tickets. Tickets will cost more if ordered by mail. He reported that the lawsuit between the American Museum of Railroad and the City of Dallas has a potential settlement by the end of the month. The museum has agreed to the settlement and is awaiting Dallas City Council approval.
- **VP Programs Jon Shea** reported October's meeting will be at SOKOL Hall in Dallas. Pat Coughlin is the scheduled speaker. The November meeting will be held in Grapevine and will be the annual auction of member railroad-related memorabilia. The December meeting will be the annual Christmas Party. Skip and Wayne are working on a restaurant in Carrollton currently. The January meeting will be back in Grapevine for annual officer elections and member show & tell.
- Jon reported finding a copy of Classic Trains from winter 2002 containing a picture of TX Electric #802 interurban engine at the TE freight house in Dallas.
- **VP Communications Dale Wilken** reported no new information from headquarters other than what Skip had reported on the convention ticket sales. Long time NRHS member Joe Williams passed away after attending the NRHS convention in Tacoma, WA.
- **Russ Covitt** reported on the chapter's assigned hours for the upcoming Fort Worth and Plano train shows. The hours are basically the same as last year. It was agreed that we should have some membership flyers available at the information table to promote the chapter.
- **Jeff Phelps** reported on New Mexico's ATSF #2926 restoration project Open House in Albuquerque on October 1 and the Nevada Northern Railroad in Ely, NV is hosting a symposium which includes the opportunity to run a locomotive as the engineer for a fee.
- Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm. Program started after a 5-minute break.
- **Ken Fitzgerald** provided the program with pictures from the completed Abo Canyon double-tracking project by BNSF, along with running commentary. The tracks were opened for bi-directional use in June. He also showed some shots of various railroad events in the local area including the Tower 55 crossover project. Due to funding constraints and a failure to do the project when the I-30 rebuilding project was on-going, the decision was made to not do a tunnel under I-35 in the near future but instead add a third north-south track to be installed on the old SP right of way, just west of the BNSF and UP north-south lines. Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood made the announcement at a meeting held in Ft. Worth. The Federal government will contribute \$35 million to go with the \$65 million pledged by BNSF and UP to rebuild the Tower 55.

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. Oct. 4, 2011	North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m. Location: Sokol Hall, 7448 Greenville Avenue, Dallas, Texas 75231. Program: Pat Coughlin.
Tues. Nov. 1, 2011	North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m. Location: Founder's Building. 701 S. Main St., Grapevine, Texas. Program: Annual auction.
Sat. Nov. 12 – Sun. Nov. 13, 2011	Fort Worth Train Show – Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Location: Amon Carter Exhibit Hall, Fort Worth, Texas. Map and show details at http://www.dfwtrainshows.com/
December, 2011	North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m. Date, Time, Location: to be announced. Program: Holiday dinner meeting.
January 3, 2012	North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m. Location: Founder's Building. 701 S. Main St., Grapevine, Texas. Program: Chapter election and member “show and tell” reports.
Sat. Jan. 21 – Sun. Jan. 22, 2012	Dallas Area Train Show, held in Plano Texas - Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Location: 2000 East Spring Creek Parkway, Plano, Texas. Go East from Central Expressway (Exit 31). Map and show details at http://www.dfwtrainshows.com/