



VALLI HOSKI, NORTH TEXAS NEWS EDITOR

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Special Features

Chapter Meeting

March 6, 2012 – Founders Building, Grapevine.

When: Tues. Mar. 6, 2012, 7:00 p.m.

Where: **Founders Building, Grapevine, Texas.**

Program: Jerry Nunn presents "Railroading the Last Frontier" featuring the Alaska Railroad and others from the 49th State.

TP Hill at White Rock Lake

by Jon Shea

I found the following in the Spring '03 issue of *Legacies, A History Journal for Dallas and North Central Texas*, the magazine of the Dallas Historical Society.

"One of the most prominent structures erected by a private business at White Rock Lake was the Texas and Pacific (T & P) Railway clubhouse, which for many years could be seen atop a rise of land that came to be called 'TP Hill' on the west side of the lake overlooking the municipal boathouse. The facility was built for the benefit of railway employees, as a place where they could go on weekends and holidays to enjoy the park's amenities and socialize. Although the structure was demolished sometime during the mid-to-late 1940s, the name 'TP Hill' or 'Tee Pee Hill' as it is sometimes called is still in use."

TP Hill is located at 3420 W. Lawther Rd. For more information look at: <http://www.whiterockdallas.org/location-guide>. TP Hill is located on the point of land next to the word Lakewood on the map.

History of White Rock Lake

Before Dallas County was settled, the land on which the lake was built was a shallow, tree-lined valley in which Native Americans hunted for the bison that came to drink from White Rock Creek and graze upon its grassy banks... In the 1840s, while Texas was still an independent republic, white settlers began establishing homesteads on the high ground surrounding the White Rock Valley.

As Dallas began to grow in population during the late 1890s and early 1900s (in 1890, it was briefly the largest city in Texas), water started to become a problem... A dam was built on Bachman's Creek in 1903 but the resulting lake was far too small to meet Dallas' growing needs. In 1907, city officials began to acquire land in the White Rock Valley for a future reservoir that would be larger than Bachman's Lake.

In 1913, the first water from the reservoir was pumped into the Dallas mains and the following year, the lake was formally declared to be full.

Although it was not built with recreation in mind, Dallasites quickly discovered that the new reservoir and the land surrounding it was an ideal place for outdoor sports. Fishing became legal in 1917, the same year Joe E. Lawther was elected mayor. During his administration, prisoners from the Dallas County Jail constructed the road encircling the lake that was afterward named for the World War One-era mayor.

In the mid-1920s work began on a new reservoir, in neighboring Denton County. As soon as the new "Lake Dallas" (now Lake Lewisville) was completed, White Rock Lake and the land surrounding it became a city park. The date: December 13, 1929.

Civilian Conservation Corp. Company No. 2896, consisting of a little more than 200 previously unemployed young men from Dallas, Tarrant, and Collin counties, took up residence on the eastern shore of the lake, just behind Winfrey Point. Over the next seven years, until World War Two began, they and the enrollees who came after them labored to make improvements to White Rock Lake Park. Together, the CCC and the WPA widened Lawther Drive. The WPA was also responsible for some landscaping projects and building a new pier for the White Rock Sailing Club, which caused the city a little trouble. Because the pier was for private, not public, use, the Dallas Park Board was required to refund the federal government's contribution to the project, which was \$1,787 out of a total of \$5,081 spent on the pier's construction.

During the 1930s, 1940s, and into the 1950s, White Rock Lake Park lived up to its designation as "The People's Playground." Dallas was smaller then (in both land size and population) and White Rock was literally a day's outing in the countryside. With no home air conditioning, people flocked to its shores in



droves during the summer to enjoy the cooling breezes and to swim, fish, go sailboating or speedboating, or camp out. Until the 1940s, more than a hundred private fishing cabins lined the shoreline. Regularly-held sailboat and speedboat races were watched by thousands of people who parked their cars on T.P. Hill. On the Fourth of July, bathers jammed White Rock Beach and swim and in the evening, to watch fireworks explode over the lake. For a brief period of time in the 1930s, there was a dance pavilion beside the bathhouse, where couples could take to the dance floor and enjoy the music of Babe Lowry and her all-female band, the "Rhythm Sweethearts."

Source: 6/11/2011, *Scenic White Rock Lake Park – Park History* by Steven Butler at <http://www.watermelon-kid.com/places/wrl/history/wrl-history.htm>

Southwest Explorer to Visit Texas – E8s and More

High Iron Travel announced a very special, rare mileage trip over freight-only lines, including Texas, Oklahoma and New Mexico, in late April. The expected motive power for the trips is Arizona Eastern E8A 6070, an ex-Chicago & North Western/Metra unit painted in the former Southern Pacific "Black Widow" scheme.

The "Southwest Explorers" special will operate April 28 to May 4 over BNSF and Union Pacific on the following schedule: April 28: Leave St. Louis for Tulsa on the former Frisco via Springfield, MO. April 29: Tulsa to Ft. Worth (ex-Frisco); layover in Ft. Worth. April 30: Ft. Worth to Monahans, Texas (ex-Texas & Pacific), then on Texas-New Mexico to Hobbs, N.M. May 1: Side trip on West Texas & Lubbock Railroad. Layover in Hobbs. May 2: Hobbs to Monahans, then ex-Texas & Pacific to El Paso, then on former Southern Pacific/Rock Island to Tucumcari, N.M.; layover in Tucumcari. May 3: Tucumcari to Liberal, Kan. May 4: Liberal to Kansas City. Trip ends.

The consist is scheduled to be Arizona Eastern E8 6070; Cimarron River, an ex-Frisco sleeper; Scenic View, a former Santa Fe big dome, Golden Mission, an ex-SP bedroom lounge), and open platform business car Caritas. For more information go to www.highirontravel.com.

Source: *High Iron Travel* news at www.highirontravel.com and *Bluewater Sentinel Online*, the newsletter of the Bluewater Michigan Chapter NRHS.

Get Rocked on the Cumbres and Toltec!

For all Geologists - from the freshly-interested to the practiced professional, young and old

On June 24th, a special train will leave Antonito, Colorado to traverse spectacular geology en route to Chama, New Mexico. But simply experiencing the incredible overviews of the Rio Grande Rift, the eruptive evidence of the San Juan Volcanic field, the Precambrian core of the Tusas Mountains, recent glacial deposits, and snapshots of the Jurassic, will not be enough. This special train will stop at many outcrops and rail cuts along the right of way, to mingle, marvel and collect photographs, samples and experiences only accessible on the train route.

Join a cadre of distinguished Geologists for a truly extraordinary day on the Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Railroad (C&TS RR)! Traverse the entire 64 miles to Chama, New Mexico. The railroad passes through one of the most unique, varied geologic areas in the US and it is the ONLY way to see all those sights. See metamorphic rock as old as that at the bottom of the Grand Canyon! The train will make a number of stops along the route to allow the Geologists to interpret the various Geologic points of interest! Lunch at Osier, Colorado is included in the ticket price! View and marvel at volcanoes, unusual rock formations, multiple volcanic depositions, tunnels and an untouched landscape. A mile by mile Geologic rail log will be provided to each participant. This year's train will be pulled by engine # 463, a K27 Mudhen. Originally constructed in 1903, this engine has recently undergone extensive refurbishing, and is one of only two of her class of engine still in existence. All participants will be able to disembark to walk through Rock Tunnel and then have the opportunity to photograph this historic locomotive as she emerges from the tunnel! Ride the Historic C&TS RR and be prepared to "Get Rocked"!

Source: 2/18/2012. *Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Railroad* announcement at <http://www.cumbrestoltec.com/geologytrainexcursion>

UP Honors President Lincoln's Vision

When Abraham Lincoln signed the Pacific Railway Act of July 1, 1862, creating the original Union Pacific, his vision for the transcontinental railroad was to connect a nation from east to west. Lincoln did not live to see the completion of the transcontinental railroad, but his vision was fulfilled and, along the way, more than 7,000 cities and towns began as Union Pacific depots and water stops, according to UP Chairman and CEO Jim Young. "Abraham Lincoln's expectations were high," said Young. "What he thought would be a means to settle the West and build commerce has become the infrastructure that moves the American economy and virtually everything that touches us in our daily lives. Not even Lincoln could have envisioned the railroad we have today, but he would be proud." Union Pacific celebrates its 150th anniversary this year, aiming to carry on Lincoln's vision by connecting America to the global economy, the company says. As a global corporation, nearly 40% of the Class I's freight originates or terminates outside of the U.S.

Source: 2/10/2012. *Railway Age*, article by Douglas John Bowen at <http://www.railwayage.com/index.php/freight/class-i/up-ceo-honors-lincolns-vision.html>

North Texas & NRHS News

NRHS 2012 Nominations Open to Members

Through March 31, 2012, nominations are open for the election of the National Railway Historical Society's Board of Directors, including the President and Vice President. The 2012 election is the first under the new Bylaws adopted in 2011. In this election the two Officer positions and all Board member positions will be on the ballot. Half of the Board members will be elected to 2 year terms and half to four year terms. After this election all Board member terms will be 4 year terms. Both officers are elected every two years. Per the 2011 Bylaws the Board of Directors will consist of 25 members. Two (2) individuals will hold the office of President and Vice President, five (5) will be Global Directors and the remaining eighteen (18) will be District Directors. There are two Districts for At-Large members (A & B) and seven Districts for the Chapter members (1-7). All NRHS members in good standing are eligible to run for any of the Officer and Board positions based on meeting the criteria set forth in the NRHS Bylaws Article VII, Section 7. If a member desires to run for office and is qualified based on the criteria, the member must submit a nomination application to the NRHS Secretary **no later than the end of business March 31, 2012**. The nomination application is available online and can be accessed by clicking on the link below. Send the nomination application form to NRHS Secretary, 3013 Heritage Landing Road, Williamsburg, VA 23185-8113, or as an attachment to an email addressed to maloney3013@aol.com. To view and complete a nomination form, please visit: <https://admin.nrhs.com/> The form can be found by accessing: Documents available to the Public If the



above link does not work, please copy and paste it directly into your Web browser. (Like Internet Explorer or Safari.), You can also call NRHS at (215) 557-6606, or send an email to info@nrhs.com for assistance. **Source:** Submitted by Jim King, 1/28/2011, from NRHS announcement.

Chapter Directory

North Texas Chapter Officers, 2012.

- **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

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 P.O. Box 600304
 Dallas, Texas 75360

North Texas Zephyr Archive

[Http://www.gogeocaching.com/gorailfanning/](http://www.gogeocaching.com/gorailfanning/Home/northtexaszephyr.html)
[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)

Press time: 2/25/2012, 11am. Filename: NTx Newsletter 2012-03 vC

Chapter News & Views

Chapter Meeting Minutes, February 7, 2012

NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER, NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, MINUTES, DATE: February 7, 2012. Founders Building, Grapevine, Texas.
Report submitted by Dave Graham.

President Wayne Smith called the chapter meeting to order at 7:45pm with 10 members present.

He congratulated members for the chapter winning the 2011 Gold Rail Award from the CowCatcher magazine for "Best Railfan Spot in DFW Area" for our '24 Hours @ Saginaw' event last May.

Region VP Claude Doane reported on his trip to the National Mid-Winter conference. For this year's voting, members must use the ballots and envelopes provided by National in order to be counted.

VP Communications Dale Wilken asked members to send articles and pictures for the newsletter. He warned that if we don't send any local articles we may start seeing more 'Pennsylvania' articles.

Council Rep Russ Covitt reported there were approximately 6000 attendees at the Plano Train Show and around 4500 at the Ft. Worth show, both greatly improved numbers over the past few years. He also reported the Santa Fe convention will be featured in next month's Cowcatcher magazine. The convention will be held in Temple, TX, just south of Dallas and will have 14 speakers talking on 15 topics, a tour of the Ft. Hood railhead and a trip on the Austin Steam Train among the many events scheduled. Contact Russ for more information.

VP Programs Jon Shea brought an article from the latest issue of the Katy Flyer regarding construction of a Katy bridge near Forrester, TX (now abandoned)The bridge is still visible on the old right of way. He also brought an article from the "Theodore Roosevelt Association Journal" showing Teddy riding an inspection train at the Panama Canal construction site in 1906. The steam engine pulling the train was about the size of VP Skip Waters' trackless train engine.

Jon reported the April meeting would be at the Plano Interurban Museum to hear about their latest projects and take a tour of their recently repainted interurban car and new museum artifacts. He is tentatively planning a return to the DeGolyer museum in May or June.

VP Trips & Events Skip Waters reported he is trying to arrange a return visit to New York Air Brake for the March meeting. They are the builders of the locomotive training simulators we visited a while back. He is waiting on confirmation of their acceptance since they have recently moved their operations. He should know later in the week and will post the info in the newsletter.

Skip reported he had talked with Dan Bartee from Fort Worth Western RR about being a guest speaker for the chapter in May at the Grapevine Founders Building to talk about his experiences as a steam locomotive engineer and other railroad jobs. Jon remarked that he would schedule the DeGolyer Library for June to take advantage of this news.

Skip reported the Saginaw Chamber of Commerce has tentatively given us the OK to use the depot for '24 Hours @ Saginaw' this coming May. He is requesting a confirmation letter.

Skip has also entered the UP150.com contest that is requesting applicants to remake their own version of the original UP song video to win a portion of their \$15,000 they are giving away in honor of UP's 150th anniversary. He is trying to win the monthly 'Best Version' section of the contest which has a \$1000 prize that he will donate to fund the '24 Hours @ Saginaw' event if he should win.

He reported National President Greg Molloy had contacted him about New Orleans' bid for the National convention. Skip reported they would meet later this month for discussions.

Lastly, Skip reported that the 7th Annual Slide Show, held in the Chinaberry Room at the Southfork Hotel in Plano on Saturday, Jan 21, 2012 had over 50 attendees with 10 scheduled presenters and 2 last minute add-on presentations. He commented the event is progressing well with even better video presentations each year.

Wayne adjourned the meeting at 8:15pm and after a short break, the evening's entertainment was a viewing of a DVD titled "When Giants Roamed: The Golden Age of Steam", a documentary on super-powered steam engines of the mid-20th century.

Chapter Meeting Minutes, January 3, 2012

NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER, NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, MINUTES, DATE: January 3, 2012. Founders Building, Grapevine, Texas.
Report submitted by Dave Graham.



The January chapter meeting was held at Founder's Building, Grapevine, Texas, on January 3, 2012. President Wayne Smith called the meeting to order at 7:35pm with 10 members and guests present.

Wayne passed out schedules and promo cups for the Denton 'A' train and showed an article in Trains magazine that reported about two electric trains operated by power plants in Texas that have been converted to diesel locomotives. The Monticello and Martin Lake power plants, former TXU and now Luminant Energy owned, are located in east Texas and converted due to cost savings benefits.

Treasurer Jim King reported about 50% of the chapter members have already renewed their membership and reminded the others to do so promptly if they haven't already done so. Jim also reported that he maintains a section of the Web site 'TXRRHistory.Com' concerning the Texas railroad towers in the state. There were 215 numbered interlocking towers in Texas along with several named towers.

Council Representative Russ Covitt reported on the chapter's assigned hours for the upcoming Plano train show. There was one hour left to fill at the layout tour book table and Claude Doane agreed to cover it. Wayne mentioned that our club should have some newsletters and new member signup forms available at our table at the Plano show.

Region VP Claude Doane reported he would be attending the NRHS National mid winter conference next week and will report back at the next meeting. Next year's national convention is going to be in Anchorage, Alaska.

VP Communications Dale Wilken reported nothing new from National since the last meeting. Dues statements have finally been mailed.

VP- Trips & Events Skip Waters was in New Orleans but VP Programs Jon Shea reported that Skip would be back to run the annual slide show during the Plano train show. The slide show will be in the Chinaberry Room at the Southfork Hotel in Plano on Saturday Jan 21, starting at 6:30pm. Remember to eat before arriving as we are no longer able to bring in outside food.

Jon also reported the February meeting is TBD. He is looking at a possible tour of the DCTA shops in Lewisville coupled with a train ride on the 'A' train. Another possibility is an interurban car tour in Burleson or a revisit to the New York Brake facility in Ft. Worth.

Russ reported that he is the co-chair of the Santa Fe RHS 2012 Convention to be held in Temple, TX, June 19-24. Convention trips will include a tour of the Ft. Hood railhead and a ride on the Austin steam train. Details can be found on the convention web site 'ATSFRR.Com'.

With the annual election of chapter officers scheduled for this meeting, Russ, as Nominations chairman, read off the proposed state of officers for the 2012 year. President – Wayne Smith. Vice President, Programs – Jon Shea. Vice President, Trips & Events – Skip Waters. Vice President, Communications – Dale Wilken. Treasurer – Jim King. Secretary – Dave Gramm. National Director – Claude Doane (until position abolished by National due to constitutional change).

The floor was opened for additional nominations. Having none, a motion was made by Jerry Nunn to close nominations and elect by acclamation. Motion seconded by Chris Galvin. Motion was carried with no opposition and all candidates were elected by acclamation.

Program for the evening was 'Show & Tell'.

Jon brought a book '*Some Classic Trains*' by Arthur Dubin, published by Kalmbach Books, that contained pictures of the TX interurban on the TX Electric Railway and the Northern TX Traction Co. lines pre-1934 when the lines were discontinued. Ed Pegelow displayed some pictures from some early Santa Fe calendars and a picture of trains arriving at a football game. Jerry Nunn showed a Santa Fe electric lantern he had received from a friend who worked the Saginaw yards and also shared some stories about friends who worked for several railroads. Meeting adjourned at 8:57pm.

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

March 6, 2012	North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m. Location: Founder's Bulding, Grapevine, Texas. Program: Jerry Nunn presents "Railroading the Last Frontier" featuring the Alaska Railroad and others from the 49th State.
April 3, 2012	North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m. Location: Plano Interurban Museum, Plano, Texas. Program: Update from museum staff on their latest exhibits and projects. Tour the museum and Texas Electric.
May 1, 2012	North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m. Location: Founders Building, Grapevine. Program: David Bartee, engineer for the Fort Worth and Western Railroad.
June 5, 2012	North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m. Location: Founder's Bulding, Grapevine, Texas. Program: Lone Star Rails 2008 – 4 th anniversary.
June 19-24, 2012	Santa Fe Railway Historical & Modeling Society - 32nd Annual Convention , Temple, Texas. NTC members can sign up and attend by going to the society web site: atsfrr.com and clicking on Society Conventions.

