



VALLI HOSKI, NORTH TEXAS NEWS EDITOR

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Chapter Meeting

June 5, 2012 – Founders Building, Grapevine

When: Tues. June 5, 2012, 7:30 p.m.

Where: Founders Building, Grapevine, Texas.

Program: Lone Star Rails 2008 – 4th anniversary.

Remembering the Good Times of LSR 2008!

by Jon Shea, Vice President, Programs

Our June meeting will be a celebration of the 4th anniversary of Lone Star Rails 2008. If you attend the meeting please bring your stories, memorabilia, pictures.

Editor’s note: enjoy the “look back” at LSR 2008 through feature articles and members’ recountings included in this issue.

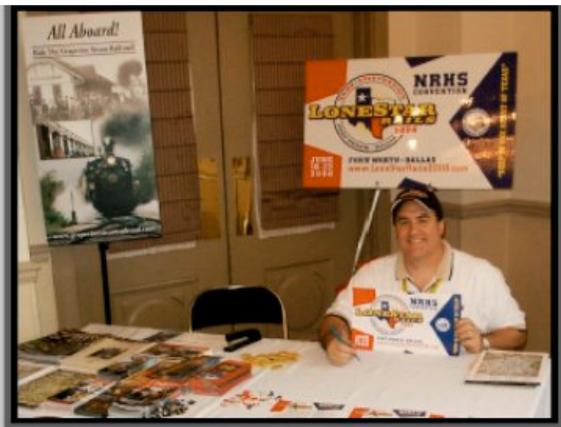


Above: LSR 2008 official logo

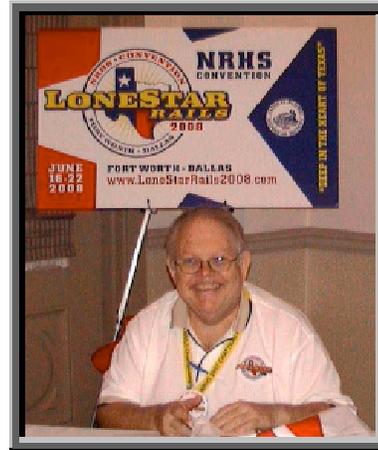
Lone Star Rails 2008 – the Good Times Rolled!

How LSR 2008 Began*

With Skip, of course, friends and lots of volunteers. Enjoy these glimpses ‘way back’ to 2008, of the LSR 2008 ‘kickoff’ at the 2007 NRHS National convention in Chattanooga, Tennessee.



Left: Skip gleefully promotes LSR 2008 at Chattanooga.



Right: Claude is all smiles in LSR 2008 golf shirt at Chattanooga.

(Source: *North Texas Zephyr, Aug 2007 issue)

Quanah Express, 2008 – as seen and reported in Wichita Falls

by Wayne Smith, Chapter President

Here is a look back at Lone Star Rails 2008 and the Quanah Express, as reported in the *Wichita Falls Times Record News*.

“QUANAH – Zephyr train to take first ride in 40 years”

The Quanah Zephyr will carry its first passengers in more than 40 years June 21, when a specially commissioned version of the train will roll from Fort Worth to Quanah and back. The day trip is planned in conjunction with the National Railroad Historical Society’s annual meeting in Fort Worth and the Hardeman County Sesquicentennial. The Quanah Zephyr will pass through Decatur, Bowie, Henrietta, Wichita Falls, Electra, Vernon, Chillicothe and Quanah.



"At Quanah the train will be greeted by a celebration to officially kick off the sesquicentennial," said Steve Goen, NRHS North Central Texas Chapter member. "The entire town is expected to turn out to meet the train."

Passengers will be treated to tours of the Quanah Acme & Pacific Railroad Museum, the Railway Express building and Hardeman County Museum as well as cowboy and Indian displays and a hamburger cookout. On the return leg, the train will make a meal stop in Wichita Falls; meals are included in the ticket price. (Source: *Wichita Falls Times Record News*, May 11, 2008, Section: Local, Page: A7.)

"All aboard – Quanah Zephyr's historic journey includes 'Indian' attacks"

by Lynn Walker, Times Record News

For the first time in nearly 41 years, a passenger train rolled into Wichita Falls. It was an excursion arranged by the North Texas Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society in conjunction with the group's national convention in Fort Worth. The train, consisting of 13 cars - a mix of modern Amtrak cars and vintage coaches leased from private owners - carried about 500 passengers.

The trip started in Fort Worth, picked up a few riders in Wichita Falls, and chugged on to Quanah before returning. The vintage lounge cars spanned the golden age of passenger rail travel, dating back to the 1940s and '30s. The oldest was a richly-appointed observation Pullman car built in 1923. Steve Goen, a Wichita Falls railroad historian, said arranging the return of passenger cars to freight rails took two years and involved the cooperation of Burlington Northern Santa Fe and Amtrak. Goen, who served as conductor (complete with cap and vest), said the purpose of the society is to promote railway history and preservation.

People gathered at crossings along the route to see and snap pictures of an image not seen for four decades. Goen said Quanah was chosen as the end destination because the town is steeped in railroad history and is a point where a train can turn around. The arrival of the Zephyr also coincided with Hardeman County's sesquicentennial.

The Zephyr endured its "attack" at the outskirts of Quanah as an Indian raiding party charged the train on horseback. Unlike the incident near Bellevue, this attack was preplanned as part of the welcoming ceremony. Crowds of area residents turned out, as did a stagecoach, the Santa Rosa Riding Club and an assortment of horseback riders and buggies. Passengers were treated to lunch at the Three Rivers Ballroom during their stopover. "We're very pleased. We got an excellent welcome from Quanah," Goen said. (Source: *Wichita Falls Times Record News*, June 22, 2008, Section: Local, Page: B1.)

Convention Attendance Stats*

By Jim King

- **Countries:** Japan, 2. Austria, 1. Australia, 16. Canada, 4 (2 ON, 1 QC, 1 SK)
- **States:** (these counts are "registrations", not "people" - a couple would count as one registration – and this list includes volunteers) - AL 5, AR 4, AZ 4, CA 23, CO 4, CT 8, DC 4, DE 3, FL 28, GA 5, HI 1, IA 1, ID 2, IL 20, IN 5, KS 4, KY 5, LA 3, MA 6, MD 12, MI 10, MN 2, MO 12, MS 1, MT 1, NC 6, NE 3, NH 1, NJ 20, NM 3, NY 26, OH 7, OK 6, OR 5, PA 24, SC 3, TN 8, TX 130 (includes large numbers of convention staff and volunteers, plus Gen. Public riders of the QZ), VA 19, VT 1, WA 4, WI 7. States not represented: AK, ND, SD, WY, UT, NV, WV, ME, RI
- **Furthest foreign traveler:** 16 from Australia
- **Furthest domestic traveler:** Hawaii
- **Furthest CONUS traveler:** Seattle (1,659 miles direct)
- **Badges Issued:** Member – 499. Media – 13. Convention Committee – 21. Volunteers – 64. Dealers – 15. General Public (QZ) – 59. Invited Guests – 10. PV Staff – 11. TOTAL - 692
- **On board the Quanah Zephyr:** ~ 483 (not counting BNSF and Amtrak operating staff)

[Editor's note: Many, many congratulations to Jim and Terry who kept the convention grounded, centered, and gave kind, gracious service to LSR 2008 attendees, staff and volunteers alike. We all are successful and survived because of you! Many kudos and thanks to Dennis Hogan for making the excursions happen, Dave Podhrasky for keeping attendees and volunteers fed, Wayne Smith for keeping the events staffed, all the volunteer corps from near and far who heeded the LSR 2008 call, and, personally, to my handsome husband Harry who kept me on track, through the thick- and thin-skinned times of it all.]

Quanah Zephyr Field Report*

by Valli Hoski, Car host, Coach 6, Quanah Zephyr Excursion, 6/21/08

Rode the Quanah Zephyr - BNSF special on Saturday, June 21, 2008, from Fort Worth to Quanah, Texas. Still wearing a silly smile weeks later with all the wonderful memories of the excursion, even working it as a volunteer car host. I've said it once, a hundred times - There's nothing else like riding the rails. Nothing else like it in the world.

The Quanah Zephyr was the premier event of Lone Star Rails 2008, the NRHS annual convention held here in Fort Worth last week. Much as the North Texas Chapter would love to have credit for the trip, it really happened because Matt Rose and the BNSF made it happen. They, Amtrak and several PV owners (Private Varnish/private RR car owners) gave us all a trip North Texas railfans and public hadn't seen the likes of in years, and won't probably again for some time. Motive power was a proud BNSF locomotive (in SF colors, orange scheme; no, not the warbonnet livery), followed by an Amtrak Genesis and a generator car (both for extra power for the passenger cars). Consist included 6 Amfleet coaches, fresh from their west coast SF 3751 excursion (LA/San Diego, 6/1/2008), a commissary car (Amfleet/Amtrak too), and 4 private varnish cars, including Chuck Jensen's KITCHI GAMMI CLUB. All passengers and crew enjoyed unbelievable comfort, a smooth ride, almost flawless conditions, except for some holding tank problems and 1 car door on manual (in my coach of course).

Of course there was an incident along the track - ask me about the axe-wielding character going after a unit coal train about halfway out on the outboard trip. As for Quanah - the town went all out, cheerleaders kicking high trackside when we arrived, local cavalry (some decorative military unit on horseback), a fine dinner put on for our passengers. Really quite a show. I didn't get to see any of it, as the volunteer car hosts were required to stay on board during the stopover. No problem, as the lunches were provided in air-conditioned comfort.



Ride back was amazing - highballed all the way. The BNSF special was clearly given priority, with freights waiting on the sidings as we highballed back east along the main to Fort Worth. Everyone was terrific - passengers, BNSF crew, Amtrak crew, just wonderful. As car host, I asked for a round of applause ("Big TX thanks and all") for every BNSF and Amtrak person that passed through our coach. Got so the crew had a big grin walking through and always shook our hands. That's the way - a major road puts on a show, you gotta thank 'em every chance you get.

End of a long day came all too soon (that started at 3:30am for Harry and me, with a 5:30am crew call across town in Fort Worth.) Arrived back in Fort Worth in the evening light, around 8:30pm, just 2 hrs behind schedule (axedent, sort of, just ask me). We welcomed our passengers home, cleaned the cars out, got the PV owners signoff (on the cars condition), and headed out ourselves for the traditional end-of-shift brewsky after checking ourselves out and off the board. Had some cool ones with rail fans from the Portland chapter, spent several hours discussing railroads, excursions, how to keep a chapter active and happy, and more. Finally, head to drive east to Wylie, arrived home an hour later, for some well-earned sleep and rail dreams.

Many thanks to BNSF and Amtrak for their excellent crews, world-class equipment and for letting us roll on their roads, PV owners' trust, and their excellent support of the Quanah Zephyr special.

Car Hosting On Matt Rose's Railroad, June 21, 2008*

by Harry Fasick and Valli Hoski



Above: Valli welcomes all aboard QZ special, coach 6. (Photo credit: Harry Fasick)

* **Why Quanah?** ... because Matt Rose (BNSF) and Skip told us ... go west young men (& women)

The Lone Star Rails 2008 June 21, 2008 excursion with the BNSF gave a few NTC members the chance for a job of their dreams. If just for a day, a long day, all morning, afternoon, and evening, from Fort Worth to Wichita Falls, Quanah and back again.

The superb ride on the rails provided lots of time for pleasant views, amiable chatter with passengers, and inspirational moments. Here are a few sparks of wisdom gleaned from Valli and Harry as to the joys and peculiarities of being Car Hosts For A Day.

Car Host Wisdom

by Harry (mostly) and Valli (some)

* Why're you a car host (or conductor or other volunteer ...) and not the engineer ... because ...

... I hate shoveling coal

... my cooking's too bad for the dining car

... we love guessing at answers to questions we haven't heard yet

... we love answering questions for which we have no answers

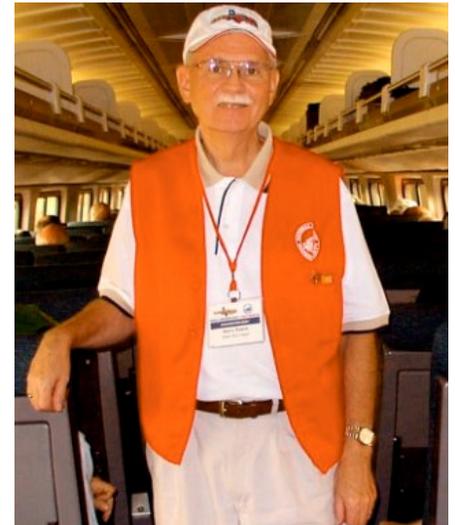
... we invent stories about which cornfield we just passed, when asked "what's that?"

... we love looking at one's watch to figure out "which mile post did we just pass?"

... we love saying "What's around the next curve? Another curve, unless "we got cows", then it's a "Twister"!

* Is that a Jack pump there? ... Dunno, I don't know Jack out here. Do you?

(Source: *North Texas Zephyr, July/Aug 2008 issue)



Above: Harry is ready for duty and service aboard QZ special, coach 5. (Photo credit: Valli Hoski)

* We're going uphill, what's on the other side? ... another hill, down this time

* When're we going to get there? ... when the locomotive pulls into the station

* Why isn't there a caboose at the back? ... It's making better time than us, passed us a while back, dinja see?

* Why do we have to go back now, and end the fun? ... because we gotta find the caboose

* What do you do off shift? Go somewhere and drink all the beer we needed onboard but couldn't have

K5T Celebrated Fellowship of Rail History, Amateur Radio Service, & NRHS*

By Harry Fasick K3EYL

K5T Special Event Station - Activity Report, Lone Star Rails 2008.

- 320 Total contacts. K5T talked with ham radio operators in 40 US States, 4 countries.
- Within the U.S. – had contacts in 80% of the 50 US states. Did not hear from AK, AZ, HI, ID, MT, ND, OK, SC, UT, WY.
- International – talked with amateur radio operators in Canada (Ontario, Quebec, Alberta, Saskatchewan), Cayman Islands, Ecuador, Mexico.

Top Areas for K5T Contacts - Location, Total, % of total contacts (rounded). PA, 30, 9%. NY, 27, 8%. TX, 20, 6%. CA, 17, 5%. NJ, 17, 5%. VA, 16, 5%. NC, 15, 5%. Ontario, 15, 5%. Alab, 12, 4%. MA, 11, 3%. GA, 10, 3%. IL, 10, 3%. MD, 10, 3%. MI, 10, 3%.



First Report During LSR 2008

K5T Celebrated Rail History and Fellowship of Amateur Service Coast to Coast, East and West, North and South

Special event station K5T went on the air 7pm Central time, June 16, 2008 (July 17, 0000 UTC). Ham radio operators Harry Fasick K3EYL and Valli Hoski N8QVT made contacts with fellow US hams coast to coast and international contacts with hams in Canada and Ecuador.

In its 1st day of operation, K5T made contact with over 50 amateur radio operators in: Massachusetts (including the Berkshire foothills, home of the lovely Berk locomotive), New Hampshire, Vermont, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, Illinois, Michigan, California, Oregon, Washington state, Texas and Louisiana. Canada contacts included Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

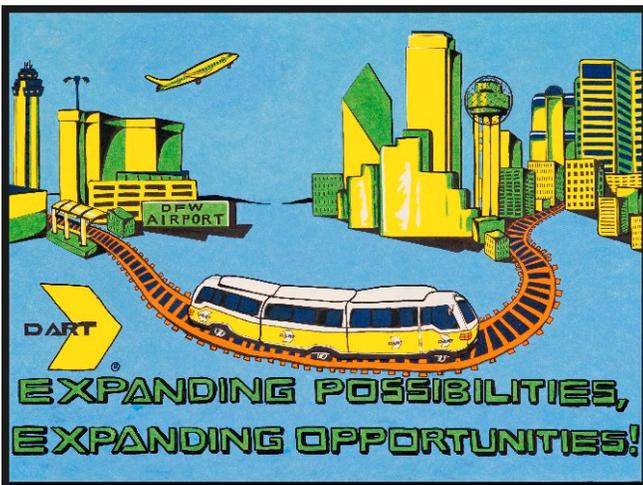
Station K5T is celebrating the history and hobby of railroading, the international spirit of the amateur radio service, and the 2008 national convention of the National Railway History Society in Fort Worth, Texas, June 16-22, 2008. A commemorative confirmation card is available to anyone who contacts or confirms listening to station K5T on the air June 16-22, 2008 by sending a note or confirmation card to K3EYL.

Submitted by Harry K3EYL, and Valli N8QVT, June 16, 2008, 11pm.

(Source: *North Texas Zephyr, September 2008 issue)

North Texas & NRHS News

Art for DART 2012 Winner is ...



Expanding Possibilities, Expanding Opportunities!" – Sophie Anthony, a ninth-grader at Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts in Dallas, is the Grand Prize winner of the 2012 annual transit-themed student poster contest from Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) and Dallas Contemporary. In addition to receiving a Dallas Contemporary prize, Anthony's artwork will be highlighted on the side of DART buses through the summer. All first place winning artwork will be displayed on DART trains and at various rail stations. The 25 winning posters can be seen at www.DART.org/TransitEducation.

(Source: May 22, 2012 DART news release at <http://www.dart.org/news/news.asp?ID=1014>)

NRHS Board of Director's Meeting Report – Spring 2012

by Claude Doane, National Director, North Texas Chapter

- 1) Dues increase for 2013 will be \$3.00. At large primary members will increase to \$40.00 from current \$37.00. Chapter primary members increase from \$36.00 to \$39.00. Family and student memberships will be unchanged.
- 2) Report on 2012 convention in sunny downtown Iowa shows space available on all events except for ADM tour and dome seats on two trips. Inbound and outbound trips from and to Chicago are very sparsely occupied. The convention is still in the "red" due to "high fixed costs"
- 3) Report on the 2013 convention shows work continuing. Not all contracts are signed and not all hotels are arranged. They are pushing individual tourism the week before our activities start. They expect to announce and start ticket sales in October of 2012. Please note that this convention will take place in September. They are still trying to work a deal with Alaska Airlines. Strangely all the hotels currently under contact (including on the train trips) include free parking. This will be a big perk for everyone who plans to drive across Canada to get there.
- 4) Exploration of possible sites for the 2014 convention is underway. Possibilities include Denver/Colorado, Kansas City, NW Arkansas, or a combination of KC and NW Arkansas. John Goodman, Greg and myself have gone exploring KC and NW Arkansas. Greg has been in contact with the one person pushing for Denver. There are concerns for all of these possibilities, but a choice and proposal may be put forth as soon as the Iowa meeting and certainly no later than the Fall conference. All proposals for 2014 (and 2015) are for a Nationally sponsored event.
- 5) Greg and I also made a trip to New Orleans to scope out the possibility of a convention there in 2015. At least this idea is coming forward early. We toured potential sites with Mr. Waters and discussed possible activities. Denver may be in the running for 2015 (if not selected for 2014). I personally think that Denver is more likely and more realistic for 2016 or 2017. Biggest concern for New Orleans is being that far south in the summer. A decision will be made and a proposal put forth at either the Fall 2012 or Spring 2013 Conference.
- 6) At this time, no one has come forward for future conventions or Board conferences. **BIG HINT HERE!** North Texas may wish to consider hosting a conference once current round of Dart light rail expansion is complete.
- 7) Some progress has been made on the Strategic plan, but I didn't have time to get the details down for this meeting.
- 8) The final list of Candidates for the new Board was released. Our Region still has only one candidate (Claude) the two positions. I personally have contacted people I thought would be interested, but could get no takers. This region now includes California, Nevada, Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, and all of Missouri except the Saint Louis Chapter. I am finding it hard to believe that no one but myself has stepped forward.
- 9) Next Board Meeting (and the last for this Board) will be held at the Convention in Iowa. The Membership meeting will also be held there and they will elect the new Board.



Chapter Meeting Minutes, May 1, 2012

NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER, NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, MINUTES, DATE: April 3, 2012. Founder's Building, Grapevine, Texas.

Report submitted by Dave Graham.

President Wayne Smith called the meeting to order at 7:45pm in the Grapevine Founder's Building. There were 12 members present. Wayne welcomed all in attendance and reported that June's meeting would also be held at the Grapevine facility where the program will be a 4-year retrospective as we will look back on the NRHS 2008 Lone Star Rail National Convention held in Ft. Worth. All members are asked to bring any memorabilia item they have from that time period to the meeting to share with the other members. Pictures, DVD's articles, etc., all are welcome.

VP Programs Jon Shea brought the latest Katy Historical Society magazine which contained several interesting articles. He also brought an old issue of the Dallas Historical Society magazine which contained an article on the building of Central Expressway.

Jon gave an update on the proposed TX Electric trip that will be sponsored by the Plano Interurban Museum. The date is tentatively set for September 29 and will consist of a chartered bus ride along the old right of way from the museum in Plano south to Dallas. Lunch is planned to be served at the old interurban building in Dallas then attendees will continue south along the line to the Monroe shops. Attendees will then board a DART train to ride back to the museum.

Club member Bill donated several rail theme posters that the chapter will use for door prizes at 24 Hrs. @ Saginaw. Included were a 1999 Amtrak calendar, a GN dining car table place mat, and a Washington state promotional ad for apples featuring Amtrak and BNSF trains in the picture.

Region Director Claude Doane was not able to attend but sent a report to Jon regarding the board of director's conference. There will be a \$3 yearly dues increase starting in 2013. The registration for this year's annual convention in Cedar Rapids is ongoing with seats still available on most all venues. The 2013 convention in Alaska will be held in September rather than in June or July.

Russ Covitt reported the Santa Fe convention will be held June 18-24 in Temple, TX and tonight is the last night to register before a \$20 price increase takes effect.

VP Trips & Events Skip Waters reported on status for 24 Hours @ Saginaw. Event will start at 7pm Friday, May 25 and run through 7pm Saturday, May 26. He has several well-known authors, photographers, etc. lined up to give presentations during the event, including Steve Goins, Pat Phelan and Dave Bartee. A photo night shoot is in the works and Leonard Rubeck will bring some equipment to track the trains in the area just like a dispatcher would.

Skip also reported UP844 was in Hearne tonight after getting her drivers reground because of flat spots. He will chase the train live when it leaves on Wednesday, posting and reporting on the air as he follows it.

Wayne reported his merit badge from the Boy Scouts for railroading has been approved and he is awaiting its presentation.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm and the program commenced at 8:20pm. Skip introduced our speaker, Dave Bartee, transportation manager from the Fort Worth & Western RR, who has 21 years in steam train service. Dave started out working as a fireman on the steam train in Dollywood. He moved to the Ft. Worth area in 1997 and worked as engineer on #2284 on the Tarantula steam train for two years, then moved back to Knoxville, TN for 6 years where he worked on rebuilding a steam engine. He moved to New Orleans to help rebuild an engine there and is an active member of LASTA, the Louisiana Steam Train Association. He showed a video of the first time when he was an engineer on the SP #745 and also showed some still shots from a movie set in Louisiana that used SP #745 as a prop.

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**, wgcruish@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**, claudedoane@hcahealthcare.com

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/groups/409467244127/>

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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.**

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

May 25-26, 2012	24 Hours @ Saginaw – Location: Saginaw Depot, Saginaw, Texas. Annual rail-watching event sponsored by North Texas Chapter. Programs, fellowship and lots of rail activity to observe. See https://www.facebook.com/24hoursatsaginaw
June 5, 2012	North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m. Location: Founders Building, Grapevine. Program: Lone Star Rails 2008 – 4th 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.

