



VALLI HOSKI, NORTH TEXAS NEWS EDITOR

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CHAPTER MEETING..... 1
 FEB. 5, 2013 – SOKOL HALL, DALLAS, TEXAS..... 1
 2013 DUES ARE DUE!..... 1
 2013 CHAPTER ELECTION RESULTS..... 1
SPECIAL FEATURES..... 1
 RUSS COVITT, IN MEMORIUM..... 1
 HISTORIC TOUR – TEXAS ELECTRIC RAILWAY..... 1
 BIG THANKS! DALLAS SLIDE SHOW & NRHS OPEN HOUSE..... 2
 SHOW REPORT – 8TH ANNUAL DALLAS SLIDE SHOW & NRHS OPEN HOUSE.... 2
CHAPTER VIEWS AND RAIL NEWS..... 2
 CHAPTER BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES, JANUARY 8, 2013..... 2
CHAPTER DIRECTORY..... 3
 NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER OFFICERS, 2012..... 3
NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER HISTORY..... 4
NORTH TEXAS CALENDAR..... 4

Chapter Meeting

Feb. 5, 2013 – Sokol Hall, Dallas, Texas
When Tues. Feb. 5, 2013, 7:00 pm meet 'n greet, 7:30 mtg.
Where Sokol Hall, Dallas, Texas.
Program MKT - Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railroad

2013 Dues are Due!

NRHS will send another reminder notice this winter, Non-renewals drop from the roster in May. Dues are \$55 - individuals, \$62 - with spouse.

2013 Chapter Election Results

The Chapter welcomed these new officers, elected at Jan. 2013 Chapter mtg:
 President, **Wayne Smith** Secretary, **Dave Gramm** Treasurer, **Jim King**
 Vice President/Communications, **Valli Hoski**
 Vice President/Programs, **Jon Shea**
 Vice President/Trips and Events, **Skip Waters**

Special Features

Russ Covitt, in memorium

by Dave Gramm (article and photo)

Russ Covitt, North Texas chapter member and owner of Russ Rail Stuff, passed away on January 3, 2013 at approx. 8:30am after losing a 5 year battle with a blood disorder. He was 76 years old. As many of you are aware, Russ was diagnosed with leukemia late last year. Unfortunately Russ lost his battle with this disease and passed away early Thursday morning at home with his wife Patricia and his best friend “Scruffy” by his side. In addition to his membership in the NRHS, Russ was also active in the North Texas Council of Model Railroad Clubs where he held the position of Director. The council is the prime mover behind the annual Ft. Worth and Dallas Area Train Shows. He was a member of the Texas Northern Model Railroad club where he served as council representative and was also a 25 yr plus charter member of the Denton Area Model Railroad Club. He was an active Santa Fe railfan and served as co-chair for the 2012 Santa Fe Modelers & Historical Society convention in Temple, TX and was on the convention committee for the 2013 convention.

Due to his wish for cremation, an interment service was held January 21st 2013 at 9:30 am at the Dallas National Cemetery in Grand Prairie. Ever the diehard Santa Fe railfan, Russ was laid to rest in a ‘G’ scale Santa Fe boxcar.

The chapter decided to dedicate the chapter’s annual slide show, to be held on Saturday, January 19, 2013, in memory of Russ.

For those that feel inclined, the family is asking that instead of flowers, that donations can be made to the Leukemia Society.



Historic Tour – Texas Electric Railway

by Jon Shea

DOWN THE LINE WITH TEXAS ELECTRIC RAILWAY

A HISTORIC TOUR OF THE INTERURBAN ROUTE THROUGH DALLAS

Interurban Railway Museum

901 E. 15th Street. Monday – Friday 10am-2pm. Saturday 1pm-5pm.
 Admission is free. Donations are welcomed

Historic Tour - Plano to Dallas

Saturday, April 20, 2013, 9 a.m. - 3p.m. \$25 + lunch
 Space is limited. **Pre-registration required 972-941-7250.****

Discover armchair Urban Archeology at its best as you retrace the Texas Electric Railway from Plano to Dallas with a Plano Interurban Railway Museum curated bus tour by The Johnnie J. Myers Research Center of The Interurban Railway Museum. The Plano Interurban Railway Museum was originally a ticket office and electric substation that converted high voltage alter-nating electric current to direct current in order to power the overhead wire and power the cars. The Texas Electric Railway Station was a precursor to rapid urban growth and prosperity, providing travel and bringing people, goods and newspapers together in North Texas. (**1/25/13 update: Robert Haynes. *Anybody who signed up or wants to needs to pay by March 2nd.*)



BIG THANKS! Dallas Slide Show & NRHS Open House

by Skip Waters (article and photos)



Seriously! I appreciate everyone who came out and presented a program and appreciate Jimmy Barlow as always with the lights and back-up projector along with the various chapter members who help get the show started on time. I don't know why Jimmy went last, but it was a fitting tribute to have the originator of this show close out the evening... and we still had a majority hanging around to watch. Oh and yes, the extra board show from Anthony.

The show is getting more and more popular along with the professionalism of the programs... looks like we got a bonafide hit on our hands! We'll see y'all next year! On behalf of the North Texas Chapter, NRHS and myself... WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Left Smiling, enthused faces show the fun had by all at the 8th annual Dallas Slide Show and NRHS Open House, Sat. Jan. 19, 2013.

Show Report – 8th Annual Dallas Slide Show & NRHS Open House

by Jimmy Barlow

After unseasonably warm Saturday, those who gathered at Plano's Southfork Hotel that evening for the subject event were treated to these:

1. Bryan Flint – digital slides, "2012 from the Gulf Coast to the Canadian Rockies";
2. Gerry Kelley – analog slides, "Pre-Borg Fort Worth, typical late '80's Days";
3. Steve Grabman – digital video, "Texas Specials, Special Trains in 2012", and digital slides, "Best of 2012";
4. Jerry Nunn – digital slides, "Photos from North Texas";
5. Patrick Phelan – digital slides, "2012: A Year of Heritage";
6. Marc Montray – analog slides, "Eureka Springs & North Arkansas steam";
7. Randy Nelson – digital slides, "Nomo's Northwest & Southern Pacific Tribute";
8. Devin Jackson – digital slides, "TEXAS Trains: Lone Star Memories";
9. Gerald Hook – digital slides, "American Freedom Train in the upper Midwest" with a surprise follow up;
10. Bradley Linda – digital slides, "2012: From North Dakota to Texas";
11. Jimmy Barlow – analog slides, "Odds 'n' Ends from 2009-2010";
12. Anthony Holmes – digital video, some of his recent YouTube uploads.

The total of a dozen presenters tied the record set just last year, but the attendance of 66 shattered the old mark (55 in 2008) by a whopping 20%. We've come a long way, railfriends and railfiends, since my first (pre-NRHS) show in Y2K when 13 fans assembled in Plano's Interurban Museum to watch 6 purely analog slide programs!

Gerald and Anthony added Arkansas to the all-time list of RS-state current-resident presenters, and I'm still hoping to see Louisiana and New Mexico get appended in the near future. (Bryce? Earl? Others?)

A few notes from this year's show:

Gerry Kelley undoubtedly has the fastest trigger finger in all of RS-dom. Don't ever get in a projector duel with Gerry. :-)

Marc's program included scenes of his and Vikki's wedding, which took place on an ES&NA train. In fact, I think he said he'd "chartered the whole railroad"!

After seeing Gerald's misfortune, I don't want to hear anyone on this list complain about their photo op getting "skunked" EVER AGAIN! Poor ol' Gerald, living in the Twin Cities in 1976, gets a call that the Freedom Train will head west from Omaha the next day behind double-headed Northerns, UP 8444 and AFT (ex-SP) 4449. He and a friend jump in a car and hightail it to a rural overhead bridge the friend was familiar with and fond of, somewhere west of Omaha. I've forgotten the name of the place, but it was well over 400 miles from home! They get there early morn, several hours before the AFT, and bide their time shooting the seemingly nonstop parade of UP freights. After snagging an early afternoon eastbound, they turn around for a going-away shot..... and there's the AFT, almost underneath them, and--horror of horrors-- blocked from view by the very train they'd just photographed! (But in fairness to other skunkees, I must add that at least they were able to chase it on west for several good shots at various other locales.)

Lastly, Devin's shots revealed there's a bunch of rail-themed street names in Somerville TX. (My fave was Harvey House Rd.) But subsequently perusing online maps, I see among the likes of Round House St, Lantern St, and Spike St, one named Steeple St. What in rail parlance would "steeple" refer to? (I can think only of "steeple cab," as in electric traction, but would you expect a street-namer in Somerville to know that?!)

Chapter Views and Rail News

Chapter Business Meeting Minutes, January 8, 2013

NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER, NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, MINUTES, DATE: January 8, 2013, LOCATION: Founders



Building, Grapevine. The January meeting was held on Tuesday, January 8, 2013 at the Grapevine Vintage Railroad Museum in Grapevine, Texas. The meeting was rescheduled from its normal first Tuesday of the month, as the previous Tuesday was January 1, a holiday. President Wayne Smith called the meeting to order at 7:38 PM. The meeting began with a moment of silence in memory of Russ Covitt, who recently succumbed to complications from leukemia. Russ typically staffed a booth of both model and prototype rail-related items at Plano and other train shows. His friends will staff the booth at the Plano Train Show, with the goal of liquidating the inventory for his surviving family members. In recognition of the years of service Russ provided to the chapter and its activities, it has been suggested that some type of long-term recognition be developed in his memory. Three vacant slots still exist for assistance desks at the Plano Train Show, scheduled for January 19 and 20. Those who wished to fill a post were asked to volunteer.

The 24 Hours at Saginaw event was voted second best 2012 local railfan event by Cowcatcher Magazine. The UP 844 tour took first place. President Wayne Smith, who is an assistant scoutmaster, discussed the railroading merit badge, and passed around the Boy Scout book for the badge. He is conducting a merit badge class, and would appreciate any rail related items anyone might supply to the class. One of the requirements for the badge is to plan a rail trip of at least 500 miles. Each of the 15 class members needs an Amtrak system timetable to plan the trip. Jerry Nunn, who is an Amtrak volunteer, will check into the availability of the timetables. (NOTE: Jerry has procured 16 new Amtrak system timetables, effective January 14, 2013 for the class).

Vice President Skip Waters discussed means of increasing national and chapter membership. The St. Louis NRHS Chapter is offering a free trial one-year "associate membership" in an attempt to attract new members to their chapter. A motion was made and seconded that the North Texas Chapter offer a one year "trial membership" to anyone interested. The membership would not be a voting membership, but if one provided their e-mail address they would receive an electronic copy of the newsletter for the next year. The motion was brought to a vote and passed. Skip will make application forms available at the Plano Train Show, as well as the 24 Hours at Saginaw event.

Skip noted that the NRHS Slide Show scheduled for Saturday evening, January 19 following the Plano Train Show has 12-15 presenters lined up. Skip recently appeared on the Travel Channel to discuss the fabled "Crash at Crush". Skip is in the process of getting a video of his presentation, and will show it to the club at a later date. The "East Texas Joyride" on the Texas Eagle in October received favorable reviews. A similar activity, perhaps on the Heartland Flyer, is being considered.

Vice President Jon Shea mentioned that the Katy Railroad Historical Society and Red River Museum in Denison, TX is looking for new members. Membership fee is \$10. Jon will provide an application in the next chapter newsletter. The Interurban Tour is scheduled to take place in April 2013. Most members have already signed up. Those interested but not yet signed up should contact Jon Shea. The Dallas Historical Society has a meeting scheduled January 26 from 8:30 AM until 12:30 PM at the Dallas Union Station to discuss the coming of the railroad to Dallas in the 19th century. Jon had a brochure and passed it around for review.

A recent issue of Classic Trains magazine had photos taken in 1954 of an MKT passenger train. This was passed around for review. Claude Doan noted that the National NRHS Board Winter Conference would take place the week of January 8 in Williamsburg, VA. The main topic of discussion will be an NRHS "Strategic Plan". Claude recently received an e-mail that mentioned an interest in extending Amtrak's Heartland Flyer north to Wichita, KS. The message noted that the states of Kansas and Oklahoma are trying to procure government assistance to fund the extension.

Following these presentations and discussions, the candidates for the 2013 chapter officers were presented. All current officers are running unopposed. An opportunity to enter additional nominations was offered, but none were provided. A motion was made, seconded, and passed that the current slate of officers be elected by acclamation. [Correction: all current officers running on the slate were re-elected. V. Hoski was elected VP Communications. and National Director position is not filled.] A decision will be made later on how a replacement for Russ Covitt will be filled.

The evening's program included a movie of the "East Texas Joyride" by A. J. Roquevert. The February 2013 meeting will be held on February 5 at the Sokol Hall in Dallas. The program has not yet been determined. The March 2013 meeting will be held at the DeGolyer Library on the Southern Methodist University campus. There will likely be an opportunity to purchase duplicate historical photos, as was at the previous meeting there. The meeting adjourned at 9:40 PM. Submitted by Jerry Nunn. [Editor's note: Many thanks to Jerry for providing the minutes.]

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, and NTX editor, Valli Hoski**, ntx.news@yahoo.com
- **Secretary, Dave Gramm**, dgramm@sbcglobal.net
- **Treasurer, Jim King**, jking@swbell.net

Chapter Business Address

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

North Texas Zephyr Archive

<http://www.gogeoaching.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.

Effective October 2012, regular membership is \$55 a year (\$39 national dues + \$16 chapter dues). Additional family members are \$7 per individual. 214-987-2888. 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

Feb. 5, 2013	North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m. Location: Sokol Hall, Dallas, Texas. Program: Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railroad (the Katy or MKT)
March 5, 2013	North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m. Location: DeGolyer Library, Southern Methodist University, University Park, Texas. Program: Civil War exhibit and duplicate photo, magazine and book sale.
April 2, 2013	North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m. Location: Sokol Hall, Dallas, Texas. Program: to be determined.
May 7, 2013 June 4, 2013	North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m. Location: to be determined.

