



VALLI HOSKI, NORTH TEXAS NEWS EDITOR

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**Chapter Meeting**

**May 8, 2013 – Sokol Hall, Dallas, Texas**

*When* **Wed. May 8, 2013, 7:00 pm meet 'n greet, 7:30 mtg.**

*Where* **Sokol Hall, Dallas.**

*Program* **The Santa Fe Railroad in Texas.**

**May Meeting to be held on Wednesday**

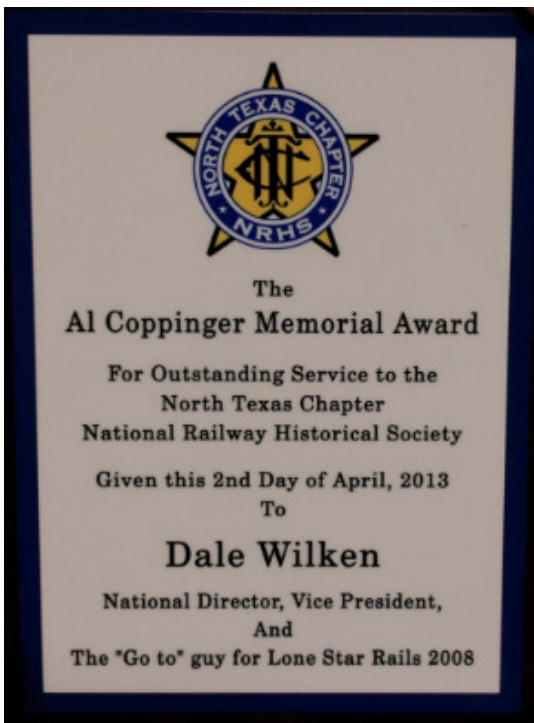
To keep members and visitors on our toes, the Chapter meeting is on a Wednesday evening, rather than our usual Tuesday gathering. Please plan accordingly.

**Special Features**

**Dale Wilken Receives Al Coppinger Award**

*By Wayne Smith*

The chapter is proud and happy to announce that Dale Wilken is the fourth recipient of the Al Coppinger Memorial Award. The chapter named this award in memory of one of our members after he passed away. Al Coppinger was the epitome of one having a volunteer spirit and a "can do" attitude. Al Coppinger always had a positive attitude and was always ready and willing to help out the board or the chapter whenever the call was made or even if he saw the need to assist with an activity or other challenge.



*Above left: Award inscribed for Dale. (Photo credit: Skip Waters)*



*Above right: Claude Doane, Jon Shea, Wayne Smith, Dale Wilken, Dave Gramm, Skip Waters – all smiles and all honoring Dale! (Photo credit: Skip Waters, and Dave Prodraski)*



Our fourth recipient, Dale Wilken, has served the chapter well as National Director, Vice President and having served on the Lone Star Rails 2008 Convention Committee. Dale was recognized for his service and presented a very nice plaque at our April meeting. This was Dale's last meeting with our chapter before he soon moves to Washington State. Dale will be missed.

The previous three recipients are listed below.

- First Recipient: *Dennis Hogan* – Chapter Founder, First President, First Newsletter Editor and Lone Star Rails 2008 Committee Member
- Second Recipient: *Steve Siegerist* "Captain Transit" – Charter Chapter Member, First Treasurer and Lone Star Rails Committee Member
- Third Recipient: *Skip Waters* – Current Vice President, Previous President, Previous National Director, Previous Newsletter Editor and Committee Chair for Lone Star Rails 2008 National Convention

Left: Dale with his well-deserved Al Coppinger Award.. (Photo credit: Skip Waters)

## 8<sup>th</sup> Annual "24 Hours @ Saginaw"- Get Ready!

By Skip Waters

### 8th Annual "24 Hours @ Saginaw" 2013

7:00pm Friday, May 24th through 7:00pm Saturday, May 25th, at the Depot on Main Street in Saginaw, Texas.

Dates are confirmed with the Saginaw Chamber !

Mark your calendars and get your lawn chairs ready (sleeping bags too)!

It's TIME TO WATCH SOME TRAINS... IT'S "SAGINAW TIME!!"

New items are being planned this year including

- a silent auction for some of your favorite rail items,
- a good old fashion Slide Auction (watch slides, enjoy a show and go home with your favorite subjects), plus much more.
- Also the usual great programs and fun activities to keep you busy for 24 Hours... and oh yeah.. TRAIN WATCHING!!!!

Join the "24 Hours @ Saginaw" Facebook page for the latest updates, <https://www.facebook.com/24hoursatSaginaw>

Presenters: We are now accepting anyone who would like to put on a program for this year's event. Please email me off list.

It can be slides, video, digital, live presentation, clinic, exhibits... it just has to be about railroads.

If you have door prizes to donate, we would appreciate them too (so would the winners!). Be sure to include who they are from so we can announce it at the event.

Official event announcement to be made soon.

Until then... Skip Waters

8th Annual "24 Hours @ Saginaw" 2013

V.P of Events North Texas Chapter, NRHS



## Shreveport Railroad Museum Opens May 11, 2013

### Hello Red River Valley Railroad Historical Society friends !

There will be a big railroad event in Shreveport on **May 11**, including the official **Grand Opening of the Shreveport Railroad Museum**.

The announcement, produced by the Downtown Development Authority, gives the date, times and other details. Be sure to mark your calendar now!

Thanks! Dave Bland, Red River Valley Railroad Historical Society.

**Come get your downtown on!**

**HIDDEN HISTORY II  
DOWNTOWN'S RAILROAD PAST!**

Saturday, May 11, Noon – 4 pm  
 Tours begin at Artspace, 710 Texas Street  
**\$5 PER TICKET**

A guided tour of our historic railroad past with stops at Union Station, Central Station, railroad hotels, the downtown Railroad Museum and more. Plus—meet some ghosts of our railroad past!

[www.downtownshreveport.com](http://www.downtownshreveport.com)  
 318.222.7403

**Downtown Shreveport**  
 Downtown Development Authority

## Chapter and Texas Rail News

### Harry's Big Adventure

By Valli Hoski



The North Texas Chapter family stretches all the way from Dallas-Forth Worth to here in south central Pennsylvania. Local freight rail lines whistle their song travelling through Mount Holly Springs. Harry (AKA Mr. Editor's Husband) celebrated his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday in late April, with a bit of scheming, plotting and scheduling by his wife Valli (AKA Ms. Editor) and Harry's family. We celebrated together with a surprise birthday party for Harry – including our fine grandkids, Harry's son Mike and wife Joy, Harry's siblings and their spouses.

Enjoy our family portrait (far left) – fine smiles by all in the photo, including ourselves. our 3 grandkids, Harry's brother and sister-in-law, and sister. Harry's son and daughter-in-law were busy taking the photographs, and keeping the peanut butter chocolate birthday cupcakes safe from the family dog.

### An Unexpected Train Trip

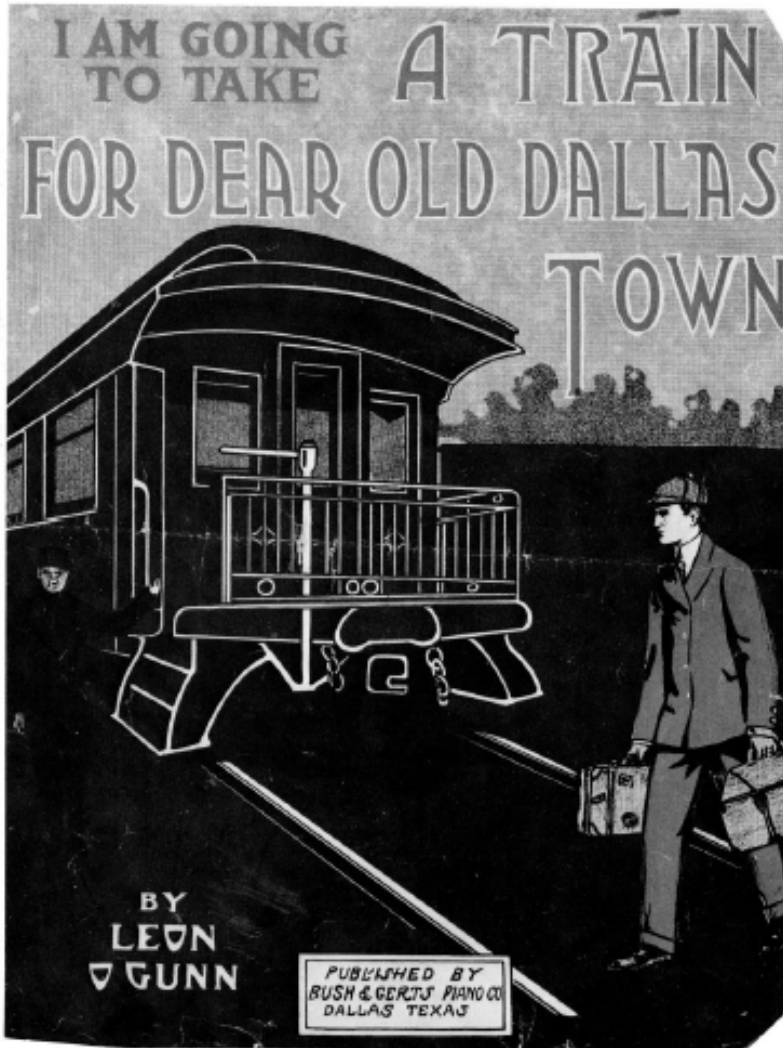
By Jon Shea

This excerpt from an article called **You Had to Be There** by Thomas H. Smith comes from the Fall 1991 issue of *Legacies*, a magazine of the Dallas Historical Society. The paragraphs follow as written:

Tom Ochiltree was the Dallas Post Office's "dignified and well-bred thomas cat". He was a good ratter, and according to William O'Leary, the Postmaster, "a great romancer". On January 25, 1901, Tom Ochiltree came up missing. As it happened, he had crawled into a half-filled mail sack and took the 10:50 P.M. Houston and Texas Central mail run to Corsicana. A Corsicana mail clerk was surprised when he opened the bag and out walked the cat. Telegrams were exchanged: "Modicia Thomas O.K.," a telegram declared from Corsicana, "will be home on train No. 1." The Dallas Post Office got Tom Ochiltree back for a C.O.D. cost of \$20.70. The charge included shipping and handling, four meals and medical treatment for two postal workers. Tom's shipping box was marked: "Handle With Care." A footnote states that this came from *The Dallas Morning News*, January 26-27, 1902.

## Train For Dear Old Dallas Town

By Jon Shea



This excerpt from the Fall 1991 issue of *Legacies*, a magazine of the Dallas Historical Society [*Editor's note: see below.*]

It comes from the cover of a sheet music song which was popular in the early 1900s. This was the era when railroad songs such as Scott Joplin's *The Crash at Crush March* (commemorating Skip Waters' favorite railroad event) were popular.

The man with the bags in the picture bears a striking resemblance to Sherlock Holmes. Perhaps he came to Dallas on vacation or to work on a case which was not recorded by Dr. Watson.

Note the conductor at the back platform steps. He doesn't look too happy. Perhaps the train is late and "Sherlock" is not moving fast enough to board.

### Chapter Business Meeting Minutes, Mar. 5, 2013

**NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER, NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, MINUTES, DATE: March 5, 2013.** DeGolyer Library, Southern Methodist University. *Report submitted by Jon Shea.*

Seven people braved an incredibly bad traffic situation to attend the meeting. This included two of Dave Gramm's friends from his model railroad club. We viewed the library's fine Civil War photography exhibit which included many rare images. Most of the photographs were stereoscopic which was an early form of three dimensional viewing through a scope. The library also had set up a special exhibit of railroading photographs from the Civil War era. DeGolyer Library director Russell Martin had also brought out some treasures from the archives. These included bound volumes of the monthly magazine from various railroads, bound volumes of early railroad magazine, examples of railroad pulp magazines from the 1930s and old railroad history and technical books. Afterwards we went to the Texas Collections room. Here they had their duplicate photos for sale and also duplicate magazines. New this time were videos and books. Among the books were annual reports for the MKT, Frisco and other railroads, old tourist guides put out by various railroads and other old books and pamphlets. Everything was very reasonably priced. Many thanks to Russell Martin and the fine staff at the DeGolyer library. We will definitely be back in the future.

### Chapter Business Meeting Minutes, April 2, 2013

**NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER, NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, MINUTES, DATE: March 5, 2013.** SOKOL Hall, Dallas. *Report submitted by Dave Gramm.*

The chapter meeting was held at SOKOL Hall in Dallas, TX. President Wayne Smith welcomed the 12 members to the meeting and introduced member Dale Wilken who was attending his last chapter meeting before moving to the West Coast in early May.



VP-Programs Jon Shea passed around an issue of the Katy Flyer, newsletter of the Katy Historical Society. They used our article on member Russ Covitt's obituary and also an article on Pat Coughlin's current health status. It also contained articles on the restoration of a Katy inspection car at the Oklahoma Railway Museum and Katy 'Big Hooks' 250-ton wrecker cranes.

Jon reported he will be attending a concert during the time of the May meeting on May 8 and Skioip Waters volunteered to handle the program logistics. Jon will contact Robert Haines at the Plano Interurban Museum for a program.

VP-Trips & Events Skip Waters reported on the upcoming '24 Hours @ Saginaw' event. The Saginaw Chamber of Commerce has changed leadership again and is merging with the Lake Worth Chamber. The LW Chamber president is the old Saginaw Chamber president. Skip will contact everyone on the two chambers to make sure everyone is OK with the event going on. He is also working on an Amtrak spring road trip, maybe in conjunction with the Saginaw event. Skip has several presenters lined up already for the event entertainment and was contacted by Steve Goins about a slide auction during the event, along with a silent auction. After discussion, it was decided to have the slide auction and the chapter agreed to a 20% commission.

Secretary Dave Gramm reported the chapter will need to name a new chapter representative to the North Texas Council of Train Clubs to replace deceased member Russ Covitt. Dave can't serve as the primary representative as he is already the primary representative for the Denton Area Model RR Club. Skip Waters volunteered to serve, with Dave as proxy if needed and the chapter agreed to this arrangement. President Wayne will fill out the chapter information form for the council to reflect the changes. National VP Claude Doane will attend the next board of directors meeting as Valli Hoski, our representative can't attend. Skip volunteered to go with Claude to the meeting.

Member Jerry Nunn reported Amtrak is now serving Hope, Arkansas via the Texas Eagle.

Member Jeff Phelps reported the Katy building in Denison that housed the museum was damaged in a construction accident during removal of the old freight dock. After inspection, the city has condemned the building as unsafe and it will be torn down. (Note, as of 4-21-13, half of the building was demolished already)

Wayne, Jon, Skip, Dave, and Claude, representing the chapter board of directors, presented departing member Dale Wilken with the 'Al Coppinger Award for Outstanding Service' for his years of service to the chapter. The award was named after past chapter member Al Coppinger, who was a tower man at Tower 19 in Dallas. Al always had a positive 'can-do' attitude as a member of the chapter and was a great force and inspiration in the chapter prior to his passing.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05pm. The evening's program was provided by member Jerry Nunn who gave a presentation on train activities in and around the DFW area during the past year.

## Chapter Directory

### North Texas Chapter Officers, 2013.

- **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, and NTZ editor, Valli Hoski**, [ntx.news@yahoo.com](mailto:ntx.news@yahoo.com)
- **Secretary, Dave Gramm**, [dgramm@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dgramm@sbcglobal.net)
- **Treasurer, Jim King**, [jgking@swbell.net](mailto:jgking@swbell.net)

### 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>

### North Texas Chapter @ Facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/409467244127/>

Press time: 4/24/2013, 9pm. Filename: NTx Newsletter 2013-05 v3

## 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

<b>Wed. May 8, 2013</b>	<b>North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m.</b> Location: <b>Sokol Hall, Dallas.</b> Program. The Santa Fe Railroad in Texas. ** Wed. night meeting, instead of Tuesday for Chapter meeting. **
<b>Tues. June 4, 2013</b>	<b>North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m.</b> Location: <b>Plano Interurban Railway Museum, Plano.</b> <a href="http://www.plano.gov/index.aspx?NID=880">http://www.plano.gov/index.aspx?NID=880</a> Program: A recap of the April 20 Texas Electric Railroad Historic tour. We want to get as many members as we can to come and show their pictures and tell their stories and impressions about the tour.