



VALLI HOSKI, NORTH TEXAS NEWS EDITOR

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Chapter Meeting

April 1, 2014 – Sokol Hall, Dallas.

When **Tues. April 1, 2014, 7 pm** meet’n’greet, 7:30 pm meeting.

Where Sokol Hall, 7448 Greenville Ave, Dallas, TX 75231. .

Program “High Iron, a History of Trackwork, and the Engineering Behind It”, by member Tim Massey.

Did you know - April happenings in Dallas and Fort Worth (see p. 2)



Special Features / Announcements

North Texas Rail Ramble – Sat. April 12, 2014

by Skip Waters, VP Trips and Events

Howdy North Texas Chapter friends,

The North Texas Chapter, NRHS is sponsoring a "North Texas Rail Ramble" on Saturday, April 12th, 2014, a group rail ride for the fun of it. We plan to ride the DCTA, DART, TRE and Amtrak's Heartland Flyer for a circle trip around DFW and North Texas.

Our trip will begin Saturday morning in Denton, Texas at 9:30am at the Downtown Denton Transit Center. Begin a circle trip of DFW via DCTA and DART to Dallas Union Station. Then TRE to Fort Worth's Intermodal Center, then board Amtrak's Heartland Flyer to Gainesville, TX. We then head back home via MotorCoach to Downtown Denton Transit Center by 8:00pm.

Cost: First part is on your own with a "DAY PASS" on DCTA, DART & TRE, then after lunch in Fort Worth, it's All Aboard Amtrak and a Coach Bus ride back to Denton. The cost for Amtrak and the Bus is only \$39.

This trip is open to anyone who likes to ride trains. Limited to only 30 people!

Activities include: Group trip pricing. Lots of photo ops along the way. Ride with friends and make new friends.

Cost: \$39.00 per person for Amtrak trip and bus ride.

Must give commitment by March 28th and Pay on or before April 4, 2014.

Purchase DAY PASS for DCTA, DART and TRE for \$10, Seniors \$2.50. Lunch is on your own.

Questions and to confirm your seat? Contact Skip Waters/ email: wgcrush@swbell.net Phone. 214-987-2888, please leave message.

Then send your FULL NAME (and any passengers riding with you), phone number and payment to:

North Texas Chapter, NRHS, P.O. Box 600304, Dallas, TX 75360-0304

It's gonna be rail fun... reserve your seat on the "North Texas Rail Ramble" and send your payment today!

Skip Waters, Vice President Trips & Events. North Texas Chapter, NRHS

NTC Awards Grant to Red River Railroad Museum – March 29, 2014

by Wayne Smith, Chapter President

The North Texas Chapter is awarding the Red River Railroad Museum in Denison with a grant for \$1,000.00 on Saturday, March 29th at 10:00 if you would like to be present for the presentation. We are scheduled to present the check at 10:00 including a photograph session and then we will get a tour of the Museum.

After we tour the museum, for those would like to attend, we will also have an option of meeting at one of two different railroad themed restaurants in the Denison/Sherman area. Admission to the museum and lunch is on your own.

We do not have any arranged transportation for this event. If some of you want to carpool, please respond to this e-mail and we might arrange something. Also, so I can provide a head count, please respond to this e-mail, if you plan to attend the presentation.

The actual depot is closed on the weekends, but parking and the entrance door to the museum is on the east side or trackside of the building.



The address and phone number of the museum is 101 East Main Street, Suite 145, Denison, Texas 75021, Phone: 903-463-5289. Again, please respond to this e-mail if you plan to attend. Thanks, Wayne Smith, President, North Texas Chapter – NRHS

North Texas Rail News

Get Spring in Your Step With D/FW



It's the time of year when folks want to head outdoors. Luckily, plenty is happening along the DART lines to cure your spring fever. Put on your walking shoes and take DART to springtime fun.

Source 3/23/2014, *DART News Release*: <http://www.dart.org/about/riderinsider/marapr14events.asp>



- **Mar. 29, 2014** Presented by **Texana Living History Association** and the A.W. Perry Homestead Museum, **Texas History Alive!** is an opportunity for learning about Texas history in a fun environment with lots of hands-on experiences. **Take DART Rail Green Line to downtown Carrollton.**

- **Apr. 4-6, 2014.** The free 3-day **Deep Ellum Arts Festival®**, which will cover six city blocks of Main Street in Dallas' Entertainment District, exemplifies everything that makes this area rock. Experience more than 200 decorative and visual and 100 original bands and performance artists showcasing the newest sights and sounds from five stages. **Via DART Rail Green Line to Deep Ellum Station or Baylor University Medical Center Station.**

- **Apr. 4-6, 2014.** The free, three-day **March Madness Music Festival** is held this year at **Reunion Park in Dallas**, a non-ticketed event open to the public. **Via DART Rail Red Line or Blue Line and TRE to Union Station, or DART Rail Red Line or Blue Line to Convention Center Station.**



- **Apr. 5 and 7, 2014.** **NCAA Men's Final Four** will crown a new National Champion at AT&T Stadium in Arlington, with semifinal games tipping-off on Saturday, April 5 and the title game set for Monday night, April 7. The Fan Express offers a combination of rail and bus service to AT&T Stadium on Friday, Saturday and Monday of Final Four weekend. Riders will take the TRE to the CentrePort Station and then access bus shuttles to AT&T Stadium. Bus shuttle hours are Friday: 10:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m., Saturday: 12:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m. and Monday: 3:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m. **Via Trinity Railway Express (TRE) to CentrePort/DFW Airport Station, then board the NCAA bus shuttles to AT&T Stadium.**



- **Apr. 6, 2014.** **Big D Texas Marathon** is the 11th annual installment of the popular event, and as always, it also features a half marathon. **Via DART Rail Green Line to Fair Park Station or MLK, Jr. Station**

- **Apr. 25-27, 2014.** The **Denton Arts and Jazz Festival** is a free celebration of the arts in a community known for embracing and nurturing music, dance, choral, drama and the visual arts.. **Via DART Rail Green Line to Trinity Mills Station, then DCTA A-train to Downtown Denton Transit Center. View a walking map to Quakertown Park.**

- **Apr. 26-27, 2014.** **Earth Day Texas** (formerly Earth Day Dallas) is a two-day outdoor festival at Fair Park for environmental awareness and influence the way Texans think, live and work.. **Via DART Rail Green Line to Fair Park Station or MLK, Jr. Station**



Chapter News and Views

President's Roundhouse – Railroad Trivia

by Wayne Smith, Chapter President

- The **headlight**, a major feature of American locomotives, never caught on with British railroads. Railroads in the UK were required by law to fence in all tracks, eliminating the need for engineers to see far ahead of their trains.
- With **early wooden coaches**, a tumbling passenger car crash was a terrifying, and all too common, experience. Even more than the crash itself, injury and loss of life was caused by the heating stoves and oil lamps setting the car on fire.
- The **point on a switch** where the rails cross is called a "frog." It's named after a part of a horse's hoof that it closely resembles.
- Starting in 1875, railroad traffic was continuing to increase, necessitating more stops throughout the nation and more hungry railroad passengers. **Roadside restaurants** started springing up along the ATSF Railroad. They were nicknamed Harvey Houses.



- In the early days, railroad workers would link cars together by dropping a metal pin in between two cars to link them together. This was extremely dangerous, as the link had to be made while the cars were moving. This changed with the **knuckle coupler**, which would link together without needing someone to be in between the cars.

President Lincoln and the Transcontinental Railroad

by Jon Shea, VP Programs

In 1862, Congress passed and President Lincoln signed the act creating the Union Pacific Railroad and the transcontinental railroad. Apparently the act left it to the president to select the gauge for the railroad. Six months later President Lincoln made a proclamation as to the size of that gauge. Obviously the gauge was changed to standard gauge at some later time. Here is President's Lincoln's proclamation. It is interesting to consider that even in the middle of the Civil War President Lincoln still had other things on his agenda which he had to deal with. "Whereas by the twelfth section of an act of Congress entitled "An act to aid in the construction of a railroad and telegraph line from the Missouri River to the Pacific Ocean, and to secure to the Government the use of the same for postal, military, and other purposes," approved July 1, 1862, it is made the duty of the President of the United States to determine the uniform width of the track of the entire line of the said railroad and the branches of the same; and Whereas application has been made to me by the Leavenworth, Pawnee and Western Railroad Company, a company authorized by the act of Congress above mentioned to construct a branch of said railroad, to fix the gauge thereof: Now, therefore, I, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States of America, do determine that the uniform width of the track of said railroad and all its branches which are provided for in the aforesaid act of Congress shall be 5 feet, and that this order be filed in the office of the Secretary of the Interior for the information and guidance of all concerned. Done at the city of Washington, this 21st day of January, A.D. 1863.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN." *Source:* <http://www.gutenberg.org/files/12462/12462.txt>

Chapter Business Meeting Minutes, Mar. 3, 2014

NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER, NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, MINUTES, DATE: March 3, 2014, SOKOL Hall, Dallas, Texas.

The membership meeting was held at SOKOL Hall in Dallas, TX. President Wayne Smith called the meeting to order at 7:30pm with 11 members and one guest in attendance.

Wayne reported the chapter board of directors had approved a **\$1000 grant to the Red River Railroad Museum in Denison, TX** to cover part of the costs of refurbishing their locomotive. We will present the check to them in late March or early April on an agreeable weekend so the members can visit the museum and partake in the photo-op.

VP Trips & Events Skip Waters reported the chapter will host a **'Rail Ramble' on Saturday, April 12, 2014** and presented a flyer outlining the day-long field trip. Participants will assemble in Denton and ride the 'A' train to Carrollton, transfer to the Dart 'Green Line' train to Victory Park, and transfer to the 'Red/Blue Line' to get to Dallas Union Station. From there they will ride the TRE to Ft. Worth, have a lunch break, then board the Amtrak Heartland Flyer and ride to Gainesville, TX where they will board a bus to ride back to Denton. Cost of the Amtrak ticket and bus ride is \$39 with members responsible for their own light rail day pass for \$10, \$2.50 if a senior. The trip is limited to 30 riders; participants must reserve seats with Skip by March 28 and send their \$39 payment to the chapter NLT April 4, 2014. Contact Skip for more info at wgcrush@swbell.net or leave message at 214-987-2888. Payment to be mailed to: North TX Chapter, NRHS PO Box 600304 Dallas, TX 75360-0304.

Skip reported that Gerald Hook had helped him set up the 'Rail Ramble' and would also be in attendance at the event.

Skip presented the chapter with a check for \$520 as our share of the proceeds from the recently completed train show season of the N. TX Council and made a proposal to purchase an additional share in the coming season with the understanding that member Dave Podhrasky will work most of the additional hours the additional share will ensue, since his other club, Union Station Model RR Club will not be purchasing the two shares they have done in the past. Dave P. will work with the council to have the same hours he has worked in the past assigned to him again but have them accrue to our benefit instead. Skip made a motion to purchase the additional share, seconded by Dave Gramm. In discussion, Skip amended the motion to make it contingent on the council allowing Dave P. to transfer his hours. Amendment accepted and the motion passed.

Skip also reported the IMAX movie 'Rocky Mountain Express' is finishing up its engagement at the Omni Theatre in Ft. Worth and proposed a group viewing of the film this Sunday, March 8 at the 3:55pm showing. Any members interested should just show up at the theatre around 3:30pm. Tickets are on your own. In other regional news, Skip reported the Gulf Coast chapter is promoting a train trip from Houston to Lake Charles, Louisiana with a return by bus. While there, riders will visit the DeQuincy RR Museum. Tickets for the bus ride are \$30 and each rider must purchase their own Amtrak ticket. Contact the Gulf Coast chapter or Skip for more details. The Houston Railroad Museum has found a new home in Tomball, TX and will soon change its name.

Skip switched tracks and put his District 7 director hat on and gave an update on the NRHS national front. Longtime member Al Weber has submitted his name to run for president against incumbent Greg Molloy. Al is a member of the St. Louis chapter and is currently a District 6 director of the NRHS.



Our other District 7 director member **Claude Doane** sent his apologies for not being in attendance as he was ill with suspected food poisoning. Claude reported he will not be seeking re-election to the board as a District 7 director and we should look for a new candidate by the end of the month.

Jon reported that the April 1 meeting will also be held at SOKOL Hall and will feature a program on track laying by member Tim Massey to our meeting this month.) (Important note: *There will be a meeting on 4-1-14, it's not an April fool's joke.*)

Jon also reported on a recent antique post card show at the Southfork Hotel in Plano. He purchased several post cards depicting views of Dallas in the early 1900's with streetcar tracks visible in them. He also purchased several cards depicting the Interurban Building and three pictures of various trains including the Pikes Peak Cog Railway and a picture of the original summit building on top of the mountain before it was rebuilt.

Member Jimmy Barlow reported chapter treasurer Jim King has updated his railroad tower web page with new pictures and members should check it out.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm with program following. **Member Jerry Nunn** presented two programs he compiled, one showcasing railroad employees and titled 'Working on the Railroad' and a second one covering railcar graffiti named 'American Graffiti'.

Chapter Directory

North Texas Chapter Officers, 2014.

- **President, Wayne Smith**, 940-300-4407.
- **Vice President/Programs, Jon Shea**, 972-948-2413...
- **Vice President/Trips and Events, Skip Waters**, wgcrush@swbell.net.
- **Vice President/Communications, and NTZ editor, Valli Hoski**,
ntx.news@yahoo.com
- **Secretary, Dave Gramm**, dgramm@sbcglobal.net
- **Treasurer, Jim King**, jgking@swbell.net

Chapter Business Address

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

North Texas Zephyr Archive

<http://www.gogeoacaching.com/gorailfanning/Home/northtexaszephyr.html>

North Texas Chapter @ Facebook

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

Press time: 3/23/2014, 10pm. Filename: NTx Newsletter 2014-04 v2

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 2013, regular membership is \$66 a year (\$50 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. April 1, 2014	North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m. Location: Sokol Hall, 7448 Greenville Ave, Dallas, TX 75231.. Program: "High Iron, a History of Trackwork, and the Engineering Behind It" by member Tim Massey.
Sat. April 12, 2014	North Texas Rail Ramble – join the North Texas Chapter for a day-long 'ramble' on the rails and trails of Denton, DART, TRE, and Amtrak. Meet us in downtown Denton at 9:30am to board the DCTA's "A" train to Carrollton, then DART to Dallas Union Station.. Next, we transfer to the TRE at 1:30pm to the Fort Worth ITC. After a leisurely break in Fort Worth, we board Amtrak's "Heartland Flyer" #822 to Grainesville, Texas where we meet our chartered bus back to our starting point in Denton, estimated arrival by 8:00pm. <i>Interested? Please contact Skip Waters via email at: wgcrush@swbell.net or call and leave a message at 214-987-2888.</i>
Tues. May 6, 2014	North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m. Location: Founders Building, Grapevine. Program: The 145th Anniversary of the Completion of the Transcontinental Railroad, May 10, 1869.
Tues. June 3, 2014	North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m.
Tues. July 1, 2014	North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m.
Tues. August 5, 2014	North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m.
Tues. Sept. 2,, 2014	North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m.
Tues. Oct. 7, 2014	North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m.
Tues. Nov. 4, 2014	North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m.
Tues. Dec. 2, 2014	North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m.

