



**VALLI HOSKI, NORTH TEXAS NEWS EDITOR**

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**Chapter Meeting**

**June 3, 2014 – Founders Bldg. Grapevine**

*When*    **Tues. June 3, 2014, 7 pm meet’n’greet, 7:30 pm meeting.**  
*Where*   Founders Building, 701 S. Main St. Grapevine Texas.. .  
*Program*   “Streamlined Passenger Trains”



Is this Skip’s Ramblin’ Art Train?

Photo credit: Jerry Nunn

**Special Features / Announcements**

**9 Successful Years for 24 Hours @ Saginaw!**

*by Wayne Smith, President, North Texas Chapter – NRHS*

Well, that’s nine up and nine down! We just completed our 9th annual "24 hours at Saginaw" with the usual success. Thanks to Master of Ceremony, Skip Waters, for another job well done. Also, many thanks to NT-NRHS members Bob Kennedy, Jerry Nunn, and Tom Cox for invaluable assistance to help the event run smoothly. We certainly can’t forget to thank all of the excellent presenters, many of which have presented at many previous events. Of course, none of this could have transpired without the generosity of The Saginaw Chamber of Commerce and BNSF Railroad. Last, our thanks to William "Bill" Frantz for his multiple donations that allowed us to have another successful Silent Auction. Other contributors/donors included Ken Fitzgerald and yours truly. As always, we easily went over the century mark in registered attendees. I do not have the final train count. We raised \$569.00 in donations that just barely covered the cost of our expensive insurance, printing of programs and signs, water and ice as well as other miscellaneous expenses. Our Silent Auction raised \$602.00 which beat last year’s amount of \$545.00. This money will be used for our railway preservation grant fund.

*Happy Railroading! Wayne Smith (Editor’s note: More on 24 Hrs @ Saginaw in a future issue.)*

**North Texas Rail Ramble Trip Report**

*by Skip Waters, VP Trips and Events. All photo credit: Jerry Nunn.*

Enjoy this look at the rail ramble and its memorable moments. Eighteen members and guests onboard for the trip that started in Denton, rode the ‘A’ train to Carrollton, the ‘Green train’ to Dallas, the TRE to Fort Worth, Amtrak Heartland Flyer to Gainesville, and a bus ride back to Denton. A good time was had by all.



Above: A ramblin’ man (or 3) getting ready to ramble!



Right:A-train at Carrollton



Above: Green Line to Dallas.



Skip ramblin' onboard TRE.



Onboard the Heartland Flyer



Skip onboard Amtrak – born to be a ramblin' Amtrak Jr Conductor?



Snail ramblin' along BNSF way.



DGNO Gensets rumblin' up ramblin' power



BNSF Gainesville Yard awaiting a rumble

## Chapter News and Views

### President's Roundhouse – More Railroad Trivia

by Wayne Smith, Chapter President

- **Porters** – In the 1870's, northern Industrialist George Mortimer Pullman recruited former slaves as porters onboard his new sleeping cars. These porters were charged with the responsibility of providing the upmost service to his passengers. By the 1920's, Pullman was the largest private employer of African Americans.
- **Snakehead** – This was the term for when a loose piece of rail poked up and tore through the bottom of a wooden passenger car which could cause serious injury or even death.
- **Fusee** – Combustible torches which burn for ten to fifteen minutes as warning signals to other trains when touched off, placed, or thrown on the ground by train service employees.
- **Run-Around** – If it is a man's turn to work and he is not called, he may claim pay for the work he missed. He has been given the run-around.
- **A Flying Switch or Drop** – Switching technique in which cars are cut off from behind a moving locomotive and the switch opened after the engine has passed.
- **Impact Register** – An appliance placed in a car with a shipment which is both a time clock and a measuring device to record the amount of shock the car received en route.
- **Cornered** – A term used when a car has been struck by another car because it was not in the clear.
- **Hi-Cube Car** – Originally a box car of approximately 85 feet in length and 10,000 cubic foot capacity, designed for hauling automobile body stampings and other low density freight. The term has become frequently used to describe any box car of excess size or weight.

### Chapter Business Meeting Minutes, May 6, 2014

NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER, NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, MINUTES, DATE: May 6, 2014, Founders Building, Grapevine, Texas.

The membership meeting was held at the Grapevine Founder's Building in Grapevine, TX. President Wayne Smith called the meeting to order at 7:45pm with 10 members in attendance.



**VP Trips & Events Skip Waters** reported on the recent Rail Ramble field trip. He reported there were 18 members and guests onboard for the trip that started in Denton, rode the 'A' train to Carrollton, the 'Green train' to Dallas, the TRE to Fort Worth, Amtrak Heartland Flyer to Gainesville, and a bus ride back to Denton. A good time was had by all.

He reported that our next event, "24 Hours @ Saginaw" was ready to go this year. Next year, we will start facing paying a fee for usage of the building, so Skip is pursuing various avenues. One is to join the Saginaw Chamber of Commerce, who controls the building, with full membership rights to use the building. A second option would be to make a grant to the chamber for the repair of their Santa Fe caboose such as replacing the missing Santa Fe decals on the sides, or to provide for an update to the interior. A third option that the chamber members had asked about is the repair and display of the HO models found stored in a closet at the depot. Skip will talk to the chamber reps in the near future to find out which option would be the best fit for us and usable towards our future rent if need be.

Skip also reported that we can get a food truck (Not roach coach) onsite for Saturday lunch time during the event if we desire. The membership also agreed to keep the suggested donation amount at \$5 since we have always received enough donations to pay for the insurance in the past.

Changing hats, Skip gave the chapter news from the National front as our Region 7 Director. The NRHS foundation is now a reality with a \$25K grant from the head office. June 1 will be the date all candidates will be announced as to who will be on the ballot. Currently all directors positions are uncontested as well as all headquarters positions with the exception of President. Incumbent Greg Malloy will be facing off against candidate Al Weber, a longtime member of the St. Louis chapter and also of our own chapter. Al has been a chapter president and national director for almost 30 years and handled National convention event ticketing sales for many years.

Voting tabulations will take place after the election ends in August with the results to follow.

**VP Programs Jon Shea** reported the June meeting will be held in Grapevine again, with the topic to be determined by newsletter release. He showed the latest edition of the 'Katy Flyer', the Katy historical Society's newsletter. There was a nice article about Leon Sapp's passing. Leon was a former Katy trainmaster and later an FRA officer from 1976-2005. He lived in Burleson, TX and was well known in the Metroplex area.

**Member William 'Bill' Franze** reported that Bill Dixon, 1970-74 president of the Rock Island, passed away recently. He gave a glowing obituary on Bill, who lived in Sarasota, Florida and who was a member of the NRHS Suncoast Chapter with his wife Helen. Member Bill also donated a large lot of railroad books and manuals to the chapter for its benefit. Books were sold by the inch and raised \$175 for the chapter plus several boxes of books were set aside for the auction at Saginaw.

**Member Jeff Phelps** reported the Katy Museum in Denison is badly in need of new members to help keep the museum solvent. The museum is not getting any help from the city at this time.

**The program for the evening started at 8:30pm.** Jon gave an introductory talk on the building of the transcontinental railroad, reading from a book he owns, before starting the video titled 'History Channel's Modern Marvels: Building the Transcontinental Railroad'.

## 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**, wgcruish@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.gogeocaching.com/gorailfanning/Home/northtexaszephyr.html>

### North Texas Chapter @ Facebook

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

Press time: 5/27/2014, 10pm. Filename: NTx Newsletter 2014-06 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 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

<b>Tues. June 3, 2014</b>	<b>North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m.</b> Location: Founders Building, Founders Building, 701 S. Main St. Grapevine Texas. Program: <b>Streamlined Passenger Trains.</b>
<b>Tues. July 1, 2014</b>	<b>North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m.</b> . Location: Founders Building, Founders Building, 701 S. Main St. Grapevine Texas. Program: NRHS Arkansas Convention Report.
<b>Tues. August 5, 2014</b>	<b>North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m.</b>

