



NORTH TEXAS ZEPHYR NEWSLETTER
 NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER, NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 JANUARY 2007, VOLUME 11, ISSUE 11



NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, JANUARY 2, 2007 GREET-7 PM MEET-7:30PM
PROGRAM: NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER SHOW'N'TELL
LOCATION: FOUNDER'S BLDG (BY COTTON BELT DEPOT), GRAPEVINE, TEXAS

-WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE -

VALLI HOSKI, NORTH TEXAS NEWS DISPATCHER

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Chapter Meeting

January Chapter Meeting – Show'n'Tell!

Who's in the spotlight? You! At our usual venue!
 Bring your favorite piece(s) of railroiana, railroad book(s)
 and/or story (ies). We ask everyone to keep their presentation

to five minutes (and that includes Skip!).NCC officers might even join us! Hope to see you in Grapevine on Jan. 2, 2007!

Special Meeting Notice – Feb. 6, 2007 – Proposed Bylaws Change

The Board has called for a **special meeting for the purpose of voting on amendments to our Bylaws**. The vote will take place at our **regular Feb. monthly meeting on 2/6/2007**. This



shall serve as the required 30 day advance notice of special meeting. The actual changes are enclosed with this issue, and will also be available at the January and February meetings.

Chapter Events

Dues Are Due – Dec. 31, '06

Pay your 2007 dues to vote in the 2007 NTC election!

Most of the members received dues notices in the last newsletter. Dues are due by December 31, 2006, for continued (2007) membership in the NRHS, which includes participation in all upcoming activities and national conventions, including the one in DFW in 2008. In case you lost your notice, dues are \$35.00 for National and Chapter membership. Please send your check to the North Texas Chapter, NRHS, at P. O. Box 600304, Dallas, Texas 75360, or bring your dues to the January Membership Meeting and **the treasurer will be happy to accept your cash or check.** Thank you.

2007 Club Election – Slate of Candidates

Remember to vote at the January 2007 meeting, but be sure you've paid* your 2007 dues first!

The nominating committee presents this slate of future chapter leaders: **President – Ron Anderson. Vice President – Jon Shea. Secretary – Mike Bedford. Treasurer – Steve Siegerist. National Director – Dale Wilken.** Nominations will also be taken at the January meeting. *Dues may be paid in person at the Jan. meeting.

Urgent - Volunteers Needed – Must Fill NTC Slots @ Dallas Train Show (Plano) - Jan. 13-14, '07

The Chapter must fill volunteer hours or pay a heavy fine for each hour not filled at the Plano show! , **Signup deadline is Jan. 2 – please contact RUSS COVITT, 972-625-4012, russrstuff@aol.com,** or signup at the club meeting. **See Chapter News section for dates / hours and volunteer slots to be filled.**

Annual Slide Show & NRHS Open House – Jan. 13, '07 – Needs Photographers!

Slides and presenters needed for the 'Annual Dallas Area Slide Show and NRHS Open house' event on

Saturday, Jan. 13, at the Train show in Plano. Please **contact Skip (214-987-2888)** by Dec. 31 if possible.

North Texas Rail News

Elvish Sighting On McKinney Ave Streetcar!

Regaling holiday celebrants were surprised by a Sudden Appearance of the King himself, in elfish Elvis form. Rumor of an Elvish motorman and his elfish colleague, driving a streetcar full of rail-ly enthusiastic carolers, was heard, and found to be true, by this investigative reporter.

Christmas Comes Early For Texas State Railroad

The Texas State Railroad received an early Christmas gift, when the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and Legislative Budget Board verified the department has an additional \$2.2 million available for state parks. The money allows the railroad to continue operating through Aug. 31, 2007.

Texas Lt. Governor David Dewhurst and State House Speaker Tom Craddick sent a letter to Robert L. Cook, TPWD executive director dated Nov. 27 stating "We believe there to be sufficient appropriations within the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department budget to fund the Texas State Railroad through August 31, 2007." The letter said TPWD should have about \$18.1 million in additional revenue for fiscal year 2006 and that a similar amount could be expected in FY 2007.

While the railroad is safe for now, state leaders would like to move the Texas State Railroad from state to local control or to a private operator. **Source: 11/30/06, Trains News Wire.** Original story at <http://www.trains.com/trn/default.aspx?c=a&id=1179>

MKT Gone From Dallas Junction

By Steve Siegerist

The MKT RR track from the Dallas Junction with the Rock Island just north of Harry Hines and Oak Lawn has been severed. All rails from that point up to the crossing of Mockingbird have been removed by a salvage contractor. The switch north of Mockingbird next to Denton Drive, that allowed DGNO to switch cars of Corn Syrup into the Coca-Cola plant, has been removed, and the Coca-Cola plant has become the furthest south end of the freight tracks. The DGNO intends to serve all customers on the line along Denton Drive from either the spur off of the TRE or from the Carrollton end off of the Cotton Belt connection. The rails being removed are still shiny on the top indicating very recent use. DART Light Rail line to Carrollton construction starts next February with revenue service opening in late 2010.



Waxahachie Park Honors Interurban Railroad

JONATHAN BLUNDELL, Daily Light

Nearly 60 years after the trains stopped running through town, Waxahachie has a new pocket park dedicated to preserving the memory of the Interurban Railroad, with historic photos and a park bench along the Hike and Bike Trail. In 1908, the Interurban Railway started in North Texas and ran from Dennison to Dallas.

The first trolley car arrived in Waxahachie in 1912, when Stone and Webster opened the Interurban Railway from Dallas to Waco. The train traveled around 65 miles per hour and a rider could leave Waxahachie at 6:35 a.m. and arrive in Dallas at 7:40 a.m.

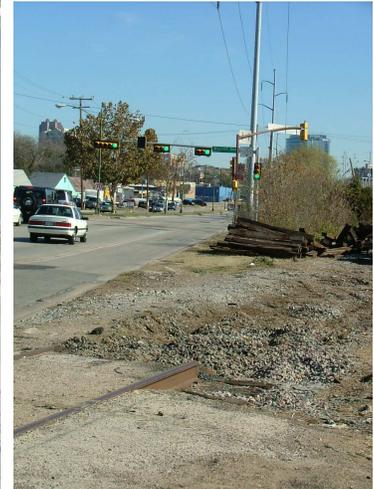
Along the route between Dallas and Waco, there were also stops in Lancaster, Italy, Hillsboro and other cities along the

rail line. Source: 12/14/2006, WaxahachieDaily Light. Original story at <http://www.waxahachiedaily.com/articles/2006/12/14/dailylight/news/03-12-14-interurban.txt>

Tracking Down Traffic On Harry Hines

By Steve Siegerist

It is no longer necessary to stop for the railroad tracks on Harry Hines north of Wycliff. The tracks are still in the street, but the rails on either side of the street have been removed. In other words, the train don't run here no more! Some operators will stop even though it is obvious that no train will ever come. Light rain construction starts in the area early next year.



<http://www.suntimes.com/news/nation/179183,CST-NWS-kat20.article>

Texas & Regional Rail News

Street Cars Roll In New Orleans

BECKY BOHRER, Chicago Sun-Times

Streetcars began running on the city's famed St. Charles line Tuesday for the first time since Hurricane Katrina knocked them out of service, but they aren't going far.

The Regional Transit Authority put two cars back on track for a 1.2-mile loop between Canal Street and Lee Circle. Before Katrina, 17 cars were in service on that line.

"This is great day for the city of New Orleans. It just gives our citizens more comfort that the city is coming back bigger and better than ever," Mayor Ray Nagin said at a ceremony.

Officials hope to have the entire, roughly six-mile line running by the end of next year, although it's likely to take longer given the severity of the damage; Katrina shredded overhead power lines. Source: 12/20/2006, Chicago Sun-Times. Original article at

No Amtrak Return Yet On Sunset Route east of New Orleans

Despite pleas from rail passenger advocacy groups, Amtrak has made no move to reinstate the Sunset Limited service east of New Orleans, though the company said last week that it had not ruled out the possibility of bringing passenger train service back to Mobile, the Mobile Press-Register reported. Besides destroying miles of CSX's line along the Gulf Coast, Hurricane Katrina destroyed or damaged train stations in Mobile and Gulfport. CSX has since repaired the railroad at a cost of approximately \$250 million. CSX has since sold the Mobile property that housed the Amtrak station and a developer plans a condominium and retail complex on the site. Plans for the complex include a new Amtrak station.

Amtrak has implemented service from Mobile via Thruway Motor Coach Connection, for passengers take a Greyhound



bus to Jackson, Miss., where they may board the City of New Orleans for Memphis and Chicago.

Amtrak maintains it hasn't ruled out the return of passenger service to Mobile; an Amtrak station remains part of the condo-retail plan.. Both the Louisiana Association of Railroad Passengers and Southern Rapid Rail Transit Commission have pushed for resolutions from various cities, including New Orleans, asking Amtrak to bring back service. **Source: 12/2/06, Trains News Wire.** Original story at <http://www.trains.com/trn/default.aspx?c=a&id=1190>

New Orleans Transit Authority Obtains \$13.6 Million FTA Grant

The New Orleans Regional Transit Authority (NORTA) will be able to continue rebuilding portions of its Hurricane Katrina-damaged trolley system while offering bus and limited trolley service. Yesterday, the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) announced the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) had approved a \$13.6 million grant to help cover the agency's operating costs.

Through an emergency provision in the FTA's rules, NORTA can obtain federal funding without providing local matching dollars. The agency also won't be required to meet federal regulations that prohibit transit providers from using capital funds for operating expenses.

In June, the USDOT granted NORTA an administrative waiver to use the city's pre-hurricane population data to calculate the amount of federal transit funding the agency is eligible for in 2007. **Source: 12/1/06, Progressive Railroading.** Original story at <http://www.progressiverailroading.com/transitnews/article.asp?id=9877>

General Rail News

Déjà vu – Chicago Trains Again Come Through

By Steve Siegerist

In October, the state of Illinois provided additional funding for Amtrak to run 5 trains daily in each direction between St. Louis and Chicago. As a boy growing up in St. Louis in the 1950s, I remember a neon sign on the east side of the Mississippi River facing downtown St. Louis that advertised: 5 TRAINS DAILY TO CHICAGO ON THE GM & O. Its déjà vous all over again!

New Railroad Security Plan Announced

LESLIE MILLER, Associated Press Writer

The release of deadly chemicals from a rail car in a densely populated city could have catastrophic consequences, whether it's caused by a terrorist attack or a derailment. Transportation

Secretary Mary Peters wants rail companies to send poison gases, like chlorine or anhydrous ammonia, and other hazardous cargo along routes that pose the least danger for nearby residents.

Under the plan, railroads would have to identify the amount of hazardous material carried over each route, then use the information to select the safest way to move it.

The District of Columbia passed a law in 2005 banning hazardous material shipments within 2.2 miles of the Capitol. CSX Transportation sued; the case is pending.

The rail industry fears that other cities would follow Washington's lead if the city prevails. Eight other cities — Chicago, Boston, Philadelphia, Cleveland, Baltimore, St. Louis and Albany and Buffalo, N.Y. — have introduced legislation to ban hazardous shipments.

Ed Hamburger, president of the Association of American Railroads, said railroads have already taken steps to tighten security. They have increased rail car inspections, set up an operations center to share intelligence with the government and improved the security of information systems, he said.

Source: 12/16/06, Yahoo! News. Original story at http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20061216/ap_on_go_ca_st_pe/rail_security

Amtrak celebrates restoration of Missouri service

Amtrak, the Missouri Department of Transportation, and Union Pacific are celebrating the restoration of regular twice-daily round-trip trains on the St. Louis-Kansas City route. This marks completion of a \$32 million rehabilitation of the 283-mile UP route. Nearly 70 miles of track have been improved to make rail service more reliable and smoother. The track work, which began April 1, caused lengthened travel times and the substitution of chartered buses for all or parts of many of the trains. The end of the project also means the reintroduction of regular schedules for all four trains on the route, two westbound and two eastbound. To celebrate "Santa Claus" and other dignitaries rode westbound across the Missouri on Dec. 1 in the Cheyenne, a UP business car on the back of St. Louis-Kansas City train 311. **Source: 12/2/06, Trains News Wire.** Original story at

<http://www.trains.com/trn/default.aspx?c=a&id=1189>.

Press time: 12/24/06, 6pm. File: NTx Newsletter 012007 Final (G).doc



Chapter News

Jan. 13-14, 2007 - Dallas Train Show in Plano! NTC Volunteers Urgently Needed!

Questions about jobs? Assignments? Please **get in touch with RUSS COVITT** our COUNCIL REP at russrstuff@aol.com

SAT 1-13-07, Plano Train Show Hours - 10 am – 5 pm

- 10-11 AM, LAYOUT TOUR SUPPORT EAST DOOR.
- 4-5 PM, TICKET SALES EAST DOOR. 4-5 PM, INFO TABLE SUPPORT. 4-5 PM, INFO TABLE SWITCHING TABLE

SUN 1-14-07, Plano Train Show Hours - 10 am – 4 pm,

- 9-10 AM, EARLY ENTRY TICKET SALES.
- 12-1 PM, SWITCHING CONTEST.
- 1-2 PM, TICKET SALES EAST DOOR.
- 3-4 PM, INFO TABLE.

Train show is at the **Plano Centre, 2000 East Spring Creek Parkway**. See more info at www.dfwtrainshows.com

LOOK!! → \$1 off admission coupon at <http://www.dfwtrainshows.com/phpwebsite/Coupon.htm>

Jan. 13, 2007 - 2nd Annual Dallas Area Slide Show & NRHS Open House

Hear Ye! Hear Ye! Saturday Night, January 13th, 2nd Annual Dallas Area Slide Show and NRHS Open House hosted by the North Texas Chapter, National Railway Historical Society at: **Holiday Inn Express - Plano East**, 700 Central Parkway East, Plano, TX 75074. **Show Time: 6:00pm until 10:00pm** (maybe longer, the Train Show closes at 5:00pm). **Admission is free!** We will **pass the hat** for those who want to order **pizza** for dinner.

This is the show formerly hosted by Jimmy Barlow at Plano's Interurban Museum, and for two years at the Best Western motel, and last year hosted by the North Texas Chapter, NRHS at the Super 8 Motel. We thank Jimmy again for this opportunity and plan to continue his tradition of fellowship among railfans with this show.

If YOU would like to be a presenter, please reply directly to me, Skip Waters <wgcrush@swbell.net>, NOT to any email group, NO LATER THAN 12:00 noon CST on Saturday, Dec. 31, 2006. If you know the subject of your presentation, please tell me (having a subject is not mandatory). List if you plan to show 1) Slides, 2) Digital photos, or 3) Video tapes or DVD.

After all presenters have identified themselves, I'll let them know A.S.A.P. how much time each will have at the show. You can go ahead and start putting your material together now, but keep it adjustable so you can make it fit the time allotted when I announce it after January 1st. You'll still have about two weeks to finalize after I make that announcement.

One program note: Please limit Videos or DVD's to 15 minutes. Slides will only be limited by the available time divided by the number of presenters. I will post additional directions to the meeting site and other info. later.

ATTENTION: YOU CAN HELP US LOWER OUR MEETING ROOM EXPENSES!

Holiday Inn Express is offering a special room rate of \$72.00 per night (up to 4 persons) for this event. Each reservation made by January 7, 2007 will lower our total meeting room expenses. Please ask for the "Dallas Area Slide Show" rate when making a reservation. This offer is good both Friday and Saturday nights. Their phone number is 972-881-1881. (Could you also let us know if you get a room, Thanks!) Please Note: This may not be the absolute cheapest rate available, but it is the one that will help us to lower our expenses. So, if you plan to stay over night, please consider staying at the Holiday Inn Express-Plano East!

Remember, the DEADLINE for getting your name on the PRESENTATION LIST is 12:00 noon CST on Saturday, Dec. 31st. Don't let holiday shopping, etc., make you miss the train. Thanks for your interest! Happy Holidays to all! Please pass this on to anyone that might be interested in this show. Best regards, Skip (214-987-2888 office).



Convention Corral – Lone Star Rails 2008

President's Report from Alabama, the 2008 National Convention and Our Chapter

I went to the Director's meeting in Huntsville, AL last month to deliver our chapter's bid to host the 2008 National Convention. After leading everyone in a sing-a-long rendition of "Deep in the Heart of Texas", we were awarded the bid. So get ready North Texas, the NRHS National Convention, "Lone Star Rails 2008" is coming to Dallas-Fort Worth during the summer of 2008!

We are now ready to form our Convention Committee. I have asked Mr. Jim King to serve as our Convention Manager, I will remain as Chairman. We already have several members who have stepped up and want to serve on the convention committee. As you can imagine, we will need lots of help to host a national convention. If you are interested in being a part of the success, please contact me with your interest and how you would like to serve. We will be scheduling our first organization meeting later this month. I hope you plan to attend.

Also, two members of the National Convention Committee will be coming to town to assist us in selecting a host hotel this month. They plan to attend our chapter meeting on January 2nd in Grapevine. I encourage you to attend this meeting to meet the National Officers and hear first hand what will be expected of us when hosting a national convention. Also, we want you to attend and vote in the 2007 officers of the chapter and participate in our program, "Show and Tell" – always a popular event with the chapter members.

It has been a pleasure serving the chapter as President the last few years. This past year has been an especially exciting, starting with the Dallas Area Slide Show & NRHS Open House, NRHS DAY road trip to College Station, our chapter's 10th Anniversary ride on the Grapevine Vintage Railroad, the fun "24 Hours @ Saginaw" and trips to the Texas State Railroad and so on. I have had fun sharing railfanning and history with the members and watching our chapter grow along the way.

In addition to serving you, the chapter has also attracted new leadership in our ranks, Valli Hoski as News Dispatcher (or, as NRHS National requires – "Editor"), and new member, Greg Harrison as the future Webmaster (yes, we will soon have a chapter web site) and we keep attracting new members who want to join us on our mission of fellowship and railroading.

As you might have guessed, I will not be running again for President so I can serve as the Convention Chairman the next few years. I look forward to a busy period between now and convention time. There will be lots to do and I hope everyone plans to stay around to enjoy the fruits of our efforts. Also, I want to thank my fellow officers, VP Jon Shea, Treasurer, Steve Siegerist, Secretary, Mike Bedford and National Director, Claude Doane. None of what we did this past year could have happened without the dedication and hard work of these fine gentlemen. They put up with my crazy leadership style and kept us between the rails as we moved along our route. We owe these men an ovation of gratitude for their volunteer efforts in serving our chapter.

I close in THANKING YOU for being a member of our chapter. Without you, we could not be the second largest chapter in the state of Texas! We have an active membership with fun programs and friendly fellowship. I thank each one of you for renewing your membership and staying an active part of our successful chapter. Stay tuned, we have great things planned ahead, both on the local and national stage. Stay aboard this train, we're going places! Skip Waters, President, North Texas Chapter, NRHS.

North Texas Chapter Who's Who

Founded and chartered in 1996, the North Texas Chapter is one of the newest chapters of the National Railway Historical Society. Current membership is about 60 members from the Dallas/Fort Worth area. Emphasis of the chapter is activity, history, and enjoyment of railroading past and present. Meetings are usually held 7:30-10:00 PM on the first Tuesday of each month at the Grapevine Tourist & Visitor Information Center at Main St. and the FWRW railroad tracks. Visitors and newcomers are welcome. Regular membership is \$35 a year (\$22 national dues + \$13 chapter dues). The membership include: a) subscription to the NRHS Bulletin (5 issues/year) and our monthly chapter newsletter, the North Texas Zephyr.

Chapter Business Address: North Texas Chapter, NRHS, P.O. Box 600304, Dallas, TX 75360	North Texas Chapter Officers. President , Skip Waters, 214-987-2888. Vice President/Programs , Jon Shea, 972-480-9054. Secretary , Mike Bedford, 214-692-7137. Treasurer , Steve Siegerist, 972-234-2682. National Director , Claude Doane, 972-272-3958
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