



NORTH TEXAS ZEPHYR NEWSLETTER
 NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER, NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 FEBRUARY 2007, VOLUME 11, ISSUE 12



NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2007 GREET-7 PM MEET-7:30PM
PROGRAM: EXCITEMENT! DARING! COME & BE AMAZED!

MR. TOM SANDLIN'S "NOT YOUR RUN-OF-THE-MILL SLIDE SHOW OF CA!"

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

February Chapter Meeting – California Like You've Never Seen Before!

Mr. Tom Sandlin presents his unique recipe for Southern California railroading with a taste of Cajon Pass, Beaumont Hill, San Bernardino, Colton, West Colton, and the spice and

flavor of Riverside, LA, Coast Line to San Luis Obispo, and Mojave/Tehachapi. See you in Grapevine on Feb. 6, 2007!!

Special Meeting Notice, Feb. 6, '07 - Proposed Bylaws Change

A vote will be held at our regular Feb. meeting (2/6/07) on **proposed amendments to the Chapter's Bylaws**. The January 2007 notice (reprinted below) in the newsletter served



as the required 30 day advance notice of special meeting. "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**."

The actual changes were enclosed with the Jan. issue; the changes will be available also at the February meeting.

Chapter Events

Applicants Sought for Chapter's RailCamp 2007 Scholarship

The chapter is now accepting applicants for a scholarship to RailCamp 2007. Two years ago the chapter's board voted to fund the tuition for a high school aged person to attend RailCamp put on by the NRHS.

RailCamp is now held in two locations, Scranton, PA and Ely, NV. The scholarship is good for both locations; the award does not include travel. **If you know a high school age person that would be interested in applying for this scholarship, please contact a chapter officer or Skip Waters.** Learn about RailCamp <http://www.railcamp.com>

"24 Hours @ Saginaw" Returns in 2007!

Save May 25-26, 2007 on your calendars now to spend another **24 hours of railFUN watching and recording your favorite trains**. Last year we had up to 100 railfans

North Texas Rail (& Beyond) Photo of the Month

The newsletter welcomes images for our new monthly feature - "photo of the month". Send your images in JPG or TIF format to ntx.news@yahoo.com for consideration in future issues, space permitting. Please provide photo location, date, your name, and any other salient data you care to share. North Texas rail photos are preferred, but all are welcome.

This issue's inaugural image celebrates the TRE with a landmark Dallas location known to DFW rail riders, sports fans, and visitors near and far. Photo courtesy of Dallas Area Rapid Transit's Image Library at <http://www.dart.org/images/newsroom/preview/TREReunionTower.jpg>



attend, we hope to see more this year. **To present a program during "24 Hours @ Saginaw" contact Skip.**

Everybody Was A Star! 2nd Annual Dallas Area Slide Show & NRHS Open House

By Skip Waters

Many fine, vicarious rail adventures were enjoyed at the **2nd Annual Dallas Area Slide Show and NRHS Open house** event on Sat., Jan. 13, at the Dallas Train show in Plano. Up to 40 railfans attended in spite of the weather. We had 6 presenters, material from a 7th who could not attend. A few of the original presenters could not make it due to the icy weather. Everyone enjoyed themselves. We look forward to hosting it again next year. This year's presenters included: **Steve Grabman** - "Railfanning Kansas City" video; **Skip Waters** - "Six Flags Steam" video; **Jimmy Barlow** - "My 2006 Travels" slides; **Chris Tolley** - "UP 844 Steam in Texas" video; **Mike Ellis** - "2006: A Railroad Photo Retrospect" photo CD; **Randall Nelson** - "Texas Travels" and "Daylight Dreaming" slide dissolve programs; **Wes Carr** - "Rails of West Texas" digital slides to music.

The new chapter owned VCR/DVD and video projector work great! If you want to show a program in the future, the chapter now has the AV equipment to show your stuff.



North Texas Rail News

DFW "O" Scale Club Open House at Sherman Layout, Jan. 27, '07

The DFW "O" Scale Club invites all to the annual "Round Up" in Sherman, Texas, on Saturday, January 27, 2007, 12-5 p.m. Operation on Brady's PRR North Fork Branch to Laurel Springs and Snowhill will also be available.

For more information, please contact Brady McGuire: 903-868-2726, or Dick Kuelbs: 972-248-6262. Location: Texas Midland Railway, Division Office/Brady's Depot at rear of 1605 Skyline Drive, Sherman, TX. Skyline Drive is in west Sherman, off FM 1417, 1.2 miles south of US 82 / 250 ft. north of West Taylor St. (Fox Worth Galbraith / Chevron station are at West Taylor and 1417). Go east on Skyline Dr. for 3 blocks. We are located at the bottom of the hill on your left (north side of street) as Skyline Dr. curves south into Westside. (Look for PRR keystone sign in yard). **Submitted 1/15/2007 by Skip.**

Union Pacific Derails TRE's Morning Plans

The Union Pacific and Trinity Express did not plan a "photo opp" nor a railfan special on Thursday, Jan. 11, 2007, but there was lots of rail news just the same. A Union Pacific derailment caused rerouting of passengers on the Trinity Railway Express (TRE) via Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) buses.

The derailment involved two locomotives and four cars, but all remained in an upright position, in the early morning hours near Dallas Union Station, the DART/TRE northbound and the UP westbound tracks.

About 400 early morning riders on the TRE eastbound train were transported by DART buses from the Medical/Market Center stop to Union Station. Passengers could then connect to DART buses, and light rail trains which were not affected by the derailment.

The Dallas Morning News and Joe Faust a spokesman for Burlington Northern indicated that the train was eastbound to Teague, traveling less than 20 mph, and the derailment is under investigation. **Source:** The above is summarized from 1/11/2007, **Dallas Morning News** article by staff writer Linda Leavell at: <http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/news/localnews/stories/01107dnmetderail.2cc41d33.html>

Texas & Regional Rail News

Railfan Day, Temple, March 3, '07

This Railway & Heritage Museum (Temple, TX) event will be of great interest to all railfans. Activities include a possible rail facility tour (limited to first 55 registrants) pending facility approval. During the tour, a guide from the facility will be available to answer questions. Otherwise, enjoy a railroad history presentation, follow by an overview of museum archives give by archivist, Craig Orderner. Then, enjoy lunch, and seminars on a wide variety of topics including "Santa Fe in the 50s", "Amtrak's Past, Present, and Future", FRA and Track Maintenance, "Steam, Towers and the Telegraph, and Central Texas Railfan Secrets. Close your busy day by joining the banquet. Make it a full railfan weekend by taking the optional Austin steam trip on Sunday, March 4. **See registration package at http://www.rrhm.org/railfan_day.htm**

KCS Returning to Historic Diesel Colors

Kansas City Southern railroad's new EMD SD70ACe locomotives that are on order will be painted in a variation of the railroad's historic red, yellow, and Brunswick (extremely dark) green passenger-train livery. A version of those colors is worn by KCS's "executive F-unit diesels" and business cars, but freight locomotives are gray with yellow stripes. It is believed, but not yet confirmed, that this new scheme will be applied to future KCS locomotives orders, and to existing units as they are shopped.

KCS' business cars always retained the historic colors, and the F units that KCS boss Mike Haverty brought in to pull the expanded fleet in 1996 were painted to match them (Brunswick green is dominant, vs. yellow on the old E units). When passenger service was re-introduced in 2001 on KCS' newly acquired Panama Canal Railway, the cars and the ex-Amtrak F40's purchased for it were painted in the historic passenger colors, and KCS also applied the livery to an F unit donated in 2006 to the Union Station museum in Kansas City.

Source: 12/29/2006, Trains News Wire. Original article at <http://www.trains.com/trn/default.aspx?c=a&id=1293>

Great Plains Railroads Slammed By Weather; Amtrak Chief Detours

A second winter storm hit Denver the last week of 2006, whipped through the Great Plains, eastern Colorado, New Mexico, Texas and Oklahoma panhandles, and western Kansas. All this wreaked havoc with rail operations.



BNSF was hit hardest, but Union Pacific and Kyle also were disrupted. Owing to the storm, BNSF's Raton Pass route - traversed by Amtrak trains 3 and 4, the Chicago-Los Angeles Southwest Chief, but little freight - was buried. BNSF rerouted Amtrak over the Transcon, BNSF's main freight route, between Belen, N.M. (near Albuquerque), and Topeka, Kans.

To serve Albuquerque, a major passenger and service point, they used the line back south to the Belen area, joining the Transcon there. Amtrak and BNSF provided alternate crew arrangements and pilots, making crew stops at Clovis, N.M., Amarillo, Texas, and Wellington, Kans. The trains used the freight route between Wellington, Kan., and Emporia (Ellinor), Kan., instead of going via Wichita and Newton. The last regular passenger train over the route via Amarillo was Santa Fe's San Francisco Chief, which ceased upon Amtrak's 1971 inception.

Source: 1/2/2007, Trains News Wire. Original article at <http://www.trains.com/trn/default.aspx?c=a&id=1297>

General Rail News

C&NW 400 72nd Anniversary

January 2, 2007, marks the 72nd Anniversary of the inauguration of one of America's great passenger trains, Chicago & North Western's 400 between Chicago and St. Paul/Minneapolis. The train debuted on January 2, 1935, powered by 4-6-2 Pacific type locomotives rebuilt for high-speed operation. Able to make the 409-mile run from Chicago to St. Paul in 390 minutes, the train got a leg up on competitors Burlington Route (which began its Twin Zephyrs on April 21, 1935) and Milwaukee Road's Hiawatha (which made its first run on May 29, 1935).

The C&NW train was an immediate success and spawned an entire fleet of 400s on the system that reached Iowa, Upper Michigan, and South Dakota as well as the "corridor" operation between Chicago and Milwaukee. The train kept earning profits into the 1950s, when road and airline competition took its toll. The original route of the 400 is largely intact today, except for short areas in the Twin Cities and Milwaukee not used by freights. Union Pacific purchased C&NW in 1995 and operates the route today, the "hottest" train on which is an overnight Roadrailer UP operates for Triple Crown Services.

Source: 1/2/2007, Trains News Wire. Original article at <http://www.trains.com/trn/default.aspx?c=a&id=1298>

Nickel Plate Berkshire 763 Purchased By Ohio Central

Ohio Central Railroad System has purchased Nickel Plate Road 2-8-4 Berkshire-type No. 763 from the Virginia Museum of Transportation, Roanoke. Several options were discussed for the swapping of steam locomotives to bring the big "Berk"

back home to the Buckeye State, where it ran in fast freight service until Nickel Plate dieselized in 1958, but both organizations were in agreement that a straight cash sale would be better suited for all concerned. Details of the sale were not announced.

When NKP dieselized its road power in 1958, the 763 was stored in the yard at Bellevue, Ohio, for future donation to that town. However, after the 1964 merger of NKP into Norfolk & Western, N&W took the locomotive to its headquarters city of Roanoke, where 763 has been displayed until now.

Ohio Central has nine other steam locomotives, three of which are operational, and will bring 763 to its Morgan Run Shop this spring. Barring unforeseen mechanical hurdles, OC shop forces will rebuild the 763 for service. - John B. Corns

Source: 1/4/2007, Trains News Wire. Original article at <http://www.trains.com/trn/default.aspx?c=a&id=1312>

Public Transportation Ridership Climbs "On Board" In 2006

The American Public Transportation Association announced that transit ridership increased by nearly 3 percent in the first nine months of 2006 as Americans took 7.8 billion trips on public transit.

Light rail had the highest percentage of growth among all modes of transportation, with an increase of 5.4 percent. The areas reporting double-digit increases in light rail ridership were: Salt Lake City (23.3 percent); Minneapolis (22.6 percent); New Jersey (16.3 percent); Philadelphia (11.9 percent); and Sacramento, Calif. (10 percent). Light rail ridership that almost achieved double-digit increases included Buffalo, N.Y. (9.2 percent) and Houston (9 percent).

Commuter rail grew by 3.2 percent from January through September 2006. The largest increases were: Harrisburg, Pa. (12.1 percent, on Amtrak's Keystone Service); Chesterton, Ind. (12.0 percent, on the South Shore Line); Miami (11.7 percent, on Tri-Rail); Dallas (11.3 percent, on Trinity Railway Express); and New Haven, Conn. (9.9 percent, on Connecticut DOT trains).

Heavy rail (subway) ridership increased in the first nine months of 2006 by 2.8 percent. The largest increases were in Boston (12.9 percent); Los Angeles (12.2 percent); Jersey City, N.J. (9.9 percent, on PATH trains); and Staten Island, N.Y. (9.5 percent). Complete ridership report at www.apta.com/research/stats/ridership.

Source: 1/5/2007, Trains News Wire. Original article at <http://www.trains.com/trn/default.aspx?c=a&id=1358>



2006 Another Record-breaking Year For U.S. Freight Railroads

In 2006, U.S. freight railroads completed a record-breaking year by carrying 17,380,102 carloads, up 1.2 percent (213,751 carloads) over 2005. Full-year 2006 U.S. intermodal loadings were 12,282,221 units, up 5.0 percent (588,709 trailers and containers) over 2005's 11,693,512 units, which had been the previous highest annual total ever, the Association of American Railroads reported.

Total 2006 freight volume was estimated at 1.74 trillion ton-miles, up 2.5 percent from the previous record set in 2005. Coal paced U.S. rail traffic in 2006, rising 4.7 percent (324,476 carloads) to 7,282,608 carloads for the year. In 2006, coal accounted for 42 percent of total non-intermodal U.S. rail carloadings.

Canadian rail carload traffic, which includes the U.S. operations of Canadian railroads, totaled 3,844,456 units, down 1.9 percent (73,473 carloads). In 2006, chemicals, grain, metallic ores, coal, and motor vehicles and equipment were the five highest volume commodities carried by Canadian railroads. Canadian intermodal traffic rose 5.1 percent for the full year to 2,356,978 trailers and containers.

Kansas City Southern de Mexico (formerly Transportaci3n Ferroviaria Mexicana - TFM), a major Mexican railroad, carried 592,025 carloads in 2006, down 2.5 percent (14,989 carloads), intermodal traffic rose 0.2 percent (344 units) to 212,420 trailers and containers.

Source: 1/11/2007, Trains News Wire. Original article at <http://www.trains.com/trn/default.aspx?c=a&id=1323>

Press time: 1/16/07, 10am. File: NTx Newsletter 022007 (C).doc

Trivia Contest! Why is the Pullman car particularly relevant to this issue of the newsletter? (Hint: consider the Jan. news deadline.)

Chapter President's Corner

Ron's Rumbblings and Ramblings

Happy New Year! As your new president, I am excited to lead our group in the coming year. I will most definitely not replace the skills that Skip has, and wish to tip my hat to the great job he has done, and will continue to do. I do hope to build on that enthusiasm so that everyone can enjoy participating in all that our chapter has to offer.

To get to know our chapter better, I would **like to ask a few things**. #1. Will everyone be willing to wear a **name tag**? I would like to get **re-usable ones with our chapter name and logo** on them so they can be used at other events as well. #2. Would anyone like to **receive the newsletter by email instead of snail mail**? #3. I would also like to know if we are willing to do a **chapter directory** to SHARE phone numbers, email and mailing addresses. I will bring these up in the new business portion of the meeting. See you there!

Chapter News

Results of 2007 Club Election

The following officers were elected by acclamation at the January 2, 2007 chapter meeting: **President – Ron Anderson. Vice President – Jon Shea. Secretary – Mike Bedford. Treasurer – Steve Siegerist. National Director – Dale Wilken.** Many thanks to these fine individuals for stepping forward to lead the chapter in the upcoming busy year!

2007 Dues Are Past Due

All members have received bills for 2007 dues. **Your payment is now due, if you want to continue your membership.** You will receive one more newsletter after this one on your 2006 membership, so send in your money now. Dues are \$35.00 for members and \$6.00 for family members. Mail your check to the chapter at P. O. Box 600304, Dallas, Texas 75360. Thanks, Steve (Treasurer)

Chapter Meeting Minutes, December 5, 2006

NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER, NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MEETING MINUTES AND NOTES, DATE: December 3, 2006

20 MEMBERS AND GUESTS, LOCATION: Texas Land and Cattle Restaurant, Dallas

Our traditional Christmas Banquet meeting was held at Texas Land and Cattle on Cole Ave. in Dallas on the McKinney Avenue streetcar line. Twenty guests and members enjoyed scrumptious entrees such as Lobster Tails and Top Sirloin steaks. Afterwards we were treated to a streetcar charter on the McKinney Ave M line. Our car was none other than a restored Dallas Railway and Terminal Company car no. 186 the "Green Dragon" a 1913 product of St Louis Car Co. Our motorman was our own Claude Doane. During our



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streetcar ride we sang Christmas Carols and played a railroad trivia game. President Skip Waters thanked everyone for their participation in a successful year of increased activities and events. Submitted by Mike Bedford

Chapter Meeting Minutes, January 2, 2007

NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER, NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MEETING MINUTES AND NOTES, DATE: January 2, 2007,

25 MEMBERS AND GUESTS, LOCATION: GRAPEVINE VISITORS CENTER

President Skip Waters opened the meeting at 7:30 pm. Skip asked for additional volunteers to fill our Plano Train Show volunteer hours requirement. Also Skip made a last call for anyone interested in being a presenter at the Dallas Slide Show to be held on Saturday January 13 after the Plano Train Show.

Skip called our attention to upcoming changes in our local chapter bylaws. The major change is a proposal to increase the number of Vice Presidents to three as follows: Vice President Programs, Vice President Trips and Activities, and Vice President Publications. Two other changes allow student members, and set the deadline for dues payment at December 31 for the following years membership. These proposed changes will be voted on at the February 2007 members meeting.

Skip updated us on the planning progress for the Lone Star Rails 2008 National Convention. The tentative date for the convention for the Convention is June 17-23 2008. We are in the Host Hotel site search, with Requests for Proposals being submitted to Dallas, Fort Worth, and Grapevine. Skip showed us a video of his presentation to the NRHS National Directors meeting held this past November in Huntsville Alabama. National Convention Committee Chair Carl Jenson and Ed Graham joined our meeting and gave us an overview of the Convention planning process and answered questions. Jim King and his wife Terry also joined our meeting. Skip has appointed Jim our convention manager.

Steve Siegerist gave his end of year Treasurer's report. Vice President Jon Shea talked about Allen Park in Plano as a possible future membership site. Valli Hoski encouraged members to submit material for the Newsletter. She suggested submitting material for two new features in the Newsletter, Member Highlights, and events 10 years ago in the North Texas NRHS.

January is our annual officer election meeting. The following slate of Officers was presented as candidates: Ron Anderson President, Jon Shea Vice President, Steve Siegerist Treasurer, Mike Bedford Secretary, Dale Wilken National Director. There were no nominations from the floor, and a motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the slate of officers as presented, by acclamation. The following members presented railroad related items at our Show and Tell portion of the program: Dan Pagel, Dave Eckhardt, Roy King, Russ Covitt, Don Ross, Ray Blevins, Jon Shea, and Skip Waters. Submitted by Mike Bedford

Convention Corral – Lone Star Rails 2008

The great drive down the Lone Star Rails 2008 trail is starting to form. On January 11, 2007, Convention Chair Skip Waters and Vice Chair Jim King rounded up the committee team leads to begin mapping out the trail. The committee is making progress on selecting a host hotel, and hopes to have a contract in place by February. As the trail and destinations are blazed further, there will be tales to tell around the Lone Star Rails 2008 campfire.

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 Officers. President, Ron Anderson, rra_nrhs@yahoo.com . Vice
North Texas Chapter, NRHS, P.O. Box 600304, Dallas, TX 75360	President/Programs, Jon Shea, 972-480-9054. Secretary, Mike Bedford, 214-692-7137. Treasurer, Steve Siegerist, 972-234-2682. National Director, Dale Wilken, 817-370-8227.