



VALLI HOSKI, NORTH TEXAS NEWS EDITOR

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Chapter Meeting

Tues. July 5, 2016 – Founders Bldg. Grapevine, TX.

When 7 pm meet 'n' greet. 7:30 pm meeting.
Where Founders Building, 701 S Main St.
 Grapevine, TX 76051.
Program: Wayne Smith's Choice.



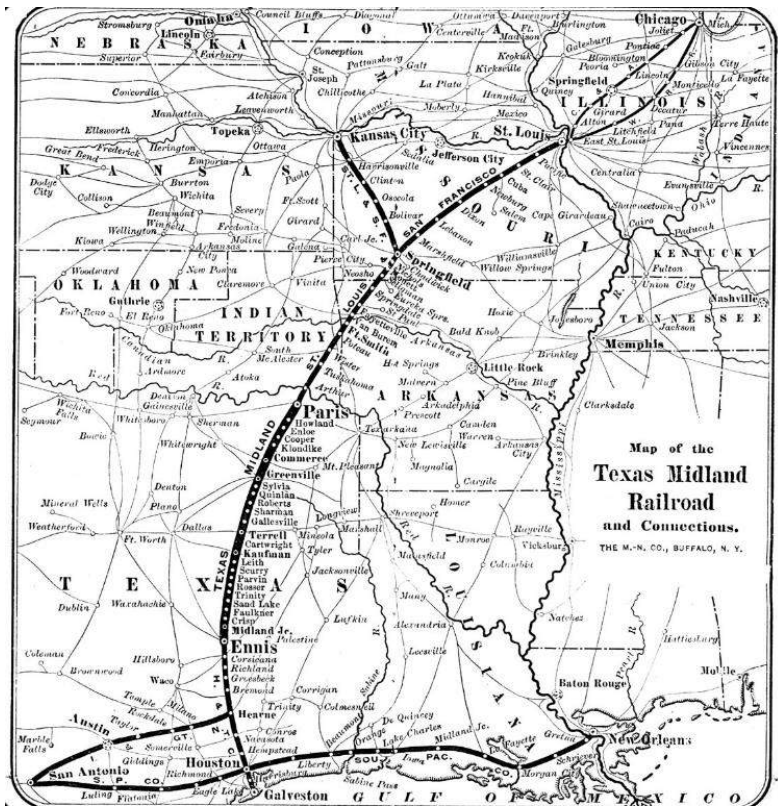
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Special Features & News

The Texas Midland Railroad

by Jon Shea

The **Texas Midland Railroad Company** received its charter on December 1, 1892. It was to be built from Garrett in Ellis County to Greenville in Hunt County. It was capitalized at \$500,000 and the business office was located in Terrell in Kaufman county. The beginning of the railroad was in 1882 when the Houston and Texas Central Railroad started construction on an extension to run northeast from Garrett to Paris where it would connect with the Frisco Railroad. Only fifty-one miles were built from Garrett to Roberts before the H&TC and its subsidiaries went into receivership in 1885. The line was purchased by Hetty Green, the Witch of Wall Street and was renamed The Texas Midland Railroad. Her son E.H.R. Green, who fifteen or so years later drove an automobile from Terrell to Dallas making it the first automobile in Dallas, became president. In 1885 nineteen more miles were built allowing the railroad to reach Greenville. In 1897 thirty-eight miles of track were built connecting Commerce to Paris. In 1895 the Texas Midland had six locomotives and 196 cars. Earnings that year were \$28,090 from passengers and \$165,422 from freight.



Above: Texas Midland Railroad Company (Tex.), Map Showing Route circa 1910.

The railroad was the first in Texas to have electric lights on its engines and one of the first to have steel boxcars and high speed gas-electric railcars. In 1926 the railroad commission classified The Texas Midland as a Class II railroad. The Texas



Midland at that time had sixteen locomotives and 233 cars. Earnings were \$67,869 from passengers and \$704,085 from freight. Southern Pacific purchased the Texas Midland in 1928. The railroad was then leased to the Texas and New Orleans and was merged into that railroad in 1934. In 1933 the Commerce to Greenville segment was abandoned followed by Ennis to Kaufman in 1942, Kaufman to Greenville in 1958, and the final portion from Commerce to Paris in 1975. (*The Texas Midland Railroad Source: 6/17/16. Handbook of Texas Online, S. G. Reed, "Texas Midland Railroad," accessed June 17, 2016, <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/egt22>. Texas Midland Railroad Map Source: : 6/17/16. Texas Transportation Archive, "Texas Midland Railroad Company (Tex)" accessed June 17, 2016, http://www.tarchive.com/Library/Maps/Texas-Midland_Unk_Reference.htm)*

Midland Railroad #993 El Paso Rail Car

The chapter visited this car on a meeting we had in Terrell several years ago. The Texas Midland Railroad Freight Station is also still there in Terrell.

"This was the private car of 'Ned' Green, President of the Midland Railroad and it is on display in Ben Gill Park. Green was a prominent citizen of Terrell and served as the state Republican Party Chairman in 1896. (see Cultural Tips). A special exhibit in the rail car is planned to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Texas' first gasoline-powered motorcar trip, taken by Green in 1899. In the 1890's Terrell became the headquarters of one of the nation's prosperous short line railroads - The Texas Midland Railroad."

(Source: 6/17/16. VirtualTourist, "Terrell Things to Do: Midland Railroad," accessed June 17, 2016, <http://members.virtualltourist.com/m/p/m/63a25/> .)



Chasing J 611 – Manassas to Front Royal VA

by Frank Mallott, guest writer

Wow. The Norfolk and Western Class J 611 4-8-4 ran its last scheduled trips of the season and possibly forever this weekend from Manassas to Front Royal, VA. Joel & I couldn't go Saturday. Lynn told Joel to go play today despite weather concerns. For those not familiar with it, the 611 is the apex of modern steam, Built 1950. She glides. Today we heard her slip for the first time on wet rail. It is not your typical steam loco – 20 odd cars unassisted. Sure the "B" Line is not steep, but it is not dead flat and has a lot of curves. It was scheduled to leave Manassas at 0800 and we got to Front Royal around 0830. We headed to Happy Creek and found it not so joyous. Lots of room to park but a new sign is going up and the 12 foot or so 4x4 was going to be in every photo. After trying to work around it we gave up and headed east hoping to find a spot we had never taken photos from and the train snuck past us. Oh well. We got to Linden and waited on it.



J 611 was crawling past here. Had slipped several times west of here. But what a show.



J 611 is passing the old store in Linden



5607 is a KATY (Missouri, Kansas, Texas) car I do not recall seeing before. We chased east and caught J 611 in The Plains. No photos, sharp curve, would have been nice but too many people and too many moved into the shot. It was moving though, and the deep bass (should be on a ship) whistle says I am coming through.



In Marshall we found a Herzog self loading/unloading tie train we had never seen. Lots of tie work and numerous new signal boxes for PTC going in.

We had 2 plus hours to kill so went exploring. Marshall will have several hundred new homes next year. Hopefully that means a grocery store like Wegmans comes to town or it will be a food desert. A Sheetz would be nice too!



Next, we wandered back to Delaplane and ate.



J 611 coming past the 1850's railroad station. We chased back to Linden.



In the clouds, drizzling, hammering to Riverton JCT. Impressive doesn't do it justice. Hopefully it runs again, but if economic concerns put it back on display at least we saw it.





NRHS National & Chapter News

National Convention Update

The 2016 NRHS Convention is just a month away. If you are planning to attend and stay at the host hotel, Holiday Inn - Stapleton, the special convention rate must be booked by June 19, 2016. The special rate is \$110.00 per night plus taxes. After June 19th regular room rates are in effect. Contact the Holiday Inn - Stapleton, Denver, Colorado to make your reservation at 1-855-914-1373 and ask for the "NRHS" rate. Tickets are still available for most events at the 2016 NRHS Convention. Go to <http://nrhs.com/content/2016-convention> for the latest convention information. Links to the convention registration are available below.

- NRHS 2016 Convention Registration Booklet at <http://nrhs.com/sites/default/files/ConventionRegistrationBook3.pdf>
- Convention Online Registration at <https://www.regonline.com/Register/Checkin.aspx?EventID=1808794>

(Source: NRHS email, June 17, 2016. Last accessed June 20, 2016.)

Chapter Business Meeting Minutes, June 7, 2016.

NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER, NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, MINUTES, DATE: June 7, 2016. Sokol Hall, 7448 Greenville, Dallas, Texas 75231. The monthly meeting was held at the SOKOL Athletic Hall in Dallas, TX. Prior to the start of the meeting, members watched a newsreel video on the 1940's California Zephyr on its trip from Chicago to San Francisco. The meeting was called to order by President Wayne Smith at 7:40pm, with 10 members present. Wayne welcomed everyone in attendance and thanked member Dave Podhrasky for the use of the facility. New member John Hatler, who joined at '24 Hrs @ Saginaw' was also in attendance. Wayne reminded everyone that this weekend on Saturday, June 11, the chapter was co-sponsoring a program by Steve Allan Goen at the Allen Public Library on every passenger train that serviced Texas. The event is free to attend and Steve will have his usual assortment of books and videos for sale. Afterwards, there will be a tour of the old Allen Stone Dam, built by the Houston & Texas RR to provide steam engine water. The dam is listed as a State Archeological Landmark and is the only known existing stone dam of its design.

VP-Programs Jon Shea announced July's meeting would be in Grapevine at the Founders Building. He will be out of town and needed a program. Wayne volunteered to come up with one. The August meeting will be back at SOKOL Hall. September's meeting location is unknown at this time as Grapevine is not available. October's meeting TBD, but November will be in Grapevine for the annual member auction. The December meeting will be the annual Christmas party to be held at Babe's in Frisco since the Carrollton location is already booked. He passed around his recently received membership renewal card from the Galveston RR Museum showing a nice picture of a steam engine and also showed an article in Classic Trains on three 4-4-0 engines that worked in Texas on the MKT, Frisco and Southern Pacific (TX & New Orleans). There were also several pictures of Dallas streetcars in operation.

VP-Trips & Events and National Director Skip Waters talked about the Allen Library event. The chapter needs to provide at least 1 member there to represent us, hand out membership forms and sell books. President Wayne will be there and Secretary Dave Gramm will also attend. Anyone else who would like to come is invited to attend and help out. We need to promote our book sales in the area as well as in Houston, Waco and the surrounding area. We also need to put an ad in the Southern Pacific Historical Society's newsletter. The NMRA/LSR convention is in Arlington in two weeks and member Dave Podhrasky will take books there to sell.

Skip reported on our recent event, '24 Hours @ Saginaw'. There were 95 registered attendees with several others who attended but didn't register. Due to the recent heavy rains, the train count was its lowest at 33 trains, since Houston was flooded and there was little traffic to or from there. He thanked the chapter members who assisted including Bob Kennedy for handling registration, Jerry Nunn providing water and other items, Tom Cox for handling the night shift, Dave Gramm for making the attendance buttons, Wayne for handling the silent auction and others the secretary missed. Overall, the event was a success with the BNSF police force providing some early entertainment with a display and demonstration of one of their K-9 explosive sniffer dogs. Skip also showed some of the video selfie ad spots he generated in the week leading up to and during the event that were posted on Facebook and YouTube.

To round out the evening, Skip showed off Amilia, the membership program we are now using. He is on the planning committee regarding its use and used his login to check the member accounts of those members in attendance for correctness



of data. All members will ultimately be able to log in themselves and add or correct their own data at 'http://amilia.com/clients/en/nrhs/'. Meeting adjourned at 9:50pm. Dave Gramm, Secretary

Chapter Directory

North Texas Chapter Officers, 2016.

- **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

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Webmaster: Kim Hays

North Texas Chapter site: ntxnrhs.org

Facebook Page:

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

North Texas Zephyr, chapter newsletter Archive

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

Press time: 6/21/2016. Filename2016_07 NTx Newsletter v4

North Texas Chapter History

Founded and chartered in 1996, the North Texas 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 "Founders Building" at Main St. and the FWWR railroad tracks. Visitors and newcomers are welcome. Chapter membership includes our monthly chapter newsletter, the *North Texas Zephyr*. As of October 2014, chapter dues (\$16, plus \$2 per additional family member) should be sent to the Chapter. Chapter mailing address: North Texas Chapter NRHS, P.O. Box 600304, Dallas, Texas 75360. National organization 2015 dues are paid to the NRHS directly. Learn about the National Railway Historical Society at www.nrhs.com If you change your email address on file with the NRHS, please send the old and new email addresses to info@nrhs.com.

North Texas Calendar

Tues. July 5, 2016.	North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m. Location: Founders Building, Grapevine, Texas. Program: Wayne Smith's Choice.
Tues. Aug. 2, 2016.	North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m. Location: Sokol Hall, Dallas, Texas. Program: NRHS National Conference recap.
Tues. Sept. 6, 2016.	North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m. Location: to be confirmed. Program: to be confirmed.
Tues. Oct. 4, 2016.	North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m. Location: to be confirmed. Program: to be confirmed.
Tues. Nov. 1, 2016.	North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m. Founders Building, Grapevine, Texas. Program: Annual Chapter auction.
Tues. Dec. 6, 2016.	North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m. Location: Babe's Chicken Dinner House Frisco. 6475 Page St. Frisco, Texas 75034. Program: Annual Holiday Dinner.

** Meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. Location is confirmed in newsletter issue(s) prior to meeting month.




New Southern Pacific Book – Sponsored by North Texas Chapter!

The North Texas Chapter is proud to sponsor David Bernstein's new work on the Southern Pacific's Eastern Lines.

To order, contact the North Texas Chapter at northtexaschapternrhs@gmail.com

or see North Texas Chapter store (<http://ntxnrhs.org/store/>)

NEW  **BOOK**

Announcing a new book published by the North Texas Chapter, NRHS
written by David M. Bernstein!

Southern Pacific's Eastern Lines 1946 - 1996

Southern Pacific's Eastern Lines 1946-1996

Written by David M. Bernstein, former Southern Pacific train dispatcher and officer, this 400 page book is illustrated with color and black & white photographs and numerous maps. It is the definitive guide to the operation and history of S.P. Lines in Texas and Louisiana from the end of World War II until the Union Pacific merger.

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