



VALLI HOSKI, NORTH TEXAS NEWS EDITOR

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**Chapter Meeting**

**Tuesday, May 1, 2018 – Grapevine Founders Building**

*When:* 7:30 pm meeting.  
*Where:* 705 South Main Street, Grapevine, Texas 76051.  
*Parking:* Free.  
*Program:* The History Channel "Locomotion - The Amazing World of Trains" Vol. 1: Engines Of Enterprise. Provided by Sam Metzgar.

**Special Features**

**Registration Now Open – NRHS Convention, Cumberland MD**

Wishing for the 2018 NRHS Convention (August 7-12,2018)? Registration is now open ! See the *NRHS News & Views* section of this issue (p. 3) for details.

**13<sup>th</sup> Annual 24 Hours @ Saginaw – May 25-26, 2018**

IT'S TIME TO WATCH SOME TRAINS!!! It will be here before you know it!!!

Dates are confirmed with the Saginaw Chamber for the 13th Annual "24 Hours @ Saginaw" 2018!

**7:00pm Friday, May 25th through 7:00pm Saturday, May 26<sup>th</sup>**

**Depot on Main Street in Saginaw, Texas.**

New items are planned. The silent auction returns for your favorite rail items. Our friends of New Mexico have a repeat presentation,, and a special guest from Southern California. We have new Trivia Questions!! Expect the usual great programs and fun activities to keep you busy for 24 Hours... and oh yeah.. TRAIN WATCHING!!!!

So mark your calendars and get your lawn chairs ready (sleeping bags too), it's TIME TO WATCH SOME TRAINS... IT'S "SAGINAW TIME!!"

Join the "24 Hours @ Saginaw" Facebook page for the latest updates <https://www.facebook.com/24hoursatSaginaw>

PRESENTERS: We are now accepting presenters who would like to put on a program for this year's event. Please email me off list to: [wgcrush@swbell.net](mailto:wgcrush@swbell.net) to be on the schedule.It can be slides, video, digital, live presentation, clinic, exhibits... it just has to be about trains and railroads.

Whatever it is... It's time to show it and IT'S TIME TO WATCH SOME TRAINS! Skip Waters, 13th Annual "24 Hours @ Saginaw" 2018, Chairman.

North Texas Chapter, NRHS. [www.ntxnrhs.org](http://www.ntxnrhs.org)

P.S Also accepting gifts for door prizes! If you have some to offer, please contact Skip directly.

(Source: 4/27/2018, <https://www.facebook.com/24hoursatSaginaw/> .)

## ***Rail Scenes along the Southwest Way***

by Norm Schultze, guest writer (Photo credit: Norm Schultze)

*Editor's note:* Many thanks to Dale Jacobson for sharing the photography of Norm Schultze (below). Dale's travelogues along the Amtrak way appear often in the *North Texas Zephyr*, newsletter of the North Texas Chapter NRHS.

### ***North Texas Eagle***



(Above) Train # 22, northbound *Texas Eagle* at Kyle (Texas). The local freight was in the hole awaiting its passage.

### ***Texas Pacifico***

The *Texas Pacifico* runs from San Angelo Junction to Alpine now, but work is under way to repair and upgrade the line south to the Mexican border at Presidio. Still to be done is the rebuilding of the International Bridge which burned some years ago. These days, the leased GP38s shuffle sand cars in the yard, and not a reporting mark on them except the large CIT Logo.



(Above) This is Fort Stockton (Texas) and the railroad is the *Texas Pacifico*. There are cars of frac sand everywhere, being part of the Permian Basin oil patch. It takes several million pounds of frac sand to open up each well.

## Valley Metro

Valley Metro, the light rail system that runs from Phoenix through Mesa and Tempe uses light rail vehicles built by Kinki-Sharyo. Arizona requires that 1% of the cost of transit projects be used for public art. As a result, the stations are stunning. The stations may have sculpture, mosaics or murals.



(Above) Valley Metro, Mesa, Arizona.

One such installation of public art is titled “Drawing Room” by Ralph Helmicks and is at the Valley Metro station at Center and Main Streets in Mesa (Arizona). A fifty foot tall conical tower comprised of the silhouettes of community members cut from sheets of stainless steel. It is also illuminated at night.

## National News and Views

### Registration Now Open – 2018 NRHS Convention, August 7-12.

The 2018 NRHS Convention will take place from August 7th through the 12th in Cumberland, MD. Tickets for all convention events are now on sale. Convention events include:

- **Wednesday, August 8:** Wild Heart of West Virginia Trip. Visit both the Durbin & Greenbrier Valley Railroad in Cass, WV, and the Cheat Mtn. Salamander Connector diesel-powered trip.
- **Thursday, August 9:** Seminars and Meetings held at the hotel.
- **Friday, August 10:** All day excursion on the Potomac Eagle Scenic Railroad and a night photo session at the Potomac Eagle Scenic Railroad.
- **Saturday, August 11:** All day steam-powered excursion on the Everett Railroad, in Hollidaysburg, PA and the Annual Banquet.
- **Sunday, August 12:** Diesel-powered excursion on the Western Maryland Scenic Railroad.

Complete convention event details and registration can be found on the NRHS website at [www.nrhs.com](http://www.nrhs.com) or by using the links below.

- [2018 NRHS Convention Registration Booklet](#)
- [2018 NRHS Convention Mail-In Registration Order Form](#)
- [2018 NRHS Convention On-Line Registration](#) (regonline.com to order all convention tickets)

Join us in Cumberland, Maryland! The 2018 NRHS Convention Committee  
(Source: 4/25/2018, NRHS email.)





## ***NRHS Member Update, May 2018***

by Al Weber, President, National Railway Historical Society

On March 28, 2018, Richard Anderson, President and Chief Executive Officer of Amtrak announced a policy change (see below). This change is both new and unexpected. I and many others have been working to get clarification and changes to this policy. Here is the policy as Amtrak delivered it to their employees.

### ***Policy Changes***

To all Amtrak employees:

Amtrak must operate a safe and reliable schedule for our customers. Our mission from Congress is clear: safely and efficiently operate our trains on schedule while minimizing federal subsidies. Therefore, we have implemented two significant changes in our business lines that are consistent with these two principles.

#### *Charters and Special Trains*

Generally, Amtrak will no longer operate charter services or special trains. These operations caused significant operational distraction, failed to capture fully allocated profitable margins and sometimes delayed our paying customers on our scheduled trains. There may be a few narrow exceptions to this policy in order to support specific strategic initiatives, for example trial service in support of growing new scheduled service. Otherwise, one-time trips and charters are immediately discontinued. We must narrow our focus to running a great core railroad: safe, on time, clean cars, friendly service and great customer-facing technology.

#### *Automatic Discounts*

Amtrak has eliminated distribution agreements with private company membership clubs which obtain significant discounts for free from Amtrak and then charge fees to their members for use of the Amtrak discount rates. Instead, we will use our revenue management system to sell targeted discounts to our customers throughout the year.

This week we are running a big Spring Sale to drive ridership through Amtrak.com. Please note that we continue our statutory discount programs for the disabled and seniors; we also have a generous discount program for active duty military members and their families.

Thank you, and please be safe.

Richard Anderson

President and Chief Executive Officer Amtrak

This new direction significantly affects many of our chapters that have Amtrak excursions with private cars or run special trains. It also affects operations of private trains. Organizations may not be able to get cars for their special trains (seasonal trains, holiday trains, etc) as Amtrak will most likely not move the cars to their location. The new policy has already affected several special trains and car movements.

Many chapters promote railroad history by running special trains for the general public. Chapters also add private cars on normal Amtrak trains for chapter sponsored trips. These might not be available due to the policy change.

I urge you to have your chapter contact not only Amtrak but your US Congress Senators and Representatives expressing your opinion on this change.

Due to these efforts we have received a commitment from Amtrak to run one special train that had been told previously that it was canceled for 2018.

As always please feel free to contact me or any officer. Al Weber <[aweber@nrhs.com](mailto:aweber@nrhs.com)>

(Source: 4/23/18, *NRHS Telegraph*, May 2018 issue.)



## Chapter Directory

### North Texas Chapter Officers, 2018.

- **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](mailto:ntx.news@yahoo.com)
- **Secretary, Jerry Nunn**
- **Treasurer, Jim King**, [igking@swbell.net](mailto:igking@swbell.net)

**Webmaster:** Kim Hays, [kimhays516@gmail.com](mailto:kimhays516@gmail.com)

### Chapter Business Address

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

**Chapter Email:** [northtexaschapternrhs@gmail.com](mailto:northtexaschapternrhs@gmail.com)

**North Texas Chapter site:** <https://ntxnrhs.org/>

**Facebook Page:** <http://www.facebook.com/groups/409467244127/>

**North Texas Zephyr** (current issues): <https://ntxnrhs.org/>

**North Texas Zephyr, newsletter Archive**

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

Publication date: 4/27/2018. Filename: 2018\_05 NTx Newsletter v3.doc

## 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. Visitors and newcomers are welcome. Chapter membership includes our monthly chapter newsletter, the *North Texas Zephyr*.

Currently, chapter dues are \$16, plus \$2 per additional family member. Payment may be made by check or paid online. By check - Mail a check payable to "North Texas Chapter NRHS" for \$16 (individual) or \$18 (family) and mail it to North Texas Chapter NRHS, PO Box 600304, Dallas TX, 75360. If your check does not clearly indicate who the member is, please add a note with the member's name. Online - Visit the chapter's on-line store at <https://northtexaschapternrhs.ecwid.com/> to pay by credit card or PayPal. A small service charge (50 cents for individuals, 75 cents for families) is added to your dues payment to cover processing fees. Chapter mailing address: North Texas Chapter NRHS, P.O. Box 600304, Dallas, Texas 75360. Learn about the National Railway Historical Society at [www.nrhs.com](http://www.nrhs.com)

## North Texas Calendar

- Tues. May 1, 2018 **North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m.** *Location:* Grapevine Founders Building, 705 South Main Street, Grapevine, Texas. *Program:* The History Channel "Locomotion - The Amazing World of Trains" Vol. 1: *Engines Of Enterprise*. Provided by Sam Metzgar..
- Tues. June 5, 2018 **North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m.** *Location:* to be confirmed. *Program:* to be confirmed.
- Tues. July 3, 2018 **North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m.** *Location:* to be confirmed. *Program:* to be confirmed.
- Tues. August 7, 2018 **North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m.** *Location:* Grapevine Founders Building, 705 South Main Street, Grapevine, Texas. *Program:* to be confirmed.
- Tues. September 4, 2018 **Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m.** *Location:* to be confirmed. *Program:* to be confirmed.
- Tues. October 2, 2018 **North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m.** *Location:* to be confirmed. *Program:* to be confirmed.
- Tues. November 6, 2018 **North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m.** *Location:* to be confirmed. *Program:* to be confirmed.
- Tues. December 4, 2018 **North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m.** *Location:* to be confirmed. *Program:* to be confirmed.

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