



VALLI HOSKI, NORTH TEXAS NEWS EDITOR

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Chapter Meeting

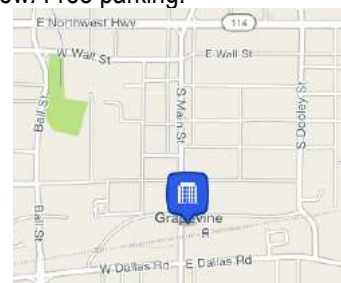
Tuesday, August 7, 2018. Founders Building, Grapevine.

When: 7:30 pm meeting.

Where: **Grapevine Founders Building**, 705 South Main St. Grapevine, Texas

Program: “Texas Steam Treasures” provided by member Sam Metzgar.

Location map below. Free parking.



Special Features

24 Hours @ Saginaw, 2018 – Memories (part 2)

by Jerry Nunn (all photo credit: Jerry Nunn)

Jerry’s great ‘photographic’ memory of Saginaw continues with views and news below. (See July 2018 Zephyr for part 1)



Above: Southbound Heartland Flyer passing early Saturday afternoon. This time the Veteran’s Unit cab car is in the lead.



Left: NRHS member and Amtrak engineer Don Novak is at the controls..

Right: Here's Don! After he arrived at the Ft. Worth station and tied up his train, he spent some time at the event.



Above left: Saturday afternoon, Matthew and his video equipment retreated to a shady sanctuary from the sun. Matthew and friends engage in a conversation, shielded from roasting rays of Helios.



Above center: Steve Grabman and other video presenters provided informative and entertaining programs throughout the event.



Above right: Member Sam Metzgar. Sam emceed the rail trivia games, created questions to test the audience's knowledge of rail-related current and historical facts.



Left: The conference room - where video presenters showed their movies and slideshows, and attendees had an opportunity to participate in rail trivia games. Along the walls Wayne Smith had arranged items for the silent auction. The conference room also functioned as a cooling station for those seeking relief from the heat.



Above: Two KCS Southern Belles lead a southbound freight by the Saginaw depot. In my opinion, the Southern Belle paint scheme is one of the most pleasing contemporary paint schemes on the rails.



Above: BNSF 3192, a GP50 still in "Santa Fe" blue and yellow and genset 1227 amble by the depot on a light engine move.

Weekend Outing to Williams Grove RR

by Valli Hoski, North Texas Editor

Railroading, steam equipment, frozen custard and family history – and only 15 miles from home! On July 22, Harry and I explored the Williams Grove Railroad that operates as part of the Williams Grove Historical Steam Engine Association. Here's a bit of WGHSEA history:



Source: Williams Grove Railroad web site at <http://pr643.wixsite.com/wgrr1/about>. Last accessed 7/29/1018.

"The WGHSEA was founded in 1959 to preserve and operate historic steam powered equipment. Its vision has since expanded to include historical machinery of all types. In 1961 steam locomotive #5 was purchased by the WGHSEA from the defunct operations of Phoenix Iron and Steel Company in Harrisburg, PA. This locomotive, originally built by the Pennsylvania Railroad, became the backbone of the WGHSEA's railroad operations. When it's original number was rediscovered the #5 once again became the #643. 643 remains our pride and joy. The WGRR operates for key events during the WGHSEA's annual calendar, as well as for special events and other scheduled weekends."

But wait, there's more! Williams Grove, PA has an important role in Harry's family history. The Williams Grove Amusement Park (now closed) was a long-time favorite outing for local families – picnics, merry-go-round, rides, fun house, tilt-a-whirl, ballroom, and a frozen custard stand that would determine my Harry's future. Mary, a local, educated and nice young lady, met Harry (to be Sr.) at the custard stand, back in the 1930s. Time went on, Harry and Mary got married had a little family. Their middle child is Harry (Jr.), who is my guy! Frozen custard stand's gone, as are Harry (Jr.)'s parents, but the family is still nice, growing with a good crop of grandkids. Harry and I still enjoy frozen custard, railroads, and merry-go-rounds.



Left above: Glimpse of former amusement park



Right above: WGRR ticket office. Here be trains!



Left above: Will 643 go out today or won't she?



Right above: Looks like she's got her best face on!



Left above: Loading up for the next trip.



Right above: Here we are, back already!

Read more about the Williams Grove Steam Engine Historical Association – its history, steam equipment (not limited to rail) and operations at <https://www.wghsea.org/>. Williams Grove is located about 15 miles north of Gettysburg PA.



National News and Views

NRHS 2018 and 2019 Conventions – Update

by John Goodman, NRHS Convention Chair

While the 2018 “Cumberland Rails 2018” convention is coming up Tuesday-Sunday, Aug. 7-12 in Cumberland, Md., it’s not too early to think about making plans to attend the 2019 Utah convention, with headquarters in Salt Lake City, Utah.

2019 Convention Hotel and Events

The NRHS has signed a contract for hotel space at the Radisson-Downtown hotel on South Temple in Salt Lake City for next year. The nightly rate is \$149 plus tax. The hotel normally charges a \$15 nightly rate for parking of an automobile. This charge will be waived for NRHS members. The Radisson hotel phone number is 801-531-7500. You must tell the clerk that you are part of the National Railway Historical Society group. This is the only way to get this very low group rate.

Planned meetings and events:

- *Tuesday, May 7, 2019*, the convention will start, with the registration room opening in the afternoon.
- *Wednesday, May 8* will be all day at the hotel for meetings. The Advisory Council will meet in the morning. Then, after a lunch break, the Board of Directors’ meeting will take place. The Membership Meeting will follow the Board of Directors’ meeting.
- *Thursday and Friday, May 9-10*, will find attendees in Ogden (Thursday) and in Promontory Summit (Friday) at the National Park where the Sesquicentennial 150th birthday party for Union Pacific will take place.
- *Saturday, May 11*, we are planning a private charter train over the Heber Valley Railroad at Heber, Utah.

2018 Convention Update

While many of the events for the 2018 convention are sold out, there is still space on some trips. Also, the Western Maryland Scenic Railroad (WMSR) will offer a short rare mileage train trip and shop tour for Sunday, Aug. 12. The trip will go from the Cumberland Station to the WMSR yard. At the yard, we will be given a guided tour of the yard and shops. You will be able to view from the ground the railroad’s extra passenger equipment. We will also see the ongoing restoration work being done to steam locomotive WM No. 1309. See the updated Convention Registration Booklet for more information.

Visit <http://nrhs.com/content/2018-convention> . (Source: NRHS News, August 2018 issue.)

NRHS President’s Corner, August 2018

by Al Weber, President, National Railway Historical Society

Chapter Newsletters

I get and read 33 chapter newsletters. Some are monthly; some bimonthly; and some are four times a year. The chapter newsletters give me an insight into local events and concerns. I enjoy reading every one of them, so keep them coming. Many chapters, over the last few years, have gone from printed to electronic format for newsletters. They have the same concerns of what to do for members who do not or cannot “do” computers. Some chapters still print and mail newsletters to those members, but many are asking other chapter members if they will print out a copy to share with a non-computer user. The other choice is to charge the member for a printed copy, in addition to their chapter dues, to cover the printing and postage.

We ALL need to thank each and every editor of the newsletters. It is one of the most demanding jobs in a chapter and takes much time and work. When a chapter loses its editor, the members lose one of the links that holds a chapter together. So the next time you see your chapter editor, thank him (or her) for all they do.

Indiana Transportation Museum - Noblesville, Ind.

The Indiana Transportation Museum (ITM) lost its lease on March 1, 2018. Many of the locomotives, passenger cars and other rail equipment were saved, but some had to be scrapped. The group is moving what it can to Logansport and hopes to be in operation soon.

Letters to your elected Representatives in Congress

With all the changes in Amtrak policy, I have been encouraging you to write your representatives in Congress. Many of you have, and I thank you for taking the time to write.



If we want to see private trains, we need to tell our elected representatives now. I get letters and communications from Congress on the subject, so I know we have their attention. With the announced plans to truncate the Southwest Chief route and replace it with buses, we need to get those letters going now. If the train stops in Dodge City, Kan., and buses are used for the ride to Albuquerque N.M., how long do you think the rest of the route will be by rail? Another item is that Amtrak will no longer run special, one-off or charter trains. All our mainline trips are really Amtrak trips even if they do not touch any Amtrak route or station. I know this sounds funny but it has to do with the mainline railroad companies wanting Amtrak to help with the insurance requirement. So write the letters and tell the elected officials what you think of the Amtrak plans, please.

Membership Updates and Questions

We have set up a special email address for you to send in your membership updates and questions. It is . You can still log on to your account off the web page and do your own update, but if you have any problems or just do not feel that you can make the change, just email us with your question or update to . As always if you want to contact me, please use

aweber@nrhs.com Al

(Source: 6/30/18, NRHS News, August 2018 issue.)

North Texas Chapter Views and News

Zephyr News Board

Updated Zephyr 2018 Deadlines

- **September 2018 issue** - News deadline is **Wed. August 22**. Meeting is Tuesday, September 4, 2018 (estimated).
- **October 2018 issue** - News deadline is **Saturday, September 22**. Meeting is Tuesday, October 2, 2018.
- **November 2018 issue** - News deadline is **Saturday, October 2**. Meeting is Tuesday, November 6, 2018.
- **December 2018 issue** - News deadline is **Monday, November 26**. Meeting is Tuesday, December 4, 2018 (estimated). Preliminary holiday dinner location is Babe's Frisco.
- **January 2019 issue** - News deadline is **Wednesday, December 26**. Meeting is Tuesday, January 8, 2019.

Chapter Business Meeting Minutes, July 2018

NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER, NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, MINUTES, DATE: July 10, 2018.

The meeting was held on Tuesday, July 10, 2018 at Sokol Hall in Dallas, TX. The meeting was delayed a week due to the July 4th holiday being the previous Wednesday. There were eight attendees.

- Vice President Jon Shea called the meeting to order at 7:44 PM.
- Jon provided for review a Bulletin of the Katy RR Historical Society, and a book on New Mexico railroads. Also, Sam Metzgar passed around a pamphlet from the Cotton Belt RR for review.
- Edwin Pegelow reported that he had recently been in contact with Steve Goen. Steve is making progress. Although he still must use a wheelchair to get around, he is still trying to be able to walk all the time.
- VP Valli Hoski, who will be attending the upcoming national convention, is requesting member comments and suggestions for national NRHS leadership. She will prepare a brief report for the fall issue of the Zephyr. The Chapter wishes to thank Val for all her hard work and her work on the Zephyr.
- Skip noted that the NRHS national convention in Cumberland, MD has sold out almost all planned tours. However, a new shop tour has been organized, and tickets may be available for that event. [*Editor's note*: see John Goodman's article n page 1 of this issue for more 2018 and 2019 convention details.]
- Skip urged all interested in the 2019 convention in Salt Lake City – Ogden to reserve their rooms now. The Radisson in Salt Lake City has a rate of \$149 per night for convention attendees. A block of 250 rooms recently sold out, but the hotel put another 100 up for the convention rate. But they are going fast. The rate is good from 05/04/2019 thru 05/14/2019 – 3 days before to 3 days after the convention. The rate also includes complimentary parking. If interested, contact the hotel at 801-531-7500, and tell them you are with the NRHS. (NOTE: At this point, it's anybody's guess if any of these rooms are still available.)
- The conventions begin on Tuesday 05/07/2019 with registration. Wednesday 05/08/2019 is the day for meetings. On Thursday 05/09/2019 the convention will travel to Ogden, UT to view the UP 844 and 4014. Friday 05/10/2019 is the reenactment of the Golden Spike Ceremony at the Promontory National Park site. There will be two events that day to



accommodate the large crowds expected. Estimates are that there will be about 15 thousand attendees. Saturday 05/11/2019 will feature a tour on the Heber Valley RR. There are two tours available. The banquet will take place that evening. Please refer to the national NRHS website for up to the minute updates and details.

- Update on the steam engine 503 in Port Arthur. Preservation efforts are stalled for now, but the engine is not scrapped.
- The Chapter has committed to host the November 2019 national Board meeting. We are looking at possibly having the attendees stay at the Magnolia Hotel at the Mockingbird DART station.
- Bob Kennedy has been in contact with the Plano city officials regarding the Plano Interurban Museum. Curator Robert Haynes was under contract with the city, and it got to the point that the city felt his services were no longer required; hence, his contract was not renewed. Negotiations are ongoing regarding the contents of the museum.
- Bob Kennedy also donated 120 VHS tapes to the North Texas Chapter to be used in its fund raising efforts. Thanks so much, Bob!
- The next item of discussion was the Plano Train Show scheduled in September. The Chapter gets one free table to display and sell items. The attendees vote to pay an additional \$27.50 to secure a second table to display the SP books, VHS tapes, etc.
- Skip expressed concern regarding a slide show on evening of the show. Because of his other commitments, he is unable to be at the Taco Joint at 6 PM for the start of the slide show. However, Jon Shea, Bob Kennedy, and Jerry Nunn will get the equipment to the location and manage the slide show. So the show will go on.
- Due to the multitude of discussion items, the business meeting extended past the anticipated conclusion. Therefore, the evening's program was not given. Instead, Dave Podransky showed about a half hour of a program on US steam trains.
- Next month's meeting will take place on Tuesday, August 7th at the Grapevine RR Museum. Member Sam Metzgar will provide the program, "Texas Steam Treasures".

The meeting adjourned around 9 PM. Jerry M. Nunn, Secretary, North Texas Chapter, National Railway Historical Society

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**, wgcush@swbell.net.
- **Vice President/Communications, and NTZ editor, Valli Hoski**, ntx.news@yahoo.com
- **Secretary, Jerry Nunn**
- **Treasurer, Jim King**, jkking@swbell.net

Webmaster: Kim Hays, kimhays516@gmail.com

Chapter Business Address

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

Chapter Email: 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.gogeocaching.com/gorailfanning/Home/northtexaszephyr.html>

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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



North Texas Calendar

- Tues. August 7, 2018 **North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m.** *Location:* Grapevine Founders Building, 705 South Main Street, Grapevine, Texas. *Program:* “Texas Steam Treasures” provided by member Sam Metzgar.
- Tues. September 4, 2018 **North 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:* Babe’s Chicken restaurant, Frisco. *Program:* Annual Holiday Dinner.
- Tues. January 8, 2019 **North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m.** *Location:* to be confirmed. *Program:* Annual Chapter Election.
- Tues. February 5, 2019 **North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m.** *Location:* to be confirmed. *Program:* to be confirmed.
- Tues. March 5, 2019 **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.*