



**NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER, NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
**NORTH TEXAS ZEPHYR NEWSLETTER**  
**SEPTEMBER 2019, VOLUME 24, ISSUE 7**



**VALLI HOSKI, NORTH TEXAS NEWS EDITOR**

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**Chapter Meeting**

**Tuesday, Sept. 10, 2019. Spring Creek Barbeque, Grapevine, Texas.**

**Time:** 7:30 p.m. .

**Location:** Spring Creek Barbeque, 315 State Highway, 114W, Grapevine, Texas.

**Program:** Sam Metzgar, 'Tarantula Express'

**Location map:** <https://goo.gl/maps/nbsPPwNjHbcaN8FC8>



**Special Features**

**2019 North Texas Chapter Officers**

The August Chapter meeting had a delightful surprise – all chapter officers were in-town and present. Here are your 2019 chapter officers with smiles all 'round.



Left to right: Secretary, Jerry Nunn. VP Trips and Events, Skip Waters. President, Wayne Smith. VP Communications, Valli Hoski. VP Programs, Jon Shea. Treasurer, Bob Kennedy.

## Fall Plano Train Show, October 12, 2019

The North Texas Council of Rail Clubs is happy to announce the fifth annual **Fall Plano Train Show** is being held at the Plano Event Center Saturday October 12th, 2019. Hours 9am-5pm Saturday. 2000 East Spring Creek Parkway. Go East from Central Expressway (Exit 31).

Admission \$10.00 per person Children 12 and under are FREE. Sorry, we can only accept cash at the door. There will be a full schedule of clinics. Many home layouts will be on tour. Have questions or if you would like your layout added to the fall tour, please contact Chris Atkins at [chris@railroadmodelers.com](mailto:chris@railroadmodelers.com).

Also, be sure to mark your 2020 calendars for the January 18-19, 2020 **Dallas Area Train Show**. A full 2 day event full of clinics, displays, vendors as well as the popular home layout tours.

Source: DFW Train Shows web site at <http://dfwtrainshows.com/> last accessed on August 18, 2019.

## Station Scene along the Way – St. Ignace, Michigan

The Mackinac Transportation Company (MTC) was a joint venture founded in 1881 by three separate railroads, the [Detroit, Mackinac and Marquette Railroad](#), the [Grand Rapids and Indiana Railroad](#), and the [Michigan Central](#). For twelve-month service, the railroads connected their three railheads located in [Mackinaw City, Michigan](#) and [St. Ignace, Michigan](#).

The MTC purchased various rail ferries, starting with the *SS Algomah*. However, the *Algomah* was too light to break ice effectively. The *St. Ignace* was built with a propeller at her bow to break ice ahead of the hull, and entered service in April 1888. In October 1911, the company's largest and first steel-hulled vessel, the 26-railcar [SS Chief Wawatam](#), entered service.

In 1916, MTC began carrying automobile traffic, with vehicles loaded onto railcars for the passage. Limited capacity and high rates led to public dissatisfaction that culminated in 1923 in the introduction of state-run car ferries across the strait. Rail passenger traffic declined, and eventually ended in August 1955 when the last passenger train departed Mackinaw City. *Chief Wawatam* continued to operate until August 1984, when a wall collapsed at the St. Ignace dock, making it unusable.<sup>[7]</sup> The ship was laid up awaiting a decision from the state regarding the future of the service, until in 1986 the [Soo Line Railroad](#) abandoned the unused railroad to the St. Ignace docks—shortly thereafter the tracks to the Mackinaw City were also removed and *Chief Wawatam* was sold in 1988 for conversion into a barge.

Source for article text: Wikipedia contributors. (2018, April 4). Mackinac Transportation Company. In *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Retrieved 03:26, August 19, 2019, from [https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Mackinac\\_Transportation\\_Company&oldid=834238805](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Mackinac_Transportation_Company&oldid=834238805)



Above: St. Ignace, MI. Carried rail cars over the Straits of Mackinac to Mackinaw City until the suspension bridge was built in 1957. Now the dock is used for the ferry to the resort of Mackinac Island. [Photo credit: Jon Shea]



## Ding, ding! Meet Me @ the M-Line!

by Jerry Nunn (all article and photo credit)

The program for the July 9, 2019 meeting of the North Texas Chapter of the NRHS was a ride on the McKinney Avenue Trolley (M-Line) in Dallas, Texas. The trolley line is an “up-and-back” path across the Uptown section of Dallas. It takes about 50 minutes for the trolley to complete its circuit.

*Right:* Chapter meeting attendees (left to right) included Robert Haynes, Jon Shea, Skip Waters, several visitors, and Sam Metzgar (far right). Not shown are photographer Jerry Nunn and Lynda Nunn.



Above left: M-Line Trolley 186 arrives at the Uptown station. Upon arrival, all passengers disembark.

Attendees met at the McKinney Avenue Trolley Uptown Station, which is the originating station for the trolley's run. There were nine attendees, including special guest Robert Haynes, formerly with the Plano Interurban Museum. The group boarded the trolley about 8 PM, and returned to the station about 8:50 PM.

*Bottom right:* Then the motorman and conductor activate an outside control panel to turn the trolley, and once again begin its circular journey



## North Texas Rail News

### Trinity Metro & TEXRail Roll Out More Service with Spike!

As announced by Trinity Metro, TEXRail, the new commuter rail line in Tarrant County, will extend from downtown Fort Worth, northeast through North Richland Hills to downtown Grapevine, and then into DFW International Airport. The commuter route will have a corridor length of approximately 27 miles and provide direct access to all activity centers operating on the following existing tracks: Fort Worth & Western, Burlington Northern Santa Fe, Union Pacific railroads, and the former Cotton Belt route now owned by DART. Nine stations will include ticket vending, covered seating, lighting, security cameras. The anticipated addition of the 'Spike' locomotive equipment in 2019 will enable additional service for the line.



### Spike's blog: All about TEXRail's newest train

My name is Spike, and I'm the latest addition to the TEXRail family. You might have heard about my participation in the grand opening for the Stadler U.S. plant in Salt Lake City. I was proud to represent Trinity Metro and to showcase the sleek TEXRail design while celebrating Stadler's success – and the 150th anniversary of the Golden Spike. That's when the ceremonial golden spike was driven to join the rails of the first Transcontinental Railroad on May 10, 1869. For those of you who have already ridden TEXRail, you know that the TEXRail fleet is unlike any other in the United States. The Swiss design makes for a smooth, comfortable ride in a bidirectional train. That's definitely a different look for trains in Texas.



During the planning phase, Trinity Metro made some modifications to the original design to make sure I'd feel right at home in the Lone Star State. People in the Metroplex like to ride their bikes. But snow ski in Texas? Not so much. That meant replacing the ski racks with vertical bike racks. Another good idea was to be egalitarian with one class of transport for everyone. So they replaced the first class car with a quiet car, giving riders a chance to relax and unplug. If you haven't tried TEXRail yet, I hope you will soon. I'm going to hang out in Utah just a bit longer, and then I'll be headed to Texas. Can't wait to meet y'all!

Source: <https://ridetrinitymetro.org/textrail/> accessed August 22, 2019.



## ***DART and Dallas Keep Streetcar Roles on Track***

The Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) Board agreed at their July meeting to implement a Master Streetcar Interlocal Agreement between DART and the City of Dallas that establishes Dallas Streetcar roles and responsibilities. The agreement is needed to consolidate existing contracts and to outline responsibilities related to the planning, design, construction, procurement, operations and maintenance of the Dallas Streetcar, now and in the future.



**Above: The Dallas Streetcar is a featured attraction at the Fall 2019 NRHS Conference in November!**

(Photo credit: DART at [https://dart.org/ShareRoot/images/newsroom/Jpgs/DallasStreetcarBridgeCrossingNight\\_jul2015.jpg](https://dart.org/ShareRoot/images/newsroom/Jpgs/DallasStreetcarBridgeCrossingNight_jul2015.jpg))

Project Specific Amendments would be presented to the DART Board for approval related to scope, schedule and funding sources for studies or projects that would become part of the streetcar system. The agreement's approval now goes to the Dallas City Council for approval later this summer. The City's responsibilities, as the streetcar owner, will include project scope, planning funding, grant management, design and construction funding, utility relocations, operations and maintenance, and streetcar vehicle funding. DART would be the technical advisor/owner representative responsible for planning, environmental and preliminary design, final design, procurement construction, operations and maintenance, system safety and fare collection. *Source: 7/10/2019 DART Press Release at <https://dart.org/news/news.asp?ID=1412>*



## North Texas Chapter News

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### ***Call for Chapter Volunteers, Fall Conference, Nov. 7-10, 2019***

The North Texas Chapter of the NRHS will be hosting a National Board Meeting November 7-10, 2019. The meetings and the banquet will take place at the Magnolia Hotel Dallas Park Cities. The Chapter will host reception at SMU, as well as three rail tours.

We are in need of volunteers to assist with these matters. How many? Right now in late August, we aren't sure exactly how many are needed. We are starting with a list of interested individuals who are members of North Texas Chapter. If the need for more arises, another volunteer call will be made. If you are a member of the Chapter and are interested, please contact one of the Chapter officers, and we will put you on the list.

What will volunteers do? Volunteers may help the conference with the below [and more] ...

- Set up the registration booth
- Assist with registration and give informational handouts to the participants.
- On-board guides / hosts for the excursion rail tours.
- Assist spouses, guests or other visitors who do not wish to participate in the meetings or rail related functions. Tell them about alternative activities and attractions, such location and distances to shopping, museums, local points of interest.

Thank you on behalf of all the chapter officers, Jerry M. Nunn. Secretary, North Texas Chapter, NRHS.

### ***Zephyr News Board***

Upcoming 2019 Zephyr deadlines are

- *September 2019 issue* - News deadline is Thursday, August 22. Meeting is Tuesday, September 10, 2019.
- *October 2019 issue* - News deadline is Monday, September 23. Meeting is Tuesday, October 1, 2019.
- *November 2019 issue* - News deadline is Monday, October 21. NRHS Fall Conference meeting is Sat. Nov. 9, 2019.
- *December 2019 issue* - News deadline is Thursday, November 21. Meeting is Tuesday, December 3, 2019.

### ***Chapter Meeting Minutes, August 6, 2019***

NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER, NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, MINUTES, DATE: August 6, 2019.

The August 2019 meeting of the North Texas Chapter of the NRHS was held on Tuesday, August 6 at Sokol Hall in Dallas, Texas. There were eleven attendees.

Chapter President Wayne Smith called the meeting to order at 7:45 PM. He recognized Harry and VP Communications Valli and her husband Harry, who were in town and able to attend.

DISCUSSION:

*President Wayne Smith:*

- Would like for the Chapter to take a field trip to the Burlington-Rock Island museum (B-RI) in Teague, TX to make donations. Volunteers would be needed; planning will take some time (a few months).
- The Chapter should offer to assist Sam Walls of the Cleburne Railroad Museum in developing a plaque to acknowledge the 100-year old Santa Fe locomotive No. 3417. A formal presentation is scheduled in Cleburne, TX on Saturday, October 19 from 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM, and the Chapter should have a presence.
- Chapter member Bill Frantz has been with the Chapter for 25 years. The Chapter should present Bill a certificate and 25-year pin, perhaps at the Christmas banquet.

*Treasurer Bob Kennedy:*

- Provided a copy of the Treasurer's report for the Secretary's files. The Chapter is solvent, and is expected to remain so.



*Dave Podhrasky:*

- The Fall Plano Train Show will be a one day event, Saturday, October 12. The Chapter will have only one table to sell books and provide handouts. Bob Kennedy will order membership forms for the train show.
- There is the need for volunteers to man the tickets booths and other tasks. A sign up sheet is available; check with one of the officers.
- There will be no slide show Saturday evening.

NATIONAL BOARD MEETING:

*VP Skip Waters:*

- Planning continues for the November National Board meeting. For those who wish to drive to the hotel, parking is free.
- The number of volunteers is being evaluated. As the planning moves forward, the number will be adjusted as required. In the meantime, the Chapter Secretary should draft a paragraph encouraging members from the North Texas Chapter to volunteer to help out in the meeting. [*Editor's note: see Volunteer Call notice in September issue.*]
- Although not yet done, there will be maps available to participants in the rail tour on Friday, November 8.
- To test how the train schedules may impact the logistics of the rail tour, VP Skip Waters, Treasurer Bob Kennedy, and Secretary Jerry Nunn will make a dry run of all the rail excursions on Friday, August 16. The findings and recommendations will be discussed at the next Chapter Board meeting.

*Secretary Jerry Nunn:*

- Jerry has discussed the possibility of getting paper Amtrak conductor hats (for attendee handouts) with the lead ticket agent at the Ft. Worth station. He will ask for 50 hats, and see if he can get that number.
- Jerry will be able to purchase tickets for the planned rail excursion. A single all day regional pass can be purchased in advance at the manned Trinity Metro kiosk located at the Ft. Worth Central Station (aka the Intermodal Transit Center – ITC). Cost is \$12 per pass and is non-refundable.

*VP Jon Shea:*

- The September meeting of the Chapter will be held on Tuesday, September 10 at the Spring Creek BBQ in Grapevine, beginning 7 PM. The meeting has been delayed for one week to avoid conflicting with the Labor Day holiday.
- The October meeting will take place at the Texas Western Model RR Club in Forest Hill, TX.
- The December meeting will be the annual Christmas banquet at the Babe's Chicken Dinner House in Frisco, TX.

*2020 National Convention:*

- The convention is scheduled for Fullerton, California. The hotel is in the Knotts Berry Farm. There is a discount rate, and guests will get a discount at the Knotts Berry Farm.
- Several tours, including the Orange County Museum, are planned. Details will be available on the National NRHS website as they come available.

The evening's program was a DVD of the Golden Spike Ceremony. The meeting adjourned following the conclusion of the program. Jerry M. Nunn, Secretary, North Texas Chapter NRHS.



## Chapter Directory

### North Texas Chapter Officers, 2019.

- **President**, Wayne Smith, 940-300-4407.
- **Vice President/Programs**, Jon Shea, 972-948-2413.
- **Vice President/Trips and Events**, Skip Waters, wgrush@swbell.net.
- **Vice President/Communications, and NTZ editor**, Valli Hoski, [ntx.news@yahoo.com](mailto:ntx.news@yahoo.com).
- **Secretary**, Jerry Nunn.
- **Treasurer**, Bob Kennedy.

**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**

<https://ntxnrhs.org/>

<http://www.gogecaching.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](http://www.nrhs.com)

## Chapter Calendar

Tues. <b>Sept. 10</b> , 2019	<b>North Texas Chapter meeting – 2d Tues in Sept, 7:30:pm.</b> Location: Spring Creek Barbecue, 315 State Highway, 114W, Grapevine, Texas. Program: Sam Metzgar, 'Tarantula Express'.
Tues. Oct. 1, 2019	<b>North Texas Chapter meeting.</b> Location: Spring Creek Barbecue, 315 State Highway, 114W, Grapevine, Texas. Program: The Western Pacific Railroad on TV.
Tues. Nov. 5, 2019	<b>North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m.</b> Location: Texas Western Model RR Club, 6808 Forest Hill Dr, Forest Hill, TX 76140. Phone: (682) 587-2092. Program: Annual Chapter Auction.
Nov. 7-10, 2019	<b>NRHS 2019 Fall Conference –</b> Location: Magnolia Hotel, Dallas, Texas.
Dec. 3, 2019	<b>North Texas Chapter holiday dinner –</b> Location: Babe's Chicken, 6475 Page Street, Frisco, Texas 75034 Tel. (214) 387-9500. <a href="http://www.babeschicken.com/our-kitchens/frisco/">http://www.babeschicken.com/our-kitchens/frisco/</a>
Jan. 7, 2020	<b>North Texas Chapter meeting.</b> Location tbd. Program: Annual Chapter Election.
Feb. 4, 2020	<b>North Texas Chapter meeting.</b> Location, Program tbd.





# 2019 Fall NRHS Conference Registration



## FALL 2019 NRHS CONFERENCE

November 7-10, 2019, Dallas, Texas  
 REGISTRATION FORM

(Return by October 1, 2019 to guarantee tickets)



Name \_\_\_\_\_ NRHS Member Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ (Cell) \_\_\_\_\_ (Other) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

### NAME TAG INFORMATION ( \_\_\_ Additional Names on Reverse)

Name (as preferred) \_\_\_\_\_  
 NRHS National or Chapter Office Title \_\_\_\_\_  
 Chapter Name & City/State \_\_\_\_\_

### EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

### CONFERENCE EVENTS

	Qty	x Cost	= Total
<b>Conference Registration</b> (1 per household)	_____	x \$50	_____
<b>Thursday, Nov 7</b> - SMU DeGolyer Library / NRHS National Archives	_____	x \$25	_____
<b>Friday, Nov 8</b> - (Part A) Tour DFW Transit/Commuter Rail / Lunch OYO	_____	x \$12	_____
(Part B-1) Visit Museum of the American Railroad & TrainTopia	_____	x \$49	_____
(Part B-2) Continue DFW Transit/Commuter Rail Tour	_____	x \$0 (w/Part A pass)	_____
(Part B-3) Tour Downtown area venues, return on DART	_____	x \$0 (w/Part A pass)	_____
<b>Saturday, Nov 9</b> - Banquet with Author/Speaker "Steve Allen Goen"	_____	x \$59	_____
Select meal: ___ Espresso-Rubbed Whole-Roasted Sirloin, ___ Lemon Basil Chicken Breast, ___ Grilled Coriander Salmon			
<b>Sunday, Nov 10</b> - Grapevine Vintage Railroad trip to FTW Stockyards	_____	x \$50	_____

Mail your completed form to:  
**North Texas Chapter, NRHS**  
**Attn: NRHS Fall 2019 Conference**  
**P.O. Box 600304**  
**Dallas, TX 75360**

**Total Enclosed =** \_\_\_\_\_

Please make payments payable to:  
**North Texas Chapter, NRHS**

PLEASE RETURN Conference Order by October 1st to guarantee tickets as some events are limited.



## 2019 Fall NRHS Conference Hotel

**MAKE RESERVATIONS directly with Hotel by October 1st to ensure the conference room rate!**

Host hotel is the **Magnolia Dallas Park Cities**  
6070 N Central Expressway, Dallas, TX 75206

**Make reservation requests by calling (888) 915-1110**

Group room rate is \$149 per night, S/D. For 3 or 4 guests - add \$10 per person.

Mention the "National Railway Historical Society" when booking a room.

**Hotel Booking Website: <https://book.passkey.com/e/49897156>**

### - List of Scheduled Events -

#### Thursday, November 7

Registration opens at 3pm. 6pm, attend a reception at the DeGolyer Library on the SMU Campus. This library holds the NRHS National archives. Learn about the collection and a chance to purchase duplicate books from their collection. Light food and beverages to be served. **Cost \$25.**

#### Friday, November 8

**(Part A)** Morning group tour of the DFW Transit/Commuter rail lines to include, DART, Trinity Railway Express, TEXRail, Dallas Streetcar. Lunch is OYO (on your own) in the historic Bishop Arts District via the Dallas Streetcar. **Afterwards, you will have 3 choices to enjoy your afternoon.**

**(Part B-1)** Tour the Museum of the American Railroad and TrainTopia Model Train Exhibit in Frisco, TX. Board a bus from Dallas Union Station (with a quick stop at Magnolia Hotel for extra passengers) and see BigBoy 4018 among other historic railroad passenger and freight equipment.

**(Part B-2)** Continue on the DFW Transit/Commuter rail tour via DART to ride Denton County Transit Authority's DMU cars, return via DART to hotel. **Use Part A DART pass to continue tour.**

**(Part B-3)** Stay downtown and see the local venues to include the PEROT Museum, JFK Sixth Floor Museum, Historic "OLD RED" Court House or ride the McKinney Avenue Trolley among other sights and sounds of downtown Dallas! **Use Part A DART pass to return to hotel.**

Upon return, we may have an evening program at the hotel and/or host the NRHS Fund meeting.

**Cost: \$12 for DART pass** for DFW Transit/Commuter Tour. **Additional \$49** for trip to Museum of the American Railroad and TrainTopia. To stay downtown is free, ride DART back to hotel when ready.

#### Saturday, November 9

Meeting Day for the Advisory Council and Board of Directors. Following the meetings will be a Banquet with an entertaining presentation by Author/Speaker "Steve Allen Goen" on Passenger Trains of Texas. You will not want to miss this! Cash Bar before meal. **Banquet cost: \$59.**

#### Sunday, November 10

Optional Day - Ride the Grapevine Vintage Railroad. Lunch OYO (on your own) in downtown Grapevine, then a Diesel trip from Grapevine to the Fort Worth Stockyards! Bus back to Dallas after a visit at the Stockyards. **Bus returns to Dallas about 5:15 pm. Cost: \$50**

**Transportation to Dallas** - Dallas is served by two major airports, DFW International and Love Field, both have access to DART light rail to the hotel. Amtrak's Texas Eagle arrives daily and also can transfer to DART light rail to the hotel. We have Uber and Lyft among other cab services available on demand. See link for Love Field access via DART light rail <https://www.dart.org/riding/lovefield.asp>

**Driving a car?** Parking at the hotel is complimentary. A multi-level garage is available in the back.

**Need More info** - Contact Skip Waters, Chairman at 214-987-2888 (leave message) or email at: [northtexaschapternrhs@gmail.com](mailto:northtexaschapternrhs@gmail.com). We welcome you to Dallas for a fun and successful Conference!