



VALLI HOSKI, NORTH TEXAS NEWS EDITOR

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Chapter Meeting

Tuesday, July 7, 2020. Sokol Hall, Dallas, Texas.

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Location: Sokol Hall, 7448 Greenville Ave, Dallas, TX 75231

Program: Lionel related video, provided by Sam Metzger.



Above: Dallas Streetcar (Photo credit: DART)

(Source: DART website at

https://dart.org/ShareRoot/images/newsroom/Jpgs/DallasStreetcarOnCaternary_jul2015.jpg . Last accessed June 9,2020.)

Special News & Features

San Diego's Historic Santa Fe Depot

by Wayne Smith, President, North Texas Chapter NRHS (All photo credit: Wayne Smith)

The historic Santa Fe Depot in downtown San Diego opened in 1915 and was built in the Spanish Colonial Revival style. The name was changed to San Diego Union Station when the San Diego and Arizona Railway arrived.

(Editor's note this feature is part 2 of Wayne's San Diego report. Part 1 of this feature is in the NTZ June 2020 issue.)



Above left: Historic Santa Fe Depot.



Above right: Depot is in Spanish Colonial Revival style.



Above: The San Diego Union Station depot is served by a variety of tracks. Some for the electrified trolley and others for freight service.



Above: Classic Spanish Colonial Revival design of the Santa Fe.

San Pedro & Southwestern Railroad (pre-SPVR), Benson AZ

by Dale Jacobson, guest writer

Two years ago Norm and I did a trip to photograph the San Pedro & Southwestern Railroad. Since that time the shortline was sold to the owners of what I think is called the Iron Road Corp and is now called the San Pedro Valley Railroad (SPVR). This is a more realistic name as the railroad runs only a few miles south of Benson sort of paralleling Arizona Highway 80 south of town.



Above: SPVR GP30 locomotive pushing cars from Apache Junction back to Benson, Arizona. (Photo credit: Norm Schultze)

As you'll note the GP30 shown in Norm's photo has no lettering. It's still in the same blue paint as we had previously seen. We caught this GP30 as it started pushing a cut of cars from Apache Jct. back to the main yard in Benson, AZ. This area is off the Arizona highway. Going south, turn right from the Arizona highway just before you cross the track. Follow that road for a couple miles at most, and you'll first see an industrial spur go under the road. Soon after that you'll see the SPVR yard on your left.

This is actually on the property of one of its main customers, but we had no problem driving in and finding out what was going on. Part of what was going on was leaving the other GP30 there and heading back north with the one shown in the photo.

Since this was not a photogenic train we took this one photo. A stop at the office at the south end of the yard in Benson proved fruitful. Again, the natives are friendly. We were told that the GP30's would be repainted and re-lettered for the San Pedro Valley Railroad and repainted into Iron Road's green and yellow scheme. In addition, the SPVR planned adding a third unit, likely a GP38, before the end of 2020. Once we left the office we drove the couple miles north to I-10 and continued east.

(*Editor's Note:* The above feature is included in memory of Nancy Herring, a longtime NTC member, who lived out her last years in Benson. A delightful, knowledgeable rail fan, Nancy was active with the Age of Steam club during its days at Fair Park. Nancy enjoyed her last years in Benson, watching the UP highball down the rails on the lines parallel to US-40. She is remembered fondly, and her smile is still missed.)



National and North Texas Rail News

AMTRAK: Ready for our Customers

WASHINGTON – In an effort to simplify and safeguard the travel experience as America gradually reopens, Amtrak wants to reassure customers that several added cleanliness and convenience measures have been implemented.

“Now more than ever, we stand ready to play a critical role as our nation recovers. We are doing everything we can to offer vital transportation services in a way that prioritizes employee and customer safety and well-being,” said Amtrak President and CEO Bill Flynn.

While some routes have been reduced or suspended, Amtrak has and will continue to operate as an essential service. Since June 1, *Acela* service has resumed on a reduced schedule on the Northeast Corridor, and the *Keystone*, *Pennsylvanian*, *Hiawatha*, and *Oave* also returned to service. Other trains will return to service by monitoring demand and working with state partners to prioritize safety.

Amtrak and train travel will lead the way and set a new standard of transportation. While continuing to leverage a full-time medical director and public health and safety teams who have been on the front lines throughout the COVID-19 outbreak providing expert counsel, Amtrak has implemented the following measures:

When you book:

- Trip flexibility: Amtrak is waiving all change and cancellation fees for reservations made by August 31, 2020. This includes reservations booked with points.
- Limiting bookings: Amtrak is limiting ticket sales on reserved services to allow for physical distancing while traveling.
- Private rooms: Private rooms are offered on many national network trains; for both short and long distance trips, sleeping cars provide extra space, comfort and privacy.

Enhanced station procedures:

- Enhanced cleaning: Amtrak has enhanced cleaning and disinfecting frequency and retrofitted protective barriers where necessary. Commonly used surfaces in stations such as door handles, counter tops, seating areas and Quik-Trak kiosks are frequently cleaned with EPA-registered disinfectants.
- Physical distancing: [Signage has been displayed](#) at our busiest stations to indicate safe distances in high traffic areas. In addition, clear protective barriers have been installed at customer counters at our busiest stations.
- Facial coverings: For the safety of our customers and employees, Amtrak’s mask policy requires that all customers wear a facial covering. Facial coverings can be removed when customers are in their private rooms or seated alone. Small children who are not able to maintain a facial covering are exempt from this requirement. Customers can go to [CDC.gov](https://www.cdc.gov) for detailed instructions on how to make their own facial covering. Service will be denied to customers not wearing facial coverings.
- Preventing overcrowding: Except for the *Auto Train*, customers are encouraged to arrive only 30 minutes before departure and only 60 minutes if in need of ticketing and/or baggage assistance.

Contact-free travel experience:

- Cashless service: Amtrak is accepting cashless payments only.
- Seamless gate service: To reduce crowds at departure boards, [Amtrak app](#) users can now receive gate and track information via push notification at select stations.
- Contactless ticketing: Amtrak encourages boarding with eTickets, which conductors scan from the [Amtrak app](#).

Onboard:

- Facial coverings: Amtrak is requiring all customers and employees to wear facial coverings while on trains or thruway buses. Facial coverings can be removed when customers are in their private rooms or seated alone.
- Enhanced cleaning: Amtrak has amplified the cleaning of our trains by spraying a disinfectant focusing on highly touched surfaces.
- Limiting bookings: Amtrak is limiting ticket sales on reserved services, with customers encouraged to use the seat next to them for personal belongings.



- Reducing exposure: All non-safety materials have been removed from seatback pockets.
- Handwashing available: Available in each car's restroom, Amtrak strongly encourages washing hands thoroughly with soap and water.
- Contactless movement onboard: To move between cars, customers can use an "automatic door open" button with their foot.
- Upon arrival: When the train is approaching a destination, conductors will make announcements regarding where and when customers can disembark to minimize crowding at the door.

Food & beverage:

- Café service: Café service aboard Amtrak trains that still offer food service will be available as carryout only. Seating in the café will be closed. Customers can bring items back to their seats or private rooms.
- Flexible dining: Amtrak is temporarily offering flexible dining service in the dining or lounge car on all long-distance routes (except *Auto Train*) and encouraging Sleeping Car customers to select optional room service.
- Dining and lounge seating: Dining and lounge seating will remain available on select long distance routes with physical distancing protocols in place.
- Physical distancing: For customers placing orders in the cafe, signage and markers promoting physical distancing leading up to the café counter have been added.
- Protective barriers: For added protection, protective plastic barriers are being installed at café countertops.
- Cashless service: Amtrak is accepting cashless payments only.

Giving back:

- Fewer trains have resulted in a surplus of food and supplies. Amtrak is [donating extra food to shelters](#) in locations around the country to help those in need during this unprecedented time. Amtrak has also partnered with Delivering Good to [donate surplus blankets to the military-run hospital at the Javits Center](#) in New York City, who are caring for patients impacted by the Coronavirus.

Amtrak continues to evaluate current practices and launch new initiatives to support personal safety. For more information, follow Amtrak on [social media](#), subscribe to Amtrak [email](#) notifications and visit [Amtrak.com/coronavirus](https://www.amtrak.com/coronavirus) to stay updated on the latest news and important information on our services.

(Source: Amtrak media release at <https://media.amtrak.com/2020/06/amtrak-ready-for-our-customers/>. Last accessed June 9, 2020.)

NRHS Views and News

Virtual Railroad Experiences "At Home"

by Valli Hoski, Editor, NRHS News

Enjoy a Railroader's Recollections in Virtual Time

Thanks to the B&O Museum for sharing a "Museum Moment with Ron Drucker." Get comfortable in your favorite chair and enjoy a few moments with Mr. Drucker and his stories of railroading.

Ron Drucker is a retired transportation railroader with the B&O, Chessie Systems, and CSX, and the last president of the B&O Railroad and possesses a wealth of knowledge on the history of railroading. Ron discusses the significance of Richard Imlay's iconic Maryland and Ohio coaches, the 1927 Fair of the Iron Horse, No. 5300 President Washington along with CSX special locomotives No. 911 Spirit of the First Responders and the No. 1776 the Spirit of Armed Forces.

- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BandORailroadMuseum/videos/285176402615926/>
- YouTube: <https://youtu.be/G20FQ33e1hE>



Fly through the air with the greatest of ease ... Railroad Museums from High Up to Ground Level

Take a virtual tour of these well-known railroad museums, without driving a mile. You might want to pack a lunch though, as the snack car is closed for now.

- Travel to America's Midwest and tour the *Illinois Railway Museum* from the air.
<https://www.irm.org/cam/index.html>
- Enjoy collections and action at the North Carolina Transportation Museum via their video and photo blog.
<https://www.nctrans.org/Media/Video-Photo-Blog.aspx>
- Tour the *California State Railroad Museum* on the sunny west coast.
<https://www.californiarailroad.museum/media-room/videos>

(Source: NRHS News, July 2020 issue <https://admin.nrhs.com/NRHSNews/2020-June-News-AND-Disc-List-vE.pdf> . Last accessed June 9, 2020.)

Being Healthy and Doing Things Together, Virtually

by Al Weber, President NRHS

In the midst of the Coronavirus pandemic, I hope all of you are keeping yourself and loved ones safe. I read many newsletters and see that most museums are now closed but working on a plan to open safely when they are allowed. Many Spring and Summer events have been canceled and that applies here in St Louis also.

Here are some activities you might consider. Get members to take a local group trip (with each in their own car) and go to a spot and train watch. That worked out very well for one chapter and though they social distanced, it allowed everyone to see each other. They also took photos that they put into their newsletter. Also refresh your club's online presence. One of our chapters is doing virtual tours of their museum using old videos with new descriptions to remind the public that they are still there and just waiting to reopen to the general public.

I see that many chapters and museums are doing virtual meetings. Your NRHS officers are working through that process now and are trying out vendors. We know that many of us are not really computer gurus and we are taking that into consideration when looking at products. "Keep It Simple, Simple" for us is a requirement to be inclusive to all of our members. Nothing is as simple as a dialup phone call, but in this day and age, we need video and interaction that the new programs can offer.

My St. Louis chapter had a very successful chapter meeting last month with very few problems, and we are using the same program and procedure for our next few meetings (GoToMeeting). One thing to be aware of is what is in the background of your photo and the others in your area when on the video meeting call. Just saying...

When this era of stay at home and stay a social distance gets over, the new normal will be very different. The CDC has guidelines that all should follow if for no other reason than to help protect the vulnerable in our population. Many of our fellow railroaders and historians are in the high- risk population. One other thing: please check with your housebound friends, a simple phone call asking how things are going will be appreciated.

I hope you and your loved ones are safe and please stay safe.

Al Weber <aweber@nrhs.com>

. (Source: NRHS News, July 2020 issue <https://admin.nrhs.com/NRHSNews/2020-June-News-AND-Disc-List-vE.pdf> . Last accessed June 9, 2020.)

North Texas Chapter Views and News

Zephyr News Board

The deadline for upcoming issues is the Monday that is 2 weeks before the Chapter meeting.

- *August 2020 issue* - News deadline is Monday, July 20, 2020.
- *September 2020 issue* - News deadline is Monday, August 17, 2020.
- *October 2020 issue* - News deadline is Monday, September 21, 2020.
- *November 2020 issue* - News deadline is Monday, October 19, 2020.



North Texas Chapter Meeting Minutes – June 2, 2020

The June meeting was held at Sokol Hall in Dallas and was called to order by President Wayne Smith at approximately 7:35 PM with 8 members in attendance.

Announcements by Wayne: Reminded members to return their ballots for the National NRHS elections by the advertised deadline.

A grant was awarded to the Cleburne Railroad Museum Group in the amount of \$3,450.00 to restore an old REA baggage cart per original specifications. Half (50%) was paid to the Cleburne Railroad Museum Group after work began (\$1,725.00) and upon completion of the project and inspection of the baggage cart, the remainder of the balance will be paid. Sam Walls of the Cleburne Museum was not able to attend, but wanted to express his appreciation for the support of the chapter.

A matter of importance was expressed by the North Texas Council of Railroad Clubs (NTCRR) about the Fall Show in Plano due to concerns of having enough vendors and model railroad clubs with layouts to participate in order to have a quality show and to cover the high cost of putting on such a show. Details and logistics were explained and discussed by our chapter representative, Dave Podrahsy and NT-NRHS member and Secretary of NTCRR, Dave Gramm. Members unanimously voted for our chapter to participate in the fall show. As always, we discussed our staffing responsibilities at the show.

Jon Shea reported that the July meeting will also be held at Sokol Hall. Jon passed around the March and June issues of the Katy Flyer Magazine, published by the Katy Railroad Historical Society. The magazines contained specific articles about Texas railroading including a pile-driver (location not recorded) and restoration of the Galveston, Houston and Henderson Railroad freight depot in Galveston.

Skip Waters reported that the 2020 National NHRS convention has been cancelled and several locations are being considered for next year including this year's site in California. Kalmbach will be celebrating its 80th anniversary this fall and Skip plans to attend the festivities. Member Dennis Hogan donated 80 VHS tapes to the chapter for use as we see fit. We always appreciate his support of the chapter. The NRHS national spring conference was cancelled due to the coronavirus and the national board is still looking to revise its bylaws.

Elden Baker reported that the grand opening of the restored Houston & Texas Central depot in Anna, built in 1885, was delayed due to the coronavirus. New date to be announced. He shared exciting news that the organization recently acquired a large private collection of railroading and railroad memorabilia that was donated to the museum for display. Also, steam locomotive #201 from the Moscow, Camden and San Augustine Railroad was purchased by the City of Anna Parks Department. Once cosmetic restoration is complete, it will be on display at the depot in Sherley Heritage Park.

After the business meeting, the program for the evening was a video entitled, "Street Cars of the River City – Louisville's Streetcars & Suburban Electric Railways." We saw Part 1.

Submitted by Wayne Smith, Chapter President

Chapter Directory

North Texas Chapter Officers, 2020.

- **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**, Bob Kennedy.

Webmaster: Kim Hays, kimhays516@gmail.com

Chapter Business Address

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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

<https://ntxnrhs.org/>

<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

Chapter Calendar

Tues. July 7, 2020	Monthly Chapter meeting. 7.30 p.m. <i>Location:</i> Sokol Hall, 7448 Greenville Ave, Dallas, TX 75231. <i>Program:</i> Lionel railroad video provided by Sam Metzger.
Tues. Aug. 4, 2020 *	Monthly Chapter meeting. 7.30 p.m. . <i>Location:</i> Spring Creek Barbecue, 315 W State Hwy 114, Grapevine, TX 76051. Phone (817) 416-6250.
Tues. Sept. 1, 2020 *	Monthly Chapter meeting. 7.30 p.m. .
Tues. Oct. 6, 2020 *	Monthly Chapter meeting. 7.30 p.m. .
Tues. Nov. 3, 2020 *	Monthly Chapter meeting. 7.30 p.m.

* Dates are subject to change.



M-Line Trolley near West Village. (Photo credit: DART.org)

(Source: DART.org at <https://dart.org/ShareRoot/images/newsroom/preview/MLineWestVillage.jpg>. Last accessed June 14, 2020.)