



VALLI HOSKI, NORTH TEXAS NEWS EDITOR

OPINIONS EXPRESSED HEREIN MAY NOT REFLECT THE OFFICIAL POSITION
 OF THE NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER OR THE NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY.
 ALL CONTENT RIGHTS RETAINED BY ORIGINAL AUTHOR(S) AND PHOTOGRAPHER(S).
 EVERY ATTEMPT HAS BEEN MADE TO COMPLY WITH FAIR USE AND COPYRIGHT LAW.

CHAPTER MEETING..... 1
 FRIDAY, DEC. 4, 2020. DEPOT CAFÉ, FRISCO TX..... 1

NORTH TEXAS FEATURES..... 1
 WAYNE’S ROAD TRIPS – ARDMORE OK 1
 JON’S HISTORY CORNER – AN EARLY AMERICAN RAILROAD 3

NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER VIEWS AND NEWS..... 4
 IT’S TIME TO DISAPPEAR DOWN THIS RAILROAD LINE 4
 REMINDER - 2021 NTC DUES ARE PAYABLE NOW! 4
 ZEPHYR NEWS BOARD 4
 NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES – OCTOBER 6, 2020..... 5

CHAPTER DIRECTORY 5
 NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER OFFICERS, 2020..... 5

NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER HISTORY 6

CHAPTER CALENDAR..... 6

NORTH TEXAS SUPPLEMENT..... 7
 WAYNE’S ROAD TRIPS – TORONTO, ONTARIO..... 7

Chapter Meeting

Friday, Dec. 4, 2020. Depot Café, Frisco TX.

Location: Depot Café, 6733 Main Street, Frisco, TX 75034.
Phone: (972) 377-0707

Time: 7 p.m. **Program:** Annual Holiday Dinner.

We will meet in the very back of the Café. Bring an inexpensive gift. We will do a gift exchange as in years past. The restaurant has a Railroad theme and great Frisco Railroad memorabilia.

Directions: "Depot Cafe is tucked behind the EXXON Quick Check at 3rd and Main streets just east of the railroad tracks in downtown Frisco, Texas. You can't see us from the main road, so use the EXXON as your landmark."

See map at <http://depotcafefrisco.com/contact/>

North Texas Features

Wayne’s Road Trips – Ardmore OK

by Wayne Smith, Chapter President. Photos courtesy of Wayne Smith.

A new adventure! Since I had to go to Ardmore, this adventure found me in Oklahoma. I discovered this beauty – Locomotive No. 1108. The locomotive can be seen from the *Heartland Flyer* if you watch closely from your window seat.





Locomotive No. 1108 actually sits near the Amtrak depot.



It used to serve Santa Fe and Rock Island. On the track side of the depot, Santa Fe is etched in stone. On the parking lot side of the depot, it used to have Rock Island etched in stone. The word Island has been filled in and it just says Rock now.



Most of it serves as a conference and event center now.



Jon's History Corner – An Early American Railroad

by Jon Shea, Chapter President

This is from *Walden* by Henry David Thoreau. The **Fitchburg Railroad** later became part of the Boston and Maine Railroad.

"The Fitchburg Railroad touches the [Walden] pond about a hundred rods south of where I dwell. I usually go to the village along its causeway, and am, as it were, related to society by this link. The men on the freight trains, who go over the whole length of the road, bow to me as to an old acquaintance, they pass me so often, and apparently they take me for an employee; and so I am. I too would fain be a track-repairer somewhere in the orbit of the earth. When I meet the engine with its train of cars moving off with planetary motion; when I hear the iron horse make the hills echo with his snort like thunder, shaking the earth with his feet, and breathing fire and smoke from his nostrils (what kind of winged horse or fiery dragon they will put into the new Mythology I don't know), it seems as if the earth had got a race now worthy to inhabit it."



North Texas Chapter Views and News

It's Time to Disappear Down This Railroad Line

by Valli Hoski, VP Communications and Editor of the North Texas Zephyr

Steve Goodman wrote and sang a fine song in 'The City of New Orleans'. From my post-college years in Chicago, down to Dallas, now in PA and many points between, his work has echoed long in my life. So many lyrics speak to the places, towns, railroads and lines I've traveled, photographed and loved. But, it's time, as the song goes "This train's got the disappearing railroad blues."

On October 27, 2020, I gave my notice to be taken off the assignments board.

President Wayne Smith and 2020 NTC Officers,

The Zephyr's been a great ride these many years. Now, it's time for a new engineer/conductor team. After 15 years of service to the North Texas Chapter as Editor and later as VP Communications, the January 2021 issue of the Zephyr will be my last word.

Here are the official details.

I resign as VP Comm. effective January 5, 2021 or the date of the Chapter's 2021 election, whichever is later.

I also resign as Editor of the Zephyr effective January 5, 2021 but am willing to help transition to the new editor until January 31, 2020.

Valli Hoski, NTC Charter Member.

There are special people that deserve my full-hearted thanks and acknowledgement – Harry Fasick for being the best spouse and rail adventurer companion that this rail-femme could be blessed with; Captain Transit, for tossing me aboard the Zephyr and saving it from crashing so many years ago; Claude Doane for enjoying spaghetti anywhere and anytime with Harry and me, and bringing me along as guest to the DART advisory meetings. More recent friends also deserve their own special 'shout out' – Wayne for guiding the North Texas Chapter and encouraging the Zephyr editor to hang in there when the rails got rough. Skip Waters for his endless enthusiasm and entertaining view of the world. And of course, current and past NTC members who have thanked, praised and/or given their best to the North Texas Zephyr chapter newsletter.

Reminder - 2021 NTC Dues are payable now!

by Bob Kennedy, Chapter Treasurer

Your 2021 membership dues payment for the North Texas Chapter of the NRHS is due by January 1, 2021 and can be paid now. Annual Chapter dues are \$16 per individual or \$18 per family and can be paid by check or at the Chapter's on-line store. **Please note that Chapter membership dues are paid directly to the Chapter and are in addition to and separate from your National membership dues payment.** You will receive National membership dues payment information separately.

To pay by check, make your check payable to North Texas Chapter NRHS and mail it to North Texas Chapter NRHS, PO Box 600304, Dallas TX, 75360. If your check is for a Family Membership, please add a note with that member's name.

To pay online by credit card, visit the Chapter's on-line store at <https://northtexaschapternrhs>. A small service charge (50 cents for individuals, 75 cents for families) is added to your dues payment to cover processing fees.

If you have any other questions about membership, please contact us at northtexaschapternrhs@gmail.com or contact me directly at rckennedy48@verizon.net or 214-497-7745.

Zephyr News Board

- *December 2020* – News deadline is Friday, Nov. 20, 2020. December 'meeting' is the Chapter's annual Holiday Dinner.
- *January 2021 issue* – News deadline is Sunday, December 20, 2020.



North Texas Chapter Meeting Minutes – October 6, 2020

The monthly Chapter meeting was held on November 10, 2020, the second Tuesday this month due to the national elections on the first Tuesday.

This meeting was our annual Fall Auction. While we were setting up for the auction, Dave at Sokol Hall served us fresh baked Czech Kolaches along with hot coffee. Of course, Sokol Hall exists to celebrate Czech heritage. Somebody was there baking up a large batch of Kolaches and some were shared with us. Another dozen was donated as an auction item. Many thanks to Dave and the kind lady that baked the kolaches (I did not get her name).

After refreshments and attendees finished spying the auction items, the meeting came to order at 7:49 PM by President Wayne. There were 9 members present and Elden also brought his grandson, James, with a total of 10 people present. Wayne appointed Bill Long as the nominations chair for the upcoming elections in January. Please see Bill Long if you want your name added to the ballot. We are in need of a newsletter editor and want to thank Valli for serving as our editor for the past 15 years. We praise her dedication. We will share more about Valli in the months to come.

Skip brought 4-5 of the recently donated railroad artifacts for reviewing. It was discussed by all present that the artifacts should be held out for the silent auction when we host 24 Hours @ Saginaw again or maybe even donate some or all of the items to a local railroad museum. There was one mystery item and Elden Baker volunteered to research the item. (He later reported that he consulted with others and after conducting his own research as well, he was, "about 99% certain that it is a foot release lock-lever for an old style manual switch stand". Thanks Elden!) Some of the other items included a Santa Fe Bulletin Board, set of diesel locomotive lights, framed proclamation of some sort and a dispatcher's microphone on an accordion type arm. The items were removed from the auction for future discussion.

As a member of the national board, Skip reported on the recent national board meeting. Frank Cornelius, the VP elect, has resigned and Tony White was elected by the board to replace Frank. I met Tony and he is a great guy. That leaves a vacancy in District One. It was reported that the board also approved the budget.

Jon reported that it does not appear that we will be having our holiday dinner at Babe's Chicken this year. There is another restaurant with a railroad theme in Frisco that looks promising, but it has not been confirmed. No further details will be shared until a location is located and secured.

After the business meeting, the auction began with Skip as our auctioneer. As always, he did a great job and kept us entertained along the way. There were dozens of books and dozens of VHS tapes up for auction. These were from generous donations from Dennis Hogan and Thomas Sandlin. Many thanks to them! Others brought miscellaneous items such as railroad caps and magazines. Of course, we had the kolaches. Each and every one of us walked away with an armload(s) of items. Everybody got bargains and we raised \$310.00 for our heritage grant program. A good time was had by all!

Minutes 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

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 <https://ntxnrhs.org/>

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

Publication date 11/23/2020. Filename: 2020_12 NTx Newsletter v2.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

Chapter Calendar * Dates are subject to change

Friday, December 4, 2020 *	Monthly Chapter meeting. 7.p.m. Annual holiday dinner. <i>Location:</i> Depot Café, 6733 Main Street, Frisco, TX 75034. We will meet in the very back. Bring an inexpensive gift. We will do a gift exchange as in years past. The restaurant has a Railroad theme and a lot of great Frisco Railroad memorabilia.
January 5, 2021*	Monthly Chapter meeting. 7.30 p.m. <i>Location:</i> to be confirmed. <i>Program:</i> Annual Chapter Election.

Fond Memories of Lone Star Rails, Summer 2008

A look back at your Zephyr editor Val and her handsome husband Harry during the 2008 NRHS National Convention - Lone Star Rails. The North Texas Chapter hosted the convention, including a special train excursion to Quanah TX.

Special Feature – Our Dream Jobs

Car Hosting On Matt Rose's Railroad, June 21, 2008

By Harry Fasick and Valli Hoski



Above: Valli welcomes all aboard QZ special, coach 6. (Photo credit: Harry Fasick)

* **Why Quanah?** ... because Matt Rose (BNSF) and Skip told us ... go west young men (& women)

* Is that a Jack pump there? ... Dunno, I don't know Jack out here. Do you?

The Lone Star Rails 2008 June 21, 2008 excursion with the BNSF gave a few NTC members the chance for a job of their dreams. If just for a day, a long day, all morning, afternoon, and evening, from Fort Worth to Wichita Falls, Quanah and back again.

The superb ride on the rails provided lots of time for pleasant views, amiable chatter with passengers, and inspirational moments. Here are a few sparks of wisdom gleaned from Valli and Harry as to the joys and peculiarities of being Car Hosts For A Day.

Car Host Wisdom

by Harry (mostly) and Valli (some)

* Why're you a car host (or conductor or other volunteer ...) and not the engineer ... because

... I hate shoveling coal

... my cooking's too bad for the dining car

... we love guessing at answers to questions we haven't heard yet

... we love answering questions for which we have no answers

... we invent stories about which cornfield we just passed, when asked "what's that?"

... we love looking at one's watch to figure out "which mile post did we just pass?"

... we love saying "What's around the next curve? Another curve, unless "we got cows", then it's a "Twister"!



Above: Harry is ready for duty and service aboard QZ special, coach 5. (Photo credit: Valli Hoski)

* We're going uphill, what's on the other side? ... another hill, down this time

* When're we going to get there? ... when the locomotive pulls into the station

* Why isn't there a caboose at the back? ... It's making better time than us, passed us a while back, dinja see?

* Why do we have to go back now, and end the fun? ... because we gotta find the caboose

* What do you do off shift? ... Go somewhere and drink all the beer we needed onboard but couldn't have

North Texas Supplement

Wayne's Road Trips – Toronto, Ontario

by Wayne Smith, Chapter President. Photos courtesy of Wayne Smith.

Enjoy these train and rail views from our neighbor up north, way across Lake Ontario – Toronto, Ontario in summer 2019.



Above: GO Train in Toronto. GO Trains provide regional rail service linking Toronto and suburbs.



Above and below: Toronto Railway Museum and Roundhouse Park.





Above and below: The Museum and Roundhouse Park.

