



# North Texas Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society



## *North Texas Zephyr*

*(Interim editor - Skip Waters)*



### **Chapter News**

**Monthly Meeting:** Tuesday, February 2, 2021

**Time:** 7:00-9:00 PM

**Location:** **Military Museum of Fort Worth** (Inside Ridgmar Mall)  
**1726 Green Oaks, Fort Worth, TX 76116**

(Enter the northwest entrance facing Alta Mere Drive)

**Note:** Ridgmar Mall now closes at 7pm, we will most likely enter through a loading dock door near the Alta Mere side mall entrance. Look for enter signs when you arrive.

**Program:** Come see historical war artifacts and a guided tour about World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and Gulf Wars. You might even hear or see a military jet flyover on your visit from the neighboring flight base. It's known to happen. Wear a mask!

**Bonus:** If you arrive early between 6:30-7:00 PM. Get a free ride on the Choo Choo Express Trackless Train and tour what is left of Ridgmar Mall.

## **NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER NRHS MEMBERSHIP DUES**

If you have not already done so, please consider paying your 2021 Chapter dues this month. Chapter dues are \$16 per member per year plus \$2 for a family membership. Payment may be made in person by check or cash, by mail with a check or paid online with a credit card. Chapter membership includes our monthly newsletter, the Zephyr, and enables us to hold our monthly meetings at various locations throughout the DFW Metroplex.

To pay by check - Make your check payable to "North Texas Chapter NRHS" for \$16 (individual) or \$18 (family). **Either mail your check to North Texas Chapter NRHS, PO Box 600304, Dallas TX, 75360 or give it to a Chapter Officer at our monthly meeting.** If you are paying for a family membership, make sure to include your Family Member's name(s) in the memo section of the check.

To Pay 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 help offset processing fees.

To pay by cash, please have the correct amount and give it to a Chapter Officer at our monthly meeting. Please include a note with your cash indicating your name and any Family Members. Do not send cash by mail.

If you have any questions, please e-mail me at [northtexaschapternrhs@gmail.com](mailto:northtexaschapternrhs@gmail.com) .

Bob Kennedy, Treasurer, North Texas Chapter, NRHS

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### **President's Roundhouse: Train Trivia** (Source: B&O Railroad Museum)

\*Railroad Slang: Bend the Iron = throw a switch; Big Hook = wrecking crane; Crummy caboose = Hogger Engineer; Dump the air = put on the brakes

\*By the mid-1880's, virtually every American State in the union had at least one narrow-gauge railroad.

\*Small lights called classification lights can be seen on either side of the engines headlight. They are weaker than headlights and their messages are color coded. The colors green, white, and red are changed within the locomotive.

\*The headlight, a major feature of American locomotives, never caught on with British railroads. Railroads in the UK were required by law to fence in all tracks, eliminating the need for engineers to see far ahead of their trains.

\*The period between the Civil War and the First World War was a time of transitions and transformation: from wood to coal as a locomotive fuel; from iron to steel in the building of rail.

\*January 1, 1838, the B&O became the first Federal Government contract carrier of the United States mail.

*Trivia continues...*

\*January 7, 1830, the mile and a half excursion to the Carrollton Viaduct was opened to the public. A one way passenger ticket cost nine cents, and the first passenger revenues from an American railroad were received.

\*In the days when steam was the primary source of power, firemen were reprimanded if they produced black smoke. That meant the coal wasn't burning efficiently, and it was costing the company money.

\*Every minute in 1941, the American railroads moved an average of 904,000 tons of freight one mile, the highest average in the railroad history.

\*Before they established a system of lights, crossings were guarded by employees with flags. Typically, this was the restful post for those employees injured on the job or nearing retirement. In part to keep those positions, the railroads were very slow in setting up crossing lights.

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## January Chapter Meeting Minutes

The January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021 meeting of the North Texas Chapter NRHS was called to order at 7:37 pm with 9 members in attendance. It was held at Sokol Hall in Dallas. Wayne announced that membership dues were past due and proceeded to collect dues from 5 members.

Dave Gramm announced that the January Plano/Dallas Train Show is still scheduled for January 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>. Wayne will man the chapter table on Saturday and Jon will man the chapter table on Sunday. We will sell the SP book as usual. We will also sell donated books and videos for our grant program. Skip will run his trackless train which is not part of the chapter. The members voted to cancel the Saturday night Annual Slide Show due to the lack of a meeting location and Covid concerns.

Skip announced February's meeting: Tuesday, February 2, 2021, Time: 7pm

Location: Military Museum of Fort Worth (Inside Ridgmar Mall)

1726 Green Oaks, Fort Worth, TX 76116 (Enter the northwest entrance facing Alta Mere Drive). Bonus - early arrivals (please arrive by 6:30) will get a FREE tour of the mall by the Choo Choo Express Trackless Train (mandatory train content)!

Come see historical war artifacts and a guided tour about World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam and Gulf Wars. You might even hear a military jet flyover on your visit from the neighboring flight base. It's known to happen.

Skip also announced that the NRHS National Convention in Milwaukee is still scheduled to proceed this summer.

Jon brought a picture of M-K-T Executive Business Cars 400 and 401 that were found parked on their storage track adjacent to Dallas Union Terminal Company trackage during 1966. (this was not part of his "Show and Tell"). Also, he passed around the December 2020 edition of the *The Katy Flyer* with an article entitled "Save the Lancaster, Texas, Depot".

*Chapter Meeting Minutes continues...*

The annual chapter elections were held and the slate of officers remained the same and will be listed elsewhere in The Zephyr. However, The Zephyr Newsletter Editor position is vacant and we are still in need of an Editor.

**The program for the evening was our annual “Show and Tell”. Some members brought the following items:**

Wayne brought a Missouri Pacific passenger timetable of The Texas Eagle from 1966. He described his recent trip with his son on the Amtrak Texas Eagle (Dallas to/from St. Louis) and the Amtrak Missouri River Runner (St. Louis to/from Kansas City).

Bill worked for the Milwaukee Road during the summers of 1970 and 1972 and brought a Train Yard Switch List from that time. He also brought his check stub, Milwaukee Terminal Division timetable, Amtrak passenger ticket stub, Texas Chief passenger timetable, Crew and Accommodations Information brochure, and a Milwaukee Road’s Beer Line booklet. All from that era.

Jon brought a very rare banner reading, “Commemorating Perry’s Victory on Lake Erie Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> 1813, The 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> 1913”. It was in good condition and belonged to a family member. Jon also showed a framed placemat of the “Luxurious, Streamlined Texas Special, St. Louis-Texas”.

Skip brought a lot of Southern Pacific memorabilia including a large Sunbeam sticker from the movie *Tough Guys*, Daylight4449 drinking glass, “Sunbeam and Semaphores” print, photo of SP observation lounge car with drumhead, framed photo of Katy Special in a field of bluebonnets from an MKT Depot. Skip also showed a Southern Pacific display board that he created for conferences and train shows.

Minutes submitted by Wayne Smith, Chapter President

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## Chapter Directory

North Texas Chapter Officers, 2021.

- 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, Vacant
- 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>