

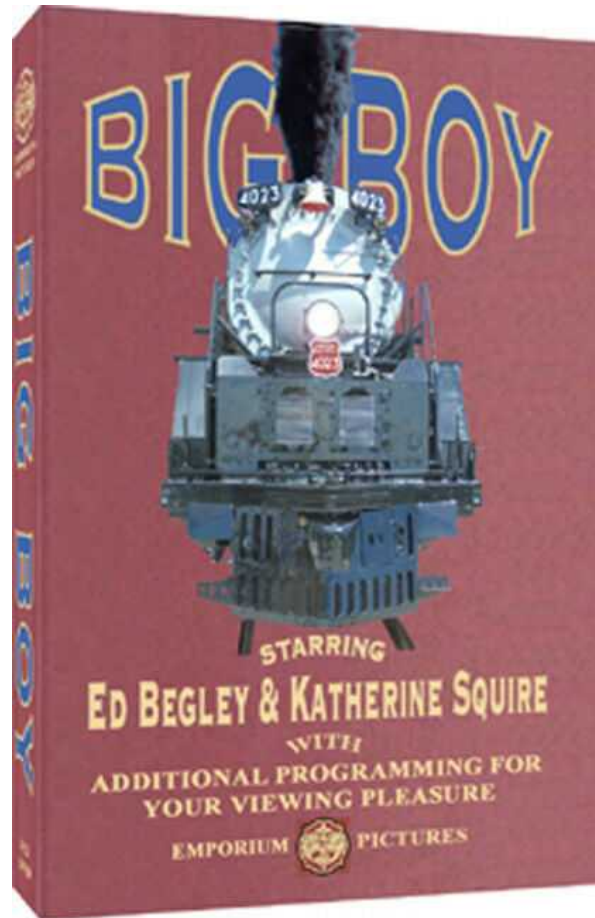


North Texas Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society



North Texas Zephyr

(Interim editor - Skip Waters)



Chapter News

May Chapter Meeting

Monthly Meeting: Tuesday, May 4, 2021

Time: 7:30 PM

Location: Spring Creek BBQ - Grapevine
315 State Highway, 114W, Grapevine, Texas.

Program: *Big Boy* [ca. 1954] starring Ed Begley as Joe Grant, Katherine Squire as his wife Amy and John Connell as his son Bill. Filmed on location on the UP in Wyoming and a New York City studio in black & white. Run time 60 min.

Red River Railroad Museum

Re-Opening At New Location



The Red River Railroad Museum will be open again starting Thursday April 22, 2021 at 11:00 AM. The hours will be 11AM to 4PM Thursday - Friday - Saturday. The new address is 124 West Main Street, Denison, Texas, just west of the Denison Police Department.



The phone number is 903-463-5289, please leave message if no one answers.

The Museum maintains a website at www.redriverrailmuseum.org

The Museum is an IRS registered non-profit organization promoting Denison history focusing on it railroad heritage through fun, educational interactive programs and exhibits.

The Museum was also a recipient of a \$2000 Leroy O. King Grant from the North Texas Chapter, NRHS, in September 2020 to assist with the continuation of the Museum operations during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Reminder — **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 .

Bob Kennedy, Treasurer, North Texas Chapter, NRHS

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President Wayne Smith surveying location for “24 Hours @ Saginaw” 2021.

Photo by Skip Waters

15th Annual “24 Hours @ Saginaw” 2021

May 28 & 29, 2021, 7pm to 7pm for 24 Hours!

The 15th Annual “24 Hours @ Saginaw” 2021 is going to happen!!!
It’s TIME TO WATCH SOME TRAINS!!!

This year all train activities and train watching will be done outdoors. Due to continued Covid restrictions, there will be no access to the depot this year. Outdoor restrooms will be available. Stay tuned for additional announcements via email and on the “24 Hours at Saginaw” Facebook page.

President's Roundhouse: Railroad Terminology (Source: B&O Museum)

HIGHBALL: Signal made by waving hand or lamp in a high, wide semicircle, meaning "Come ahead" or "Leave town" or "Pick up full speed." The verb highball or phrase "ball the jack" means to make a fast run. The word highball originated from the old-time ball signal on a post, raised aloft by a pulley when the track was clear. A very few of these are still in service in New England and elsewhere.

TORPEDO: A torpedo is a device similar to dynamite, which is strapped to the top of a rail. When a train drives over a torpedo, it emits a very loud bang which can be heard over the noise of the engine, signaling the engineer to stop immediately. Torpedos are generally placed by the flagman when protecting a train ahead.

BALLAST: Early railroad track beds did not utilize ballast (crushed stone). Railroads eventually used ballast to drain water from the tracks, therefore keeping the ties in place. Ballast also helped to keep dust and dirt down, away from passenger coach windows.

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Historical photo of Interurban at Anna, Texas and future steam locomotive to be placed at the Anna Depot.



Credit: Anna Area Historical Preservation Society – AAHPS.Org



North of Anna is this Interurban Freight Car. On display in Van Alstyne, Texas



Scenes from the April Meeting in Anna, Texas...

Photos by Skip Waters





April Chapter Meeting Minutes

The April meeting of the North Texas Chapter – NRHS was held on Tuesday the 6th at the Anna Depot & Museum in Anna, TX. There were 12 members in attendance. The meeting was called to order at 7:26 pm by President Wayne Smith. Wayne immediately thanked Elden Baker, Director of the Anna Museum and current member of the NTC-NRHS, for the North Texas Chapter as having the privilege of being the first group (or individual) to see the museum after items have been displayed in the depot. Thanks also went out to the Anna Area Historical Preservation Society and their graciousness, as members provided coffee and home-baked cookies for our meeting. Wayne noted at least four members that had not been seen at a meeting since before the beginning of COVID. Wayne also reported that before the meeting began, Elden had shown Wayne and Sam Metzgar many items still in storage yet to be displayed at the museum. Having arrived early, the three of them also ventured north to the town square in Van Alstyne, TX to see two Interurban freight cars on display. One car was wooden and in pretty bad shape, but it was still fun to see them and think about what used to be.

Skip Waters proudly proclaimed that 24 Hours at Saginaw is a go. We will need to report to BNSF NOC on the Thursday before the event to remind them we are having the event. The event will be totally outdoors and we are accepting presenters and ideas now. More information to be announced soon. We then voted to request a \$10 donation to set up a tent and discussed allowing more space per area since we are required to guarantee social distancing. Two souvenir buttons will be provided per reservation. We answered various questions about the event from members. Skip also reported that NRHS National did not have the Board meeting last month as scheduled, it had been moved to April 25th, 2021.

Wayne publicly thanked and recognized Jon Shea for maintaining our 501(c)(3) status by submitting the appropriate forms to the IRS in a timely manner. He has performed this task for a number of years.

Jon Shea reported that the May 4th meeting will be at Spring Creek Barbecue in Grapevine. Sam will present a Big Boy video. Jon also passed around the latest issue of the KATY Flyer. Jon brought a 2003 issue of the NRHS magazine with a description of the North Texas Chapter activities for the prior year. It was interesting to note that almost all of the board members at that time have since moved out of state. Also, Jon read a note in *American Rifleman Magazine* about a time in the 1920s where there were a series of violent Railway Post Office car robberies until heavily armed US Marines began guarding the cars.

The program was presented by Elden. He discussed the town diorama displayed in the museum, other museum pieces and future plans of the museum. Elden presented a slide show on the rescue, moving and restoration of the the Anna Depot by the Anna Area Historical Preservation Society named above. Elden discussed how the Houston & Texas Central connected with the Katy at Red River Junction (now Denison) in March of 1873 but, passed through Anna and Van Alstyne in late 1872. Elden also reported that the Texas Electric Railroad ran from 1908 to 1948. The Texas Electric in Anna ran north-south, in the present day Interurban Street, and connected Anna with Denison to the north, and McKinney to Dallas. Also, known as Anna's "other railroad", the Greenville Northwestern Railway ran between Anna and Blue Ridge via Westminster between 1913 and 1915 (possibly into 1916). The line was

unsuccessful and was abandoned, shortly thereafter. Another standard gauge line that ran through Anna was the Missouri, Oklahoma and Gulf. Elden also reported that the former Moscow, Camden & San Augustine #201 is under contract for cosmetic restoration and for future display by the City of Anna Parks Department. Originally, #201 was Panama Railroad #203, rebuilt to standard gauge and became Moscow, Camden and San Augustine #201. Elden passed out a complimentary book to each attendee entitled *Chaplain* authored by a former railroad Chaplain, Gil Stricklin CH (COL) USA, Retired. The museum also possesses Mr. Stricklin's personal collection of railroad artifacts and memorabilia that were in his office and was donated to the museum after his retirement. Mr. Stricklin is the founder and former director of Marketplace Chaplains in Plano and, when he retired, the present director needed the office space which Mr. Stricklin was using to display his "wonderful collection".

During the meeting, three UP locomotives passed the depot pulling an aggregate rock train with brand new cars (no graffiti). Of course, we all paused and went outside to watch the train as it passed. The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 pm. Many thanks again to Elden Baker and the Anna Area Historical Preservation Society.

Minutes submitted by Wayne Smith

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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>

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