



**North Texas Chapter of the
National Railway Historical Society**

North Texas Zephyr

(Interim editor - Skip Waters)



THIS IS A MINI-NEWSLETTER

P.S. WE NEED A NEW EDITOR.

We Miss You, Valli !!

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Chapter News

July Chapter Meeting

Monthly Meeting: Tuesday, July 6, 2021

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: SPRING CREEK BBQ

571 E Round Grove Rd, Lewisville, TX 75067

Program: Business meeting followed by a DVD viewing "Title to be Announced"

The Rebirth of An REA Baggage Cart

Through a grant from the North Texas Chapter, NRHS the **CLEBURNE RAILROAD MUSEUM** has restored an REA Baggage Cart that dates back to the 1920's. The Museum has photos of baggage carts from the 1920's at the GC&SF Cleburne Station with metal wheels similar to the wheels on the restored cart.

The Cleburne Railroad Museum Group led by North Texas Chapter Member and Museum Volunteer, Sam Walls, and restorer, Cliff Insall, the effort to restore the baggage cart began in mid-2020. The baggage cart, that was previously left to rot, was rolled onto a trailer on its own metal wheels to be transported to Cliff's workshop for the restoration to begin. Although all the wood on the cart had to be replaced, almost all of the metal parts are original. Most of the nuts and bolts were intact and were carefully removed and reused. The cart was missing the metal handle at the end of the tongue. Cliff made one to match, but the one on the cart is from an AT&SF Cart that the Museum intends to rebuild next. The entire metal undercarriage is original to the cart.

Thanks to Sam Walls and Cliff Insall for their efforts in restoring this "almost lost" railroad artifact for future generations to see.

The Cleburne Railroad Museum is currently closed while being completely remodeled by the City of Cleburne. Tentative reopening should be around Labor Day 2021. The Museum is located at 206 N. Main Street, Cleburne, Texas, TX 76033.

Here are some pictures of the restoration of the REA Baggage Cart.







CLEBURNE RAILROAD MUSEUM

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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**Get Ready for North Texas Chapter's
25th Anniversary Dinner!!!
"1996-2021"**

**Yes, we are turning 25 this year and we are planning a
"Big-O" Dinner Celebration coming in early October...
More info to follow soon!!!**

President's Roundhouse: Remember When?

(Exerts From Wichita Falls Times Record News, June 22, 2008)

Quanah Zephyr's historic journey includes 'Indian' attacks, man in woman's clothing

Lynn Walker, Times Record News

Except for the man in woman's clothing with his face painted blue standing in the tracks swinging an ax, the journey of the Quanah Zephyr went without a hitch Saturday. For the first time in nearly 41 years, a passenger train rolled into Wichita Falls. It was an excursion arranged by the North Texas Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society in conjunction with the group's national convention in Fort Worth. The train, consisting of 13 cars - a mix of modern Amtrak cars and vintage coaches leased from private owners - carried about 500 passengers. The trip started in Fort Worth, picked up a few riders in Wichita Falls, and chugged on to Quanah before returning. The incident with the ax-wielding man delayed the schedule about 90 minutes before railroad security agents and law enforcement could subdue the man at gunpoint. His motive for attempting to attack the train was unknown late Saturday.

The vintage lounge cars spanned the golden age of passenger rail travel, dating back to the 1940s and '30s. The oldest was a richly-appointed observation Pullman car built in 1923. People gathered at crossings along the route to see and snap pictures of an image not seen for four decades. Quanah was chosen as the end destination because the town is steeped in railroad history and is a point where a train can turn around. The arrival of the Zephyr also coincided with Hardeman County's Sesquicentennial.

The Zephyr endured its second attack at the outskirts of Quanah as an Indian raiding party charged the train on horseback. Unlike the incident near Bellevue, this attack was preplanned as part of the welcoming ceremony. Crowds of area residents turned out, as did a stagecoach, the Santa Rosa Riding Club and an assortment of horseback riders and buggies. Passengers were treated to lunch at the Three Rivers Ballroom during their stopover.

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May Chapter Meeting Minutes

The May 4th meeting on the traditional first Tuesday of the month was held at Spring Creek BBQ In Lewisville after scrambling to find a new location when just finding out the Grapevine location was temporarily closed the night before. President Wayne

Smith called the meeting to order at 7:40 pm with nine members and one guest in attendance.

Wayne reported that a chapter board meeting was held on Tuesday, April 20th. Topics discussed included options for future meetings and options for chapter trips/ excursions including, but not limited to, visiting the re-openings of local museums that the chapter has supported through our grant program. We'd also like to plan a trip on Amtrak. The main topic of discussion was 24 Hours @ Saginaw and working out the details to deal with our new limitations with no access to the depot itself. The board also discussed partially paying the expenses of a member to attend train shows in Houston and San Antonio to promote and sell our Southern Pacific book that we published. The board decided that the Chapter By-laws need to be updated, but that was tabled for another time.

Skip Waters announced that the details are coming together for the national NRHS convention in Milwaukee this summer. Attendees can now book their rooms at the convention hotel. Watch for announcements from national.

Jon Shea announced that the June meeting will be held at Sokol Hall and the July meeting will be held at Spring Creek BBQ in Lewisville. Programs for those meetings are in the works. Jon passed around a copy of a document entitled, "Then and Now: Richardson Station and Freight Depot", Interurban Railway Museum Archives, Texas Electric Railway History.

Bob Kennedy is still collecting dues from those that are delinquent.

Elden Baker reported that the 201, as reported last month, is due for arrival in Anna by mid-summer if all goes well.

The evening program was a short movie, entitled "Big Boy". Ed Begley starred as Ed Grant in this 1950s NBC Lucky Strike Theater drama about a Big Boy engineer who is struggling with fears about his future. The conflict between generations is played out between an old railroad man and his son over steam powered trains versus the new diesel engine.

The meeting concluded at 9:15 pm.

Meeting Minutes submitted by Wayne Smith

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June Chapter Meeting Minutes

The Tuesday, June 1st, meeting of the North Texas Chapter – NRHS was held at Sokol Hall in Dallas. The meeting was called to order at 7:42 pm by President Wayne Smith with 10 members in attendance.

Wayne and Skip Waters discussed the success of the 15th Annual 24 Hours @ Saginaw despite the threats of severe weather Friday night/Saturday morning and not knowing if we had access to restrooms or access to the depot until the last minute. Of course, we had a backup plan. Thankfully, everything fell into place! Friday evening and night turned out to have beautiful weather. We ended up having access to indoor and outdoor restrooms and access to the large room (Freight area of the depot) to conduct our traditional silent auction and put together some last minute programs. The “Great Locomotive Race” Trivia Game is always popular and so was the live horn demonstration by Ken Fitzgerald on Saturday. Wayne and Skip thanked each other and the volunteers for another successful event, although unusual in many ways. The new barrier that Wayne and Skip installed was successful in keeping excited train watchers a safe distance from the tracks. With all the unknowns, attendance was down this year, but it still turned out to be a great event. With few volunteers this year, Elden Baker really stepped up to assist in many different ways and Jon Shea assisted with registration on Saturday. Unfortunately, we actually had to hire somebody to work registration on Friday night.

Wayne brought a picture of the Burlington #5632 steam locomotive that was painted gold to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the completion of the Chicago to Aurora mainline. The picture was from May 23, 1964 and was in the Burlington Route Historical Society 2021 calendar.

Jon Shea brought a pamphlet from the Texas Historical Commission with a picture of the first T&P passenger train arriving in Kermit, TX in 1929. He brought the current edition of *The KRHS Katy Flyer* with pictures of Katy business cars #400 and #401 parked on their storage track adjacent to Dallas Union Terminal with the “Old Red” courthouse in the background. The publication also included photos of the Texas Electric Railway. Jon also brought an article entitled, “Then and Now: Richardson Station and Freight Depot.”

In keeping with the theme of the night, Dave Podhrasky brought two books: *1905 Electric Railway Cars and Trucks* and *The Interurban Era*. Both books contained articles and pictures on Interurbans in north Texas. Dave also brought two beautiful brass HO Scale models of actual Texas Interurbans. Dave also brought a map showing where the branch line of the Texas Electric ran right behind Sokal Hall.

Skip Waters announced that registration is now open for the NRHS national convention being held in Milwaukee this summer. He also discussed some of the

major events taking place that are listed in the recent communique sent to all members by the national office. Skip suggested that we take a trip on the Texas State Railroad to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the founding of the North Texas Chapter. Most members present said that they were interested in participating in the excursion.

James Dolande brought his small working layout of an interurban car to display and run. He also brought the video *Texas Electric Railway* edited by Steve Goen for the evening program (51 minutes of rare 8mm and 16mm color and B&W movies filmed between 1937 and 1948. Includes the entire line from Denison to Waco, the Dallas to Corsicana line, as well as rare scenes of streetcars on the Waco Transit city line. From the collection of Johnnie J. Myers).

Minutes submitted by President 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