



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



*North Texas Zephyr*

*(Interim editor - Skip Waters)*



**Robin Cole-Jett**

**Chapter News**

**September Chapter Meeting**

**Monthly Meeting:** Tuesday, September 7, 2021

**Time:** 7:00 PM

**Location:** **SPRING CREEK BBQ**

**571 E Round Grove Rd, Lewisville, TX 75067**

**Program:** A talk by The Red River Historian - Robin Cole-Jett



Frisco Heritage Center Depot.



## **Ken Fitzgerald and Steve Allen Goen to Headline 25th Anniversary Celebration!**

**Yes, it's true! The North Texas Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society was founded and chartered in 1996 and is celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2021.**

**We celebrating on Saturday night, October 2, 2021 beginning at 6:30pm with a banquet dinner at the Frisco Heritage Center Old Depot. This will be a sit-down dinner limited to 50 guests. Reservations and payment in advance are required.**

**What do you need to do?** Only Chapter members will be able to register for the Banquet using the Banquet Registration form following this announcement. The form has all the dinner information and costs.

Reservations will be on a first come paid basis until we reach 50 guests. We are restricted to 50 guests by the size of the venue. All dinners must be prepaid; there will be no dinners sold at the door and no money will be collected at the door. All reservations must be paid, mailed and received by September 22, 2021.

The only exception will be that reservations can be made and paid for at the September Chapter meeting. Cash will be accepted at the September Meeting only, not by mail.

**Speakers!** Our speakers will be Ken Fitzgerald, well known railroad corporate photographer, and Steve Allen Goen, distinguished railroad author and videographer.

Two important things to remember:

- Paid 2021 Chapter members will get a discount for the dinners. If you need to confirm your paid 2021 Chapter membership status, please contact Bob Kennedy, Chapter Treasurer at [rckennedy48@verizon.net](mailto:rckennedy48@verizon.net) or 214-497-7745.
- Your completed reservation form and check must be mailed directly to Bob Kennedy, Chapter Treasurer and received by September 22, 2021 at:

Bob Kennedy, Treasurer  
North Texas Chapter, NRHS  
3304 Cross Bend Road  
Plano, Texas 75023-5710

**Do not mail your reservation or check to the Chapter P.O. Box.**

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact Bob Kennedy, Chapter Treasurer at [rckennedy48@verizon.net](mailto:rckennedy48@verizon.net) or 214-497-7745.

Thank you and see you at our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet Dinner!

# Our speaker this month is the Red River Historian

Robin Cole-Jett is the Red River Historian... a unique local historian that will be speaking at our September 7<sup>th</sup> chapter meeting.

She is an expert on North Texas/Red River History and has authored several books. One of her books include a unique guide to follow old railroad lines and locating historical sites. Robin plans to also discuss other forms of steam on or near the Red River such as steam boats that once navigated the Red River. This will be a real treat for history buffs, rail buffs, steam buffs and North Texas History in general.

For over twenty years, she has researched, documented and shared the history of the Red River Valley of the Southwest through her website, presentations, books, articles, social media, and even a few TV appearances.

A born Texan with family roots all over the Red River Valley in Louisiana, Robin received her bachelor's degree at East Texas State University; her Master's of Education at the University of North Texas; and her Master's of Arts in History from Texas Woman's University. She has completed some doctoral work in higher education and anthropology. Robin vacillates her professional life between stints of writing, teaching, road tripping, and museum consulting work.

**Please click link to Robin's website:** [HOME | Red River Historian | Press Presentations Tours Culture](#)

Wayne Smith, President  
North Texas Chapter - NRHS



**“Big Boy” 4014 in Fort Worth last month... Did you go see it?**

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## **Minutes of the August 2021 Meeting of the North Texas Chapter of the NRHS**

The August meeting of the North Texas Chapter, NRHS was Tuesday, August 3, 2021 at Sokol Hall in Dallas. President Wayne Smith called the meeting to order at 7:36 PM with 14 members in attendance.

Wayne reported that the details for the Chapter's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet were coming together nicely. The banquet will be held at the Frisco Heritage Center Depot on October 2, 2021 after the Plano Train Show. All Chapter members and their significant others were encouraged to attend. Members were encouraged to mail their check and reservation form to Chapter Treasurer, Bob Kennedy, as soon as possible (The Reservation Form is attached in this newsletter with the banquet details, cost and mailing instructions). You can also bring your completed reservation form and payment (either cash or check) to the September 7<sup>th</sup> Chapter Meeting. Remember that there is limited seating for this event and after September 7, reservations will be open to the general public. Wayne also announced the upcoming arrival of the UP Big Boy passing through Denton on August 13<sup>th</sup> and being on display in Fort Worth on August 14<sup>th</sup>.

Skip Waters reported that there were plenty of tickets still available for multiple events for the upcoming 2021 NRHS National Convention being held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin from August 23 thru August 28. The host hotel is the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel Milwaukee Downtown.

Jon Shea passed around information on the Fort Worth and Denver South Plains Railway , which included mention of two rare railroad tunnels (in Texas) near Quitaque. He also passed around a copy of *The Civil War Monitor* with an article about the derailment of the Commodore locomotive. The Commodore was one of several locomotives made, bought or

captured during the Civil War by the United States Military Railroad (USMRR). Jon announced that he will be out of town for the September meeting and Wayne will make arrangements for the program for the upcoming meeting. The September meeting will be held at Spring Creek BBQ in Lewisville.

**Bill Long was nominated as the Chapter's National Representative and a motion was placed by Skip Waters and was seconded by Bob Kennedy. The vote was unanimous for Bill Long to become the Chapter's National Representative.**

We also had a motion by Skip Waters about placing a Chapter Advertisement in *Cowcatcher Magazine*, which was seconded by Bob Kennedy with a vote in favor of placing such an ad.

After our regular Chapter business meeting, the evening program followed by a viewing of the DVD: Big Boys, Cab Forwards, Challengers & Daylights – 1 hr. 25 min.  
The meeting was adjourned after the completion of the video.

Meeting 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.
- National Representative, Bill Long.

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](http://www.nrhs.com)