

## North Texas Chapter – National Railway Historical Society



**The July 5th Meeting is scheduled at Fort Worth Central Station @ 6:00 PM**

**\*\*Please note the earlier start time**

**Program: Ken Fitzgerald Slide Show on Tower 55**

**We will meet in the Community Room on the second floor, which is accessible by elevator.**

**Parking:** There is no free parking at the facility. However, there are a number of paid public parking lots around the facility. Also, there is metered parking along the surrounding streets.



**Above:** Fort Worth Central Station



**Above:** Trinity Railway Express trainset at Fort Worth Central Station

Source of above Photos: <https://www.dfw.org/go/intermodal-transportation-center>

**Fort Worth Central Station is located at 1001 Jones Street, Fort Worth, TX 76102, 817-215-8654**

[View on Google Maps](#)

Fort Worth Central Station is an intermodal transit center in downtown Fort Worth, Texas. It serves the TEXRail and Trinity Railway Express commuter rail lines, Amtrak intercity rail, Greyhound Lines intercity bus, and as the main transfer center for Trinity Metro buses. [Wikipedia](#)

## Photographs by Ken Fitzgerald

Ken Fitzgerald - Railroad Historical Photography - Fort Worth, TX - 817-917-6936



[Third Floor of MP Tower 55 Fort Worth, Texas, taken on 6-14-81](#)  
[Photographs Submitted by Ken Fitzgerald](#)



[The Third Floor of Tower 55 \(now void of any radios, switch levers or control panels\) is just a shell of its former self as shown on April 25<sup>th</sup> with a group that came together to discuss options for saving Tower 55.](#)  
[Photo taken from opposite side of the third floor showing access to the stairs and mini kitchen.](#)



[UP Tower 55 Forth Worth, Texas, Date Unknown](#)

### Biography: Ken Fitzgerald, Photographer

Ken is an e-Railsafe certified contractor whose clients include BNSF, UP, KCS, Fort Worth & Western, Trinity Metro and various short line railroads handling project documentation, event, and marketing photographic assignments. He has his FAA Part 107 Remote Pilot's license and employ drones when appropriate. [The pictures below are from Ken s drone, taken on April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022.](#)

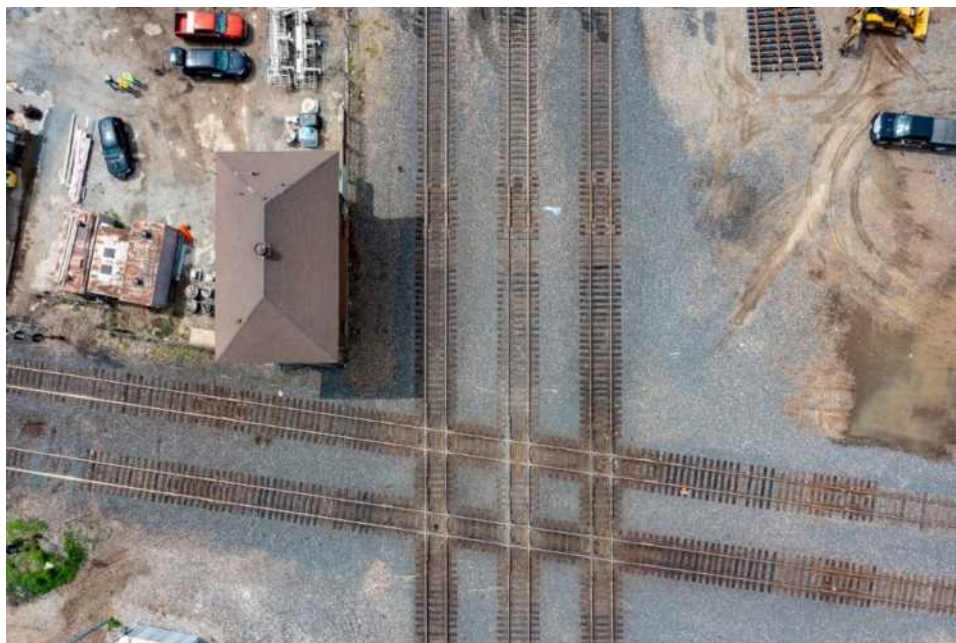




Photo Taken by Ken Fitzgerald at the controls of his drone on April 25, 2022.

Ken worked as the UP's photographer with their train at the Democratic and Republican National Conventions in 2008.

Ken covered the BNSF's Abo Canyon double track project in New Mexico from 2005 to 2011. Ken photographed multiple events around the country for the Union Pacific's 150th Anniversary in 2012.



Left Photo by Ken Fitzgerald of a UP stack train from Tower 55 on April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Ken photographed the 100 million dollar Tower 55 improvement project in Fort Worth for the UP and the BNSF in 2013 and 2014, as shown below. The ribbon cutting (pictured below) was on November 07, 2014, to celebrate the completion of the Tower 55 expansion project where the third north-south track was added back to the plant.



Below: Ken was the photographer for the TexRAIL project that built a 27-mile light rail line from downtown Fort Worth to DFW Airport Terminal B that opened in late 2018. <https://kenrailphoto.smugmug.com/TexRail-Project>



TexRAIL T&P Groundbreaking Event 2016-08-24



TexRAIL N. Richland Hills Groundbreaking Event 2016-08-24

## The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual 24 Hours @ Saginaw Has Come and Gone



Skip Waters, Event Chair, is surveying the grounds in Saginaw for the Chapter's Annual Event

Okay, Okay... Here are the results and train count from the 24 Hours @ Saginaw 2022.

We had 55 Trains pass by the depot between 7pm to 7pm - 24 Hours!

Our presenters did a good job from Stu Sibitzky's - Alaska Railroad to Ed Davis' replay of The Last Professional - the hobo life. I also showed a Crash at Crush video that most have not seen in some time. On Saturday, Sam and James, played their selected videos and displayed their model layouts.

We played at least two Trivia Railroad Games. Much affair in how the questions were asked and the answers that were given, most had fun along the way. Brian Tindle donated new railroad markers for the trivia teams.

Also, we had many young railfans join us this year. They came from New Braunfels, Elgin, Houston, Oklahoma, Louisiana, South Carolina and all around. We had some old timers too and the usual riff-raff to keep us all awake through the night.

As for report video's. My computer was stolen this year and I haven't been able to create the YouTube clips I normally do. So this year it was all Facebook LIVE videos. I'll try to post the clips here. But if that doesn't work. Go to the link here: <https://www.facebook.com/24hoursatSaginaw>. To watch all the videos from the event.

Thank you's go out to BNSF Railway, City of Saginaw and City of Saginaw's Permits Department, Saginaw Fire Department, Alexander Tents, Texas Johns, [Railstream.net](http://Railstream.net) for the free railcam, North Texas Chapter NRHS volunteers and presenters and all the fun and excited railfans that joined us this year. It wasn't a large crowd, but it was fun for everyone who attended.

It's Time to Watch Some Trains... Next year!

See ya then,

Skip Waters

North Texas Chapter, NRHS

[Editor s note This is the first year that we rented a big tent for shelter, registration and programs that also included tables and chairs due to lack of access to the depot itself for the first time.](#)



[The grain elevators pictured above can be seen for miles around and serve as a great backdrop for the intersection of three major rail lines in Saginaw, TX. Below another angle of the big tent in the center of everything.](#)



[Photographs on this page by Jerry Nunn](#)

[Attendees Settling in at 24 Hours @ Saginaw](#)



[All Photographs on this page by Jerry Nunn](#)





[Lots of familiar faces in attendance at 24 Hours @ Saginaw waiting for the next program to start](#)



[Photographs on this page by Jerry Nunn](#)

[The pair of locomotives pictured below was seen making several switching maneuvers in the Saginaw Yard during 24 Hours @ Saginaw](#)



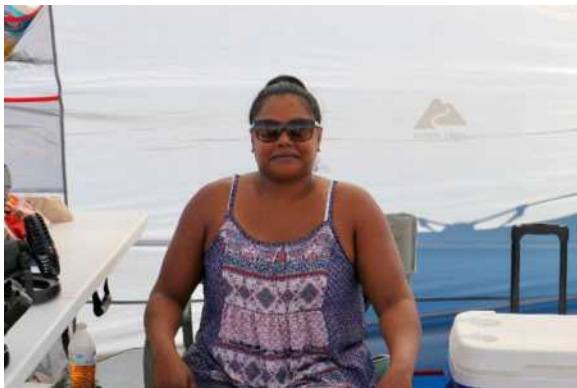
Examples of Locomotive Power Observed in Saginaw

All Photographs on this page by Jerry Nunn



[More faces, loco power and rolling stock in Saginaw](#)

[All Photographs on this page by Jerry Nunn](#)





[Amtrak Heartland Flyer](#) Photograph above by Jerry Nunn  
And  
[Photographs below by James D.](#)





[Left: A nice night shot taken by chapter member James D. That s a Union Pacific vehicle in the foreground.](#)

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### **Minutes of the June 2022 Meeting of the North Texas Chapter of the NRHS**

The June 2022 meeting of the North Texas Chapter of the NRHS meeting was held on Tuesday, June 7 at Sokol Hall in Dallas, TX. There were 17 attendees, including 1 guest.

President Wayne Smith called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. He began the meeting with a newsletter Quiz , so those who read the newsletter would know the answer. The prizes for the correct answer were railroad postcards and lapel pins he got from his recent San Antonio trip.

Wayne announced that the July meeting will be held at Fort Worth Central Station with a slide show and report from Ken Fitzgerald on Tower 55 in Fort Worth. The meeting will be on the second floor and will have an earlier start time.

National Representative Bill Long spoke about some of the items discussed at the recent NRHS National Convention in Fullerton, CA. Railcamp for this year is canceled due to continuing covid concerns. Financially, the books are in good order. This past year, NRHS has funded nearly \$100K in grants. There are currently 5,285 members, up from last year. There is one individual that has been an NRHS member for 75 years.

The current National President Al Weber is stepping down at the end of his term this year. Tony White is running unopposed for the office. Biographies for the candidates are available on the National website. Note that our own Skip Waters is one of the candidates for Director.

Sites for the next two years national conventions have been decided. The 2023 convention is to be held in South Florida. Harrisburg, PA has been selected as the site for the 2024 convention. (\*Editor s Note See Bill s full report following the meeting minutes).

VP Skip Waters reported that North Texas Chapter members Skip, Bill Long, AJ Roquevert, and David Minnerly attended the 2022 National Convention in Fullerton, CA.

The convention was lightly attended, with only about 100 members attending. Skip provided a brief sketch of the activities. More detailed descriptions on a day-to-day basis are available on Skip s FB page or the North Texas Chapter s FB page.

The national NRHS has revised its membership policies. Dues are now credited for 12 months from the date received. For example, dues paid in April cover the 12 months until the following April. For that reason, members should not delay paying their annual dues, as their membership will lapse during the time it is unpaid, causing a reset in their membership length calculation.

The Chapter s 24 Hours at Saginaw event took place this past Memorial Day weekend. There were 34 signees to the registration form, but attendance estimates numbered about 60. 55 trains were logged in the 24 hours from 7 PM Friday, May 27 to Saturday, May 28.

VP Jon Shea announced meeting sites for the remainder of the year. Locations are July, Fort Worth Central Station (Amtrak Station), 2<sup>nd</sup> floor; August, Founders Building, Grapevine; September, Spring Creek Barbeque, Lewisville; October, OPEN; November, Texas Western Model RR Club; December, Christmas Dinner at Babes in Carrollton.

Member Sam Metzgar pointed out a photo in a recent issue of the Cowcatcher magazine that featured Sam and fellow member James Dolande announcing the Fall Plano Train Show. Sam also passed around a calendar of F7 photos for review.

The evening s program was a History Channel Documentary entitled Steam Trains . The meeting informally adjourned at about 9:20 PM following the conclusion of the program.

Jerry M. Nunn  
Secretary, North Texas Chapter, NRHS

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Buena Park, CA (Knott s Berry Farm Hotel) May 15, 2022 Advisory Council Meeting Report

NOTES:

Meeting lasted 3 hours. (attended in person).

- 1) Brought back NRHS membership brochures and NRHS Rail Camp brochures.
- 2) 2022 Convention registration issues were due to Paypal and NRHS not doing updates. This issue has been resolved going forward, except system will not accept AMEX credit card.
- 3) RailCamp for 2022 is cancelled due to Covid. (A decision had to be made early).

- 4) The 2023 NRHS board meeting Spring Conference will be combined with the R&LHS (Railway & Locomotive Historical Society) annual meeting in May 2023 in Sacramento, CA. Note, this is just a combined meeting, and there is no talk of the two societies merging.
- 5) Grants for this year by the NRHS were made of close to \$100K.
- 6) Finances: The society is in good shape financially. However, much of NRHS money is due to bequests (i.e. when a member dies) and in many cases there are restrictions, e.g. that the money be only used for grants.
- 7) Discussed purpose of the Advisory Council: i.e. to provide guidance to the board, and take requests from the board. Primarily to communicate from the members and chapters about issues that need to be brought to the attention of the board.
- 8) Membership renewal: Membership starting in 2022 for new members will be on a joining date basis, as opposed to a year end renewal basis, i.e. each year the membership will be renewed on the date of the original membership.
- 9) Membership Awards: the NRHS had one 75 year member!
- 10) Membership: The NRHS has 5385 members. Membership is up slightly from last year. (That is good.) The NRHS has sent out 9000 brochures to various attractions (railroad attractions) and hobby stores. A problem is that when a new member registers NRHS does not ask how that person found out about NRHS. NRHS is working on that.
- 11) The new NRHS president will be Tony White (he is running unopposed.) Al Weber will step down.
- 12) Next Advisory Council meeting is in Springdale Arkansas in September 2022.
- 13) Conventions
  - a. 2023 South Florida (probably Fort Lauderdale in September)
  - b. 2024 Harrisburg PA

Reported by Bill Long (North Texas Chapter national representative)

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**Unveiling of Locomotive #20 The Ebenezer Allen**

**By Wayne Smith, Photos by Jerry Nunn**

The locomotive, tender and H&TC caboose (pictured on next page) were cosmetically restored and formally presented to the City of Allen on June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Several city officials spoke at the event and described in detail the process required to cosmetically restore the locomotive and rolling stock. Several chapter members attended the event including Jerry and Linda Nunn, Skip Waters, Elden Baker, James Dolande and Wayne Smith. We all went for BBQ after the event to discuss the evening s events and share photographs. Locomotive #20 has a sister locomotive #19 located in front of the Frisco Depot where the chapter held its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet. A more detailed report will be given in next month s Zephyr, as well as additional photographs.



Ken Fulk, Mayor of the City of Allen, is seen above leading the unveiling event.





**Chapter Directory**

North Texas Chapter Officers, 2022

- \*President, Wayne Smith, 940-300-4407
- \*Vice President/Programs, Jon Shea, 972-948-2413
- \*Vice President/Trips and Events, Skip Waters, [wgcrush@swbell.net](mailto:wgcrush@swbell.net)
- \*Vice President/Communications, Vacant
- \*Secretary, Jerry Nunn
- \*Treasurer, Bob Kennedy
- \*National Representative, Bill Long
- \*Webmaster, Kim Hays, [kimhays516@gmail.com](mailto:kimhays516@gmail.com)
- \*Zephyr Editor, Wayne Smith

Chapter Business Address: North Texas Chapter, NRHS, P.O. Box 600304, Dallas, Texas 75360

Chapter Email: [northtexaschapternrhs@gmail.com](mailto:northtexaschapternrhs@gmail.com)

North Texas Chapter site: <https://ntxnrhs.org/>

Facebook Page: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/409467244127/>

North Texas Zephyr (current issues): [The Zephyr Newsletter - North Texas Chapter, NRHS \(ntxnrhs.org\)](http://www.northtexaszephyr.org/)

Zephyr Archives: [Rail History Newsletters \(gogeocaching.com\)](http://www.zephyrarchives.com/)

**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, the 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://ntxnrhs.org/store> 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.

Learn about the National Railway Historical Society at [www.nrhs.com](http://www.nrhs.com)

*Doodlebug News Briefs*



MKT doodlebug M10

**July 5<sup>th</sup>, NT Chapter Meeting History of Tower 55 by Ken Fitzgerald at Fort Worth Central Station. Starts at 6:00 due to location.**

**July 22<sup>nd</sup>, Deadline for Newsletter Article Submittal.**

**August 2<sup>nd</sup>, NT Chapter Meeting Founder s Building in Grapevine. Starts at 7:30.**

**September 6<sup>th</sup>, NT Chapter Meeting Spring Creek BBQ in Lewisville. Starts at 7:00 due to location.**

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**Come see Ken Fitzgerald s presentation on Tower 55 at our July 5<sup>th</sup> meeting at Fort Worth Central Station.**