

North Texas Chapter – National Railway Historical Society



August Chapter Meeting

When: Tuesday, August 2nd @ 7:00 pm for meet n greet, 7:30 pm meeting
 Where: Founders Building, 701 S Main Street, Grapevine, Texas
 Program: Video: *First-Generation Diesels* DVD, 52 minutes, from Kalmbach Media
 Location: Grapevine Founders Building is found in the same parking lot as the Grapevine Vintage Railroad Depot (Old Cotton Belt Depot). [Get directions](#)

More about the Program:

First-Generation Diesels gives you a rare look at the pioneering locomotives that finally replaced steam power. Don't miss the vintage footage from more than 50 years ago. This special edition of the *Dream*Plan*Build Video Series*, also includes 30 minutes of bonus footage on *Second- and Third-Generation Diesels* featuring locations from across the nation.

Chapters

- Chapter One ..Locomotives that Changed Railroading
- Chapter Two .. EMD
- Chapter Three Alco
- Chapter Four .Baldwin Locomotive Works
- Chapter Five ..Lima Hamilton Corp.
- Chapter SixFairbanks-Morse Co.

Bonus Feature

Second- and Third-Generation EMD Diesels

Summary of our Special Feature Presentation with Ken Fitzgerald at Fort Worth Central Station

By Wayne Smith, Photographs by Jerry Nunn

Official minutes were not recorded at our July meeting due to not having a business meeting. We were limited to a two hour window of time at Fort Worth Central Station. We decided to forgo our usual business meeting and any special announcements. Jon Shea did send out an email (July 4th) with all of our upcoming meetings for the remainder of the year. Our upcoming meetings are also listed on the last page under *Doodlebug News Briefs*. I did count 27 attendees including Ken and 7 guests. Several of our attendees reported that they arrived at the station by train.

After a quick introduction of Ken and some of his accomplishments, we used the entire time for Ken to present the 438 slides that he brought. As a contractor, Ken's clients include BNSF, UP, KCS, Fort Worth & Western, Trinity Metro and various short line railroads handling project documentation, event, and marketing photographic assignments. Ken did his usual amazing job and shared lots of historical information on Tower 55 and the railroads that used Tower 55. We also discussed the current status of Tower 55 and future options for its disposition that are on the table.



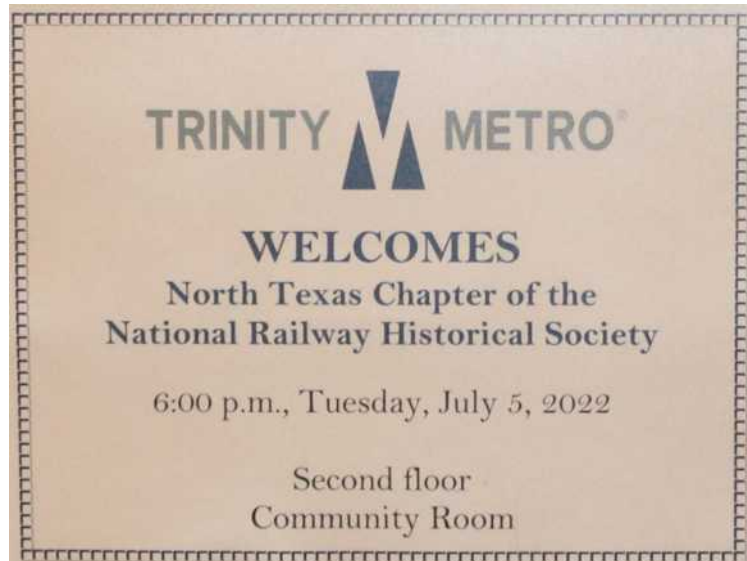
North Texas Chapter board members are pictured with rail historian and photographer Ken Fitzgerald (Center) after his presentation on Tower 55. Pictured Left to Right: President/Editor, Wayne Smith; Jerry Nunn, Secretary; Kim Hays, Webmaster; Ken Fitzgerald, Presenter; Skip Waters, VP of Trips and Events; Bob Kennedy, Treasurer; and Bill Long, National Representative. Not pictured: Jon Shea, VP of Programs. Tower 55 is seen in the background.



There were Welcome signs advertising the Chapter's presence at Fort Worth Central Station and the signs were located in various spots around the depot. Trinity Metro was very accommodating for our Special Feature Presentation on Tower 55 with rail historian and photographer Ken Fitzgerald.



Ken Fitzgerald is seen preparing for his 438 slide presentation on Tower 55.



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Unveiling of Locomotive #20 The Ebenezer Allen

By Wayne Smith, Photos by Jerry Nunn

As mentioned in the July Zephyr, several chapter members attended the unveiling of Locomotive #20 The Ebenezer Allen including Jerry and Linda Nunn, Skip Waters, Elden Baker, James Dolande and Wayne Smith. The event was held at the Allen Heritage Museum and Depot.

The depot is an exact replica of the original depot that burned down several decades ago. The locomotive, tender and H&TC caboose were cosmetically restored and formally presented to the City of Allen on June 9th, 2022. You can tell by the construction of the caboose that it is too modern to be an actual HT&C caboose. More on the caboose is mentioned below. Several city officials spoke at the event and described in detail the process required to obtain and cosmetically restore the locomotive and rolling stock.

The Ebenezer Allen was named in honor of the man that first chartered the railroad through Allen. The train depot served as a water stop for the Galveston and Red River Railway chartered by Ebenezer Allen in the mid 1800 s. The Southeast Texas to Red River railroad would transition to the Houston and Texas Central Railway.

As promised, here is additional information about Locomotive #20. As mentioned on the Allen Heritage Guild website, the presence of the steam locomotive represents Allen s railroad heritage with the coming of the Houston and Texas Central RR in 1874. This 1910 locomotive was built by the American Locomotive Company for the Lake Superior and Ishpeming Railroad where it hauled iron ore trains from Marquette, MI to dockyards alongside Lake Superior.

It was retired from service in 1969 and placed in the scrap yard. In 1989 it was restored by the Grand Canyon Railroad and became a tourist railroad there. It was subsequently retired from service at the Grand Canyon and moved to Colorado.

It arrived in Allen October 14, 2020 from storage at the Rio Grande Scenic Railroad in Alamosa, Colorado on four trucks and was placed on tracks laid for this purpose in front of the Depot and was in a partially restored state until the cosmetic restoration was completed this year.

Right: The pretty face and Star of the Show , Locomotive #20 - The Ebenezer Allen





The only structure remaining from the original depot (it burned down in the 1940 s) site is the old cistern located on the south side of the building, pictured above between the end of the caboose and the depot.



Jerry Nunn, Chapter Secretary, is posing in front of Locomotive #20. He is usually on the other side of the camera.



Ken Fulk, Mayor of the City of Allen, leading the unveiling event



Elden Baker, Chapter Member, visiting with Allen Mayor Ken Fulk after the ceremony



Lynda Nunn, Chapter Member, visiting with potential new member



Wayne Smith, Chapter President, providing potential new member with an NRHS brochure



Skip Waters, Chapter VP of Trips and Special Events, visiting with attendees



H&TC emblem on the caboose



According to the Allen Heritage Guild website, originally the caboose was used on the Rock Island Lines. It was built in 1930 and modified in 1955. It is steel framed with a wood roof covered with canvas. The cupola is off-center which usually indicates that the short stretch of roof top is the back. The caboose is 29 feet long with an inside width of 8½ feet. It weighs 47,400 pounds.



Spotlight on the Katy Building in Downtown Dallas

Jon Shea, Chapter VP of Programs, recently visited the historical Katy Building in downtown Dallas. Below are his submitted photographs.



The Katy Building is an eight-floor historic building located in Downtown Dallas' West End Historic District at 701 Commerce St. The Katy Building was constructed from 1912-1914 for Dallas businessman Col. John M. Simpson. For over 50 years, the 57,500-square-foot building served as the headquarters for the Missouri Kansas Texas Railroad (MKT), which gave the building its name (Katy, short for KT).

The seven story, terra cotta and masonry building was designed by H.A. Overbeck in the Beaux-Arts/Historism style. It featured fire proof construction, office spaces, and a power plant in the basement. Although the MKT occupied most of the building as their headquarters, rental space was available for other businesses as well. While the interior of the building has been extensively renovated over the years, the historic character of the building has been preserved.

Workspace provider Novel Coworking purchased the Katy Building in 2014 and renovated the building's interior to provide private offices and co-working space for entrepreneurs and small businesses that need flexible, short-term workspace.

Source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Katy_Building_\(Dallas,_Texas\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Katy_Building_(Dallas,_Texas))



As mentioned above, the interior of the building has been extensively renovated over the years; however, the historic character of the building has been preserved.



Photographs Submitted by Jon Shea on his Travels to Colorado



Beautifully restored Denver and Rio Grande Western train with 2-6-0 narrow gauge engine seen on former site of the railroad bridge over the Gunnison River in Curecanti National Recreation area, CO.



Jon's cog train at the summit of Pike's Peak: Highest Train in North America

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
- *Vice President/Communications, Vacant
- *Secretary, Jerry Nunn
- *Treasurer, Bob Kennedy
- *National Representative, Bill Long
- *Webmaster, Kim Hays, kimhays516@gmail.com
- *Zephyr Editor, Wayne Smith

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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://TheZephyrNewsletter-NorthTexasChapter,NRHS(ntxnrhs.org))

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

Doodlebug News Briefs



MKT doodlebug M10

August 2nd, NT Chapter Meeting Founder s Building in Grapevine. Starts at 7:30.

August 26th, Deadline for September Newsletter Article Submittal.

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

October 1-2, Fall Train Show - Plano Centre

October 4th, NT Chapter Meeting T&P Tavern @ T&P Station Fort Worth. Program TBA.

November 1st, Texas and Western Model Railroad Club Annual Chapter Auction. Details TBA.

December 6th, Chapter Christmas Party Babe's Chicken House @ North Richland Hills location.

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Index:

August Program in Grapevine, TX	Page 1
Summary of Ken Fitzgerald s Program	Pages 2-3
Locomotive Unveiling in Allen, TX	Pages 4-7
Historical Katy Building in Dallas, TX	Pages 8-9
Jon Shea s Colorado Travels	Page 10
Chapter Directory/History/New Briefs	Page 11

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Wayne Smith, North Texas News Editor.
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