

North Texas Chapter – National Railway Historical Society



December Chapter Meeting

When: Tuesday, December 6th, NT Chapter Meeting (Christmas Dinner) @ 7:00 PM
 Where: Babe's Chicken Dinner House @ North Richland Hills location
 Program: Annual Christmas Dinner/Gift Exchange
 Location: 6700 NE Loop 820, North Richland Hills, TX 76180



Our December meeting will be held at **Babe’s Chicken Dinner House** in North Richland Hills, TX, for our **Annual Christmas Dinner and White Elephant Gift Exchange**. **Please bring a wrapped gift valued approximately between \$10.00 - \$15.00. Link to [Directions](#). Telephone (817) 428-4298.

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Leonard's M&O/Tandy Center Subway

Since we are on the subject of Chapter Christmas Dinners, the chapter held a dinner at the M&O Station Grill a few years ago with the connecting Leonard's Department Store Museum containing memorabilia and rare items from the famed Fort Worth Complex. Probably, the most famous attraction of Leonard's Department Store, was the M&O Subway. Later, Leonard's M&O Subway became Tandy Center Subway.

Below is a brief summary and photos as found at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tandy_Center_Subway.

The Tandy Center Subway operated in Fort Worth, Texas, from February 15, 1963 to August 30, 2002. It ran a distance of 0.7 miles and was, during the period of its operation, the only privately owned subway in the United States. The subway was originally built by Leonard's Department Store in 1963, connecting the store to its large parking lots on the edge of downtown. Originally known as the Leonard's M&O Subway, it consisted of one underground station beneath the store and four stations in the parking lots. Between 1962 and 1966, Leonard's acquired a total of 15 PCC streetcars from DC Transit in Washington, D.C. These had been manufactured by the St. Louis Car Company in the 1930s and 1940s.

The Tandy Corporation purchased the department store, its parking lots, and the subway in 1967. The corporation built its headquarters, the Tandy Center, on the site in 1974. Although it demolished the original store, Tandy retained the subway.



Tandy Streetcars at the underground terminal in 2002



A Tandy Center Subway car on the last day of service in 2002

The small subway primarily served patrons visiting the mall at the base of the Tandy Center, which also linked to the downtown location of Fort Worth Public Library. However, the anchor tenant moved out in 1995 and the mall declined. The Tandy Center Subway ceased operation on August 30, 2002.

After the closure, one of the streetcars used on the subway was acquired by Dallas's McKinney Avenue Transit Authority, which modified it to again make it suitable for in-street use, and it operated in service on the McKinney Avenue heritage streetcar line in Dallas until the mid-to late 2000s. As of 2012, it remained in storage in Dallas, out of use.

"Leonard's number one" was the first PCC streetcar to run the line in 1963, the subway car was originally manufactured by the St. Louis Car Co. between 1937 and 1944 in Washington, D.C. with custom made air conditioning and heating. The number one car is the only one of five original subway cars to survive. In April 1982 the car was saved from the cutting torch by a Tandy computer programmer and stored on a farm south of Fort Worth, where it remained for over 25 years. On February 2, 2008, it was moved to a restoration location near Benbrook, Texas. As of late 2013, Leonard's number one is now on public display in the lobby of Texas Capital Bank, Fort Worth (One City Place). (***See Editor's Photos Below**)

Parts of the tunnels that ran the cars still exist but currently closed off to the public. In 2015, Gordon Dickson with Lauren Leonard, the great-granddaughter of Obie Leonard and cousin Marty Leonard, daughter of founder Marvin Leonard, visited the tunnel with asset manager for Spire Realty Group Ryan Johnson. During that visit, the Marty Leonard signed "Remember the M&O," with date and name on the wall closing off the tunnel.

"Leonard's Number One"

Photos by Wayne Smith



Leonard's number one is now on public display in the lobby of Texas Capital Bank, Fort Worth (One City Place).

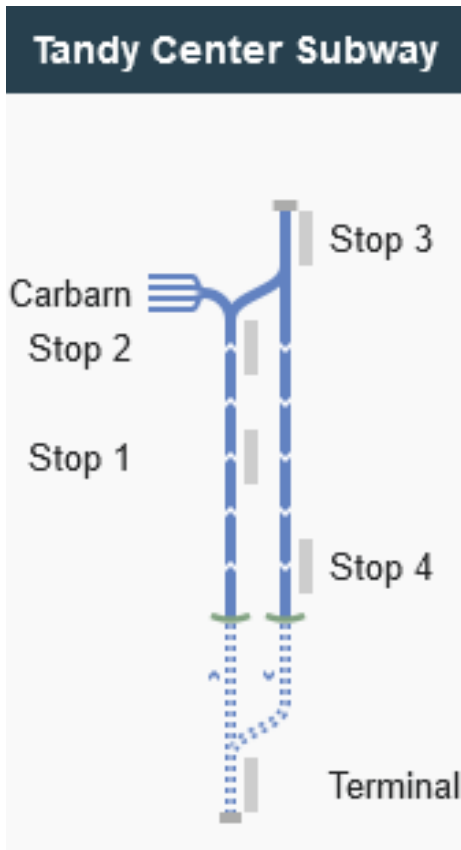


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Photo Above: Sign located on the front right windshield.

Photo on the Left: This cartoon figure was displayed in numerous places along the subway line.



“The subway was originally built by Leonard's Department Store in 1963, connecting the store to its large parking lots on the edge of downtown. Originally known as the Leonard's M&O Subway, it consisted of one underground station beneath the store and four stations in the parking lots.”

“The small subway primarily served patrons visiting the mall at the base of the Tandy Center, which also linked to the downtown location of the Fort Worth Public Library.”

Left Diagram: Showing the directional route and four stops with sheltered stations and a fifth station underground that connected to the mall. **(* See Editor's Photograph below)**

Source of the diagram on the left:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tandy_Center_Subway



Pictured Above: One of the four stations (Stop 2) in the parking lot looking just like it did back in the day. If you look close, there is another station in the background (Stop 3) on the left hand side of the photo. The stations were saved and are currently used as stages for entertainment venues. Sections of the track also still remain.



“Friends of the BNSF” published this picture (1 of 10) of its 25th Anniversary locomotives. Logos pictured left to right on the side of # 6111 include Burlington Route - The Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad (reporting mark CBQ), commonly referred to as the Burlington Route, the Burlington, or as the Q; Great Northern with “Rocky” the Goat; Northern Pacific with The Monad (yin yang) emblem; BN = Burlington Northern (my dad used to say it stood for **B**ig **N**oise); Santa Fe with the cross inside a circle; Frisco - short for St. Louis San Francisco; Colorado and Southern – the northern end of the famous Texas Zephyr; and Spokane, Portland and Seattle. Unfortunately, The Fort Worth and Denver (City) is nowhere to be seen!!!



San Antonio Rail Attractions – Part Three

Morgan’s Wonderland

By Wayne Smith (Including All Photos)

Most of us are familiar with the narrow gauge trains at **Fiesta Texas Railroad** at **Six Flags Fiesta Texas** in San Antonio and the **Brackenridge Eagle Miniature Railroad**, now known as the **San Antonio Zoo Train**.

But how many of you have heard of the **Wonderland Express at Morgan’s Wonderland** in San Antonio? “Morgan’s Wonderland offers 25 Ultra-Accessible™ attractions, sprawled across a 25-acre oasis of inclusion. From a wheelchair-accessible Ferris wheel to catch-and-release fishing, there is truly something for everyone to enjoy!”

The Wonderland Express has a special retractable ramp on each car that allows guests in wheelchairs to load themselves and their chairs directly onto the train. See the editor’s photographs below.



Above: Directly behind the locomotive, a retractable ramp can be seen at the front of the coach.



Above: Looking from inside the second coach, a retracted ramp can also be seen on the right.



The train runs around the perimeter of the park including a nice size lake with ducks to greet the train.



As we round a bend, the ramps can be prominently seen at the front of each coach with space to fit any size wheelchair.



Our train is seen pulling into the Wonderland Depot looking like any amusement park but with special accessibility for all!



The Wonderland Express Depot can be seen above with a faux water tower in the background.



More Photographs from The Chapter's October Meeting at the T&P Depot



Above: Track side photograph of the Texas & Pacific Depot.



Above: The TRE (Trinity Railway Express) is “now boarding” on Track 6.



Above: Trinity Metro TEXRail was preparing for departure on “the old” Track 5.



Trinity Metro TEXRail logo on the side of a departing train.



Some of us met for dinner at the T&P Tavern before the October meeting.



Underground tunnel leading to Rail Platforms and Parking Garage.



The T&P Depot and Diner are famous for their Art Deco Designs as seen in the current Tavern.



Former News Stand at the T&P Depot. It is now a part of the T&P Tavern.



Top of an Art Deco era door handle leading into the men's room at the T&P Depot.



Preview of January Meeting

As a reminder, **January is our annual elections**. If interested in running for office, please talk to Bill Long, as he is the Elections Chair again this year. If you want more information about the responsibilities of a certain position, you can speak to one of the current board members.

After the election, we will hold our annual “Show and Tell”. Below is a sample of items that members brought last year. These pictures were not published in the Zephyr last year while we were in transition of a new editor. The below pictures, by your current editor, give a sample of some exciting things that you might see at our “Show and Tell” if you have not attend one.



Above: Skip Waters proudly stands with some of his Southern Pacific items that he brought for Show and Tell last January. Skip, always the animated story teller, shared some humorous stories during his presentation. See some additional photos below.



Above: Sam Metzger (pictured) demonstrated some recent HO locomotive purchases. All the locomotives were DCC. James Dolande (not pictured) brought his set of O Scale street/trolley cars that are reproductions of the McKinney Avenue Transit Authority's current fleet of cars.



Above: We turned off all the lights and the *Daylight* neon sign brightly lit up the room.



Right: James Dolande also brought a vintage Dallas Railway & Terminal Company Conductor hat and badge.



IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN! North Texas Chapter Dues Renewal

It's that time again to renew your North Texas Chapter dues. Annual renewal for your North Texas Chapter Membership is due by January 1, 2023.

Please note this renewal is for your North Texas Chapter Membership only. Your Chapter dues are paid directly to the North Texas Chapter.

National NRHS Membership dues are paid directly to the National and are in addition to your North Texas Chapter Membership dues. You may have already received a separate National Membership renewal notice and payment information from the National NRHS. **Do not send your National NRHS Membership dues payment to the North Texas Chapter.**

North Texas Chapter Membership dues are \$16 for either an individual Regular Chapter Membership or an individual Chapter-only Membership and \$18 for a Regular Chapter Family Membership. All Chapter Members should be Members in good standing with the National NRHS. Chapter-only Members will be required to provide their NRHS Home Chapter in order to be a Chapter-only Member of the North Texas Chapter and cannot add Family Members to their membership. Chapter membership includes all our Chapter activities and our chapter newsletter, the North Texas Zephyr.

Make your Renewal Dues Payment by check, online or cash.

1. **TO PAY BY CHECK**, make your check payable to “North Texas Chapter NRHS” for \$16 (individual) or \$18 (family) and mail it to the Bob Kennedy, Chapter Treasurer, at:

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

Please note the new mailing address for membership renewals.

Do not mail your membership renewal to the Chapter Mailing Address as it will delay processing your renewal. If your check does not clearly indicate who the member is, please add a note with the member's name. Also, please include a list of any family member's names.

2. **TO PAY ON-LINE**, visit the Chapter's on-line store at:

<https://ntxnrhs.org/store/#!/Membership-Dues/c/15877014>

Copy and paste the address into your browser. A small service charge (50 cents for individuals, 75 cents for families) is added to your dues payment to cover the processing fees for using a credit card. You do not need to be a PayPal member to pay on-line.

3. **CASH PAYMENT** for your dues can be made at any Chapter Meeting. Please have the exact amount and pay the Treasurer or any Chapter Officer.

If you have any other questions about membership, please contact me directly at rkennedy48@verizon.net or 214-497-7745

Thanks very much.

Bob Kennedy, Treasurer
North Texas Chapter, NRHS



Southern Traction Company Car 305

By James Dolande

James Dolande reported that he will be helping to restore Southern Traction Company Car 305 in Corsicana TX. James also reported that he is president of the Northern Texas Traction Club. Car 305 was built by St. Louis Car in 1913, Order 990, as Southern Traction Co 305. It went to TE 305 in 1917. It was one manned in 1932 and retired in 1949. It was sold as a home in Corsicana. It was recovered in 2004 and sent to Edwards Rail Cars Co in 2004 to be restored. Unfortunately only the frame, wheels and outside

car-body were restored leaving the interior unfinished. It was put on public display in the City of Corsicana next to the Visitor's Center in 2009. See related pictures below.



Southern Traction Company Car 305 on display in Corsicana TX.



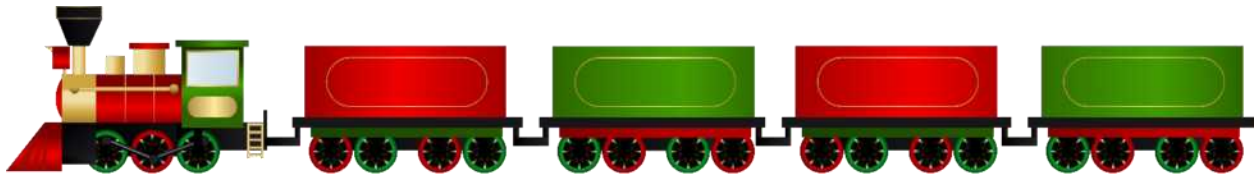
Southern Traction Company Car 305 was put on public display in the City of Corsicana next to the Visitor's Center in 2009.



James posing for a selfie in front of Car 305.



The rear of Southern Traction Co. Car 305.



Many Thanks to the Texas Western Model Railroad Club!

Our November meeting was held at the TWMRR clubhouse where we held our annual auction. As always, David and his crew were very gracious hosts. The auction was successful and we raised \$478.00 during the evening that will be used toward our heritage grant program. All items auctioned were donated items by members and non-members alike. See TWMRR club house exterior below.



For All Fellow Ferroequinologists Everywhere -
Tower 55 In Memoriam: 1931 to 2022



A railroad landmark in the DFW Metroplex has been torn down. Tower 55 stood at the location in downtown Fort Worth where the T&P, Katy, Santa Fe, Southern Pacific, Rock Island, and the Fort Worth & Denver all intersected. The railroads have changed through the years and now the railroads meeting here are the BNSF, Union Pacific, Fort Worth & Western and Amtrak. The original tower was commissioned in 1904. That first building was located just northeast of what was the current Tower 55 building. The current building was built in 1931 (one source says 1941) and was so-named because it was the fifty-fifth such tower designated by the Texas Railroad Commission.

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Minutes of the November 2022 Meeting of the North Texas Chapter of the NRHS

The November 2022 meeting of the North Texas Chapter of the NRHS meeting was held on Tuesday, November 1 at the Texas Western Model RR Club facilities in Forest Hill, TX. There were 18 attendees.

President Wayne Smith called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. Wayne acknowledged and thanked Dave Crumpton, who served as host of the meeting and is CEO of Texas Western Model Railroad Club.

There was a moment of silence in memory of P. K. Hannah, a long-time vendor of railroad memorabilia, a former chapter member and friend of Wayne, who recently passed away in a traffic accident.

North Texas Chapter National Representative Bill Long announced that the Kansas City Southern special Christmas train will be in Wylie, TX at 4 PM on Saturday, December 3.

VP Jon Shea passed around the Union Pacific 2023 calendar that he just received.

Jon reminded the attendees that the Chapter December Meeting and annual Christmas dinner will take place on December 6 at Babe's Chicken Dinner House, 6700 NE Loop 820, North Richland Hills, TX, 76180. There will be a white elephant exchange of gifts. Attendees, please bring a nominally priced (\$10-\$15) wrapped gift.

The January 2023 Chapter meeting will take place on January 3 at the Spring Creek BBQ, 3514 W Airport Fwy, Irving, TX 75062. The program will be Show and Tell, and the election of the 2023 officers.

VP Skip Waters is now one of the nine At Large Directors of the National NRHS Chapter. This is a change from the recent organization, where a single Director represented a specific geographical location.

Skip is trying to arrange a Chapter meeting at the Civil War Museum, particularly in April, to commemorate the Great Locomotive Chase, which took place on April 12, 1862. However, since the normal operating days are Thursday through Sunday, arranging a meeting on Tuesday may be difficult to impossible.

There will be a National Board Meeting in May at the Golden Nugget Casino in Reno, NV. Along with the NRHS, the Southern Pacific Historical Society will also be conducting a meeting there. For actual dates and additional details, refer to the National NRHS website or contact Skip.

The National NRHS Convention will take place in September in Florida. Among the activities planned are a visit to the Flagler Museum, and Gold Coast and Bright Line excursions.

The business meeting adjourned about 7:45 PM. For the remainder of the evening, Skip served as auctioneer for the auction. The auction grossed \$478.00, minus \$6.41 in credit card fees. All in all, the auction was deemed a success.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Jerry M. Nunn
Secretary, North Texas Chapter, NRHS

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Preparing for the Arrival of Mogul #201 from Arkansas



Elden Baker was recently in Reader, Arkansas taking a look at the progress on Mogul 201. She was being prepared for its move to Anna, TX to rest beside the Anna Railroad Depot and Museum. Photo by Elden.



The City of Anna: Coming Soon! Historic Train Restoration and Display Track. Photo by Elden Baker.



Track was being laid in preparation for the arrival of #201 in November 2022. Photo by Elden Baker.



A Historic area of Anna is seen from the opposite direction in November 2022. Photo by Elden Baker.



Track work was completed Mid-November and was waiting for the arrival of #201. Photo by Elden Baker



This looks like a Christmas Scene from many decades ago with the historic depot and the historic church in the background, just ignore the playground! It will be postcard perfect when Mogul 201 is in place.

*To All of Our Members and Their Families,
And to All of Our Friends:*



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

Zephyr Archives: [Rail History Newsletters \(gogeocaching.com\)](http://www.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 usually held 7:30-9:30 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

November 12, 2022 - January 6, 2023, **The Trains at NorthPark Annual Event.** See link for more details - <http://www.thetrainsatnorthpark.com/>

November 21, 2022 to December 23, 2022, **Grapevine Vintage Railroad North Pole Express.** See link for more details - <https://www.grapevinetexasusa.com/christmas-capital-of-texas/north-pole-express/>

December 3rd, **KCS Holiday Express @ 4:00, Wylie, TX.** See link for more details - [2022-Holiday-Express-Schedule.pdf \(kcsouthern.com\)](https://www.kcsouthern.com/2022-Holiday-Express-Schedule.pdf)

December 6th, **Chapter Christmas Party – Babe's Chicken House @ North Richland Hills location.** We will have a **White Elephant Exchange.** Start Time is 7:00 PM.



January 3rd, **Chapter Elections and Annual Show and Tell.** **Spring Creek BBQ in Irving.** Starts at 7:00 instead of 7:30.



Wayne Smith, North Texas News Editor.
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