

North Texas Chapter – National Railway Historical Society



November Chapter Meeting: Annual Chapter Auction



Our November meeting will be held at the **Texas Western Model Railroad Club** in Forest Hill, TX, for our **Annual Auction**. You are “guaranteed” to get a bargain. You can also bring railroad related donations for the auction and receive a tax receipt. Please come and participate in the Auction to support our chapter.

Guests are always welcome!
See you there!

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**When: Tuesday, November 7th @
7:30 pm, Meet “N” Greet @ 7:00**

**Where: Texas Western Model
Railroad Club**

**Location: 6808 Forest Hill Dr.,
Forest Hill, TX, 76140**

Link to Directions:
<https://www.twmrc.org/twmrc/location/>



The First Annual
 “24 Hours @ Big Sandy”

has come and gone. We can easily say that the City of Big Sandy not only put out the “welcome mat” for us, but also rolled out the “red carpet” for us. From a Big Sandy welcome committee made up of city officials, local business owners and civic leaders; to donated water, 55 pounds of donated fresh smoked ribs and tenderloin, donated delicious banana pudding, cookies and snacks to good ‘ole Southern Hospitality, we could not have had a better experience!

“24 Hours @ Big Sandy” Hall of Fame

By Wayne Smith, Photographs by Jerry Nunn and Wayne Smith



Above Left: Chapter President Wayne Smith (center) and Chapter Secretary Jerry Nunn (right) are seen posing with part of the Big Sandy welcoming committee including (left to right) business owner Celina Jitjaeng (Grower's Source); Rocky Ware, Public Works Director; Big Sandy Area Lions Club President Joy Lanham-Clark; and Laura Rex, City Administrator/City Secretary. Laura Rex supported our effort since April. **Thanks Laura!** Above Right: Mayor Linda Baggett is seen with Celina Jitjaeng (Grower's Source) who donated 5 cases of water for our event. Below Left: Mayor Baggett made several visits to our event to make sure everything was running smoothly. She is seen here wearing her “24 Hours @ Big Sandy” button. Below Right: Jerry Nunn is shown putting up a barrier for our attendee’s safety. Many thanks to all of these kind folks that showed small town hospitality at its finest!



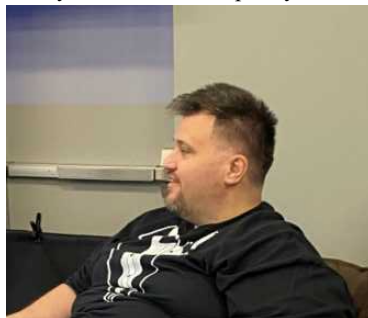
“24 Hours @ Big Sandy” Hall of Fame - Continued



Photo Above Right: Mary Lingle, Founding Member and Treasurer of the Big Sandy Museum, opened the doors of the Big Sandy Museum for event attendees when it was normally closed during the days we held “24 Hours @ Big Sandy.”



Besides local history, the Big Sandy Museum had several railroad memorabilia displays as well as railroad related photos and prints. A print of John Winfield's painting (above right) of the junction at Big Sandy shows the former Union Station. The passenger diesel is southbound on the Cotton Belt. John Winfield is a good friend of the North Texas Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society and a former member of the chapter. A sketch of Big Sandy Union Station is also on display at the Museum (below left). Brian Tindle (below center) made a \$400.00 donation to the event in memory of his mother. Roger Daniels (below right) donated all the ice to the event and extra pizza money when we came up very short after “passing the hat” on Friday night.



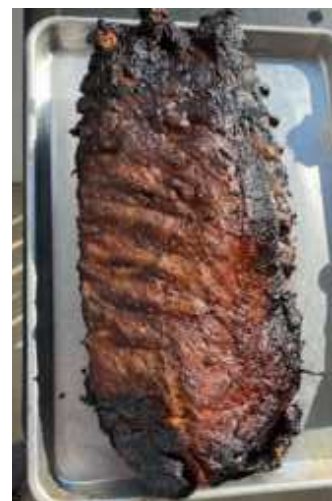
“24 Hours @ Big Sandy” Hall of Fame - Continued



Skip Waters, Chapter VP of Events (above left), is seen directing the Great Locomotive Chase Trivia Game while the game is also broadcasted live on the internet. Several “24 Hours @ Big Sandy” attendees (above right) are seen playing the Great Locomotive Chase Trivia Game between train viewing. Players are broken up into small designated teams and represent various railroads. Various items for sale are also seen on some of the tables in the above photo. The popular game was played on both days.



Jason Turcyn, Grillmaster, donated approximately 55 lbs. of tenderloin and ribs. Jason smoked the meat all day Saturday and fed everybody in the afternoon. He also furnished potato salad, rolls, chips, plates, condiments, etc. to accompany the feast of smoked goodness. A passing train can be seen in the background (above left) from the back porch of the Big Sandy Heritage Center.



Mayor “Linda” showed up with a big batch of homemade banana pudding for dessert after we feasted on ribs and tenderloin. Please note the signs on the doors of the Heritage Center welcoming attendees to the 1st Annual “24 Hours at Big Sandy”.

“24 Hours @ Big Sandy” Hall of Fame - Continued



Jerry Nunn, Chapter Secretary, and his wife Linda (above left) played a huge part in making “24 Hours @ Big Sandy” a success by arriving a day early to help and assist President Wayne Smith with set-up and preparation of the event. Jerry (center) also took many of the photographs during the event. Samantha (above right) assisted with registration and collection of \$5.00 donations at the door for the coveted “24 Hours @ Big Sandy” buttons.



Dylan Chastain (above left) was our official train counter. We had 30 trains in a 24 hour period and well over 55 folks in attendance. Also, he was the highest bidder on an autographed photograph donated by Ken Fitzgerald. Above Center: Attendees included Chapter VP/Programs, Jon Shea; an unidentified attendee; Chapter member Elden Baker and Jason Turcyn, Grillmaster. Chapter member Sam Metzger (above right) is smiling for the camera. Sam also gave a presentation on the Cotton Belt.



Several young adults (above left) are enjoying the air conditioned building while waiting for the next train. Skip Waters (above right) is seen in a second picture judging a game of the Great Locomotive Chase Trivia Game.

The Real Stars of Big Sandy! (Train Watching)

Photographs by Jerry Nunn and Wayne Smith



Big Sandy is a designated crew change point and train crews are brought by van from Longview, TX





Even though Big Sandy is at the junction of two Union Pacific lines in east Texas, several roads are represented.



We had a designated parking and camping area for trackside viewing.



There was a variety of rolling stock to photograph.



More interesting rolling stock.



A close-up shot of a Norfolk Southern locomotive.



A brand new UP locomotive with fresh paint.



There's always plenty of graffiti!



The northbound *Texas Eagle* was on its way from Mineola to Longview.



Above: Amtrak has started putting advertising on the side of some of their coaches. Below: A wider shot of the Texas Eagle.



Distributed Power is seen between two auto racks. Also, one of our youngest attendees is seen on the left.

Random Photos of Big Sandy!



This house sits across the tracks from the Big Sandy Heritage Center and can be seen from that location. It is a former railroad hotel and served various functions through the years. Some believe it is now haunted. Photo by Jon Shea.



Even though this picture is blurry, the sentiment is what's important. An attendee prepared a sign to wish her mother a Happy Birthday. She got a group of attendees to go with her to stand in front of the Railcam along the track to wish her mother a Happy Birthday. Someone was also ready to take a photo of the greetings. Photo from Skip Waters.

More Random Photos of Big Sandy!

Photographs by Wayne Smith



Above left: Chapter member Sam Metzgar gave a presentation on the history of the Cotton Belt. Above right: Another display found in the Big Sandy Museum.



The Heritage Center in Big Sandy is an amazing place to watch and record trains. It was actually built for that purpose. This is the view from the back porch. Parking and camping was kept to the right for clear viewing of passing trains.



The huge back porch with oversized rocking chairs and a swing is a perfect spot to view trains in comfort.

T&P Depot, Big Sandy, Texas, 1909-1910



Big Sandy Train Depot – 1909



Big Sandy Depot - Ca 1910

Source of both photographs: <https://sites.rootsweb.com/~txupshur/PhotoAlbum2.html>

THE NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER NRHS PRESENTS:
THE COTTON BELT / GRAPEVINE VINTAGE RAILROAD EVENT



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2023

EVENT SCHEDULE:

10:00 AM..... Visit the Lone Star Hi-Railers Model Train Display until 12:00 PM - Admission on your own – Adult \$2.00, Child \$1.00. The Hi-Railers are located in the baggage car behind Southern Pacific #771 steam locomotive on display in the parking lot at 410 West Dallas Road, just west of the Chill Bar.

10:30 AM..... Cotton Belt presentation by Chapter Member Sam Metzgar in the Cotton Belt Room of the Chill Bar at 814 S. Main St (NW corner of S. Main St. & Dallas Rd). Food and Drink (Brunch) will be available for purchase.

12 Noon..... Walk to the Grapevine Vintage Railroad Depot across Main Street from the Chill Bar. Board the Cotton Belt Route train to the Ft. Worth Stockyards no later than 12:45 PM. Train departs at 12:50 PM, no matter what.

COTTON BELT ROUTE TRAIN SCHEDULE:

Board in Grapevine: 12:30 pm
Train Doors Close: 12:45 pm
Depart Grapevine: 12:50 pm
Arrive in Stockyards: approx. 2:30 pm
RE-BOARD in the Stockyards: 4:35 pm
Depart the Stockyards: 4:45 pm
Arrive in Grapevine: approx. 7 pm

- You are free to independently roam the Stockyards from arrival at 2:30 PM until the time to re-board the train at 4:30PM. Times for the train trip between Grapevine and the Stockyards are always subject to delays.

TICKET COST:

Tickets are \$23.00 each for First Class in Car #209. Tickets can be purchased by check or cash. No credit cards for this event.

Checks for tickets should be mailed to Bob Kennedy, Chapter Treasurer, no later than Nov 1, 2023. They MUST be received by Nov. 7. Mail to:

Bob Kennedy
3304 Cross Bend Road
Plano, Texas 75023

Make checks payable to: North Texas Chapter NRHS

Last chance tickets may be purchased at the Chapter Auction Meeting on Nov 7, cash or check.

We have a block of 24 tickets reserved for rows 2-7, seats A-D, car #209. Please purchase your tickets early so that we can all sit in the same area of car #209. We have the option to purchase more tickets, but you may not be sitting in rows 2-7, car #209.

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Junius Heights Historic District in Dallas

By James Dolande



Back in 2020, the Junius Heights Historic District in Dallas was able to acquire and rescue the old Spaghetti Warehouse trolley from the closed Dallas location for a nominal fee. The car in question is Dallas Railway & Terminal Co. 707. It is a rebuilt Peter Witt built in 1926 and actually operated in Junius Heights. It was sold to Spaghetti Warehouse in the 1950s shortly before the streetcars stopped running in Dallas and has been a place where many families have shared happy memories.



Since 707 is scattered in pieces in a warehouse, there is no clear idea what to do with it.



There's no original pictures of 707 so these other cars are for illustrative purposes. These pictures are to show the differences between the pre-war center door (left) Peter Witt cars and the rebuilt motorman only cars (right).

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

Annual renewal of your North Texas Chapter Membership is due by January 1, 2024, paid directly to the Chapter. **Membership dues are \$16 for either a Regular Chapter Membership or a Chapter-only Membership and \$18 for a Regular Chapter Family Membership.** You can pay your dues by check, online or cash.

PAY BY CHECK: made payable to “North Texas Chapter NRHS” for \$16 (individual) or \$18 (family) and mail it to:

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

Please note this 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.

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.

PAY BY CASH: 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 questions about membership, please contact me directly at rckennedy48@verizon.net or 214-497-7745.

Please note that this request is for your Chapter Dues only. You will be billed separately for your National NRHS dues by the National. National dues are sent directly to the National.

Thanks very much.

Bob Kennedy, Treasurer
North Texas Chapter, NRHS

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Fall Plano Train Show

The Fall Plano Train Show (Plano, TX) was held September 30 and October 1, 2023 at the Plano Centre. As usual, the North Texas Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society had a table to promote the NRHS and the North Texas Chapter. We also raised \$438.00 in sales of donated items to support the efforts of the chapter. Many thanks to Chapter Secretary Jerry Nunn and Chapter President Wayne Smith for working the table both days of the show. Also, many thanks to chapter members Dave Prodrasky, Dave Kohler, Jon Shea, Jerry Nunn, Edwin Pegelow and Sam Metzgar for volunteering to assist in various positions in the operation of the show itself, such as Ticket Sales, Door Monitor and Information Table.



Steve Goen, Railroad Historian and Author, pays a visit to the chapter table to shoot the breeze with chapter members. Steve is seen with chapter member Elden Baker (and Director of the Anna Depot and Museum) discussing a railroad photograph.

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A Visit to the Mineola Amtrak Depot and Museum

By Jerry Nunn



On His way to Big Sandy, Jerry and his wife Linda stopped in Mineola to explore the Amtrak depot and museum. The northbound and southbound Texas Eagle stops here daily. This is a photo essay by Jerry.



Take a ride on Amtrak to Mineola, TX



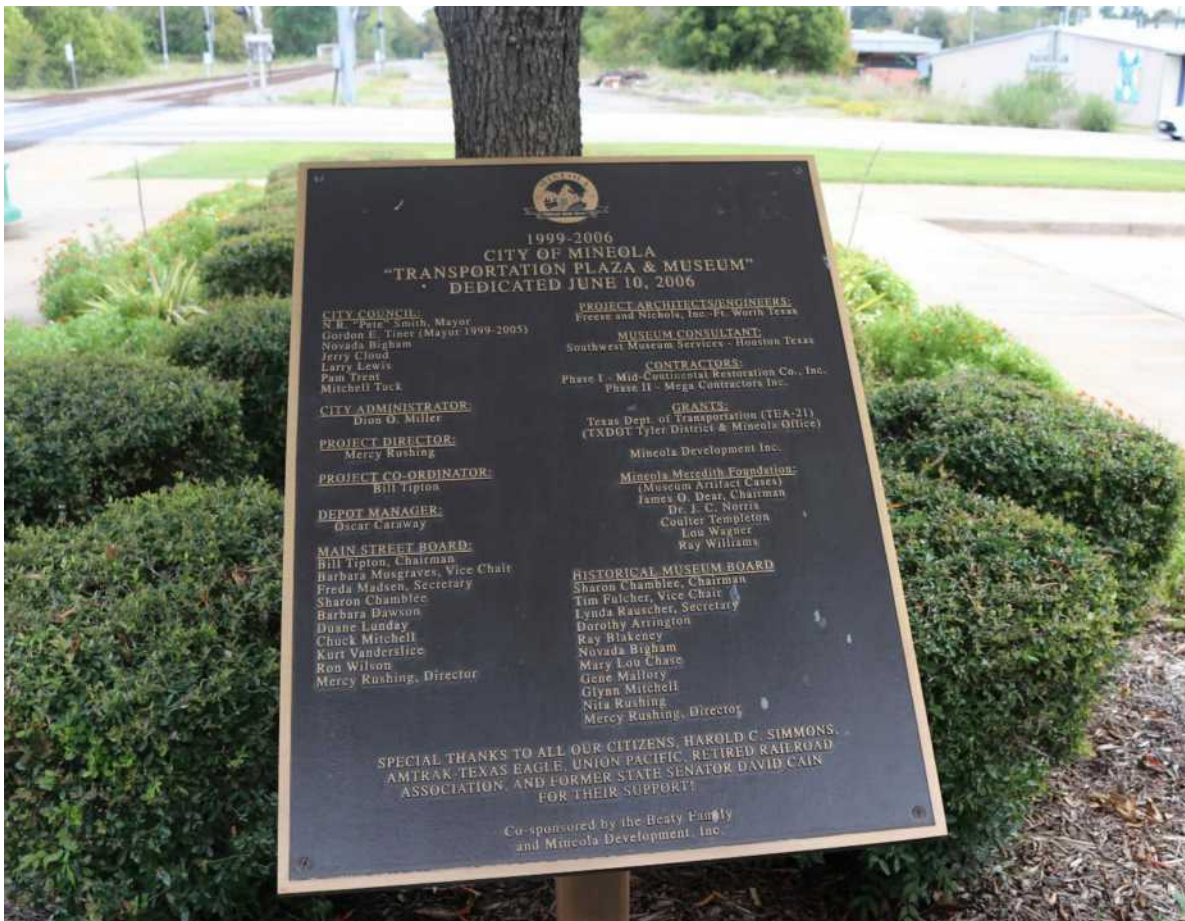
The depot waiting room has multiple railroad related displays.



"Railroads in Mineola"



“Mineola and It’s Railroads in the 1930’s”



City of Mineola “Transportation Plaza & Museum” Dedicated June 10, 2006



Lots of railroad memorabilia is on display.



A panel discusses the History of Mineola's Train Depots.

Minutes of the October 2023 Meeting of the North Texas Chapter of the NRHS

The October 2023 meeting of the North Texas Chapter of the NRHS was held on Tuesday, October 3 at the Founders Building in Grapevine, TX. Twelve attendees were present.

President Wayne Smith called the meeting to order at 7:34 PM.

Wayne announced that the Chapter made \$438 from the Plano Train Show. Bob Kennedy donated many of the items to the sale. Thanks Bob! The Chapter had its Open House with a slide show and video show at the new Taco Joint after the train show on Saturday evening. There were about 10 attendees. The program featured a slideshow and two videos.

The Big Sandy event is deemed a success. There were over 55 attendees. The air-conditioned Heritage Center was available to stage trivia games and show videos, etc. A local business donated water, and Roger Daniels provided ice. Big Sandy Mayor Linda Baggett even brought banana pudding! Jason Turcyn, pitmaster, provided smoked meats. Last but not least, Brian Tindle made a \$400 donation to cover the Chapter's expenses. Many thanks to the City of Big Sandy, Mayor Linda; City Secretary Laura Rex; Jason, Roger, and Brian!

Due to the success of Big Sandy, the Chapter plans to return in 2024. Exact dates are under discussion.

The topic of 24 Hours at Saginaw also came up. Because the building is no longer available, costs have risen dramatically. It now costs the Chapter about \$2500 to stage the event. Does the Chapter want to continue with this event?

Bob Kennedy said there was a fire at the Plano Event Center the week after the train show. There was damage to the roof, and smoke damage to the northwestern corner of the building.

VP Jon Shea showed a recently purchased book "Iron Horse Santa Fe Trail".

The Chapter is hosting a tour of the Lone Star HiRailers Model RR Club, a presentation by Sam Metzgar, and a ride on the Grapevine Vintage RR. Contact Treasurer Bob Kennedy for details.

The evening's program was the video "Trolley: The Cars That Built Our Cities".

The meeting adjourned about 9:30 PM.

MEETINGS FOR REMAINDER OF 2023

- November – November 7, Texas Western Model RR Club, Forest Hill, (Annual Auction)
- December – December 5, Annual Christmas Banquet, Babe's, North Richland Hills
- January – Officer Elections and Show "N" Tell, location and date TBA

Jerry M. Nunn, Secretary, North Texas Chapter, NRHS

UP Brooklyn Yard Turntable Re-installation at the ORHC Enginehouse in Portland

Submitted by Bob Kennedy

I thought you all might be interested in the status of the UP Brooklyn Yard turntable re-installation at the ORHC Enginehouse in Portland. Wayne visited ORHC when he was in Portland a few weeks ago.

SP #4449 was moved onto the turntable August 17. Although not operational and complete yet, the preservation and reuse of the turntable is a fine example of railroad preservation when you have good leadership and an active, focused support group. The ORHC has done a lot to enhance railroad preservation in Oregon and the Pacific Northwest.

For comparison, immediately below is a night photo of the SP #4449 on the UP Brooklyn Yard turntable before the relocation of the ORHC to its new location and their re-purposing of the turntable with the harp and electrical in place. (Photo courtesy of ORHC.)



The recently installed turntable at the Oregon Rail Heritage Center (ORHC) was photographed in July 2023 and was awaiting installation of the motors to operate the turntable. Multiple tracks will be added as well. Photograph by Wayne Smith

Chapter Directory

North Texas Chapter Officers, 2023

- *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

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): [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 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

Tuesday, November 7th Chapter Meeting - Texas Western Model RR Club, Forest Hill; Annual Auction. Starts at 7:00pm.

Thursday, November 23rd – Happy Thanksgiving!

Tuesday, December 5th Chapter Meeting - Annual Christmas Party and White Elephant Exchange, Babe's Chicken, North Richland Hills. Starts at 7:00pm.

Tuesday, January 2nd Chapter Meeting - Officer Elections and "Show & Tell". Location TBD.

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Wayne Smith, North Texas News Editor.

The North Texas Zephyr is the official newsletter of the North Texas Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society. It is published monthly for the benefit of its members. Opinions expressed herein may not reflect the official position of the North Texas Chapter or the National Railway Historical Society. All content rights retained by original author. Every attempt has been made to comply with fair use and copyright laws.