

# North Texas Chapter – National Railway Historical Society



## January Chapter Meeting: Annual Officer Elections



### And Show N Tell

(Please bring a favorite item to show and/or a favorite story to tell)

When: Tuesday, January 7th @ 7:30 PM  
(Meet N Greet at 7:00 PM)

Where: Cotton Belt Room of the Chill Bar & Grill at 814 S. Main St (NW corner of S. Main St. & Dallas Rd), Grapevine, TX.  
{Food will be available for purchase}



Link to Website:

<https://www.chillbardfw.com/>

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## **THE ANNUAL ELECTION OF CHAPTER OFFICERS WILL OCCUR AT OUR CHAPTER MEETING ON JANUARY 7, 2025.**

The Board of Directors wants to make sure that all Chapter Members know the requirements for a member to vote in the Chapter Election, to run for a Chapter Office or to hold a Chapter Office as specified in the current Chapter By-Laws.

- 1. In order to vote in the Chapter Election, your 2025 Chapter dues must be paid prior to the START of the January 7, 2025 meeting.** See the dues renewal notice in this issue of the Zephyr for how to pay your Chapter dues.
- 2. Family membership is entitled to one vote per Family.** Individual family members do not get individual votes.
- 3. In order to run for or hold an office in the chapter, you must be a member in good standing of the NRHS and the Chapter and your annual National and Chapter dues must be paid prior to the START of the January 7, 2025 meeting.**  
Your National dues can be paid on-line at nrhs.com. The National will send you an e-mail indicating that your payment has been processed and that your membership has been successfully renewed. Having a copy of this e-mail with you at the January 7 meeting will provide the required information for the Chapter. ***NOTE: Your National dues must be paid directly to the National and cannot be accepted by the Chapter.***
- 4. Any problems, questions or challenges at the meeting regarding voting eligibility of any Member or eligibility of any Member to run for or hold a Chapter Office will be resolved by the current Board of Directors in accordance with the current By-Laws, and their decision will be final.**

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Bob Kennedy, Chapter Treasurer, at [rckennedy48@verizon.net](mailto:rckennedy48@verizon.net).

Thank you.

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### **Current Slate of Candidates for January Elections**

President - Wayne Smith (Incumbent)  
Vice President/Programs - Jon Shea (Incumbent)  
Vice President/Trips and Events - Bill Long (Currently held by Skip Waters)  
Secretary - Jerry Nunn (Incumbent)  
Treasurer - Bob Kennedy (Incumbent)  
National Representative - Skip Waters (Currently held by Bill Long)

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## 2025 North Texas Chapter Dues Renew Now

Annual renewal of your North Texas Chapter Membership is due by **January 1, 2025**. Your annual dues are paid directly to our Chapter either by check, online, or by cash. Please renew now.

**Membership dues are still \$16 for either a Regular Chapter Membership or a Chapter-only Membership and \$18 for a Regular Chapter Family Membership.**

### **1. TO PAY BY CHECK:**

Make your check 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**

Do not mail your membership renewal to the Chapter PO Box Mailing Address as it will delay processing your renewal. If your check does not clearly indicate who the member is, please add a memo note with the member's name.

### **2. TO PAY ON-LINE:**

Visit the Chapter's on-line store at:

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

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

### **3. TO PAY BY CASH:**

**Your dues can be paid 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](mailto: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 NRHS dues are sent directly to the National.***

Thanks very much.

Bob Kennedy, Treasurer  
North Texas Chapter, NRHS

## 7 Underrated Small Towns to See With Amtrak

- Small town charm and community events make for an authentic and relaxing vacation away from tourist hotspots.
- Amtrak trains provide convenient access to underrated gems, offering picturesque scenery and easy exploration.
- From wineries in Hermann to markets in Laurel, these small towns offer a variety of activities for adventurers and those seeking a slower pace.

Exploring a small town is the perfect way to see an area's authentic charm, and to escape the chaos of tourist hotspots and cities. There's nothing quite like spending an afternoon people-watching from the window of a cozy local café on a peaceful high street.

Many small towns host regular community events and festivals, and it can be exciting to join in with these traditions as a tourist. The towns on this list are dotted with boutiques, small businesses, quaint and quirky cafés, restaurants, and bars. They offer a variety of activities, from hiking, water sports and snow sports, to spas, museums, and galleries. These picturesque small towns are the ideal spot both for adventurers and those seeking a slower-paced vacation.

Travelers can easily discover bucket-list destinations and underrated small towns with Amtrak trains. The train stations are centrally located, providing easy access to lodgings, attractions, and restaurants. Visitors can enjoy wandering through the pedestrian-friendly downtown areas, and will, of course, see stunning scenery on the journey to these underrated gems.

### -----7-----

## **Hermann, Missouri**

*A German wine town on the Missouri River Runner*



Hermann is a small Germanic town dotted with wineries. It has heaps of European charm, especially during seasonal events such as Oktoberfest and the German Christmas market. It's easily accessible from Kansas City, St. Louis, and Chicago on the Amtrak Missouri River Runner line, which makes four stops in Hermann daily. Hermann is easily identifiable by its picturesque red buildings, and guests can tour distilleries and wineries, eat in German restaurants, learn about the town's history in the Deutschheim State Historic Site, and enjoy hikes, art galleries, and fishing.

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**Laurel, Mississippi**

*A quaint filming location on the Crescent line*



Fans of the HGTV show "Home Town" will instantly recognize Laurel, a small Mississippi town on Amtrak's Crescent route, as a major filming location. Behind the scenes, Laurel remains a quaint, walkable town. It has regular markets, car boot sales, and local festivals year-round, as well as an array of small businesses, cafes, bars, and shops to browse.

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**Old Orchard Beach, Maine**

*A fun seaside town on the Downeaster*



Reachable on the Downeaster line, Old Orchard Beach is the perfect day trip from Boston and is just a 2.5-hour journey. The Amtrak station is within walking distance to the ocean, nearby lodgings, and a variety of seaside restaurants. Old Orchard Beach is great for families as there are plenty of fun things to do. Visitors can enjoy playing mini golf, renting boats and kayaks, wandering along the pier, and visiting the Palace Playland amusement park.

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**Staunton, Virginia**  
*A historic town on the Cardinal line*



Staunton is accessible from the Cardinal train, a stunning journey that runs three times a week through the Shenandoah Valley and Blue Ridge Mountains, between New York and Chicago. It's the birthplace of Woodrow Wilson, and guests can tour the Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library and Museum, explore the American Shakespeare Center, and visit quaint restaurants and trendy breweries. Staunton is perfect for families with children, offering playgrounds, interactive museums, creative workshops, and farms. Outdoorsy visitors can enjoy fishing, hiking, cycling, golf, and, in the winter, snow sports.

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**Glenwood Springs, Colorado**  
*A perfect stop for nature lovers on the Zephyr*



Located on the Zephyr route, Glenwood Springs is the perfect small-town stop for nature lovers. The Amtrak station is right in the heart of the town, and is surrounded by cozy restaurants and lodgings in a walkable downtown. Glenwood Springs is home to stunning hiking trails, hot springs, caverns, rafting and kayaking spots, and climbing areas. It's located near the Hanging Lake trailhead, where guests can explore the canyon and waterfalls, and Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park.

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## Whitefish, Montana

*A stunning mountain town on the Empire Builder*



Accessible from the Empire Builder train, Whitefish, Montana is a spectacular mountain town and a gateway to Glacier National Park. Guests can stay at Grouse Mountain Lodge and enjoy an array of activities such as cycling, hiking, horseback riding, golf, climbing, and kayaking. In the winter, snow sports are also popular. After a day exploring the mountain trails and shimmering lakes, visitors can relax in one of Whitefish's funky bars, ice cream shops, and restaurants, or take a trip to the spa.

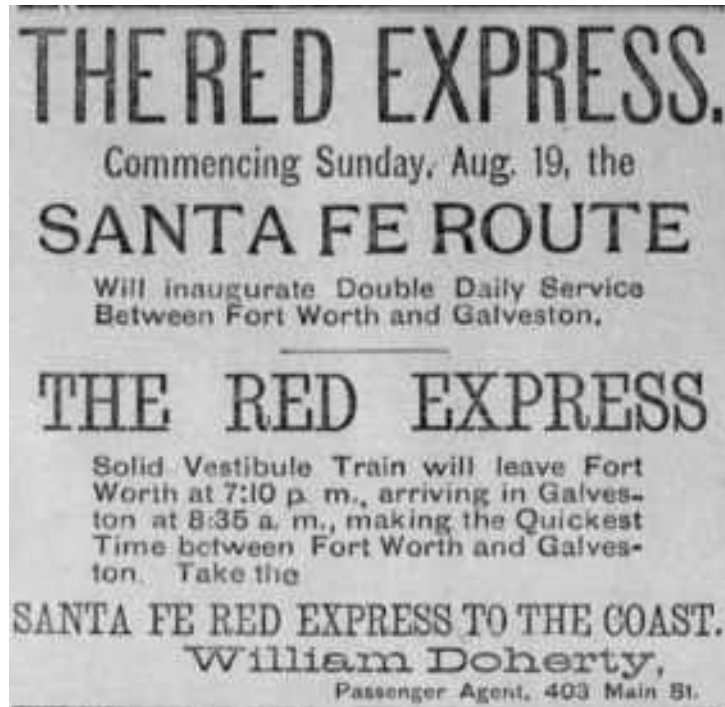
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## Hudson, New York

*A riverside town on the Empire Service*



Travelers taking the Empire Service from New York to Niagara shouldn't miss a stopover in Hudson, located just 2 hours from New York City. Guests can enjoy views of the Hudson River with Hudson Cruises Inc., which offers a variety of themed cruises, from a murder mystery dinner cruise to a lighthouse sightseeing tour. Hudson hosts an array of boutique shops and quirky bars and restaurants. It has a weekly farmers market on Thursdays and has a full calendar of community events, from performances to art classes. For those seeking a home with a historic feel and modern amenities, The Inn 34 is a great choice. It serves guests homebaked breads and pastries and prepares breakfasts using herbs and vegetables grown in the garden.



"Red Express" ad in Fort Worth Star-Telegram on 8-21-1894. Submitted by Dennis Hogan.

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**Finding Remnants of the Fort Worth & Denver City**



Remnants of the FW&DC Roundhouse in Amarillo, TX. This is a Google picture off 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. & Philadelphia St as part of a Budweiser Distribution Center. Submitted by Dennis Hogan.





There's a building in Texline TX not far from the BNSF tracks that was once a hotel for FW&DC railroaders. It was built in 1922, I have learned from old newspapers. It is occupied by another business today and is in pretty good shape.

I went inside a few years ago and asked some of the employees what the building's history was. One insisted it was a "Harvey House." I know it wasn't but I was not going to argue with him. I found an old newspaper article that said it was a **Van Noy Hotel**. OK, that makes better sense! Van Noy operated a chain of railroad newstands, restaurants, and hotels like the Fred Harvey Co.

I also learned that the Franklin Hotel was the predecessor railroad hotel in Texline. Got a picture of it from a newspaper article. Submitted by Dennis Hogan.



Franklin Hotel in Texline TX (from the Fort Worth Star-Telegram 8-07-60)

## Inaugural Run of the Hillcrest Lumber Company Steam Locomotive #1

By Wayne Smith

For the second time in two years, I've had the pleasure of visiting the British Columbia Forest Discovery Centre on Vancouver Island. I was accompanied by several family members, and unbeknownst to us, restored Hillcrest Lumber Company Shay #1 was running for the public for the first time since 1998. What luck! I was with family members who had never been before and it was the beginning of Canada's Independence weekend celebration. July 1<sup>st</sup>, Canada's Independence Day, is known as Canada Day. We went to the BC Forest Discovery Centre on Saturday, June 29<sup>th</sup>, where they were already celebrating the long holiday weekend. The BC Forest Discovery Centre is a 100-acre, open air museum with an operational railway in Duncan, British Columbia. The Centre features forest and marsh trails with excellent bird watching opportunities. For a more comprehensive report, see *The North Texas Zephyr*, January 2024 issue.



Hillcrest Lumber Co. Shay locomotive no.1 running for the first time since 1998 to celebrate Canada Day thanks to a restoration project started in 2016 and delayed a few years by Covid.





Hillcrest Lumber Company steam locomotive #1 (24-ton, 2-truck, 36" gauge Shay) pulls visitors over the Somenos Lake Trestle at the BC Forest Discovery Centre in Duncan, British Columbia after its restoration.



Above and below: Hillcrest Lumber Company steam locomotive #1 pulls visitors around the BC Forest Discovery Centre in Duncan, British Columbia.





Above Left: Your editor is seen posing near one of three depots (behind the Shay) used on the narrow gauge railway. Above right: Shay #1 is getting one last lube job before coupling to the train.

### **\*Specs for Hillcrest Lumber Company No. 1\***

24 ton class B Shay locomotive. It was converted to narrow gauge specifications in 1920 with 8×8 cylinders and 29 wheels.

- Builder: Lima Locomotive Works.
- Built: 1920, Construction Number 3147. Purchased for \$14,428.
- Model: Shay Class B 24 ton 2-truck.
- Railways: 1920-34 Hillcrest Lumber Co., 1934-43 McNeill & Munn, 1943-47 Mayo Lumber Co., 1947-63 Osborn Bay Wharf Co., 1964-98 Cowichan Valley Railway.

#### **Technical:**

- Weight: 55,300 lbs. in working order.
- Cylinder Dimensions: 8×8.
- Boiler Pressure (psi): 160.
- Hauling Capacity: 1193 tons, on straight level track.
- Gauge: narrow (36 inches), originally standard gauge.
- Fuel: (currently) fuel oil.
- Braking System: Westinghouse (air).

#### **History:**

- The Hillcrest Lumber Company was founded by Carleton Stone, a British merchant mariner who came to BC to escape the hardships of life at sea. Entering the lumber trade as a sawmill labourer, he learned the business from the ground up. In 1917 he established the HLCo in the Sahtlam District, 4 miles west of Duncan on the Esquimalt & Nanaimo Railway's newly constructed Cowichan Lake Sub-Division.

- By 1920, the post-World War I building boom and Stone s attention to the requirements of the British construction industry had increased business beyond the capability of his small homemade gasoline locomotive. He decided to buy a new Shay, but the only suitable one available was a narrow gauge model that had been constructed for dealer stock. Lima converted the locomotive to standard gauge in order to meet the rush order. NB: In 1920, a Class-24 (nominal weight of 24 tons) locomotive was considered to be in the correct size range for smaller operations such as Hillcrest Lumber, and narrow gauge logging railways were about to be prohibited by the Department of Railways.
- No.1 was converted from wood to fuel oil and served the company until the purchase of a larger locomotive in 1931. In 1934 it was sold to McNeil & Munn (later Export Lumber Co.), 2 miles down the track, as their No.1.
- In 1943, the locomotive was sold to the Mayo Lumber Company, which operated a used locomotive business. It then sat idle until 1947, when it was sold to the newly formed Osborn Bay Wharf Company, a consortium of mill owners (lead by Hillcrest Lumber Company), which operated a deep sea dock served by the E&N Railway s Crofton Spur. While at Crofton, the locomotive was fired with coal.
- In 1963, the dock s lease expired and No.1 was sent to Hillcrest Lumber s new operation at Mesachie Lake to be converted back to narrow gauge and oil firing for donation to the soon to be opened Cowichan Valley Forest Museum.
- Two versions of the locomotive have been manufactured in HO Scale. The standard gauge version is known as the Hillcrest Shay and the narrow gauge version as the Cowichan Shay.

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### Pole Railroads in British Columbia

By Wayne Smith



This picture was displayed at the British Columbia Forest Discovery Centre and is a perfect example of a Pole Railroad . Wood poles were plentiful but steel rails cost money. At the turn of the century, three primitive wooden railroads operated in the Cowichan district on Vancouver Island. If you look close, you can see unique wheels on the locomotive made especially to ride over log poles.



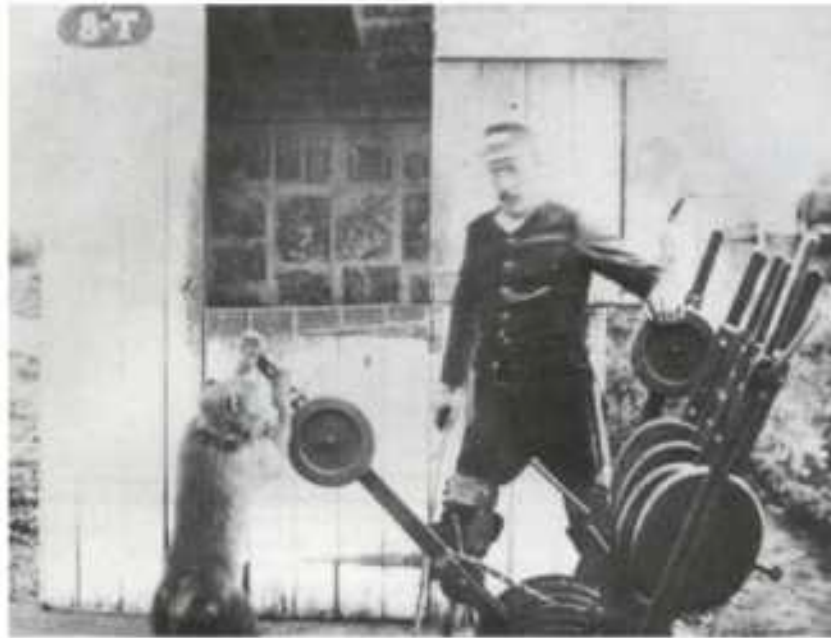
This is another example of modified narrow gauge trains made to ride on log poles.

Dare to compare...

How does No. 4014 compare to a diesel locomotive ... or a Boeing 747? Take a look!



## Fun Photos from the Internet



Getty

Above: This is Jack the Baboon, a South African baboon who worked as a signalman at a railway station in the 1800s. During his almost decade of railway work, Jack never made a single mistake. He was paid 20 cents a day and half a bottle of beer weekly. RIP, Jack.



[u/1999morkaga / Via reddit.com](#)

Above: Imagine the joy of arriving at your destination after a long day s work and having to climb out of your commuter train over a snow bank.



Tower 55 at  
The Texas Western Model Railroad Club



These photos were taken by your editor when our November Chapter meeting was held at the Texas Western Model Railroad Club. This is in HO scale and the details are amazing. Tower operators can be seen in the tower at their control panels. It is so realistic looking. **The gravel parking lot is ground up mortar taken from actual bricks that were salvaged after the demolition of Tower 55.**



**North Texas Chapter Christmas Dinner and White Elephant Gift Exchange 2024**  
**By Kim Hays**

On Tuesday, 12/3/24, the North Texas chapter gathered at Babe's restaurant in North Richland Hills to celebrate Christmas with a dinner and White Elephant Gift Exchange. Many good times were had by all! 17 members and guests attended. Although it was quieter this year, it was also more intimate and special when the club celebrated the many great accomplishments that happened throughout the past year. Babe's specializes in family style meals with each member ordering their own main meal selection. From country fried steak to delicious crunchy fried chicken, the meal selections were all varied and delicious! Sides were served family style and included salad, green beans, whipped mashed potatoes, country gravy, creamed corn and tasty biscuits.

The exciting White Elephant Gift Exchange followed dinner and great fun was had by all. The most exciting moment was when member Don Hays decided to steal Skip Waters' prized gift, a beautiful framed picture/clock of the Big Boy 4014. The look on Skip's face was priceless. Then Don said he was just kidding and went and stole Wayne's gift of Christmas cookies for his wife, Kim Hays. Everyone went home with a special gift from Santa and a full tummy. Some members even went home with their leftovers!

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**Parting Shot:**



Our October issue of *The North Texas Zephyr* had 13 pages of coverage for the arrival of Big Boy 4014 in Big Sandy, TX. Your editor did not include the end of Big Boy's train with the parlor car trailing as it departs Big Sandy on September 17, 2024.

**Chapter Directory**

**North Texas Chapter Officers, 2024**

- \*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.facebook.com/groups/409467244127/)

Zephyr Archives: [Rail History Newsletters \(gogeocaching.com\)](http://www.facebook.com/groups/409467244127/)

**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 p.m., 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

Wednesday, January 1<sup>st</sup> 2025 Happy New Year!

Tuesday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, Chapter Meeting back at Chill Bar and Grill in Grapevine Annual Officer Elections and Show N Tell. Chapter Meeting @ 7:30 PM (Meet N Greet at 7:00 PM)

Tuesday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, Chapter Meeting @ 7:30 PM (Meet N Greet at 7:00 PM) Program Presentation: Video, TBD at the Chill Grill, Grapevine.

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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.*