

North Texas Chapter –
National Railway Historical Society



July Chapter Meeting:
Fallen Flags from Fort Worth, TX

When: Tuesday, July 1st @ 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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Do you miss some of your favorite fallen flags? Join us to view recently donated railroad slides taken in and around Ft Worth, Saginaw, Dallas and Texarkana during the 1980's. How about a shot of Tower 19 in Ft Worth or the Old Rock Island Tower in Saginaw?

Eagle Lake Depot Museum Donates Huge Collection of Over 6,100 Railroad Slides to the North Texas Chapter

In May of this year, The North Texas Chapter of the NRHS acquired over 6,100 railroad slides from Ken Stavinoha, President of the Eagle Lake Depot Museum, in Eagle Lake TX. The slides were taken by photographer John L Buchanan of San Antonio. Topics include North Texas, mainly Ft Worth, some of Dallas and the Texarkana area as well. A significant amount of the slides includes Australia, New Zealand, Canada and Europe. Europe includes England, Switzerland, Germany, France, Belgium, Luxembourg, Austria, Scotland, Sweden, Denmark and the Netherlands. The rest of the slides include Northeastern, Midwestern, Southwestern and Western United States. A comprehensive list will be sent to Chapter Members to vote on future programs. Many thanks go to Ken Stavinoha and his generous donation of the vast collection of railroad slides. We look forward to showing the slides in upcoming chapter meetings and at our Semi-Annual Media Show and Open House in conjunction with the Plano (Dallas Area) Train Shows.

In order for the acquisition to take place, Ken Stavinoha and Chapter President, Wayne Smith, met halfway in Hearne, TX and visited the Hearne Depot Museum at the same time. Ken is also Editor of *Gulf Coast Railroading*, the newsletter of the Gulf Coast Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society.



Ken Stavinoha, pictured right, is President of the Eagle Lake Depot Museum and Editor of *Gulf Coast Railroading*, the official newsletter of the Gulf Coast Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society. Also included in the photo is Matthew Dittert. Matthew is one of the docents from the Eagle Lake Depot Museum. The donation included 19 cases of slides, three of which are pictured above between Ken and Matthew. 18 cases contained 300 slides each and 1 case contained over 700 slides. We ate lunch at a former Post Office that was repurposed into a restaurant. Photograph by Wayne Smith (2025).



Eagle Lake Depot Museum is dedicated to the preservation, education, and research of railroad history in the state of Texas - special focus on Colorado County. Pay a visit sometime when you have a chance. Photo used with permission.

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Depot Museum in Hearne, TX



The Hearne Depot Museum is a unique, historic Southern Pacific depot built in 1901 with memorabilia, displays, and a Ntrak model train layout. It had a loading platform on one side of the depot for Southern Pacific trains and another loading platform on the other side of the depot for Missouri Pacific trains.



The Hearne Depot Museum has lots of prints. Above: “Missouri Pacific Lines – *Route of The Eagles*”



Part of the Ntrak model train layout at the Hearne Depot Museum.



The Depot Museum in Hearne has a friendly and knowledgeable husband and wife team (Bob and Jan) that serve as museum docents. Photographs by Wayne Smith (2025).



Left: The Hearne Depot had a female telegrapher for decades and the female manikin pays tribute to her and to her years of service. Right: Beyond the depot and the hand car, Union Pacific still has active tracks.

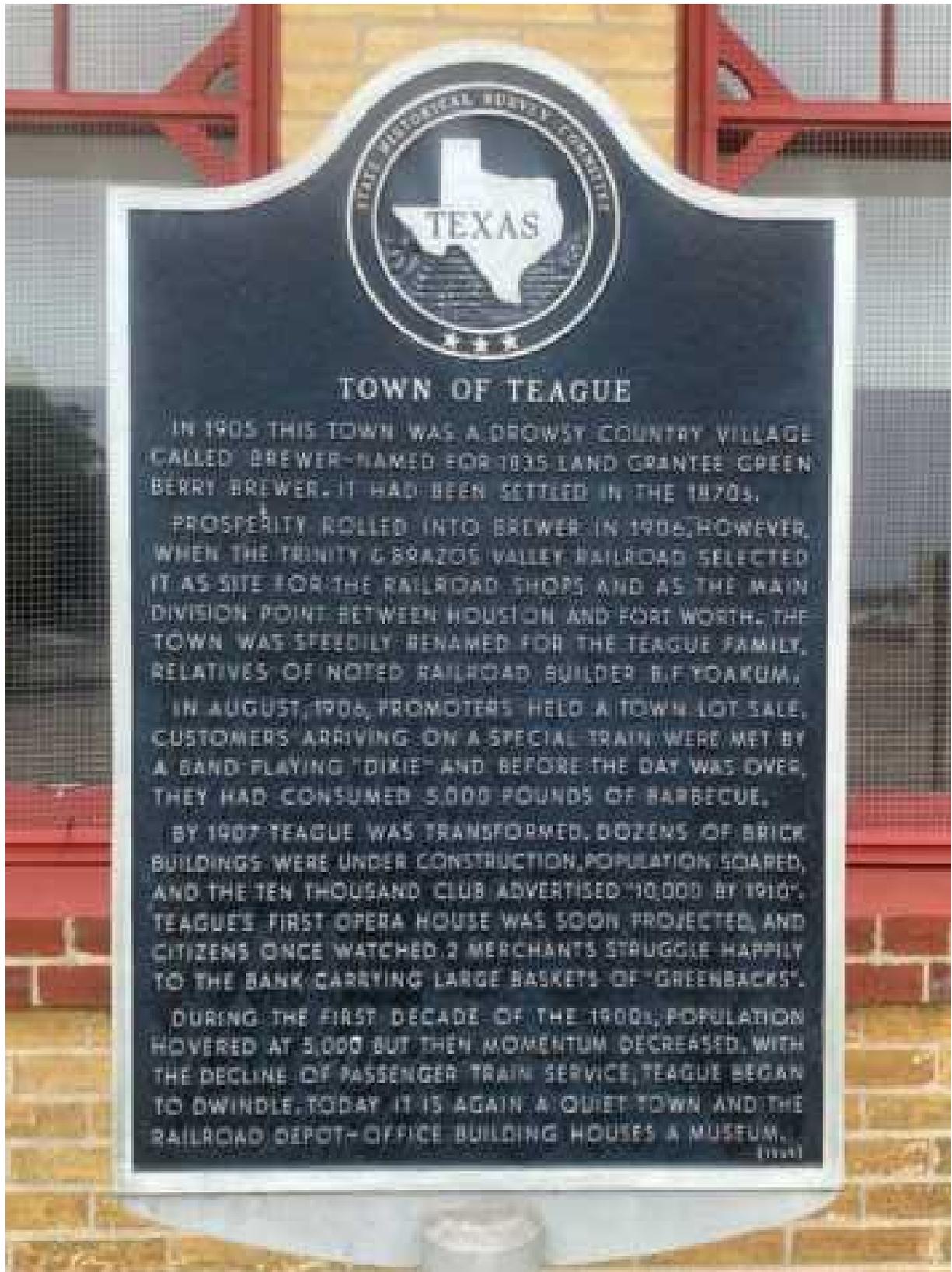
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Burlington-Rock Island Railroad Museum, Teague TX



This old 1906 two-story brick depot is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and now houses varied relics from the golden age of steam railroads, plus a locomotive, a caboose and county historical items. Photographs by Wayne Smith (2025).





Teague was the home of the Trinity & Brazos Valley Railroad.



The Trinity & Brazos Valley Railway was nicknamed “The Boll Weevil Railway”.



Teague is also home of the **BNSF Teague Terminal** of the Red River Division. There is an **Emergency Identification Map** that allows first responders to quickly identify a specific track in case of an emergency.



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Depots of Greenville, TX



The former **Katy Depot in Greenville, TX** was a railroad museum, but is now the Depot Christian School. Photographs by Jon Shea (2025).



The Katy Railway was Greenville's first railroad. The Historical Marker is in front of the depot.





The Greenville M. K. & T. "Katy" depot as it once was. Submitted by Dennis Hogan



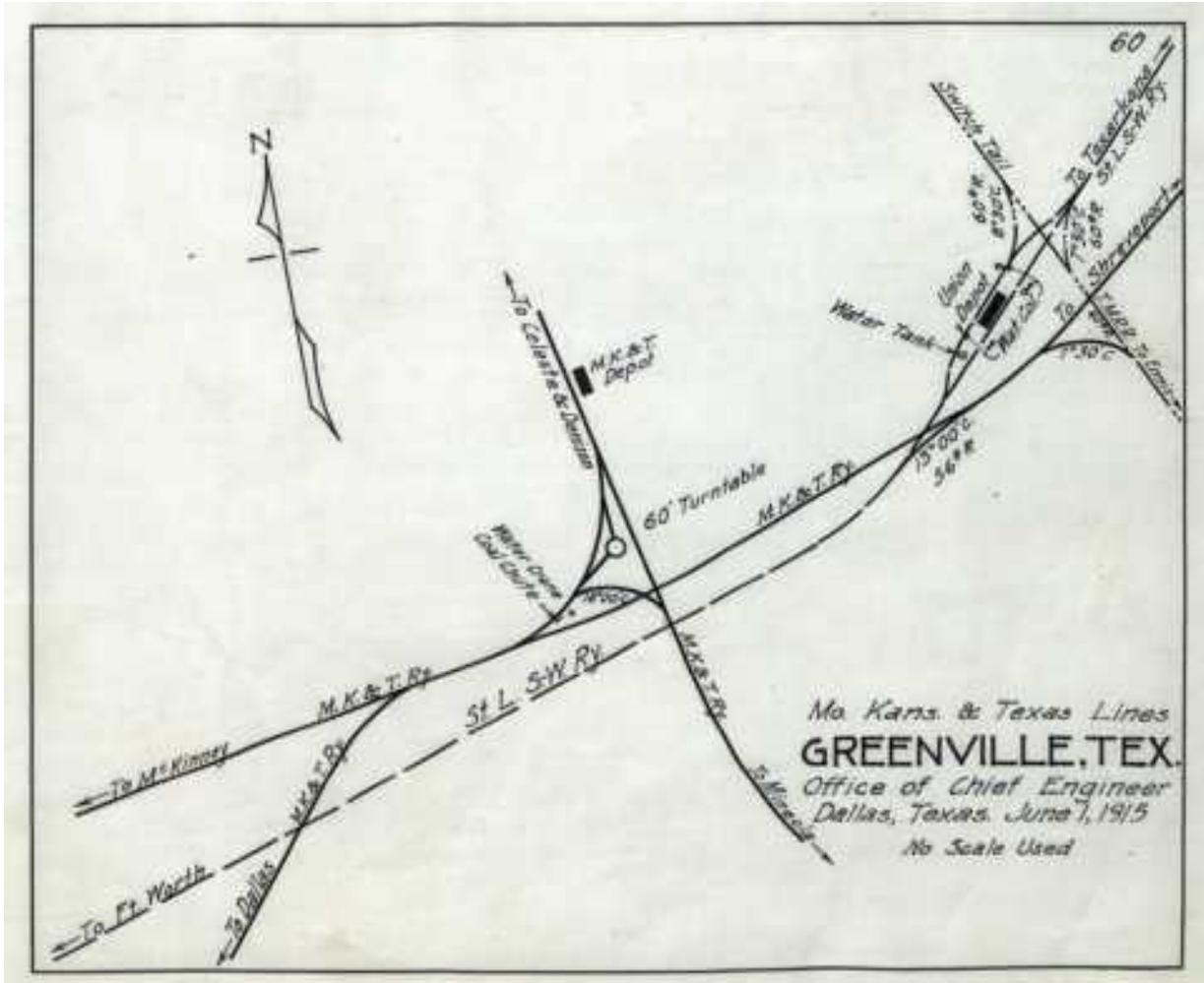
Greenville Katy depot 1893. Submitted by Dennis Hogan.



The other Greenville depot: **Cotton Belt/Texas Midland Union Depot**. Submitted by Dennis Hogan.



Library of Congress Photo: **Greenville aerial view 1886**--north is to the right.
Submitted by Dennis Hogan



1915 MKT track map of Greenville, TX. Submitted by Dennis Hogan.

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This is Dale Creek Bridge, built in Wyoming in the 1800s that was so rickety that trains had to slow down to 4 miles per hour to cross it safely.

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Yazoo and Mississippi Valley Railroad Station, Vicksburg, MS



This is a nice museum with model railroads, railroad artifacts, Civil War artifacts and dioramas, and local history. Photographs by Jon Shea (2025).

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Mississippi Museum of History, Jackson, MS



1920's toy train engine. Mississippi Museum of History, Jackson, MS

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Monument to the Illinois Central



Monument to the Illinois Central Railroad on the grounds of the Old Courthouse Museum, Vicksburg, MS. The IC monument was a nice surprise. Photograph by Jon Shea (2025).

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April 24, 2025

Introducing *Amtrak Mardi Gras Service* twice daily between New Orleans and Mobile via Coastal Mississippi

NEW ORLEANS and MOBILE, Ala. – Agreements have been reached for new twice-daily Amtrak intercity train service along the Mississippi Gulf Coast between New Orleans and Mobile, Ala. Starting this summer, the new state-sponsored [*Amtrak Mardi Gras Service*](#) will offer convenient morning and evening departures from both cities.

Both New Orleans and Mobile have a long history of Mardi Gras celebrations – as do the communities in Coastal Mississippi.

“*Amtrak Mardi Gras Service* is a natural choice for the name of the new trains that will reflect the region’s distinctive culture,” said Amtrak President Roger Harris. “Travel should be about more than just getting

somewhere. Our goal is to have some of that festive Mardi Gras feeling on every trip, sharing the culture of the Gulf Coast region while connecting with the rest of the Amtrak network.”

“This summer, travelers seeking a more comfortable, scenic and productive choice than driving will have their first opportunity to ride Amtrak trains in almost 20 years,” Harris added.

In addition to travel between New Orleans and Mobile, the cities of Bay Saint Louis, Gulfport, Biloxi and Pascagoula will also have same-day connections in both directions daily to the famed Amtrak [City of New Orleans](#) trains between New Orleans and Chicago via Memphis. *Amtrak Mardi Gras Service* guests can also make next-day connections in New Orleans to Amtrak [Crescent](#) trains to and from New York via Atlanta, and Amtrak [Sunset Limited](#) trains to and from Los Angeles via Tucson, San Antonio and Houston.

“With the launch of the *Amtrak Mardi Gras Service*, we are not just restoring a transportation link; we are celebrating the vibrant culture and community spirit of the Gulf Coast,” said Joe Donahue, Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development. “This service will enhance connectivity, boost local economies and create memorable experiences for travelers who wish to explore the beautiful landscapes and rich heritage of our region.”

“Though the Mississippi Gulf Coast is heavily influenced by neighboring Mobile and New Orleans, each of Mississippi’s coastal cities has its own unique charm and traditions, especially when it comes to our two great passions – festivities and food,” said Charles Busby, Mississippi Transportation Commissioner, Southern Transportation District. “I look forward to sharing the best of our region’s culture and its breathtaking views with Amtrak passengers.

“Of course, as Transportation Commissioner, I’m excited about introducing another mode of transit to our community and the impact this infrastructure enhancement will have on our local economy,” Busby added.

“Mobile and New Orleans have always shared a rich cultural heritage and renewing Amtrak service will strengthen our ties to the Crescent City and the Mississippi Gulf Coast.” said Mobile Mayor Sandy Stimpson. “We are so excited to welcome new visitors from those communities when the *Amtrak Mardi Gras Service* launches later this year. It will be an asset to our citizens and another enhancement to Mobile’s growing downtown waterfront.”

“It’s incredibly exciting to announce the name for this new service that will have such a positive impact in our three states,” said Southern Rail Commission (SRC) Chairman Knox Ross. “This service will open the Mississippi Gulf Coast to a whole new tourism market, making already wonderful places even better by supporting local businesses, attracting more visitors, and strengthening the entire southern region’s infrastructure and economy.

“The Southern Rail Commission couldn’t be prouder to see this service come to reality, and we can’t wait to ride the train with y’all,” Ross added.

Fares and schedules will be available on Amtrak.com when a service start date is announced in a few weeks. Guests will enjoy direct access to exciting cities and towns on trains with wide reclining seats, ample legroom, no middle seats and generous carry-on baggage allowances. With space reserved in advance, golf bags will be accepted and pets will be welcomed within appropriate weights with carriers.

Amtrak will operate this service under contracts with the states of Louisiana and Mississippi, financial support by the City of Mobile, and with the long-time backing of the SRC. Including this new service, Amtrak will operate 31 state-sponsored routes for 23 state and agency partners in 20 states.

Services such as these are the fastest growing Amtrak business segment, with active efforts in many more states to expand the Amtrak network in partnership with the Federal Railroad Administration.

Reactions:

“This is a big step forward in the restoration process of Gulf Coast Rail. Because of collaborations between state and local government and economic development organizations, there will be more opportunities for Mississippians along the Gulf Coast. I am grateful to Amtrak for helping restore this line after nearly two decades of no service. Mississippians deserve access to reliable transportation,” said Sen. Roger Wicker (R-Miss.).

“The *Amtrak Mardi Gras Service* will be a tremendous step forward for our Gulf Coast communities and a celebration of our shared heritage. Thanks to the hard work of the Southern Rail Commission, Amtrak, and local partners, this service will not only strengthen our ties to vibrant neighboring cities but also open our region to more visitors, drive growth, and invite more tourism along beautiful coastal Mississippi. It’s a win for our economy and our culture,” Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-Miss.), Chair of the U.S Senate Transportation-Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Subcommittee.

“I’m excited for what the *Amtrak Mardi Gras Service* will bring to New Orleans and greater Gulf Coast community! Thanks to the transformative Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, this investment demonstrates our commitment to rebuilding stronger and more connected communities. The New Orleans to Mobile Amtrak line is more than a route; it’s a bridge to growth and prosperity for generations to come. All aboard!” said Rep. Troy A. Carter, Sr. (D-La.).

“Bringing back passenger rail service to the Mississippi Gulf Coast is a huge win for our communities. With 62 miles of scenic shoreline, and 300 years of history, Coastal Mississippi is home to delicious cuisine, beautiful beaches, and hospitable southern charm. The new *Amtrak Mardi Gras Service* will boost tourism, support local businesses in MS-04, and provide a convenient new way to travel along the Gulf Coast. I’m proud to support this effort and look forward to seeing the positive impact it brings to South Mississippi,” said Rep. Mike Ezell (R-Miss.).

“As a proud Mobile native, I’m thrilled about the return of passenger rail service coming to our city and the greater Gulf Coast region. The *Amtrak Mardi Gras Service* is more than just a new travel option—it’s a meaningful investment in our local economy, our tourism industry, and our shared cultural heritage, especially as Mobile is the birthplace of Mardi Gras. This new service strengthens our city’s ties with our neighbors across the Gulf, while creating jobs and expanding opportunity throughout the district and the State of Alabama,” said Rep. Shomari Figures (D-Ala.).

“The return of intercity Amtrak service between New Orleans and Mobile is a monumental win for our region. As Mayor, I’ve worked tirelessly to expand equitable, reliable, and forward-thinking transportation options that connect our people and drive economic opportunity. The *Amtrak Mardi Gras Service* celebrates more than our shared culture—it represents renewed investment in our infrastructure, our tourism industry, and the everyday mobility of our residents. This is how we move our city and our region forward—together,” said New Orleans Mayor LaToya Cantrell.

Note from the Editor:

If you haven't noticed already (and keep reading), this edition of our newsletter is a compilation of photographs from various depots, whether repurposed or still being actively used by Amtrak. You could also call it a Hodge Podge of photographs, but nevertheless, they come from some of our usual contributors consisting of Dennis Hogan, Jon Shea and Wayne Smith. Maybe we can call it Depots Galore? There is also the usual tid-bits of information thrown in as well. Certainly, as repeated many times, all of you are eligible to be contributors to "your" newsletter simply by contacting Wayne Smith, your newsletter editor.

Also, I want to thank Eagle Lake Depot Museum once again for their generous donation of more than 6,100 high quality railroad slides. We appreciate our partnerships and collaborations with other historical rail entities across Texas and other states as well.

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Mid-Continent Railway Museum, North Freedom, WI



Mid-Continent is an outdoor living history museum and operating railroad recreating, preserving, and interpreting the small town/shortline way of life from the "Golden Age of Railroading." Photographs by Dennis Hogan (2025).



Above and Below: [It was] rainy. Closed. Lots of outdoors to take photos of [though]. Not the best photos because of the rain and clouds. Photographs by Dennis Hogan (2025).



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Amtrak Wisconsin Dells Depot, WI



The Wisconsin Dells Depot was built in 1989. Took this while waiting on the arrival of the “Empire Builder”. Photographs by Dennis Hogan (2025).



Arrival of the “Empire Builder”.



The “Empire Builder” consist included 9 cars and 3 locomotives + baggage car!



Depot inside has old framed prints of trains from around 1900. **Even a Milwaukee Road hunting car!**

Milwaukee Road Black Earth, WI Depot



The Milwaukee Road Black Earth Depot/Museum in Black Earth, Wisconsin, is a former train depot that was transformed into a history museum by the Black Earth Historical Society. This was taken on a daytrip From Dubuque to Wisconsin Dells. Photograph by Dennis Hogan (2025).

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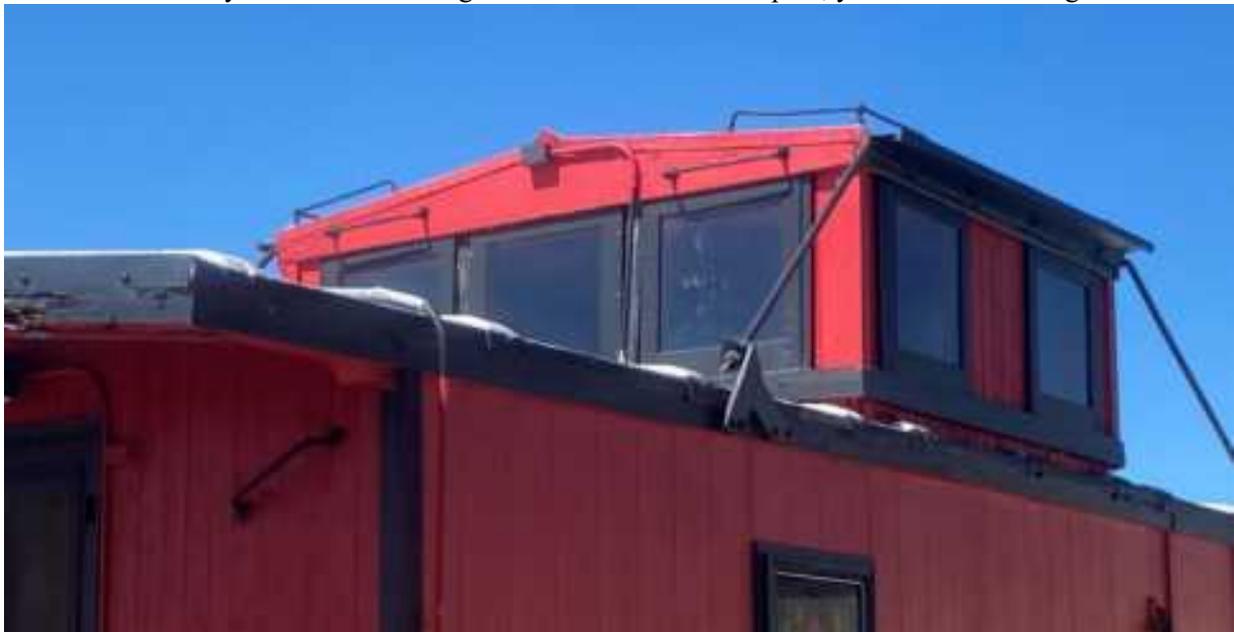
Repurposed Caboose in Decatur, TX



For a while now, I've seen this caboose set back from Highway 380 on the west side of Decatur. I always thought it was some sort of manufactured caboose. I recently had time to stop and examine it closely. Turns out, it is a restored wooden sheath caboose that has been repurposed into a massage therapy business. It looked like it is in decent shape even though it did not have any trucks. The business is open by appointment only. Photographs by Wayne Smith (2025).



A repurposed caboose in Decatur, TX is being used as a massage therapy business.
Below: If you look close enough in the window of the cupola, you can see a ceiling fan.



Minutes of the June 2025 Meeting of the North Texas Chapter of the NRHS

The June 2025 meeting of the North Texas Chapter of the NRHS meeting was held on Tuesday, June 3 in the Cotton Belt Room of the Chill Bar and Grill in Grapevine, TX. There were 13 attendees.

President Wayne Smith called the meeting to order at 7:40 PM.

PRESIDENT WAYNE SMITH

The Chapter recently received a collection 19 trays of slides from the Eagle Lake Depot Museum. Wayne traveled to Hearne to meet with Ken Stavinoha, President of the Eagle Lake Depot Museum, in Eagle Lake, TX to pick up the slides. While there, he picked up postcards of the Hearne depot and the railroad museum, which he passed around.

After he returned, Wayne cataloged the slides (by title), which he also passed around for review. As far as what to do with the slides, the Chapter is considering digitizing, donating, or selling the slides.

Wayne also had a 1987 SP wall calendar, which he asked if any were interested in taking it. Skip was and got it. There also was an SP poster of the Louisiana World Fair, which Skip also got.

VP JON SHEA

Jon passed around some photos from the 2011 24 Hours @ Saginaw event. He also passed around a copy of the UP Annual Report, with an extensive list of motive power and rolling stock.

NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE SKIP WATERS

This year's 24 Hours @ Big Sandy will take place the first weekend after Labor Day, Friday September 5 through Saturday, September 6.

Plans for the NRHS National Convention in East Lansing, MI are moving along. Hotel rates are expected to rise around mid-June. The NRHS convention takes place about the same time as the NMRA National Convention in Detroit, MI. Details are available at both the NRHS and NMRA websites.

The currently inactive Bluebonnet Chapter of the NRHS in New Braunfels is trying to be re-established again.

The Wichita Valley Chapter is planning an overnight trip to Oklahoma City and back on the Heartland Flyer. If interested, contact the Wichita Valley Chapter.

(NOTE: Our proposed Chapter Heartland Flyer trip is still in limbo, as the Texas government has yet to fund their part of next year's operations. If they do not, the Heartland Flyer will cease operations at the end of June).

The July program will be at the Chill Bar and include a series of the slides from the newly acquired collection, taken around Fort Worth in the early 1980's, which will feature fallen flags.

The evening program was the 1927 silent movie "The General", a comedy starring Buster Keaton and Clyde Bruckman.

Following the movie, the meeting adjourned about 10:00 PM.

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

Chapter Directory

North Texas Chapter Officers, 2025

- *President, Wayne Smith, 940-300-4407
- *Vice President/Programs, Jon Shea, 972-948-2413
- *Vice President/Trips and Events, Bill Long
- *Vice President/Communications, Vacant
- *Secretary, Jerry Nunn
- *Treasurer, Bob Kennedy
- *National Representative, Skip Waters,
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- *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://www.northtexaszephyr.com)

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 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

Doodlebug News Briefs



MKT Doodlebug M10

Tuesday, July 1st 3rd, Chapter Meeting @ 7:30 PM (Meet "N" Greet at 7:00 PM) – Program Presentation: Slide Show, Fallen Flags Found in Ft Worth in the early 80's, 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.

Contributing to The North Texas Zephyr

We welcome submissions! The deadline for submitting material to the editor is the 12th day of the month in the month prior to the respective cover date. Please contact President Wayne Smith for more information. Time-sensitive news items will be given priority over general interest subjects. The editor reserves the right to edit, hold or omit material at his discretion.