

North Texas Chapter –  
National Railway Historical Society



November Chapter Meeting:  
*Annual Chapter Auction*

When: Tuesday, November 4<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 PM  
**\*Note Earlier Start Time**

Where: Texas Western Model Railroad Club,  
6808 Forest Hill Drive, Forest Hill, Texas  
76140, Phone: (682) 587-2092



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The North Texas Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society award grants (**THE LEROY O. KING MEMORIAL RAILWAY PRESERVATION GRANTS**) in the areas of railway history and the preservation of railway heritage including publications, research and educational projects. Monies raised through this auction with donated items are used for our Chapter Grant Program.

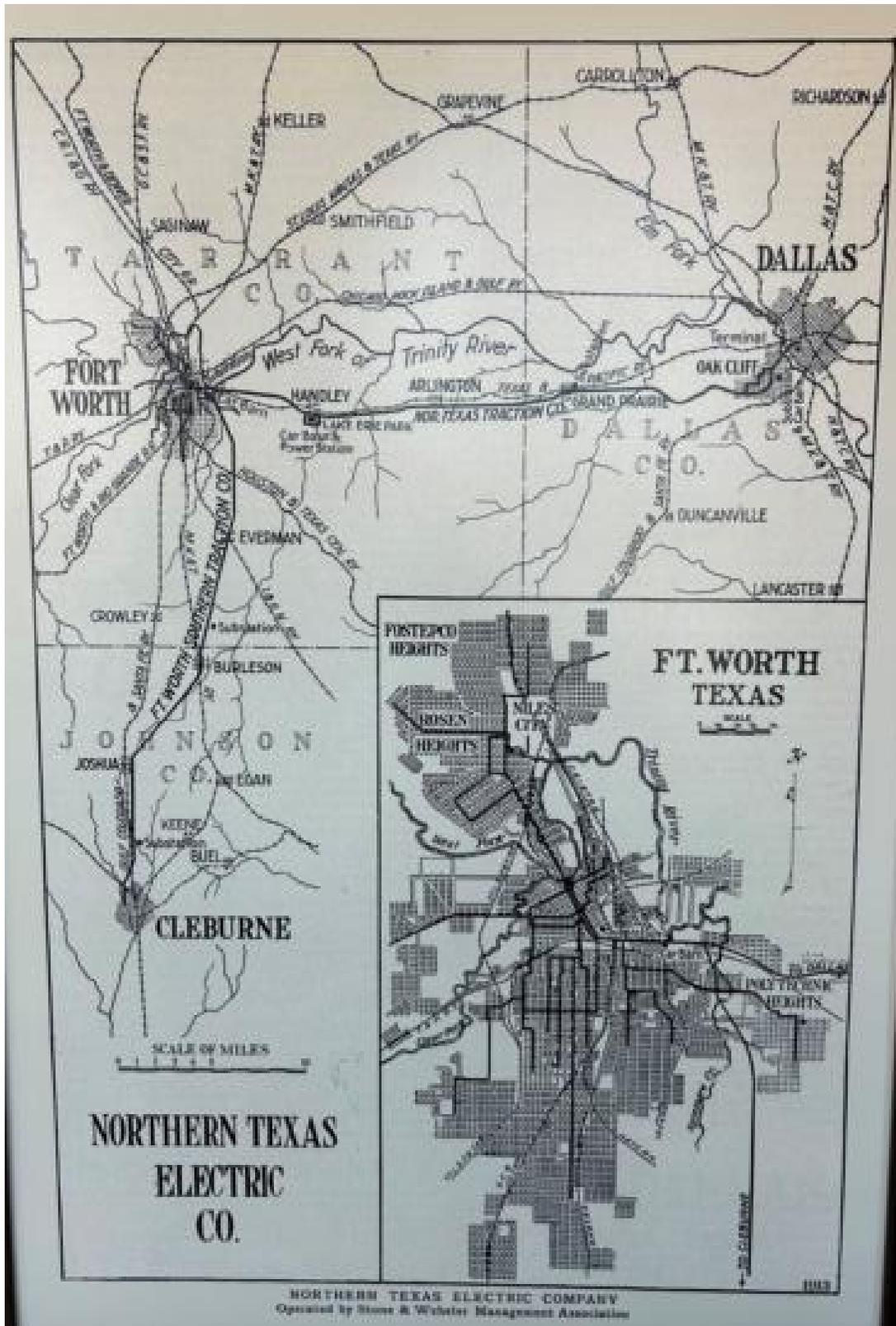
**Depot Hopping in Texas With Dennis**  
**All Photographs by Dennis Hogan**



Cotton Belt Railroad Depot Museum – Mount Vernon TX (July 2025)



Burlington-Rock Island depot – Waxahachie TX (August 2025)



Northern Texas Electric Company Interurban Map  
Station 330 Restaurant, Burleson TX (August 2025)



Rock Island caboose outside Station 330, Burseson TX (August 2025)



Katy depot and caboose at Itasca TX (August 2025)



Ennis Railroad Museum (Southern Pacific Depot) (August 2025)



Interior of Ennis Railroad Museum (August 2025)



Interior of Ennis Railroad Museum (August 2025)



Katy depot in Waxahachie TX – Now a coffee shop (August 2025)



M-K-T "Katy" Caboose in Waxahachie TX (August 2025)



The Weatherford, Mineral Wells, Northwestern Railroad Depot - Mineral Wells TX Depot (Sept 2025)



Mineral Wells depot with old Baker Hotel in the background (September 2025)



Another shot of the WMW&NW depot (September 2025)



Lake Mineral Wells State Trailway (September 2025)



Texas and Pacific Depot Museum – Strawn TX (September 2025)



Photo inside the Strawn depot: 1880 Train Trestle, T&P Railway, West of Strawn (September 2025)



Texas & Pacific Depot – Abilene TX (September 2025)



Dennis Hogan was a featured speaker at the Abilene Railroad Festival 2025, which was held Friday, September 12, 2025 to Saturday, September 13, 2025. Dennis' presentation was entitled, "Midland's Other Railroad: Midland & Northwestern Railway". Also in attendance was our very own Skip Waters (pictured above) running his trains for the annual event.



Wichita Valley Depot in Abilene TX (September 2025)



This historical depot and accompanying property are for sale for a cool \$1,775,000! (September 2025)



Hobo Joe's in Madill OK is a train themed restaurant. Check out the semaphore.

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**Railroad Heritage of Midwest America Excursion**  
**Photos by Dennis Hogan/September 21, 2025**



Union Pacific Centennial locomotive on point on the Iowa Interstate Railroad.



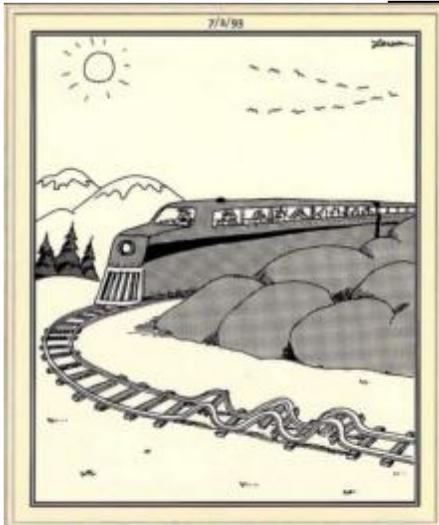
Rock Island themed paint scheme on the Iowa Interstate Railroad.



Riding the *City of Bureau Rocket*.



Railroad Humor/Whimsey



"Hello, ladies and gentlemen, Engineer Matthews here. ... Better take your seats and put them drinks down, 'cause around this corner we always hit some pretty bad trackulence."

Left: The Work of Gary Larson: The Far Side



Right: Submitted by Jon Shea

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Editor's Selected Favorites From the Chapter's Facebook Page

Texas and Pacific Passenger Depot, Southeast corner of Front Street (Lancaster) and Main, Fort Worth, Texas, 1900. Original Image: Jenkins Garrett Texas Postcard Collection.



Texas and Pacific Passenger Station, Fort Worth, Texas, March 11, 1910. Southeast corner of what would later be South Main and Lancaster. W.D. Smith Commercial Photography, Inc. Collection



Michael North  
4h · 🌐

Texas & Pacific passenger depot when it was burning down, Ft. Worth TX.



Marty Bernard  
2h · 🌐

Zephyrs at Dallas and Fort Worth Stations March 1967... more



Traces of Texas · Follow

6d · 🌐

1955. The Fort Worth and Denver Railway's Texas Zephyr train No. 2, northbound, is ready to depart from the Dallas Union Station. At right, the Sam Houston Zephyr train No. 4, northbound is just arriving in the terminal from Houston. Everything is as it was then except .... YOU ARE THERE! (You young folks won't understand that last reference).

Is it just me, or were trains back in the day much cooler looking?





Texas Memories · Follow

3h · 🌐



### The Trailblazer monorail at Fair Park in Dallas

Trailblazer was a suspended monorail that operated at Fair Park in Dallas from 1956 to 1964. It was the first commercially operated monorail system in the United States.

Originally envisioned to be 4,000 feet long with terminals at the Automobile Building and Pennsylvania Avenue (with a midway station at Cotton Bowl Plaza), the line was later reduced to 1,600 feet terminating at the Cotton Bowl. It opened with a fare of 25 cents in time for the 1956 State Fair of Texas, and became a top visitor attraction.

Original source not identified. If this is your photo, please contact us at [MissingPhotoCredit@gmail.com](mailto:MissingPhotoCredit@gmail.com)





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### **My, What an Appetite!**



On August 21, 2025, some chapter members attended the “Battle of the Tracks” presentation at the Red River Railroad Museum in Denison TX. The presentation was on the Katy vs H&TC rivalry to reach the Red River in 1872-1873. In the photograph above, taken by Dennis Hogan, Jimmy Barlow prepares to consume this entire tray of food. Jimmy and Dennis ate at the 1836 Café in Bells TX before the program.

## Historic Castañeda Hotel in Las Vegas, N.M., sold to trio of locals

[By Mike Easterling measterling@sfnewmexican.com](mailto:measterling@sfnewmexican.com)

Aug 26, 2025 Updated Sep 15, 2025



The Castañeda, built in 1898 in the Mission Revival style, became the first trackside hotel for famed developer Fred Harvey. The 30,000-square foot red-brick structure features a 500-foot arcade on its east side, while its entrance on the west side faces the tracks of the main line of the Santa Fe Railway.



An Arizona developer who bought and restored the historic Castañeda Hotel in Las Vegas, N.M., has agreed to sell the property to a trio of locals, two of whom worked on the extensive renovation project.

Allan Affeldt, the Sedona developer who bought the crumbling hotel in 2014 and poured millions of dollars into its renovation four years later, said he has agreed to sell the Castañeda to Las Vegas residents Carlos Lopez, Dennis Lucero and Lucero's wife, Annette Lucero, who will operate the hotel under the auspices of Historic Castañeda Hotel LLC.

The new owners will take over the Castañeda, located at 541 Railroad Ave., on Nov. 20, Affeldt said. He declined to name the purchase price.

Both Lopez and Dennis Lucero worked as contractors on the building's renovation in 2018 — Lopez as the general contractor and Lucero as the electrical contractor.

"We kind of had ties to the building, but it wasn't on our radar to purchase it when Allan told us he wanted to sell it," Dennis Lucero said.

But after considering the idea for some time, Lopez and the Luceros warmed to the notion.

"We thought if we could swing it, why not?" Dennis Lucero said. "I think it's a pretty good deal. We think we can make a run with it."

Affeldt said it was important to him to find local buyers for the property, so he was pleased when Lopez and the Luceros emerged.

"We had a lot of tire kickers," he said of folks who expressed an interest in purchasing the hotel.

Ultimately, however, Lopez and the Luceros were the only ones to make a solid offer on the Castañeda, he said. Originally, Affeldt intended to sell the hotel in a package deal with his other Las Vegas property, The Plaza Hotel, which also has been renovated.

But he was willing to change that plan to accept the offer from Historic Castañeda Hotel LLC. Affeldt said The Plaza, which dates back to 1882, now has been put back on the market by itself at an asking price of \$4.5 million.

Affeldt said he was impressed by the work Lopez and Dennis Lucero did on the hotel as contractors and by the success they have enjoyed as owners of the nearby Buffalo Hall Bar and Cowboy Café BBQ at 528 Grand Ave. in Las Vegas.

### **A rich history**

The Castañeda, built in 1898 in the Mission Revival style, became the first trackside hotel for famed developer Fred Harvey. The 30,000-square foot red-brick structure features a 500-foot arcade on its east side, while its entrance on the west side faces the tracks of the main line of the Santa Fe Railway.

Affeldt, who has bought and renovated historic properties all over the Southwest, has said the hotel essentially was abandoned when he purchased it with The Plaza Hotel 11 years ago.

Dennis Lucero said he feels good about the condition of the Castañeda now after seeing how committed Affeldt was to its restoration in 2018.

"He put a lot of his own time and effort into this project," he said. "And he didn't want it to go to just anyone. He put a lot of his heart and soul into it."

Dennis Lucero said he moved to Las Vegas in 1981, so he doesn't have a deep family connection to the property. But he laughingly recalled going to a bar there when he was in college, an establishment that was so run down he and his friends jokingly dubbed it "The Nasty Casty."

"It was a little rough," he said.

His wife Annette had a fonder recollection of the property, noting that her sister was married at the hotel when Annette was still in high school.

### **New life for restaurant, bar**

The Luceros said their intention is to reopen both the bar and the restaurant at the hotel. Affeldt said the restaurant was open under another tenant until last year, but that business ceased operation then.

"We want it to be very different [from the Buffalo Hall Bar and Cowboy Café BBQ]," Annette Lucero said, explaining the new eatery likely would feature a selection of Northern New Mexico dishes, steaks and daily specials. The bar will lean heavily on craft cocktails, New Mexico craft beers and live music by solo musicians or small combos, the Luceros said.

"We're not going to have Megadeth in there," Dennis Lucero said.

He said the opening date for the bar and restaurant will depend on how quickly they can secure a liquor license, but he hopes that can be accomplished before the sale of the property is complete.

"Our hope is to have food and beverage service on Nov. 20," he said.

Another challenge, Lucero said, will be hiring enough workers to staff the bar and restaurant, something that isn't easy to do in Las Vegas.

One thing that won't be necessary is a major renovation to either the bar or restaurant, he said.

"There's a little bit of groundwork [that needs to be done]," he said. "We've done several walk-throughs, but the building is basically newly renovated. Allan was meticulous, and we are the beneficiaries of Allan's ability to stay on the job and get things done the way he wanted."

The restaurant kitchen is one of the better such facilities in the state, he said, and is in such good shape it could be used tomorrow.

Annette Lucero said public response to the purchase of the hotel by Historic Castañeda Hotel LLC has been overwhelmingly positive, with many residents expressing satisfaction at seeing the historic property pass into familiar hands.

"I think that's the biggest thing," she said. "They're so happy that locals bought it."

Dennis Lucero noted the special place the hotel occupies in Las Vegas history and vowed to be a good steward of the property.

"It's an opportunity we're not taking lightly," he said. "And we have some experiences we can draw on." The sale of the Castañeda marks the first time Affeldt has sold a major historic property he has renovated. He said that left him with mixed emotions, but he feels good having rescued the once-distressed hotel from a possible ignominious end.

"We're really proud of the work we did," he said. "That property was a ruin. It was literally falling apart. Now, it's a showpiece."

## IT IS THAT TIME AGAIN TO RENEW YOUR **NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER DUES** FOR 2026

Annual renewal of your North Texas Chapter Membership is due by **January 1, 2026**. Your annual dues are paid directly to our Chapter either by check, online, or by cash.

**Membership dues are still \$16 for either a regular chapter membership or a chapter-only membership and still \$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**

**1a.** Do not mail your membership renewal to the Chapter Mailing Address as it will delay processing your renewal.

**1b.** If you are submitting or renewing a Family Membership by check, be sure you identify all members of your Family on a note with your check.

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

Visit the Chapter's on-line store at:

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

or copy and paste this address into your browser.

**2a.** A small service charge (50 cents for individual, 75 cents for family) 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.

**2b.** If you are submitting or renewing a Family Membership on line, be sure you identify all members of your Family in the Orders Comments on your PayPal order form.

### **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 dues are paid and sent directly to the National by each member.***

Thanks very much.

Bob Kennedy, Treasurer  
North Texas Chapter, NRHS

**Minutes of the October 2025 Meeting of the North Texas Chapter of the NRHS**

The October 2025 meeting of the North Texas Chapter of the NRHS meeting was held on Tuesday, October 7 in the Cotton Belt Room of the Chill Bar and Grill in Grapevine, TX. There were 14 attendees.

President Wayne Smith called the meeting to order at 7:31 PM.

**PRESIDENT WAYNE SMITH**

Wayne welcomed to the Chapter two new members: Jamie Terrell, who is with Trinity Metro and Lee Lavel, also with Trinity Metro. Jamie says he will be at the Ft. Worth Central Station on the day of the Rail Ramble. Jamie will give a tour of the Interurban at Ft. Worth Central Station if time allows.

Wayne recognized those who helped out at the Plano Train Show at the ticket booths, information desks and NRHS table: Clint Tennill, Jerry Nunn, Edwin Pegelow, John Shea, and Don Novak. The Chapter raised \$550 in sales and picked up two new members. The Saturday evening slide show enabled the Chapter to increase its portion of the proceeds from the show, which are divided up among the participating organizations.

**NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE SKIP WATERS**

The latest National Board Meeting was “boring”, but that’s good news...no drama and finances are in good shape. The next fall convention will be held in Cincinnati, OH. Baltimore, MD is scheduled to host the 2027 convention. The highlight of that convention will be a visit to the B&O Railroad Museum. The annual report will be issued soon, likely as a PDF file.

The January 2026 slide show will be the last slide show of which Skip will be the chair. Someone will need to take over planning and implementation of future slide shows.

**VP BILL LONG**

**RAIL RAMBLE EXCURSION**

Itinerary for the November 8 “Rail Ramble” is: (1) Meet the bus at the Grapevine Convention Center at 8:30 AM; (2) Board the bus and travel to Gainesville Amtrak station; (3) Board the Heartland Flyer to Fort Worth; (4) Meet the bus and go to the stockyards; (5) Take the GVRR Trinity River Excursion; (6) Board the bus back to the Convention Center. Refer to the Chapter website for times and more details.

We have sold 28 or 29 tickets, so the trip is a “go”.

**TREASURER BOB KENNEDY**

This is the time of the year that Chapter dues need to be renewed. Bob will be sending out a reminder next month. For the North Texas Chapter dues are \$16.00 for an individual if paid by cash or check, or \$16.50 if paid on-line. Family dues are \$18.00 if paid by cash or check or \$18.75 if paid on-line.

National dues are managed by the National Chapter and are paid through their website.

**VP JON SHEA**

The November meeting will be at the Texas Western Model RR Club, and will feature our annual auction. Attendees are encouraged to bring items for auction to the meeting.

The December Christmas dinner will be at the Babe’s in North Richland Hills.

The January meeting will be at the Chill Bar in Grapevine. The program will be the election of officers and “Show ‘n Tell”.

Jon read a poem called “Track Man”, whose theme applies to all of us at one time or another.

Jon still has some 2026 Katy calendars for \$10.00 each, and 4 copies of the 2003v Katy Flyer. All proceeds go to the Katy RR Historical Society.

Jon recently was made aware of a new TV channel called West TV, cable channel 55.1. Of interest to us is that at 5:00 AM on Sunday they show the movie “Iron Horse”.

The evening program was the video featuring the NS 611 and SR 4501 which were powering a steam excursion as part of the 1991 NRHS Convention in Tennessee.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM.

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

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## **Happy Fall Y'all**



This was taken near Crofton, BC, on Vancouver Island. Photo by Neal Sanche.

**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,  
[wgcrush@swbell.net](mailto:wgcrush@swbell.net)
- \*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 \(ntxnrhs.org\)](#)

Zephyr Archives: [Rail History Newsletters \(gogeocaching.com\)](#)

**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](http://www.nrhs.com)

*Doodlebug News Briefs*



MKT Doodlebug M10

**Tuesday, November 4, Chapter Meeting @ 7:00 PM (\*Note Earlier Start Time) – Program : Annual Chapter Auction at Texas Western Model Railroad Club, 6808 Forest Hill Drive, Forest Hill, Texas 76140**

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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 all 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.