

*North Texas Chapter —
National Railway Historical Society*



**January Chapter Meeting:
Annual Officer Elections**



**And
Show “N” Tell**

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

**When: Tuesday, January 6th @ 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 6, 2026.

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 2026 Chapter dues must be paid prior to the START of the January 6, 2026 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 6, 2026 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 6 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.

Thank you.

Current Slate of Candidates for January Elections

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

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 rbkennedy48@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

Depot/Museum Hopping with Wayne Smith - Part I



Texas and Pacific Depot in Strawn, TX

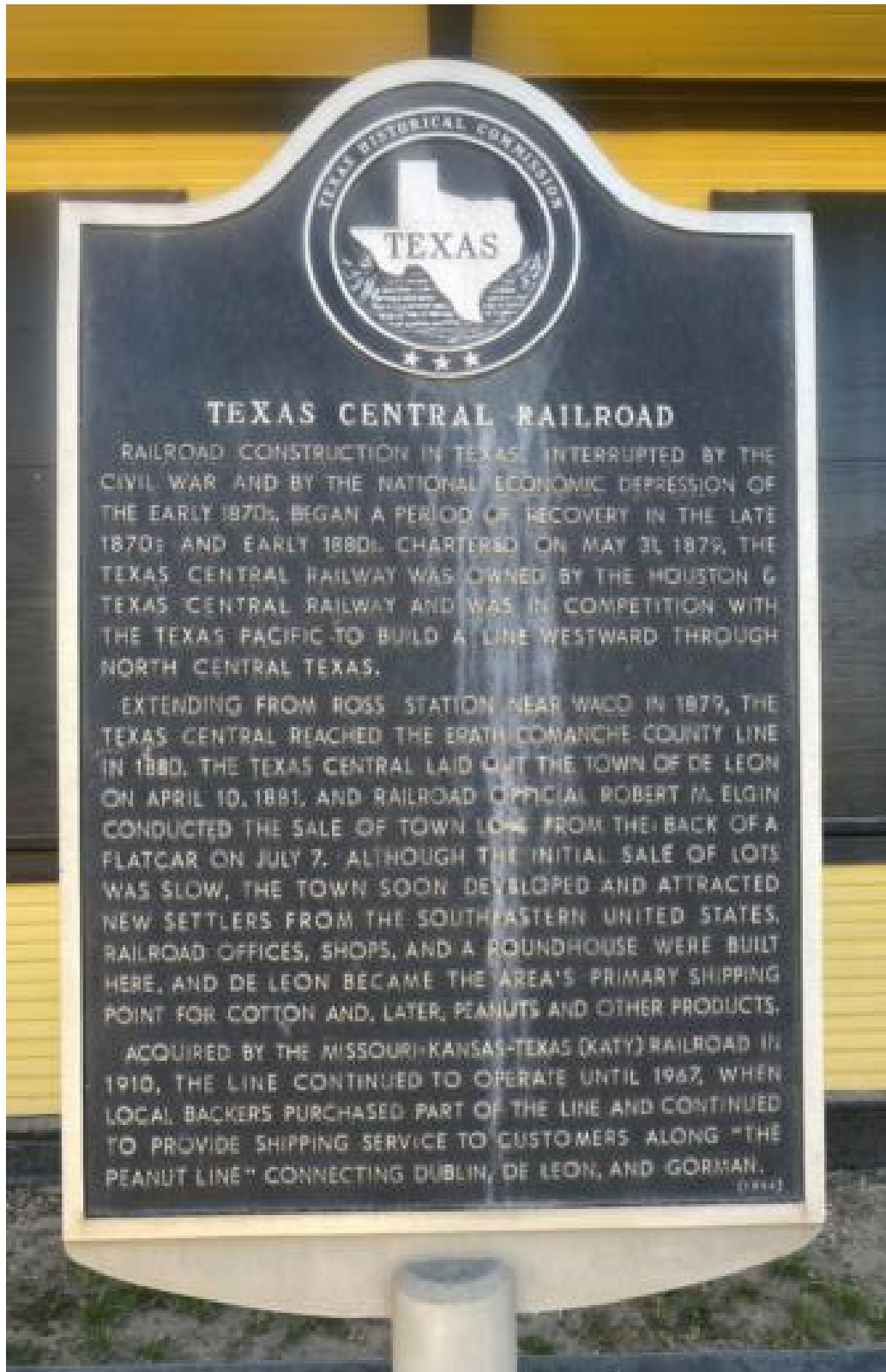


Texas and Pacific Depot in Strawn, TX



Texas Central Railroad Depot in De Leon TX





Texas Central Railroad Historical Marker



The Texas Central tracks are now owned and operated by the Fort Worth and Western.





Dabbs Railroad Hotel Bed & Breakfast Established 1907, Llano TX





The back patio of the Dabbs Hotel over looking the Llano River





One of the elegant rooms in the restored Dabbs Railroad Hotel.

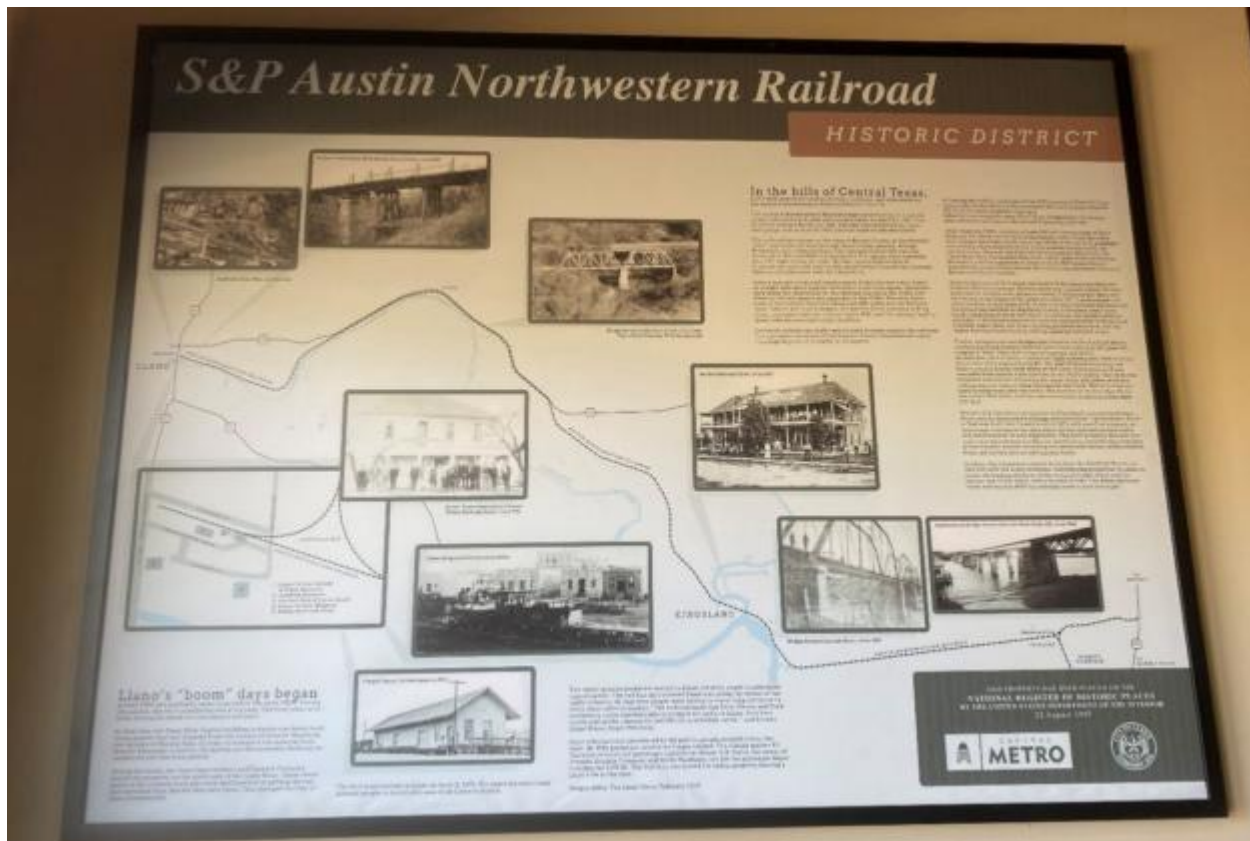




Austin Train Crew & Hotel Guests, 1914.



The Llano Depot Museum sits across the street from the Dabbs Hotel. The Austin and Northwestern Railroad served Llano and the original depot burned down decades ago. A duplicate depot of a "standard" depot of the day was built in the early 60's as The Llano Railroad Museum and Visitor's Center.



Llano received what would be its first and, to date, its last set of railroad tracks by 1892 courtesy of the Austin and Northwestern Railroad. At the time, Llano was experiencing a period of significant growth due primarily to the discovery of iron deposits in the northwestern portion of Llano County. The Austin and Northwestern, carrier of close to sixteen thousand carloads of the granite used to construct the state's Capitol building in Austin, built an extension to Llano, hoping to prosper from the transport of Llano's newfound resource. But iron deposits never quite reached commercially-viable amounts.





The Llano Railroad Museum has a restored C&O caboose and a Long Island RR Commuter coach.





The seats in the Long Island commuter car were reconfigured in order to use the car as a public meeting place and classroom for museum events.



There is a mining museum beside the railroad museum.



History of Exploration & Mining in Llano County



Intersection of Ford Street & Main Street looking North

In 1880, Llano, Texas was a small county town with a population of 213 people. During the 1890's, the population rose to around 7,000. By comparison, the population of Austin at the time was nearly 15,000. Speculators promoted Llano heavily. A large area of land on the north side of the river was platted and lots were sold. The developers pushed the idea of a thriving economy built around a developing iron industry. Significant deposits of iron ore existed throughout the area in nearby Llano county.

The growing population and the promise of industrial prosperity brought the railroad to town in 1892. A spur was built to serve the Olive Mine where a rich deposit of ore was located. Additionally, a prospect named Iron Mountain just north of Valley Spring was being developed. Most of the 7,000 people who made their way to Llano were not looking for jobs in the iron industry. They were here to look for Gold! - or to sell tools and supplies to people who were looking for gold. Llano became a Wild West Mining Boom Town.

Llano county does have gold, however it requires significant additional work to extract, making it less desirable than the Western states, and soon prospectors were moving on to the next big gold prospect.

The lodes of iron ore were either poor quality, or insufficient quantity for the industrialization going on at that time. The Olive Mine closed after two years along with other local iron mining operations.

December Christmas Party & Gift Exchange



There were gifts galore for our traditional white elephant gift exchange.



We met at Babe's Chicken in North Richland Hills and had a private room. Above Left - President Wayne Smith calls for order for a brief business meeting (mainly to discuss Chapter Elections and Show & Tell for the January meeting) and to start the gift exchange. Above Right - member Dave selects the "biggest package" as Jerry Nunn looks on. Below - Cool murals covered the room.





Members are seen enjoying good food and good company!





You are never disappointed at Babe's Chicken! If you look close, there are several railroad related pictures/murals!



Facebook Favorites



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6h · 🌐



Rock Island's Train #21 at Shamrock, Texas on the now-abandoned "Choctaw Route" in August, 1967. Tom Hoffman photo, Rick Burn collection.

<https://www.american-rails.com/crip.html>



Your editor is partial to the Rock Island since his grandfather ran some of the famous "Rockets".



American-Rails.com · Follow

5h · 🌐



A Rock Island freight rolls past Star Union Brewery at Pine Street in Peru, Illinois; August, 1960. Rick Burn photo.

<https://www.american-rails.com/crip.html>



Your editor's father also worked for the FW&D. Nice combo of the Rock Island & CB&Q!



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EMD builder's photo from the summer of 1951.

<https://www.american-rails.com/crip.html>



More vintage Rock Island Photos!



WDTX 1402 · Follow

2d · 🌐



An inbound CRIP freight train, headed by No. 315, comes into the Peach Yard in Fort Worth 50 years ago in August of 1969.

Photo by J. Parker Lamb from his collection at the Center for Railroad Photography & Art.



A Rock Island Freight train arrives at the Peach Yard in Fort Worth.



Historic Dallas is in Dallas, TX. ·

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Old-style Dallas Streetcar stops in front of Skillern's.
(1950's)



Remember Skillern's Drug Stores in the DFW area?



Historic Dallas is in Dallas, TX. ·



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3d · 🌐

Electric streetcars in downtown Dallas (1950's)



Send a gift

Historic Streetcars in downtown Dallas.

Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

The **20th Annual NRHS Slide-Show** ANNOUNCEMENT!!!!

The Dallas Area Train Show (Plano, TX) will be Jan. 17 & 18, 2026.

It will be held at the Plano Centre. 2000 East Spring Creek Parkway.

Go East from Central Expressway (Exit 31)

Hours 10am-5pm Saturday, 10am-4pm Sunday.

More info at:

<http://www.dfwtrainshows.com>

THEN on Saturday Night, January 17th, 2026

The North Texas Chapter, National Railway Historical Society,
will host the **20th Annual Dallas Area Media-Slide Show and
NRHS Open House.**

SHOW LOCATION: - The TACO JOINT - ADDISON

Fiesta Room

14999-C Preston Rd.

Dallas, TX 75254

<http://thetacojoint.com>

Show Time: 6:00pm until 9:00pm (maybe longer)
(the Train Show closes at 5:00pm).

Show Admission is free!

COME EAT AT THE TACO JOINT!

Each meal that is purchased goes against our deposit.

Please help us get our deposit back by buying a meal or a drink.

If YOU would like to be a presenter, please reply directly to me,
Skip Waters <wgcrush@swbell.net>, NOT to any email or Facebook group,
NO LATER THAN 12:00 noon CST on **Sunday, January 11, 2026.**

If you know the subject of your presentation, please tell me
(having a subject is not mandatory).

List type of media you plan to show:
1) Slides, 2) Digital photos, 3) Videotape or 4) DVD.

After all presenters have identified themselves, I'll let them know
A.S.A.P. how much time each will have at the show. You can go ahead
and start putting your material together now, but keep it adjustable so
you can make it fit the time allotted when I announce it after January 12th.

You'll still have a few days to finalize it after I make that
announcement.

One program note: Please limit Video or DVD to 15 minutes.

Slides will only be limited by the available time divided by the number of
presenters.

Remember, the DEADLINE for getting your name on the PRESENTATION LIST
is **12:00 noon CST on Sunday, January 11, 2026.**

Don't miss the train, let me know today!

Thanks for your interest!

Please pass this on to anyone that might be interested in this show.

Best regards,
Skip Waters

Show Chairman
North Texas Chapter
National Railway Historical Society
214-987-2888 office
<http://ntxnrhs.org>

Chapter Directory

North Texas Chapter Officers, 2025 (2026 Pending)

- *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
- *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 \(ntxnrhs.org\)](#)

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

Doodlebug News Briefs



MKT Doodlebug M10

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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.