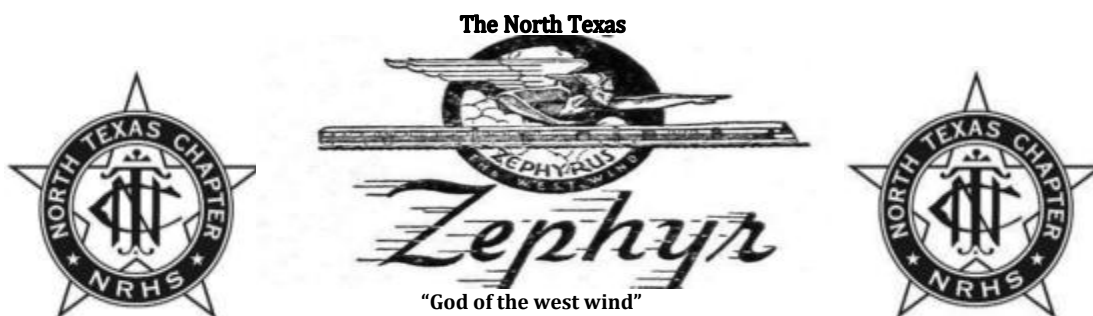


North Texas Chapter – National Railway Historical Society



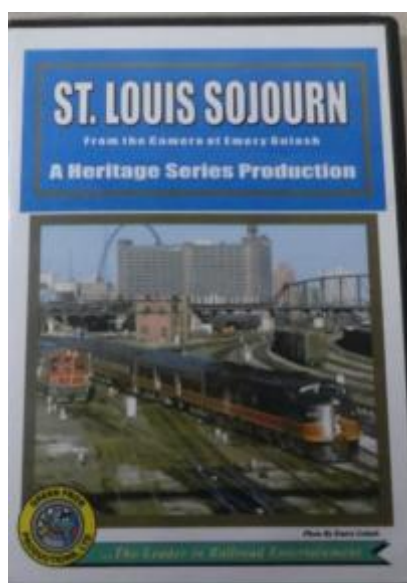
June Chapter Meeting:

When: Tuesday, June 2 @ 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 Website: <https://www.chillbardfw.com/>}

St. Louis Sojourn – Video of the St. Louis train station in the 40s and 50s.



Filed in April 1968, this DVD captures the **St. Louis Union Station** and surrounding yards, a wide variety of motive power and rolling stock, including **B&O, Mopac, Penn Central, C&EI, Southern, GM&O**, E-unit movements, switchers from the Terminal Railroad Association, and colorful Alton & Southern Alcos Unique equipment like a **Sperry Railcar** and unusual passenger combo cars.

TRIBUTE: KENNETH WAYNE SMITH



NOVEMBER 18, 1968 – MAY 8, 2026

As many of you are already aware, our Chapter President Wayne Smith passed away on May 8, 2026. Wayne was Chapter President for 17 years, 5 months beginning in January, 2009. He also served as our Zephyr Newsletter Editor since May 2022 publishing one of the finest Chapter Newsletters thorough out the National Railway Historical Society National Organization. Wayne published the May 2026 Zephyr 2 weeks prior to his passing completing 5 years of the Zephyr. We can honestly say it was his passion and it showed in every issue.

On Thursday, May 28, several Chapter members and I attended a Memorial for Wayne at the North Central Texas College held by his co-workers. It was a beautiful Memorial and a fine, fitting tribute to a man who will be missed by so many.

Following is Wayne's obituary as published by Coker Funeral Home with the Canada pictures at the end added by me.

Bob Kennedy, Treasurer

Kenneth Smith Obituary

Kenneth Wayne Smith, known to everyone who loved him simply as Wayne, passed away on May 8, 2026, in [Corinth, Texas](#), at the age of 67. Born in Amarillo and raised in Fort Worth, Wayne was a proud Texan through and through, and he wore that identity with warmth and a good story always close at hand.

Wayne dedicated his career to counseling students with disabilities, and it was work he genuinely loved. He had a gift for connecting with people others might overlook,

and his use of sign language was just one of the ways he met students where they were. His coworkers knew him as someone who brought heart to the job every single day, and the young people he served were better for having known him.

Wayne was a faithful member of West Main Church of Christ and had been an active Boy Scout leader during his son Garrett's years in scouting.

Away from work, Wayne's heart belonged to trains. He was a proud and passionate member of the North Texas chapter of the NRHS, serving as its President. He loved collecting, riding, reading, and chasing down old depots and historic locomotives, always with a camera and a story ready to share. Those who spent time with Wayne knew that a good train story might go long, and nobody minded a bit. When he wasn't thinking about trains, you could likely find him cheering on the Texas Longhorns or the Dallas Cowboys, two loyalties that fit perfectly alongside his Texas pride.

Wayne had a deep love for Canada and cherished every moment with his Canadian family. Whether he was in Texas or traveling north, family was always at the center of who he was. He adored his son Garrett above all else, and that love was evident to everyone around him.

Wayne was preceded in death by his parents, Nan J. (Wilkinson) Smith and C. Howard Smith.

He is survived by his wife of 33 years, Lana (Swan) Smith, whom he married on June 20, 1992; his son, Garrett Blake Smith; his sister, Brenda L. Davis and her husband Jim S. Davis; his nephew, Nathan D. Brookman and his wife Cassidy and their five children; his nieces, Melissa L. Johnson and her three children, and Laura D. Fiene and her husband Dustin and their two children; and his cousins, Jane Ann Cassidy and Dean Smith, both of Burleson, Texas; Sharon Ife of Burlington, Ontario; Carolyn Wilkinson of Winnipeg, Manitoba; Faye Pickard of Parksville, BC; Kathy Janswick of Parksville, BC; and Rob Wilkinson of Victoria, BC.

A graveside service was held on Monday, May 11, 2026 in Jacksboro, TX.

Wayne was one of a kind: a counselor, a storyteller, a devoted husband and father, and a friend to many. He will be deeply missed.



CANADA



Minutes of the May 2026 Meeting of the North Texas Chapter of the NRHS

The May 2026 meeting of the North Texas Chapter of the NRHS was held on Tuesday, May 5 in the Cotton Belt Room of the Chill Bar and Grill in Grapevine, TX. There were 8 attendees.

Vice President of Programs Jon Shea called the meeting to order at 7:45 PM. President Wayne Smith, Treasurer Bob Kennedy and Secretary Jerry Nunn were unable to attend.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Bill Long: The Red River Railroad Museum in Denison, TX is now open. The planning of our Saturday, November 7, 2026 trip is proceeding. The trip will be a bus trip originating in Grapevine, TX at the Grapevine Convention center parking lot, i.e. the same location that last year's trip originated.

A scouting trip was done by Skip Waters, Bill Long, Edwin Peglow, and Jon Shea. We were able to visit the Red River Railroad Museum both inside, and outside rolling stock. We ate lunch at the George Tavern, which has a Pullman room which we could use to eat lunch on our November trip. We stopped at Sherman and located the old Cotton Belt depot, and T&P depot. At Van Alstyne there is an Interurban car. At Anna there is the Anna Railroad museum and a restored steam locomotive. At Allen there is a Heritage Museum and restored steam locomotive and caboose.

We plan to put this together in a packaged trip. As stated above this will include depots of the Texas Electric Railroad and the Houston and Texas Central Railroad. Skip Waters noted that the trip will include several aspects, i.e. Texas Electric Railroad, H&TC and museums. We may have guest speakers, possibly Dennis Hogan, Steve Goen, and Elden Baker. Finally, we may include the North Texas Chapter 30th year anniversary celebration as part of the trip.

Jon Shea: Some notes from Union Pacific 2025 annual report: Some highlights are the two highest revenue items were Grain at revenue of \$3.926 Billion, and Coal at \$1.786 Billion. Gross sales were \$23 Billion. Net profit was \$6.9 Billion. Union Pacific is doing well.

Jon is working with Dennis Hogan to schedule a tour and program at the Ennis Railroad and Cultural Heritage Museum, i.e. Union Pacific (formerly Southern Pacific) depot. Tentative dates/time are first two Saturdays in June at 1:00 pm. Attendees can car pool to get there. There was general interest in this event by show of hands.

Programs for the next two meetings (from last month's minutes):

June Program: "St Louis Sojourn" – Video of the St. Louis train station in the 40s and 50s.

July Program: Mike Ross video presentation of the color schemes of the American Freedom Train.

Eldon Baker: Eldon has agreed to do a short talk at the Anna depot museum for our November trip.

Eldon noted Anna is celebrating 2026 National Train Day at the Anna Depot museum. The celebration is Saturday May 09, 2026 beginning at 10:00 am. Skip Waters will have his trackless train there.

Skip Waters: Skip Waters suggested dates for the chapter 24 Hours at Big Sandy event be the first two weekends in September. It was decided that Friday September 11 and Saturday September 12 be the dates for 24 Hour Big Sandy. Skip will confirm with the city of Big Sandy.

The dates and location for the NRHS national convention have not been decided. They will be decided at the NRHS Spring Conference taking place May 28-30, 2026 in Salt Lake City Utah.

Nominations for the NRHS board are being submitted at the Spring Conference. Skip is running for the board and read his statement for the nomination.

The Evening's Program: The second half of the movie "Union Pacific".

Secretary's Notes: The movie "Union Pacific", directed by Cecil B. DeMille and starring Barbara Stanwyck, Joel McCrea, and Robert Preston, was released on May 5, 1939. The movie had an exciting conclusion including an Indian attack on a train, with the cavalry on another train coming to the rescue. The Union Pacific and Central Pacific met and a celebration held. The golden spike was driven in. A more detailed description of the plot and actors is available on Wikipedia.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM.

Bill Long, Vice President Trips and Events, acting Secretary, North Texas Chapter, NRHS

Ennis Railroad & Cultural Heritage Museum Tour & Program

Date: Saturday, July 18, 2026

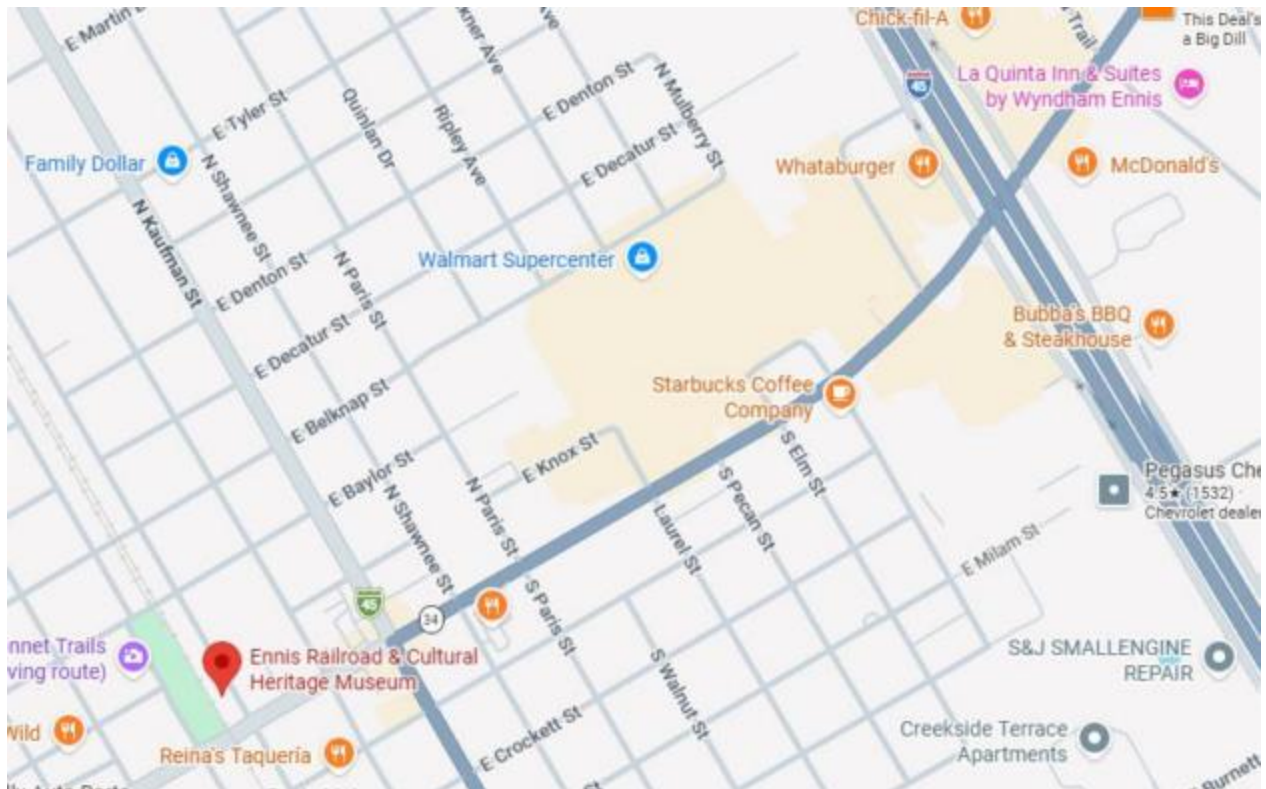
Time: 1pm

Location: 105 NE Main St, Ennis, TX 75119

Museum website: <https://www.ennistx.gov> › museum

This will be a car pool event. Please plan accordingly to arrive at or before 1pm.

Further details will be emailed to everyone as they are determined.



North Texas Chapter Officers, 2026

- *President, Jon Shea, 972-948-2413
- *Vice President/Programs, Jon Shea, 972-948-2413
- *Vice President/Trips and Events, Bill Long
- *Vice President/Communications, Vincent
- *Secretary, Jerry Nunn
- *Treasurer, Bob Kennedy. 214-49
- *National Representative, Skip W
- *Webmaster, Kim Hays, kimhays@ntxnrhs.org
- *Zephyr Editors – Acting - Bob Ke

ntxnrhs.org

Chapter Business Address: North T
Chapter Email: northtexaschapter@ntxnrhs.org
North Texas Chapter website: <http://www.ntxnrhs.org>
Facebook Page: <http://www.facebook.com/ntxnrhs>
North Texas Zephyr (current issues)
Zephyr Archives: [Rail History Newsletters \(gogeocaching.com\)](http://www.gogeocaching.com/rail-history-newsletters)

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 (50cents 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

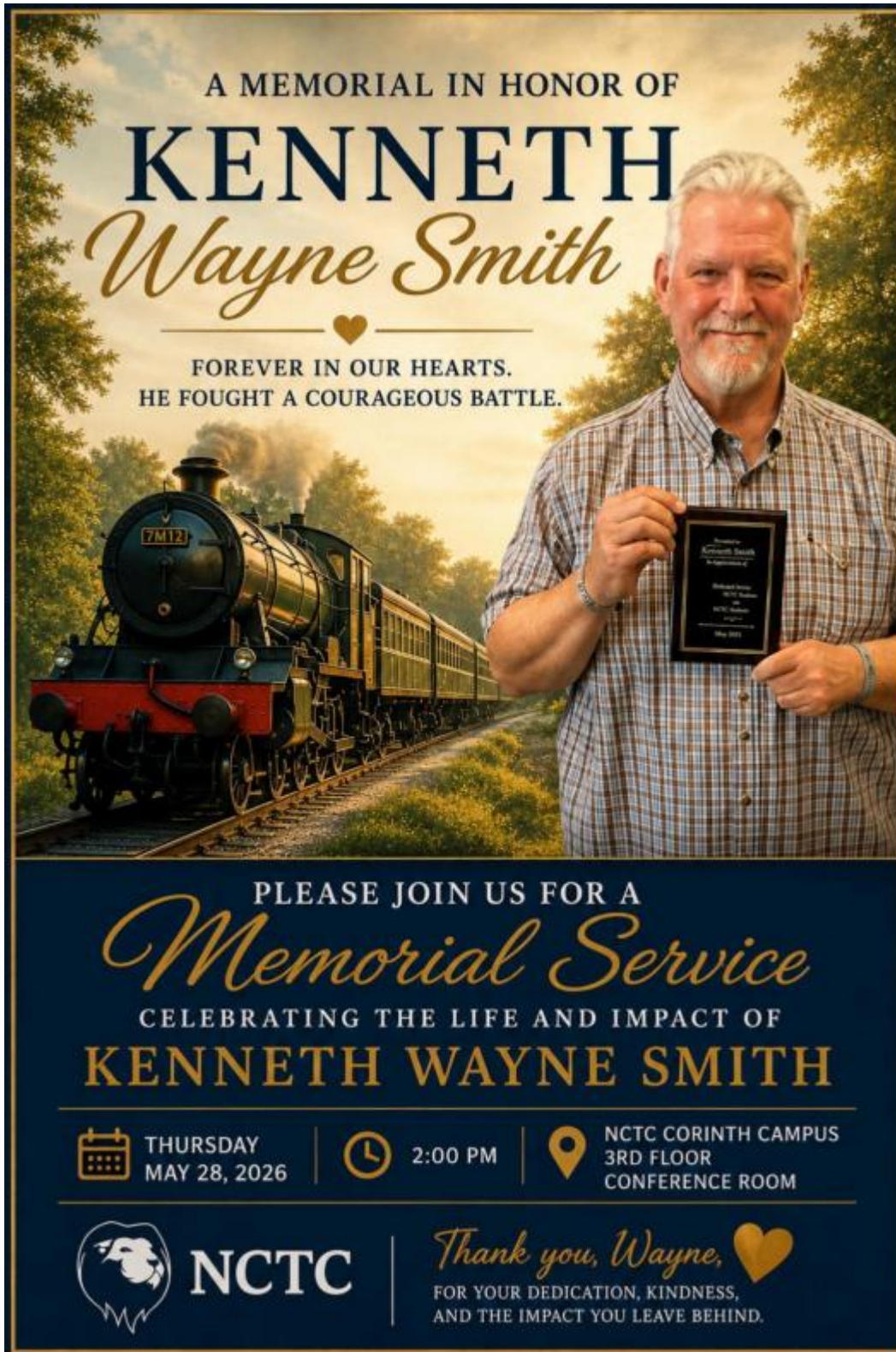
North Texas News

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 Treasurer Bob Kennedy or Skip Waters National Representative for more information. Time-sensitive news items will be given priority over general interest subjects. The editor(s) reserve the right to edit, hold or omit material at their discretion.


NCTC MEMORIAL PROGRAM FLYER for their MEMORIAL held on May 28th.





A MEMORIAL IN HONOR OF
KENNETH
Wayne Smith


FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS.
HE FOUGHT A COURAGEOUS BATTLE.


PLEASE JOIN US FOR A
Memorial Service
CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND IMPACT OF
KENNETH WAYNE SMITH

 THURSDAY
MAY 28, 2026

 2:00 PM

 NCTC CORINTH CAMPUS
3RD FLOOR
CONFERENCE ROOM

 **NCTC**

Thank you, Wayne, 
FOR YOUR DEDICATION, KINDNESS,
AND THE IMPACT YOU LEAVE BEHIND.