

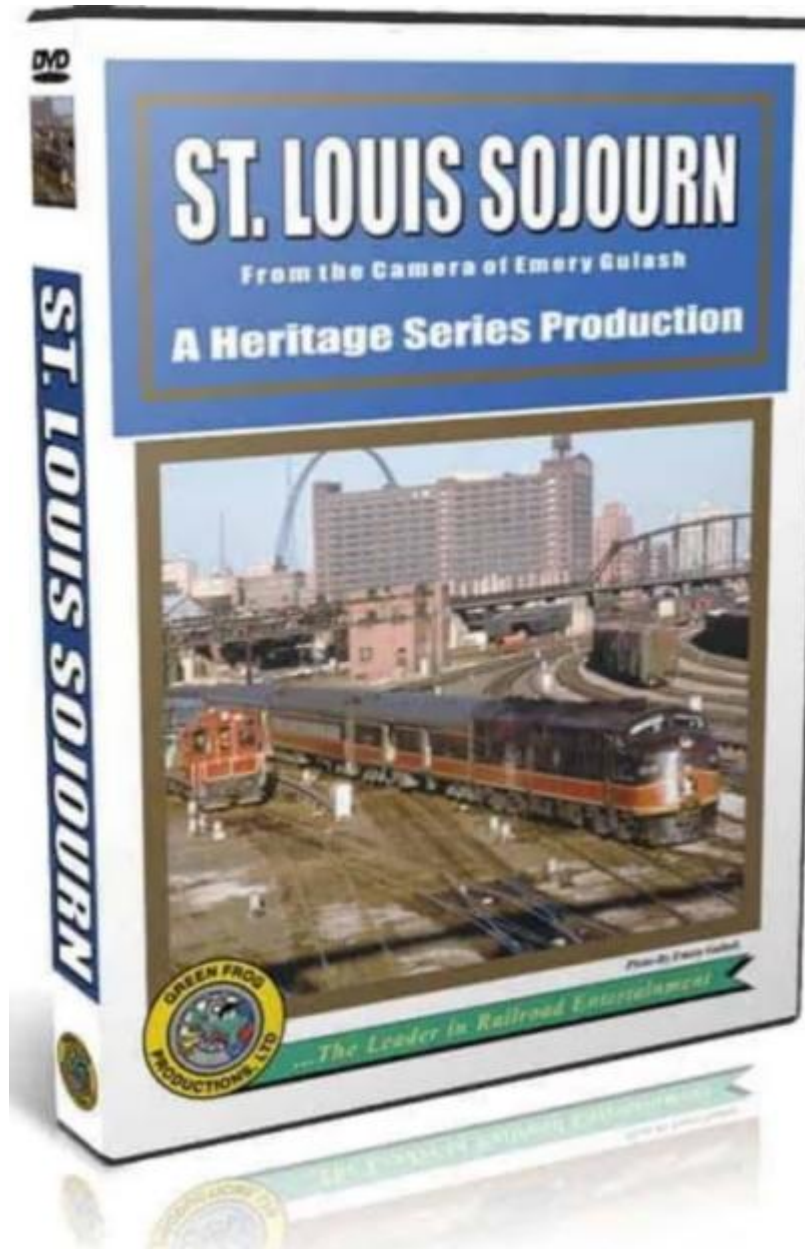
August 2026

Volume 31, Number 5



THE NORTH TEXAS ZEPHYR

Newsletter of the North Texas Chapter, National Railway Historical Society





Chapter Meeting:

When: Tuesday, August 4th @ 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.

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

Evening Programs:

6:30pm Board Meeting - Officers

7:30pm Chapter Member business meeting

Followed by Featured Presentation by:

August Program: DVD, St. Louis Sojourn – Video of the St. Louis train station in the 40s and 50s.

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

The July 2026 meeting of the North Texas Chapter of the NRHS meeting was held on Tuesday, July 7 in the Cotton Belt Room of the Chill Bar and Grill in Grapevine, TX. There were 20 attendees.

WAYNE SMITH MEMORIAL

The beginning of the meeting consisted of a memorial to Wayne Smith, Chapter president until his untimely passing in May. We were pleased to have Wayne’s wife Lana in attendance.

President Jon Shea presided over the memorial.



VP Skip Waters provided the attendees a program of the event, which he made on short notice. Thanks Skip!

Secretary Jerry Nunn created a slideshow of a collection of photographs of Wayne at Chapter meetings and Chapter events.

The Chapter officers, Lana Smith, Chapter members, and attendees offered their recollections of Wayne through the years with the Chapter. The memories were: his interest of and visiting railroad museums; his love of railroads, especially the Fort Worth and Denver City (where his grandfather was a locomotive engineer), and the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy; his dedication to the Chapter and the office of the President. All agreed that there will be a large set of shoes to fill. We will all miss him greatly.

CHAPTER BUSINESS MEETING

Following the memorial, the Chapter conducted its business meeting, which President Jon Shea called to order shortly after 7:30 PM.

President Jon Shea

Jon welcomed a new attendee, Tim Kerfoot. Tim has a long interest in railroads, beginning with his younger years in the northeast.

VP Skip Waters

Skip brought the audience “up to speed” on recent events, including those from May, as our June meeting had to be canceled on account of the weather.

Ennis Trip: The trip to the Ennis Depot is scheduled for Saturday, July 18. There is no chartered motor coach; attendees will travel in their private vehicles. The program will start at 1 PM. Dane Williams, the Depot curator, will host the visit. Dennis Hogan will give a presentation on the Depot and the railroad that runs through Ennis.

NRHS 2026 Spring Conference: The conference was held in Salt Lake City in late May. A slate of Board of Directors nominees was decided upon. Skip is on the list, and will likely be one of the next Directors.

Burkburnett Depot Grant: The Burkburnett Historical Society recently received an NRHS grant to restore/renovate the Depot. The request for the grant was sponsored by the Wichita Valley NRHS Chapter, of which Steve Goen is the president.



NRHS National Convention: Cleveland, Ohio is the site of the 2026 NRHS National Convention, to be held September 21-25, 2026. Details are available on the NRHS website.

Both Skip and Treasurer Bob Kennedy stated two important considerations for those who may be planning to attend. It concerns two excursions for which participation is limited:

1. The tour of the Age of Steam Roundhouse and Museum in Sugarcreek, OH, and
2. The tour of the WABTEC locomotive facility in Erie, PA.

If anyone wants to take these excursions, they are strongly advised to secure reservations as soon as possible, because these will quickly sell out.

Trips and Events Committee Chairman Bill Long and VP Skip Waters

Our annual 24 Hours at Big Sandy is scheduled for September 11-12, and the Plano Train Show and Slideshow will take place in October. If we want to continue with these events, we will have to make some decisions. We will need someone to go to Big Sandy the day before the event to mark the boundaries of the parking lot. Wayne and Jerry did that in the past.

The Plano Train Show will take place sometime in October. We need to decide if we want to have a table, and if we want to sponsor the slide show. Someone will need to help man the table, which Wayne did most of the time. Regarding the slideshow, someone needs to schedule and set up the slideshow. Skip has been doing that in the past, but needs to offload some of these tasks. He can do some tasks such as getting presenters.

EVENING PROGRAM

Chapter member Mike Ross showed his slides of red, white, and blue paint the railroads used to commemorate the 1976 bicentennial celebration of the United States. His subjects ranged from trash cans, to rolling stock, and, of course, the many varieties of paint schemes used on locomotives ranging from diminutive industrial switchers to the colossal six-axle behemoths that rumble along the main lines.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM

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



Upcoming Chapter Events:

HEAR YE, HEAR YE!!!

The countdown has started to attend the
4th Annual "24 Hours @ BIG SANDY" 2026!!!

IT'S
TIME
TO
WATCH
SOME
TRAINS...

In BIG SANDY, TEXAS!!!

Dates are confirmed for the **4th Annual "24 Hours @ BIG SANDY" 2026!**

7:00pm Friday, September 11th through 7:00pm Saturday, September 12th,

at the Big Sandy Heritage Center on Gilmer Street!in Big Sandy, Texas (East, Texas).

Heritage Center - 162 E Gilmer St, Big Sandy, TX 75755



The BEST PART --- One of the main reasons for building this Heritage Center was to have it as a Railfan Park, where train enthusiasts can view trains... This is FOR REAL!!!

The Heritage Center is located next to a major rail crossing for the Union Pacific Railroad in East, Texas. The former Texas & Pacific and the Cotton Belt rail lines cross here. It is reported to have 50-60 trains pass per day including Amtrak's Texas Eagle. You can view this rail crossing via a live railcam linked below.

Plan to join us in Big Sandy in September for Rail Fun with Rail Friends doing what we love to do best and watch TRAINS from the back porch of the Big Sandy "Railfan Park" at the Heritage Center!!!

We are now accepting those who want to show a program or presentation that can be done inside the Heritage Center! Video programs, Show N Tell, speakers, demonstrations or what have you are welcome. The Heritage Center comes with a Big Screen, seating and restrooms....**YES, INDOOR RESTROOMS** (but don't get crazy).

POP UP TENTS -- YES, We we can have pop up tents... BUT, IT'S LIMITED TO THE FIRST 10 TENTS. Sorry, City Rules.

Come Play the Great Locomotive Race Trivia Game with new questions, and expect the usual great fun, friends and activities to keep you busy for 24 Hours... and lots of TRAIN WATCHING!!!



So mark your calendars for **September 11th & 12th**, get your lawn chairs ready (sleeping bags too) because, it's **TIME TO WATCH SOME TRAINS... IN BIG SANDY!!!**"

Join the "24 Hours @ Big Sandy" Facebook page for the latest updates,
(NOTE: This is also the Saginaw page, but that's how it goes for now)

<https://www.facebook.com/24hoursatSaginaw>

PRESENTERS: We are now accepting presenters who would like to put on a program for this year's event. Please email me off list to: wgcrush@swbell.net to be on the schedule.

We love live presentations, clinics, exhibits... it just has to be about trains and railroads.

Whatever you do... It's time to come out, time to show it and **IT'S TIME TO WATCH SOME TRAINS - IN BIG SANDY!**

Skip Waters
4th Annual "24 Hours @ Big Sandy" 2026
Co-Chairman
North Texas Chapter, NRHS
www.ntxnrhs.org

P.S Also accepting gifts for door prizes! If you have some to offer, please contact Skip directly at wgcrush@swbell.net



P.P.S Big Sandy has a virtual railcam too! See a video about it here

<https://youtu.be/GaCHSrdV4ZE>

Recent Chapter Outing...

GOOD TIMES HAD BY ALL at the Ennis Railroad and Cultural Heritage Museum on July 18, 2026



The recent chapter outing at the **Ennis Railroad and Cultural Heritage Museum** was attended by about a half dozen or more participants. Dane Williams told his family story and we saw a photo slide show from his uncle.

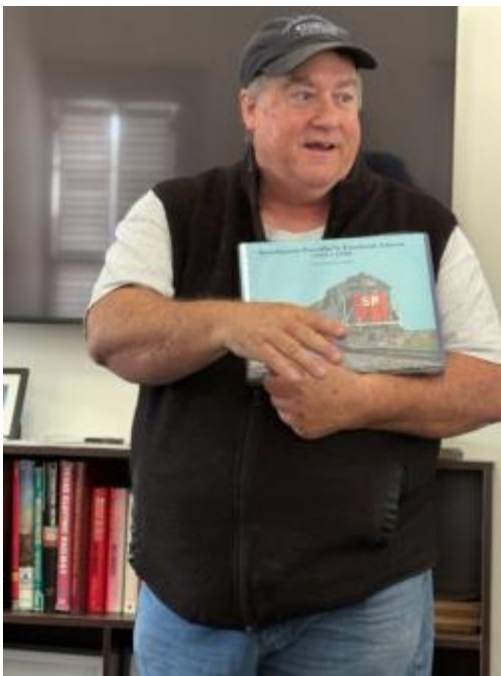
Photos: Jerry Nunn

Left - Chapter members and guests

Bottom left - Skip Waters selling chapter books

Bottom center - Dane Williams telling his story,

Bottom right - Dennis Hogan looks...





NEXT CHAPTER OUTING — November 7, 2026

We are heading to Denison, Texas and the Red River Railroad Museum, among other exciting rail stops. More info to come soon!!!

Chapter Directory

North Texas Chapter Officers, 2026

- *President, Jon Shea
- *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, VACANT

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 \(ntxnrhs.org\)](https://ntxnrhs.org/)

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

Tuesday, September 1st @ 7:30 PM (Meet "N" Greet at 7:00 PM), September Program: To Be announced. at the Cotton Belt Room of the Chill Bar & Grill at 814 S. Main St (NW corner of S. Main St. & Dallas Rd), Grapevine, TX.

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Skip Waters (temporary), 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.

WE NEED A NEW EDITOR FOR THE NEWSLETTER - PLEASE CONSIDER DOING IT FOR THE CHAPTER - WAYNE'S SHOES WILL BE HARD TO FILL, BUT WE WILL ACCEPT SLIPPERS OR SANDALS - YOU CAN DO IT!