



VALLI HOSKI, NORTH TEXAS NEWS EDITOR

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**North Texas Rail News**

**Chapter Meeting**

**Sept. 2, 2014 – Founders Building, Grapevine.**

*When* 7 pm meet'n'greet, 7:30 pm meeting.  
*Where* Founders Building, 701 Main Street, Grapevine, Texas  
*Program* Ken Fitzgerald – program of his choice.  
*Location and Map:* <http://go.dallasnews.com/places/founders-building/>



**Cotton Belt Symposium - Commerce, Texas – Oct. 3-4, 2014**

**North Texas Chapter announcement – The Chapter is proud to announce its sponsorship of the Joseph Strapac Keynote Presentation on Saturday, October 4, 2014.**

Mr. Strapac's biography at Indiana University Press gives us this look at his achievements:

*"According to his parents, Joe Strapac has been watching trains ever since he has been old enough to look out of windows. Raised within earshot of the Southern Pacific's San Pedro branch and the Pacific Electric's Southern District, he began a serious interest in locomotives and railroading in 1953. In the years since, he has accumulated a collection of information and photographs pertaining to locomotives in the West, with a particular emphasis upon those of the Southern Pacific and its associates. Over the past decades, he created and refined the "motive power annual" type of publication, preparing successive editions on the current diesel fleet of the Southern Pacific. In addition, he has contributed locomotive information to a number of books on railroading as well as writing many magazine articles."* (Source: I.U. Press, [http://www.iupress.indiana.edu/product\\_info.php?products\\_id=19924](http://www.iupress.indiana.edu/product_info.php?products_id=19924))

**Announcing: The Annual Cotton Belt Railroad Symposium @ TAMU-Commerce . October 3-4, 2014.**



Greetings Fellow Railroad Enthusiasts,

The 9th Annual Cotton Belt Railroad Symposium will take place at the Sam Rayburn Student Center on the campus of Texas A&M University-Commerce (Commerce, Texas 75429) on Friday evening, 5:00pm - 8:00pm, and Saturday, 8:19am - mid-afternoon, October 3-4, 2014.

- **Free, public event** to share, document, preserve, and celebrate the legacy and experiences of the employees and families connected to the railroads throughout the Ark-La-Tex-oma region.
- **Featured speaker is Joe Strapac**, renowned railroad author and historian. He is well known for his book, Cotton Belt Locomotives, the definitive guide to motive power on the St. Louis South-western Railway.
- **Friday, 5:00pm-8:00pm**, will feature a presentation by Mr. Strapac on Cotton Belt's Diesel Locomotives and our traditional show & tell mixer.
- **Saturday, registration opens at 8:19am**, with the program beginning around 9:00am. Activities include a panel discussion; a luncheon featuring live musical entertainment; a NETEX/Blacklands Railroad (former Cotton Belt C-branch) update by Blacklands president, Wayne Defebaugh; the Keynote Address by Joe Strapac on Cotton Belt's Steam Locomotives; and other programs to be announced.

Program admission is free. For additional information, visit the Symposium website at <http://www.CottonBeltRoute.com/> or contact Jason Davis at [Jason.Davis@tamuc.edu](mailto:Jason.Davis@tamuc.edu) or 903-886-8066. See you in Commerce on the first weekend in October, Jason

Jason Lee Davis, PhD KB5YBP. [ [Jason.Davis@tamuc.edu](mailto:Jason.Davis@tamuc.edu) | [Jason@JDavis.us](mailto:Jason@JDavis.us) | <http://www.JDavis.us/> ]

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Photo credit: <http://faculty.tamuc.edu/jdavis/railroad/symposium/default.htm>

More information: <http://www.CottonBeltRoute.com/> Honoring the Legacy of the St.L.S-W. RY and area railroads.

Cotton Belt Symposium on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/169986873071642/>

### Save the Turtle-back Cars

by Phil Randall, Red Oak, Texas/

The North Texas Historic Transportation organization would like to preserve for future generations three Dallas streetcars in danger of being scrapped. These cars were owned by the McKinney Avenue Transit Authority. These cars were built to a common Stone & Webster company design known as the turtleback due to the shape of the car roof.



MATA had planned to eventually restore these bodies back to working condition.

But over the years they just continued to sit in storage. Now McKinney Ave. is short on shop space. They would like to build a new car repair and restoration shop on the land where these car bodies are stored.

(Left, right: Cars' condition in 2013 when tarp covers added. Photo credit: Tyler Adams)



Thus the car bodies have been offered to and accepted by the North Texas Historic Transportation / Texas Traction Company. This is a group of historically minded electric railway preservationists from the Dallas Fort Worth Texas area. NTHT /TTCo Currently has several different streetcar bodies and artifacts in storage. The long term goal of the group is to establish a streetcar and interurban museum in DFW. **Source:** Blue Bonnet Limited Blogspot, by Phil Randall at <http://bluebonnetlimited.blogspot.com/2014/08/save-turtle-back-streetcars-campaign.html>

### North Texas Chapter News & Views

#### Jon's History Corner

by Jon Shea, VP Programs/

#### An Early Railroad Accident

This accident comes from a picture of page one of the very first issue of *The Dallas Morning News*, October 1, 1885 and is in the Spring 1997 issue of *Legacies* magazine.

"Derailed By a Broken Axle Bloomington, IL, Sept. 30th. At an early hour this morning rather a serious accident occurred on the Indianapolis, Bloomington and Western Railroad at a place called Downs, a short distance from this city. Owing to the breaking of an axle of an engine, the train was thrown from the track, the engine and four coaches being completely demolished. Eight or ten passengers were quite seriously hurt, but no one was killed outright."

#### Valli's History Tip

(occasional visitor to Jon's History Corner)

"October 31, 1903 – United States – The Purdue Wreck, Indianapolis, Indiana: A Cleveland, Cincinnati, Chicago and St. Louis Railroad football special carrying



Above: Photograph of the Purdue Wreck which appeared in the Indianapolis and Lafayette newspapers after the accident the Purdue University football team and fans to the annual Indiana University / Purdue University football game collides with a coal train. Seventeen passengers in the first coach are killed, including 14 members of the football team."

Source: **List of Railroad Accidents (1900-29)**, Wikipedia at [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_rail\\_accidents\\_\(1900%E2%80%9329\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_rail_accidents_(1900%E2%80%9329))

Photo source: Public domain, also at **Purdue Wreck**, Wikipedia (also public domain) [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Purdue\\_Wreck.jpg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Purdue_Wreck.jpg)

#### President's Roundhouse

by Wayne Smith, Chapter President

#### More Rail Trivia

In America, the most frequent and most severe accidents centered on bridges. The worst accident of the 19th century was caused by the failure of a bridge over the Ashtabula River northeast of Cleveland in Ohio (also called the Ashtabula Horror or the Ashtabula Bridge Disaster). On December 29, 1876, two locomotives hauling 11 railcars of the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Railway carrying 159 passengers plunged into the river in deep snow when the bridge gave way beneath them. The wooden cars were set fire by their heating stoves, but no attempt was made to extinguish the fire. The accident killed ninety-two people, and was the worst rail accident in the U.S. until the Great Train Wreck of 1918.



- The Howard Street Tunnel in Baltimore was the first electrified section of the United States. City anti-smoke ordinances prevented steam engines from operating in the area, so the B&O turned to electric power.
- The Consolidation-type engine was far and away the most popular freight engine of the 1800s. It was powerful and durable, and most remained in service for decades.
- The 4-4-0 American type locomotive was one of the premier passenger locomotives of the 1800s.
- Demurrage is defined as a penalty charge assessed by railroads for detention of cars by shippers or receivers beyond a specified free time.

### **Chapter Business Meeting Minutes, August 5, 2014**

**NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER, NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, MINUTES, DATE: August 5, 2014, Sokol Hall, Dallas, Texas.**

The membership meeting was held at the Sokol Hall in Dallas, TX. President Wayne Smith was unable to attend, so VP Programs Jon Shea called the meeting to order at 7:30pm with 14 members in attendance. Jon reported that next month's meeting would be at the Grapevine Founders Building in Grapevine, TX. Member and ace photographer Ken Fitzgerald will be our featured program and Ken is assembling a program of his choice. Jon also brought his copy of the Katy Historical Society current edition featuring a restored 1870 wooden parlor car and the ornateness of the car interior. Jason Davis from Klondike, TX dropped by for a visit this evening to tell us about the upcoming 9th Annual Cotton Belt Regional Railroad Symposium to be held Friday-Saturday, Oct 3-4 at TX A&M University-Commerce, TX. He invited the chapter to consider holding our October meeting there so we can participate and stay overnight to attend both days. Featured keynote speaker will be Joe Strapac who will cover Cotton Belt diesels on Friday night and Cotton Belt steam power on Saturday. The event is free and will feature additional presentations, discussions, artifact displays, etc. A luncheon on Saturday will be provided to those who RSVP. More details and RSVP details are available at: [www.CottonBeltRoute.com](http://www.CottonBeltRoute.com). Member Jerry Nunn reported a huge crane is positioned on W. Lancaster in Ft. Worth in preparation for installing the piers and supports for the W. Lancaster 3rd track expansion from downtown to Centennial yard. He reported the Tower 55 track realignment project is scheduled for completion in September and that Amtrak trains 21/22 are currently terminating at Ft. Worth during the construction. VP Trips & Events Skip Waters gave an update on the Keller, TX museum problems. A current proposal is to scrap the box car and flat car and repaint and letter the commuter car. The Keller museum group had placed a grant request with us but have placed the request on hold pending finalization of a \$15K grant from UP. The chapter's book project, David Bernstein's 'Southern Pacific's Eastern Lines 1946-1996' has been signed off and production is underway. We are planning on a November release date in time for Christmas sales. In National news, Skip reported on what was currently known and we that are awaiting the counting of the votes later this month. After a short break our program started at 9pm. It was a DVD documenting the selection of and movement of Big Boy 4014 from Pomona, CA to Cheyenne, CO in preparation for its total overhaul, rebuild and return to the rails as one of UP's steam excursion engines. Dave Gramm, Secretary.

### **Chapter Directory**

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| <p><b>North Texas Chapter Officers, 2014.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>President, Wayne Smith</b>, 940-300-4407.</li> <li>• <b>Vice President/Programs, Jon Shea</b>, 972-948-2413...</li> <li>• <b>Vice President/Trips and Events, Skip Waters</b>, <a href="mailto:wgcrush@swbell.net">wgcrush@swbell.net</a>.</li> <li>• <b>Vice President/Communications, and NTZ editor</b>, Valli Hoski, <a href="mailto:ntx.news@yahoo.com">ntx.news@yahoo.com</a></li> <li>• <b>Secretary, Dave Gramm</b>, <a href="mailto:dgramm@sbcglobal.net">dgramm@sbcglobal.net</a></li> <li>• <b>Treasurer, Jim King</b>, <a href="mailto:jgking@swbell.net">jgking@swbell.net</a></li> </ul> | <p><b>Chapter Business Address</b><br/>                 North Texas Chapter, NRHS,<br/>                 P.O. Box 600304<br/>                 Dallas, Texas 75360</p> <p><b>North Texas Zephyr Archive</b><br/> <a href="http://www.gogeocaching.com/gorailfanning/Home/northtexaszephyr.html">http://www.gogeocaching.com/gorailfanning/Home/northtexaszephyr.html</a></p> <p><b>North Texas Chapter @ Facebook</b><br/> <a href="http://www.facebook.com/groups/409467244127/">http://www.facebook.com/groups/409467244127/</a></p> |
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Press time: 8/24/2014, 10pm. Filename: NTx Newsletter 2014-09 v5

### **North Texas Chapter History**

Founded and chartered in 1996, the North Texas Chapter is one of the newest chapters of the National Railway Historical Society\*. The 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 held 7:30-10:00 PM, first Tuesday of each month, usually (but not always) at the Grapevine Tourist & Visitor Information Center at Main St. and the FWWR railroad tracks. Visitors and newcomers are welcome. [Effective October 2013, regular membership is \\$66 a year \(\\$50 national dues + \\$16 chapter dues\)](#). Additional family members are \$7 per individual. Regular membership includes a) subscription to the NRHS Bulletin (5 issues/year) and our monthly chapter newsletter, the North Texas Zephyr. Chapter mailing address: North Texas Chapter NRHS, P.O. Box 600304, Dallas, Texas 75360. Reach the NRHS at National Railway Historical Society, 100 N 20th Street, 4th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19103-1443.

## NorthTexas Calendar

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|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Tues. Sept. 2, 2014</b> | <b>North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m.</b> Location: Founders Building, Grapevine. Texas.<br>Program: Ken Fitzgerald's choice. |
| <b>Tues. Oct. 7, 2014</b>  | <b>North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m.</b> Location: to be confirmed. Program: to be confirmed                                 |
| <b>Tues. Nov. 4, 2014.</b> | <b>North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m.</b> Location: to be confirmed. Program: annual auction.                                 |
| <b>Tues. Dec. 2, 2014.</b> | <b>North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m.</b> Location: to be confirmed. Program: annual dinner.                                  |
| <b>Tues. Jan. 6, 2015.</b> | <b>North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m.</b> Location: to be confirmed. Program: annual election.                                |