



VALLI HOSKI, NORTH TEXAS NEWS EDITOR

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Chapter Meeting

Jan. 3, 2012 – Founder’s Building, Grapevine, Texas.

When: Tues. Jan. 3, 2012, 7:00 p.m.

Where: **Founder’s Building**, 701 S. Main St., Grapevine, Texas.

Program: **Chapter election** (see election slate below). **Member “show and tell” reports.**

Chapter Elections – 2012 Slate of Candidates

- *President*, Wayne Smith.
- *Vice President/Programs*, Jon Shea.
- *Vice President/Trips and Events*, Skip Waters.
- *Vice President/Communications*, Dale Wilken.
- *Secretary*, Dave Gramm.
- *Treasurer*, Jim King.
- *National Director*, Claude Doane.

Special Features

Plano Show, Jan. 21-22, 2011 – Browse, Buy, Give an Hour or 2

Thanks to all who have signed up. Please remember to sign the log 10 minutes prior to your work hour
Still need help to cover the Sunday, 10-11am Layout Tour Support (East Door). Please contact Russ Covitt at RussRStuff@aol.com or call 972-6235-4012. For more information on the show, see <http://www.dfwtrainshows.com/>
Dallas Area Train Show (Plano) - January 21-22, 2012.

Saturday, January 21, 2012

10-11 AM LAYOUT TOUR SUPPORT EAST DOOR
 11-12 AM TICKET SALES
 12-1 PM TICKET SALES*
 1-2 PM TICKET SALES*

*NOTE LOCATION of ticket sales has changed

Sunday, January 22, 2012

9-10 AM ASSISTANT SHOW MGR Russ Covitt
10-11 AM LAYOUT TOUR SUPPORT EAST DOOR _____
 12-1 PM SWITCHING CONTEST
 1-2 PM TICKET SALES EAST DOOR
 3-4 PM INFORMATION TABLE

Chapter 2011 Holiday Dinner – Chickens ala Rail

by Dale Wilken (All photo credit: Dale Wilken)

On a chilly December 6, 24 members and guests of the North Texas chapter assembled at **Babe’s Chicken Dinner House** in Carrollton to celebrate the holidays with good food and conversation.



Above left: President Wayne extends a holiday welcome to the dinner crowd.



Far right: Holiday diners smiling brightly for the season, enjoying collegiality, conversation, and of course, chicken.



After dining on large plates of fried chicken and chicken fried steak with all the trimmings and various obviously low calorie desserts, the group managed to hold our heads high and stay awake as President Wayne Smith gave the welcome and some announcements. The evening's program consisted of a history of railroading in the Carrollton area presented by Jim King. The occasional rumble of trains passing nearby the restaurant on one of the three rail lines complemented his comments. The program concluded with the presentation of a poem about railroading by Jerry Nunn and we wished each other a Happy Holiday and Blessed Christmas.



Above right: We really were eating in a chicken house. [Or, "Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good bite".]

President's Roundhouse – Tower 77, Carrollton

by Wayne Smith, Chapter President

Our annual holiday party has come and gone. This year's dinner was near the site of the old Tower 77 at the junction of the Katy, Frisco/Rock Island and Cotton Belt lines in Carrollton. It is also the site of the Dart Green Line/A-Train station. Below is an excerpt from Jim King's website explaining the history of the area. Jim also did a presentation of the local rail history during the party at Babe's Chicken in old Downtown Carrollton.

A Crossing of the Missouri-Kansas-Texas, the St. Louis Southwestern, and the Chicago Rock Island & Gulf railroads

The Dallas & Wichita Railroad was an effort by Dallas investors to build a rail line to serve rich mineral regions near the Red River. Construction from Dallas began in 1871 but was very slow; only 20 miles had been completed by 1878. That year, the railroad platted the town of Carrollton and then went broke shortly thereafter. The railroad was ultimately completed as far north as Denton in 1881 and then sold to the Missouri-Kansas-Texas ("Katy") Railway. Several years later, the St. Louis, Arkansas & Texas (SLA&T) Railway was expanding into north central Texas from Texarkana where it connected with (and ultimately became part of) the St. Louis Southwestern Railway, commonly known as the "Cotton Belt". Building a line from Commerce to Ft. Worth, the SLA&T passed through Carrollton in 1888, crossing the Katy at grade.

The third railroad into Carrollton resulted from the efforts of railroad magnate B. F. Yoakum to expand his rail empire in north Texas. Yoakum controlled both the St. Louis - San Francisco ("Frisco") Railway and the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific ("Rock Island") Railroad. The Rock Island had crossed the Red River near the town of Ringgold and built south to Ft. Worth in 1893. Yoakum's Frisco railroad crossed the Red River into Sherman in 1901. Yoakum elected to organize a different railroad to build from Sherman to Ft. Worth, so the Red River, Texas & Southern (RRT&S) Railroad was chartered. They built a line from Sherman to Carrollton in 1902 and then negotiated an agreement to use the Cotton Belt line to reach Ft. Worth from Carrollton. The RRT&S was formally merged with the Frisco in 1904. In 1903, Rock Island built tracks from Ft. Worth to Dallas as the initial part of their strategy to build a major route between Ft. Worth and Galveston. Since Rock Island and Frisco were under common ownership, Rock Island closed the gap between Carrollton and the Ft. Worth - Dallas line with the construction of an 11-mile track between Carrollton and Irving in 1908. This resulted in three lines crossing at Carrollton, motivating the establishment of the Tower 77 interlocker on December 7, 1908.

Source: 12/14/2011 submission by Wayne Smith, with reference to www.txrrhistory.com

North Texas Rail News

Grapevine Vintage Railroad's New Trainmaster

by Steve Norder, Fort Worth Star-Telegram

On May 5, 1995, Michael Percifield was supposed to take steam Engine 2248 and its cars from the Fort Worth & Western's Eighth Avenue yard to the Stockyards to pick up passengers. He didn't hold back, taking the 115-year-old engine, which was pulling its



tender and water box as well as the passenger cars, quickly to the Stockyards. "We arrived and had just enough time to run the train around and get it into the Stockyards depot," he said.

Now Percifield is back full time with 2248, which was built in 1896. He is no longer an engineer but is now Grapevine's new trainmaster, in charge of all rail operations for the city's Grapevine Vintage Railroad. Unfortunately, he has taken on the job with his beloved 2248 sitting partially disassembled in the station barn. The engine hasn't run since February, when one of its two piston rods flew apart. But Percifield and his crew of mechanics are determined that 2248 will be fixed and back on the rails pulling tourists down to the Stockyards and back. Although 2248 isn't huffing and steaming right now, it will be as soon as new pistons can be created, Percifield said.

Source: Submitted by Skip Waters. 12/18/2011, Fort Worth Star-Telegram article at <http://www.star-telegram.com/2011/12/19/3606352/new-grapevine-trainmaster-percifield.html#my-headlines-default#storylink=cpy>

Chapter Directory

North Texas Chapter Officers, 2011.

- **President, Wayne Smith**, 940-300-4407.
- **Vice President/Programs, Jon Shea**, 972-480-9054.
- **Vice President/Trips and Events, Skip Waters**, wgcrush@swbell.net.
- **Vice President/Communications, Dale Wilken**, d-mwilken@sbcglobal.net
- **Secretary, Dave Gramm**, dgramm@sbcglobal.net
- **Treasurer, Jim King**, jkking@swbell.net
- **National Director, Claude Doane**, claudio.doane@hcahealthcare.com

North Texas Zephyr, newsletter of the North Texas

- **Editor, Valli Hoski**, ntx.news@yahoo.com

Press time: 12/21/2011, 9am. Filename: NTx Newsletter 2012-01 vB.doc

Chapter Business Address

North Texas Chapter, NRHS,
 P.O. Box 600304
 Dallas, Texas 75360

North Texas Zephyr Archive

[Http://www.gogeocaching.com/gorailfanning/Home/northtexaszephyr.html](http://www.gogeocaching.com/gorailfanning/Home/northtexaszephyr.html)

North Texas Chapter @ Facebook

[Http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=409467244127&ref=search&sid=100000091828340.3519021572..1](http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=409467244127&ref=search&sid=100000091828340.3519021572..1)

Chapter News and Views

Chapter Meeting Minutes, December 6, 2011

NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER, NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Babe's Chicken House, Carrollton, Texas – Report submitted by Sec. Dave Gramm

The December chapter meeting was replaced by the annual Christmas party dinner, held at Babe's Chicken House in Carrollton, TX. After a bit of socializing, President Wayne Smith called the dinner party together at 7:40pm with 24 members and guests present. After placing our orders, Treasurer Jim King gave a short presentation on the 3 rail lines outside the door of the restaurant including their beginnings and subsequent absorption into the modern day rail companies that operate the lines. He also reported that the owner of Babe's was a railroad aficionado who built all of his restaurants next to or as near as possible to the local railroad tracks.

Member Jerry Nunn recited his annual Christmas carol with a train theme, this time on double stacks. You had to be there to appreciate it. Russ Covitt reported on the chapter's assigned hours for the upcoming Plano train show.

Jim reminded all members present that they should have received their dues statements by now and anyone who wished could pay them at the dinner. The dinner was delicious and as an added bonus the members were treated to a selection of desserts provided by the chapter. We then adjourned at 9:00pm.

Chapter Meeting Minutes, November 1, 2011

NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER, NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Founders Building, Grapevine, Texas – Report submitted by Sec. Dave Gramm

The November chapter meeting was held at Founder's Building, Grapevine, Texas, on November 1, 2011. President Wayne Smith called the meeting to order at 7:47pm with 9 members and guests present.

Wayne reported the Chapter Christmas Party will be held on December 6, our regular meeting day, at Babe's Chicken in old downtown Carrollton near the Dart Green Line. Social at 7:00pm and dinner starting at 7:30pm. Menu will be ½ Fried Chicken or Chicken Fried Steak, side vegetables, rolls and ice tea. Tickets are \$17 per person, with checks payable to the NRHS N. TX Chapter.

Wayne also reported our newsletter editor Valli Hoski is moving from Chicago to Harrisburg, PA to a new job at the end of the month. Due to the impending move, the chapter gave her a break in getting the December newsletter out and wished her good luck on the new job. Russ Covitt reported on the chapter's assigned hours for the upcoming Plano train show. The Ft. Worth show



hours are currently covered. Secretary Dave Gramm passed around a sign-up sheet for member's reservations for the December Christmas Party. He reported the January meeting would be back in Grapevine for annual officer elections and member show & tell. VP Communications Dale Wilken reported nothing new from National since the last meeting. Dues statements have finally been mailed. VP- trips & Events Skip Waters reported that member Johnny Meyer's planned Interurban field trip is still on hold due to his job workload. We will keep in touch and possibly do it this spring.

Jeff Phelps reported on New Mexico's ATSF #2926 Open House in Albuquerque on October 1, which drew over 700 attendees, raised over \$5000 for their restoration project. #2926 had its rods removed to prep for a scheduled bearing replacement. Russ Covitt reported the current issue of Trains magazine contained 2 articles of local interest, the first by Ken Fitzgerald on the Denton County Transit Authority's new Stadler cars for the 'A' trains that cost \$7.5 million each, and the second by Pat Hiatt on the BNSF's Holiday Train's beginnings and its current schedule after 3 years of operation.

Skip presided over the annual auction of member donations to raise funds for the chapter. Over \$60 was raised.

Chapter Meeting Minutes, October 6, 2011

NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER, NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SOKOL Hall, Dallas, Texas – Report submitted by Sec. Dave Gramm

The October chapter meeting was held at SOKOL Hall in Dallas on October 6, 2011. President Wayne Smith called the meeting to order at 7:40pm with 12 members and guests present.

Wayne reported the Chapter Christmas Party has been finalized and will be held on December 6, our regular meeting day, starting at 7:30pm at Babe's Chicken in old downtown Carrollton near the Dart Green Line. Menu will be ½ Fried Chicken or Chicken Fried Steak, side vegetables, rolls and ice tea. Tickets are \$17 per person, with checks payable to the NRHS N. TX Chapter.

RVP Claude Doane reported the annual dues statements, which were supposed to be sent out the 1st of the month, have been delayed until mid-month by the sub-contractor doing the mailing.

VP-Trips and Events Skip Waters reported on UP's running of steam through several New Mexico cities this month.

VP Programs Jon Shea reported November's meeting will be at Grapevine Founder's building and the program will be the annual auction of member railroad-related memorabilia. The December meeting will be the annual Christmas Party. The January meeting will be back in Grapevine for annual officer elections and member show & tell.

Jon also reported last weekend was Oktoberfest at the T&P Tavern in the T&P building in Ft. Worth and good German beer was on tap. Russ Covitt reported on the chapter's assigned hours for the upcoming Fort Worth and Plano train shows. He needs workers to cover the Plano show hours assigned.

Jeff Phelps reported on New Mexico's ATSF #2926 Open House in Albuquerque on October 1 drew over 700 attendees.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm. Program started after a 5-minute break. Pat Coughlin presented a slide show of UP steam era trains.

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.**

Regular membership is \$52 a year (\$36 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.

North Texas Calendar

January 3, 2012	North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m. Location: Founder's Building. 701 S. Main St., Grapevine, Texas. Program: Chapter election and member "show and tell" reports.
Sat. Jan. 21 – Sun. Jan. 22, 2012	Dallas Area Train Show, held in Plano Texas - Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Location: 2000 East Spring Creek Parkway, Plano, Texas. Go East from Central Expressway (Exit 31). Map and show details at http://www.dfwtrainshows.com/
February 7, 2012	North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m. Location and Program: to be confirmed
March 6, 2012	North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m. Location and Program: to be confirmed
April 3, 2012	North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m. Location and Program: to be confirmed

