



VALLI HOSKI, NORTH TEXAS NEWS EDITOR

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CHAPTER MEETING 1
 FEB. 6, 2012 – FOUNDERS BLDG. GRAPEVINE, TEXAS. 1

SPECIAL FEATURES 1
 BEST RAIL EVENT – 24 HOURS @ SAGINAW - REPEAT WIN 1
 GREAT RAIL EXCURSIONS..... 1
 WHAT APTA CAN DO FOR YOU - TRANSIT STORIES, STUDIES AND MORE 2

NORTH TEXAS & NRHS NEWS..... 2
 SANTA FE RAILWAY SOCIETY CONVENTION – TEMPLE, TX 2
 NRHS 2012 NOMINATIONS OPEN TO MEMBERS..... 2
 NRHS WINTER BOARD MEETING REPORT, JANUARY 2012 3

CHAPTER DIRECTORY 3
 NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER OFFICERS, 2012..... 3

NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER HISTORY 3

NORTH TEXAS CALENDAR 4

Chapter Meeting

Feb. 6, 2012 – Founders Bldg. Grapevine, Texas.

When: Tues. Feb. 6, 2012, 7:00 p.m.

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

Program: "The Golden Age of Steam-When Giants Roamed the Rails"
 (DVD) courtesy of Dale Wilkins.

Special Features

Best Rail Event – 24 Hours @ Saginaw - Repeat Win

Skip Waters proudly shares this news “24 Hours @ Saginaw’ was voted #1 again in the 2011 COWCATCHER GOLD RAIL AWARDS for the BEST RAIL SPECIAL EVENT category And remember *Cowcatcher Magazine*, it's a great publication!!” Along with Skip, the Chapter’s board and members extend thanks to all that came, visited, and voted!

More about the Gold Rail Awards and Cowcatcher Magazine ...

2011 Cowcatcher Gold Rail Awards

Cowcatcher readers recognized 13 who represent the best of model railroading and rail enthusiasm in Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana and Kansas and Missouri in the 2011 Cowcatcher Magazine Gold Rail Awards, announced in late December.

Categories and nominations were selected by a panel of model railroad and rail enthusiasts. Write-in votes were accepted in all categories, and not all respondents voted in all categories. Reader response was the highest since magazine began the annual awards in 2009. For the first time, votes were accepted via online balloting in addition to traditionally being mailed to subscribers.

"We are pleased with participation from our readers," Cowcatcher Magazine Editor/Publisher Tim Blackwell said. "We saw a higher number of write-in votes than in the previous years, which tells us that voters are truly expressing what they regard to be the best of model railroading and rail enthusiasm in our six-state coverage area."

About Cowcatcher Magazine

The *Cowcatcher Magazine*, published by Ballpark Impressions, is the only publication covering local model railroad, rail enthusiast and railroad-related news for Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Kansas and Missouri. Started in 2004 in Keller, Texas, as the Cowcatcher Round Up, the magazine brings to life the people, places and events of this community like no other publication in the marketplace.

Source: 1/28/2012, Cowcatcher Magazine web site at <http://www.cowcatchermagazine.com>

Great Rail Excursions

by William “Dick” Watkins

One of the more enjoyable things about my seven-year tenure on the DART Board of Directors was attending the annual American Passenger Transit Association (APTA) convention. The host city would schedule an all expense paid including meals and any entrance fees, etc. rail tour on the day before the convention began. These were great trips often on trackage that had not seen passenger trains in years such as the B&O’s original main line from Point of Rocks to Baltimore.

One trip that really stands out in my mine is from the Toronto convention. The trip was from Toronto to Niagara Falls. The train consisted of 15 GO Transit bi-level coaches with two engines. Leaving Toronto was no problem as the station is quite large and can easily handle a 15-car train. Niagara Falls was a different situation. The station is about the size of a double garage and the loading platform could only accommodate three coaches at a time. The problem with unloading was solved by positioning the first three coaches at the small platform



them moving the train for the next three coaches. We were in the last set of coaches and when we exited the train I looked down the track towards the engine. The engines and the first two coaches were across the international bridge and into the United States. I do not know where they turned the train for the return trip-in the US or Canada.

The Baltimore trip began on the B&O line between Baltimore and Washington. We did not stop in Washington and took the wye from the Baltimore line to the Point of Rocks line. Our destination was Frederick MD, which is one of the stations on the MARC commuter line. Frederick is approximately five miles north of the B&O main. The only bad thing was that nobody informed the merchants of Frederick that 1000 people would be showing up by train that Sunday morning. Almost everything was closed in town. We found a coffee shop with outside tables and planted ourselves for the three hours in town. I think we could have sold our seats to other visitors as seating was in short supply. The return trip was on B&O's original main line to Baltimore. We were the first passenger train on this line in about 75 years. Somehow rail fans found out about our train and every grade crossing has several fans taking our picture. It is easy to see why the B&O only uses this line as backup. It is like a roller coaster with numerous ups and downs. Guess in 1825+/- there were not too many Cat graders to flatten out the ROW (Right of Way).

What APTA Can Do For You - Transit Stories, Studies and More

by Valli Hoski

Interested in public transit and transportation? Wondering where public transit is headed in these difficult times? Looking for news, analysis and research on transit? The American Public Transit Association focuses on many of these areas, including street cars.

What is the current state of American public transit?

- APTA reports on the 2012 state of the public transportation industry, including trends, needs, and strong public support. The full report made by APTA President is available to the public at http://www.apta.com/mediacenter/pressreleases/2012/Pages/120118_StateofPublicTransportationIndustry.aspx

Who is APTA?

- International organization for the bus, rapid transit and commuter rail systems industry, based in Washington, DC.

Looking to learn more / find out more about public transportation? <http://www.apta.com/resources/Pages/Default.aspx>

- Welcome to the APTA Resource Library. Whether you're looking for information or services, the Resource Library is your place to start. Our library offers a comprehensive collection of reports, studies, and publications for and about public transportation—from statistics to committee-guidance documents and much more.

What about rail research and studies?

- Find a variety of rail studies, research and publications on the APTA Resource site <http://www.apta.com/resources/reportsandpublications/Pages/Rail.aspx>
- Those in the DFW area might find these items of particular interest:
 - An inventory of the criticisms of high speed rail.*** (January, 2012)
<http://www.apta.com/resources/reportsandpublications/Documents/HSR-Defense.pdf>
 - Bring back the street cars! A conservative vision of tomorrow's urban transportation.*** (2002)
<http://www.apta.com/resources/reportsandpublications/Documents/weyrich4.pdf>

Source: 1/28/2012, American Public Transit Association web site at www.apta.com

North Texas & NRHS News

Santa Fe Railway Society Convention – Temple, TX

Chapter member Russ Covitt is a Co-Chairman of the 32nd Annual Convention of the Santa Fe Railway Historical & Modeling Society at Temple, Texas from June 19-24, 2012. Activities include a Railfan Safari, ASTA Train Ride, trip to Ft Hood, model railroad operating sessions, clinics, contests and lots of vendors. Any NT Chapter member can sign up and attend by going to the society web site: atsfrr.com and clicking on Society Conventions.

NRHS 2012 Nominations Open to Members

Nominations are now open for the election of the National Railway Historical Society's Board of Directors, including the President and Vice President. The 2012 election is the first under the new Bylaws adopted in 2011. In this election the two Officer positions and all Board member positions will be on the ballot. Half of the Board members will be elected to 2 year terms and half to four year terms. After this election all Board member terms will be 4 year terms. Both officers are elected every two years. Per the 2011 Bylaws the Board of Directors will consist of 25 members. Two (2) individuals will hold the office of President and Vice President, five (5) will be Global Directors and the remaining eighteen (18) will be District Directors. There are two Districts for At-Large members (A & B) and seven Districts for the Chapter members (1-7).

All NRHS members in good standing are eligible to run for any of the Officer and Board positions based on meeting the criteria set forth in the NRHS Bylaws Article VII, Section 7. If a member desires to run for office and is qualified based on the criteria, the member must submit a



nomination application to the NRHS Secretary no later than the end of business March 31, 2012. The nomination application is available online and can be accessed by clicking on the link below. Send the nomination application form to NRHS Secretary, 3013 Heritage Landing Road, Williamsburg, VA 23185-8113, or as an attachment to an email addressed to maloney3013@aol.com.

To view and complete a nomination form, please visit: <https://admin.nrhs.com/> The form can be found by accessing: Documents available to the Public If the above link does not work, please copy and paste it directly into your Web browser. (Like Internet Explorer or Safari.), You can also call NRHS at (215) 557-6606, or send an email to info@nrhs.com for assistance.

Source: Submitted by Jim King, 1/28/2011, from NRHS announcement.

NRHS Winter Board Meeting Report, January 2012

by Claude Doane

Scenic colonial Williamsburg, Virginia was the location of the NRHS Board meeting held on January 6-8, 2012. At least this year there was no snow. The weather was mild and I assume the days were nice, but I only got outside after dark.

The most important item of business was implementation of the new Bylaws. On that front, the Interim Electoral Committee has defined the new voting districts. Our district will include Kansas , most of Missouri , Arkansas , Louisiana , Texas , New Mexico , Colorado , Arizona , Nevada , and California . The same committee will be acting as the Nominating Committee. Look for applications in NRHS publications. Once nominations are complete, every member will get a ballot in the mail to be completed and returned to Fernley & Fernley. Results will be announced at the June Convention in Cedar Rapids and the new Board will be seated at the Fall Conference in Fishers, IN.

On the Strategic Plan, the new websites have been rolled out. The externally focused site is www.nrhs.com and the internal site is www.adminnrhs.com for member information. Look for a new Preservation website in the future. This will probably be in conjunction with the merged ARM-TRAIN organization. We may also have joint meetings with that group once the merger is final and all the dust settles.

There will be a new Rail Camp with a possible name of NRHS Rail Camp West. It will be based in Tacoma with housing at Pacific Lutheran University . Partners include Amtrak, Tacoma Rail, the NW Railroad Museum in Snoqualmie, and the Mt Ranier Scenic Railroad. They will start with only 12 students this year but hope to expand quickly. Dates are 7/29/12 to 8/4/12. The traditional Rail Camp in Steamtown for 24 students will be 7/8/12 to 7/13/12.

The Convention reports showed Tacoma Rails nearing a final accounting. This year's convention is selling well and the inbound and outbound trips have been announced. See the new website for details. The 2013 convention will be in Alaska in mid to late September. There is some interest in holding future conventions in Kansas City (2014 is the 100th anniversary for Union Station) Colorado , north central Arkansas , and New Orleans (tentatively 2015). The new Convention Policy is in development, so interested parties may soon have detailed guidance.

The management contract with Fernley and Fernley was renewed for 2 more years. Several other initiatives were reported on, but most are in the very early stages. The next Conference is in April in Richmond . Until then, that's all I have to report.

Chapter Directory

North Texas Chapter Officers, 2012.

- **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**, jgking@swbell.net
- **National Director, Claude Doane**, claude.doane@hcahealthcare.com

North Texas Zephyr, newsletter of the North Texas

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

Chapter Business Address

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North Texas Zephyr Archive

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

Press time: 1/29/2012, 9am. Filename: NTx Newsletter 2012-02 vD.doc

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

February 7, 2012	North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m. Location: Founders Building, Grapevine, Texas. Program: "The Golden Age of Steam-When Giants Roamed the Rails" (DVD).
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: Plano Interurban Museum, Plano, Texas. Program: Update from museum staff on their latest exhibits and projects. Tour the museum and Texas Electric.
May 1, 2012	North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m. Location and Program: to be confirmed
June 5, 2012	North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m. Location and Program: to be confirmed