



VALLI HOSKI, NORTH TEXAS NEWS EDITOR

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CHAPTER MEETING

May 1, 2012 – Founders Building, Grapevine.

When: Tues. May 1, 2012, 7:30 p.m.

Where: **Founders Building, Grapevine, Texas.**

Program: David Bartee, engineer for the Fort Worth and Western Railroad.

The Fort Worth & Western Railroad (FWWR), Fort Worth & Dallas Railroad, and Fort Worth & Dallas Belt Railroads are operating under their corporate parent company, Tarantula Corporation, based in Fort Worth, Texas. The FWWR began in 1988 with the purchase of 6.25 miles of track from the former Burlington Northern Railroad through the west side of Fort Worth. In subsequent years our franchise grew through the purchase and lease of track from numerous class 1 carriers. As of 2008, the FWWR handled over 36,000 cars, operating over 276 miles of track through 8 counties in North Central Texas. We interchange with Union Pacific at Fort Worth, and the BNSF at Fort Worth, Cleburne and Brownwood, TX. FWWR also interchanges with Kansas City Southern (KCS) through a “bridge connection” with BNSF in Fort Worth, and with Texas Pacific (TXPF) at San Angelo Junction. (Source: FWRR site at http://fwwr.net/?page_id=2)

Special Features

Celebrate the Anniversary of LSR 2008!

by Jon Shea, Vice President, Programs

Our June meeting will be a **celebration of the 4th anniversary of Lone Star Rails 2008**. If you can attend the meeting **please bring your stories, memorabilia, pictures**, etc. If you can't attend please **consider writing a short item for our June newsletter**. I know there are a lot of good stories out there. You can e-mail them to Jon at jjshea@swbell.net and I will forward them to Valli or e-mail them to Valli directly at ntx.valli@yahoo.com.

7th Annual “24 Hours @ Saginaw”, May 25 - 26, 2012

7:00pm Friday, May 25th through 7:00pm Saturday, May 26th, at the Depot on Main Street in Saginaw, Texas.

New items are being planned this year including LIVE train monitoring using ATCS! That's right, we will know what trains are coming before they arrive. This new addition will be brought to us via Mr. Leonard Ruback of College Station. Thanks Leonard!

So **mark your calendars** and get your lawn chairs ready (sleeping bags too), it's TIME TO WATCH SOME TRAINS... IT'S "SAGINAW TIME!!"

Join the **"24 Hours @ Saginaw" Facebook page** for the latest updates at <https://www.facebook.com/24hoursatSaginaw>

Presenters: We are now accepting anyone whom would like to put on a program for this year's event. Please email me off list. It can be slides, video, digital, live presentation, clinic, exhibits... it just has to be about railroads.

If you have **door prizes** to donate, we would appreciate them too (so would the winners!) be sure to include whom they are from so we can announce it at the event. Official event announcement to be made soon. Until then... Skip Waters, 7th Annual "24 Hours @ Saginaw" 2012, V.P. Events, North Texas Chapter, NRHS.

North Texas & NRHS News

Interurban Memories

by Dale Wilken, V.P. Communications



Left: Texas Electric Car 360 on display

For the April meeting of the North Texas Chapter, members traveled to the Interurban Railway Station Museum in Plano. The group was welcomed by four representatives of the museum led by Russ Kissick who gave us a brief history of the station and the railway.



Right: Museum member Russ Kissick welcomes the chapter.

Located in downtown Plano, the Station Museum is housed in a building that served as a primary stop on the Texas Electric Railway that ran from Denison to Dallas beginning in 1908 as part of an electric railway system that also served Fort Worth, Waco and Denton. The building also served as a substation transforming high voltage



alternating current to direct current to power the cars. It is the last remaining example of a substation on the line. On December 31, 1948, the Denison-Dallas Interurban officially succumbed to the power of the automobile and made its last run.

The station remained closed until early 1990 when a complete restoration of the building was completed and it was converted into a museum by the City of Plano. The museum exhibits contain many artifacts associated with the Interurban Line as well as a history of the Plano area. A member of the museum, Robert Haynes, announced that they are working on plans to conduct a bus tour of the Texas Electric route from Plano to downtown Dallas this fall and will keep the chapter posted. The meeting and tour of the building was informative and enjoyed by all those who attended.

President's Roundhouse

by Wayne Smith, Chapter President

Kansas City Union Station

As an avid traveler, I started collecting souvenir pennants the summer before I started third grade. That summer, we journeyed to Manitoba, Canada by train to visit my grandparents using a pass that was issued to my dad as an employee of the Fort Worth and Denver, now part of BNSF. This was not my first time to Canada, but the first time to have vivid memories of the trip. This was the year I also started collecting pennants of places that I have visited as well as my favorite sports teams. My collection has grown to over 325 pennants. In recent years, souvenir pennants have become harder and harder to find. Pennants related to sports teams at all levels and colleges/universities are still found in abundance, but not at "tourist traps" and other attractions. Patches are easier to find these days and I have started collecting patches when I can't find a pennant to a place I have not visited before. I now have over 50 patches in my collection as well. One of my earliest pennants is from the Kansas City Union Station (1967). It was one of the stops when we rode the Santa Fe's Texas Chief between Fort Worth and Chicago. I was recently in Missouri for Spring Break with my son to visit my sister and her family. We went to see the renovated Union Station and I was thrilled to see it thriving and in good condition. There is a model train exhibit and the KC Rail Experience, a permanent exhibit celebrating both the history of the railroads and Union Station.

Below is a brief history and pictures of Kansas City Union Station adapted from Wikipedia ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Union_Station_\(Kansas_City,_Missouri\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Union_Station_(Kansas_City,_Missouri)))



Above: A large crowd gathered in front of Union Station for the 1921 dedication of the Liberty Memorial site.

Around the turn of the 20th century, the Kansas City Terminal Railway, a company controlled by the 12 railroads serving Kansas City, decided that a new location was needed for the train depot. The location at the time was prone to flooding. A new location was selected south of the central business district, above and away from the floodplain. The station opened on October 30, 1914 as the second-largest train station in the country. The building encompasses 850,000 square feet, the ceiling in the Grand Hall is 95 feet high, there are three chandeliers weighing 3,500 pounds each, and the Grand Hall clock has a six-foot diameter face. Due to its central location, Kansas City was a hub for both passenger and freight rail traffic. The scale of the building reflected this status.

In 1945, annual passenger traffic peaked at 678,363. As train travel declined beginning in the 1950s, the city had less and less need for a large train station. By 1973, only 32,842 passengers passed through the facility, all passenger train service was now run by Amtrak, and the building was beginning to deteriorate. In 1985, Amtrak moved all passenger operations to a smaller facility. By this time, the station was essentially closed.

The 12 railroads that served Union Station Kansas City shortly after its opening were: Union Pacific, Kansas City Southern, Santa Fe, Rock Island, Katy, Frisco, Wabash, Milwaukee St. Paul and Pacific, Chicago Burlington & Quincy, Chicago Great Western, Chicago & Alton and the Missouri Pacific. Numerous mergers through the years have left only the Kansas City Southern and the Union Pacific intact in name, neither of which provide passenger service today.

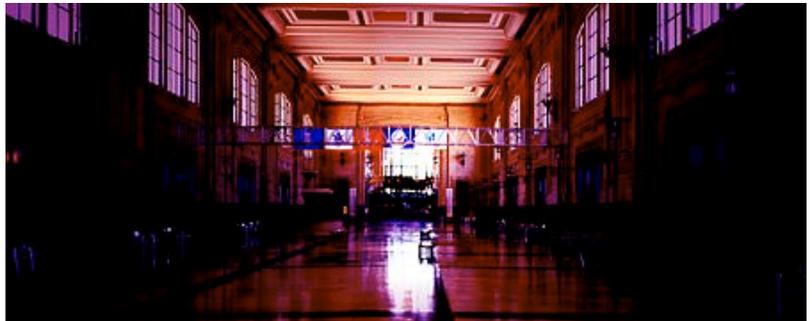
Renovation

In 1996, residents in five counties throughout the metropolitan area in both Kansas and Missouri approved the so-called "bi-state tax", a 1/8 of a cent sales tax, part of which helped to fund just under half of the \$250 million restoration of Union Station. Renovation began in 1997 and was completed in 1999. The remaining money was raised through private donations and federal funding.

Today Union Station receives no public funding. Current operating costs are funded by general admission and theater ticketing, grants, corporate and private donations, commercial space leases and facility rental.

Union Station is a nonprofit 501c3 organization. Union Station is now home to multiple shops, restaurants, museums and theatres.

The old Union Station Powerhouse building is currently being renovated by the Kansas City Ballet.



Right: A twilight view of the North Waiting Room of the Union Station, located in Kansas City, Missouri.

Current Amtrak Service

In 2002, Amtrak restored passenger train service to the station. There are currently two trains daily to and from St. Louis, one train daily to Chicago and one train daily to the southwest (ultimately to Los Angeles).

Of the twelve Missouri stations served by Amtrak, Kansas City was the second busiest in FY2010, boarding or detaining an average of nearly 400 passengers daily.

Chapter News & Views

Chapter Meeting Minutes, April 3, 2012

NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER, NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, MINUTES, DATE: April 3, 2012. Plano Interurban Museum, Plano, Texas.
 Report submitted by Dave Graham.



President Wayne Smith was unable to attend tonight's meeting and asked VP Jon Shea to fill in for him. Jon called the chapter meeting to order at 7:35pm with 10 members present. Severe thunderstorms in the area played a large part in the low attendance tonight.

Region VP Claude Doane reported on receiving a letter today from NRHS headquarters stating that as of now, no one from our new District 7 has applied for the candidacy position. He was requested to sign up for the position by the headquarters staff. Claude reported he recently toured Arkansas and New Orleans to consider convention sites for future years.

VP Communications Dale Wilken reported nothing new as did Secretary Dave Gramm.

Treasurer Jim King was out of town and unable to attend tonight's meeting.

Council Rep Russ Covitt reported the latest edition of the CowCatcher has an article on the upcoming Santa Fe convention, including information on the Ft. Hood railhead operations. He reported there are 170 registered so far with 120 on the Ft. Hood tour.

VP Trips & Events Skip Waters reported the date for this year's '24 Hours @ Saginaw' as Friday May 25-Sat May 26. He has arranged to have an ATCS unit available during the event which will allow attendees to hear information on approaching trains. Pat Phelan and Steve Goins are scheduled to be among the presenters. Skip also reported meeting with NRHS president Greg Molloy to discuss a possible future convention in New Orleans in 2015. He will provide more information as plans come together.

VP Programs Jon Shea reported that there were no requests for a grant from the Leroy O. King Preservation grant program last year. He asked all members to spread the word about the grant availability for railroad themed projects. He also reported on the upcoming months' programs. The May meeting will return to the Founders Building in Grapevine. Guest speaker will be Dave Bartee from the Fort Worth Western RR. Dave will talk about his experiences during his railroad career, including being a steam locomotive engineer. June's meeting will also be in Grapevine and will be a retrospective view on the 4th anniversary of 'Lone Star Rails' with pictures and videos from the convention.

Jon showed several newspaper clippings from the Dallas Morning News from years gone by. One article was written by him about 15 years ago asking questions about the Kirkland trolley stop. He also showed several pictures and letters re: the interurban trolley cars and other memorabilia including a 1924 Interurban pass, time cards (route maps) from 1931 thru 1947 right before the interurban ceased operating.

Member Jeff Phelps showed pictures of track laying in progress at the new Museum of the American Railroad in Frisco. Work recently started on this project which is required before any rolling stock can be moved here.

Jon adjourned the meeting at 8:10pm and after a short break, museum curator Robert Haynes gave a program on current operations, planned museum projects and he thanked our members for our past contributions. The museum is currently in process of retrofitting their trolley car RPO area back to its original paint colors. A new project they are investigating is a tour bus running from Plano to Dallas retracing the route of the interurban line, with stops along the way at significant points of interest. Attendees would have lunch at the interurban building in Dallas and the tour would culminate with a visit to the Monroe shops before returning to Plano via the DART Red Line Train. Johnny Meyers has agreed to host the tour and provide insight along the way. The tour is being planned for a tentative date on a Saturday in September with a \$25-30 cost per person, lunch included. More information will be forthcoming from the museum as details are ironed out.

The museum staff also reported they have a portable exhibit on the interurban currently installed in the Lancaster interurban building. The exhibit can be rented for \$500/3 months and consists of 7 panels each 36" x 84" and arranged in a square and a triangle shape.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm

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**, wgcush@swbell.net.
- **Vice President/Communications, Dale Wilken**,
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- **Secretary, Dave Gramm**, dgramm@sbcglobal.net
- **Treasurer, Jim King**, jking@swbell.net
- **National Director, Claude Doane**, claudedoane@hcahealthcare.com

North Texas Zephyr, newsletter of the North Texas

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

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North Texas Zephyr Archive

<http://www.gogeocaching.com/gorailfanning/Home/northtexaszephyr.html>

North Texas Chapter @ Facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/409467244127/>

Press time: 4/20/2012, 7pm. Filename: NTx Newsletter 2012-05 vE.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

May 1, 2012	North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m. Location: Founders Building, Grapevine. Program: David Bartee, engineer for the Fort Worth and Western Railroad.
May 25-26, 2012	24 Hours @ Saginaw – Location: Saginaw Depot, Saginaw, Texas. Annual rail-watching event sponsored by North Texas Chapter. Programs, fellowship and lots of rail activity to observe. See https://www.facebook.com/24hoursatSaginaw
June 5, 2012	North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m. Location: Founders Building, Grapevine. Program: Lone Star Rails 2008 – 4 th anniversary.
June 19-24, 2012	Santa Fe Railway Historical & Modeling Society - 32nd Annual Convention, Temple, Texas. NTC members can sign up and attend by going to the society web site: atsfrr.com and clicking on Society Conventions.

