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Chapter Meeting

August 7, 2012 – Founder’s Building, Grapevine, Texas
 When: Tues. August 7, 2012, 7:30 p.m.
 Where: Founder’s Building, Grapevine, Texas.
 Program: 1) Dale Wilken’s report on the **national NRHS convention in Iowa.** 2) A presentation by Jon on the **140th anniversary of the railroad coming to Dallas.** 3) A video on **Dallas railroads.**
 Directions: 701 South Main Street, Grapevine, Texas.
 Map: <http://www.pegasusnews.com/places/founders-building/>

Special Features

A 10th Anniversary Train Ride
 by Dale Wilken (article and photos)

On June 30, the Oregon Coast Scenic Railroad celebrated its 10th anniversary



Above: Our steam double-header.

As we were visiting family and friends in western Oregon at the time, we took the opportunity to take a ride along the Oregon coast in vintage passenger cars led by a pair of steam locomotives which had a long history in the logging industry. The locomotives, a two truck 1910 Heisler last owned by the Curtis Lumber Company and a 1925 American Locomotive Works 2-6-2 last owned by the McCloud River Railroad in northern California spent their careers transporting logs and lumber from forest to mill or ship.



The Oregon Scenic Railroad operates on weekends on a remnant of a former railroad built inland from the Port of Tillamook to the Willamette Valley and a connection with the Southern Pacific intended to transport agricultural products inland and timber and other products to the port for loading on the ships. Despite some clouds and fog and temperatures in the 60’s we had an enjoyable albeit smoky trip and our grandchildren had the chance to experience a bit of steam railroading.

Left: Smoke and a few cinders along Tillamook Bay.



The National Convention Visits Iowa

by Dale Wilken (article and photos)

The 2012 NRHS convention was held June 17-25 in the heart of the nation's Corn Belt at Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Iowa is the largest US producer of corn and a strong contender in soybeans and the participants at this year's convention had the opportunity to view and comment on the acres and acres and acres of these crops during most of the rail trips. Cedar Rapids is a mid-sized city which was built and continues to grow to serve agriculture and the transportation of agriculture and food products. The three largest companies today, all in the agricultural/food industry, are Archer Daniels Midland (ADM), General Mills and Quaker Oats. They are surrounded by many smaller interrelated companies.

Not surprisingly, the need for transportation of agricultural and food products brought the railroad industry to town beginning in 1859 with the current Union Pacific route built by the Chicago, Iowa and Nebraska Railroad, later a part of the Chicago and North Western. In 1860, the Dubuque Western Railroad, later the Milwaukee Road, reached Cedar Rapids and portions remain today as part of the Cedar Rapids and Iowa City (Crandic) route. The Burlington, Cedar Rapids and Northern, later a part of the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific, arrived in 1871 and today remnants of that route are part of the Iowa Northern RR. In 1888, the Cedar Rapids and Chicago Railroad, organized by the Illinois Central, came to town and this line is still used by the Canadian National/Illinois Central to reach the city. All of the industry and the railroads provided an interesting convention program for the attendees.



The opening event of the convention on Sunday was a chartered Amtrak special from Union Station in Chicago to Cedar Rapids over the Union Pacific, former C&NW, route which at one time carried a number of passenger trains including the Kate Shelley 400. The train consisted of a number of private cars including several from the former Milwaukee Road provided by the Friends of 261. The convention hotel was located adjacent to the Union Pacific line so upon arrival the attendees could check out UP's rail traffic east of Omaha.

On Monday the conventioners headed to Mount Pleasant, Iowa, and the Midwest Old Threshers site. This large site pays homage to all things steam including steam locomotives, steam tractors, steam engines used to run all types of machinery and generate power and each August there is a well attended Threshers Reunion when the steam tractors and threshing machines are powered up. The Midwest Central Railroad and the Midwest Electric Railway also operate on the property. We viewed a number of locomotives on display and were able to ride on a tour of the property in vintage coaches behind well maintained #6, an 1891 Baldwin locomotive originally from the Surry, Sussex and South Hampton Railroad of Virginia. On a separate 1.75 mile track the Midwest Electric Railway operates several trolley and interurban cars. We had a choice of three including #230 a wooden interurban car built in 1914 that ran on the Chicago, Aurora and Elgin line. There was opportunity to view the many steam tractors stored at the site as well as various interpretive displays of life in the age of steam.

On Tuesday, the rail event was a tour from Cedar Rapids via Iowa City to Rock Island, Illinois on the Crandic and former Rock Island line, now part of the Iowa Interstate Railway. The tour was led eastward by modern Iowa Interstate diesels and returned westward led by one of the Chinese QJ steam locomotives owned by Iowa Interstate. As this writer had traveled the same route with much the same equipment last year at the Rock Island Steam Festival, I opted for the Amana Colonies Heritage Tour and spent an enjoyable day learning some of the history and viewing their crafts and partaking in a sizeable lunch.

Wednesday's rail event was a 165 mile round trip from Cedar Rapids to Newton, Iowa via Crandic (Milwaukee Road) and former Rock Island now the Iowa Interstate. The locomotives on this trip were again the QJ 2-10-2 steam locomotive and this time a pair of former Amtrak F40PH diesels rebuilt and in Iowa Northern colors. During the trip we had the chance to view the new diesel locomotive shops being built by the IAIS near Cedar Rapids to service the fleet of ES44AC's it has recently acquired. Newton is a



small Iowa town but the residents turned out in numbers to meet us and serve the lunch, much like the reception we had in Quanaah for our convention trip. No Indians here but one of the residents drove a nicely restored Minneapolis steam tractor to the Rock Island depot. For those who chose to spend the day in the Cedar Rapids area there was also a tour of the historical sites and museums in the area.

Thursday offered the option of a rail tour on the Boone & Scenic Valley railroad and trolley lines in the Des Moines River valley near Boone, Iowa or a tour of the Archer-Daniels-Midland plant including this car shops. The writer chose the latter as it provided an opportunity to view some of the operations of a significant rail customer. The portion of the plant viewed manufactures alcohol for ethanol with the residue sent all over the world as animal feed. The plant receives about 250,000 bushels of corn a day and in 24 hours makes 850,000 to 1 million gallons of alcohol and 3000 tons of feed. It is a giant still! Much of the alcohol goes into ADM owned or leased tank cars for shipment to tank farms in the Midwest and east where additives are combined to make the ethanol.



At the ADM car shops we observed the inspection and repair of tank cars and grain hoppers. ADM owns or leases about 30,000 cars making it the nation's largest rail car operator. Other tours available Thursday were to the rail museum at Oelwein, Iowa, former headquarters of the Chicago Great Western Railroad and to the Amish Mennonite settlement near Kalona, Iowa. On Friday morning the train event was a trip over the original Crandic interurban line between Cedar Rapids and Iowa City passing through the many small communities once served by the line's Comet cars. This time our train had a Crandic SW1500 switcher and slug and the Iowa Northern locomotives in a push-pull arrangement. This line receives only a small amount of traffic so in keeping with their slogan, we did "swing and sway the Crandic way". On Friday afternoon, the annual membership meeting was held. Because of the governance changes underway, we did not elect National Directors for the coming year. In his report to the attendees President Malloy indicated that over 800 persons bought tickets for one or more events of the convention. The convention was widely publicized on TV and in the press throughout Iowa and received considerable coverage in the local media so a number of rail trip participants this year were non-NRHS members. The meeting was followed by the hospitality hour and banquet where presentations about the industry and future growth plans were made by Henry Posner, Chairman, Iowa Interstate Railroad, and by representatives from Cedar Rapids & Iowa City and Iowa Northern.





On Saturday and Sunday those who were able to stay on had the opportunity to participate in train rides from Cedar Rapids to Waterloo covering a part of the route of the Rock Island's Zephyr Rockets and from Cedar Falls to Manly, Iowa the connection with Rock Island's Spline Line.

On Monday, the chartered Amtrak special returned from Cedar Rapids to Chicago Union Station.



It was a busy and an interesting week for a rail enthusiast with an opportunity to see a mix of historic and modern rail equipment and activity. Next year in September the convention is "Off to Alaska" and the Alaska Railroad.

North Texas & NRHS News

NRHS Board Meeting, 6/22/12

Report submitted by Claude Doane.

Report of Board Meeting held 6/22/12 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa

The meeting was called to order by President Molloy and after routine matters were dispensed with we were welcomed to Iowa by Bart Jennings (read that as Skip on steroids).

Greg made two official announcements.

- 1) Kurt Bell of the Pennsylvania State Archives and the Pennsylvania RR Museum was appointed to the Heritage Grants Committee.
- 2) Elrond Lawrence has been hired as a Public Relations Specialist. Estimated Cost is \$25,000.00.

We then had the pleasure of short talks by three guest speakers.

- 1) John Hankey, Author & Historian, Former Director of the B&O Museum. He announced the merger of ARM and TRAIN with the first convention of the merged organization to be held in November (Toronto). Also California State Railroad Museum is working with NRMA. Other cooperative efforts are occurring in the Railway Heritage industry and a Meeting is planned (with or hosted by) Kalmbach in Chicago in 2013.
- 2) Henry Posner, Chairman of Rail Development Corporation (owner of Iowa Interstate) and member of AAR and the Short Line Railway Association. He said that the Rail Industry has a serious need to keep the public informed, something they have not done well in the past, and that the NRHS can help the Industry with this. Increase visibility of the NRHS and the Rail Industry would help both. Other concerns of the Industry are Safety and Security and the trend toward possible Re-Regulation. NRHS needs to stop looking only backward at History and start looking forward at History being made. He thinks the new Board structure should help the NRHS. He also has been an NRHS member for 30+ years.
- 3) Matt Shulte, Executive Director of the Steam Ship Historical Society. There is an organization similar in size and scope to ours. They had 1100 members in the mid 90's. Their membership now stands at 2500. They did this by expanding to include all watercraft from Jet Skis to modern Cruise ships (not just steam) and by moving to a web based structure away from paper only.

Basically, they all told us we have a demographic problem! We already knew this, but they at least gave hope that we can change our mindset and direction and grow into the future.

HMBD representative presented a check for \$2002.00 for the Society's sponsored Insurance program.

Officer Reports (highlights only):

- Heritage grants, 21 grants, \$50,000.00, 4 to NRHS Chapters
- Membership invoices have been updated and should go out late September
- Executive Director Study Committee, still working, next meeting 7/27 in Philadelphia
- Convention Reports:
- Tacoma still not finalized.
- Cedar Rapids, Iowa will not be profitable. There was poor attendance by NRHS members, especially from east and west coasts, and therefore poor trip sales. No trips except ADM plant tour sold out. \$45,000.00 in sales and upgrades at the convention help, but it still will lose money.



- Anchorage and Fairbanks, Alaska will be held in September 2013. Bart Jennings is in charge and dates are on the NRHS website. Ticket sales expected to start this September.
- 2014 may be held in Kansas City and NW Arkansas and 2015 may be in New Orleans. Nothing is firm yet for either year.

Upcoming meetings:

- First meeting of new Board and the new Advisory Council will be held October 18-21 in Claymont, Delaware (Wilmington area). This is expected to be primarily organizational, although business will be transacted.
- Winter 2013 – A site for this is being sought
- Spring 2013 – This will be held in Cincinnati from April 4-7, 2013
- Fall 2013 and all 2014 meetings are TBD.

Other news:

- Rail Camp is going well, both East and West.
- Elections are ongoing and all ballots must be mail in envelope provided and postmark by 7/31. The results will be certified and Notification of the new Board will be made in September.
- **National Dues are going up. Chapter primary members go from \$36 to \$39 (making total North Texas dues \$55.00). At large member's dues go from \$37.00 to \$40.00.**

No other news or actions of import was discussed or transacted and the meeting was adjourned.

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**, wgcruish@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**, 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/>

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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

Tues. Aug. 7, 2012	North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m. Location: Founder's Building, Grapevine, Texas . Program: 1) Dale Wilken's report on the national NRHS convention in Iowa. 2) A presentation by Jon on the 140th anniversary of the railroad coming to Dallas. 3) A video on Dallas railroads.
Tues. Sept. 2, 2012	North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m.
Sept. 15-16, 2012	30th Annual Temple Model Railroad Show. Temple, Texas. Info at http://www.centramod.com/show2012.htm
Tues. Oct. 2, 2012	North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m.
Oct. 12-13, 2012	Lockheed Martin Train Show. Fort Worth, Texas. Info at http://www.lmra.org/Activity.aspx?pageid=50
Tues. Nov. 6, 2012	North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m.
Nov. 10-11, 2012	Fort Worth Holiday Train Show. Will Rogers Center, Fort Worth, Texas. Info at http://www.dfwtrainshows.com/content/ft-worth-train-show-nov-10-11-2012
Tues. Dec. 2, 2012	OKC Train Show. Fair Grounds, Oklahoma City, OK. Info at http://www.okctrainshow.com/
Dec. 4, 2012	North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m.

