



VALLI HOSKI, NORTH TEXAS NEWS EDITOR

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Chapter Meeting

Jan. 7, 2014 – Founders Building, Grapevine.

When Tues. Jan. 7, 2014, 7pm meet’n’greet, 7:30 pm meeting.

Where Founders Building, Grapevine. .

Program Chapter Election

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year!

Remember to vote in the Chapter Election.



Image credit: <http://www.rockingwallpaper.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/Happy-2014-New-Year-Image-2014.jpg>
 Image credit: www.auroraqove.com

Also, **2014 NRHS National dues increase to \$50.** Chapter 2014 dues same as 2013 - individual \$16; add family member \$7. Total 2014 NRHS and NTC dues are \$66, plus any family member(s).

Special Features / Announcements

Dallas Area Train Show – Jan. 18-19, 2014

The Dallas area Train Show will be held at the Plano Centre, Sunday. 2000 East Spring Creek Parkway. Go East from Central Expressway (Exit 31).

- January 18-19th, 2014. Hours: Saturday, 10 am-5 pm; Sunday, 10am-4pm
- Admission \$8.00 per person Children 12 and under are FREE. There will be two full days of clinics.
- Many home layouts will be on tour. List at <http://dfwtrainshows.com/content/2013-plano-open-houses>
 If you would like your layout added to the Dallas area tour contact Chris Atkins at chris@railroadmodelers.com

Source: **11/26/2013**, DFW Train Shows home page at www.dfwtrainshows.com

Volunteers Urgently Needed for Plano - Dallas Area Train Show

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED to fill positions below. We need to fill all of these positions to get our show credit for the chapter. You may volunteer for more than one position if you like. The North Texas Chapter thanks you in advance!

SATURDAY, Jan 18, 2014

- Arranging for Door Prizes - 2 hours (done before show starts on Saturday) _____
- Layout Tour Support Table East - 10-11a _____
- Ticket Sales West Door - 11a-12p _____
- Ticket Sales West Door - 12-1p _____
- Ticket Sales West Door - 1-2p _____

SUNDAY, Jan 19, 2014.

- Assistant Show Manager - 9-10a _____
- Layout Tour Support Table East - 10-11a _____
- Switching Contest - 12-1a _____
- Ticket Sales East Door - 1-2p _____
- Information Table - 3-4p _____

To volunteer, **please contact Skip Waters directly at email: wgcrush@swbell.net or call his cell phone at 214-562-5199.** Let me know if you have questions. Thank you. Skip Waters, North Texas Council Rep. North Texas Chapter, NRHS



9th Annual Dallas Area Media-Slide Show – Jan. 18, 2014

Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

The North Texas Chapter, National Railway Historical Society will host the 9th Annual Dallas Area Media-Slide Show and NRHS Open House.

- Location: Southfork Hotel, Chinaberry Room, 1600 North Central Expressway, Plano, TX 75074. <http://southforkhotel.com>
- Show Time: 6:00pm until 10:00pm, maybe longer. (The Train Show closes at 5:00pm).
- Show Admission is free! .

If YOU would like to be a presenter, please reply directly to me, Skip Waters <wgcrush@swbell.net>, NOT to any email group, NO LATER THAN 12:00 noon CST on Sunday, January 5, 2014. If you know the subject of your presentation, please tell me (having a subject is not mandatory). List type of media you plan to show: 1) Slides, 2) Digital photos, 3) Video tape or 4) DVD. After all presenters have identified themselves, I'll let them know A.S.A.P. how much time each will have at the show. You can go ahead and start putting your material together now, but keep it adjustable so you can make it fit the time allotted when I announce it after January 8th. You'll still have about two weeks to finalize it after I make that announcement.

One program note: Please limit Videos or DVD's to 15 minutes. Slides will only be limited by the available time divided by the number of presenters.

Remember, the DEADLINE for getting your name on the PRESENTATION LIST is 12:00 noon CST on Sunday, January 5th. Don't let holiday gift returning, etc. make you miss the train. Thanks for your interest!

Happy Holidays and New Year to all!

Best regards, Skip Waters, Vice President, Trips & Events, North Texas Chapter, National Railway Historical Society.

Skip's phone: 214-987-2888

Rail News and Views

"Eastern Flyer" (OKC / Tulsa Area) Rail Service Coming Feb. 2014



The "Eastern Flyer" service in Oklahoma was announced by Iowa Pacific and Stillwater Central Railroad.

The Midwest City and Sapulpa service will operate on February 9, 15 and 23, 2014, anticipated departure from Sapula at 8 am, returning to Sapulpa at 6:30pm. Motorcoach connection from the train stop to attractions in Oklahoma is planned. Tickets go on sale beginning Dec. 23, 2013.

Further information on the Eastern Flyer is available through call (877) 726-7245 or www.easternflyer.com .

Source: 12/26/2014, www.easternflyer.com and "NewsOn6.com" article at <http://www.newson6.com/story/24277891/passenger-rail-set-to-connect-okc-tulsa>

Trials and Difficulties of Train Travel: A Perspective

By Jon Shea, VP Programs

Often we think that waiting for an hours late Amtrak train is a rail travel hardship. A few comments from Theodore Roosevelt puts this in a different light. It comes from The Theodore Roosevelt Journal Winter, Spring, Summer 2013. This takes place on Theodore Roosevelt's 1909 hunting trip to British East Africa (now Kenya).

"TR and his entourage traveled by train throughout Africa, and as you can imagine, such travel was fairly rigorous and entailed significant danger. But the peril obviously invigorated TR, and he offered an observation that he and his audience found amusing: 'The rhinoceroses used to cause quite a good deal of trouble. A rhinoceros is a large beast and its long suit is courage and its short suit is brains. Now and then one would start to charge the train. It was always bad for the rhinoceros, but it was sometimes bad for the train.'

On the threat of lions, Roosevelt noted that when a railroad was being built two lions stopped work for nearly six weeks at one time and killed nearly 100 of the workmen. But adept at finding the dark humor in such dangers, TR noted that 'it is very amusing to look at the telegraph messages sent by the station officials to headquarters. One ran this way: Headquarters. Lion around station; been trying to get at yard master, who is now up the telegraph pole. Warn train not to stop at opposite station and people to be very careful about getting out.'"



Have Holiday Cabin Fever?

A GREAT HOLIDAY STOCKING STUFFER!

- ☹ Are you a railroad enthusiast or have a friend or family member in your family that suffers from “cabin fever” after being penned up in the house during the short days of the winter months?
- ☹ They can’t wait for the weather to get better to head trackside and watch trains once again?
- ☹ YOU can’t wait for you (or them) to head trackside so you can get out of the house!?
- ☺ Well, wait no longer!

The Harrisburg Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society invites railroad enthusiasts to join us for our “Cabin Fever Days” at Harris Tower fund raising event.

Cabin Fever Days is the perfect chance to get out of the house and join fellow railroad buffs for a day of train watching from a safe and warm trackside location! Located at the corner of 7th and Walnut Streets in downtown Harrisburg, PA the tower is adjacent to very active railroad lines making it a perfect vantage point for railroad buffs to view and photograph dozens of Norfolk Southern and Amtrak trains each day as they pass by right outside the tower’s windows!

Visitors will also be able to **operate our 113 lever interlocking** machine that once controlled the movements of more than 100 passenger trains a day through the downtown Harrisburg area. The switching equipment is now connected to a simulation computer that is **programmed with the actual Pennsylvania Railroad train schedules from 1943** making the simulation extremely realistic! **It’s the only one like it in the world!**

Admission is \$20.00 per person per day with all funds going to support the Harrisburg NRHS’ restoration, preservation and educational efforts. The Harrisburg NRHS is a 501(c)3 non-profit, educational organization. The tower will be open from 9:00 am to dusk. For roughly the price of a visit to a two hour movie and snacks, **your railroad buff can spend an entire day enjoying their favorite hobby from the safety and comfort of Harris Tower!**

Reservations must be made in advance and will be limited to avoid overcrowding, so you’ll have plenty of opportunity to watch and photograph the day’s rail traffic. There will be no ticket sales at the door.

To make your reservation for Harris Tower, send an email to HarrisTower@verizon.net or phone Harris Line at 717-232-6221.

Following an update on Chapter activities you’ll have an opportunity to leave a message.

Reservations are limited, so be sure to book early! We hope to see you at Harris Tower in February!

Chapter News and Views

Chapter Business Meeting Minutes, Dec. 3, 2013

NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER, NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, MINUTES, DATE: December 3, 2013. Babe’s Restaurant, Frisco, Texas..

Our December meeting was held at Babe’s Restaurant in Frisco to celebrate our annual Christmas party.

The group started assembling at 7:30pm and there were 17 members and guests in attendance, including new member Bill Long. President Wayne Smith called the group to order and welcomed all attendees. He introduced our guest speaker, Mr. Robert Haynes, from the Plano Interurban Museum and held his more formal introduction for later.

VP Trips & Events and National Region 7 Director Skip Waters reported that the National headquarters is requesting input regarding transitioning towards electronic on-line dues payment. The upside is it saves National money through decreased postage costs. The downside is each chapter will have to separately bill each member for local dues. He also reported that National has instituted a foundation for designated member contributions to fund specific programs like Rail Camp, preservation grants, etc. to separate the funds from the general revenue stream. He gave away several NRHS “Gimme caps” from the 2013 Alaska Convention that he picked up at the company store while at the Delaware meeting. He is currently looking for presenters for the upcoming Plano Media & Slide Show to be held on Saturday, January 18, 2014. It will be at the Southfork Hotel in Plano on Highway 75 north frontage road just north of 15th street and will start at 6:00pm.

VP Programs Jon Shea reported he has contacted the DeGolyer library regarding a visit in the near future by the members.

January’s meeting will be at the Founder’s Building in Grapevine on January 7 and will start with the annual officer & director elections. He asked that any member wanting to run for any chapter office contact the Nominations chair member Jerry Nunn by the January meeting. Following the elections, the program will be member introductions and sharing time.

Jon also passed around a copy of the Dallas Historical Society journal, ‘Legacies’ with an article entitled “Lo We Communicate With The World” about the coming of the T & P railroad to Dallas in 1873.



After a fine chicken dinner and dessert, President Wayne introduced Mr. Robert Haynes, curator of the Plano Interurban Museum, who thanked the membership for again voting to give the museum a grant to continue its work. He noted that we had given a grant several years ago to purchase a pot-bellied stove for the building lobby to help in its restoration and this time to complete the task of making prints from 85 glass plate negatives. The negatives are part of a collection donated by chapter member Johnny J. Meyers who acquired the negatives from the late Frank Rogers, a photographer who took many pictures of the Dallas interurban lines, mainly to document wrecks and mishaps. The negatives sat in controlled storage for several years due to a lack of funding to have prints made. The estimated cost was over \$2000. After receiving a partial grant from the City of Plano, the museum applied to our chapter for a Leroy O. King Preservation Grant to complete the funding for the project. With the help of our grant, the negatives were scanned and digitized and prints were made for display once they have been catalogued. The prints cover the 1920's era of the interurban lines and Robert gave a presentation on some of the prints that have been made so far. Pictures that were shown included:

- A shot of the Dallas Interurban Station as built in 1916 with the multitude of tracks surrounding the building,
 - Several shots of the Monroe shops and track wye where the southbound interurban line split to go to Corsicana and Waxahachie,
 - Front end of damaged interurban car #306,
 - Shots of the Trinity Heights viaduct north of the Monroe shops with Dallas skyline in background,
 - A portrait of H.G.Floyd, TX Electric General Superintendent, Waco, TX,
 - A wrecked Model T in Wilmer, TX that tried to beat the interurban car to the crossing. All the wheels were torn off and the remainder of the car was dumped upside down by the impact,
 - An old wooden trestle, possibly in Sherman by the summer park or near Waxahachie,
 - Several other pictures taken along the interurban lines showing other accidents.
- Frank Rogers was 6 feet tall and tried to include himself in many of the pictures to give a scale to the surrounding scenery and carnage as evidenced by him and his vehicle being present in several of the above viewed pictures.

Chapter Directory

North Texas Chapter Officers, 2013. (2014 to be announced next issue.)

- **President, Wayne Smith**, 940-300-4407.
- **Vice President/Programs, Jon Shea**, 972-948-2413...
- **Vice President/Trips and Events, Skip Waters**, wgrcrush@swbell.net.
- **Vice President/Communications, and NTZ editor**, Valli Hoski, ntx.news@yahoo.com
- **Secretary, Dave Gramm**, dgramm@sbcglobal.net
- **Treasurer, Jim King**, jgking@swbell.net

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>

North Texas Chapter @ Facebook

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

Press time: 12/26/2013, 10 pm. Filename: NTx Newsletter 2014-01 v1

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.

North Texas Calendar

Tues. Jan. 7, 2014	North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m. Location: Founders Building, Grapevine. Program: Annual Chapter Election
Sat. Jan. 18.– Sun. Jan. 19, 2014	Train Show, Plano – Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Plano Centre, Sunday. 2000 East Spring Creek Parkway. Go East from Central Expressway (Exit 31).
Sat. Jan. 18, 2013	Annual Dallas Area Media & Slide Show and NRHS Open House. Southfork Hotel, Chinaberry Room, 1600 North Central Expressway, Plano, TX 75074. http://southforkhotel.com
Tues. Feb. 4, 2014	North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m. Location and Program: to be determined

