



VALLI HOSKI, NORTH TEXAS NEWS EDITOR

OPINIONS EXPRESSED HEREIN MAY NOT REFLECT THE OFFICIAL POSITION
 OF THE NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER OR THE NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY.
 ALL CONTENT RIGHTS RETAINED BY ORIGINAL AUTHOR.
 EVERY ATTEMPT HAS BEEN MADE TO COMPLY WITH FAIR USE AND COPYRIGHT LAW.

CHAPTER MEETING..... 1
 MAY 6, 2014 – SOKOL HALL, DALLAS..... 1

SPECIAL FEATURES / ANNOUNCEMENTS..... 1
 RED RIVER MUSEUM GRANT PRESENTATION BY NTC 1
 LEON H. SAPP (1942-2013) 1
 145TH ANNIVERSARY OF TRANSCONTINENTAL RAILWAY COMPLETION..... 2
 2ND TRANSCONTINENTAL RAILWAY 2

RAIL NEWS AND CHAPTER VIEWS..... 3
 2014 NATIONAL TRAIN DAY NEAR YOU 3
 CHAPTER BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES, APRIL 1, 2014..... 3

CHAPTER DIRECTORY 3
 NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER OFFICERS, 2014..... 3

NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER HISTORY 4

NORTH TEXAS CALENDAR 4

Chapter Meeting

May 6, 2014 – Sokol Hall, Dallas.

When Tues. May 6, 2014, 7 pm meet'n'greet, 7:30 pm meeting.
Where Sokol Hall, 7448 Greenville Ave, Dallas, TX 75231. .
Program "The 145th Anniversary of the Completion of the Transcontinental Railroad, May 10, 1869.."



Image credit: <http://www.utah.gov/data/infographics/infographic-promontory-lg.html>

Special Features / Announcements

Red River Museum Grant Presentation by NTC

by Wayne Smith, Chapter President



As reported in the March, 2014 issue, the North Texas Chapter awarded the Red River Railroad Museum in Denison with a grant for \$1,000.00 on Saturday, March 29th. We did the check presentation inside the little theatre at the museum and then took photos outside. Thanks to Jeff (he informed the museum about the grant in the first place) and Tim Massey, both from the NT Chapter for showing their support.

Leon H. Sapp (1942-2013)

by Jon Shea, VP Programs

The chapter lost a friend when Leon Sapp passed away on December 29, 2013. Leon worked for the KATY Railroad as a trainmaster in the 1960s and 1970s. He wrote many interesting articles in The Katy Flyer about his experiences. One of these about his work on the KATY northwest branch in western Oklahoma he talked about as a program for one of our chapter meetings. One thing I remember vividly is Leon standing on the bank of a railroad cut when a train went by. The train shook the ground which caused many rattlesnakes to come out of their holes. Suddenly surrounded by agitated rattlers Leon had to high tail it out of there. The editor of The KATY Flyer promised more unpublished articles to come (one is in the latest issue) so Leon's stories will be with us for awhile to come. Leon resided in Burleson, TX. My understanding is that he was active in the restoration of the interurban cars at the Burleson Interurban Museum. Our condolences to Leon's family and friends.



145th Anniversary of Transcontinental Railway Completion

by Jon Shea, VP Programs

The Golden Spike Ceremony

May 10th will mark the 145th anniversary of the completion of the first Transcontinental Railroad at Promontory Summit, Utah. The ceremony was broadcast by telegraph hookup nationwide. The following is from the book *Westward to Promontory with photographs* by UP photographer Andrew J. Russell and text by Barry B. Combs.

- **Omaha telegraph:** TO EVERYBODY: KEEP QUIET. WHEN THE LAST SPIKE IS DRIVEN...WE WILL SAY 'DONE.' DON'T BREAK THE CIRCUIT, BUT WATCH FOR THE BLOWS OF THE HAMMER.
- **Promontory telegraph:** ALMOST READY. HATS OFF. PRAYER IS BEING OFFERED. Chicago telegraph: WE UNDERSTAND. ALL ARE READY IN THE EAST.
- **Promontory telegraph:** ALL READY NOW. THE SPIKE WILL SOON BE DRIVEN. THE SIGNAL WILL BE THREE DOTS FOR THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE BLOWS.

W. N. Shilling handled the telegraph, working from the small table at trackside. he had a nationwide hookup, the first in history. The crowd kept pushing in and blocking his view and that of the photographers. Finally, amid loud cheers the laurel tie was slipped into place. The golden spike was inserted into a specially drilled hole; no one struck it. The last spike was polished iron! Telegrapher Shilling had set wires in advance so that the blows to the iron would signal the rest of the nation. [Central Pacific president Leland] Stanford and [Union Pacific vice-president Thomas C.] Durant did the honors.

- **Promontory telegraph:** DOT. DOT. DOT. DONE."

Western writer Bret Harte wrote a poem to mark the occasion, *What the Engines Said*. Here are the first and last stanzas.

"What was it the Engines said, Pilots touching, - head to head Facing on the single track, Half a world behind each back?

This is what the Engines said, Unreported and unread. ...

That is what the Engines said, Unreported and unread.

Spoken slightly through the nose, With a whistle at the close." **Source:** Entire poem available at <http://www.bartleby.com/102/204.html>

2nd Transcontinental Railway

by Jon Shea, VP Programs

Railroad Sites at Amistad National Recreation Area.

There is some good railroad historical information on the Amistad National Recreation Area website.

Amistad is a lake on the Rio Grande near Del Rio Texas. The railroad sites relate to the early years of the construction of the second Transcontinental Railroad, the Southern Pacific. The first item relates to historic station and tunnel sites. There are sites of several stations and two tunnels in the canyon walls. The tunnels are still visible from the lake.



Contemporary photo of historic railroad tunnel



Railroad passengers often enjoyed lunch at the prehistoric rock shelter located above Painted Cave Station.

The second article relates to the famous Pecos High Bridge sometimes called the Pecos Viaduct. it replaced the original crossing which had dangerous winding approaches down the steep canyon walls. When it was built in 1892 it was 323 feet above the Pecos river which made it the highest bridge in the US and the third highest in the world. It must have been spectacular (and a little scary) to cross that bridge on a train. You can get a good idea of what it was like going west on Highway 90 from Del Rio where the highway bridge gives a spectacular view of the Pecos River Canyon. Amtrak's Sunset Limited and SPs Sunset Route (now UP) now cross on a newer bridge.

Source: <http://www.nps.gov/amis/historyculture/tunnelstation.htm>



Rail News and Chapter Views

2014 National Train Day Near You



Find your local celebration at
<http://www.nationaltrainday.com>

We are excited to announce that the 7th annual National Train Day will be held on Saturday, May 10th. Train enthusiasts and supporters around the nation celebrate National Train Day each year at hundreds of locations across the country. We're glad you're here; explore NationalTrainDay.com to learn more about why trains matter to our towns, our communities and to people everywhere. To get the celebration of trains started, Amtrak will bring a special-edition National Train Day to Union Station in Los Angeles one week in advance on May 3rd as a partner in the station's 75th Anniversary event celebration. See you there!

Chapter Business Meeting Minutes, April 1, 2014.

NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER, NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, MINUTES, DATE: April 1, 2014, SOKOL Hall, Dallas, Texas.

The membership meeting was held at SOKOL Hall in Dallas, TX. President Wayne Smith called the meeting to order at 7:36pm with 10 members in attendance.

Wayne reported on the presentation of a \$1000 grant check to the Red River Railroad Museum in Denison, TX. Wayne and members Jeff Phelps and Tim Massey were in attendance and Jeff took pictures to include in the bulletin. Wayne reported that while touring the museum he purchased a book, 'Katy's Baby', the story of the town of Denison and also acquired an MKT patch with a history of the Katy and several postcards.

Secretary Dave Gramm reported that the chapter had purchased a 2nd share for the upcoming train show season. Chapter Council Rep Dave Podhrasky brought the \$325 to the last council meeting, and his work hours at the shows will be credited towards the 2nd share work requirements.

VP Programs Jon Shea reported the May 6 chapter meeting will be in Grapevine at the Founders Building and the program will be on the 145th anniversary of the driving of the Golden Spike.

VP Trips & Events Skip Waters reported that the anticipated last showing of the 'Rocky Mountain Express' at the Ft. Worth Museum of Science & History has been postponed indefinitely, so everyone who hasn't had a chance to see it yet can still do so. He reported on the upcoming Rail Ramble field trip to be held on Saturday, April 12, 2014 and that 18 participants had signed up so far. The cost of the bus is the major expense with an estimated cost of \$400.

Dave told Skip to contact Durham Bus Services in Lewisville for a quote that may be less.

Skip also reported on this year's '24 Hours @ Saginaw' event and its future. As reported earlier, we will need to start paying rental on the building in 2015. The Chamber members found a large quantity of model trains in a closet in the depot and have asked for help in finding a way to display them. This may be our ticket for free usage of the building in return for our help in assembling the displays. He also informed them about our grant program to help with the restoration of their equipment.

In other regional news, Skip reported our own 'Captain Transit' Steve Segerist has officially transferred back to our chapter and will be running as a candidate for District 7 director. Skip commented that the next board meeting may look at the budget, Fernley & Fernley's contract, investigate emailing the newsletter, and the possible addition of additional levels of membership. Skip will host another 'Train Talk' internet web talk show this month interviewing attendees at the 'Thomas' exhibit.

Member Jimmy Barlow reported on the release of some Barrington photographs that includes a picture of an over and under rail crossing in Denison. Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm with the program following a refreshment break.

Member Tim Massey, is a design engineer at Progress Rail Service, a Caterpillar Company, who also owns EMD and Kershaw Rail Equipment. Tim's job involves designing at-grade rail crossings and he gave a program on prototype track laying using his company's flange bearing diamonds that are designed to replace old style frog diamonds. Existing old style diamonds have an expected life span of 10 years even with constant upkeep. New flange bearing diamonds, with a cost of around \$250K initially, have a 60 year life span and can be updated in a few hours without replacing the entire diamond, just the flange bearing strips that bolt in. The new diamonds are rated at 60 mph in each direction. BNSF has 5 currently in service and UP has 2 on order for this year to install in Vinita, OK and Stafford, TX.

Chapter Directory

North Texas Chapter Officers, 2014.

- **President, Wayne Smith**, 940-300-4407.
- **Vice President/Programs, Jon Shea**, 972-948-2413...
- **Vice President/Trips and Events, Skip Waters**, wgcrush@swbell.net.
- **Vice President/Communications, and NTX editor, Valli Hoski**, ntx.news@yahoo.com
- **Secretary, Dave Gramm**, dgramm@sbcglobal.net
- **Treasurer, Jim King**, jking@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: 4/26/2014, 9pm. Filename: NTX Newsletter 2014-05 v2

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. May 6, 2014	North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m. Location: Founders Building, Grapevine. Program: The 145th Anniversary of the Completion of the Transcontinental Railroad, May 10, 1869.
Tues. June 3, 2014	North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m.
Tues. July 1, 2014	North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m.
Tues. August 5, 2014	North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m.
Tues. Sept. 2,, 2014	North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m.
Tues. Oct. 7, 2014	North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m.
Tues. Nov. 4, 2014	North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m.
Tues. Dec. 2, 2014	North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m.

