



VALLI HOSKI, NORTH TEXAS NEWS EDITOR

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CHAPTER MEETING 1
TUES. NOV. 3, 2015 – FOUNDERS BUILDING, GRAPEVINE, TEXAS. 1

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Chapter Meeting

Tues. Nov. 3, 2015 – Founders Building, Grapevine, Texas.

When: 7 pm meet 'n' greet. 7:30 pm meeting.

Where: Founders Building, 701 Main Street, Grapevine, Texas.

Program: Chapter business, annual Chapter auction.

Location and Map: <http://go.dallasnews.com/places/founders-building/>



Special Features

Tales of a Santa Fe Telegrapher

by Dave Gramm (all photo credit Jerry Nunn)

At the Chapter's October meeting in Garland, members enjoyed very personal reminiscences of the Santa Fe and working at the Garland station. Mr. Sherman Nickels, who worked for the Santa Fe in this very building from 1951-1960, entertained us with tales of his work with the Santa Fe and career as a railroad telegrapher.

Mr. Nickels began his program by sharing his personal telegraph key that he used during his 40+ year job as a telegrapher with the Santa Fe including nine years in Garland. He then donated his personal key to the museum's collection. Museum president Mike Hayslip accepted the contribution, and announced it would be placed in the original telegrapher's position in the building and connected to a sounder to recreate the functionality and ambience of a working telegraph station.



Left above, Mr. Sherman Nickels visited the October meeting. Left to right, Mr. Nickels' son Dennis, Mr. Nickels himself, and Wayne Smith, Chapter President.



Right above, Mr. Nickels presents the telegraph key and documentation to Mr. Mike Hayslip, Garland museum President.

Life as a Telegrapher

After attending Flore Telegraph School (Oklahoma City, OK), Mr. Nickels started his career with the Santa Fe in 1948 and apprenticed in Maysville, OK. He then successively moved to the old Santa Fe Dallas yard (now Dart's yard), Lindsay, OK; Paris, TX; Cleburne, TX; Pauls Valley, OK; multiple other Texas locations and finally spent his last 15 years in El Paso, TX. Mr. Nickels related several stories of his activities during his career including the time when he worked in the Garland depot from 1951-60, where he handled boxcars with Resistol cowboy hats from the hat factory, onions from the local farmers, airplane wings destined for the LTV (Ling-Tempo-Vought) aircraft plant in Garland and food products from Kraft Foods in Garland.



Mr. Nickels' knowledge of the area and his recall of events in his life were astounding. He viewed several of the aerial pictures of the early Garland area hanging on the walls of the museum and gave commentary on many, filling in information about companies from that time period who are no longer in business and not otherwise known. His presentation was excellently delivered, complete with notes. The Chapter thanks Mr. Nickels for his gracious visit and sharing of local personal history.

Texas Western Train Show, October 10-11, 2015

by Valli Hoski, editor, North Texas Zephyr (photo credit: Jerry Nunn)

October 10-11, 2015, the North Texas Chapter members supported the Texas Western Train Show. The Chapter had an informational display and table.



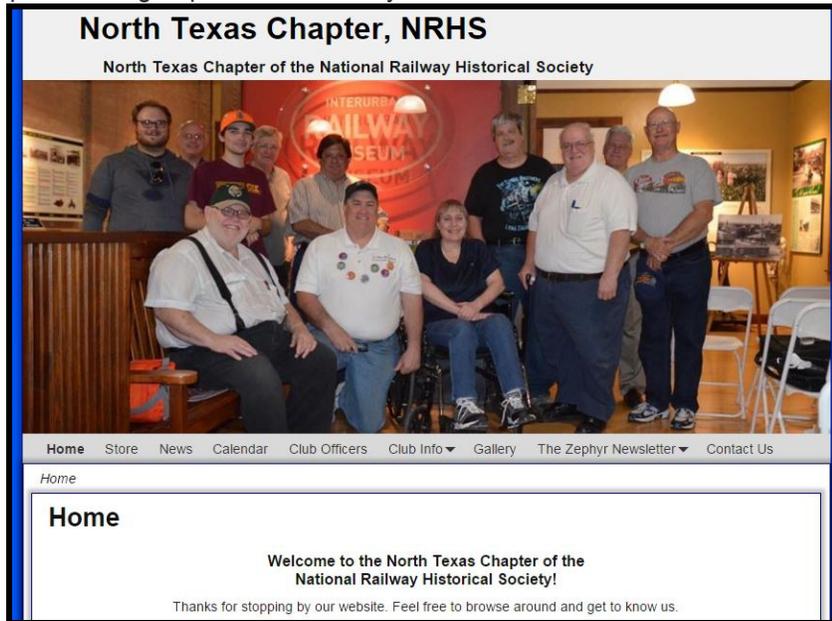
Author Dave Bernstein autographed book purchases made at the show. The Hearty thanks to those who helped or just came by at the show. See you at the next show!

New Look for North Texas Chapter Web Site

by Kim Hinton, Webmaster, North Texas Chapter

As you may know, last September the new website for the North Texas Chapter, NRHS went live. It still has the same address of ntxnrhs.org but now has a new updated look. I plan to update it regularly, at least monthly or more often if required. A brief overview of the website follows:

The page that comes up initially is the Home Page that features a recent group picture of club members. This picture can be updated with more current pictures of group members at any time. There are nine links in the horizontal bar across the top.



The Links:

- **Home** – This links to our Home Page. It features a short welcome message that is above a reprint of the new book flyer. If one clicks on the book picture, they will be taken directly to the sales page located in our online store.
- **Store** – This links to our online store that currently just facilitates our book sales. It is powered by ECWID. We may sell up to 10 items for free through this online service.
- **News** – This links to our current events page. If you would like anything posted here, please email me (Kim Hays) at kimhinton516@gmail.com, and I will be glad to post it for you.
- **Calendar** – This links to our current events calendar. I like to keep it updated at least several months out, however, changes can be added/updated at any time.
- **Club Officers** – This links to a listing of our current officers.
- **Club Info** – This link has three subsections:



- **About us:** a brief statement that describes our club;
- **Meetings:** Information about current meeting times and locations, and
- **Membership:** Information about how to join our club including a pdf form of the application a prospective member can download direct from the website.
- **Gallery:** The gallery is still under development, but eventually will feature galleries of event pictures and one of random member pictures. If you have any pictures you can contribute, please email them full size to me at my email address. Be sure to identify persons in the picture for my reference, and any other information such as where it was taken.
- **The Zephyr Newsletter** – This tab leads to two subsections;
 - A subsection for the current year’s newsletter that contains links to current newsletters that can be downloaded directly by clicking on the desired month.
 - The second subsection contains direct links to the archives labeled Archives — **Newsletters from 2006 through 2011**, and **Archives — Newsletters 2012 through 2015**. Clicking on either of these will bring you to the gogeoaching.com page where Valli has stored the club’s newsletters going back to 2006! It is a treasure trove of history for the club! Thank you Valli!
- **Contact Us** – This links to information where visitors can learn how to contact us by snail mail, email, phone, or by filling out the online form.

If you have any questions or comments about the website, or want anything added or changed, please email Kim Hays at kimhinton516@gmail.com. This website is for our club and I welcome any ideas you may want to see implemented! Thanks so much! Kim Hays, Webmaster, North Texas Chapter NRHS. (ntxnrhs.org)

NRHS News / Views

NRHS National – Letter from President Al Weber, Oct. 2015.

Al Weber, President of the National Railway Historical Society, covered the current and upcoming activities, committees, and financial state of the society. This is reprinted with permission. (**Source:** NRHS News, October 2015 issue available at https://admin.nrhs.com/NRHSNews/NRHS_News_October_2015.pdf)

I want to extend a welcome to all our new members and a big thank you to all our long time members. We are now getting the new on-line membership database going. Skip Waters and Hugh Harris have been working on it and it is finally ready.

Here at national, we have completed most of the main activities for the 2015 year and are planning for next year. Our 2016 convention will be held from Tuesday, July 19 through Sunday, July 24 in Denver, Colo. The convention committee is now finalizing all the details. Please plan to attend.

The RailCamp committee is having conference calls and planning for 2016. We need campers to fill the camps. If you have any prospects, please contact that committee. The Heritage Grant committee is now working on fulfilling the 2015 grants and getting ready to start the 2016 process. If you have a project, please apply for a grant. We get very few grant requests from NRHS members and chapters, and I know that many of you are doing restoration and preservation work. I also want to let you all know that I receive and follow up upon many requests for supporting letters for railroad preservation projects. If you have a need like this, please contact me and I will see what the NRHS can do.

Our finances are getting better, and I expect to present a budget for 2016 at the conference in Utica, N.Y. We still need to watch our expenses, and I promise to do just that. Your treasurer, Bob Bitzer, and your comptroller, Bob Heavenrich, have done an outstanding job making this happen. As our policy of not spending more than we take in is in effect, we will finish the year in the black.

The “Wednesday NRHS volunteers” in our shared Philadelphia office are still looking for more help. They are responding to research requests and are filing all of the newsletters we receive. I read all the newsletters that I receive. Some of you know that since I reply to the authors. Keep them coming, please. The NRHS also has a large following on Facebook. If you have an event, please send it to us for posting. Free publicity is very good for all of us. I hope to see many of you at the Utica conference.

Guest Editorial – Why Is NRHS Membership Valuable?

NRHS Members NRHS members Stephen L. Wasby and William Chapman shared their views on the value and importance of NRHS Membership for individuals and chapters. Their “guest editorial” is reused with permission.



(Source: NRHS News, October 2015 issue available at https://admin.nrhs.com/NRHSNews/NRHS_News_October_2015.pdf)

Guest Editorial - Why being a member of the NRHS is important for chapters

We all gripe from time to time about organizations to which we belong. Sometimes we even think of leaving because we think "national" doesn't deliver enough.

Some chapters are thinking of severing their NRHS ties. That would be most unfortunate. It leads us to tell you that NRHS has much for its chapters and that a national connection is important for our chapters. We speak to all NRHS members, but those who believe that because their chapter has been relatively successful, they can do as well — or better — on their own should pay particular heed. Before heading toward, or out, the door, have a second "think."

In many chapters, a small core of members attends meetings and works on projects. Many other chapter members don't actively participate and are rarely seen. If you were no longer affiliated with NRHS, perhaps the core group and your repeat volunteers would continue, but would the others? Would they continue to pay your dues without receiving NRHS News, with information about what others in railroad preservation are doing? Some do want to learn about what happens elsewhere.

Being an NRHS member also provides access to answers about railroad history and to the substantial NRHS library holdings and movie/DVD collection. That access goes away when you break your affiliation.

Perhaps not many chapter members attend NRHS conventions, but members have "first call" on tickets for the marvelous excursions and other activities such as seminars on rail preservation.

Some members actually like being attached to a national body, just for its own sake, so they can have a common bond with people with similar interests outside their local area.

NRHS affiliation provides strength that numbers bring; there is national impact. A single chapter may be able to operate short excursions, but the power of many is necessary to bring about otherwise unavailable special tours of working railroad facilities or to obtain speakers of more than local interest. An organization with representation from 50 states and some foreign countries can get the attention of operators of Class 1 and large regional railroads, but small local organizations lack the clout to do so, limiting their opportunities.

As a member of NRHS, you can feel satisfaction at the success of RailCamp, as NRHS is the only organization to offer such a program on a national basis. Some of you may have had the opportunity to send a camper to RailCamp, which is crucial in reaching young people who can be part of the railroad preservation movement. The NRHS Railway Heritage Grants Program, also the only program of its type on a national basis, is also of great value to you. Indeed, projects in which some of you engage have benefitted from grant awards. Although limited funds make it impossible to support all worthy applications, preparing a grant proposal helps give a chapter a better focus on its projects and facilitates their completion. And chapters have an advantage in the grants competition. Groups that had once been chapters but then left NRHS would be less likely to receive grants.

And, while we're at it, don't forget the rewards of service in a national organization. NRHS seeks (and requires) people willing to give time and expertise to achieve national goals.

Nothing provides satisfaction like being part of a group that has "made a difference" in some way in the national railroad historical preservation movement. This kind of personal accomplishment can't be duplicated in any other way: what you accomplish will make you proud for the rest of your life.

If you have stopped your march toward the door long enough to read this, you should know of some serious negatives to consider if you cease being a chapter of NRHS.

Your chapter may seek funds from local groups to support your projects. While some of those donors may continue to contribute, would they be as willing to give funds to a "freestanding" organization as they would to one with national affiliation and reputation?

And your status as a 501(c)(3) organization, for which you qualified, helps you raise money as it is important in seeking tax-deductible contributions. If you cut loose from NRHS, your organization would have to change its name, which would require reapplying in order to retain your status. Do you really love doing that paperwork?

Some of you undoubtedly have griped at membership renewal time about dealing with spreadsheets. But, particularly if you have more than 10 or 20 members, have you thought about what would be necessary to keep an adequate, accurate database of members, overdue members, members there one year and gone the next? 'Tain't fun, but it has to be done. And it requires software, folks skilled in its use, and management skills to provide this service.



Most important: Is the decision to sever your ties one that has been made after full and open discussion with all your members about the pros and cons, or is this idea held only by a few people? Even if those few people are the officers, they need to consider the views of the entire chapter membership which they are supposed to represent.

The NRHS, like any organization, does have its difficulties. But it is a highly worthwhile organization, and, in the view of those committed to NRHS, its values and rewards far outweigh the negatives. That is why we maintain our memberships and have devoted considerable time to NRHS, and why we would urge any chapter to continue its affiliation with NRHS. If you believe changes and new directions will help NRHS succeed, you can be a catalyst in making it happen — but only if you are a member. NRHS needs many things: a younger member profile, more diversified interest groupings, new volunteers to serve as chairs and help direct programs. You might be just the person to help move the organization forward by filling one of those important roles. But you get out of any endeavor only what you put into it. So, think long and hard before you “abandon ship.” NRHS needs your help. And we would add: We think you need the help of the NRHS. (Editor's note: This statement represents only the views of its authors. It does not necessarily represent the views of the NRHS.)

Chapter News / Views

Chapter Business Meeting Minutes, October 6, 2015.

NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER, NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, MINUTES, DATE: October 6, 2015. Garland Railroad Museum, 200 Museum Plaza Dr, Garland, Texas 75040.

The monthly meeting was held at the recently moved and renovated ex-Santa Fe depot in downtown Garland, TX. It is now owned and operated as a railroad museum by the Garland Landmark Society. President Wayne Smith called our meeting to order at 7:30pm with 8 members present and 5 guests.

Wayne reminded the members that volunteers were still needed to man the chapter's table at the upcoming Texas Western Train Show on October 10-11. He passed around a work schedule sign-up sheet for all to avail themselves to. Author Dave Bernstein will be on hand to autograph book purchases made at the show.

National Director and chapter member Claude Doane, is a docent for the museum and arranged for our meeting this evening. He introduced the museum staff, Kim Pagot and Nancy Nurmi, and the president of the Garland Landmark Society, Mike Hayslip and then introduced our surprise guest and entertainment for the evening, Sherman Nickels, who worked for the Santa Fe in this very building from 1951-1960 when it was still in use by the railroad. Sherman was accompanied by his son and chauffeur Dennis Nickels.

Sherman started his presentation by first displaying his personal telegraph key that he used during his 40+ year job as a telegrapher with the Santa Fe including the nine years in Garland, and then called upon Museum president Mike Hayslip to accept the key as his contribution to the museum's collection. Mike accepted the gift and announced it would be placed in the original telegrapher's position in the building and connected to a sounder to recreate the functionality and ambience of a working telegraph station.

Sherman then proceeded to give a spirited presentation on his career with the Santa Fe starting as a telegrapher in 1948 after going to Flore Telegraph School in Oklahoma City, OK. He served his apprenticeship in Maysville, OK; then successively moved to the old Santa Fe Dallas yard (now Dart's yard), Lindsay, OK; Paris, TX; Cleburne, TX; Pauls Valley, OK; multiple other Texas locations and finally spent his last 15 years in El Paso, TX.

He related several stories of his activities during his career including the time when he worked in the Garland depot from 1951-60, where he handled boxcars with Resistol cowboy hats from the hat factory, onions from the local farmers, airplane wings destined for the LTV (Ling-Tempo-Vought) aircraft plant in Garland and food products from Kraft Foods in Garland. His son, Dennis, recalled growing up while his dad worked at the depot and how as a child, he and his friends would catch pigeons in the rafters of the freight house and crawl around under the depot floor searching for objects that fell through the flooring cracks.

Sherman's knowledge of the area and his recall of events in his life were astounding. He viewed several of the aerial pictures of the early Garland area hanging on the walls of the museum and gave commentary on many, filling in information about companies from that time period who are no longer in business and not otherwise known. His presentation was excellently delivered, complete with notes, and it was a shame for those who missed it.

The general meeting resumed after the program and a short break.



Claude apologized for the surprise program for the evening but remarked that it had only been formalized the day before and there was no time to arrange to have it recorded.

VP Programs Jon Shea showed his recently received 2016 UP calendar with excellent pictures and background scenes. He also passed around his copy of 'The Streamliner', showing a picture of the UP 3999 Challenger. He reported receiving an email from member Kim Hinton, our new Web site maintainer, reporting on the launch of our chapter's redesigned Web site and asked all members to visit the site and provide comments and corrections/updates.

Jon reported the upcoming meeting dates/locations as follows:

- November 3, 2015 – Annual Member Auction. Pending contract acceptance will be at Grapevine Founder's Building. Watch newsletter for details.
- December 1, 2015 – Annual Christmas Party Dinner at Babe's Restaurant in Carrollton, TX, off the town square and next to the Dart/DGNO tracks.
- January 5, 2016 – Annual Officer Elections and Member Show 'n Tell, Site TBD (most likely Grapevine)

Member Edwin Pegelow led a round of applause and thanks for Claude for arranging for the evenings program and meeting location. Dave Gramm, Secretary

Chapter Directory

North Texas Chapter Officers, 2015.

- **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 NTZ 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

Chapter Email: northtexaschapternrhs@gmail.com

North Texas Zephyr, chapter newsletter 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 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 "Founders Building" at Main St. and the FWWR railroad tracks. Visitors and newcomers are welcome. Chapter membership includes our monthly chapter newsletter, the *North Texas Zephyr*. As of October 2014, chapter dues (\$16, plus \$2 per additional family member) should be sent to the Chapter. Chapter mailing address: North Texas Chapter NRHS, P.O. Box 600304, Dallas, Texas 75360. National organization 2015 dues are paid to the NRHS directly. Learn about the National Railway Historical Society at www.nrhs.com

North Texas Calendar

- Tues. Nov. 3, 2015.** *North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m.* Location: Founders Building, Grapevine, Texas.
 Program: Annual Members Auction.
- Tues. Dec. 1, 2015** *North Texas Chapter holiday dinner 7:30 p.m.* Location: Babe's Chicken Dinner House, 1006 West Main Street, Carrollton, Texas 75006.
 More information: <http://www.babeschicken.com/our-kitchens/carrollton/>
- Tues. Jan. 5, 2016.** *North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m.* Location: to be confirmed (likely Grapevine). **Program:** Annual Chapter Election. Member Show and Tell.

2016 Chapter Meeting Dates

Tues. Jan. 5, 2016	Tues. April 5, 2016	Tues. July 5, 2016	Tues. Oct. 4, 2016
Tues. Feb. 2, 2016	Tues. May 4, 2016	Tues. Aug. 2, 2016	Tues. Nov. 1, 2016
Tues. March 1, 2016	Tues. June 7, 2016	Tues. Sept. 6, 2016	Tues. Dec. 6, 2016

** Meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. Location is confirmed in newsletter issue(s) prior to meeting month.



New Southern Pacific Book – Sponsored by North Texas Chapter!

The North Texas Chapter is proud to sponsor David Bernstein's new work on the Southern Pacific's Eastern Lines. See order form below, or contact the Chapter for orders..

NEW BOOK

Announcing a new book published by the North Texas Chapter, NRHS
 written by David M. Bernstein!



Southern Pacific's Eastern Lines 1946 - 1996



Southern Pacific's Eastern Lines 1946-1996

Written by David M. Bernstein, former Southern Pacific train dispatcher and officer, this 400 page book is illustrated with color and black & white photographs and numerous maps. It is the definitive guide to the operation and history of S.P. Lines in Texas and Louisiana from the end of World War II until the Union Pacific merger.

[Click Here To Buy Your Copy Now!!](#)

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