



The Conductor

April 2003

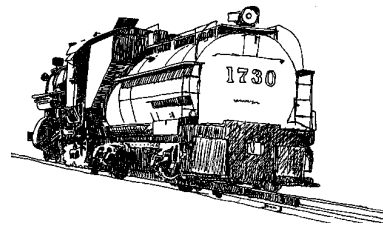


Meeting Sat. Apr. 12 at the Fantasy RR of Donna Orr and Roger Shank

Our Garden RR is just beginning. We have started with one area (10' X 20') of our side yard and are under construction. Nothing dramatic yet and hope that there will be many suggestions on growing our RR. This part of the RR will be done in western motif. We found

some 1950 buildings, Fort Apache and old time circus. We are in Rockwall Texas, just east of Dallas near Lake Ray Hubbard. From anywhere in the metroplex, go to east I30. Stay on I30 over the Lake, past 3 exits (Horizon Road, Ridge Road and 025), and then

exit at 549. Go north on 549, 1/2 mile on your left is Rolling Meadows Estates. Turn in and find the Green house with Palm trees. Come in the driveway, if it's dry and not raining, you can park on the right side of our driveway. See you on Sat. April 12th, @ 2pm.



A letter from your new President

Here it is less than two weeks since our first Board meeting of the new year and I have had two railroad events. One was at Cook's Children's Hospital and the other was at the Board meeting. Since the existing Board members wanted their former positions and the new members had some creative excuses, I traded my old position of Member of the Board for President. However, due to the expertise of Bennie Shields, the old Board, Rod Kile, Scott Muchow, Dennis Cherry, Mac Canady, Scott Whitfield, and all of you that helped make the Cook's Chil-

dren's Hospital experience a success, I had the easy job. I just checked the Local Events schedule on www.ntgrc.org and we have a good start. We have several Open meeting dates available starting in a couple of months and would like everyone to consider hosting a meeting. I have asked Scott Muchow to seek out "Volunteers" to host a meeting. Even if you don't have any track down, the

club members may be able to save you a few back aches, time, and money with our combined resources. Our goal is to help make your railroad unique and a success for you. Experience is a good teacher, it just does not have to be your own HARD EARNED experience.





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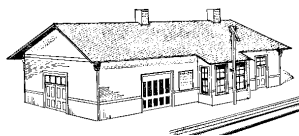
Stay abreast of what's happening in the club and out in the railroad world. Visit the N.T.G.R.C. website for in-depth information, schedule changes and information about many things that just won't fit into a four to eight page newsletter.

If there is information you would like to see on our web site contact Dennis Cherry, N.T.G.R.C. webmaster at dbcherry@swbell.net

Name Badges

Our club's badge is available from Office Depot stores for around \$5.00. The color is pine green #59, badge style #40. All members are encouraged to wear their badges to all club functions. Not only does it help new members to put names with faces, but it also gives our hosts a good feeling to know there are no strangers in their house!

**NORTH TEXAS GARDEN
RAILWAY CONSORTIUM
YOUR NAME HERE**



Be a Host

Contact Scott Muchow to volunteer
(817) 885-4367
judo_rn@msn.com

NTGRC Shirts

The NTGRC has arranged for PANDA Embroidery located in Grapevine, Texas to provide members with NTGRC logo & clothing. They offer a wide variety of styles and price range for clothing. Simply visit their facility one street north and 1/2 block east of the Grapevine Tarrantula Station and choose the style, color, size, price range etc. They will embroider the NTGRC logo for you.

PANDA Embroidery
351 E. Hudgins Street
Grapevine, TX 76051
817-488-4151 Tarrant County

The club contributes \$25.00 to the person or family hosting a club meeting to help defer the cost of refreshments. Any layout is a candidate for a club meeting. Don't feel that you have to have a finished and completely landscaped railroad in order to host a meeting. It can be very inspiring, especially to the newcomers, to see a railroad under construction. Our home meetings are a great way for all of us to become more acquainted. We need volunteers for next year. New members as well as old members are encouraged to volunteer. We enjoy giving and getting ideas from each other.



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Jet-powered train chase, from TRAINS Magazine

*By Capt. John Golden, USAF
-submitted by Stanley Schere*

As we got closer, I didn't see what I'd expected: there was no gorge in the distance. There was no viaduct, yet my instruments, computers, and maps showed us exactly on course. The next thing I knew we were bearing down on a long, single-track bridge that crosses a wide shallow river. It was a railroad bridge but not the one I'd expected—I had picked the wrong bridge! The actual viaduct was a few miles farther west. The pilot—a /Royal Air Force exchange officer—looked back at me and said dryly, "That's a really big bridge, Johnny."

We continued the mission uneventfully, but the Toccoa Viaduct remains the greatest bridge I never saw.

My most remarkable aerial railroad adventure took place in April 1994 on a gorgeous Sunday morning south Georgia. We were flying 35 miles south of Waycross at an altitude of 300 feet and an airspeed of 250 knots. I had planned the mission to parallel the double-track CSX mail (the old Atlantic Coast Line Waycross-

Jacksonville line) for 20 miles, and my pilot had just begun a slight turn to put us above the tracks when somebody yelled, "Train!" I looked up and saw orange-and-green truck trailers flashing through the trees. It was a northbound intermodal train running hard down the right-hand main. My pilot positioned us beautifully overhead and slightly right of the train. As we approached the clean pair of blue and gray four axle GEs, the engineer leaned from his window and looked back at us. His hair and collar were ruffling in the wind. He gave us a hearty wave, and then turned quickly back inside the cab. I guess he was telling the conductor to "look up!"

The flight crew, me especially, glowed with excitement. But we had to concentrate on scanning our flight path for birds, power lines, civilian aircraft, and other hazards. I checked our position, looked down at the CSX main, and saw the tail of another train in the distance. It was only four miles ahead of the one we just passed. In a few seconds, we were on the heels of another north-bound intermodal train, also running fur-

ously down the right-hand main. As we flashed over the second train and neared its locomotives, we saw yet another train, coming right at us on the southbound track with its headlight blazing in the morning mist. We were only a hundred yards behind the intermodal's engines when they met. The southbound's headlight winked as they passed. Friendly arms waved. It was a long Amtrack train moving at great speed, and we had a spectacular view of the meet from just above the pines. It was over in a few seconds. All I could say was "Wow!"

I fly a desk nowadays, and only get airborne about once a month, but I still pull out my memories of great adventures, like that wonderful morning near Waycross. It was grand to watch trains from a beaten-up C-141 racing across America 300 feet above the weeds.

—*Capt. John Golden, USAF*

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We're on the Web at:
www.ntgrc.org

Calendar of Events

*(Sat.) April 12 — Donna Orr & Roger Shank
2:00pm*

*(Sat.) May 17 — Stanley & Rene Scherer
6-8pm*

*June 21 & 22 — G Day Tours
Sachse Central & Purple Mountain RR
Atlantic Crane Lines
Dry Gulch & Rocky River RR
Finchfield & Wrensylvania RR
Ron Greene's Railroad*

July — Scott & Betty Muchow

*August — Cooks Children's Hospital
Ft. Worth*