



# The Conductor

May 2003



## *May Meeting at Stanley and Renee' Schere's Sat. May 17th 6-8pm*

The "Low Down No Down Railroad" will host the May club meeting on May 17th from 6 to 8 PM. Mr. Tim McBride with Operation Life Saver will be our featured guest. Please bring anything you would like to run. Little people are welcomed, after the scheduled time you are invited to stay and

do what ever. There will also be a video running of a Cab Ride on the Amtrak from Denver Colorado to Breckinridge, through the Moffett Tunnel and related tunnels and canyons.

Directions: IH 635 to Northwest Hwy, West to Shiloh, Left to Centerville, Right to first Left



(Andover) Three blocks to Teal-  
ford, Right to 2319 Teal-  
ford. Fourth house from the corner on  
the North side. 214-32888-3916.  
stanleyschere@hotmail.com

## *Basic Way to Determine Track Degrees — Marvin Brown*

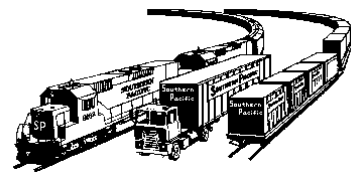
This is for LGB Track, but will work with any manufacturer's track as long as you know the degree of the track curve or how many pieces it takes to make a complete circle. Basically if you think of LGB 11000 curve track as the CRUST around a pizza. It takes 12 "slices" to make a complete circle of crust. LGB 11000 curve track is curved 30 degrees because  $12 \times 30 = 360$  degree circle. The larger curves of the 16000 curves are equal to 22.5 degrees each. Because it takes 16 pieces to make 360 degrees and if you divide 360 by 16 pieces you get 22.5 degrees for each (or if the

degrees is known:  $22.5 \text{ degrees} \times 16 \text{ pieces to make the circle} = 360 \text{ degrees}$ ). The New LGB 18000 Curve Track takes 24 pieces to make a 360 degree circle. So using the formula mentioned above, what would the curve degree of LGB 18000 be? \* Now back to our pizza, there are big pies, and small ones. The distance is measured from the center of the pie to the center of the "crust" in our case the TIES, so as the 11000 curve is 4.5 feet in diameter that means it's 2.25 feet (the radius) from the center point of the circle to the middle of the tie. The 16000 curve is 8 feet in diameter. The

18000 curve is 15.5 feet in diameter.

ALL THIS WRITING MAKES ME HUNGRY.....I'M GOING OUT TO GET A ...PIZZA AND EAT ALL THE WAY TO THE TIES.

\*Answer:  $360 \text{ divided by } 24 = 15 \text{ degree curve}$





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## **Board of Directors**

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## ***www.ntgrc.org***

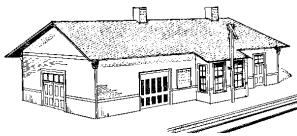
Stay abreast of what's happening in the club and out in the railroad world. Visit the N.T.G.R.C. website for in-depth information, schedule changes and information about many things that just won't fit into a four to eight page newsletter.

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](mailto: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](mailto: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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## *Charlie Alspach has For Sale Items!*

Several cars for sale are collector items and are quite scarce. These are marked with an asterisk \*. Cars are NIB (new in box) except as noted. All have original wheels and couplers except as noted.

LGB U.S. Type Cars

\*3080 D&RGW Original Open Vestibule Coach - NIB There are two

\*3081 D&RGW Original Open Vestibule Combine - NIB There are two

\*3084 D&RGW Baggage Car. Open Vestibule - NIB One of these.

\*4067 Southern Pacific Boxcar- in Original Yellow Box. NIB -

4076 East Broadtop Hopper - NIB

4080 Y03 RGS Water Car - Metal wheels, knuckle couplers

4072 P01 Colorado Midland Reefer- NIB

\*4067 D03 AT&SF Boxcar - NIB

44670 Buffalo Bill Boxcar - L/N (Box 43682)

41720 Annie Oakley Reefer - L/N (Box 48670)

44673 Sitting Bull Boxcar- NIB

4090 LG&B - Beaver Boxcar NIB

4076X01 Peabody Hopper, L/N

4076 M)! Burlington Hopper, L/N, Ltd Ed.

Others.

USA R1867 Colorado & Southern Crane Car. -NIB.

USA R1654 Gerber Girl Reefer, (pink) Hook & Loop, L/N

USA R1655 Gerber Boy Reefer, (blue) Hook & Loop, L/N

Delton 4257 California Fruit Reefer, metal, knuckle L/N (1:24 scale)

Bachman 98120 ET&WNC Stock Car - NIB

Pola Coaling Tower (Built)

Also several LGB 2-6-0 Moguls.

3280 Colorado & Southern Coach - dark green, w/lights

3281 Colorado & Southern Combine- dark green, w/lights

3282 Colorado & Southern Baggage - dark green, unlighted

4254C Colorado & Southern BoxCar - brown

4254S South Pacific Coast Reefer - olive

4257 Denver & Rio Grand /California Fruit Reefer- orange

4257C Colorado & Southern Reefer, metal wheels - yellow

4257Y Denver & Rio Grande Reefer - yellow

4258M Hood's Milk Reefer - olive- brake staff and wheel missing

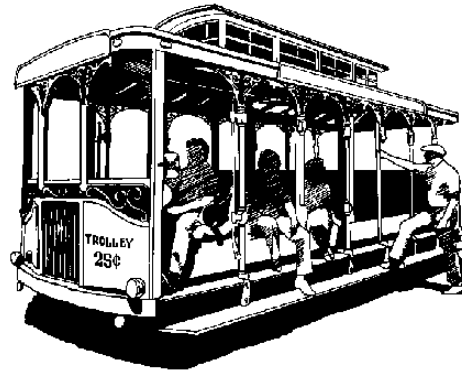
Special Western Union Tool Car - olive

UNK Denver South Park & Pacific Box Car- brown

UNK Denver & Rio Grande Western Hopper - reddish brown

4258 Stroh's Beer Reefer - red -no box- brake wheel and door latch missing

These cars are about 1/2 price of list, if they were available. They are ready for immediate delivery. Call Charles Alspach at 972-239-7991 or E-mail at [Calspac@attglobal.net](mailto:Calspac@attglobal.net).





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## *Louis Seldon's wife's Gator Caboose*



## *If Diesel Could See His Dream Now!* *by Hank Morris*

Imagine an engine, first developed in 1895, that was so good that examples from this era still work perfectly today. An engine first designed to run on gunpowder then developed to use vegetable oil injected under pressure directly into the combustion chamber. An engine that needed no spark or electricity to run and that is still the only choice for heavy transport to this day. This engine is of course the Diesel engine.

Though best known for his invention of the pressure-ignited heat engine that bears his name, the French-born Rudolf Diesel (March 18, 1858 -

September 29, 1913) was also an eminent thermal engineer, a connoisseur of the arts, a linguist, and a social theorist. Diesel's inventions have three points in common: They relate to heat transference by natural physical processes or laws; they involve markedly creative mechanical design; and they were initially motivated by the inventor's concept of sociological needs.

Born in Paris, Diesel was the son of a leather merchant. He studied at Munich Polytechnic where he was a sort of Renaissance man. Arts, linguistics and social theories then in devel-

opment all held him in a spell.

One day Diesel saw something strange: A pneumatic cigarette lighter. Small pieces of tinder are in a little glass tube. With a piston, air is compressed in the tube and the tinder starts to glow. This vision set him afire.

He set up a laboratory in Paris in 1885, and took out his first patent in 1892. In August 1893 he went to Augsburg, Germany, where he showed the forerunner of MAN AG (Maschinenfabrik Augsburg-Nuerenberg) a three-meter-long iron cylinder with a piston driving a fly-wheel. It was an economic thermodynamic engine to replace the steam engine. Diesel called it an atmospheric gas engine, but the name didn't stick.

He worked on. On New Year's Eve 1896 and proudly displayed an engine that had a theoretical efficiency of 75.6 percent. Of course, this theoretical efficiency could not be attained, but there was nothing to equal it—and there is nothing to equal it to this day—in thermodynamic engines.

*To be continued . . .*

*Used with permission of the Lockheed Martin Recreation Assn.*



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*Around the N.T.G.R.C.*



Visiting Donna Orr's and Roger Shank's railroad in Rockwall for April meeting.



Stanley Scherer gives a workshop on building from kits at the Clinics and Workshop meeting at the Cherry's in March.

## *Assorted G Scale Sale*

Sat. June 14, 2003

9:00am-3:00pm

All equipment is 1/2 price or less

Roy E. Hill  
738 Greenland Way  
Grand Prairie, TX  
972-262-7222



Greenland Way is two blocks north of I-30 between Carrier Parkway and Beltline. Directions: From Dallas exit at Beltline and go south one light to Tarrant Rd. Take Tarrant Rd. west to N.W. 7th. Take N.W. 7th north across I-30 to Greenland Way, turn left 738 is on the right.

From Ft. Worth Take interstate 30 east to 19th St. Take 19th St. south to Tarrant Rd. Take Tarrant Rd. east to Carrier Pkwy. Take Carrier Parkway north across I-30 to Canadian. Take Canadian right to Greenland Way. Turn left on Greenland Way. 738 is on the left.

Go out and see if you can make a deal with Roy.



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3331 Scott Drive  
Sachse, TX 75048

Phone: 972-675-0888  
Fax: 972-675-0889  
Email: [jazzbanjo@earthlink.net](mailto:jazzbanjo@earthlink.net)



We're on the Web at:  
[www.ntgrc.org](http://www.ntgrc.org)

## *Calendar of Events*

*(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*

*September —*

*October —*