



The Conductor

September 2003



NTGRC to operate display for BNSF Employee Appreciation Day

The September meeting of the N.T.G.R.C. will be at Western Center Dr. and I35W in north Ft. Worth. The BNSF will host an Employee Appreciation Day on Friday, September 26, 2003 and the club will run a display layout. The time is from 11:00 am to 7:30 pm. The layout needs to contain a safari theme, so bring circus animals and any rolling stock and

structures that create a circus theme.

The BNSF is paying the club and offering us tours of the freight yards and operations facilities. These tours will be arranged for a time other than during Appreciation Day. This should be a lot of fun and an opportunity to visit some outstanding railroad facilities.

The site is located in a field north east of the main facility. The track will be placed on mulch. The mulch and power generators will be supplied by BNSF.

A small portion of the layout will be covered by a large tent to protect power supplies and operators.

The tents and mulch will be delivered and set up earlier in the week. At that time we need club members with shovels and wheelbarrows to help in preparing the roadbed.

Track set up will be on Fri. morning Sept. 26.

If you can help earlier in the week or on Friday for the event contact Scott Muchow (817) 885-4367 judo_rn@msn.com or Ron Greene ron.greene@prodigy.net 817-498-8411 to volunteer.

Volunteers Needed For Fair Layout

The Texas Discovery Garden at Fair Park will have a professionally built G-Scale railroad for this year's State Fair. The railroad will be built and trains supplied by Paul Busse. The railroad will run from 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM each day.

The Discovery Garden is seeking volunteers to run trains and speak to Fairgoers about garden railroading during the fair from September 26 through October 19. They are also seeking people to assist in the railroad construction. This will take place from September 15 through September 25. Each working shift will last three hours with two volunteers per shift. It is their policy to run a

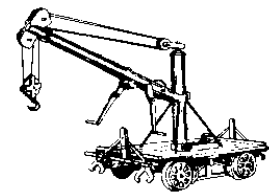
criminal background check on all volunteers. You are asked to donate \$4.00 to cover the cost of processing the check.

In return for volunteer service all volunteers will get a parking pass, T-shirt and tickets into the Fair for the days they volunteer.

For more information or to volunteer, contact Melissa Martin at: Texas Discovery Garden 3601 Martin Luther King Blvd.

P.O. Box 152537
Dallas, Texas 75315
214-428-7476 x 25
Fax 214-428-5338

Email: mmartin@texasdiscoverygardens.org
www.texasdiscoverygardens.org



The Texas State Fair runs from Sept. 26 thru Oct. 19.



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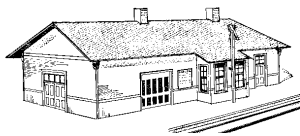
David Lynn, Treasurer
david_lynn@dell.com
817-236-8271

New host needed for website

The board is looking for a new host for the ntgrc website. We will be losing our current hosting services soon. If you have any inexpensive and reliable suggestions, pass them on to Dennis Cherry 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

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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#473 Ready for Railfest



Here's a shot of K-28 #473 decked out in her (circa 1950) "Bumblebee" colors complete with fake diamond smokestack and oil headlamp! She's just come from the shop and is ready for *Railfest 2003* on the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad. As I understand it, she will only retain this paint scheme through September so enjoy it while you can!

___ submitted by Marvin Brown

NTGRC to Operate Display at Lockheed Martin in October

LMRA Railroad Activity's 21st Annual Railroad Show is:

October 11-12, 2003 from 10 AM - 5 PM Sat. and 11 AM - 5 PM Sun. The club will operate a display at this show. More details to come in next month's Conductor.

The show will be held at the Lockheed Martin Recreation Area, 3400 Bryant Irvin Road, Fort Worth, Texas (Approx. 2 miles northwest of Hulen Mall)

Admission is \$6.00/Adult; Children Under to Free w/Adult Ticket



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NTGRC Trailer Modified for Equipment

Photo at right shows the trailer partially loaded. Track, equipment and boxes in center, over and under sections stored on shelves around the walls.



On Saturday August 23, 2003 Gary Coombs, Scott Muchow, Paul Douglas, Pete Dahlberg and Ron Greene completed a trailer modification. The new features are a sub floor and an upper shelf. The carpet is now stored under a new floor that makes the carpet available without having to unload anything else. The upper shelf holds the Over-and-Under trestle sections. The next time you see these guys give them a big thanks for doing such a great job.

This photo shows the carpet rolls stored under new flooring.





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The Future of Regional Rail on Display in a Neighborhood Near You

The Colorado Railcar, a self-propelled passenger railcar will be on display throughout the region September 1-7.

The North Central Texas Council of Governments and partnering transportation agencies invite you to see and learn more about this new technology. All Aboard!

Visit www.nctcog.org/trans/public_involvement for directions and additional information.

Mon. 9/1 Denton's Hickory Ave/ Bell St. Noon-3pm.

Tues. 9/2 Ft. Worth T&P Station 9am-3pm.

Wed. 9/3 Cleburne Intermodal Depot 9am-noon.

Thurs. 9/4 Grapevine Station

11am-1pm.

Fri. 9/5 Dallas Union Station 11am-3pm.

Sat. 9/6 Waxahachie Station 10am-1pm.

Sun. 9/7 Frisco Main Street 11am-2pm.

Submitted by Ron Greene.

Riding the rails - Coast Starlight from Sacramento to Seattle — *Scott & Karen Whitfield*

Upon arriving at the Sacramento train station at 10:30pm, we checked our bags, along with about 30 scouts on their way to a camp in northern California. We were told that the train was an hour and a half late. At 1:30am we boarded the Coast Starlight for the northern half of our journey. Since we knew we would be boarding in the middle of the night we had elected to go with a sleeping compartment for this half of the trip. It was small and cramped, but well worth the price, even on a banjo player's wages. If small spaces and motion sickness don't keep you sleepless on your way to Seattle, you will enjoy

every minute of the short ride to sunrise. For the first time in my life I imagined what Count Dracula must have felt like all those years. I climbed into the top berth and strapped myself in for a wild ride in a coffin.

Sunrise came soon, much too soon, however the benefits of being two hours late were great. We were in far northern California about to cross into Oregon and rolling slowly through the wilderness. A beautiful stream winding through the evergreens at the base of the mountains was a spectacular sight. We literally went around Mt. Hood on three sides. The ride was great the

ocean was on one side and mountains on the other. Oregon was pretty but nothing could compare to riding through Puget Sound at sunset. Karen and I spent most of the day in the parlor car watching the view stream by the window and eating and drinking anything we desired. The food in the diner was good. First class was definitely worth the extra money. Rail travel requires patience, after all, you get there when you get there. Anyone that has the time and money should take this trip. Throw away the watch and the palm pilot and ride the rails on the Coast Starlight an enjoyable adventure.



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Email: jazzbanjo@earthlink.net



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

Calendar of Events

*Fri. September 26— BNSF Employee Appreciation Day
BNSF Headquarters
Western Center Blvd. At I-35
Ft. Worth, TX
11 am—7:30 pm*

*October 11-12— Lockheed Martin Train Show
3400 Bryant Irvin Rd.
Ft. Worth, TX
Sat. 10-5 Sun. 11-5*

*November—Holiday Train Show
Will Rogers Coliseum, Ft. Worth, Texas*

*November 30 — Scott & Karen Whitfield's
Sachse Central and Purple Mountain RR's
Polar Express Celebration
5-8 pm*