



# The Conductor

## February 2003



### *Cook Children's Medical Center February 23, 2003*

The N.T.G.R.C. will sponsor an operating layout at Cooks Children's Medical Center in Fort Worth for our February meeting. We need all members of the club to participate. Bring trains to run for the kids, lots of little people and structures.

The set up time will be 9:30 am. Trains will begin operation at noon. Teardown will be at 4:30 pm in order to clear the building

by 5:00 pm.

The puppeteers will perform. Storytellers and members are asked to contact Rod Kile at: [kilefam@earthlink.net](mailto:kilefam@earthlink.net) or call: 817-656-8871 and volunteer. Scott Muchow is assisting. His number is: 817-282-5531, email is: [judo\\_rn@msn.com](mailto:judo_rn@msn.com)

Please plan on attending this event and supporting the club and the kids at Cooks.

### *The Conductor's Submission Policy*

The Conductor will be mailed to you between the first and tenth of each month. The deadline for submissions is the 20th of the prior month. Please submit your article the way you would like to see it appear in the newsletter. Make sure that it is accurate and concise. If it concerns a membership function make sure it has the four w's, who, what, when, and where. The Conductor is currently a four to six page newsletter, therefore the content of your article is subject to editing for the primary purpose of fitting into the newsletter.

Thanks for your articles, they are appreciated. Remember, this is your newsletter.

Scott Whitfield, Editor  
[jazzbanjo@earthlink.net](mailto:jazzbanjo@earthlink.net)

### *Dallas Area Train Show Great Success for the N.T.G.R.C.*

The N.T.G.R.C ran six trains on five loops at the Dallas Area Train Show January 18 & 19, 2003 at the Plano Centre. The show ran from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm both days. We were a little short of rolling stock on Saturday, but plenty of people signed up to work the positions the council requested.

Final voting was held at the show for the new officers to serve on the N.T.G.R.C. board of directors. Dues were also collected for 2003. Those that have not paid need to do so as soon as possible. The new dues are \$15.00 per individual or household.

It was interesting that there were more people from the club there on Sunday, plenty of rolling stock, and a shortage of people to work the positions the council requested. All positions were filled thanks to individuals that covered three and four time slots. Remember folks, running your trains is not the only dividend of the show. Be sure to sign up and help fill positions.

Thanks to those who were there to set up and tear down. We couldn't have done it without you.



*The N.T.G.R.C. display at the Dallas Area Train Show 2003 at the Plano Centre*



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## Board of Directors

Charles Difiglia  
charles.difiglia@ryersontull.com  
972-596-6122

David Lynn, Treasurer  
david\_lynn@dell.com  
817-236-8271

Ron Greene  
ron.greene@prodigy.net  
817-498-8411

Jim Barrett  
817-274-8875  
nandjarr@hotmail.com

Rusty Wells  
972-293-2606

## Welcome our New Members!

Douglas & Michelle Barlen  
1206 S. Davis Dr.  
Arlington, TX 76013  
817-265-2310

Returning member:  
John Eckam  
9815 Lanshire  
Dallas, TX 75238  
214-349-5861

## Name Badges

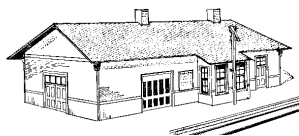
**NORTH TEXAS GARDEN  
RAILWAY CONSORTIUM  
YOUR NAME HERE**

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!

## 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 ½ block east of the Grapevine Tarantula 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  
972-513-0023 Dallas County



## Be a Host

Contact Scott Whitfield to volunteer  
jazzbanjo@earthlink.net  
972-675-0888

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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## 2003 Dues are due!

2003 Dues are due.  
\$15.00 per individual or household.  
Mail your dues to:  
David Lynn  
N.T.G.R.C. Treasurer  
1812 Summit Ct.  
Roanoke, TX 76262

[www.ntgrc.org](http://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. web-site 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)

## Jet-powered train chase, from *TRAINS Magazine*

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

When I served as a navigator with the U.S. Air Force's 437th Military Airlift Wing from 1990 to 1995, my responsibilities included low-level navigation, time-over-target control, and aerial delivery (air-drop) aboard the C-141-B, a large 1960's era four engine strategic airlift aircraft. It was a dream assignment. I loved the 141 and its mission, and during those five years in between wars, exercises, and humanitarian operations, I flew over some of the most interesting and exciting railroad spots in the country. Built by Lockheed-Georgia, the C-141 Starlifter can either fly at high altitude and deliver cargo to distant airfields, or it can fly at very low altitude and deliver equipment

or troops by parachute over combat zones. Much of our training was in the low-level environment, flying as low as 300 feet for as long as four hours at a time. Take my word for it, there's something grand about flying a huge cargo jet right down in the weeds. Not only was this sort of flying perfectly legal, it was strongly encouraged, since flying low and fast in a big old airplane requires a level of proficiency that only comes from constant practice.

Most low-level missions start with a long, detailed planning process. Navigators usually decide where the airplane will fly on its practice missions, so as a navigator (and railroad nut) I tried to go where the trains were. Aircrews can use practically anything when visually navigating at a low level. Common landmarks include road

intersections, or lakes. I favored railroad bridges, junctions, old coal docks, or yards, and used them as my turn points or timing points to ensure that we were on course and on time. The view could be terrific, but flying low requires a great deal of concentration from everyone involved, so my sightseeing was generally limited to a few seconds at a time. Other times it worked out wonderfully, thus some of my most memorable adventures with railroads took place at 300 feet and 250 knots.

Our routes regularly took us 500 feet over the massive CSX yards at Hamlet, N.C. an interesting old Seaboard town with a yard, several interchanges, and the western terminus of the Aberdeen and Rockfish.

*-to be continued*

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## *From your past President*



Dear Members of the N.T.G.R.C.,  
Happy New Year!

As my term as President of NTGRC comes to an end, I thank all of you for making 2002 a successful year for NTGRC. Thanks to all of you for taking over in my absence this fall when I was required to travel so much. The true test of a great organization is the ability and willingness of the members to accomplish it's goals when one or more of it's officers are unavailable. We prove this during the whole year. All of us have lives apart from NTGRC, and all of our events happened successfully despite the fact that all of us were rarely in attendance at the same time.

With your efforts, we have accomplished the following in 2002:

1. We have set up and displayed the NTGRC layout at five shows.
2. We have held the first (and hopefully not the last) layout open house tour in conjunction with G-Day, complete with newspaper publicity and NTGRC flyers that were distributed to hobby shops, garden centers, stone yards, etc.
3. We continue to produce the best website and newsletter in the hobby!
4. We have held a workshop/seminar to teach members various skills, and tips for garden railroading.
5. We have held a garden railroad seminar at North Haven Gardens open to the public.
6. We have made and gained membership approval for changes to the NTGRC By-Laws and dues structure, and made appropriate changes to the membership application to include a survey which was developed to be distributed with new applications and ultimately to the full membership.
7. We have purchased a trailer to store and transport NTGRC equipment to and from train shows.

To the 2003 Board of Directors go my best wishes. With whoever gets elected from the slate of candidates plus the incumbent members, I know 2003 will be another good year for the club. Judy and I have made contact with the Phoenix garden railroad club and will become monthly members there for the next 6 months. By the way, with our \$15.00 annual membership dues, we have the biggest bargain in the country. Phoenix is \$10.00 per month or \$100/yr. Judy and I should return sometime in June ready to participate in NTGRC activities again.

Bennie Shields

(817)379-1060

[bennie.shields@charter.net](mailto:bennie.shields@charter.net)



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## *New board members elected*

New members were elected to the N.T.G.R.C. Board of Directors prior to and during the Plano Train Show. Rusty & Carolyn Wells from Cedar Hill and long time members Jim & Nancy Barrett of Arlington will fill a two year term. The Nominating committee would like to thank all the club members who ran on the ballot for their willingness to step forward to give the club a chance to participate in it's democratic process.

Outgoing board members, Bennie & Judy Shields, Rod and Teresa Kile, and Scott & Karen Whitfield are to be congratulated on their service to the club.

Scott Whitfield will continue as Acting President and schedule coordinator until the new board announces it's officers. Whitfield & Dennis Cherry will also continue to serve as your newsletter editor and webmaster respectively.

## *Club Member loses wife*

November 17, 2002, Emilio Salazar lost his wife Jean Mary. She was 78 years old. The Salazar's were married for 55 years. Emilio attended the Roerig's Christmas Display in December. We hope Emilio's interest in Garden Railroading will help him through difficult days ahead.



*Plano Train Show 2003*



*Diesels smokin' around the bend*

## *For Sale*

The following have railroad items  
Charles Alspach  
7032 Midcrest  
Dallas, TX 75240  
972-239-7991

Stumpy Thompson  
1520 Country Place Rd.  
Weatherford 76087  
817-596-8267



## The Conductor

331 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*

*February 23 2003*  
*Cook Children's Medical Center*  
*12n-5pm*

*March 16 2003*  
*Workshops & Seminars*  
*Dennis & Ann Cherry's*

*April 12*  
*Donna Orr & Roger Shank*

*May—Stanley & Rene Scherer*

*June-G Day Tours*  
*Sachse Central & Purple Mountain Railroad*

*July-Scott & Betty Muchow*