



The Conductor

December 2003



N.T.G.R.C. Display at the Plano Train Show

The N.T.G.R.C. will run a display at the Plano Train Show in Plano January 17-18, 2004. The show will be held at the Plano Centre: Volunteers are needed. Please call Ron Greene at 817-498-8411 Here is a list of assignments we need volunteers for:

Saturday January 17, 2004:

1 person, 1 hour shifts:

Dealer Set-up, 7:00, 8:00 and

9:00 am.

Ticket Sales East Door, 10:00 and 11:00am. 12n, 1:00, 2:00, and 4:00pm.

Layout Tour Support East Door, 4:00 pm

Sunday January 18, 2004:

Ticket Sales East Door, 11:00am and 12:00n. 1:00pm.

Ticket Sales West Door, 11:00am and 12n. 1:00, 2:00 and 3:00pm

Switching Contest, 11:00am.

Volunteers are also needed for: trailer pick-up, trailer return, setup, and tear down.

Rolling stock with and without magnets, steam and diesel, and buildings are also needed.

Hand-out materials are in the trailer.

Holiday Open Backyard at Cindy and Bob Roerig's



What: About 8-10 trains will be in operation all over the house - 3 or 4 in the front, and the rest in the backyard. The house is decorated with nearly 20,000 lights and

meade Parkway and Marsh Lane in Carrollton, go north one block on Marsh, turn right on Glen Morris...go four blocks to the house on the corner. Enter through the Glen Morris side at

about a dozen animation characters. There has been a new trolley line installed in the backyard this year. Where: 3710 Poplar Court, Carrollton

(from Rosemeade Parkway and Marsh Lane in Carrollton, go north one block on Marsh, turn right on Glen Morris...go four blocks to the house on the corner. Enter through the Glen Morris side at

the rear of the house.)
When: Friday, Dec 12 through Friday, Dec 26 from 7-10pm nightly (weather permitting)

If unsure of the weather or lost: Call 972-306-4444

This is the eighth year that we are opening our yard to the public. We ask that you make a donation to benefit the Metrocrest Food Bank or bring a canned item to donate. (The food bank is able to turn a dollar into 7 cans of food, so cash goes farther!) All proceeds are donated to the Metrocrest Food Bank (over 33,000 so far).



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Board of Directors

Mack Canady
(972) 288-9691
gardenrails@aol.com

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

Ron Natinsky
972-661-8549
ron@obgt.com

Paul Douglas
c_paul00@hotmail.com
817-498-0277

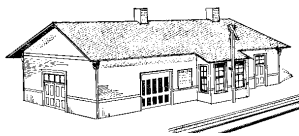
Rusty Wells
rncwells@sbcglobal.net
972- 293-2606

Change of Address

Dick Watkins
142 South Merlin Drive
Payne Springs, TX 75156

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 www.ntgrc.org to volunteer

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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BEARS and PIRATES — By Dick Watkins

On a recent business trip to London I had a free day and decided to look for bears and pirates. My quest started at Paddington station, where Paddington Bear was found (A. A. Milne's children's book) and continued on the 7:45 First Great Western train to Penzance to find the pirates (Gilbert and Sullivan's light opera *Pirates of Penzance*). The train was one of the Intercity 125, which hits 125 MPH between London and Exeter. Due to the curves west of Exeter the speed drops down to a maximum of 70 MPH. The line for the most part is double tracked and well maintained. Scenery was wonderful especially the sections where the line was along the coast. Many stone and brick viaducts were crossed where the line went over valleys. Through the Cornwall area there are numerous tin mines with their associated gob piles and mine hoists. It reminded me of the Appalachian coal-

mines where I grew up.

The interesting portion of the ride was between Plymouth, where the Pilgrims wintered before setting out for the new world and Penzance. The Pilgrims, who were known for their strict religious views, spent the winter in the Plymouth gin distillery, which still produces a wonderful product (my favorite). This section is quite a history lesson. Every town had an interlocking tower to control the turnouts and signals for the station. The interlocking towers were the mechanical lever stations, which are often referred to as Armstrong towers. Rods and cables ran along the track to the turnouts and signals. Through the windows of the tower you could see the levers. Each station had about 10-15 levers. I wanted to visit the tower, however, the one-minute train stops precluded the visit.

On the trip we passed 35 passenger

trains, but only one freight train. The solitary freight train was a tank car train delivering diesel to Penzance for the commuter trains operating out of there. This is a sad commentary on British railroads. They have numerous passenger trains, but very little freight. Just the opposite of the US. Between London and Penzance, a city of 50,000, there are approximately 30 passenger trains per day, essentially one every 45 minutes. Three companies on the same track provide Service. In England the right of way is owned and maintained by Railtrack. Operating companies have running rights over the track with more than one company providing service between two points on the same lines.

The trip took 6 hours each way with a 20-minute layover at Penzance. I would recommend this trip to anyone who has an extra day in London. No, I did not find any bears or pirates.

New Board Members take the reins

The nominees you have elected to a two year term on the board of the North Texas Garden Railway Consortium are Rusty Wells, Ron Natinsky and Paul Douglas. Thus, the new NTGRC Board of Directors for 2004 will be Jim Barrett, Mack Canady, Paul Douglas, Ron Natinsky and Rusty Wells. They are listed on page two of the Conductor. A meeting was held December 8, 2003 and the plans for next year are well in hand. Thanks to all the outgoing board members for their service to the club. Your club could not function without these individuals putting in extra time to make everything happen throughout the year. Thanks to our board for all it's hard work, and best of luck to our new board members.



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Dear Friends:

This message is being sent to the presidents of the four large scale model railroad clubs in Texas as a request, or invitation, for all of these clubs to join forces to organize, appear at, and participate in a large scale model railroad fair to be conducted in 2004 somewhere in our state. The goal would be a two or three-day fair at which all of the participating members of all of the clubs would assemble and run scenicked, detailed, and operational large scale model railroad layouts for public display. Hopefully, we could also attract a large number of vendors selling products in our scale(s) and knowledgeable persons to present technical clinics and, perhaps, clinics on Texas-related historical topics such as the histories of the Texas & Pacific Railroad and of the Houston & Texas Central Railroad.

It is even conceivable that the announcement of such a large scale Texas rail fair could inspire some individual members of the participating clubs to join together and organize a Texas modular railroad group, similar to the California modular club, which could also participate in the 2004 rail fair. The creation of such a modular club would give its members the potential to have fun in the months and years beyond the dates of any 2004 large scale rail fair by giving those folks the chance to participate in future model railroad shows across Texas as an independent modular club.

As you probably know, the hosting of a big, regional large scale model train show is not a new idea. The Queen Mary show is conducted in Long Beach, Cal. every June. The Connecticut G-Gauge Club hosts the East Coast Train Show every April. The San Juan Valley Large Scale Club has hosted an annual "Hobo Covention" for many years in Durango, Colo. And the list goes on.

I am the founder of the Heart-of-Texas G Gaugers Club in Austin and am currently serving on our club's executive committee. I have discussed the proposal outlined here with our club president, David C. Ranney, and several of our members. Based on the reactions I have received, I believe that our club members would be willing to participate in any such endeavor in 2004.

I would respectfully request that each of you consult your respective clubs' membership about this request/invitation and that you then respond to this message, sharing your response with everyone else to whom this note is being sent, and share with all of us your club's membership's general reaction. If there is sufficient response to this proposal to go forward, I would suggest that we proceed with discussions as follows: (a) each club could designate one (or more) persons to represent his/her club in an initial telephone conference call to discuss preliminary planning details and plan future, face-to-face meetings for further planning or (b) each club could send one or more meetings to attend a live planning meeting, which we could plan by way of e-mail, and bypass the telephone conference. I would also ask that Richard Matzler kindly forward this e-mail to one of his club members, Marvin Brown, who is a former member of the HOTGG and is a friend of mine (I have lost Marvin's e-mail address), because I know that Marvin would be particularly interested in this proposal. Also, I would further ask Mark Burns to forward this e-mail to Froelin Marek (sp?), who is an acquaintance of mine and who is also, I believe, a member or at least a former member of the San Antonio club inasmuch as I believe that Froelin, like Marvin, will be very interested in this proposal. I'm afraid that I do not have Froelin's e-mail address, either. If we proceed to a real meeting, either by conference call or in person, I would respectfully suggest that we come prepared to discuss (1) when we should attempt to conduct such a rail fair and (b) where we should conduct it.

Although my home is located in Austin and I am sending this message from home on Sunday, 11/0/03, I work in Dallas Monday through Friday, where I can be reached via e-mail at jrboggess@dkapl.com at my office or at 817/924-2381 at my temporary residence. My Austin residence e-mail address is jrboggess@ev1.net, and my Austin residence phone number is 512/342-7971. I will be back in Austin on the weekend of 11/14 - 11/16/03 and will respond to any e-mails sent to my Austin residence at that time.

...Continued on page 5...



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From your outgoing President

We did have good support for the Fort Worth Train Show. I want to thank all that helped to make it a SUCCESS: For Set-up we had Mack Canady, Pete Dahlberg, Paul Douglas, Ron Greene, Richard and Kaye Matsler; For Work Assignments we had Jim Barrett, Mack Canady, Gary Coombs, Pete Dahlberg, Charles Difiglia, John Echam, Ron Greene, Roy Hill, Scott Muchow and Ron Natinsky; For Tear Down we had Mack Canady, Pete Dahlberg, Ron Greene, Scott Muchow, Michael Pritchett and Rusty Wells.

For Trains and buildings we had Gary Coombs, Pete Dahlberg, Ron Greene, Scott Muchow and Michael Pritchett. A special thank you to Mack Canady for Trailer Support, without which, nothing would have been possible. We also had good support from the membership during the show.

We have had a lot of activity this year with shows: Plano, G-Day, BNSF, Lockheed, Ft Worth and two at Cook Children's Medical Center. Next year it starts with Plano and Cook Children's Medical Center. Hopefully, the membership will volunteer to open their layouts for monthly meetings in addition to the shows by contacting any of the new or previous Board members. Stanley Schere would like to hear from everyone that has any thoughts and support for hosting a National Convention by contacting him at stanleyschere@hotmail.com. There are a lot of opportunities, please help the NTGRC Board with your suggestions and availability of your support.

Thank you,
Ron Greene

Texas Railfest cont. from p. 4.

I have sent this message to David Ranney (HOTGG), Chuck Blumentritt (Houston Area G Gaugers), Richard Matsler (North Texas Garden Railway Consortium), and Mark Burns (San Antonio Garden Railway Society). Earlier this year, I noted in *Garden Railways* magazine that a new large scale club had been formed in the Midland-Odessa area; however, when I checked the December issue of GR, the Midland-Odessa club was not listed in the magazine's national club directory. I am unable to find my issues of GR in which this club was listed; thus I am unable to send this message to anyone who belonged to the M-O club. However, if any of you four club presidents can locate any 2003 issue of GR in which the Midland-Odessa club is listed, I would appreciate it very much if you would forward this e-mail on to the contact person listed in the GR directory for the Midland-Odessa club.

Thank you for reviewing this proposal. I hope that we can put together an exciting train fair in 2004 for our members and ourselves.

Jeff R. Boggess
Heart-of-Texas G Gaugers
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Austin, Texas 78759
512/342-7971



The Conductor

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

Calendar of Events

December 12-26
Roherig's Christmas Train Display

January 3-4
Great American Train Show
Arlington Convention Center

January 17 & 18—Plano Train Show
Plano Centre

February — Cook Children's Medical Center
Ft. Worth

March — open

April — Paul Douglass
Meeting and Clinics