



The Conductor

July 2004



N.T.G.R.C. Meeting July 18th at the Green Stone Gulch Railroad

Welcome to Green Stone Gulch. Donna Orr and Roger Shank will host the July club meeting on July 18th from 3 to 6 PM. Green Stone Gulch is still in development stages. Currently the area is 21 feet by 10 feet and will eventually be expanded. The interesting point of the display is that several of the building displays are toys from the 1950's. Structures on the railroad include old ranch houses, wild animals and figures, Fort Apache with original cowboys and Indians, a circus with the original figures and even a 1940's ranch house and barn. These "toys" were the basis for the train layout. There have been additional newer buildings added to the layout.

This will be a design session, so bring your pencils, experience,

and know how, so we can transform the current display.

Directions to Green Stone Gulch in Rockwall, Texas. 2625 Rolling Meadows Drive. Go east on 190 (George Bush Turnpike) until you get to 66. Turn left on 66

(also east) and go through old downtown Rockwall (zig zagging all the way) until you come to 549. Turn right on 549, go 1/2 mile and turn right into Rolling Meadows Estates. The second house on the left, which is green with palm trees, is 2625 Rolling Meadows Drive.

Or you can come 635 east, over Lake Ray Hubbard, to exit 549.

Go north on 549, 1/2 mile to Rolling Meadows Estates, turn



left into the addition and go to the green house on the left. Any assistance or questions - 972-771-9150.

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

N.T.G.R.C. Board Meetings are open to you

The club's board meetings will be held on the second Monday of each month at 7:00pm at the Spring Creek Barbecue in Irving, Tx. Near the intersection of Airport Freeway S.H. 183 and Belt-

line Road.

The purpose is to allow any members that wish to attend and to provide information on the club's activities to the newsletter editor in a timely manner.



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Board of Directors

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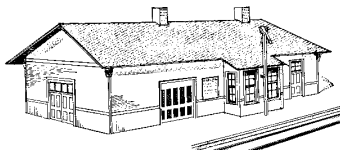
New Member

Bob Friesenhan
3216 Lynbrook Dr.
Plano, TX 75075
972-596-5370
b.frz@verizon.net

Name Badges

Our club's badge is available from Office Depot stores for around. The color is pine green. 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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Reports from G Day Weekend 2004

Alan Gartner and Pam Ragon's Finchfield & Wrensylvania Railroad

We had the smoothest running open house yet. Things ran so well that we were running five trains simultaneously. We also ran the live steam Shay twice. This year we had a contingency plan for the heat that usually afflicts the electronics in our locomotives. Fortunately, it was just cool enough that we didn't have any overheating problems. The heavy rain Saturday made a mess, but we able to get everything cleaned up in time for the show.

One train that didn't run was Bennie Shields' Bachmann Big Hauler. Everybody that has a creek, needs one of these. This one locomotive, turned over in the creek, drew a lot of concern from our guests! We had 256 guests. This was our second largest turnout. 42% showed up because of the television broadcast. I guess it was worth getting up at 4:30am! Our next biggest percentage came from being in the paper at 24%.

Only 3% of the people put down that they came because of the flyers. I find this hard to believe. I can only hope the people who didn't put down how they heard about our layout came because of flyers. 1% of the people came because of Railspot. Railspot is an Internet railroading chat group that covers Texas. See everyone on the tour next year!
Allan Gartner & Pam Ragon



Rusty & Carolyn Wells' Cedar Hill & Overton Outdoor Railroad

As part of the layout tour this past weekend, the railroad of Rusty and Carolyn Wells in Cedar Hill was a big hit. We got a lot of traffic from the Why Guy piece on Chan-

nel 8 and several folks who came by remembered when we were on the tour before. There were roughly 40 - 50 visitors during our Sunday afternoon shift and

most were new to the hobby. Almost all we talked to had been to our web site and checked it on a regular basis. Our day was very much a success. rw & cw



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Reports from G Day Weekend 2004

Scott & Karen Whitfield's Sachse Central & Purple Mountain Railroad

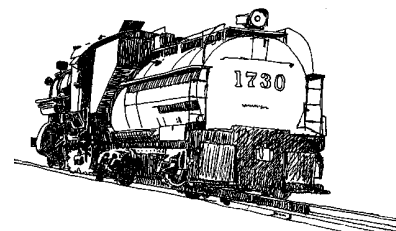


The Burlington GP-7 rounding Deadman's Curve on the Sachse Central & Purple Mountain Railroad

This year was quite a struggle for all of us due to the rain. I know many layouts on the Saturday tour had some rough weather. My work schedule picked up substantially this spring and my storm chasing was also very active. Nonetheless the SC&PMRR was open for business at 1:00pm on G

Day as it has been for the last five years. Karen had purchased a tent for shade and all went fairly well. We had about 150 visitors. That is second only to 2002 G Day. Half of our visitors were touring all the layouts. The other half were people that come every year just for our events. It

was hot as it should be in June and everyone had a great time. Due to weather and time constraints, I wasn't able to do as much roadbed work, so I had a couple of trains sitting idle. The Burlington Geep pulling a mixed freight, the Amtrack Acela, and the Bachmann Ten Wheeler pulling a passenger train were the features. The "Sachse Shines" caboose, a gift from Stanley Scherer, is always a hit with the locals. Thanks to Karen for the tent. I hope to have the mountain ready for the next SC&PMRR celebration. That will be the Polar Express Celebration 2005. Yes, we are taking this fall and next summer off as I will be in charge of entertainment at the 2005 HamCom Convention.





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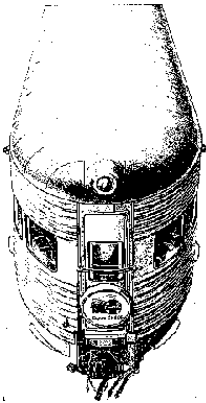
On Track...Rusty Wells

The NTGRC board met Monday, June 14 at Spring Creek Bar B Q in Irving. There are several issues ongoing and very important to us as a club. The most important of which involves our participation at the upcoming State Fair of Texas. Ron Natinsky and Stanley Schere are meeting on a regular basis with the representatives of the Fair and will have details for the

board at our next meeting. We will need lots of volunteers during the State Fair so please plan on being an active participant. It is important that we take advantage of the State Fair to grow our club membership. Remember..... starting in September, we will be sending the Conductor out electronically. If you need a mailed copy, please let

Scott know as soon as possible so he can plan accordingly. The next board meeting will be Monday, July 12 at 7pm. (same place as above) If you have any issues you feel are important to the NTGRC, please join us. Your views are very important to us. I look forward to seeing everyone at the July meeting....

From the observation car —



The club has traditionally provided a display for The Cook Children's Hospital in Ft. Worth in February and August each year. This gives the club an indoor activity in the coldest and hottest months of the year. Last February the hospital was not able to accommodate the club. As August is upon us, it is not clear whether we will have an event at the hospital next month.

The board may be considering having an August meeting in Mineral Wells at the Clark Gardens, a 4,600 sq. ft. tented facility that has assisted ventilation. Paul Busse has or is going to build a display for them. There is a possibility of the club setting up a display at this event. I have no more information than this at the time of publication. If you are interested in helping the board come to a swift decision, it would be a good idea to attend the board meeting mentioned in Rusty's column and listed on the front page. I am hoping that this will serve as a "heads up" for club members

www.ntgrc.org

Visit the club's website for updated information on train shows, club meetings, members' railroads, and other items of interest. Contact Dennis Cherry at dbcherry@swbell.net to include your information on the website.

that in order to be abreast of quickly changing events and be included in any August activities you should check the website for any postings regarding the August meeting. It is likely that the August issue of the Conductor will be sent to you very close to or immediately following this event, if it happens.

___ the banjo player



The Conductor

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

Calendar of Events

*July 18 — Roger Shank & Donna Orr
3-6pm*

*August — Cook Children's Medical Center — Tentative
Ft. Worth, TX*

or

*Clark Gardens — Tentative
Mineral Wells, TX*

September— open

*October — State Fair of Texas Garden Railroad Display
Fair Park—Dallas, TX*

*November — 13 & 14 North Texas Council of Railroad Clubs
Holiday Train Show
Will Rogers Auditorium*