



The Conductor

January 2005



Plano Train Show

January 15-16, 2005

Your Help is needed:

The Plano Train Show is fast coming up in January. The board decided to make Saturday morning 7:00 am the setup time. Mack Canady will have the trailer there at that time. We need your help to unload the trailer, setup the track and display, help with crowd control and running trains.



Bring all Engines, cars, buildings, bridges, etc. to help make this an interesting display.

Volunteers Needed:

Every year the Council puts on two train edshows. NTGRC gets a portion of the profits from the show back every year. One of the requirements is help with the manpower needed to run the show. In this newsletter issue you will find our schedule of times and duties.

Please email me your chose of times and

job. I will add you to the schedule list. Email me at (ntgrcnewsletter@swbell.net)

If you want to see the most current schedule or want to see which positions and times are taken or still available you can visit the club website: http://www.ntgrc.org/dats_schedule.htm

Dallas Area Train Show Schedule

Saturday (12 hours), Sunday (7 hours) Total hours: 19

Saturday January 15th, 2005

7-8 Dealer Set up,
 8-9 Dealer Set up,
 9-10 Dealer Set up,
 10-11 Ticket Sales East Door
 10-11 Ticket Sales West Door
 11-12 Ticket Sales East Door
 11-12 Ticket Sales West Door
 12-1 Ticket Sales East Door
 12-1 Ticket Sales West Door,
 1-2 Ticket Sales East Door,
 2-3 Ticket Sales East Door,
 3-4 Ticket Sales East Door,

Sunday January 16th, 2005

11-12 Ticket Sales West Door
 11-12 Switching Contest,
 12-1 Ticket Sales West Door,
 1-2 Ticket Sales West Door,
 2-3 Ticket Sales East Door,
 2-3 Ticket Sales West Door,
 3-4 Ticket Sales West Door,

To add your name to this schedule please email me at ntgrcnewsletter@swbell.net

Suggestions from Bennie Shields

At the December meeting, It was suggested that NTGRC build a club railroad.

It was suggested that the Texas A&M garden in north Dallas might provide space. I believe Stan Schere said he had a source for track, etc.

Unfortunately, I've been out of town since the meeting.

After spending 9+ months as a member of AMRS in Phoenix, I've had some experience building a club layout. Every Saturday morning we had a work day. Members came and went and worked as they had time. Check out the AMRS website (www.azmodelrr.com) for pictures and plans of the club railroad.

It's amazing the talent various people have and can transfer to others by building a club layout. There are only about 25 G-Scale members in the Phoenix club. Look at the pictures. Usually there were only 5 - 8 people at a time doing the work. Imagine what we could build if we could get 20% of our membership or more working on Saturday mornings.

Things we need to build a club RR:

1. A secure location at a low or zero cost.
2. A good, build-able plan.
3. Materials: track, turnouts, power sources, bridges, buildings, trestles, rock, dirt at low or zero cost. We had a lot of donated track and bridges in Phoenix. We had buildings made from concrete blocks (cheap, weatherproof, and windproof. I'm going to make some this coming year)
4. Members who have built a layout willing to work and teach others.
5. Members who have not built a layout willing to work and learn.
6. PATIENCE - It won't get built in a day or a month. But there will be progress every time you visit it. For months, I brought a battery powered train to run on the partially completed Phoenix layout. Most of the time I could only run a few yards as we built the roadbed, but it helped all of us keep moving toward the goal.

I think a club layout project has potential to build enthusiasm in a club that is suffering from lack of member participation. It would provide a railroad for all

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members to run their trains whether or not they have a layout at home. It would give all of us a way to share our skills and learn new skills.

What do you guys think?
Do you think there is a "will or a way"?

Bennie Shields
817-379-1060 (H)
817-688-9953 (C)

Name Badge

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 host a good feeling to know there are no strangers in their house.

NORTH TEXAS GARDEN
RAILWAY CONSORTIUM
YOUR NAME HERE

Board of Directors

Mack Canady (2004)
(972) 288-9691
Gardenrails@aol.com

Jim Barrett (2004)
(817) 274-8875
Nandjarr@hotmail.com

Ron Natinsky (2005)
(972) 732-4000
Ron@obgt.com

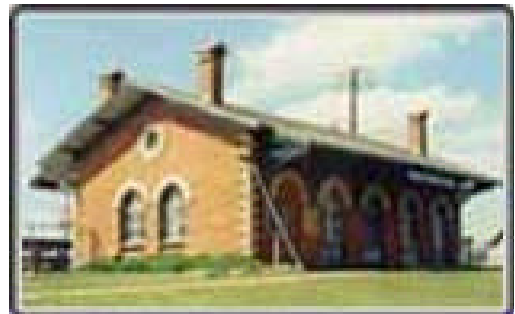
Paul Douglas (2005)
(817) 2818515
C_paul00@hotmail.com

Rusty Wells (2005)
(972) 293-2606
Rncwells@sbcglobal.net

NTGRC Shirts

NTGRC has arranged for PANDA Embroidery located in Grapevine, Texas to provide members with NTGRC logo and 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 Railroad Station and choose the style, color, price range etc. They will embroider the NTGRC logo for you.

Panda Embroidery
351 E. Hudgins Street
Grapevine, Texas 76051
(817) 488-4151



Be a Host

Contact a Board Member:

NTGRC contributes \$25.00 to the person or family hosting the 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, just check the calendar on the club website for an open date, then email or call one of the board members. New members as well as old members are encouraged to volunteer, you pick the date and time for the meeting. We enjoy giving and getting ideas from each other.

Election Time

It is time to elect two new Board Members, Mack Canady and Jim Barrett are the two out-going Board Members.

Our Bylaws are setup for Board Members to be elected for a two year term and that we alternate with a 2/3 split so we always have continuity in the on-going ideas of the Board and Club.

We need two or more volunteers for the class of 2006. You are being elected to the board. The board at their first meeting, decides which position they will hold for the following year. Don't be shy, it is not hard work or rocket science.

On Track by Rusty Wells

"Tis the Season"... I have been humming that carol since our board meeting last Thursday night at the Gaylord Texan resort. It is great to see all of those trains running and enjoyed by so many

kids and adults. Thank You to all of those who worked on and built the layout. It is amazing. Please thank Dennis, George, and Pete when you see them in Plano. Making that layout work was quite a challenge considering it was transplanted from the State Fair. The hotel people have been overwhelmed with the response from the public regarding the trains. We will continue to build our relationship with Gaylord management and do some great things for the N.T.G.R.C. in the future. **"to be jolly..."** I am taking my family to see the display during the holidays and we also plan to visit the Bluebonnet & Keystone in Carrollton. It gets better every year.

A big **THANK YOU** to Scott Whitfield for being the publisher of the Conductor for the past 5 years. Scott dedicated zillions of hours doing this on behalf of our club and deserves a great deal of credit. **Banjo player..... you da man !!** I would also like to thank Mack Canady and Jim Barrett for all of their dedication in serving on the N.T.G.R.C. board these past years. Your advise, council, friendship, and help will be missed by all. Thank You for your service.

I will see everyone in Plano at the train show. Bring your trains and run 'em. That's the fun part !!

" fa la la laaaaaaaaaaaaaa, la la la la". rw

Presidents Letter

Board Notes from Thursday, December 16, 2004

Meeting was held at the Gaylord Texan Resort Hotel

1. Board elections - the board terms of Mack Canady and Jim Barrett are up at the end of 2004. A list of names and a ballot will be submitted to the general membership at the Plano Train Show. The membership will be able to vote at the show and for those not attending, they will be able to vote by email or regular mail in January. The new board members will start serving their terms in February 2005. The N.T.G.R.C. is also in need of someone to be our Historian. Those duties include taking pictures at our events and meetings and updating the club scrapbooks.

2. Conductor editor/publisher - Dennis Cherry has agreed to help us out and publish the Conductor for us on a short term basis. We need to find someone who is interested in doing this for the club for a longer time period. Dennis has published this before and will really help us for the time being. If anyone has an interest, contact Dennis for details.

3. Council representative and board updates - The North Texas Council of Railroad Clubs meets on the second Tuesday every month. The N.T.C.R.G. board decided to move its meeting to the **third Monday every month** so

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that we can get an update from our representative on the North Texas council. We will be including that info and NTGRC board info in future issues of the Conductor. Our current council representative is Mark Sligar.

4. Plano Train Show - January 15 and 16 at the Plano Convention Center on Spring Creek Parkway. We will be setting up for the show on Saturday morning at **7 am**. You can sign up for work duty on the web site. We need lots of volunteer help for this event because it is the largest train show of the year.

5. Local upcoming events - January is the Plano Train Show. February is normally our time to run trains for the kids at Cooks Children's Hospital in Ft. Worth. Date is TBA so watch for that in the Conductor. In March we will be running trains for the Train Festival at Clark Gardens in Mineral Wells (northwest of Ft. Worth) It will be well advertised and should have a large turnout. Check the Conductor for coming events after March.

6. State Fair box cars - if you purchased one of these at the State Fair or on line, the process is in the procurement stage. We will be getting USA boxcars soon and Stanley Schere will do the decal work to complete the cars. He and Ron Natinsky have done a great job with this project and those who bought a car will be elated with the results of their efforts.

7. Membership - renew your annual dues at the Plano Train Show or by mail to Ron Natinsky. This year at the show, we will be giving you a receipt if you pay in cash. If you pay by check, your cancelled check is your receipt. **Please DO NOT** give money to someone at the show and hope for the best. We do not want any payments to "fall through the cracks". There will be a box or can to put checks/cash in.
Remember...if you pay in cash, get a receipt.

How I got Started by Bob Friesenhahn

It started back in the summer of 1987, I was thinking of what to get for my son's 4th birthday coming up in September. I thought of an electric train like I had when I was a kid many years ago. It was a Lionel, a 027 gauge with 4 cars. My dad and I mounted it on 4x8 sheet of plywood so I didn't need to put it together or take it apart every time I wanted to play with the train, but we had to keep it in the shed next to the garage. It got pretty cold out there in the winter months, so running time was kind of short. That is a brief story on some old history, anyhow there was a train store in a retail strip mall close to my house, so I went to check out the different model trains. I was talking to the owner about a model train set I wanted to get for my son's birthday, maybe a HO scale, it seemed to be a very popular scale with lots of different types of cars and engines.

He shows me some, but he also told me about a large scale model he had in the store. He said it can be set up inside or outside. I said, "Wow". It was Playmobil and an LGB model running on a display. He said you can start with a small set, keep adding to it and then if it gets too big, then move it to the back yard. So I purchased a Playmobil Western Train set with 20 feet of track and a transformer.

On his birthday, we set it up under the pool table in the game room. The following year, added more tracks, two switches and a LGB Circus train set for Christmas. The spring of '89 is when I started planning to move the set to the back yard as we couldn't play pool due to all the track and trains running on the floor around the table. So I started, one great big loop around the back yard, had to keep the center of the yard open for the kids to play and of course we had a swing set we didn't want to move. If I needed a bridge, I used a 2x6 board set on bricks, then later replaced the 2x6 with trestles made from 1x4 cedar boards cut to 1/2 inch strips. I had seen some model trestles in the Garden Railways magazine and used a combination of two to come up with my own design and started cutting, nailing and gluing. It took almost a year to replace the 2x6 with the trestle. In the following years, I kept adding more track, trains and changing the layout. Last year was a big change, found out that we needed some foundation work on the house and I had to move most of the track and gravel from around the house. During the big construction move, I noticed that some of my trestles were showing some signs of deterioration, so I decided to pull all the trestles out and about 95 percent of the tracks. I have redesigned and am in the process of rebuilding the layout, should be mostly complete by the May 1st club meeting. The one thing about this layout, it is never complete. I keep adding or changing and that is the most fun in garden railroading.

Hope to see more stories on how we got started in this hobby.
Bob Friesenhahn

The Conductor

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Dallas, TX 75229

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Email: ntgrcnewsletter@swbell.net



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

Calendar of Events

January 15-16, 2005
Dallas Area Train Show
Plano Convention Center

January 17, 2005
NTGRC Board Meeting
Springcreek BBQ
Irving, Texas

February, 2005
Cooks Children's Hospital
Fort Worth, Texas

March 13, 2005
Clark Garden Botanical Park
Mineral Wells, Texas

April, 2005
Larry Pollis
Plano, Texas

April 1-3, 2005
Day out with Thomas
Grapevine, Texas

May 1, 2005
Bob & Joan Friesenhahn
Red Oak Railroad
Plano, Texas

Remember:
Check the club website "Local Events"
calendar for any changes, corrections
or additions. Go to <http://www.ntgrc.org>