



January 2025

# The Busted Steampipe

Official Newsletter of the New Braunfels Historical Railroad and Modeling Society

## Letter from the President

NBHRMS Members,

I am honored and humbled to serve you and the NB Railroad Museum as the President for 2025. We truly have a busy, fun year ahead! This being January, I'd like to take a moment to look back on the previous year and to take stock of our achievements.

In 2024, NBHRMS members once again hosted two successful Jamboree Train Shows in October and April, and traveled to the New Braunfels Library, the Mamman Family Public Library in Bulverde, and Hobby Lobby in San Antonio for T-Trak model shows. Members brought their most prized railroad or model railroad items to a Show and Tell in July. We also hosted open houses for the New Braunfels Spooktacular and Wassailfest events, partnered with the Brauntex for pictures with Santa in front of Lucky #7 before their showing of the Polar Express, and hosted a reception in April for the dedication of the Historic Outdoor Art Museum (HOAM) railroad-themed mural across the street from the Museum.

Our major facility project for 2024 was the renovation of the artifact storage room to add insulation and climate control and double the shelving. This space allows us to consolidate, preserve and protect all our artifacts and archival documents in one location.

We also welcomed new Station Agents and welcomed back Susan Riordan after an extended absence. Susan is our new Station Manager and will be helping the Board of Directors implement new business practices in the next year. For

example, we instituted electronic scheduling and time-clocking for employees and documented employee policies at the end of the year.

Beginning in January 2024, the Museum started taking credit and debit cards for gift shop sales and in-person monetary donations. This was a big step for the Museum, and it has, literally, paid off! Compared to 2023, gift shop sales doubled this year and donations rose by over 70%. Dining

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### Our Mission

The mission of the New Braunfels Railroad Museum is to preserve railroad memorabilia and artifacts in a historical railroad depot to educate on the contributions of the railroads and promote interest in model railroading for local and visiting families and rail fans.

### Our Vision

Our vision is to preserve railroad history and inspire current and future rail fans and model railroaders.

### Our Values

We respect our mission of preserving the history of the railroads in Texas and the artifacts in our care.

We aim for a welcoming, interactive and educational experience for families and rail fans.

We strive to be active and positive representatives of railroad history within the New Braunfels community.

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car rentals also increased last year despite some operational challenges and will improve as those challenges are overcome.

Finally, in 2024, we recognized two of our members with the Golden Spike Award for their outstanding contributions. We are looking to add additional recognition programs this year. The many events throughout the year, in addition to Kids Fun Days and regular Museum operating hours, could not be a success without the volunteer efforts of our members. Thank you!

Looking forward, your Board of Directors have many projects and activities planned. We'll be redoing the floor and doing some facility "hardening" in the freight building which houses the Joske's layout. Also, the N Scale Layout in the Boxcar will be getting a long overdue upgrade to make it more user friendly, operationally sound, and more accessible to our visitors. Additionally, we've secured grant money for professional signage and interactive displays, as well as much-needed IT upgrades. We're also working to offer modeling clinics and social events throughout the year for organization members. Be on the lookout for new NB Railroad Museum brand merchandise in the gift shop. We'll also celebrate the 40th anniversary of the NBHRMS charter in June.

I look forward to a year full of railroad fun with you all over the next year.

Justin Hodge  
President, Board of Directors  
New Braunfels Historic Railroad and Modelers Society



**Volunteers Needed**  
***Docents are needed to run model layouts during Museum hours. Come share your enthusiasm!***

## 2025 Board of Directors

In November, NBHRMS members voted on the Board of Directors for the 2025 calendar year.

President	Justin Hodge
Vice President, History	Allen Faust
Vice President, Modeling	Nick Morgenroth
Vice President, Buildings & Grounds	Mike Finn
Vice President, Jamboree	Mary Ann Labowski
Vice President, Education	Lori Hodge
Secretary	Bryan Birdsong
Treasurer	JoAnn West
Comptroller	Joe Hartigan

## Upcoming Events

<b>1 Feb:</b>	Kids Fun Day 10am-2pm <i>* Docents needed</i>
<b>11 Feb:</b>	NBHRMS Meeting 6:30 pm Doyle P. Bond Dining Car
<b>15 Feb:</b>	Kids Fun Day 10am-2pm <i>* Docents needed</i>
<b>1 Mar</b>	Kids Fun Day 10am-2pm <i>* Docents needed</i>
<b>11 Mar:</b>	NBHRMS Meeting 6:30 pm Doyle P. Bond Dining Car
<b>15 Mar:</b>	Kids Fun Day 10am-2pm <i>* Docents needed</i>
<b><u>Plan Ahead:</u></b>	
<b>Apr 12-13:</b>	Spring Jamboree Train Show New Braunfels Convention Center

## NBHRMS Holiday Party

The NBHRMS annual holiday party was held on December 10th at Vicky's Hinterhof. As always, it was a fun night with delicious food, an entertaining gift swap, and, of course, great company.



## Social Media



Follow us on the socials! The NB Railroad Museum is now on both Facebook and Instagram. Also, we've created a private group on Facebook for NBHRMS members only. You can request to be a member of the Facebook group through the New Braunfels Railroad Museum page by clicking on the "More" tab and "Groups."



## What Is That Thing?

**Answer:** Caboose Marker Lights indicated the end of the train at night to protect the train from being rear-ended. The lamps would normally show the red facing to the rear when the caboose was on a main line. Green would be shown to the side and front, although the Santa Fe and some other railroads called for yellow to the side and front. Green faced the rear when the caboose was on a passing siding clear of the main line. When stopped on a double track or running the against the current of traffic on a double track, the inside rear marker would be green, while the outside would be red.

## In the News

Several of our long-standing NBHRMS members were featured in the January 2025 issue of the New Braunfels Monthly Magazine. Pictured are Allen Faust, Marilyn Brister, Jerry Garteiser, Bryan Birdsong, and Joe Hartigan.



## NBHRMS Dues Renewals

Notices for 2025 dues went out in early December. If you have not yet paid, please see JoAnn West or a Station Agent. Also, we are asking members to fill out an application form so we can update our contact information. Get ready for another great year!

## Book the Dining Car for your next event



**Available for birthday parties, meetings, or any special occasion**

## Winter Museum Hours

Mon, Thurs, & Fri	12-4 pm
Sat	10 am-4 pm
Sun	12-4 pm