

PENNYRAIL

June 2008

VOLUME 12 NUMBER 6



Chapter Chatter

Next Meeting
Monday, June 23
7:00 pm

The Center
(Former L&N Depot)
Madisonville, KY

Program by Ricky Bivins
Refreshments by Bill and Liam Thomas

Crofton Picnic!

Saturday,
October 4, 2008



From President Rich Hane

Those of you who came to the annual May meeting in Hopkinsville were treated to an excellent time by the local members. Besides the train movie we saw some great old fire trucks.

A railroad located in the Heartland of the USA is not an obvious player for international trade such as BNSF or UP, but a recent article in USA Today describes the Kansas City Southern as becoming a major carrier in this trade. During the 1990's they started buying a Mexican railroad and a 50% interest in a rail line adjacent to the Panama Canal. So, technically, they are a transcontinental railroad, also. Some shippers have found it to be faster to offload containers onto the train and then reload rather than waiting for the canal passage. They are the seventh largest American railroad at 5850 miles of mainland track that spans 10 states going from St. Paul and Chicago to Mexico City and the Pacific Ocean and connects with Kansas City, St. Louis, and Mobile.

About a half of their revenue comes from south of Texas and this trade will be increasing

(Continued on page 2)

Western Kentucky
Chapter, NRHS, Inc.

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as the production for Detroit's Big Three automakers increases and a major Chinese automaker has located on the mainline. Soybeans, grain, and auto parts move south while completed vehicles and shipping containers move north. And it's port on the Pacific Ocean is 400 rail miles closer to Houston than Los Angeles which means a great deal of Asian trade can go to the southern US. It seems that this railroad has found a new way of getting a share of international trade.

I hope to see all of your smiling faces at our next meeting in Madisonville on June 23d at 7pm.

Tennessee Central Excursion

This is a rare-mileage diesel excursion on the Nashville & Eastern (former Tennessee Central) from Nashville, TN, to Monterey, TN. Saturday, October 11, 2008. Train leaves promptly at 8:00 AM. This is a 216 mile round trip excursion and will arrive back in Nashville at 8:00 PM.

The trip is sponsored by the Tennessee Central Railway Museum. Ticket prices are: Regular seats (Dining car tables) \$60; First Class (Streamlined chair cars with reclining seats) \$80; Dome Seats (Only 20 seats available) \$150. Don Clayton has agreed to order tickets for our chapter as a group. Cars and seats are assigned.

You can contact Don for information on remaining seats. See him if you want a trip brochure or any other information. donald.clayton@kctcs.edu, 821-0731.

Don will receive tickets by mail about one month prior to the trip at which point personal checks will be cashed. Those who paid the original cost of \$80 will be reimbursed \$20 reflecting the group discount. Further information can be obtained on the TCRM website:

<http://www.tcry.org>

Rail Grinder Visits the Henderson Sub



A Pandrol Jackson Railgrinder RMS-5 works its way south through the curve approaching the haul road outside of Earlington Wednesday morning May 28, 2008 on CSX's Henderson Subdivision as it works between Madisonville's Trident and Mortons Junction. According the crew CSX tries to resurface the rails twice a year to improve performance and life of the rail. (Photo by Jim Pearson)



The crew is ready to tie for the night on the house track in Earlington, just a few miles south of Madisonville. -Photo by Jim Pearson



The grinder is passing over W Broadway, Madisonville, where new gates and bell have just been installed. -Photo by Jim Pearson

Amtrak News and Editor's Ashpit



As I sit here on June 14, 2008, putting the finishing touches on the newsletter, I am also preparing to drive to Carbondale, IL, with my wife Angela, to catch *The City of New Orleans* tonight

at 1:26 a.m. I guess "tomorrow" would be more accurate. This year's Baptist Church Music Conference is in New Orleans so it was a great opportunity to make the trip by rail. By time I figured in travel expenses and meals, it was not much more to take the train, plus I can relax in the comfort of our private room, while the miles click by instead of wrestling with my sciatic nerve while driving.

Believe it or not, this will be my first "real" passenger train experience where the intent is to get me from one location to another. I have a few jitters about what to do once on the train like tipping, etiquette, falling out of the window, etc. I'm sure my wife will keep me in check.

I look forward to sharing my experience with you next month and will hopefully have some pictures as well. I understand from Don Clayton that we will gather some rare miles around Memphis due to the sink hole near the station. I hope to see you all at the meeting next Monday!

Bill Thomas, Editor.



Nothing says "Merger or Buy-out" like a mixed consist. Bill Heaton shot this pair near Paducah, KY.

Material Needed

If you have pictures, stories, announcements, etc, for the Pennyrail, please get them to me by Friday, July 11.

Memorial

NRHS members and fellow railfans...

Don Clayton, Wallace Henderson, and I (Chris Dees) had the distinct pleasure of spending an afternoon and evening with Stanley (Barriger) aboard Amtrak's KC Mule back in 2001 as the four of us traveled to Kansas City to ride the deadhead move of MILW 261 back to Minneapolis-St Paul on I&M Rail Link.

I rank the opportunity among other important people I've met: Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels, rock guitarist Joe Walsh (a fellow ham radio operator), and others. Stanley was definitely a chip off his father's block - a true Monon man and a lover of mileage collecting. I believe his overall total was just shy of 400,000 miles ridden. His love of rail travel was a passion, not just a passing hobby.

My fondest story that Stanley related during our visit wasn't about extravagant steam in the Orient, or riding the real Santa Fe Southwest Chief, but of one of his rarest mileage excursions - a two day RDC jaunt on the old B&O branch line around Shawneetown, Illinois in the late 1950s. His recommendation for a "young railfan like yourself" - ride when you can, ride always, and ride it now. How true those last words have become in the age of abandonments and spinoffs.

RIP - Stanley - you'll definitely be missed... I can only aspire to reach 400,000 miles - I've only got 375,000 to go...

Chris Dees



Rail fans! Don't forget to watch for trouble on passing trains! Emergency numbers on page 4.

NRHS

National Railway Historical Society, Inc.
Mission Statement - The National Railway Historical Society promotes railway heritage preservation and educates its members and the public about rail transportation, its history and impact, with a focus on North America.

Objectives

1. To foster the experience of rail transportation
2. To develop and expand educational services and programs
3. To build and maintain archives, to encourage and to support archival activities, and to disseminate information in archives
 - A. To increase collaboration between existing archives
 - B. To develop listing of National and Chapter archives
4. To support preservation of memorabilia and artifacts
5. To facilitate association and networking
6. To maintain and grow the organization

Semaphore Ghosts?



A CSX mixed freight passes through a set of semaphores headed South after passing the crossing at 133.66 on CSX's Monon Subdivision on Sunday, June 8, 2008 just North of Crawfordsville, IN headed for Lafayette, IN. Chapter members Chuck Hinrichs and Bob McCracken are photographing the train in the lower left corner of the photo as it heads past the semaphores. The two, plus Chris Dees and Jim Pearson spent the weekend of June 6 – 10 railfanning CSX, TP&W and NS subs.

– Photo by Jim Pearson

Links of Interest

National Railway Historical Society

www.nrhs.com

Railway Preservation News

www.rypn.org/

Kentucky Railway Museum

www.kyrail.org/

Indiana Railway Museum and French Lick Scenic Railway

www.indianarailwaymuseum.org

/

Indiana Transportation Museum

www.itm.org/

Illinois Railway Museum

www.irm.org/

Tennessee Central

Railway Museum

www.tcry.org/

PENNYRAIL™ is your publication. If you have photographs or other material of current or historical interest that you would like to share with Chapter members, your editor would appreciate hearing from you. Your material will receive the best of care while being readied for publication. Your help is appreciated. *Bill Thomas, editor*

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
PENNYRAIL

11 issues
\$12 PER YEAR

AS RAILFANS WE ARE OFTEN AT TRACKSIDE AND IN POSITION TO OBSERVE EMERGENCY CONDITIONS THAT COULD AFFECT RAILROAD SAFETY OR SECURITY. KEEP THESE NUMBERS HANDY TO REPORT INCIDENTS.

BNSF	800-832-5452
CN/IC	800-465-9239
CSX	800-232-0144
NS	800-453-2530
UP	888-877-7267
Amtrak	800-331-0008

PHOTO SECTION



R.J. Corman's Chinese steam locomotive made an outing Saturday, May 24, no public rides, however. It departed Louisville, Kentucky at 7:30 am, arriving at Lexington, Kentucky 2:15 pm Via the R. J. Corman Central Kentucky Lines

Below - Amtrak No. 59, the southbound City of New Orleans sits injured and derailed in Copiah County, MS after striking a garbage truck Tuesday, May 27, 2008. Two crewmen were seriously injured.

- submitted by Andrew Futrell



SEND YOUR ARTICLES AND PHOTOS TO: BILL THOMAS
bill@fbcmadisonville.com



Remember to be careful and respect railroad property when photographing passing trains and/or railroad equipment.

May 2008 Minutes Summary

Western Kentucky Chapter, NRHS
The Center (Former L&N Depot),
Madisonville, KY

Note: the May meeting was held in Hopkinsville, KY, at the Hopkinsville/Christian Co. Historical Society.

May Treasurer's Report:

Beginning Balance	\$2,139.57
Income	
Nat. Dues	\$00.00
Ch. Dues	\$00.00
Donations	\$00.00
Raffle	\$12.00
Video	\$00.00
Other	\$00.00
TOTAL	\$12.00
Adjusted Balance	\$2,151.57
Expenses	
Nat. Dues	\$00.00
Postage	\$34.97
Printing	\$49.62
Video	\$00.00
Supplies	\$00.00
Other	\$00.00
TOTAL	\$84.59
Ending Balance	\$2,066.98

MEMBERSHIP Total - 63

DIRECTORS REPORT: Wallace reported he will attend the convention in June. Otherwise he had no report.

OLD BUSINESS: No old business.

NEW BUSINESS: No new business.

OTHER: The next meeting will be June 23, at The Center in Madisonville. Ricky Bivins will have the program. Refreshments will be provided by Bill and Liam Thomas.

ATTENDANCE: Tim Moore, Dennis Carnal, Steve Miller, Rich Hane, Chuck Hinrichs, Tom Steiner, David Millen, Bob Moffet, Bill Thomas, Liam Thomas, Ricky Bivins, Wally Watts, Greg Utley, John McGee, Wallace Henderson, Thomas Bryan, Bob McCracken.


ACTIVITIES: A date has not as of yet been set for the KRM trip. October 4th has been tentatively set for the Crofton Picnic. Chuck reports Summer Rail details will be forthcoming. The Monterey, TN trip is set for Saturday, October 11. A Lafayette rail fan trip is scheduled for June 6-9.

ATTENDANCE: Wally Watts, Rich Hane, Steve Miller, Bob Moffet, Richard Knapp, Gretchen Knapp, Wallace Henderson, Chris Gillson, William Turner, Chuck Hinrichs, Greg Utley, John McGhee, Rick Bivins, and Charles Jackson.

Name this Locomotive!



Hint from last month: It was originally owned by Seaboard Coast Line and had 9 sisters numbered 5130-5139, later renumbered in the 3000-3009 series. This is the unusual BQ23-7, GE's 1978-1979 attempt at getting the entire train crew together in one cab as cabooses began to be eliminated. Not long after production, train crews were diminished to 2 or 3 crewmen, thus thwarting the need for the "Q" or "Quarters" cab. CSX operated some of the locomotives into the late 90s. Below is a more flattering photo of 5131, on the SCL standard reconditioned Blomberg trucks from EMD trade-ins, which appeared on the cover of the 1979 *Diesel Spotter's Guide Update*.

Editor's note: I think I remember seeing one of these units in service but with the windows filled in with steel plates which would lead me to believe they were used as a pseudo "B Unit" late in their lives. Anyone have any other knowledge of this unique loco? Email me bill@fbcmadisonville.com. 



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SummerRail at CUT

Saturday, August 9, 2008
Cincinnati Union Terminal
Presented by
Cincinnati Railroad Club
And
Miami Valley Railfans
1 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Railroad Show and Sale
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
In the Rotunda

1301 Western Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio

www.cincinnatiirrclub.org
For more information

Regional Rail Notes

Midwest Conditions Affecting Rail Service
Released: Jun 13, 2008.

The following is a portion of a letter from CSX to customers.

Dear Customer:

Union Pacific's announcement today that it is issuing an embargo on all traffic (excluding coal) to, from, and via Chicago, due to flooding and wash-outs across Iowa, compounded by extensive flooding across the Midwest, creates a condition of force majeure, which adversely affects CSX Transportation's ability to provide service via Chicago. While CSX Transportation will use commercially reasonable efforts to accommodate your transportation needs until this condition of force majeure ends, we will be unable to provide some or all services contemplated in contract(s) and/or our customary business relationships.

Please bear with us as we await the reinstatement of service on the directly-affected UP lines, and as our -- and other carriers' -- operations recover from the congestion and

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IC RR Entertainment PART 1 Submitted by Cliff Downey

One of the hottest shows on television right now is "Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?" To win a million bucks, contestants have to answer a series of 15 questions that grow increasingly difficult. If you're confident that you REALLY know about the IC, you're challenged to take this test. It's just for fun, since there's no money at stake. But perhaps you'll learn something new. See how many questions you can answer without looking up the answers.

1). **What was the IC's nickname during the mid-1900's**

Mainline of Mid-America
Main Line of Mid-America
The Old Reliable
Route of the Rockets

2). **How many GP7's did the IC own (this includes only those units bought NEW, and does not include secondhand units bought for the Paducah Geep program).**

1 5 25 48

3). **When did the IC buy its last new steam locomotive from a commercial builder?**

1929 1944 1951 1937

4). **What is the largest building at the Paducah Shops?**
Locomotive erecting and machine shop

Boiler shop
Tank and paint shop

5). **How many McKeen motorcars (i.e., doodlebugs) did the IC own?**

1 2 3 4

6). **How many E7B's did the IC own?**

1 2 3 4

7). **For many years IC trains were ferried across the Ohio River between Paducah, KY, and Brookport, IL. The "W.B. Duncan" is perhaps the best known ferry used in this service. What railroad originally owned the "W.B. Duncan"?**

Mobile & Ohio
Cotton Belt
Frisco
Illinois Central

Eight more questions next month!

Regional Rail Notes Continued

other network disruption caused by these severe weather-related conditions. At this time, we do not have an assessment of the likely duration of the UP embargo, nor can we yet assess how long it will take to re-establish normal operations after the embargo is lifted.

NS has issued a similar statement...

06/13/08 - Flooding at Hannibal, MO

It is anticipated that Norfolk Southern service through the Hannibal, Missouri area will be impacted by the flooding occurring on the Mississippi River beginning sometime Saturday, June 14, 2008. Customers with traffic moving through this area should expect some delay due to the rerouting of trains.

If you receive or find information concerning the railroads of the mid-west, please forward them to me by email, phone or regular mail. We need your input. Thanks,
Bill Thomas, Editor.



TIMETABLE #110

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF RAILFANS ONLY

--The planned annual **Milwaukee Road Historical Association** convention in Terre Haute, Indiana has been moved to the weekend of June 28-29.

-**IC Historical Society 2008 Convention** - August 22-24, Paducah, KY, <http://www.icrrhistorical.org/>.

-**L&N Historical Society 2008 Convention** - September 18-20, Vonore, TN (near Etowah). Copper Hill trip.

-**SummerRail** at Cincinnati Union Terminal, Saturday, August 9, 2008

-**Crofton Picnic**, Saturday, October 4, Crofton, KY, lunch time

-**Tennessee Central Excursion**, Saturday, October 11

Buy, Sell, Swap!

- **Rick Andrews** has an assortment of nice HO Scale equipment for sale.

(270) 841-7140

- Two **Illinois Central Passenger Cars**—MTH O Scale, 3-Rail wheels and couplers. Contact Bill Thomas, 339-9482

VISIT THE CHAPTER WEB SITE: <http://www.westkentuckynrhs.org>

PENNYRAIL

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