

# PENNYRAIL

May 2009

VOLUME 13 NUMBER 5



## Chapter Chatter

**Next Meeting Monday,  
May 18**

**7:00 pm, The Christian County  
Historical Society  
Hopkinsville, KY**

**Program by David Hayes**

**Riding Trains at the  
Middle of the Earth...  
My trip to Ecuador for  
train riding in 2007**

**Bring a guest and  
something for  
Show and Tell**

Western Kentucky  
Chapter, NRHS, Inc.

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Madisonville, KY 42431

\* \* \* \* \*

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“PENNYRAIL” is the  
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**WWW.WESTKENTUCKYNRHS.ORG**

## From our President *Rich's Ramblings*

We had an interesting program by Wally Watts last month with steam and diesel action in Oregon. I hope that you were able to see it.

I saw an interesting article by the new President of Amtrak outlining his support for increasing the amount of electrified rail line in the US, especially along the East Coast. Joe Boardman told a House Subcommittee that he would like to see the present intercity electrified corridor which extends from Washington, D.C. to Boston extended to reach from Miami to Maine. These thoughts have surfaced occasionally by many people and were last seriously considered in the 1970s. Europe and some other countries have extensive electrified stretches of track but these seem to be more easily justified in areas that are more densely populated, support very heavy traffic, or have air quality considerations. The high cost per mile of electrified track along with the necessary electric supply support system makes this a decision that requires much thought. Mr. Boardman would like to see the extension done in stages, perhaps going to Richmond, VA in 5 years and to Jacksonville, FL in the next 5 years. These proposals would require sound support from Congress but perhaps could be justified with the present economic recovery bills to make new jobs and to improve the environment which are high on the new President's agenda. There are even some rumors that the BNSF Railroad is quietly looking into the idea of electrifying some track. Only time will tell if any of these proposals are viable given the extreme conditions in our economy. It has been a long time before any mainline track has been electrified in this country. However, there have been a lot of new electrified rail accomplishments in light rail and commuter service around the country. Those of us that have had electric trains in our basement for a half century would relish the new interest in quiet, efficient, and cleaner trains.

I hope to see all of your smiling faces in HOPKINSVILLE for our next meeting which is on Monday, May 18th this month due to the change because of Memorial Day. David Hays promises to have a very interesting program.

## Disney/Amtrak

Disney Productions to promote its movie "A CHRISTMAS CAROL" is running a coast to coast multi car Amtrak passenger train with on board exhibits. It will be in Memphis August 4, Indianapolis on September 9, Louisville September 11-13 at Union Station, and Cleveland September 18-19. No stop at Cincinnati is listed. I would guess it will come into and out of Louisville over the Louisville & Indiana. The total story of the 22 May to November 1 trip with station stops is in the Friday issue of USA Today

Now that I have a teenager learning to drive, I am reminded that I must impress upon her the importance of carefully crossing railroad tracks, even in town, where trains travel relatively slow. Let's all remember to be cautious at rail crossings. The damage can be great, even at a slow 35 mph.

-editor.



**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*  
bill@fbcmadisonville.com

**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

## Amtrak News

Submitted by Chris Dees

### City of New Orleans to Orlando?

Forwarded from the Memphis Railfans Yahoo Group. Posted by: "Tom Parker" tscott-parker@gmail.com ts\_parker Date: Thu Apr 30, 2009 1:12 pm ((PDT))

I received the following from Amtrak today: NATIONAL RAILROAD PASSENGER CORPORATION 1001 Loyola Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70113

As you may be aware, the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008 (PRIIA, Public Law 110-432) requires Amtrak to deliver to Congress a plan for restoring rail passenger service between New Orleans, Louisiana, and Sanford, Florida:

Division B, Section 226: Within 9 months after the date of enactment of this Act, Amtrak shall transmit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a plan for restoring passenger rail service between New Orleans, Louisiana, and Sanford, Florida. The plan shall include a projected time line for restoring such service, the

costs associated with restoring such service, and any proposals for legislation necessary to support such restoration of service. In developing the plan, Amtrak shall consult with representatives from the States of Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi, and Florida, railroad carriers whose tracks may be used for such service, rail passengers, rail labor, and other entities as appropriate.

Accordingly, Amtrak assembled a team to meet this objective. The group examined multiple service and schedule scenarios and has narrowed the list to three that were the most operationally feasible. These include the former Sunset Limited as it operated prior to Hurricane Katrina; operating the City of New Orleans through from Chicago, via New Orleans, on a daily basis to Orlando; and a stand-alone service operating daily on an overnight schedule between New Orleans and Orlando with connections in New Orleans and Jacksonville.

Amtrak intends to submit a report to Congress based on these three scenarios and the costs associated with them on or before the July 16, 2009, deadline. I hope this information is helpful in your evaluation of the possibilities for restoring service east of New Orleans.

Sincerely,

Thomas L. Stennis III Director,  
Government Affairs-South

## Buy - Sell - Swap

**FOR Sale:** Epson Stylus R 1800 - Very little and gently used. Original cost \$500+; new ones can be found for about \$400. Yours for \$200. Original box and all manuals. Some ink in the cartridges. Contact: Tom Steiner, 821-7556 or steiner@newwavecomm.net.

# Got News?

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

**National Railway Historical Society**

[www.nrhs.com](http://www.nrhs.com)

**Railway Preservation News**

[www.rypn.org/](http://www.rypn.org/)

**Kentucky Railway Museum**

[www.kyrail.org/](http://www.kyrail.org/)

**Indiana Railway Museum and French Lick Scenic Railway**

[www.indianarailwaymuseum.org](http://www.indianarailwaymuseum.org)

**Indiana Transportation Museum**

[www.itm.org/](http://www.itm.org/)

**Illinois Railway Museum**

[www.irm.org/](http://www.irm.org/)

**Tennessee Central Railway Museum**

[www.tcry.org/](http://www.tcry.org/)

## NRHS Mission Statement

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

## Mileage on the Madison (IN) Railroad Submitted by Rick Dees

This is the information that is now available on the regular trips over the Madison Railroad for their Bicentennial event. I have not heard back about request for a special mileage trip.

Final Plans as of 5/1 Tickets Go On Sale At 9 am, June 1, Heritage Center, 615 W. First Street, Madison.

Here's the information you need to get your tickets for the Bicentennial Express Train Ride that is sponsored by the Jefferson County Historical Soci-

ety, Madison Railroad, and the Madison Bicentennial. Tickets are \$20 each; there is a limit of 10 per person. 350 Tickets

Cash or checks, NO Credit Cards, NO Debit Cards. Children if small enough to ride in your lap, FREE, BUT IF they take a seat it is \$20.

Train leaves the Venture Out Business Center RR MP 41?) on Wilson Avenue, goes to Middle Fork Bridge (RR MP 35.25). (about 6 miles one way, 12 total)

NO restrooms on board, only at loading site (Venture Business Center). Saturday Oct 17, Departures 10 am, 1pm 3:30 pm. Sunday Oct 18, Departures 12 Noon, 2:30pm. Ph 812.265.2335



## Rare Catch!

Metra 109 GM EMD F40PH diesel-electric locomotive "Village of Robbins" sits at West Yards, Madisonville, Ky on March 16, 2009 headed for the VMV Paducah-bilt shops at Paducah. It was built in 1977 and is rated at 3,200 horsepower. (Photo by Jim Pearson)

**Please send your  
digital photos and  
story material to  
bill@fbcmadisonville.com or mail to  
Bill Thomas,  
First Baptist Church,  
PO Box 607,  
Madisonville, KY 42431.**

## Photo Section



**Left:** It's a bright and beautiful Spring day in Kentucky as a CSX freight heads north through Crofton, KY. Photo by Matt Gentry

**Right:** Another beautiful Spring day set the stage for this shot at Morton's Gap, KY, as this north-bound CSX freight slides off to the right onto the Cut-off main around Madisonville. In the consist is a new environmentally friendly GenSet locomotive. Matt Gentry took this photo from Ricky Bivin's driveway.



**Above:** Great car! Oh, focus on the Cat! "Too bad the Honda was in the way, but I was also driving at the same time. Caught this guy heading into Howell Yard here in Evansville back on 10/6/08. If you look close you can see another plow in the car ahead of this one." - Matt Gentry

# Regional Rail Notes

Last week, Railpower Technologies Corp. and R.J. Corman Railroad Group L.L.C. reached an agreement under which R.J. Corman will acquire most of Railpower's assets and its U.S. subsidiary. The deal doesn't include cash on hand and on deposit in financial institutions, land and property located in St-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Quebec, and two road switchers.

Closing, which is contingent upon court approval in both Canada and the United States, is expected to occur no later than May 20. Railpower is operating under court protection through Canada's Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act.

R.J. Corman has agreed to sell certain assets to a group of Railpower managers, who plan to form a wholly owned corporation named Management Newco. The assets include RTG crane technology and royalty free license to use intellectual property rights in any hybrid applications.

R.J. Corman and Management Newco plan to hire about 75 percent of Railpower's current workforce. R.J. Corman also plans to continue advancing Railpower's Gen-Set locomotive technology.

-Chuck Hinrichs

**This Progress Rail GenSet engine** (photos at right) arrived from Paducah, Ky on April 25, 2009 at West Yards in Madisonville, Ky. Their new state-of-the-art GenSet locomotives are powered by Caterpillar C18 engines in modular power plant packages, offering maximum reliability and availability to keep railroads running. These locomotives are fuel efficient and environmentally friendly. You can find more details on their website at: <http://www.progressrail.com> It was moved to CSX Atkinson Yard on April 26, 2009 for transport to Patterson, Ga. Looking at older photos of this unit online it appears that a couple of the units were switched out at Paducah as older photos show all the engine compartments in red. (Photos by Jim Pearson)

**Hardin Southern** - We noted Hardin Southern's SBT Abandon Notice. FYI Our first 2 of 38 Ashland Tank Cars have arrived at Madisonville terminal.

-John Licht, West Bluegrass Terminal RR



## Madisonville's West Bluegrass Terminal Gets Busy!

Short report from John Licht, manager of the terminal:

We are becoming a "Home Shop" for the Ashland Inc. rail car fleet. The cars were trans-loaded, cleaned and are being stored.

We are planning to expand "inspection, cleaning and maintenance" services for private owned rail cars as part of our terminal services.

We have received visits from several potential rail fleet owners recently

## April 2009 Minutes Summary

Minutes of the March meeting were approved along with the Treasurer's report.

Director's Report: Wallace had no director's report as such. He will go to Duluth in August and to the fall board meeting.

Activities Report: No confirmation yet from Chuck on the joint activity with the Owensboro and Louisville chapters. He mentioned David Hayes from the Owensboro chapter will have the program for May in Hopkinsville. Program will be about his trip to Ecuador, South America. The Crofton picnic is on as scheduled.

Old Business: Rich has repaired the Center's vacuum cleaner at no charge to the chapter. No used refrigerator has yet been found for the Center.

New Business: No new business.

Guests: Our guest, Jim Edwards from Murray, was introduced by Fred Ripley, and he reported he had worked for the NC&St.L, L&N, and finally CSX, for 43 years in various locations.

Next Meeting: Monday, May 18, a week early due to the Memorial Day holiday. The meeting will be at the Christian County Historical Society, in Hopkinsville, with program by David Hayes, and refreshments by the Hopkinsville members.

The meeting was dismissed with refreshments by Tom Steiner, and a substitute program by Wally Watts, as Ricky Bivins could not attend.

Members present: Wally Watts, Chuck Hinrichs, Fred Ripley, David Millen, Steve Miller, Dennis Carnal, Wallace Henderson, John McGee, William Corum, Tom Steiner, Jim Bryan, Tim Moore, Thomas Bryan, Rich Hane, Bill Thomas, Liam Thomas. Guests: J. E. Edwards, John Licht.

## April 2009 Financial Report

Report Date: April 27, 2009, by Wally Watts.

Beginning Balance 2272.43

**Income:**

National Dues Received	46.00
Chapter Dues Received	00.00
Royalty from Neff Video	12.50
Other (Raffle)	8.00

Total: **66.50**

**Adjusted Balance 2338.93**

**Expenditures:**

National Dues Paid	00.00
Postage	21.00
Printing	51.56
Flowers	00.00
Supplies	2.50

Total: 79.06

Ending Balance: 2259.87

**Membership Statistics**

Beginning Membership	64
National Members	2
Chapter Members	1
Ending Membership	<b>67</b>

## Photo Section Continued



**Left:** Another photo taken from Ricky Bivin's working driveway in Mortons Gap. Two ex Soo Line locomotives headed northbound. Believe they took the main through town. Photo by Matt Gentry.

# TIMETABLE #110

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF RAILFANS ONLY

- **Spring Garden RR Gathering** will now be Saturday, June 13, 11 am to 4 pm, weather permitting. If weather is questionable, please check the chapter website blog for updates on cancellations and postponements. The Hook Line & Singer Railway is located at 1025 Lakewood Drive, Madisonville, KY. Light snacks will be served. Visiting Large Scale (45 mm gauge) equipment is welcomed and encouraged so bring your toys!
- **From:** <http://www.trainfestival2009.com> Saturday July 25 and Sunday July 26, 2009. Enjoy a steam excursion powered by PM #1225 (Sat.) or NKP #765 (Sun.), two of the largest operating steam locomotives in the world. These special trains will leave Owosso at 9:30am sharp headed to Alma. Once in Alma, you will have the opportunity for lunch and shopping on your own. After a 2 hour layover, the train will return to Owosso. A photo-run-by will be included. Admission to the event is also included in your ticket. All ticket prices are \$90.00, no charge for children under 2. See website for additional info.
- **Fort Wayne Railroad Historical Society** Steam-powered passenger excursions in North Judson,

Indiana at the Hoosier Valley Railroad. **Memorial Day Weekend**, these trips will operate on a historic rail line that was preserved by a \$1.5 million dollar Transportation Enhancement grant in 2004. Awarded by the state of Indiana to the Town of North Judson, the grant was instated to preserve the Hoosier Valley Railroad Museum and promote economic development in the area. 2-hour long roundtrips will operate three times daily May 23rd-May 25th at 10AM, 1PM, and 4PM Central Standard (Daylight Savings) Time between North Judson and LaCrosse, Indiana. For more info go to [www.765.org](http://www.765.org), or call 260-493-3885.



ET&WNC Ten-Wheeler, No. 12, makes the tight curve over Liam's Creek, on Bill Thomas' outdoor Hook Line & Singer Railway.

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

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