

PENNYRAIL

June 2009

VOLUME 13 NUMBER 6

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.



Chapter Chatter

**Next Meeting Monday,
June 22, 2009**

**7:00 pm, The Center
Former L&N Depot
Near Arch and Main Streets
Madisonville, KY**

**Program by
Wallace Henderson**

*Old Santa
Fe Lines
In Colorado*

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

Western Kentucky
Chapter, NRHS, Inc.

111 Reed Place
Madisonville, KY 42431

* * * * *

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Bill Thomas

“PENNYRAIL” is the official publication of the Western Kentucky Chapter, NRHS. Send news notes, historical notes and other rail information to:

Editor
Bill Thomas

1025 Lakewood Drive
Madisonville, KY 42431
(270) 825-4623 Home
(270) 339-9482 Cell
e-mail:
bill@fbcmadisonville.com



Photo by Chuck Hinrichs

Military Train!
More on page 3

From our President *Rich's Ramblings*

Those of you that gathered in Hopkinsville last month for our customary satellite meeting were treated to an excellent program by David Hayes. He took us around Ecuador and we didn't even have to leave our seats.

I saw a couple of recession news items of interest. Our balance of payments with China should improve a little with the order last fall for six hundred 6000 horsepower locomotives; half from General Electric and half from Electro Motive Diesel. These have not been too popular in the States and several railroads are turning them in or retiring them, mostly in favor of 4300 horsepower units. But China is trying to modernize their railroads and this is one of their steps in that direction. Most of these engines will be shipped as kits with final assembly in China.

I was somewhat surprised by the number of coal trains that Union Pacific hauled out of the Wyoming Powder River Basin in 2008. They set an all time record of 13,212 trains hauling 204.6 million tons of coal which was about 5 percent more than the previous year. Last December they moved about 36 trains per day. Wow!

As I write this we are getting ready to go to Alaska to visit my brother-in-law and we should be riding the Alaska Railroad while we are there. I'll fill you in later.

I hope to see all of your smiling faces at our next meeting on June 22, at the Center in beautiful downtown Madisonville. We should be having a great program by Wallace Henderson.



Trains, Dirt, and Flowers!

Several chapter members and other guests visited Bill Thomas's Hook Line & Singer Railway last Saturday, June 13, at his home in Madisonville. Trains ran a bit sluggishly at first due to all the crushed vegetation which has grown around and through track so robustly with recent and frequent rains.

Thanks to all who dropped by. We hope to do this again in the fall - BYOB (Bring your own [leaf] bag).

More photos from Chuck Hinrichs in the photo section.



**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.

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Can anyone identify this man on the scooter? I think the Homeland Security Department has labeled him a “person of interest”. Boy, and Amtrak gets bent out of shape for taking photographs of trains at stations! - photo by Rex Easterly



Above: W860 coming out of siding at South Kelly. **Above Right:** W860 is stopped and Q688 is passing at 10 mph.



CSX had a military movement on the Henderson Sub on Tuesday afternoon, June 9. The train, W860-07, was south bound and Jim Pearson alerted me to the movement early in the afternoon. W860 took some three hours weaving it’s way through the track work around Nortonville and I finally caught up with it at Kelly. Power was a UP and an SP GE pulling a 22 car train of green DODX 6 axle flat cars with a pair of tanks on each car. The train was moving with some wide load restrictions. W860 took each siding and when meeting an opposing train came to a complete stop while the passing train was limited to 10 mph. I have no information as to the source or destination of the movement. Submission and photos by Chuck Hinrichs

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

Nashville Area Looking to Expand Commuter Rail Network

Guest Submission by Phil Randall
Reprinted from *The Tennessean*

Clarksville, Murfreesboro or Gallatin could become the second link in Nashville's commuter rail network, but transit planners say which corridor is built next could depend on which community is best at raising money.

State lawmakers took a step last week toward allowing local leaders to do that. They passed a bill — now awaiting the governor's signature — that would allow local governments to, through ordinance or referendum, set up a funding source dedicated to public transportation projects.

It also would give regional transportation authorities in the state the power to borrow money by issuing bonds.

"To become a world-class city, you have to have ability to move masses of people," said Greg Atkins, executive director of the Tennessee Public Transportation Association.

"You have to have other options than just the automobile. But right now we don't have the money to match federal dollars for light-rail programs."

In other states, it's beer drinkers, people who rent cars and retail shoppers who pay to support public transportation. Local leaders have not said what option they might select in Middle Tennessee, but they plan to discuss it Wednesday during a regional transportation

summit.

Cumberland Region Tomorrow, a nonprofit growth and planning group, will host the meeting for leaders of 10 counties to look at building regional transit systems.

First transit line cost \$42M

Michael Skipper, executive director of the Nashville Metropolitan Planning Organization, said the legislation is a first step toward realizing regional transportation.

"Locally, it clears some significant hurdles for us to come together as a region to start thinking seriously about alternatives to highway congestion and higher fuel prices," Skipper said.

Funding was the biggest obstacle when the Nashville region studied possible commuter rail corridors in the 1990s.

The path selected for what came to be the Music City Star was between Lebanon and Nashville, on track owned by the short-line Nashville & Eastern Railroad. At a startup cost of \$42 million, it provided the cheapest option because it required virtually no new track and promised few problems with scheduling around Nashville & Eastern's freight traffic. But it was also the route that would produce the fewest riders.

Corridors to the northeast, serving Hendersonville and Gallatin, and southeast, serving Murfreesboro, would have had the most demand, the studies showed. Those tracks are owned by rail giant CSX, which maintains a busy freight schedule. No agreement could be reached for use of those lines for transit.

But either commuter route could still happen, said Paul Ballard, chief executive officer for the Metropolitan Transit Authority, which operates the Nashville-Lebanon commuter rail line.

New track would be built because CSX would be unlikely, as in the past, to agree to share the existing rail.

"We have to be able to attract significant federal dollars," Ballard said. "The federal funding could pay up to 80 percent of project costs. But local governments have to have a way to meet small local share of 10 percent."

The state must contribute the last 10 percent.

Push for Clarksville line

The newest push for commuter rail has been between Clarksville and Nashville, the northwestern corridor.

A feasibility study shows that the line could be planned and completed in five to eight years at an estimated cost of \$144 million. The yearly operating costs would be about \$5 million.

(Continued on page 6)

Photo Section



Chuck Hinrichs took these photos at the Garden RR Open House on the Hook Line & Singer Railway of Bill and Angela Thomas, Madisonville.

Right: Former CB&Q Caboose (BN 10334) as it sits on Rex Easterly's father's farm in Missouri. Rex is hopeful that the relic can be restored. More pictures on following pages. Rex just acquired the cab.



Regional Rail Notes

Nashville Commuter Lines Continued...

The Clarksville Urban Metropolitan Planning Organization has been actively working on the project.

The line would use existing right-of-way owned by the Nashville & Western Railroad, sister company to the Nashville & Eastern. One obstacle, though, is that the track between Clarksville and Ashland City, representing about half of the most likely commuter route, has been dismantled.

More than six miles of the rail bed in Cheatham County has been turned into the Cumberland River Bicentennial Trail, a popular walking path that draws users from throughout Middle Tennessee.

Skipper said people have to remember that any project will require time to plan and build transportation infrastructure, but that planning must start early.

"Any substantial plan to connect the two areas with transit will rely on our ability to establish a dedicated source of funding to help leverage federal funds to pay for it," Skipper said.

"Those federal funds are currently going to other cities and regions that are ahead of us on this issue."

By Christina E. Sanchez • THE TENNESSEAN • May 25, 2009

Railroad Crossing Systems Manufacturer Safetran Planning \$2.8 Million Expansion in Marion, Kentucky - The company, which manufactures crossing components and systems for the railroad industry, plans to make the improvements to its 110,000 square-foot facility on Industrial Drive in Marion, according to an announcement from the office of Governor Steve Beshear. The 24-acre site is a short distance from Safetran's corporate headquarters in Louisville. Established in 1920, Safetran has five facilities. In addition to the two in Kentucky, Safetran has operations in California, New York and Florida. The company's products include electro-mechanical signal devices and the control systems that activate them; communications systems; and complete signal system design and construction. The Kentucky Economic Development Finance Authority gave preliminarily approval for more than \$2.2 million in tax incentives for the project as well as a \$525,000 economic development bond to assist Safetran in the expansion. - Submitted by Chuck Hinrichs

Scanner Chatter...

Today while listening to my scanner I heard a dispatcher and conductor having a conversation about when the CSX dispatchers will be relocated. The

(Continued on page 7)

Photo Section Continued

Below: More of Rex Easterly's CB&Q caboose.



May 18, 2009 Minutes Summary

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

Director's Report: Wallace attended the April board meeting. Reports dues are due an increase by 3.00 effective September 1, 2009. When the 2010 dues notices are received in October, the new rates will be thereon. Inflation cited as the cause. National reports efficiency is improving. A new chapter has been chartered in Tokyo Japan. Reports SP engine 4449 will not be at the 2009 convention. However, 2719 will be. Scranton will be convention site next year.

Activities Report: Chuck reports the three involved chapters (including ours), is looking to French Lick as an outing site this year, but no details not date have been finalized. We are looking forward to the Crofton picnic on October 3, which is always an enjoyable affair. Good crowd last year, perfect weather. Also Don and Wally's open house, no date set, but usually in early November.

Old Business: No old business.

New Business: No new business.

Announcements: We welcomed member Rex Easterly from Nashville, who has had continuing health problems, but states he is cautiously hoping he is improving after some recently performed tests. Welcome Rex! He also announced he is the owner of a former CB&Q caboose which is located on his father's farm in rural Missouri. There is a possibility it may be restored. We welcomed back William Turner, curator of the Historical Society Museum in Hopkinsville, KY, which hosts our yearly meeting there each May. William was a former member. Welcome back William! He gave a tour of the Museum and the old fire house next door, housing some beautiful old fire engines, and autos. John McGee reported on the LST which is stationed on the riverfront at Evansville, and open to the public, and is handicapped accessible. We welcomed a new chapter only member, Thomas Hurley from Hopkinsville. Meeting was adjourned for refreshments by the Hopkinsville group and a delightful program by David Hayes of the Owensboro Chapter concerning his 2007 trip to Ecuador where he rode trains and some very scenic but fragile rails.

Next Meeting: Monday, June 22, at The Center (Former L&N Depot, Madisonville, KY. Program by Wallace Henderson on former Santa Fe tracks in Colorado. Dave Millen will provide refreshments.

Members present: Wally Watts, Chuck Hinrichs, David Millen, Steve Miller, Wallace Henderson, John McGee, Rich Hane, Rex Easterly, Bob Moffet, William Turner, Jim Pearson.

May 18, 2009 Financial Report

Report Date: May 18, 2009, by Wally Watts.

Beginning Balance 2259.87

Income:

National Dues Received	00.00
Chapter Dues Received	13.00
Royalty from Neff Video	00.00
Other (Raffle)	10.00

Total: **23.00**

Adjusted Balance

2282.87

Expenditures:

National Dues Paid	00.00
Postage	22.00
Printing	51.56
Flowers	00.00
Supplies	00.00

Total: 73.56

Ending Balance:

2209.31

Membership Statistics

Beginning Membership	67
National Members	-2
Chapter Members	0
Ending Membership	65

Regional Rail Notes Continued

dispatcher told him that they would be moved and working in Nashville by Monday, June 29th. That just a couple weeks away. Looks like we will be hearing "SD Dispatcher Nashville" instead of "SD Dispatcher Jacksonville" on our scanners in the very near future.

David Porter

I think the move will effect the Henderson Sub as well, "SA Dispatcher" -Chuck Hinrichs

As you may have heard, for the past few months a new, larger museum has been under construction at the **Casey Jones Village** in Jackson, TN. It replaces the old gift shop/theatre/museum and is sandwiched between the steamer and the Jones house (both of which are still there). A grand opening for the new museum is scheduled for June 19. I drove by the area last week and crews are still scrambling outside to finish.

Also, out in the parking lot, restoration of the "Judge Milton Brown" passenger car is well under way. It has been painted in GM&O colors, but not yet lettered. The car will house offices and studio for the local American Family Radio affiliate. More info about AFR and a

(Continued on page 8)

TIMETABLE #110

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF RAILFANS ONLY

- **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.). 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. 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.
- **SummeRail at C.U.T.** - Saturday, August 8, 2009 1:00 pm to 10:00 pm and Railroad Show and Sale in the Rotunda - 10:00 am to 5:00 pm Cincinnati Union Terminal, 1301 Western Avenue Cincinnati, Ohio. <http://cincinnatiirclub.org/summerail.htm>.
- Please join us (June 27) in welcoming Nancy Baird for the monthly All Aboard! series. Nancy will be here to speak on her latest book "Josie Underwood's Civil War Diary". Learn about Bowling Green, Kentucky during the Civil War from the view point of a teenager and Josie's account of the burning of the L&N Depot. Sponsored by **Friends of L&N Depot**. Coffee and Danish will be served. Event begins at 8:30 am in the meeting room. -Sharon Tabor, Executive Director

Regional Rail Notes Continued

video of moving the car can be found at http://wamp.afr.net/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=106&Itemid=148
-Cliff Downey

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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?

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

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% Bill Thomas, Editor
1025 Lakewood Drive
Madisonville, KY 42431