

PENNYRAIL

February 2010

VOLUME 14 NUMBER 2

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,
February 22, 2010
7:00 pm, The Center
Former L&N Depot
At Arch and
CSX's Earlington Main
Madisonville, KY**

Western Kentucky
Chapter, NRHS, Inc.

111 Reed Place
Madisonville, KY 42431

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President
Rich Hane

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Wally Watts

National Director
Wallace Henderson

Director at Large
Bill Thomas

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

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Program: GM's GEEPS From



GM's Geeps documents the story of these noteworthy machines which are often described as “everyman’s locomotive.” Created in the wake of the F units’ success, Geeps quickly became king of the railroad industry. From historic photos to interviews with the experts, this special edition video takes you on a nostalgic journey with fantastic footage of locomotives from the past and present.

Refreshments by Dennis Carnal

Rich's Ramblings

President, Rich Hane

I hope that all of you that attended our last meeting had a good time. I enjoyed giving the program and our evening of fellowship.

We will be celebrating the 25th Anniversary of our Chapter in April so this is a good time for anyone who would like to do something special for the evening in the way of program or refreshments to be thinking of this and bring it up at this month's meeting so that we can discuss it. Perhaps a special "show and tell" or an interesting personal story or some background history would be appropriate. The 25th Anniversary should be a special time for us and a time to remember all of the good times that we have shared over the years.

We share a rather unique interest in the history of railroading and all that railroads of done for our country. The friendships that we have made and

the fellowship shared at our meetings is should always be looked at as a happy time for us.

Bill Thomas has the program this month and it promises to be quite interesting. I am looking forward to seeing all of your happy faces at the Center in beautiful downtown Madisonville at 7pm, on Monday, February 22d, 2010.

Thoughts and Prayers

For Chapter Members experiencing health challenges

Jim Finley and Ron Stubblefield

If you know of others, please email me the information.
bill@fbcmadisonville.com

Distant Whistle by Mary Rae McPherson

A reprint from her blog site: <http://alongtherails.wordpress.com>



We woke up to snow on the ground on the morning of Saturday, January 5, 1985. While the snow was nice to see, it did seem to be something of a waste; after all, school was out on Saturday regardless. Why couldn't have come down earlier and given us an extended weekend?

I was 12 years old that winter, still plenty young enough to be able to appreciate the opportunity to sled down the hill out behind our house east of Carbondale, Illinois. That would have to wait for later in the day, however. First up was a rare late morning basketball game at the SIU arena with my father and grandmother. The Salukis lost to Tulsa in a close game, 98-96. The loss wasn't all that unexpected; we lost half our games that year.

It was mid afternoon before I got out in the back yard for a go on the hill. My grandmother stayed on the back porch and watched as I got my red toboggan out. I had gone down the hill several times when I could have sworn I heard the sound of a steam whistle. I stopped and listened more closely. For a few moments there was nothing but the sounds of traffic on nearby Illinois highway 13.

After a few moments I went down the hill

again and was trudging back up the hill when I heard it again. It wasn't my imagination. It was the deep moan of a three chime steamboat whistle off in the distance.

"Did you hear that?" I asked my grandmother. "Yes," she said.

I was surprised; not that there was the whistle of a steam locomotive to hear, but rather the fact that I COULD hear it. I knew that the nearby Crab Orchard & Egyptian Railroad was the last steam powered shortline in the United States. I had known about it for a few years. I had even seen the engine running up close on a couple of occasions. But to actually HEAR it? They almost never ran on Saturdays, and the prevailing winds almost always carried sounds from the west. The CO&E was east of us.

I stood there quietly, listening as the sound of that whistle came rolling in through the woods from the east. I would have loved to have been standing along the track somewhere, watching as the railroad's #17 came by with a short train heading for the west end of the line. That wasn't going to happen, as it was too far away for me to get to on my own. But to be standing in the back yard and listening to that melodious whistle was the next best

(Continued on page 3)

Distant Whistle Continued

thing.

It turned out to be the only time I ever heard that whistle from my house. The railroad often ran before I was home from school, and sound didn't usually carry that way anyway. More often I would hear the distant air horns coming from the Illinois Central Gulf trains in Carbondale a few miles to the west. I would see #17 one more time, toward the end of June when I was invited to ride the cab of the engine from the west end to downtown Marion on a freight train. Then in September of '86, the engine suffered a serious failure of the piping inside the boiler and never ran again. I never forgot those days, when I lived so close to the last steam powered railroad in America.

In early December, 1987, my copy of the latest issue of Trains Magazine arrived in the mail. I brought it to the house with the rest of the mail, and went to my room to look through its pages. Imagine my surprise when I turned to the photo spread on pages 46 and 47, only to see a photo of Crab Orchard & Egyptian #17 passing Odum Concrete in Marion. The caption began as follows: *Southern Illinois doesn't get all that much snow, and the 8-mile Crab Orchard & Egyptian rarely strayed from its Monday-Wednesday-Friday schedule, so 2-8-0 17 heading west from Marion after a 4-inch snowfall on Saturday, January 5, 1985, was a double treat for the photographer.*



CO&E #17 on 1/5/1985, in a photo by Jerry Mart
Note the piggyback flat and trailer - ed.

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
5. artifacts
6. To facilitate association and networking
7. To maintain and grow the organization

Immediately I thought back to that afternoon, standing in the back yard with my grandmother and listening to the distant sound of #17's whistle. It was wonderful to see a photo taken that day, a photo that rekindled that memory and changed it into something I would remember the rest of my life.

-thanks to Mary Rae McPherson for her permission to reprint this story.

PHOTO SECTION



R J Corman's genset 2406 has been on the northwest leg of the wye at Guthrie for at least a week (as of February 3). Photo by Chuck Hinrichs.



Center and Below Left: At Latham a north-bound string of empty hoppers held the main with the end of the train still blocking a couple of crossings in Hopkinsville. A southbound grain train took the siding. This train had a Conrail painted GE on the point. This train was in the siding for two more northbounds including the train with the B36-7s and the Q120. Photos by Chuck Hinrichs.



January Meeting Snap Shots
by Chuck Hinrichs



Tim Moore and Danny Koeber



Jim Bryan and Tom Johnson

B36-7 Parade On the Henderson Sub



Chuck Hinrichs caught this northbound CSX manifest at Latham early afternoon January 23, 2010, with four CSX B36-7s in the consist. Chuck - "A lot of these old warhorses have been pulled from the roster and I wonder where these four might be headed." Ed. - from looks of the cover on the trailing unit, the vintage GEs are probably dead in tow.

Regional Rail Notes...
Submitted by Cliff Downey

**Paducah & Louisville RR
Business Train for Sale!**

2 Passenger Cars and 1 Power Car:

"Bluegrass State 1" was originally designed and built for operation as a Business Railcar for the Illinois Central Railroad. This railcar is still being used as a business car. Excellent condition, the interior having been completely gutted & rebuilt after a fire destroyed the interior in the late 1980's. It contains an observation room and open platform. Microphor hall toilet, dining room and fully equipped kitchen w/ Microphor toilet, two master bedrooms w/ shared Microphor toilet & shower wet bar along with all furnishings and accessories.

Bluegrass State was originally designed & built as a six double bedroom sleeper/bar lounge by Pullman in 1955 for the New York, New Hampshire (Editor's note: I believe this to be New Haven) & Hartford RR. The car was originally named the "Nutmeg State" and numbered (NH-552). The car is generally in good operational condition.

The water & power car PAL 10 was built in 1958 as a milk freight carrier.
Price: \$445,000

Any takers?

I have received several emails of late with shots like this attached. I have searched the internet trying to identify this locomotive and location. I am guessing Nevada Northern maybe. Anyone know for sure? Please email me at bill@fbcmadisonville.com.



SHAMROCK EXPRESS
DINNER TRAIN
MARCH 14, 2:00 P.M.
RESERVATIONS
REQUIRED

Go to <http://www.kyrail.org/>
for more information.

Note: THE MODEL TRAIN
CENTER WILL BE CLOSED
FOR RENOVATION BEGINNING DECEMBER
21, 2009 THRU MARCH 10, 2010.

**KENTUCKY RAILWAY
MUSEUM
136 S. MAIN ST.
P.O. BOX 240
NEW HAVEN, KY 40051
800-272-0152**



January 2010 Minutes Summary

Minutes approved for the November meeting.
Treasurer's Report approved.

Director's Report: Activities Report: Wallace did not attend the board meeting in Charleston, WV, but plans to attend the April meeting in Huntington, WV.

Old business: Dennis report Bill Thomas has the 8mm films from David Cooper's bequest to the Chapter. Plans to put them on DVDs. There are about 700 to 800 slides in the batch also. Dennis plans to keep them for the chapter at present. All in good condition. Dennis also says we need to remember those who are ill, and send them cards, call them, etc. Reports Jim Finley is doing well.

New Business: Dennis says the Newsletter expenses are putting us "in the hole". We need to think about what to consider for the future. We should consider dropping newsletters we send to other chapters, but keep those to Louisville and Paducah, possibly to Owensboro, others said. Dennis said we need to advertise, especially where we can do it for free. We need to advertise in The Messenger's "Town Crier" section at no cost. Radio stations may also give us public service announcements.

Next Meeting: Monday, February 22, 2010, at The Center. Program by President Bill Thomas. Dennis Carnal will provide refreshments. .

Members Present at January 2010 Meeting:

Wally Watts, William Turner, D. A. Fraser, Ricky Bivins, Tom Johnson, Rich Hane, Steve Miller, Thomas and Jim Bryan, Wallace Henderson, Bob Moffet, Danny Koeber, Tim Moore, Chuck Hinrichs, Bill Thomas, Keith Kittinger, Harry Dolph, and Dennis Carnal.

January 2010 Financial Report

Report Date: January 25, 2010, by Wally Watts.

Beginning Balance 2660.39

Income:

National Dues Received 603.00

Chapter Dues Received 65.00

Donations 2.00

Other (Raffle) 9.00

Total: **679.00**

Adjusted Balance 3339.39

Expenditures:

National Dues Paid 1069.00

Postage 28.72

Printing 57.56

Flowers 00.00

Supplies 00.00

Total: 1097.72

Ending Balance: 2241.67

Membership Statistics

Beginning Membership 68

National Members Added 1

National Members Dropped 1

Chapter Members Added 0

Chapter Members Dropped 1

Ending Membership 67



And it's free!



With the new year here, it is time to mark your calendars for Homewood, Illinois and our 7th Annual Rail Heritage Weekend, coming to you this year on May 15th/16th, 2010. As always, we will have our popular Saturday night multi-media/slide show starting at 7PM, and on Sunday hosted railfanning at our busy train-watching platform starting at 6AM and the big Train Show (operating layouts, vendors, historical societies, antiques, etc) at the Village Hall municipal complex from 9AM to 3 PM. CN will have prototype equipment on display adjacent to the Train Show venue. This year we will also have our Rail Equipment Park caboose, IC 9426, open for touring--we finished interior restoration since last year's event. If luck is with us, we might have GP10 IC 8408 open also, although that is a very big maybe and depends on how the Spring work days go. More detailed info in a couple of months--meanwhile, get us on your schedule and we will see you in Homewood in May! Homewood is located in the south suburbs of Chicago and is accessible via both Metra commuter and Amtrak long-distance train service. More info available at www.homesweethomewood.com.

TIMETABLE #110

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF RAILFANS ONLY

- **sH**ow Modular Model RR Club Train Show - Saturday February 20, 2010, 10am to 3pm, at the L&N Depot on Kentucky Street, Bowling Green, KY. Admission is \$2. Table rental for vendors is \$15. Contact Kevin, kcomer300@yahoo.com.
- **WKNRHS** - Next Meeting is Monday, March 22, 2010, Program by Chapter Member Tom Johnson, refreshments by Tom Hurley.

- **WKNRHS** - April , program by Dr. Fred Ripley, refreshments by Donnie and Betty Knight.
- **WKNRHS** - May Meeting in Hopkinsville, at the Hopkinsville Historical Society.

Chapter Only Members!

Dues are due! Please send your checks to Wally Watts, 111 Reed Place, Madisonville, KY 42431.

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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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

Illinois RR Historical Society

<http://icrrhistorical.org/>

Illinois Railway Museum

www.irm.org/

Tennessee Central

Railway Museum

www.tcry.org/

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

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% Bill Thomas, Editor

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Madisonville, KY 42431