

PENNYRAIL

April 2010

VOLUME 14 NUMBER 4

Please send your digital photos and story material to bill@fbcmadisonville.com

or mail to
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Madisonville, KY
42431.



Chapter Chatter

**Next Meeting Monday,
April 26, 2010**

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

Our 25th Anniversary!

**April Program
Presented by**

Dr. Fred Ripley

**MAIN LINE-EASTERN, PART II:
CONRAIL AND NORFOLK SOUTHERN
ON THE EAST END OF THE
PRR's PITTSBURGH, FT. WAYNE, &
CHICAGO, 1988-2009**

**Refreshments by
Donnie and Betty Knight**

Western Kentucky
Chapter, NRHS, Inc.

111 Reed Place
Madisonville, KY 42431

* * * * *

President
Rich Hane

Vice President
Steve Miller

Secretary Treasurer
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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April Program Overview

By Dr. Fred Ripley

The Pennsylvania Railroad's four-track main line east from Pittsburgh is justifiably one of, if not the, most famous and photographed pieces of railroad in North America. Less well known, but just as fascinating, are the "Lines West" main lines from Pittsburgh to Chicago and St. Louis. In August of last year, we looked at the very busy operations of Conrail and Norfolk Southern from just northwest of Pittsburgh to the PA-OH state line.

In this program, we'll start at the former mid-Ohio division point of Crestline, and follow the former Pittsburgh-Chicago main line as it heads

(Continued on page 2)

Rich's Ramblings

President, Rich Hane

Hopefully, you have all been enjoying the beautiful spring weather. This is a very special time of the year and it goes well with our very special celebration of our Chapter's 25th Anniversary. The time since we first formed our Chapter has slipped by too fast but the ride has been exceedingly enjoyable. It has been a learning experience for us and a great opportunity to participate with our friends in learning about the history of railroading in our country and the part that it played in settling and growing our great nation. Being able to come together each month and renew old friendships and make new ones is one that I look forward to. We are able to share our experiences gain insight into the forces that have shaped our nation while seeing the advances that railroading has made in technology, efficiency, safety, and speed.

The National Railway Historical Society has been a great force in preserving and spreading the history of these advancements. They have documented this movement and spread this information to new generations of people interested in the history of railroading by providing an ever improving bulletin, maintaining a library of books, films, and photographs open to all, and hosting events for young people and members in general.

Our Chapter's 25th Anniversary is a milestone and a time to appreciate the past and look forward to the future. All organizations evolve and our Society has tried to move into the new century with new ideas and ways of doing things while preserving the best of what has been done in the past. We need each member's help in improving and participating in this ongoing movement. When good people come together to grow and learn, only good things can come from this.

One thing that will change is the ownership of the old train station that we meet in each month. Funding has run out for the current owners and the building will have to be taken over by someone else. At this time the City of Madisonville is exploring ways to take over the building and preserve its future. I have met once with the Mayor to explain our Society and Chapter and will be

meeting again with him soon to try to ensure our continued use of this beautiful and historic facility. The City realizes the importance of this building and will be looking to ways that it can be used and maintained while serving the community. I am optimistic at this point and will bring you more information as I find it out.

I am looking forward to seeing all of your smiling faces at the next meeting, Monday, April 26th, at 7pm at the Center in beautiful downtown Madisonville. Come and celebrate with us the 25th Anniversary and join in the friendships and learning experience that has meant so much to many of us.

Program Overview Continued

through eastern Ohio, passing through varying topography and locations of both scenic beauty and industry. As the line approaches the eastern end of the state, it becomes the modern-day main line of Norfolk Southern between the east coast and Chicago, and is an impressively busy railroad. Given the fact that the PRR traditionally ran a significant amount of tonnage via a low-grade freight line, bypassing this section of the main, the railroad east of Alliance, OH, has more freight traffic presently than it ever has.

With an eye towards the history, we'll see lots of action from the last ten years of Conrail and NS of recent years- big trains in great scenic main line settings, with lots of PRR position light signals, in all seasons and weather. Anyone with an interest in the PRR and its successors, or who just enjoys contemporary big-time railroading, won't be disappointed.

Thoughts and Prayers

For Chapter Members experiencing
health challenges

If you know of members who are or have been recently hospitalized, please forward the information to me, bill@fbcmadisonville.com

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

La Posada Hotel Good Reviews from our Chapter President, Rich Hane

In March of this year my wife and I were returning to Madisonville from our trip to Phoenix, Arizona and decided to stay a night at the La Posada Hotel in Winslow, Arizona. Members Don Clayton and Wallace Henderson had recommended this lovely place to me and I value their judgment because of their vast experience in traveling.

This hotel was built about 1930 and was a stop on the Santa Fe Railroad. Food and lodging were available to travelers using the Santa Fe's route between Chicago and Los Angeles. The present building replaced one that burned down in the 1920s and is thus, the latest one built. Food was provided by the Fred Harvey Company which worked with the Santa Fe in many of their hotels. The company employed many young women in a hope that this would civilize, not only the hotel, but the surrounding area which was inhabited mostly by males a century ago. These women came to be known as the Harvey Girls and they did help civilize the area and married many of the local men. Hollywood even made a very good movie called "The Harvey Girls" starring Judy Garland containing a good story and good music showing the life of these hardworking and capable women. It also has some nice shots of Santa Fe steam engines and trains in it.

The hotel was designed by a lady architect, Mary Coulter, who worked on many projects for the Santa Fe and many of these are still standing such as the El Tovar Hotel at the Grand Canyon. The Southwest architecture is quite well done. There are several gardens and the grounds are very comfortable and provide a good place to rest. There are as many as 140 trains a day going by and the hotel even provides comfortable rocking chairs trackside to observe the action. There is an adjoining Amtrak station where trains such as the Southwest Chief stop. Winslow has a small rail yard and is a crew change point on the modern BNSF Railway which provides a nice opportunity for train watching as the trains stop for a few minutes before continuing their journey.

There are many things to see here such as the intimate gardens, a museum of modern art, the surrounding city with it's historical buildings, and an

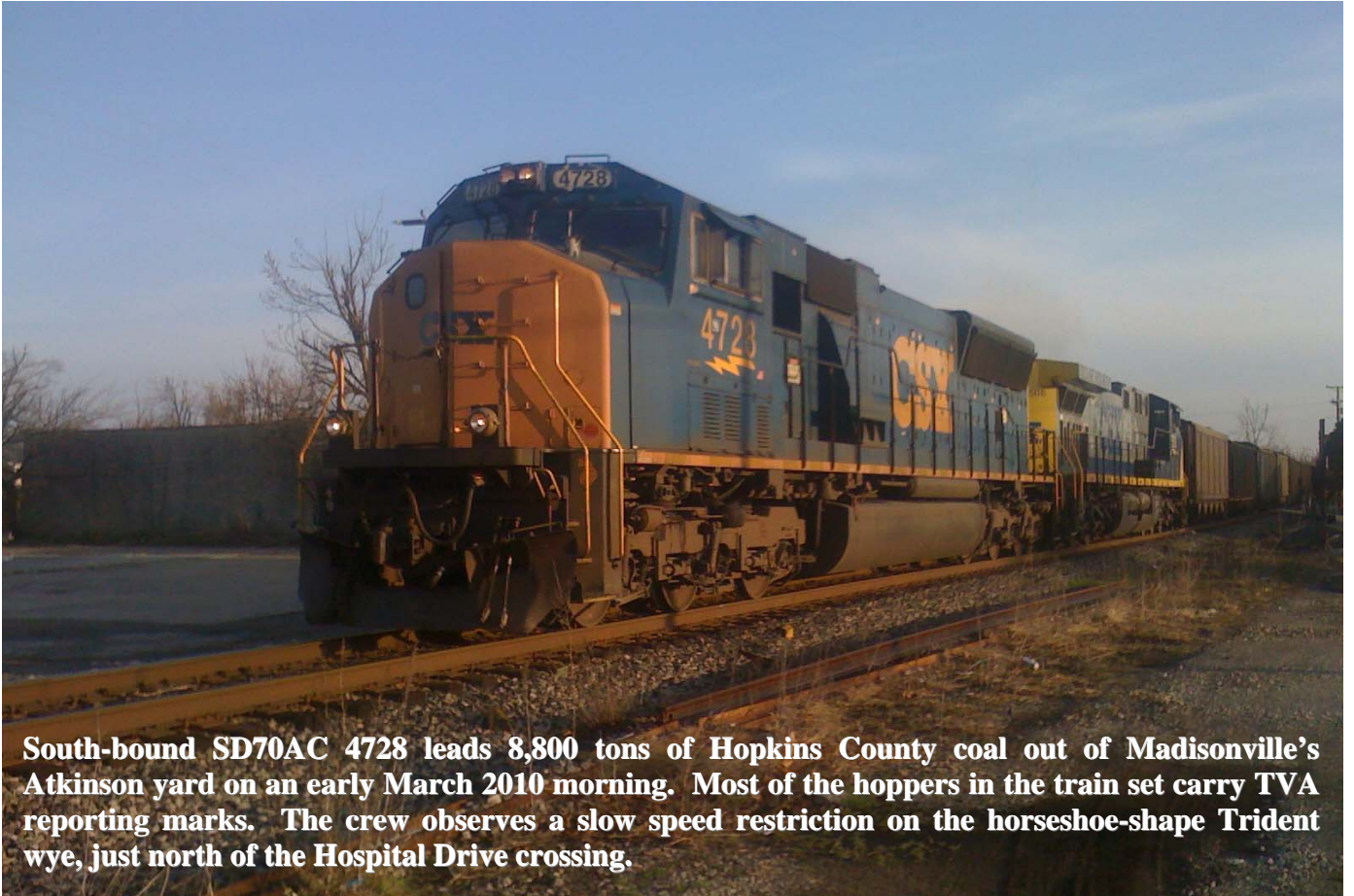
excellent restaurant in the Hotel. The Turquoise Room has hosted many famous people over the years and they have a great photographic collection on the walls showing some of them such as Spencer Tracy, Jimmy Stewart, John Wayne, Albert Einstein, Amelia Earhart, and Harry Truman to name a few. The guest rooms are named for these travelers and we stayed in the Carol Lombard room overlooking the tracks. She was an actress and was married to Clark Gable and died in an airplane crash near Las Vegas in 1942 while on a War Bond tour for the Nation's war effort.

There are two old passenger cars parked next to the Amtrak station that have been preserved and converted into permanent residences. One is pictured here and is a beautiful Pennsylvania Railroad car that is used by a local doctor as his residence. It has four nice bedrooms in it and you can even see the satellite dish mounted on the end of the car for television.

If you are looking for a nice place to stay in Northern Arizona with a lot of history, good food, nice rooms, lots of trains, gardens, art, and is right on Historic Route 66 you might wish to try out La Posada Hotel in Winslow, Arizona.



PHOTO SECTION



South-bound SD70AC 4728 leads 8,800 tons of Hopkins County coal out of Madisonville's Atkinson yard on an early March 2010 morning. Most of the hoppers in the train set carry TVA reporting marks. The crew observes a slow speed restriction on the horseshoe-shape Trident wye, just north of the Hospital Drive crossing.



Chapter member Bill Grady of Louisville, shot this CSX freight on the Short Line at LaGrange, KY, March 18, 2010.

SummeRail at Cincinnati Union Terminal (C.U.T.)

**CINCINNATI RAILROAD CLUB
and
MIAMI VALLEY RAILFANS
Present**



**SUMMERAIL AT C.U.T.
1:00 PM to 10:00 PM
and
RAILROAD SHOW AND SALE
10:00 AM to 5:00 PM, in the Rotunda
Saturday, August 14, 2010
CINCINNATI UNION TERMINAL
1301 Western Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio**

Join us at this historic art deco railroad terminal to escape the summer heat and enjoy a day of high quality railroad photography. There will be twelve 222 multimedia digital and dual-projector slide presentations, all set to music. The programs will run from 1:00 - 10:00 p.m., with a break for dinner (on your own) from approximately 4:30 - 7:00 p.m. **Admission is \$15.**

A railroad show and sale will be set up in the terminal rotunda from 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. **Admission is free.** **Friday August 13** in CUT Auditorium will be some traditional "talkie" programs from 8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. **Admission is free.** **Thursday August 12** in Tower A

Tied Up on The Henderson Sub

If you've been anywhere near the Henderson Subdivision lately you have noticed the new ties and rail equipment present all along the line, even the supposedly ill-fated Earlington Main through Madisonville (which is also in the process of receiving new grade crossings between Mortons Gap and Atkinson Yard). Chuck Hinrichs sent these shots in from the Hopkinsville area.



CSX ribbon rail train in siding at Romney



NB ballast train at Crofton, KY

Regional Rail Notes...

Final Blades To Fall...

With news of the pending demise of the south end of the Monon between Bedford and Louisville, the final blades on the Monon's north end are scheduled to fall by the end of 2010.

A major signal upgrade between Lafayette and Linden took out a large number of sempahores last year - being replaced with rather utilitarian Safetran hooded signal lights.

In March 2010, work began southward from Linden to Crawfordsville to replace the old "upside down" signal lights which have their aspects reversed from "normal" position. Even the old L&N-style searchlight at South Linden is being replaced as well, truly changing the route to CSX.

With this project, the dwarf blades of North Crawfordsville and the one adjacent to the Ben Huhr museum will see their last trains soon. The only ones to remain along the line will be museum pieces being restored at Linden. That's progress! - Chris Dees

Cliff Downey's new book, "Kentucky and the Illinois Central," is now on sale at the Paducah Railroad Museum Gift Shop. The price is \$ 23.25, including tax. This is a great book with many rare pictures. The museum is open on Friday 1:00 to 4:00 and Saturday 10:00-4:00. or by appointment by calling 270 559-5253. You do not have to tour the museum to buy the book, but we hope you will want to. Bob Johnston. - submitted by Chuck Hinrichs.



Support Area
Railway Museums

<http://www.kyrail.org/>



<http://www.indianarailwaymuseum.org/>



<http://www.irm.org/>



<http://tcry.org/>



RAILMARK ACQUIRES ORLANDO DINNER TRAIN OPERATION - NEWS RELEASE - (Walled Lake, MI) - April 7, 2010 - Railmark's RAIL ENTERTAINMENT USA INC. subsidiary announced today that it has acquired the assets and operations of Florida Rail Adventures LLC and commenced operations on March 19th. Railmark's iconic Star Clipper Dinner Train®, the first and oldest dinner train in North America, will begin its 26th season in the Orlando Florida market, moving from the Metro-Detroit Michigan market where it has been since 1985. The Star Clipper Dinner Train made its debut run on August 4, 1984 in Osage Iowa and since that time has entertained over 2,000,000 passengers. Railmark's other branded rail entertainment trains such as its family oriented excursion trains, adult entertainment trains and its unique Pullman Palace Bed & Breakfast operation, will relocate to the Eustis, Mount Dora and Tavares Florida area, all lake front communities along the train's primary route and located just northwest of Orlando. The Company's Florida-based operations website is www.orlandotrains.com.

Railmark has named Mr. Neil Bagaus Vice President of Rail Entertainment USA Inc. & General Manager of the

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March 2010 Minutes Summary

Minutes Approved for the January 2010 meeting.
Treasurer's Report approved.

Director's Report: Activities Report: Wallace had no report, but plans to attend the next board meeting.

Activities: Rail club of the Tennessee Central Society plans another trip to Monterey, TN, this year. Several from our chapter participated in this trip in 2008. Ricky invites us to his monthly meeting at his house on Monday evening, March 29, for visiting and train watching. This is in Mortons Gap at trackside.

Old business: The T-shirts have been ordered and should be available next month for the charter members, and other who wish to purchase them. Ricky will tell the treasurer when to bring a check for them.

New Business: The April meeting will be our 25th anniversary. Brief discussion held on what to do. Nothing specifically decided. Will be a "play by ear" thing. Wallace Henderson reported that Cliff Downey's book on the Illinois Central in Kentucky is available for 21.99.

Show & Tell: David Millen brought four coffee mugs lettered for L&N and CSX with variations for display. Fred Ripley brought two Pennsylvania Railroad highly detailed HO scale Pullman cars.

Next Meeting: Monday April 26, at The Center, with program by Dr. Fred Ripley, refreshments by Donnie and Betty Knight. The May meeting will be in Hopkinsville, at the L&N Depot. Chapter members from Hopkinsville will be hosting. The June meeting location is in question and dependent upon the future of The Center as it is up for sale.

Members Present at March 2010 Meeting:

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

March 2010 Financial Report

Report Date: March 22, 2010, by Wally Watts.

Beginning Balance 2277.96

Income:

National Dues Received 00.00

Chapter Dues Received 39.00

Donations 2.00

Other (Raffle) 8.00

Total: **49.00**

Adjusted Balance 2326.96

Expenditures:

National Dues Paid 00.00

Postage 22.00

Printing 99.24

Flowers 00.00

Website Fees 65.00

Total: 186.24

Ending Balance: 2140.72

Membership Statistics

Beginning Membership 67

National Members Added 0

National Members Dropped 0

Chapter Members Added 0

Chapter Members Dropped 2

Ending Membership 65



Just like the prototypes, running a garden railroad has its hazards. Falling tree limbs seem to be my nemesis lately. I suppose it is due to all the loosely-attached hickory limbs - ice storm damage from 2009. These before and after photos tell the story of the hard work put in by the 2-man (in 1/29 scale, each hand counts as a man) track gang on the Hook Line & Singer RR this Spring. So far the station has been spared, but more wind is probable. Bill Thomas, president and CEO, Hook Line & Singer RR.

TIMETABLE #110

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF RAILFANS ONLY

- **WKNRHS** - April , program by Dr. Fred Ripley, refreshments by Donnie and Betty Knight. 25th Anniversary!
- **WKNRHS** - May 24, Chapter Meeting in Hopkinsville, at the Hopkinsville L&N Depot.
- **Homewood, IL**, 7th Annual Rail Heritage Weekend, May 15-16, 2010.

Dinner Train Continued

Company's Florida-based retail train operations. Mr. Bagaus has spent a good majority of his career in retail train operations and Railmark welcomes him as an important part of its management team.

Mr. B. Allen Brown, Railmark President & CEO comments, "We are looking forward to integrating our themed trains into the Orlando Florida market and building upon the successes of our predecessor's trains, such as the Orlando Magic Express operated on certain home game nights. Railmark's experience and expertise will transform this historic railroad into an important rail oriented tourist attraction in the central Florida market."

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

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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