

PENNYRAIL

August 2010

VOLUME 14 NUMBER 8



Chapter Chatter

**Memorial Issue
Dedicated to the life and
memories of
Ronald Stubblefield**

**Next Meeting Monday,
August 23, 2010**

7:00 pm

**L&N Depot
Madisonville, KY**

**August Program By Rick Bivins
*BYOS***

(Bring Your Own Slides)

**See program notes on page 5
for important details**

Refreshments by Steve Miller

Above and Right: Chapter members Bill Grady, Keith Kittinger, Bob Moffet, Steve Miller, and Dennis Carnal enjoy some fellowship time before the July meeting - filled with spirited conversation I might add. -ed.

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

**or mail to
Bill Thomas,
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“PENNYRAIL” is the
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the Western Kentucky
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Fellowship at the Depot!



Rich's Ramblings

President, Rich Hane

The writing of this article brings me great sadness as the news of the passing of one of our old friends and longtime Chapter member Ron Stubblefield came to me. Ron passed away late on Sunday afternoon, August 8th after suffering through several illnesses for the last couple of years. He will be missed by all of us for his great wit and humor, knowledge, kindness, and real humanity. Ron was 66 years old. Our condolences go out to his family and friends and his wonderful wife, Kay.

At the last meeting we discussed and voted on an issue that will change some things that we have done for awhile. The January, 2011 issue of the PennyRail will be published primarily in an email version in an attempt to rein in some of our ongoing costs. For any member that does not have access to a computer we will still publish a printed copy and make it available to them. There is no problem for us doing this and we don't want to make a burden for any member. All we ask is that you contact Bill Thomas and request a printed copy. For those of you that have a computer or can see the PennyRail on one at home, library, or through a friend or relative, you will be amazed at how different the publication looks when it is in full color and at a higher quality. It can be easily stored or printed out, also. For those of you who would like this service please provide Bill with your current email address so that he can update your file. Again, we wish to make everyone satisfied so please let us know how you like this idea.

Along with this change, I have asked Wally Watts and Bill Thomas to develop some idea of our annual costs so that we may be able to reduce our Chapter dues with the coming new year. We will discuss their ideas at the next meeting. Also, as the Chapter decided, please keep in mind that we have changed the date of the fall Crofton Picnic to Saturday, Sept. 25 to coincide with the 25th Anniversary Celebration of the Chapter to be held on Monday, Sept. 27th. Dr. Ross will be attending this meeting which should be a fun time and there will be a meal provided for us that night. So, I will be anxiously looking forward to seeing all of your smiling faces at our next meeting on Monday, August 23 at the Center in beautiful downtown Madisonville at 7pm.



Beginning January, 2011, we will discontinue the paper printing of our monthly newsletter, The PennyRail. The publication will be available in Portable Document Format (pdf, Adobe Reader) via email and on the chapter's website (as presently available there). Adobe Reader is available as a free download to any computer. The chapter is striving to be a good steward of our resources thus the decision made in the July meeting.

As editor of this work, I do not wish this to be a hardship on any of our members who do not have internet/email access. If you do not have access to the internet or email, we will make arrangements for you to receive a paper copy in black and white print. Just let us know. All we ask is that members not take advantage of this offer and use the electronic medium if possible. If you do not have a computer, many free public libraries offer computers with internet access as part of their services.

I will need all chapter members to update your email addresses with me so that you receive your email with the newsletter pdf file attached.

You may also want to check with your internet service provider (ISP) to make sure attachments are not filtered and you are set up to receive emails sent out in distribution lists.

I am glad to offer any suggestions, help, etc. if you need it, but remember, most internet/email issues are best handled directly with your ISP.

You can email me at bill@fbcmadisonville.com, call 270-825-4623 (home), call or text me at 270-339-9482 (cell), or look me up on Facebook.

For those of you who do not have a computer at home, let me encourage you to secure one if possible. You may have a relative or friend with a gently used machine that could be used for internet browsing, email, and light word processing. There are many rail-related sites with information, videos, discussion groups, and sale items right at your finger tips.

Remember the basic requirements for receiving the PennyRail via email: 1) Internet/email account access; 2) An internet service provider (ISP) which allows for attachments to emails; 3) Adobe Reader for opening the pdf file when it arrives. Adobe Reader is available for free download at www.adobe.com.

PHOTO SECTION



Above: Can you tell which child is more accustomed to loud train noises? Liam and Joe Thomas witness one of several visits by CSX during July's Chapter meeting.

SPECIAL PHOTO SECTION: Ron Stubblefield



Left: Ron loved trains and planes. Rex Easterly submitted this shot of Stubby getting up close via scooter.



Right: Here is Stubby at Garden of the Gods, camera in hand. He was an avid photographer. Samples of his art were on display at the funeral home. Submitted by Rex Easterly.



Chapter trip to Tennessee Valley Railway Museum, Chattanooga, TN. Submitted by Rex Easterly.

SPECIAL PHOTO SECTION: Editor's Choice



Left: Ron Stubblefield, Liam Thomas, Bob McCracken, and Rich Hane watch trains run around Ron's garden railroad June 15, 2007. Bill Thomas took the photo.



Right: Ron puts on a big grin at a Garden Railway Christmas bash at the home of Bill Thomas. Ron loved a good party.



Above: One of my favorite photos by Ron - his 1:20.3 scale 3-foot narrow gauge Shay crossing the Little Joe River on my Hook Line & Singer Railway.



Right and left: Ron and Kay were able to attend the Chapter Christmas Party December 2009.



In Memoriam - Ron Stubblefield

Ron Stubblefield - I first met Ron Stubblefield in Paducah, Kentucky, during my senior year at Murray State University. Ron had recently joined the Paducah Model Railroad Club and his HO-scale module had a lot of circus-related models: a carousel, a Ferris wheel, and even a Z-scale park train. In the coming months, Ron and I became good friends, culminating in Ron assisting me in getting my first job at Siemens in Ron's hometown of Marion (KY). 1993 began with Ron and I traveling every Thursday night to Don Clayton's house in Madisonville and the monthly NRHS meetings. Without Ron, I would not have had a chance to start my career the way I did, and I would not have met many other dear friends - the fellow members of the Western Kentucky Chapter of NRHS. I am forever indebted to Ron and his wife Kay.

Those weekly trips were more (than) just a ride to see trains. They were a small journey on the Ron-sized path of life. Sure, we saw the P&L Railway take over the Tradewater Railway through Marion, had CSX serenade us during dinner at Burger King in Madisonville, and chased multiple trains in that little Jeep across southern Illinois and Southeast Missouri - including the 1996 Olympic Torch train on Union Pacific. But Ron demonstrated what it was to be a real man - a kind of big brother (and I say that respectfully in terms of his physical size and the size of his heart). I would also not have been able to railfan many local hotspots had I not met Ron - those memories of racing down gravel

roads and doing power slides in rural southeast Missouri in pursuit of UP and SP are and will continue to be cherished in the coming years. Ron also taught me a lot about railfan photography and was an incredible teacher of geology. Many of his photos graced multiple issues of our newsletters. And Ron's knowledge of minerals and his involvement with the Clements Mineral Museum gave me a different view of "those rocks".

In closing, I will miss my brother Ron. He was a good friend, a great mentor, and the best



Christian brother a man could have. But I know, as my pastor Steve Viars would say: "this man knew that he knew that he knew he was on his way to Heaven." I am sure Ron is enjoying railfanning in Heaven.

Run Eight Ron!!!

Chris (Dees)

Special Instructions for August Meeting

Ricky Bivins is our program host for the August 23, meeting at the Center, Madisonville. This "Bring Your Own Slides" program is designed for anyone in the chapter who would like to display their photography. For those who have physical slides or prints, you have some options: 1) present your prints on a story board or portable bulletin board. 2) use a slide projector, either your own or arrange for one through a fellow chapter member or friend. 3) scan your slides and/or prints into a digital format which can be inserted into a Microsoft Power Point show. We will have at least one laptop computer with Power Point installed on it. You can transport your image files on a memory stick, CD, or email them to me. If you are unsure about the digital route, email me and I'll try to do what I can to help you.

If you scan or have digital images ready to go, you can email them to me and I'll set them up in a Power Point show on my laptop. JPEG is the preferred digital format for this application. My email address is: bill@fbcmadisonville.com.

Thoughts and Prayers

For Chapter Members experiencing health challenges

Kay Stubblefield - passing of Ron.
Tim Moore continues to progress and recover from a foot amputation last month.

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

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



Support Area
Railway Museums

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



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



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



<http://tcry.org/>

Ron Stubblefield at Halley Tower. Submitted by Rex Easterly.



June minutes and treasurer's report approved.

Directors Report: Wallace briefly reported on the Scranton convention. Will have more detailed report after the November board meeting, including changes in the board organization. One highlight of the convention was the abundance of rare mileage rail trips. Rail Camp in Steam Town will be for adults, and Tacoma will be Convention next year. Following year in Cedar Rapids. Bart Jennings will run convention in 2012, on 3rd week in June.

Activities: No report

Old Business: Discussion held on the newsletter, concerning cost reduction, etc. Bill Thomas suggested, and thus made a motion, we set target date of January 2011 to stop all paper copies of the newsletter, but if anyone who does not have internet access still needs a hard copy, arrangements will be made for those persons to receive one. Motion passed. This will be announced in the newsletter until then. The newsletter is a pricey item, chiefly the printing, which runs currently about \$46 per month minimum, postage running now \$17.60 per month.

New Business: Wallace suggested since this is our 25th anniversary, we have some sort of program honoring this. Tentative plans are being made to have a buffet dinner for the September meeting which will be on the 25th. Wally will check with Ballard catering for food similar with what we had for our Christmas dinner. Wallace also suggested we move our Crofton picnic date to the Saturday before the meeting, on the 23 or September. This will be contingent upon Chuck (Hinrichs) checking with Crofton to see if date can be changed from the 9th of October. Motion made and approved concerning this, dependant upon the date being changed at Crofton.

Show and Tell: Dave Millen has several items of interest related to his father's career with the L&N. Bill Thomas brought a caboosie bird house and a British Railways locoman's lantern.

Announcements: Rich reported on Ron Stubblefield who is still hospitalized in Marion, KY. He still has many problems associated with cardio-vascular, and breathing. A card was passed out and signed to be sent to him. Tim Moore is also recuperating from a leg amputation last month. He is residing at a

Specialty Center in Evansville.

Members Present: Wally Watts, Thomas Bryan, Danny Koeber, Tom Johnson, David Millen, Rick Bivins, Rich Hane, Steve Miller, Liam Thomas, D.A. Fraser, Donny Knight, Dennis Carnal, Bill Thomas, Bob Moffet, Wallace Henderson, Keith Kittinger, Bill Grady. Guest: Joe Thomas

Next Meeting: Monday August 23, 7pm, at The Center. Program by Rick Bivins, refreshments by Steve Miller.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Report Date: July 26, 2010, by Wally Watts.

Beginning Balance 1667.96

Income:

National Dues Received	49.00
Chapter Dues Received	00.00
Donations	00.00
Other (Raffle)	00.00

Total: **49.00**

Adjusted Balance 1716.96

Expenditures:

National Dues Paid	00.00
Postage	17.60
Printing	93.78
Other	00.00

Total: 111.38

Ending Balance: 1605.58

Membership Statistics

Beginning Membership	50
National Members Added	1
National Members Dropped	0
Chapter Members Added	0
Chapter Members Dropped	0
Ending Membership	51

Submitted by Wally Watts, Treasurer

Ron Stubblefield - Needs no comment



TIMETABLE #110

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF RAILFANS ONLY

- **West Kentucky NRHS Chapter Meeting** - August 23, Madisonville, L&N Depot.
- **L&N Historical Society Convention** - September 16-18, Frankfort, KY
- **West Kentucky NRHS Chapter Picnic**, Saturday, September 25, Crofton, KY.



Correction: This photo appeared in the July issue. I miss-identified my youngest son Joe as my oldest son Liam. Joe is seen here on the Amtrak Crescent. Can you believe a parent of three children, three cats, and two dogs would do such a thing?

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

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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

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Illinois Railway Museum

www.irm.org/

Tennessee Central

Railway Museum

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PENNYRAIL

% Bill Thomas, Editor

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