

# PENNYRAIL

August 2011

VOLUME 15 NUMBER 8



## Chapter Chatter

**Next Meeting Monday,  
August 22, 2011, 7:00 pm  
At the former L&N Depot  
Madisonville, KY  
Program by  
Wallace Henderson  
Refreshments by Rich Hane**

Western Kentucky  
Chapter, NRHS, Inc.

111 Reed Place  
Madisonville, KY 42431

\* \* \* \* \*

President  
Ricky Bivins

Vice President  
Steve Miller

Secretary Treasurer  
Wally Watts

National Director  
Wallace Henderson

Director at Large  
Danny Koeber

**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.**

“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



What I love about Rail-Fans....  
Tons of steel flying by only a  
few feet away and are we  
scared?

We love it!

West Kentucky NRHS Chapter  
members watch a CSX freight  
wiz by at the former L&N depot,  
our meeting place, in Madison-  
ville, KY. The July meeting will  
commence soon after the train  
passes. Photo by Chuck Hinrichs

## Ricky's Replies

President, Ricky Bivins

Hello Western Kentucky Chapter NRHS Members. My oh my, another month has come and gone... Where does the time go? I hope this August addition of the E-news Letter finds everyone well. With the recent high temperatures and allergens in the air, some of even the healthiest of people are down with ailments.

I was very impressed with Our Man Thomas Bryan and his attentive report on his time at Rail Camp. This young man has overcome what for some people would be a life challenging impairment. As a result he has come about in life with a confidence and stamina for knowledge, respect and an intelligent repose. I am proud of him and that he represented our Chapter (the first ever from our region) at Rail Camp. Well Done Thomas.

The last three weeks of the "month between the meetings" have been a productive and fun one for some of us. The most recent event our Chapter participated in was the August 12th version of Madisonville's Friday Night Live. Wally, Thomas and Jim Bryan, Steve Miller, my Wife Kathy and I were on hand from 5:15PM until well after dark. We were set up next to the Illinois Central Railroad Centennial marker on the North side of the Court House, in the grass. We had shade, a grand view of the car show and we were easily accessible. Wally and Thomas ran several of Wally's steam engines as visitors came and went. I gabbed with the one's that appeared to be keenly interested or had little one's that were. While the Chapter may or may not see a direct benefit from the time spent and brochures handed out, I feel we as a Chapter have upheld an obligation to the National Organization and the Community. Next year will provide us the same opportunity to share and spread the news of our Chapter and further promote the same. I would like to say "Many thanks to all those whom found time to attend and help out".

Last month I suggested a work session at our meeting place, the former Louisville & Nashville Railroad Station to clean and remove weeds from the facility. Being as I did not get a robust and

overwhelming amount of input from the members present that night, I took it upon myself to "organize" an impromptu work session on the following Saturday, July 30th. Kathy and I were at the Station by 7:50 AM to beat some of the heat of the day. Wally joined in just after 9:00 AM (our original planned time) and helped out with picking up what turned out to be a Ranger Pickup load of weeds and trash. We finished up by 9:30 and the place looked a lot better. I wish to say "Thank You" to Wally, whom at 79 years of age (soon to turn 80) can still work circles around a lot of punk kids I know! And wouldn't you know it, only Wally ended up with a bad case of Poison Ivy!

Following Thomas' report on Rail Camp, I presented a video from O Gauge Railroading Magazine. In the video was a nice story by and about Tony Lash's three rail model train layout. I had several members comment on Mr. Lash...oddly enough, not on his fabulous layout but of his comments pertaining to his business and that he (a black man) never took advantage of government subsidy or contract, he made his business a success in the private sector. I point this out as I seem to notice the fact that this hobby and trains fans in general tend to be of a stronger moral and intelligent back ground. We can point out several of our own members that fit that moniker. Let me close by saying "I am proud to be a member and acquainted with this Chapter. Thank You."



July meeting photo by Chuck Hinrichs.

# Photo Section



A South-bound freight glides across Arch Street in Madisonville, KY, approaching the former L&N depot where Chapter members await its passing before the July meeting. Nice early-evening light.  
Photo by Chuck Hinrichs.



It's mid July and Bill Grady has caught the Norfolk-Southern office car train rolling through Connors Station, KY, near Simpsonville, KY. Right in the middle of thoroughbred country!

## PHOTO SECTION 2

**Right:** Here is another shot sent in by Bill Grady taken on a family vacation to Montana. That Montana Sky!



## Nothing Runs Like a Deere!

Rex Easterly also sent in these aftermath shots of a train vs. tractor event. According to the email, a young man was driving his grandfather's John Deere and ran out of luck. He was not injured. Bystanders were warned not to get near the tractor engine - it was still running.



## Modeler's Corner



**Left:** Rex Easterly is at it again. Seen here his backyard is ready for G gauge track. The white PVC square tubes are tunnel casings/rabbit dens. Rex has long arms.

**Below:** Bill Heaton got some candid shots around Paducah and VMV. I miss the old Soo, ed.



Loram  
Rail Grinder

# More Pictures!



**Above and Right:** Somehow, Bill Heaton just walked into Atkinson Yard, Madisonville and took these shots. I'd have been arrested on the spot.

**Below:** Dave Millen could be the model chapter member. Lots of miles to drive from Evansville, but very faithful in attendance.



## Regional Rail Notes

CN, one of North America's largest railroads, has announced plans to relocate a portion of its operations from Markham, IL, and fully redevelop the existing Kirk Yard rail facility in Gary, IN, adding up to 251 new jobs by 2015.

CN, which spans Canada and mid-America and reaches the Atlantic, Pacific and Gulf coasts, will invest \$163 million in the Gary project. This initial investment includes expanding the railroad classification yard and building a 155,000 square-foot locomotive maintenance and repair facility.

Whether its bringing dollars back from overseas or from right next door, finding new investments and jobs is always job one for us," said Governor Mitch Daniels. "Today, we see a product of that effort as one of the leaders of the rail industry chooses Indiana's lower-cost, business-friendly climate over our Midwestern neighbors and, best of all, chooses Northwest Indiana for its new expansion."

*(Continued on page 7)*

## Minutes Summary and Financial Report

### July 25, 2011 Meeting

**Minutes** of June meeting approved.

**Treasurer's report** read and approved.

**Director's Report:** Wallace has no report. He believes the final work-out of the rule changes will be done at the board meeting in Wilmington. Next year's convention will be in Cedar Rapids.

**Old Business:** Steve is still working on the archive photos and working on digital copies. Our last Friday night live went well, with Wally., Thomas, and Steve on board. Next on (and last for the year) will be on August 12. Ricky asked all who could to help at the August affair and plan for next year.

**New Business:** Wallace reports dues notices would be out by October 1. No firm date yet set for the Clayton and Watts Open house. Probably will be first or second Saturday in November. The Crofton picnic will be either the first or second Saturday in October. Thomas gave an interesting oral report on the Rail Camp which he attended and stood in well for the chapter, and the state there. He and Jim will have a formal program later.

**Announcements:** Dennis reports that Joe Thomas, son of Bill, had surgery on July 25, to repair an aortic aneurism in his descending aorta. He is out of surgery and recovering at Kosair Children's Hospital, Louisville.

**Next Meeting:** Monday, August 22, 7pm. Program by Wallace Henderson, refreshments by Rich Hane.

**Members Present:** Keith Kittinger, David Millen, Steve Miller,

Wally Watts, Dennis Carnal, Danny Koeber, Chuck Hinrichs, Rick Bivins, Wallace Henderson, Thomas Bryan, Tim Moore. Guests: Louren Edwards, Lana Kunz.

### FINANCIAL REPORT

Report Date: July 25, 2011 by Wally Watts.

Beginning Balance 770.72

**Income:**

National Dues Received	00.00
Chapter Dues Received	00.00
Donations/Raffle	13.00
Other (Royalty-Neff Video)	00.00

Total: **13.00**

**Adjusted Balance** **783.72**

**Expenditures:**

National Dues Paid.	180.00
Supplies	2.50
Printing (brochures)	00.00
Other (Annual Corporation filing)	00.00

Total: 182.50

Ending Balance: 601.22

### Membership Statistics

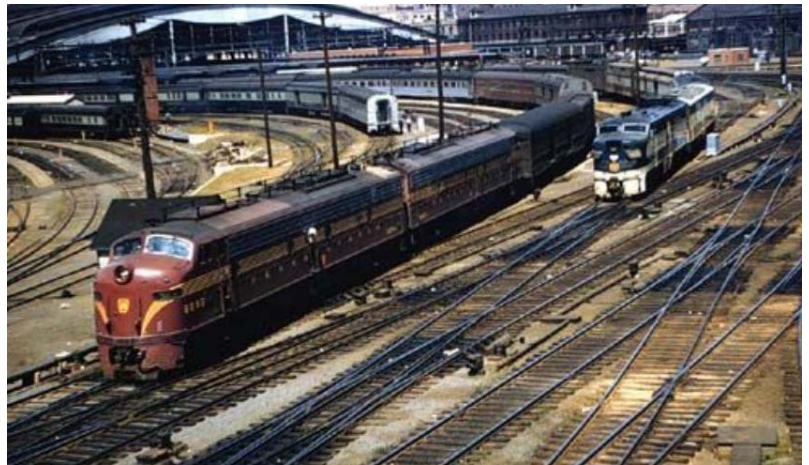
Beginning Membership	49
National Members Added	0
National Members Dropped	0
Chapter Members Added	0
Chapter Members Dropped	0
Ending Membership	49

#### Doing Well!

**Thanks for the prayers for our son Joe. He is recovering well after surgery on July 25.**

**Keep the Old Goat prayed up now. Dennis Carnal had a "spell" but seems to be recovering well too.**

A vintage shot from Fred Ripley, St. Louis, June 1957. Pennsylvania RR "Spirit of St. Louis" and Missouri Pacific "Texan". Track Work!



### Regional Rail Notes Continued...

"Our Kirk Yard improvements will mean significant improvements in efficiency and productivity creating new capacity for growth in the Chicago area and Northwest Indiana," said Jim Vena, senior vice president, CN Southern Region. "Additionally, the expansion of Kirk Yard represents a significant investment by CN in Gary which will bring hundreds of jobs to Indiana."

The Indiana Economic Development Corporation offered CN up to \$2.95 million in performance-based tax credits and up to \$250,000 in training grants based on the company's job creation plans. The city of Gary also offered funds using revenues generated from the issuance of a tax increment financing (TIF) bond.

"The CN project will contribute greatly to the restoration of the city of Gary's tax base with significant improvements to

its Kirk Yard," said Mayor Rudy Clay. "This multi-million dollar project will add to our tax base as well as provide opportunities for new, well-paid, full-time jobs for Gary residents. I am gratified that CN has decided to expand in the City of Gary. I am excited about this venture and look forward to the start of construction."

CN's relocation marks the sixth company this year to publicly announce its plans to relocate operations from Illinois to Indiana. Most recently in July, Special Metals Corporation revealed that it would relocate its A-1 Wire division from Rockford to its Elkhart plant, creating up to 100 new jobs by 2014.

-Submitted by Chris Dees.

# TIMETABLE #110

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF RAILFANS ONLY

- **West Kentucky NRHS Chapter Meeting** - August 22, Madisonville L&N Depot (The Center), 7pm.
- **L&N Historical Society Convention** - Harlan, KY, September 22-25. [www.lnrr.org](http://www.lnrr.org)
- **West Kentucky NRHS Chapter Meeting** - September 26, Madisonville L&N Depot, 7pm.
- **West Kentucky NRHS Chapter Fall Crofton Picnic** - 1st or 2nd Saturday in October (date pending).



This shot by Chuck Hinrichs I thought appropriate for the last page.

**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](mailto: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

## 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)

### Illinois RR Historical Society

<http://icrrhistorical.org/>

### Illinois Railway Museum

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

### Tennessee Central

#### Railway Museum

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

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

## PENNYRAIL

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