

PENNYRAIL

October 2011

VOLUME 15 NUMBER 10

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,
October 24, 2011,
7:00 pm
At the former L&N Depot
Madisonville, KY**

**Program by
Tim Moore**

Western Kentucky
Chapter, NRHS, Inc.

111 Reed Place
Madisonville, KY 42431

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President
Ricky Bivins

Vice President
Steve Miller

Secretary Treasurer
Wally Watts

National Director
Wallace Henderson

Director at Large
Danny Koeber

“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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Another Chapter Member Passes

At the young age of 48,
Jim Findley lost his
battle with
cancer this month.
Also please remember
Tony Clark's family. His
wife Mary, passed away
Friday, October 21.



Chapter member Wallace Henderson watches a passing CSX coal train move through Crofton, KY, at the Chapter's annual picnic.

Ricky's Replies

President, Ricky Bivins

Hello again Chapter Members. Well we start October on a sad note just as we did September! Former Member Jim Findley passed away earlier this month after a long illness. Jim was only 48 years young! In fact, I am 9 days older than Jim was. I met Jim in grade school at the 4-H Camp in Dawson Springs KY many years ago. We became friends when we learned through "round table discussion's" at camp that we both liked trains. Jim and I were "in touch" off and on through the years. It is so sad that such a talented individual passed so young. In hind sight, Jim accomplished more than most will do in a long lifetime. Just as with Dennis' passing, we never realize what we have in a friend until it is much too late!

Well, October has been a very good month otherwise. The Annual and much anticipated Picnic at Crofton KY was held on October 8th and it was a blast. I attended this year as it has been three years since my last visit to Crofton. As Steve Miller re-

ports, attendance was low but the weather was perfect and CSX was very cooperative in sending trains our way.

Also in October, three members (Thomas, Wally & Myself) and one guest, Phil Randall aka Nortonville Phil, made a trip to Southern Illinois for some rail fanning. On Thursday October 13th, Phil and I left his house in Nortonville at 4:30 AM and headed West through Paducah and then to Ware Illinois. Wally and Thomas met up with us later in Gorham Illinois where we were greeted with overcast skies and damp surroundings. The objective of course was to see trains on the ex-Missouri Pacific line along the Mississippi River. The River Line as it is called. We were treated to about 15 trains total for a fun day of railroading that ended with sunny skies and a good breeze.

The October Meeting will see the first of two calls for nominations for Chapter Officers. The elections are to be held the following month. If you want to run for office, stand up and be heard. If you know of someone you would like to see in office, nominate them. This is YOUR CHAPTER, you can make a difference only if you take action!

Indiana Railroad Announces Improvement Plans

(Reprinted from Greene County Daily World Monday, August 26, 2011)

Submitted by Chris Dees

Indiana Rail Road Company (IRRC) will announce a major capital investment at a groundbreaking ceremony today in Jasonville. IRRC President and Chief Executive Officer Thomas G. Hoback, along with state and Greene County officials, will participate in the 11 a.m. ceremony at IRRC's Hiawatha Yard near Jasonville. Hiawatha Yard is the operational heart of the 500-mile Indiana Rail Road system, which is headquartered in Indianapolis and provides nearly 200 jobs in central and southwest Indiana, and east-central Illinois. The event will announce a \$65 million, five-year investment plan IRRC is undertaking to prepare for growth in its rail traffic over the next five years. IRRC's current traffic levels take the equivalent of 800,000 truckloads of freight off highways each year.

The planned improvements will include construction of a new locomotive maintenance shop, a parts warehouse, a two-story yard office and storage warehouse. In addition, about 4,000 feet of new track will be laid in the yard. To accommodate IRRC's expansion plans, a permanent closure of about 775 feet of Queen Four Road (CR. 800N) was granted by the county commissioners. INRD currently has about 5,000 feet

of usable track between Shanklin Street and Queen Four Road (CR 800). Closing the crossing at Queen Four Road will allow the railroad to expand its holding capacity and be able to handle the large, modern 140-car coal trains that can exceed 8,000 to 9,000 feet in length.

Hoback told the Greene County Daily World that the major reason for the planned expansion at the Jasonville yard is a contract his company has with Peabody Coal Company's new Bear Run Mine near Dugger, which is the largest surface coal mine east of the Mississippi River. The mine is about 12 miles from the Hiawatha Yard and Hoback expects his company to grow 50 percent in the next five years with commitments to be hauling about 70 percent of the coal mined at Bear Creek. IRRC will spend \$17.5 million to build a new five-mile rail spur into the coal mine.

The yard is also located just south of the planned Landree Mine and in close proximity to two other contracted mines, Sunrise Mine near Carlisle and a Vectren Energy Mine near Oaktown.

IRRC spokesman Chris Rund pointed out expanding the Jasonville facility is critical to the rail company.

"It's the hub of the wheel and will allow the company to modernize its facility and grow the number of local employees," he said.

Crofton Picnic Photo Section



Mid-West Montage

High Noon in Astabula. Southwest bound Norfolk Southern Train M-15 highballs through Astabula, Ohio at high noon on October 4, 2011. This train operates Buffalo, New York to Conway, Pennsylvania. Ashtabula is the point where this train does a couple of reverse moves to continue it's way back to Pennsylvania. Second unit is a former IC SD70, still in black paint. Submitted by Chris Dees.



Astabula Blackmail. In the old Conrail days, the Conrail line through Astabula, Ohio carried several hot intermodal trains known as the TV-series mail trains. True-blue Conrail fans would say that Norfolk Southern has "black-mailed" this operation, as evidenced by this eastbound intermodal flying through Astabula on October 4, 2011. Submitted by Chris Dees.

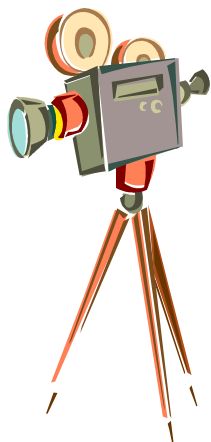
Decatur Depot Doings. The depot at Decatur, Indiana awaits the passage of the next train. Photo by Chris Dees on 02-Oct-2011.



New Feature!

Rail Flicks

By Tommy Johnson



Greetings, fellow members of the Western Kentucky Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society. I hope that I can provide information through my monthly reviews that will be useful to you in your search for entertaining and informative RR videos. I have eighty-four different RR videos at this time and plan to continue adding to my collection as time goes by.

As we continue this monthly feature, I would like to share with you my favorite on-line vendors for RR videos. I have found the following websites to be excellent sources of good videos and the vast majority of my collection has come from these sites:

www.trainvideodepot.com

www.railfandepot.com

www.greenfrog.com

I will try to rate the videos in an objective manner but we all have our favorite railroads and we all have connections to particular areas of the country. If I review a video that has special meaning to me, I will warn the reader that my review might not be entirely objective.

Title	Indiana Rail Road, the Indianapolis Subdivision
Producer	Railway Productions
Format	Wide Screen DVD
Playing Time	1 Hr 30 Min
Purchased From	TrainVideoDepot.com
Date Purchased	9/12/2011
Price Paid	\$27.89

Excellent use is made of Google Earth to show the topography of the route from Indianapolis to Newton, IL. The entire route of the Indianapolis Sub is former IC RR trackage. The scenes progress from Indianapolis to Newton, which is considered to be "southbound," although the actual route of travel is almost due west after Bloomington.

They don't let the viewer know when the scenes he is viewing were shot. I had to skip ahead to the very end to find that the copyright date is 2009. This information is not on the cover or at the beginning of the video. We get some nice looks at Indiana Rail Road's new SD 90/43 MACs with their bright red paint.

It is very annoying that the narrator mispronounces "Monon" every time he refers to it, which happens several times during this DVD. He does not put any emphasis on the second syllable. It is supposed to be pronounced MO'-NON', not "MOWN-un."

It is also very irritating that the seasons change from one scene to the next. One minute you see the trees in full summer foliage and the next minute the trees are totally bare; then you go right back to full foliage in the next scene and back to winter conditions again in the next scene. There are also some spring and fall scenes mixed in with the summer and winter scenes. This is very hard to ignore as you watch the video.

There is some really nice footage of trains crossing Richland Creek Viaduct, also known as "Tulip Trestle." It is one of the largest RR trestles in the world, reaching 175 ft in height at its tallest point and running 2295 feet in length. It was built in 1905.

I'm not sure after watching this video about the Indianapolis Sub that I will buy the counterpart video about the Chicago Sub.

Regional Rail Notes

GRENADA, Miss. -- The new owners of the Grenada rail line have filed papers with the federal government to abandon the track and sell it for scrap.

The abandonment would permanently stall plans to reopen a local rail line.

Officials want the line kept open as a possible boost for the economy.

Central District Transportation Commissioner Dick Hall said the abandonment will be opposed.

"I mean, you take away the best shot they had for industry," Hall said about the region. "You take Winona, for example. They have a railroad and Highway 82, a great place to put a major industry. You take away a railroad and they haven't got a chance."

One of the hardest-hit towns will be Pickens, which still relies on the railroad for lime to its co-op and pulp to a paper company, its largest employer. Mayor Joel Gill is very disappointed.

"And we are even talking about these tracks being taken up, and sold for scrap metal, and that's something, in this day and time. Once they are gone, they are gone," Gill said.

Grenada Railway LLC filed with the National Surface Transportation Board on Sept. 20 a notice to abandon that 83-mile stretch of track.

Railway officials said the line lost \$100,000 last year and has already lost \$100,000 this year.

The entire Grenada Line runs 175 miles from the Tennessee border into Mississippi to Canton. The company has not said anything about the northern route from Grenada into DeSoto County.

The southern route, the railway says in NSTC documents, "has proved to be a financial fiasco."

Among the cities affected by the abandonment -- in addition to Grenada and Canton -- include Duck Hill, Winona, Vaiden, West, Durant, Goodman, Pickens and Vaughan.

The railroad said the line "has generated insufficient traffic to permit its continued operation." It said there are only six shippers on the line in 2010 -- Georgia Pacific, Hankins Lumber Sales and Thomas Wood Preserving at Elliott; Dunham at Winona; and Burrows Paper and Tri-County Cooperative at Pickens.

"Together they accounted for a total of 289 carloads of inbound or outbound freight. That equates to approximately 3.5 cars per mile per year," the railroad said.

Grenada Railway said Georgia Pacific and Dunham closed their operations on the rail line this year. It said Winona Hardwood at Winona became a shipper for the first time in 2011, for a total of five remaining shippers.

CSX Service Bulletin - CSX Tracks Re-Open South of Nashville, Tenn.

October 11, 2011 - 11 a.m. - CSX tracks have re-opened near Cornersville, Tenn., following a derailment yesterday. Some delays are expected to continue as backlogged traffic begins to flow through the area.

There were no injuries when the 58-car train derailed 16 of its rail cars about 4:50 a.m. EST yesterday. CSX responded quickly with re-railing equipment, materials and personnel, who worked through the night to re-open the line at 8:30 a.m. EST today.

An investigation into the cause of the derailment is under way.

The company's Customer Service Center is coordinating with affected shippers and receivers. Customers should contact the Customer Service Center via Ship CSX's Problem Resolution tool or by calling 1-877-SHIPCSX, prompts 5, then 6.

Regional Sightings



Bill Heaton shot these two. **Above:** Unidentified unit at the Paducah & Louisville yard in Paducah, October 4, 2011. Anyone care to identify?



SW 1001 switcher makes a brief appearance at Atkinson Yard, Madisonville!

Minutes Summary and Financial Report

September 26, 2011 Meeting

Minutes of August meeting approved.

Treasurer's report read and approved.

Director's Report: Wallace will attend a breakfast meeting in Wilmington, DE. The 2012 convention will be in Iowa next June. Wallace gave a brief report on upcoming excursions for the convention.

Old Business: Discussion was held on Dennis Carnal's archives, photos, etc. The archives will probably be named The Dennis Carnal Memorial Archives, in memory of Dennis and his many efforts toward the chapter, and for collecting photos for the archives. The Christmas dinner was discussed and it was agreed that it will be held at The Center, catered by Ballard Catering, as done the past two years. The Crofton picnic is scheduled for October 8. Wally announced the Clayton-Watts Open House on November 12, 2011, at 7pm, at the home of Don Clayton, 750 Wilson Drive, Madisonville.

New Business: Ricky announced that we will call for nominations for officers at the October meeting. The election will be held at the November meeting.

Announcements: None

Next Meeting: Monday, October 24, 7pm. Program by Tim Moore. Refreshments are not covered at this time.

Members Present: Danny Koeber, Wally Watts, Thomas Bryan, Jim Bryan, Rich Bivins, Chuck Hinrichs, Wallace Henderson, Rich Hane, Bob Moffet, D. A. Fraser, David Millen, Keith Kittinger, and Steve Miller.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Report Date: September 26, 2011 by Wally Watts.

Beginning Balance	614.22
Income:	
National Dues Received	00.00
Chapter Dues Received	00.00
Donations/Raffle	6.00
Other (Royalty-Neff Video)	00.00
Total:	6.00
Adjusted Balance	620.22
Expenditures:	
National Dues Paid.	00.00
Supplies	00.00
Printing (brochures)	00.00
Other (Annual Corporation filing)	00.00
Total:	00.00
Ending Balance:	620.22

Membership Statistics

Beginning Membership	49
National Members Added	0
National Members Dropped	1
Chapter Members Added	0
Chapter Members Dropped	0
Ending Membership	48



Slug Shots

Bill Heaton took these photos of the "Yard Mate" slug 1066. The unit was originally a 1956 GP-9 built for the B&O as number 6491.



TIMETABLE #110

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF RAILFANS ONLY

- **West Kentucky NRHS Chapter Meeting** - October 24, Madisonville L&N Depot (The Center), 7pm.
- **Haunted Train Rides** at Blue Grass Railroad Museum, Versailles, KY - October 21, 22, and 28, 29. <http://www.bgrm.org/#>
- **Clayton/Watts Open House** - Saturday, November 12, at 7pm. Everyone is invited to drop by.

Mileage Collectors...

Central Coast Chapter NRHS has announced plans for a proposed trip to be powered by the ATSF 4-8-4 #3751, from Los Angeles to Arizona and return. Additional plans are in the works to double-head with the former CB&Q 2-8-2, #4960 on the Grand Canyon Railway from Williams, Arizona to the south rim of the Grand Canyon and return. The operating schedule will call for photo runs to be made on most days, freight traffic and time permitting. This eleven day steam excursion will be operated under contract with Amtrak, BNSF and the Arizona & California Railroad. Final approval and contracts are still pending. Several options will be made available in both premium and regular class which will include domes, lounges and coaches plus possibly Pullman sleepers. Patrons will be able to purchase round trip, one way or one day tickets. Proposed dates of the trip are May 12 -21, 2012. For details see: <http://www.goldenstaterails.com/>

-submitted by Chris Dees

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.

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

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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