

PENNYRAIL

March 2012

VOLUME 16 NUMBER 3



Chapter Chatter

**Next Meeting Monday,
March 26, 2012,
7:00 pm
At the former L&N Depot
Madisonville, KY**

Our March Program

The Milwaukee Road The Pacific Northwest by Gary Ostlund

If This Lamp Could Talk...

If this lamp could talk, what an array of stories it could tell. The bent top, dirty glass, and broken wire frame adds much character and story to this photo. This Handlan Buck lantern glows intently in the fading dusk at the East Ely Yard of the Nevada Northern Railway.

Just how many conductors or brakemen waved this relic in signaling the engineer to stop, proceed or kick a car. Clearly this lamp earned its keep. Reliable and effective, these only need TLC and a little kerosene to faithfully serve its handler. No dead batteries, no cell towers, or cyber wizardry, just solid technology from an era long past.

The Nevada Northern RR is a great place to visit, been there twice. Great operating collection, and a friendly staff that had no problem letting me wander

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
Bill Thomas

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

around at will. You can experience the so-called "loneliest road in the world," US 50, if coming from the Reno area. Bring water, have the wife bring a book....

Rails today use hand held radios to do all the signaling from the ground and lamps like this find their way into memorabilia collections, as this one did for Steve Crise. Watch for them at the next garage sale down the street. There are a few hanging from the ceiling of my man cave.

Excerpts from Railroads Illustrated May 2009. Photo credit: Mike Masee, submitted by Gary O. Ostlund



Ricky's Replies

President, Ricky Bivins

OK NRHS Members, where does the time go? There is an old saying that goes: "Time is fun when you are having fun". Wait, Kermit the Frog said that! "Time flies when you are having fun". That's it! Well, I have been having fun with my model train layout. The recent warm weather has sent me outside as I am sure many others have done. CSX keeps my neck in shape with all the trains running past the house, and of course March Madness ya'know. Anyhow, here we are coming up on the March Chapter meeting yet it seems like only a few days ago we were at the Depot for the February meeting. My oh my time does fly indeed. (Can an airport manager get away with saying that?)

As for the February meeting, I for one think we had a good turnout, a productive evening and an excellent program. Keith's munchies were spot on and the video "Chicago Odyssey" from our late friend Dennis Carnal's estate was very good. In fact, I have only seen the video briefly since the meeting night as members have been passing it around for another look. Dennis would be proud to know we are taking advantage of him! R.I.P. Dennis.

At one point during the past two meetings I expressed a need for a Program Director. Our Rail Camper Thomas Bryan has decided to take on that challenge. I "versed" Thomas to talk to the members, find out what the Chapter would like to do, where we would like to go etc. Thomas has some ideas on his plate already and I encouraged him to move forward and "to make plans". He will be in touch with Chuck and Rich about the previously discussed trip to Paducah KY and Mayfield KY for a day of rail fanning. Of course we have the three Friday Night Live events

coming up and the annual Pick Nick at the Crofton KY Veterans Memorial. Not to mention the C&W Railroad open house and a revised Christmas event. Thomas has a plate full indeed. Give him your support and encouragement Members; he has taken on a big job for the Chapter.

As viewed by the Members at the February meeting, Steve Miller has been working on the photo archive in full force. Great job Steve, keep up the good work. This is no easy task even for a computer whiz such as Steve. Kudos again Steve.

As I am sure everyone can see, we have a full year ahead of us. The only point to make now is Member Participation. Our overall Member involvement is good if one looks at the number of Members we have and the number of members present at our events. But that is a ratio of numbers. I want those not in attendance to feel as though they have missed something. That is to say, when one finds out what is going on, they resolve to "join in" the festivities. That will grow our Chapter and improve our overall effectiveness to preserve our local rail history. That is after all what we as Members resolve to do, preserve our Rail History.

We will have a guest program this month. Gary Ostland from Murray KY will present a program of slides. Gary or "GOO" as he signs his email, is very much in the know of all things Milwaukee Road. I am sure we will see much of the railroad and its territory. I met GOO last fall at Gorham IL while rail fanning the old MoPac line while in the company of Wally, Thomas and Phil Randall. Gary travels a lot in his motor home and bright red VW. The good life I would dare say. And he is willing to share with us his experiences!

I will see you "NRHS Member" on March 26, 2012.



Chapter
Outing to
Rail Park
Bowling
Green KY



Photo Section



P&L East bound on March 15th at West Yard running long hood forward and with a new NRE locomotive in tow.

Photos by Rick Bivins



Left: Tuesday morning, March 6, 2012, James Futrell found Canadian National Engineering Test Car 1501 (Budd RDC) idling at the Fulton yard office.

Second Photo Section

Bill Grady snapped this great snow scene of Norfolk Southern #376 at the Buechel (Louisville) Depot.

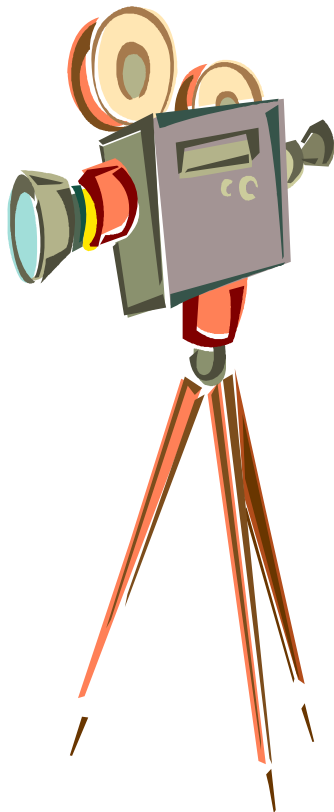
Bill is also credited with the shot below. CSX Q511 at Buckner, KY. Both shots were made on March 5, 2012.



New Feature!

Rail Flicks

By Tommy Johnson



Title	Trains on the Montana Rail Link
Producer	Plets Express
Format	Full Screen
Playing Time	1:46
Purchased From	RailFanDepot
Date Purchased	1/4/2010
Price Paid	\$31.34

Montana Rail Link is a Class II regional railroad serving southern and western Montana since 1987. Its eastern terminus is Huntley, MT, and the western terminus is Spokane, WA. The MRL connects with the BNSF on both ends and has 939 miles of trackage, most of which was originally built by the Northern Pacific.

The MRL runs through some of the most beautiful scenery in the United States. A printed map showing the route is included with the DVD but an on screen map would have been nice.

The producer selected some very good points along the route from which to shoot video footage and he did a great job of capturing the trains from interesting camera angles.

The narrator tells us about specific locomotives seen in the video, identifying their type, the year they were built, and which railroad originally purchased them.

We see trains struggling over Bozeman pass with the benefit of helper locomotives and later we are treated to scenes of westbound trains climbing the 2.2% grade up to Mullan Pass.

I found this video to be very informative and entertaining. The scenery is gorgeous and the RR action is great with good background info provided by the narrator. I recommend this one.

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 11, 2012
CINCINNATI UNION TERMINAL
1301 Western Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio

Video Article

Copy and paste into your web browser the link below and watch the Tennessean video of Nashville & Eastern's newest locomotive christening.

<http://www.tennessean.com/videonetwork/1405005984001?odyssey=mod|tvideo2|article>

Chattanooga & Chickamauga



Great classic lines here on this EMD GP38 at LaFayette, GA, December 2011. In Georgia the accent falls on "Fay" in LaFayette.



Former Columbus & Greenville GP7 seemed to be in operable condition the same day at LaFayette.

Childhood Memories of the TAG

As a child and teen I often traveled the route from Chattanooga, down along the southern slope of Lookout Mountain to Kensington, GA, in Walker County, where my Aunt and Uncle Mary and Perry Jordan farmed dairy cattle in the Cedar Grove community. Nestled in the cove formed by Lookout and Pigeon Mountains, are many great family memories of thanksgiving meals, flying kites over cow herds, and the sounds and smells of the farm. No wonder my mother had great roses - all that fertilizer brought home in paper grocery sacks.

This was the route we took if going from my grandparents' home in Chattanooga to the farm. It practically paralleled the Tennessee, Alabama & Georgia Railroad (TAG) for almost the entire trip. The TAG veered due south about five miles before reaching the cove. What was great is that when traveling from our home in Ellijay, Georgia to the farm, we encountered the line as it continued through the mountainous terrain, skirting the town of LaFayette. At the time, from there I had no idea where the line went. For years I thought it joined the former Central of Georgia somewhere south of LaFayette. After all, that's the way my eyes saw it through the big windows of my parents' Oldsmobile.

I am fortunate to have remembrances of Southern Railway Geeps working the line along GA route 136.

Seeing those black hulks striped in aluminum white sneak through the pines is an image I will never forget.

The photos above were taken this past Christmas season as I took my family on their annual trip through Northwest Georgia to see Aunt Mary and Uncle Perry. The Chattanooga & Chickamauga (former Central of Georgia) is the closest operating rail line to the farm now. Driving on to Kensington, I still kept one eye on the old roadbed where the Geeps once rolled. I still tried to figure out exactly where that tunnel portal is as we negotiate the switchback highway across the ridge, peering into the valley to catch a glimpse of the right-of-way through the naked trees of a cool Georgia winter. It's such a melancholy experience.

The TAG from Chattanooga to Kensington is all but abandoned. This last trip left me saddened to see small bridges falling apart, washouts, and fresh pavement over the rails where the crossing gates have been amputated from their cross buck bodies.

My dream would be that the Tennessee Valley Railway Museum could somehow pull a rabbit out of their hat and restore the line. What a beautiful ride it would be through the scenic southern Chattanooga Valley. If not, and the ties silently return to dirt, maybe I can model it and bring back some of those childhood memories onto which I so strongly hold. Bill Thomas, editor

Minutes Summary and Financial Report

February 2012 Meeting Minutes

1. Minutes of Jan meeting approved
2. Treasurer report approved.
3. **.OLD BUSINESS:** Friday night live dates set and are approved by the city of Madisonville. We hope to have a gauge 1 railroad on a table. Also to have a TV and video for passers-by to see. The back room discussed, as to its use, Wally motioned we accept it as a project and do such maintenance as necessary. motion approved. The officers met on Feb 23 and discussed this project as well as Fri. night live. Those dates are: June 8, July 13, and Aug. 10. Wally will bring steam engines, Bill may bring his trailer with small layout mounted. Volunteers needed. Officers also discussed long term plans for the depot.

NEW BUSINESS: Activities discussed and trip to Paducah mentioned. Chuck will check with their chapter and will let us know by March. Rich suggested trip to Mayfield. He and Chuck will check into that also.

As to the depot-putting it on historic site register out. City nixed this idea. The officers discussed a banner for Friday night live, cost estimated \$100. More discussion on banner will follow. The officers at their meeting discussed a long term strategy plan for the bldg.

DIRECTORS REPORT: Wallace reminded us a ballot for voting on national officers will be coming in late spring. They will take over in October.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: A reminder that Jerry Hill of Clarksville is ill and in hospital. Thoughts and prayers needed. Steve showed us some photos of the archive collection which is progressing nicely. Kudos Steve!

Keep up good work!

NEXT MEETING: Monday evening 7:PM at the Center March 26. Program by Gary Oslund - refreshments by Dave Millen. Officers will meet at Ricky's home in Mortons Gap Thursday March 22 at 7PM.

Those present were: Wally Watts, Rick Bivins, Steve Miller, Tom Johnson, Thomas Bryan, Rich Hane, Dave Millen, Wallace Henderson, Chuck Hinrichs, Bob Moffet, Bill Heaton, Bill Thomas. Guest: Phil Randall

FINANCIAL REPORT

Report Date: January 23, 2012 by Wally Watts.

Beginning Balance	1685.27
-------------------	---------

Income:

National Dues Received	43.00
Chapter Dues Received	7.00
Donations	3.00
Other: Raffle/Dinner	00.00

Total:	53.00
--------	--------------

Adjusted Balance	1738.27
-------------------------	----------------

Expenditures:

National Dues Paid.	900.00
Supplies	5.25
Printing (brochures)	00.00
Other	00.00

Total:	905.25
--------	--------

Ending Balance:	833.02
-----------------	--------

Membership Statistics

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

Modelers Corner



Rick Bivins submitted these photos of additions to his Lionel layout in his home in Morton's Gap, KY.



TIMETABLE #110
FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF RAILFANS ONLY

- **West Kentucky NRHS Chapter Meeting** - Monday, March 26, 2012, L&N Depot (The Center), Madisonville, KY, 7pm.
- **Day Out with Thomas** - Kentucky Railway Museum, June 2, 3, and 9, 10, 2012.
- **Illinois Central Historical Society Annual Meeting** - August 2-4, 2012, Greenwood MS. <http://www.icrrhistorical.org/>
- **SummeRail at CUT** - August 11, 2012

The End! Believe it or not, I had one headstone damaged in our hail storm on Friday, March 9. The garden railroad fared better than my roof. Bill



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>

PENNYRAIL

% Bill Thomas, Editor

1025 Lakewood Drive

Madisonville, KY 42431