

PENNYRAIL

October 2012

VOLUME 16 NUMBER 10



Chapter Chatter

**Next Meeting Monday,
October 22, 2012, 7:00 pm
Former Louisville & Nashville
Railroad Station, Madisonville, KY**

**Program Host, Chuck Hinrichs
Refreshments by Steve Miller**



Left: Here is RJ Corman's Chinese 2-10-2 2008 in Midway, KY. The 1986-built steamer was out and about when Wallace Henderson caught her smoking! More on page 3.

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
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**“PENNYRAIL” is the
official publication of
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Above: Chapter members get some good train-watching in at the Chapter Picnic in Crofton, KY, Saturday October 6, 2012.

Ricky's Replies

President, Ricky Bivins

Fall is in the air...the trees are displaying their colors and trains are in the news, our news anyway. Since we last met in September, our Chapter has gathered at Crofton KY, for the annual Picnic. The event was first called off due to threatening weather but the morning of October 6th dawned clear, cool and windy. Several members phoned and emailed me about going. I had already decided to go anyway just in case someone did not get the news. After getting a few calls I decided to reinstate the event and made calls, sent emails and hoped for the best. In so doing several members turned out and a great time was had. No less than 12 trains were viewed. (Depending on when one arrived). As a hind sight, one member did not attend simply because he did not have contact info for the membership. As a result I ask Tom Johnson to get in touch with Wally Watts and advance our membership roster effort. This may very well be completed by meeting night, Monday October 22th.

As a side note, of the trains we saw from our viewing stand in Crofton, not a single example of foreign motive power was seen. All CSX...which is odd. One usually sees a few locomotives from other railroads. Another note, the other "part" of the day in Crofton involved food. Surprised? Some members brought their lunch while others partook of the local eating options. A case in point. Most deli style sandwiches are \$2.00 or more. Sometimes though I just do not want much to eat and the "picnic" at Crofton was one of those days. So...I asked the deli at Huck's Store how much a pepper cheese sammich would cost. They had no idea.....never heard of such a thing etc. Birk Fisher offered to pay for my "meal"; he ended up paying a whole dollar for my lunch! We had a great time even though I am sure more members would have been there had the weather not been incorrectly predicted.

The trip to Paducah and Mayfield is still on hold. We should have an update Monday. We need input from the membership as to changing our meeting time. We currently meet at 7:00 PM, it was discussed changing the meeting time to 6:00 PM to accommodate members whom drive some distance to attend. Of the members present

at the September meeting, a full two-thirds were from out of town! This topic will be discussed Monday.

October brings us up to election time. November will be election night; October will see nominations for officers. I will address each office and call for nominations three times in October and the same in November. Every member is eligible for office. AND...I want this known....A Member can nominate one's self!!! If you want to be an officer... SPEAK UP.

With that said...the Chapter may need to nominate a candidate for the office of President!

I hope to see you Monday Night, October 22nd, 7:00 PM, down at the station in Madisonville KY.

Mystery Location - Where Are We?



Where Are We?

This photo was taken in the namesake town of a famous railroad location. A study of the image (background & surroundings) and the road name of the locomotives should be a helpful hint. Submitted by Matt Gentry.

Several members nailed the September location as looking east at Nortonville, KY, on the KY Division of the IC crossing the L&N. Ricky Bivins, Bob McCracken, Chuck Hinrichs, and Bill Grady get the notoriety this month.

If you think you know the location (city and state) of our mystery photo, send your answer to me via email: bill@fbcmadisonville.com, or mail to Bill Thomas, 1025 Lakewood Dr., Madisonville, KY 42431. Correct responses will be placed in a pool drawing in December for a small but meaningful prize. Notoriety will also be included.

A Day With R. J. Corman

By Wallace Henderson

In 2008, R.J. Corman purchased QJ 2-10-2 #7040 from China, built in 1986. The locomotive was renumbered 2008 and is kept in Lexington on Corman's Central Kentucky Lines (ex-L&N Winchester to Anchorage with CSX trackage rights into Louisville plus a couple of short branch lines. This includes the first railroad in Kentucky: Lexington thru Midway to Frankfort.) This locomotive is rarely operated and CSX will not allow it to run into Louisville. So when I learned that it would be at a festival in Midway on September 15th, I made plans to drive up to see it and asked former chapter member Cliff Downey to go along.



After a early morning departure we arrived in Midway to find the town full of people and the locomotive quietly steaming away on the mainline (no sidings there). There were steps up to the cab for visits and the locomotive looked very handsome with the Corman modifications.

After lunch at one of the many vendors, we drove into Lexington to visit the new Corman locomotive facilities and yard. Overlooking these on the northeast side is a display of two former Helm SD40M-3 "shells" (no prime movers) rebuilt from ACL/SCL SD45s plus two cabooses. To the east the former L&N yard is now a parking lot for Rupp Arena while the new well ballasted Corman yard is the best looking yard I've ever seen. In the distance is the NS former Southern Railway mainline overpass. Around the locomotive facility we found a new Corman RailPower RP1500BD switcher, a GP9, a ex-D&RGW SD40T-2 tunnel motor, five GP38s and three GP-16s.

Leaving Lexington, we stopped at the Bluegrass RR Museum outside Versailles. Their tourist train had already left on the ride west to, but not across (the track has been removed) Young's High Bridge over the Kentucky River, so we looked at the equipment sitting around which included a Alco MRS-1, a Fairbanks-Morse H12-44, a Monon caboose and a couple of US Army long boxcars. This was a long, sunny, but very rewarding day.



-Wallace
Henderson

September Meeting Annual Fish Fry by Jim and Thomas Bryan



Our September Chapter meeting was highlighted once again by chapter father-son members Jim and Thomas Bryan and their fish-fry. Jim is pictured to the left. Other chapter members in attendance are pictured below and left.



**Waiting
for
Food!**

Rail Flicks

By Tommy Johnson



Title	Silver Zone Pass
Producer	Railway Productions
Format	DVD Wide Screen
Playing Time	1 Hr 10 Min
Purchased From	RailFanDepot.com
Date Purchased	10/10/12
Price Paid	\$24.95

This is the latest addition to my collection of RR DVDs and it is a very, very good video.

"Silver Zone Pass" gives us an excellent look at the northern Nevada portion of the old Western Pacific right of way from Salt Lake City to San Francisco. Construction on the WP route from Salt Lake City to San Francisco began in 1906 and was completed in 1910. This is now, of course, Union Pacific trackage, since their purchase of the WP in 1983. One special treat in the video is the appearance at about the 47 minute mark of UP 1983, an SD70 ACe painted in the WP heritage scheme. This loco is used in regular service by the UP on the old WP trackage.

The image quality is superb and the wide screen format really enhances our ability to appreciate the beauty of the Nevada desert and mountains. For some reason this old WP line in Nevada has been ignored by the video producers; I don't remember seeing any other videos on this subject in all of the browsing I have done. In many scenes there is desert in the foreground and snow capped peaks in the background. This line is traversed at

night by both the westbound and eastbound California Zephyrs so that the spectacular scenery of the Sierras can be seen by the passengers in the daylight hours but it is a shame that this scenery cannot also be taken in by those on board. Yours truly rode this stretch of track as an 11 year old kid in 1960 when I accompanied my sister on one of her round trips from Chicago to San Francisco (Oakland) as a Zephyrette. I was sound asleep as we rode along these rails.

The journey begins at Burmester, just west of Salt Lake City, and we head west into Nevada until we are just east of Winnemucca. There is a 42 mile stretch of track across the Salt Flats that is perfectly straight. We then encounter the Arnold Loop which was constructed in 1914 to reduce the grade up to Silver Zone Pass to 1%. The summit of Silver Zone Pass is at 5875 feet in elevation. West of Silver Zone Pass we see the 5675 foot long Hogan Tunnel, Palisade Canyon, and the Humboldt River, and the Carlin Tunnels.

This is a DVD that I will watch again and again. I highly recommend it. Nice job, Railway Productions!

MAGGIE HAS A NEW HOME!

The little pit bull puppy I posted about in the September Pennyrail has a new home! I had her picture posted in RescuedMe.org, which is a website for people who have animals needing new homes. Some folks from Gravel Switch, KY, saw her picture and contacted me. They were looking for a dog to keep in the house and wanted it to become part of the family. Just what I prayed for! Maggie has a wonderful new home now. (on the former L&N Lebanon Branch!) -ed.



765 Memories in Kentucky



Above and Right: In 1992 Nickel Plate 2-8-4 #765 pulled special round trips from Paducah to Central City on September 19th and 20th. Members of the chapter were some of the car hosts on both days. I rode the train on Saturday, the 19th, and chased it on the 20th. This photo was taken from the US62 overpass east of Paducah that morning of the 20th.

Crofton Picnic



Exec Special



Above: A CSX Executive Train heads Southbound on October 10, 2012 approaching Adams, Tn on the Henderson Subdivision headed up by CSX's F40PH-2 #9998 on the head end. - Photo by Jim Pearson

Minutes Summary of September Meeting 2012

MINUTES OF WESTERN KY. CHAP. NRHS
September 24, 2012

- ◆ MINUTES: Approved of Aug. meeting.
- ◆ TREASURER'S REPORT: Approved.
- ◆ OLD BUSINESS: Paducah and Mayfield trips are still on hold-No definite date set.
- ◆ NEW BUSINESS: Mall display discussed and nothing definite action taken on this. Hand-out cards discussed to have some info on our chapter, and Matt Gentry and Steve Miller volunteered to look into working out details. They will keep each other informed as they work together. Since we are not having a regular Christmas banquet, discussion held on an informal dinner with individuals going Dutch. No action taken. Discussion held on possible time change for meeting. Input requested from membership. Information to be in newsletter.

No activity report given. No announcements.

- ◆ NEXT MEETING: Monday evening 7PM at the Center 22 October, Program by Chuck Hinrichs- refreshments by Steve Miller.
- ◆ Those present were: Wallace Henderson, Rick Bivins, Chuck Hinrichs, Bob McCracken, Wally Watts, Bob Moffet, Matt Gentry, Steve Miller, Thomas Bryan, Tom Johnson, Rich Hane, Dave Millen, and guest Tony Clark

September 2012 Financial Report

WESTERN KENTUCKY CHAPTER
NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.
FINANCIAL STATEMENT
24 Sept. 2012

BEGINNING BALANCE:		\$ <u>644.26</u>
INCOME:		
National Dues Received	\$ _____	
Chapter Dues Received	_____	
Donations	_____	
Other: _____	_____	
TOTAL		<u>0.0</u>
	<i>ADD BAL.</i>	<u>644.26</u>
EXPENDITURES:		
National Dues Paid	\$ _____	
Postage	_____	
Printing	_____	
Flowers	_____	
Supplies	_____	
Other: _____	_____	
TOTAL		<u>0.0</u>
ENDING BALANCE		\$ <u>644.26</u>

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS:

Beginning Membership	_____	<u>42</u>
National Members Added	_____	
National Members Deleted	_____	
Chapter Only Members Added	_____	
Chapter Only Members Deleted	_____	
Ending Membership	_____	<u>42</u>

Wally Watts
Chapter Treasurer

Special Thanks to Tom Johnson for his recent work on updating our Chapter Contact Records



Heritage Units All Over



Above: Here is a catch from late yesterday (October 17) afternoon of the NS Erie Heritage Unit on a westbound #55A empty Grain Train through Buechel, KY. Photo by Bill Grady



Above: Rich Hane shot this NS Heritage Unit at Newburgh, IN. The SD70ace engine, painted in New York Central livery has reportedly been in service in the Indiana area.

TIMETABLE #110
FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF RAILFANS ONLY

- **West Kentucky NRHS Chapter Meeting** - Monday, October 22, 7pm, Former L&N Depot, Madisonville.
- **Clayton-Watts Open House** - Saturday, November 3, 7pm. 750 Wilson Drive, Madisonville, KY. Large O Scale Layout display and refreshments.

If you know of regional events we can put on the Timetable, please forward those to me, bill@fbcmadisonville.com.

Buy-Sell-Swap

For Sale: Missouri Pacific diesels blue and silver paint scheme. 3 engines are brand new, box never opened, Proto 2000 Series, \$50 each. 1. GP7 Missouri Pacific cab #4121; 2. GP7 Missouri Pacific cab #4255 w/steam generator, air tanks on the roof; 3. BL2 Missouri Pacific cab # 4104. Contact Rich Hane (270) 836-6169.

Sale Pending: Various garden RR equipment, rolling stock, track, and structures. Will be ready to sell after inventory is complete. Contact Bob McCracken (270) 584-3340.

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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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

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