

PENNYRAIL

July 2013

VOLUME 17 NUMBER 7

Please send your digital photos and story material to billtrainthomas@gmail.com

or mail to
Bill Thomas,
1025 Lakewood Dr
Madisonville, KY
42431.



Chapter Chatter

**Next Meeting Monday,
July 15, 2013, 7:00 pm
Former Louisville & Nashville
Passenger Station, Madisonville, KY**

**Program Host, Tom Johnson
Refreshments
Donnie and Betty Knight**

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 artifacts
5. To support preservation of memorabilia and artifacts
6. To facilitate association and networking
7. To maintain and grow the organization

In this issue...

- ◆ Words From Our President
- ◆ New Mystery Location
- ◆ Photos From the May Meeting
- ◆ The Vega Returns!

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
Thomas Bryan

“PENNYRAIL” is the official publication of the Western Kentucky Chapter, NRHS. Send news notes, historical notes and other rail information to:

Editor
Bill Thomas

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Madisonville, KY 42431
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billtrainthomas@gmail.com

See more photos from Bill Heaton's trip to Worcester, MA, for the National O Scale Convention in June.



Ricky's Replies

President, Ricky Bivins

Hello everyone, it is already July and I must say it, "Christmas is less than six months away"! Did you really need to know that? June has come and gone and in so doing, our Chapter has been busy. Our first Friday Night Live was a good one with cooler temperatures compared to the last few years. Our booth was well patronized; kids and adults alike seemed to enjoy the trains and Wally's steam engines. The new business cards which were much easier to hand out were well received. Everyone involved had a good time. The next one is July 12th, the Friday before our regular meeting. It would be nice if more members were in attendance. A report will be given on meeting night.

On Thursday June 27th several members attended Bill Thomas' evening with friends at the Thomas home. Bill had a few gauge one trains going in the back yard on his nicely landscaped out door railroad. Bob McCracken ran a really neat Astor live steam two truck Shay. Yes, a live steam, gauge one Shay, what a hoot that was. We visited, talked and nibble on snacks until after ten o'clock that evening. A fun time was had by all

in attendance. A very special thanks goes out to Bill and Angela for having our motley group over for the evening.

On July 2nd I drove to Princeton Indiana for some rail fanning with my ole pal Phil Randall. After watching a CSX MP15 switcher shove a cut of cars across Hi-way 41 on Evansville's north side (while eating a burger at Hardee's) I headed further north to meet up with Phil. We drove around Princeton tracing the old traction line road-bed which was really neat. We took in some sights at the Princeton depot which is nicely restored as well as at the CSX/NS diamond. Our first train was a southbound NS empty auto-rack train with a single BNSF unit for power. A good time was had and I enjoyed seeing our old friend Phil.

Our meeting Monday July 15th will feature one Tom Johnson's video's "Santa Fe 3751 the Restoration". Tom reviewed this video in a previous newsletter. I am sure it will be a treat. Donnie and Betty Knight are providing refreshments which will be a treat as well. Please make it a point to attend and bring a "show n tell" and a guest.

Rick

Pickin' the Points

Many of you may have heard of my recent employment situation at First Baptist Church, Madisonville. All I can tell you at this point is that a resolution will hopefully be coming in the next week or so. I had rather not discuss any particulars at this point in the process. I just wanted to say "thanks" to chapter members and friends who have expressed your concern and offered your prayers for me and my family.

This edition of the PennyRail is somewhat abridged due to the transition of my email address and access to files I had in my church office. I have been granted my personal files from my office computer so I have electronic copies of all editions for as long as I've been your editor. I will be copying those files and giving them to Steve Miller as a back up measure.

My new email address is billtrainthomas@gmail.com. All hard copy correspondence should be mailed to our home, 1025 Lakewood

Editorial by Bill Thomas

Drive, Madisonville, KY 42431. As of now, my cell phone number is the same, 270.339.9482.

Our plan at this point is to remain in Madisonville. This is home to my children. Angela and I have become very attached to the community through our church, Rotary, NRHS Chapter, and other community organizations and service groups.

Please keep us in your prayers as we continue to seek God's direction for us. I am deeply grateful for your friendship and support during this time.

Gratefully,

Bill Thomas and Family.

Mystery Location - Where Are We?

This location is obviously on the pre-merger L&N, but could be any of its divisions. Hint - one of our relatively new chapter members worked this wreck in 1971 or 1972.



I am re-running this just in case someone tried to reply to my old email address. Send to billtrainthomas@gmail.com.



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 given special notoriety.



Bill Thomas' New Email: billtrainthomas@gmail.com

Photos

Modeler's Corner

Below: Bill Heaton won 1st place passenger car at the O Scale National Convention in Worcester, MA, in June. It was sold to a customer following the convention. It is a Pullman Club car which ran on the "Clockers" between New York and Philadelphia.



Rail Flicks

By Tommy Johnson



Title	Into the Allegheny Range Vol 3 Cumberland, Maryland, to Grafton, West Virginia
Producer	Pentrex (Iron Horse America)
Format	2 DVDs
Playing Time	3 hrs. 30 min.
Purchased From	TrainVideoDepot.com
Date Purchased	6/20/2013
Price Paid	\$14.95

This two DVD set created by Iron Horse America and distributed by Pentrex is a joy to watch. We are taken back to the early 1990s to follow the route of the old B & O main line through the Allegheny Mountains of Maryland and West Virginia. We see the familiar yellow-nosed blue and gray locomotives of the CSX in the power lash-ups along with a few bright blue Conrail units and an occasional Chessie badged locomotive.

Most of the scenes are dated from the winter months of 1993 and 1994 and there are a few snow scenes included. The image quality is very good considering that it was shot twenty years ago and there is some very nice scenery serving as a backdrop to the railroad action.

The eastern Continental Divide is crossed as we make our westward journey from Cumberland, MD, to Grafton, WV. There are four torturous grades of as much as 2.8% that must be overcome along the route, one of which is the famous "Cranberry Grade." Helper units

are routine on this sub, which is called "The Mountain Sub." The area included in these DVDs is also referred to as "The West End."

We see one train "doubled" during the course of the video. It is called "doubling" when a train stalls and must be brought up the grade in two parts. In this case one of the helpers lost power and that was enough to stall the train.

Good use of maps was made and the maps included charts to show elevation, which really helps the viewer understand how tough the railroading actually is over this sub.

Good scenery, good image quality, great train action, informative narration, and good use of maps combine to make me give this one an "A." I recommend it for your collection. Too bad it was not shot in wide screen format.



- MINUTES: Approved of May meeting.
- TREASURER'S REPORT: Approved
- OLD BUSINESS: Matt has completed the cards- we have them-Great job of work! Kudos to you! Our 1st Friday Night Live was well attended-lot of interest from bystanders. Next one July 12. Steve reports 1 ticket is left for our rail trip in October. Discussion on Dennis' items suggested they could be put in the cabinet in the mall.
- NEW BUSINESS: National dues will increase to \$50 in October. Total dues including chapter would be \$57. Discussion held on lowering chapter dues to \$3.00. Thomas motioned we make dues \$3.00-motion amended to make dues \$5.00 and motion passed. Discussion held on items to be put in cabinet (In Mall). May put some on display in the station, No action taken.
- Wallace had no report. Plans to attend upcoming board meetings.
- MEETING ADJOURNED.
- NEXT MEETING: Monday evening 7.PM at the Center on July 15. Program by Tom Johnson refreshments by The Knights.

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1.Jim Pearson | 16.Thomas Herron |
| 2.Steve Miller | 17.Danny Koeber |
| 3.Wally Watts | 18.Rich Hane |
| 4.Rick Bivins | 19.Chuck Hinrichs |
| 5.Matt Gentry | 20.Wallace Henderson |
| 6.Birk Fischer | 21.Bob Moffet |
| 7.Tom Johnson | 22.Keith Kittinger |
| 8.Rex Easterly | GUEST: Vickie Rolly |
| 9.Melanie Easterly | |
| 10.David Millen | |
| 11.William Ferrell | |
| 12.Bob McCracken | |
| 13.Thomas Bryan | |
| 14.Donny Knight | |
| 15.Betty Knight | |



The June financial report will be emailed under separate message as soon as it is available.

Friday Night Live

Don't forget about our display at Madisonville's last Friday Night Live August 9!

More photos from Bill Heaton from his trip to Worcester MA for the National O Scale Convention in June.



Excursion train to Essex.

Photos

By Ricky Bivins and Phil Randall
Railfanning in Indiana



Princeton, IN



TIMETABLE #110

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF RAILFANS ONLY

- West Kentucky NRHS Chapter Meeting - Monday, July Madisonville, KY
- Friday Night Live - August 9, 2013
- Crofton Chapter Picnic - September 28

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

Bill Heaton's shot of the Essex, MA, depot during his trip to the O Scale National Convention, Worchester, MA.



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

billtrainthomas@gmail.com

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Indiana Railway Museum and French

Lick Scenic Railway

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Tennessee Central

Railway Museum

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

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% Bill Thomas, Editor

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