

PENNYRAIL

May 2014

Volume 18 Number 5



Next Meeting

Monday May 19, 2014 @ 7:00pm
Former Hopkinsville L&N Depot
425 E. 9th St. Hopkinsville, KY

Program by: Wallace Henderson

Refreshments by: Bill Ferrell

Don't forget to bring something
for Show & Tell!

NRHS 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 facilitate association and networking
6. To maintain and grow the organization

In this issue...

- Tom Johnson's "The Prez Sez"
- Matt's Musings
- Photos!
- Tom Johnson's DVD Review
- The Project Corner

Western Kentucky
Chapter, NRHS, Inc.

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"PENNYRAIL" is the
official publication of
the Western Kentucky
Chapter NRHS.
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other rail information to:

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May's Discussion Topic

"Where were all of the old railroad stations in Hopkins Co., and what railroads served them? Are there any left?"

This question was submitted by Wally Watts.

If you have a topic of discussion that you would like to have gone over during meeting time, please submit it to Matt G. at info@westkentuckynrhs.org

Please send your digital photos and stories to info@westkentuckynrhs.org OR mail to;

Matt Gentry: 5777 Spring Corner Rd.
Newburgh, IN 47630

The Prez Sez

President Tom Johnson

Hello fellow Chapter members. I hope this edition of the Pennyrail finds you all in good health and eager for another chapter meeting. Remember, the meeting is in Hopkinsville this month, as it always is in May. I hope to see all of you at the depot in "Hoptown" at 7:00 PM May 19th. Bill Ferrell is going to grill for us again as he did last year.

The April meeting was a big success. Dave Millen was given the floor for the discussion portion of the meeting and he told us the story of his grandfather's train wreck at Earlington in March of 1905. Thank you, Dave. That was certainly interesting.

For the entertainment portion of the meeting, Gary Ostlund was kind enough to bring his slide presentation on the subject of the Bullet Train in Japan and tell us about his personal experience riding that train in the late 1960s. Gary also joined the Chapter that night. So, welcome to the Chapter, Gary, and thank you for the interesting presentation.

Matt tells me that he is not getting any suggestions as to subjects for the discussion portion of our meetings. Come on, Folks, most of you thought it was a good idea to devote ten or fifteen minutes of each meeting to a discussion on a subject of

interest that had been suggested by a member. Well then, give Matt some ideas. Submit those ideas by Emailing Matt at the Chapter Email address. info@westkentuckynrhs.org.

The Chapter took possession of Chuck's projector at the April meeting and we asked Wally to take it home with him until we figured out where we are going to keep it. Chuck pointed out that there are specific instructions on how to start up and shut down the projector that should be followed to maximize bulb life.

We had three trains during the meeting time! We were all very happy about that. Am I the only one who thinks it is strange that adults jump up in the middle of a meeting and run out onto the platform to watch a train go by? Strange, maybe, but FUN!

I guess that's it for now. See you at the depot in Hopkinsville!

Your Prez
Tom Johnson

Matt's Musings: Deciding What is "Me"

by Matt Gentry

I can always remember having ideas of what my layout will look like when I get around to building it. Initially, it was to be almost identical to the layout at Don's, but I was also 6 at the time and that was the best thing ever! For years to come my plans stayed the same with only small variations to detail like what switches to use, more complex interlockings, how I want to scenic the layout, you know...detail stuff! And then came the year 2010 and my graduation.

2010 was an important year for me and my modeling direction. I graduated from college in May of 2010 and had a full time position. I was getting adjusted to life with no school, and the fact that I could



The 2 KCS locomotives in the Greyhound paint scheme are the first "modern" HO scale locomotives I purchased. The Southern Belle locomotive was next. -Matt Gentry

almost* do as I pleased with my earnings. So naturally I was looking at trains for purchase. I had always looked at Lionel and MTH catalogs and always knew their price point. But when I

took a look this year, I really was presented with a choice. That choice was to either A) continue in O gauge and just do a little



The very first Lionel #675 I restored. I am unsure of the date of the photo, or the time in which the project was completed. This shows the beginnings of my O gauge collection. -Matt Gentry

bit here, and a little bit there, or B) to change to a smaller gauge and be able to do more with the same amount of investment.

Well, option B won the war. So with the decision made to switch to a smaller scale, the question now was HO or N? I could do a LOT with N scale, but the direction I thought I wanted to go involved steam. And in my honest opinion, although N scale has come a LONG way, steam locomotives just aren't quite there... yet! So, HO scale it was. With this decision, it was time to decide what I wanted to model and when, and then plan a layout. Mind you all of this is taking place in my head. No paper, no computer, nothing. So I knew that I wanted to have steam and I have always liked western railroads. I was also becoming more and more taken with super powered locomotives, so it looked like I was working from 1940-1960. This allowed late steam and early diesel. But where? Well, I had begun collecting some eastern railroad equipment, so why not centralize around Chicago, but primarily run in the west? OK, it was settled.

So one fateful evening when Keith Kittenger had us

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Top: Alco RSD15 #9842 & U33C #3809 pull a loaded coal train towards the Yankeetown docks, crossing at Roeder Rd in Warrick Co. IN. Bottom: YDC SD38-2 #21 sits at the Yankeetown Docks awaiting its next assignment. Photos by Rick Bivins

all over to his layout, Rick Bivins and I began discussing all of this and when I mentioned what had been rolling around in my head, his reply was “why not model everything?” And I want to say up front that no offense was taken by these words, but it really made me think. Yes, my plan is quite a tall order to fill and could end

up being pretty messy. So back to the drawing board.

After a couple weeks thinking, I finally decided “you know, modeling modern equipment would actually be pretty neat. Especially with the attention to detail that most manufacturers are putting into the modern equipment. And, I can still run steam or special excursion trains. It is, after all, going to be MY railroad, right?” But I still wanted something unique to MY layout and railroad. Enter the Yankeetown Dock Corporation.

I can remember years ago, early 1990’s, when trains were a normal sight heading into the dock’s. My best memory is of the Squaw Creek U33C locomotives pulling into the small yard at Yankeetown. I honestly don’t ever remember



Ex Southern Pacific #9347, model SD45T-2, waits for permission to leave the yard to fetch another load of coal for the docks. 4/5/14



Indiana Southern GP40 #4051 waits for permission to enter the yard at Yankeetown to pick up its train. -Matt Gentry 5/14/11

seeing the SD38-2 locomotives. I can only assume that rail traffic stopped moving at the docks in 1998 when the last (that I found documented) Lynnville mine ceased operations.

It wasn’t until 2007 when I noticed some Norfolk Southern Dash-9 locomotives sitting outside the docks that I started gaining a slight interest. Fast forward to 2013 when I have really started learning and paying attention to all railroading around me that I started taking an interest in smaller local operations. It was at this time that I started forming plans to maybe include this in my layout. It would be a good yard addition, unique road power and I see no reason why I couldn’t have all era’s of the line included!

A little later in 2013 I acquired my SD38-2 locomotive in the “Can Do America” paint scheme and then managed to track down Athearn’s Yankeetown Dock gondolas. It was now that I realized that this would indeed be included in my layout. The search was on for more info.



I knew I could use modern Norfolk Southern diesels as I see them all the time on the line. I could also use Norfolk Southern Heritage units! Rich Hane has



Seen in the glory days, YDC #20 & #22 sit awaiting assignment at the Yankeetown Docks. Photos by Rick Bivins

photographed the New York Central locomotive in the yard, and some photographers I follow on Facebook have photos of the NS Veteran’s locomotive sitting in the yard as well. I could also run Indiana Southern power as they are in the docks quite often with their SD40-2’s in the new Genesee & Wyoming livery but I could also use their old scheme as well. Also with the Indiana Southern are some ex Southern Pacific SD45T-2 that I could throw in the mix. Going back to the 1980’s & 1990’s I can use the SD38-2 locomotives in the YDC livery, the U33C locomotives in the yellow and green livery of Squaw Creek, the Alco RSD15 locomotives, and lastly I can get the Fairbanks locomotives to have in the yard too!

So the neat part about this is that it can be modeled in a modern setting and not be totally out of place, and it would be unique to my layout... that I’m still planning! I have an idea on track plans, but those may be revealed in a part 2 segment!



NS #8989, D9-40CW, waits for a crew to depart Yankeetown. This was the first train I noticed utilizing the docks since the 1990’s -Matt Gentry 7/1/07

Photos!



Above: May 6, 2014 - CSX work train WA03 moves from the siding to the main at North Robards as it moves north on the Henderson Subdivision with a loaded ballast train at Robards, Kentucky.
-Jim Pearson

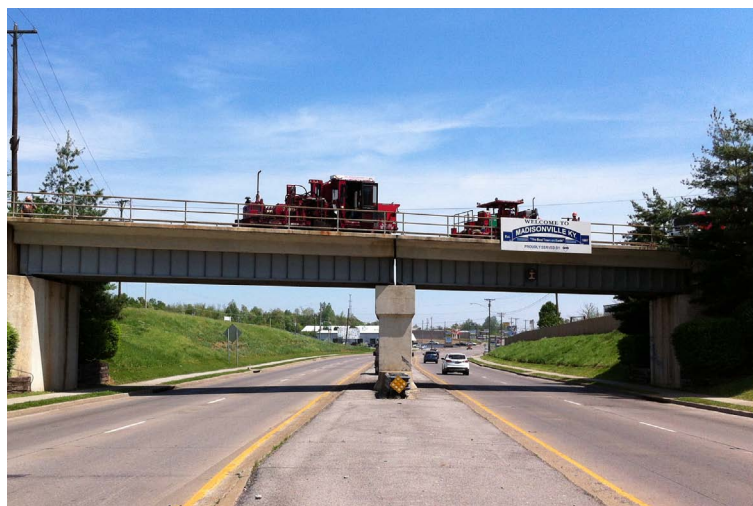
Above Right: A northbound Union Pacific run through passes through Morton's Gap KY 5/1/14
-Rick Bivins



Below: May 7, 2014 - A CSX K892 (grain train with BNSF 9624 on the lead) crew member conducts a "roll-by inspection" at dusk on a northbound freight train as they meet at South Slaughters at Slaughters, Kentucky on the Henderson Subdivision.
-Jim Pearson

Bottom Right: CSX #7531 heads north through Madisonville during the April meeting of the NRHS at the former L&N Depot. 4/21/14
-Thomas Bryan

Right: P&L/RJ Corman doing maintenance work on overpass at South Main St., Madisonville
-Bill Corum



Mystery Location



Although it could be anywhere, this spot is located along the Henderson Subdivision.

Take your best guess!

Submitted by Jim Pearson
Photo by Jim Pearson

Remember that guesses will be taken at meeting time and thrown into a hat. The first name drawn with the correct answer will get first pick of the items that are up for raffle.

Minutes Summary of April 2014

- MINUTES: Approved of the March meeting
- TREASURERS REPORT: Approved
- DIRECTORS REPORT: Wallace had no report but reminded us about the method of paying dues in the fall; It will primarily be done on-line, Chapter dues will be mailed to treasurer, only National dues on line. Reminded us of the Convention in June.
- ACTIVITIES REPORT: Suggested trip might be to Mt Vernon, IN to view the coal handling facility some time this year. Ricky has already committed us to Friday Night Live for 2nd Friday in June, July and August.
- OLD BUSINESS: The cabinet in backroom of the depot needs repair and the area needs some maintenance as well. A work day needs to be set, we are up to date on our tax status.
- NEW BUSINESS: It was mentioned that LST #325 may leave Evansville at end of this year. Kudos to Matt and Birk who donated 2 floor fans to the chapter. Thanks Guys, much appreciated!
- NEXT MEETING: Following an annual custom, the Hopkinsville group will host the May meeting on Monday evening at 7PM at the Hopkinsville Depot. Wallace will provide the Program and the group the refreshments. Date is May 19th.
- Those present were:

1. Gary Ostlund	7. Thomas Bryan	13. Bob Moffet
2. Rich Hane	8. Steve Miller	14. Jim Pearson
3. Wally Watts	9. Wallace Henderson	15. Chuck Hinrich
4. Tom Johnson	10. David Millen	16. Matt Gentry
5. Donny Knight	11. Keith Kittenger	17. Birk Fischer
6. Betty Knight	12. Bill Thomas	18. Rick Bivins

Financial Statement of April 2014

Beginning Balance	\$2555.53
Income:	
Nat. Dues Rec.	\$110.00
Chpt. dues Rec.	0.00
Donations	0.00
Other/Jan. Raffle	0.00
Total Income	\$110.00
Expenditures	
Nat. Dues Paid	0.00
Postage	0.00
Supplies	0.00
Other	0.00
Total Expenditures	0.00
Ending Balance	\$2665.53
Membership Stats:	
Beginning Membership	45
National Members Added	0
National Members Deleted	4
Chapter Only Members Added	0
Chapter Only Members Deleted	0
Ending Membership	41
<i>Presented by Wally Watts, Treasurer</i>	

Tommy Johnson Presents: RAIL FLICKS

Chicago Odyssey Volume 2

Producer: Green Frog Productions

Purchased From : Greenfrog.com

Format: 2 DVD set

Date Purchased: 4/14/14

Playing Time: 2 Hrs. 30 Min.

Price Paid: \$12.98

What a trip down memory lane! This footage was shot before all the mergers occurred and while we still had the railroads that we older folks remember from our youth. The date range for the scenes in this video is from 1962 to 1973 and the location, as the title implies, is Chicago and outlying areas. The image quality for this video is what you would expect considering the technology of the times or maybe even a little better than you would expect.

I'm sure I will not remember all of the fallen flag railroads represented in this video but we get at least glimpses of the following:

Grand Trunk Western	Burlington Northern
Chicago Burlington & Quincy	Rock Island
Chicago & North Western	Milwaukee Road
B&O	Santa Fe
C&O	Gulf Mobile & Ohio
Penn Central	Illinois Central

We see pre-Amtrak passenger cars in their familiar old paint schemes from the Santa Fe, Great Northern, Northern Pacific, and CB&Q.

We also get a look at some Indiana Harbor Belt action and some Chicago South Shore and South Bend footage.

An added treat is getting to see those classic cars from the 60s and 70s in many of the scenes.

Train spotting must have been a whole lot more interesting back in the days before all the mergers. You will enjoy this DVD set and I recommend it highly.



Above: BNSF 5755 leads a southbound through Morton's Gap KY on a beautiful Saturday afternoon. 5/10/14
-Rick Bivins



Top: CSX switcher #1228 leads a short manifest northbound with the Vanderburgh Co 4H grounds just beyond the tracks in Evansville IN. 5/9/14
-Matt Gentry

Above: Quite a colorful consist sits offline at the Princeton IN Norfolk Southern yard just after a storm has passed in the early afternoon. 4/28/14
-Matt Gentry

THE PROJECT CORNER

Spotlighting the work of Bill Heaton

All photos by Bill Heaton

These photos were submitted by Bill Heaton showing his latest projects.

“PSC brass 10-1-2 Pullman done in the L&N scheme with interior. Doesn't have the car name in script because no one has ever made those decals before. Also, a PSC brass 8-1-2 done in the 1929 two tone green scheme for the Crescent Limited with interior.”

I would imagine finding specific decals is one of the major challenges for custom modelers. However, improvising is part of modeling, right? Either way, these are beautiful pieces.

Thank you for sharing Bill!





Above: Citirail ES44AC #1204 is seen heading north through Morton's Gap KY on 4/18/14 with a rare sighting of chapter member Steve Gentry looking on.
-Matt Gentry



Above: May 2, 2014 - CSX Q026 with the "Spirit of Maryland" 602 in the lead heads north approaching South Romney just outside Mannington, Ky on the Henderson Subdivision.
-Jim Pearson

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.

Matt Gentry, editor

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/

<http://www.westkentuckynrhs.org/>

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