

# PENNYRAIL

March 2015

Volume 19 Number 3



## Next Meeting

**Monday March 16, 2015 @ 7:00pm**  
**Former L&N Depot**  
**38 W. Arch St. Madisonville, KY**

**Program by: Wally Watts**

**Refreshments by:**

**Thomas & Jim Bryan**

**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...

- **The Spill with President Bill**
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- **Mystery Photo & Photos!**
- **The Project Corner**

Western Kentucky  
Chapter, NRHS, Inc.

111 Reed Pl.  
Madisonville, KY 42431

\* \* \* \* \*

President  
Bill Farrell

Vice President  
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Wally Watts

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Rick Bivins

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  
Matt Gentry

email:  
[info@westkentuckynrhs.org](mailto:info@westkentuckynrhs.org)

**Time to Renew!**

Please renew your NRHS membership as soon as possible. If you have not received your bill, please contact Wally Watts at 270-821-5136 or email at [wallacewattsjr@att.net](mailto:wallacewattsjr@att.net)

*Please* send your digital photos and stories to [info@westkentuckynrhs.org](mailto:info@westkentuckynrhs.org)

# The Spill with President Bill

## President Bill Farrell

Well, it just seemed like last week and we were having our February meeting. We need to thank Ricky for getting the February program together for us. Rich did a good job on the refreshments; Blair Terry gave him a four star rating on the food. In other words, you did good, Rich. Our program this month will be brought to us by Wally Watts. We will have some guests from the former Owensboro Chapter of the NRHS.

We have some exciting news about events and projects coming up in March and April. On March 28th we have a trip planned to the National Transportation Museum in St. Louis, MO. We have two 15 passenger vans lined up for those who would rather ride than drive. I say 15 passengers but the plan is to carry only 10 people per van. I believe the word we are looking for is "comfortable". We will fill the seats on a first come first serve basis, so if you would like to go, let me know soon. The cost per member and or guest to take the van is \$17.00 (per person). We will discuss this in more detail at the March meeting.

We now have some thirty DVDs for the chapter Video Library. Any member that would like to put a DVD in the library on loan please bring them to the next meeting. I noticed several members checking out movies last month. Until we get the number of DVDs up in the library members can only check out one per month.

April 11th is "Archeology Saturday". The plan is to use metal detectors and go to a former location of a train depot in Hopkins County. We are going to list and catalog all the artifacts our club members unearth. These items can be placed in the case in the Parkway Plaza Mall or stored at the Hopkins County Historical Society. Now keep all that in mind, last Friday I called one of our chapter in house railroad historians, Wally Watts. I said, Wally lets go and find a depot site for "Archeology Saturday", Wally said sound fine lets meet at Cracker Barrel.

Once we got on the road, Wally dragged your President through the bowels of Hopkins County looking for sites where depots once stood. I don't know how many times I hear Wally say, "I'll sit in the car, you wade through that water and see what is over there". "Wally it's just more snow and ice". All kidding aside we did find one very interesting site, I think you will find the pictures we have of the Nebo site very rewarding. Wally and I will have the pictures for the next meeting.

Do you have a digital camera? Well if not, maybe you can borrow one from a good friend. In May, the chapter plans on having a photography contest within the club. Jim Pearson, one of the chapter members will chair this event. It will be open to all our chapter members in good standing. The pictures you submit to Jim (by email) will have to be taken in Western Kentucky on the day of the contest. Jim will have some tips and rules for the contest in the April meeting. Those members who are worried about Jim Pearson winning the photo contest need to know he will be a contestant. We are still working on the prize to the winner. The most important thing in this event is, you have fun. In the case of Matt Gentry, he will be allowed to submit a picture from the west coast.

Those who missed the last meeting, it was announced that the GarGraves track company has donated between \$1,000.00 and \$1,100.00 in track for the modular layout. We still have three module's unspoken for, any member who want to build one, let me know.

We need "Show & Tell" items and things for the raffle for the next meeting. Weather permitting I hope to see you on the 16th of March @ 7:00.

Bill Ferrell



Above: Norfolk and Western Heritage Unit #8103 leads NS #890 along the FloodWall at New Albany, Indiana on January 30, 2015.

-Bill Grady

Right: Led by CN #5527, 3 Canadian National covered wagons head north through Morton's Gap on January 7, 2015.

-Rick Bivins



# Upcoming Events

## March 2015

**Saturday March 28:**

Trip to National Transportation Museum

## April 2015

**Saturday April 11:**

Archeology Saturday - Location: TBA

**Monday April 20. 7:00PM:**

April Meeting of West Kentucky Chpt NRHS

## May 2015

**Saturday May 9:**

Photo Contest Day - Location: Western KY  
And Southern California!!

**Monday May 18. 7:00PM:**

May Meeting of West Kentucky Chpt NRHS  
in Hopkinsville, KY

*Please note: All dates subject to change (with exception of meeting nights) until approved by the membership.*

### Minutes Summary of February 2015

- MINUTES: Approved of the January 2015 meeting.
- TREASURERS REPORT: Approved
- DIRECTORS REPORT: Ricky reported on paying dues direct to National which are paid separate from chapter dues. Fernley and Fernley is no longer connected with NRHS for handling dues and finances. Reports spring board meeting is coming up and by-laws can now be accessed on web site. No other business and meeting dismissed.
- ACTIVITIES REPORT: None
- OLD BUSINESS: Bill Ferrell report Gargraves has donated \$1100 worth of track to us for modular layouts. Discussed details for the video library. Tom Johnson will be the video librarian. Liability insurance was discussed for any public function we may have. The city has a liability coverage on the building but we need to see if we should have our own policy to cover ourselves. Wally will check with a couple of local agencies. We may participate in Kid-A-Poolsa on October 24, in downtown Madisonville.
- NEW BUSINESS: Bill discussed plans for the year including the Kid-A-Poolasa which includes a soap box race in downtown and other activities we might do. He will check on the St. Louis Museum and a trip there possibly late this month. Dues discussed and Wally encouraged all to get dues in to NRHS and chapter as soon as possible.
- SHOW & TELL: None
- ANNOUNCEMENTS: None
- NEXT MEETING: Monday March 16th at 7PM
- Those present were:
 

1. Wally Watts	7. Keith Kittenger	11. Donny Knight
2. Jim Pearson	8. Ann Ferrell	12. Bill Ferrell
3. Rich Hane	9. Bill Thomas	13. Blair Terry
4. Tom Johnson	10. Steve Miller	
5. Thomas Bryan	11. Rick Bivins	
6. Jim Bryan	12. Betty Knight	

Guests:

1. Glenn Ball

### Financial Statement of February 2015

Beginning Balance	\$2301.73
Income:	
Nat. Dues Rec.	0.00
Chpt. dues Rec.	40.00
Donations	10.00
Other/Raffle	13.00
Total Income	\$63.00
Expenditures	
Nat. Dues Paid	0.00
Postage	0.00
Supplies	0.00
Other	0.00
Total Expenditures	\$0.00
	\$2301.73
	+ \$63.00
Ending Balance	\$2364.73
Membership Stats:	
Beginning Membership	40
National Members Added	0
National Members Deleted	0
Chapter Only Members Added	0
Chapter Only Members Deleted	0
Ending Membership	40

Presented by Wally Watts, Treasurer

# Tom Johnson Presents: RAIL FLICKS

## Kicking Horse Pass; Canadian Pacific's Laggan Sub

Producer: 7idea Productions

Purchased From : TrainVideoDepot.com

Format: Widescreen DVD

Date Purchased: 2/19/15

Playing Time: 1 Hr. 34 Min.

List Price: \$27.95

This one is another excellent video from 7idea. The video quality is great and the Wide Screen format lends itself well to the beautiful panorama of the Canadian Rockies. The scenes were shot in June, September, and October of 2014.

The Laggan Sub runs from Field, British Columbia, on the west to Exshaw, Alberta, on the east, a distance of 136 miles. Some of the most spectacular and beautiful scenery is found on the Laggan Sub.

Trains shown include mixed manifest freight, double stacks that are 10,000 feet long, unit grain trains, potash trains, and we even get to see Canada's most prestigious passenger train "The Rocky Mountaineer."

Two unusual and extremely interesting features of the Laggan Sub are the upper and lower spiral tunnels that were completed in 1909. These tunnels lowered the grade from 4.4% to 2.2% and added 8.2 miles to the route. The treacherous 4.4% grade was called "The Big Hill" by railroaders when it was in use from 1884 to 1909.

The tunnels were dug by hand and even though they were built without benefit of all the modern surveying technology, the alignment was off by only two inches when the crews digging from either end met in the middle.

We see trains spiral over themselves as they go through these tunnels, just as they do a Tehachapi Loop in California.

The narrator, Aaron Bentsen, tells the story of how Kicking Horse Pass got its name. James Hector, a member of the survey crew searching for the best route for the right of way, was kicked in the chest by his horse in 1858 while at this pass. His co-workers thought he was dead and dug his grave, but, fortunately, Mr. Hector regained consciousness in time and was not buried alive. So, the pass was named Kicking Horse Pass because of that event.

This video is definitely one you will want and I highly recommend it.

## Mystery Location



Located somewhere on the Henderson Sub, this NYC Caboose has been sitting for a few years without moving.

Take your best guess!

Submitted by Jim Pearson

*Remember that guesses will be taken at meeting time.*

# Photos



Left: KCS Power leads NS #224 through Buechel, KY on Feb. 24, 2015.  
-Bill Grady

Below: NS #2690 leads an empty bucket train north through Glendale, OH, on a frigid February 12, 2015  
-Matt Gentry



Above: P&L #3800 and #3805 rest in P&L's Louisville yard awaiting their next assignment.  
February 13, 2015  
-Matt Gentry



Right: CSX #5439 is tied down just north of the CSX yard in Louisville, KY, just after 8 inches of snow have fallen on the town on February 16, 2015.  
I snapped this photo for, among other things, the main reason of the way the wind was blowing the locomotive's exhaust. As some may know, I'm a bit of a UP Turbine junkie and this shot reminded me of the way Turbine exhaust exited the famous UP locomotives.  
-Matt Gentry



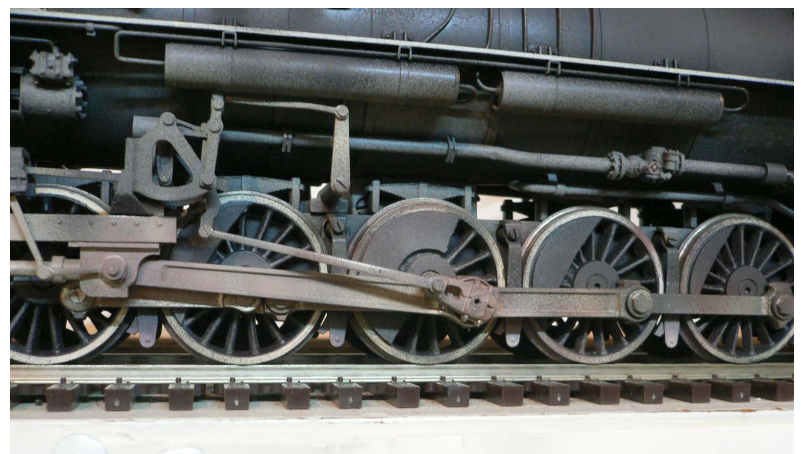
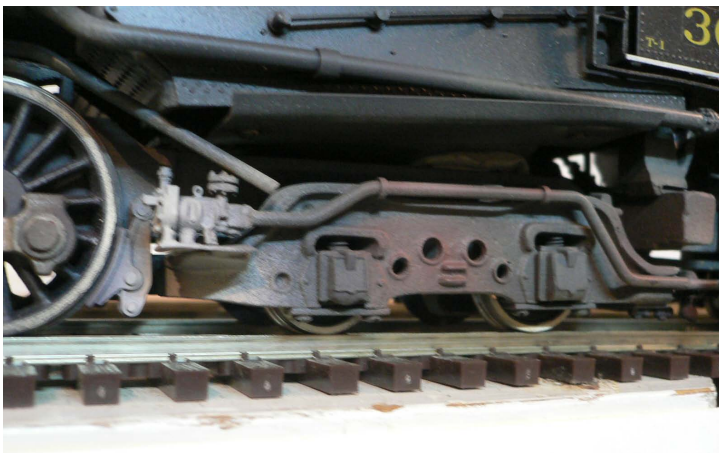
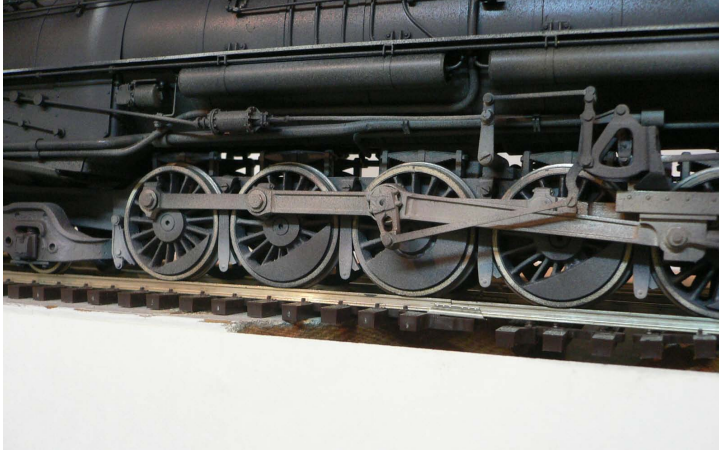
# THE PROJECT CORNER

## Spotlighting the work of Bill Heaton

Just finished an American Standard 6-3 Pullman kit that I did on ACL purple. I've never seen one done in O scale as I don't think anyone has ever made the purple paint. Finally Tru-color came out with the paint. Yea for Tru-color! The yellow striping was painted on then masked for the purple. Then the purple was masked and the silver applied. The lettering is from 3 different Champ sets. The ACL on the letter board is from a Champ ACL passenger car set, the car name is from a Champ Pullman set & the small Pullman on the ends came from a NYC passenger car set. This one was a lot of fun to do and a challenge.



Here is a T-1 that I weathered. Don't know who painted the model initially. I wanted that "in-service" look as well as some reddish tint (like GA clay) on the trucks and tender frame. Other colors used were two types of grime, sand, grimy black, rust and dirt.





Cab cars! Cab cars as far as you can (almost) see! After being delayed flying out of Louisville on February 17, I snapped this shot on Tuesday February 18, 2015 at LA's Union Station after landing at LAX. Five Metrolink cab cars are seen at the end of the platform awaiting their scheduled departure time.  
-Matt Gentry

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.**

<b>BNSF</b>	<b>800-832-5452</b>
<b>CN/IC</b>	<b>800-465-9239</b>
<b>CSX</b>	<b>800-232-0144</b>
<b>NS</b>	<b>800-453-2530</b>
<b>UP</b>	<b>888-877-7267</b>
<b>Amtrak</b>	<b>800-331-0008</b>

### **National Railway Historical Society**

[www.nrhs.org](http://www.nrhs.org)

### **Railway Preservation News**

[www.rypn.org/](http://www.rypn.org/)

### **Kentucky Railway Museum**

[www.kyrail.org/](http://www.kyrail.org/)

### **Indiana Railway Museum and French Lick Scenic Railway**

[www.indianarailwaymuseum.org](http://www.indianarailwaymuseum.org)

### **Illinois Rr Historical Society**

<http://icrrhistorical.org/>

### **Illinois Railway Museum**

[www.irm.org/](http://www.irm.org/)

### **Tennessee Central**

### **Railway Museum**

[www.tcry.org/](http://www.tcry.org/)

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

### **PENNYRAIL**

Matt Gentry; editor





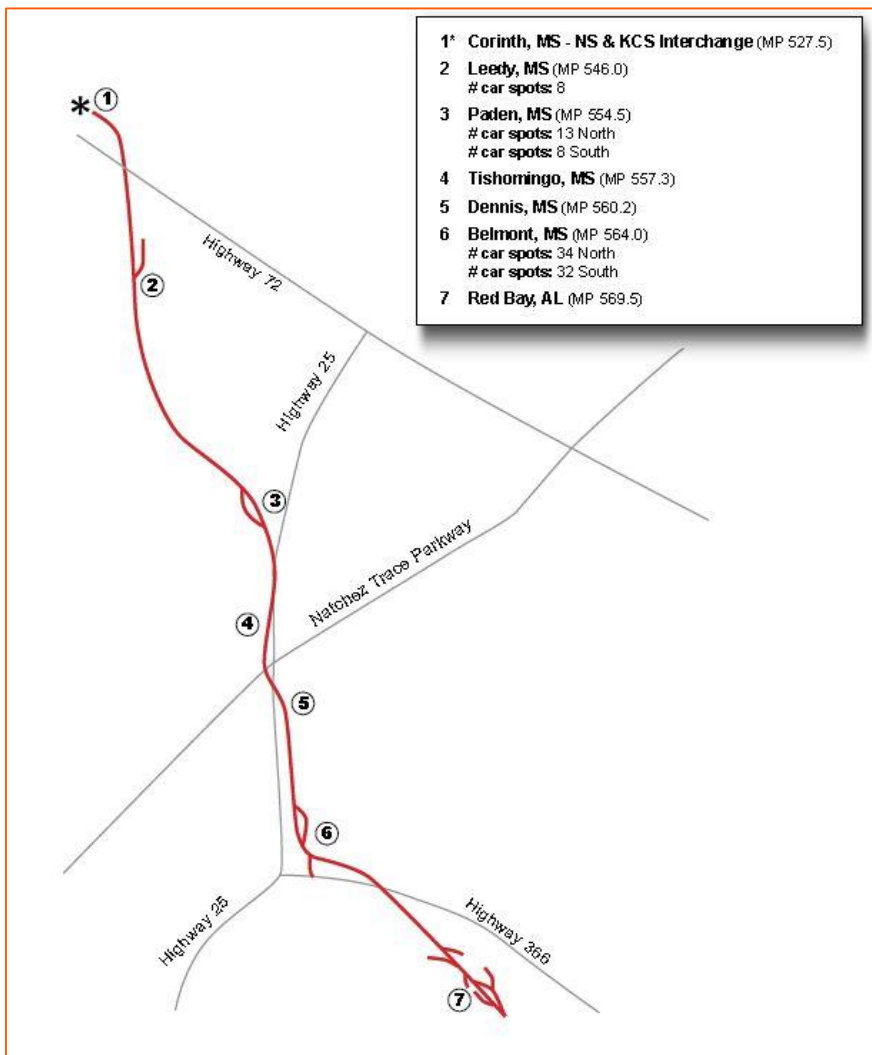
THE SOUTH END HAS GONE TO THE DOGS, BUT REDMONT IS MAKING GRAVY FROM IT

# Gone to the Dogs

*The IC line from Corinth, MS to Red Bay, AL is reviewed in a follow-up to the Jan/Feb feature on the West Tennessee Railroad.*



GUEST FEATURE AUTHOR: CHRIS DEES



The response to the special edition features in the January and February 2015 NRHS Pennyrail's was very positive.

In response, here's a shorter feature regarding the far southern portion of the Birmingham Division of the Illinois Central. Many miles of this portion of the route of IC's City of Miami have been abandoned, pulled up, and left for nature to reclaim.

And the rest, as they say, has gone to the dogs (literally) as Redmont Railway operates this portion of the Mainline of Mid America, hauling pet food ingredients to its mill in Red Bay, Alabama. Enjoy!

## Silent Sentinel

The original IC railroad water tank still stands as a silent sentinel, guarding the south end of the Redmont Railway in Red Bay, Alabama



# Corinth to Red Bay

Corinth – south end of the West Tennessee Railroad, here the former ICG line south to Red Bay, Alabama is operated by Pioneer Railcorp as the Redmont Railway. Redmont interchanges with Kansas City Southern, Norfolk Southern and West Tennessee. The former IC/GM&O/SOU union depot in downtown is home to a museum and is a great railfan spot. Have a picnic next to the restored GM&O caboose.

Leedy – a southern town with rails and not much else. The Redmont Railway line is fairly sparse in this part of Mississippi.

Holcut – a real ghost town. In 1976, the Army Corps of Engineers bought out and then completely demolished the town as part of the Divide Cut section of the Tennessee–Tombigbee Waterway.

Paden – originally called Castle Garden. The town was burned by Union troops during the American Civil War and the area became known as Burnt Hill.

Tenn-Tom Waterway Relocation – during the construction of the Tenn-Tom Waterway, eight (8) railroad bridges were built or moved due to the new waterway. While railfans miss the Brushy Creek Viaduct farther south along the line, this structure is quite impressive. Internet searches have yet to find any photo with a train on this structure. It is similar to P&L's new bridge over the Tennessee River at Kentucky Dam.

Tishomingo – named for Chickasaw Indian Chief Tishomingo. This part of Mississippi is full of native American names.



Natchez Trace Parkway – the leisurely, automobile traffic only road passes over the railroad here.

Dennis – location of one of those classic wooden one-lane railroad overpasses.

Belmont - originally called Gum Springs with a post office built in 1884. After completion of the Birmingham Division of the Illinois Central Railroad in 1907 the town grew considerably. The town's name means "beautiful mountain".

Golden – the last town in Mississippi before the railroad crosses into the state of Alabama.

Red Bay – south end of the Redmont Railway and home to Redmont's former owner and biggest customer, Sunshine Mills pet foods.

A large RV manufacturer, Tiffin RV, also has a huge assembly plant here and at one time shipped RV frames and other parts in by rail using autoracks. The Cardinal Drive-In is a great place to end the day after following Redmont's CF-7 north to Corinth and back.

You may also find local-born celebrity Mac McAnally "strumming a six-string", on a "front porch swing" of one of the downtown stores – he's a member of Jimmy Buffet's Coral Reefer Band.

## ALONG THE NATCHEZ TRACE

Redmont Railway CF7 number 101 heads south to Red Bay with a single covered hopper in late December 2014.

Location is the Natchez Trace Parkway north of Dennis, MS.



## Corinth Connections

From Top..

- NS makes a set-out for the West Tennessee
- Southrail took over Gulf & Mississippi in 1988
- Corinth & Counce SW1001 1005 at Corinth
- Midsouth GP10s at Corinth depot



## The Ghost of Brushy Creek...

The Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway is the largest water resource project ever built in the United States and one of the engineering marvels of the world.

Below

During construction of the waterway, the ICG Birmingham line received this new trestle over the Tenn-Tom just northwest of Tishomingo, Mississippi in 1984. It still serves the Redmont Railway in some 30 years later. While not the viaduct at Brushy Creek, it is impressive none-the-less.

Bottom

At some non-descript location in northeast Mississippi, the memories of the men and women of the ICG Birmingham Division linger, proving The Seminole Route lives on.

