

PENNYRAIL

March 2016

VOLUME 20 NUMBER 1

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

or mail to

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Madisonville, KY
42431.



Chapter Chatter

**Next Meeting Monday,
March 21, 2016, 7:00 pm
Former Louisville & Nashville
Passenger Station, Madisonville, KY**

**Program: Steel Production
and Railroads
by
Rick Bivins**

**Refreshments by
Keith Kittinger**

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

In this issue...

- ◆ Words From Our President
- ◆ Article from Rick Bivins, our National Representative
- ◆ Photos
- ◆ Rail Flicks Review by Tom Johnson

Western Kentucky
Chapter, NRHS, Inc.

111 Reed Place
Madisonville, KY 42431

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President
Bill Farrell

Vice President
Steve Miller

Secretary Treasurer
Wally Watts

National Director
Ricky 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:

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**Feline Invasion of Lionelville!
PLEASE SEND ME YOUR PICTURES!**



From the President

Bill Farrell

The Spill with President Bill

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 Ricky Bivins. We will have some guests from the former Owensboro, chapter of 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.

(Continued on page 5)

Pickin' the Points



Hello Chapter members. First let me thank Matt Gentry for his work with the PennyRail over the last couple of years. Matt has had the publication

rolling from afar—California to be exact. This is a difficult task to manage when you are in the area much less when out. I cannot imagine doing it from such distance, even with the high-tech gadgets we have at our disposal. Matt, thank you so much for your service to the chapter.

As we move ahead with this monthly document let me kindly remind you it is yours, not mine. I just organize the layout and

content. I need all of you to submit material for printing. This includes railroad-related articles, pictures, stories, and other odds and ends you might consider for sharing. Feel free to use your smart-phone cameras. The higher the resolution the better. Please try to submit all material in digital format. If you do not have a word processor, just type your stories and/or articles in an email message and send it to me. If you have any technical problems, feel free to call, text, or email me with the information below.

Bill Thomas Cell: 270-339-9482

Text to the same number

Email: billtrainthomas@gmail.com

You can also message me on Facebook and Twitter.

Keep the news coming! Bill

Mystery Location - Where Are We?

There is no submission for this feature this month. If you have a “spot” you’d like to submit, please do so. Get a photo that does not reveal the location. If you have an old photo but it contains the location, drop it off at Coldwell Banker Terry & Associates, 1096 North Main St, Madisonville, and I will scan it, then return the photo to you. I can “fuzz” out the identity if necessary. Please put your photo in an envelop clearly marked with my name, your name, phone number, email, etc. Mona Forker, our receptionist will put it in my mail box.

From Rick Bivins
Western Kentucky Chapter,
NRHS Chapter Representative.

Greetings Chapter Members,

As members of NRHS we have chosen to uphold the Charter requirements and by-laws of membership, both National by-laws and our own Chapter by-laws. The National by-laws can be found on the National web-site....not easily but they can be found. Wally Watts should have a copy or can produce a copy of the Chapter by-laws if requested. Our Charter was let in early 1985 and is still in effect even though the National organization has struggled. I was a member of NRHS before the Western Kentucky Chapter was formed....I chose to remain a member through thick and thin. I want my 50 year pin!

I begin with the above as much talk has been made of dropping our National Affiliation. Some members have voiced lack of return for their money....not true! For the money, via the National web-site, Facebook, Twitter, other forms of media and good old fashioned pen and paper, much can be obtained from National. The NRHS Bulletin has been on line for many years. Recently, the Bulletin has been published (again) in magazine form. The NRHS video library is extensive as well as the photo archive. One must put forth some effort to make use of these resources but they are worthy of time and postage. Or just browsing on-line!

So please, if you as a member are discouraged or dissatisfied with the NRHS and feel there isn't enough “bang for the buck”....take time to see if you are missing something. You may be

surprised to learn that, indeed, you are.

The easiest way to access NRHS via the internet is to open a web based browser and type NRHS. Ignore the North Rochelle High School page!!!! And choose the second offering!

Explore and enjoy.

Rick Bivins



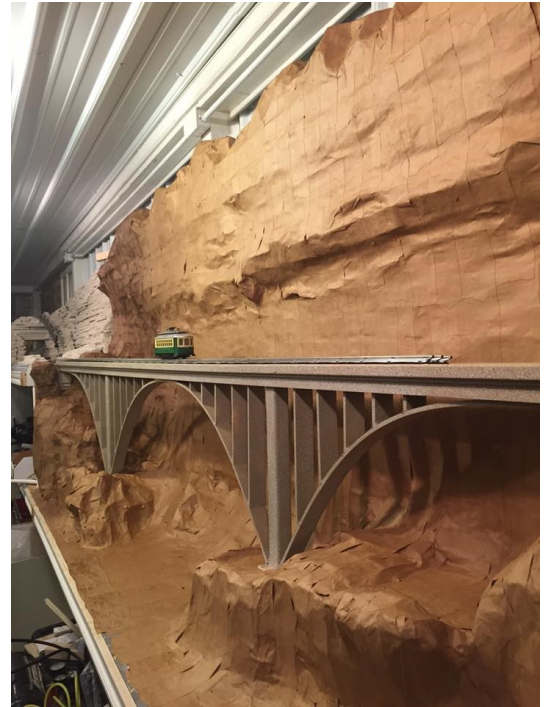
CSX Heritage unit! SCL no less. February 20, 2016 .
- photo by Ricky Bivins

Photos



Left: While touring some commercial property last week, I happened upon the CSX Ahlstrom siding which comes off the Morganfield Branch near Pride Ave, Madisonville. Ahlstrom recently had the siding rebuilt but the line of demarcation between the company and CSX is clear. Love the drainage technique. Photo by Bill Thomas

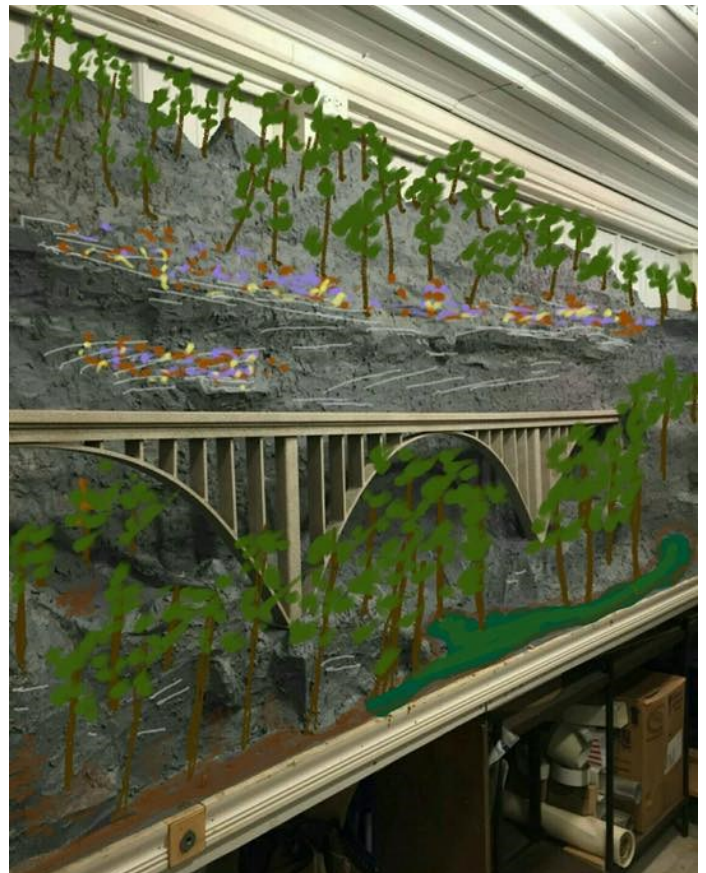
Modeler's Corner



Right: Rick Bivins' model mountain and bridge in process. See it after his friend Josh added some color below.



Below: Trains are running again on the Hook Line & Singer RR after a long winter curfew. First crew reported about 3 weeks ago. Now track crews are dealing with strong weed growth on the right of way.



Chapter members, please send me some photographs!
Bill Thomas, editor, billtrainthomas@gmail.com

Rail Flicks

By Tommy Johnson



Title - Montana Rail Link, EMDs in the Rockies Volume 1, The East End
Producer - C. Vision Productions
Format - DVD Wide Screen
Playing Time - 2 hrs.
Purchased From - Trainvideodepot.com
Date Purchased - 3/3/16
Price Paid - \$26.95

Yes, my fellow Chapter members, yet another Montana Rail Link video review. Sorry, but I had short notice that we were going to resume my reviews and this is the best I can do for this month.

I have videos on the MRL by Pentrex, by Plets Express, by 7idea Productions, by Highball Productions, and now by C. Vision Productions. That might give you the impression that the Montana Rail Link is one of my favorite railroads. Yep, it is.

This is Volume 1, which covers the eastern half of the MRL, as the title indicates. MRL mainline Subdivisions 1 and 2 are included but we also see some of subdivisions 5, 6, and 13. We travel west from Jones Junction, the eastern terminus of the MRL, to Helena, MT, the western end of Subdivision 2.

Some of the geographic features we encounter are: the Yellowstone River, Bozeman Pass, Winston Hill, and Jefferson Canyon, a truly beautiful location.

The MRL put some SD-45's back into service in 2014 and these are seen in action in this video.

C. Vision did a fantastic job in producing this video. Montana's beautiful scenery is presented in wide screen format with top notch video quality. The railroad action is good with a variety of freight behind those gorgeous locomotives proudly displaying their deep blue MRL livery. Maps are used to keep the viewer aware of his location along the route and the narration keeps him informed about the action he is watching. I cannot think of any way that this video could have been improved. I highly recommend it.

I guarantee you that I will be purchasing Volume 2 when it becomes available.

From the President continued...

(Continued from page 2)

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 wants 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 21st of March @ 7:00.

Minutes of NRHS meeting
15 Feb - 2016

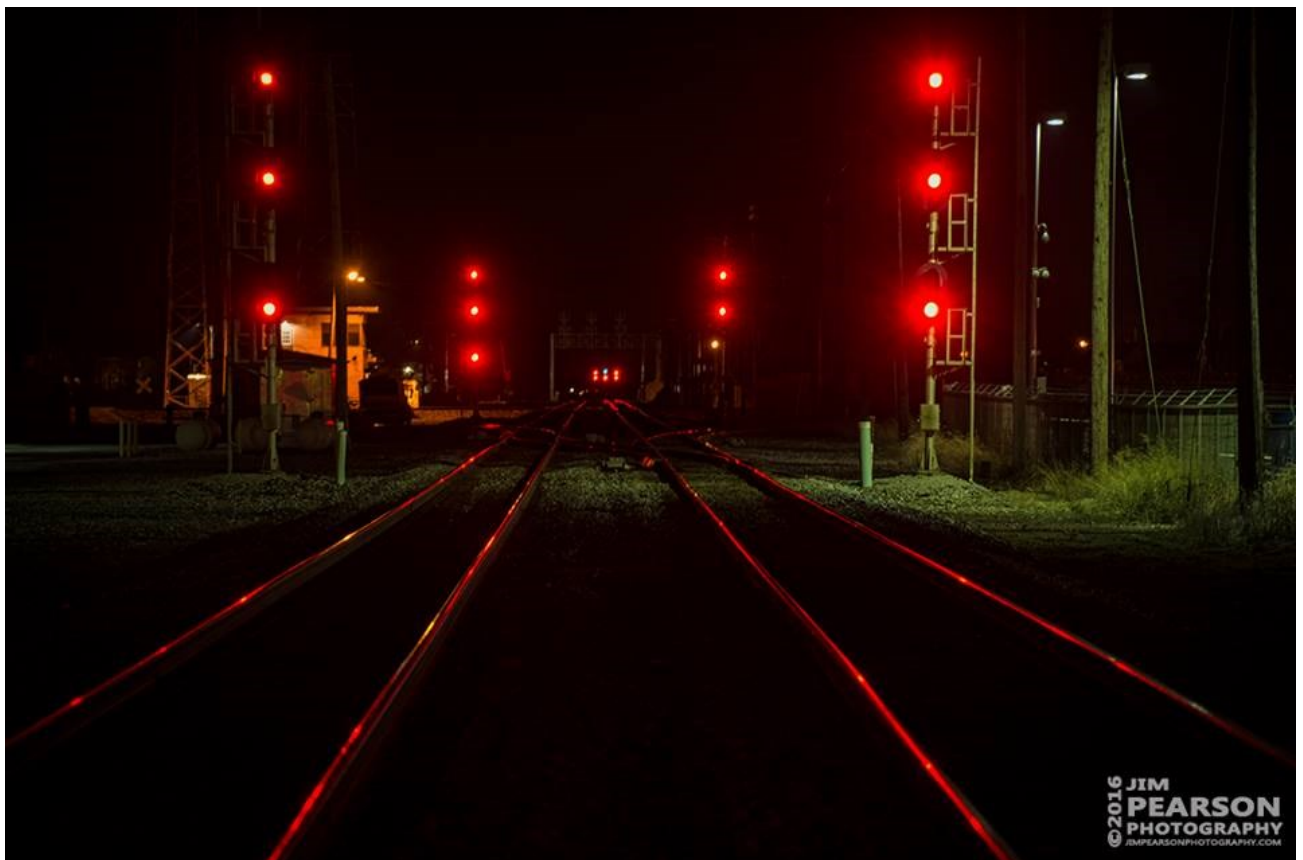
1. Minutes Approved
2. Treasurer Report approved
3. ~~Old Business~~: Brief discussion on the modular layout project at Bill's and the work session last month.
4. ~~New Business~~: Brief discussion on photo contest and its on hold for present. Discussion on possible trip to KRM in late March or early April. Brief discussion had on Chapter calendar for the year. Fund raising & raffle discussed as we need income for our expensive liability insurance. More discussion on the modular layout. Also possibility of printing raffle tickets.
5. Ricky gave brief report on NRHS meeting last Oct. & gave web site information.
6. Meeting adjourned.
7. Those present were:
 1. Gailly Watts
 2. Ricky Bivins
 3. Keith Kettinger
 4. Steve Males
 5. Bill Thomas
 6. Rich Lane
 7. Tom Johnson
 8. Dormy Knight
 9. Bill Ferrell

Photos



March 14, 2016 - A Paducah and Louisville Railway empty ballast train heads south, past the signals at the north end of the siding at Dawson Springs, Ky, on it's way to Grand Rivers to pickup a load of rock, with units PAL 3808, GATX/GMTX 2207, 2698 and PAL 2125. - Tech Info: 1/1250 | f/6.3 | ISO 200 | Lens: Sigma 150-600 @ 600mm on a Nikon D800 shot and processed in RAW. #jimstrainphotos Photo and caption by Jim Pearson,

Below: February 7, 2016 - All's quiet on the Willard Subdivision at Fostoria, Ohio for a brief time as all the signals but one are red. - Tech Info: 2.5 seconds | f/4.8 | ISO 100 | Lens: Nikon 70-300 @ 155mm on a Nikon D800 shot and processed in RAW. #jimstrainphotos Photo and caption by Jim Pearson



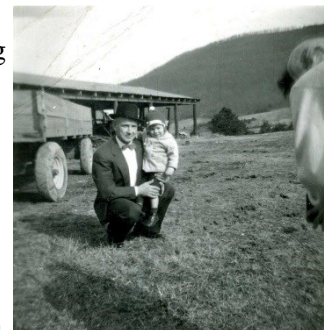
TIMETABLE #110
FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF RAILFANS ONLY

- **West Kentucky NRHS Chapter Meeting** - Monday, March 21, Madisonville, KY
- **April 9** - Train Show at St. Catherine, KY
- **April 16** - Archeology Dig, Dawson Springs
- **April 18** - Regular monthly meeting
- **May 7** - Spring Photo Contest
- **May 15** - Monthly meeting at Hopkinsville
- **Crofton Chapter Picnic** - September 24

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

To the right you see a picture of my Papaw (my mother's father) holding me on his knee, about 1965.

Mamaw seems to be coaxing me to smile. This shot was taken at my aunt's and uncle's home on Hog Jowl Road, Walker Co. GA, about 10 miles from the TAG (Tennessee, Alabama, and Georgia RR) as the crow flies. I owe this man my interest in trains. He spent countless hours running me all over Chattanooga, TN, chasing trains. I later learned he did the same to my mother. I saw TVRM in its infancy but didn't know it. The Incline Rwy was always a special treat. Southern's Big John cement hoppers rumbled by their home in Redbank 2-3 times a day. Precious memories. Send me your memories in print and I'll publish them for all to enjoy. It's a great way to share, inspire, and keep the memories alive! Editor.



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>

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