

PENNYRAIL

June 2016

VOLUME 20 NUMBER 4

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

or mail to

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Chapter Chatter

**Next Meeting Monday,
June 20, 2016, 7:00 pm
Home of Bill and Angela Thomas
1025 Lakewood Dr
Madisonville, KY**

Program

**“Relax on the Hook Line & Singer”
Enjoy the cookout and come hungry!
Meat provided by the family of Blair Terry
Bill will be grilling!
Bring a lawn chair and a friend!
Drinks and Sides provided!**

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

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Western Kentucky
Chapter, NRHS, Inc.

111 Reed Place
Madisonville, KY 42431

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Bill Farrell

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“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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In 1967 ET&WNC received CofG 108 and 109 in a trade for their 2-8-0 steamers 630 and 722. No. 630 is now owned and operated by the Tennessee Valley Railway Museum. See more ETWNC inside. Thanks to Fred Ripley for sending the photos by Everett Young.

It seems like we were just meeting in Hopkinsville yesterday and here it is-- we have a meeting in just a few days. Talking about the meeting, I hope everyone remembers that we are meeting at Bill Thomas's home this month. Blair's mom has informed him that he will be pressing out half pound hamburgers for Bill Thomas to grill. This is one meeting I don't want to miss. Our new member Will Kling as stepped forward and will have the program for this month. Way to go Will.

I hope everyone had an opportunity to get out with a camera and get some pictures of trains or railroad related items for the photo contest we had last week. Each member can enter two (2) pictures of his or her choosing. All photos have to be turned in to Jim Pearson no later than Thursday June the 16th.

I know Blair Terry and myself had a very special opportunity to get some photos of a locomotive in Virginia last week end. I

hope all of our membership had a chance to get out and take pictures of railroading in general. Remember the top three pictures from each contest will go toward making up a club calendar for 2017. Our next photo contest is August 6-13, this gives you time to get out and find a good location.

We are still looking for members to sponsor "Railfanning" events for June, July and August. I you think you know of an area with food and facilities close by you might want to sponsor. These are great events and it gives our membership a chance for relaxation and have fellowship close to a railroad environment.

We have not had a raffle for the last two meeting because of the lack of things to raffle. I need for the membership to dig around in their store of railroad memorabilia for things to raffle in the June meeting.

Bill Farrell, President

Pickin' the Points



Greetings all! I hope you will join us Monday, June 20, 7pm, here at our home at 1025 Lakewood Dr, Madisonville. As President Bill stated above, Blair's family will be supplying the burgers for my grill Monday so come hungry. Just bring a lawn chair and all the other stuff will be provided. If you'd like to take a dip in the pool, feel free to come early at 6. I believe happy hour will begin at that point as well.

Informal Program: If you have any G gauge equipment you'd like to run on the garden

tracks, feel free to bring it along. Bob McCracken is scheduled to have his live-steam Shay here and it's always a treat to see it chugging among the flora. Keep in mind the track work can be like a maintenance-deferred short line so no guarantees we'll be derailment free. RJ Corman is on standby.

Directions if needed: From South Main St (Hwy 41 S), take SR 70/McLaughlin/Princeton Rd west. Turn right on Lakewood Dr., just past the Elks Club. Take the first left (which remains Lakewood Dr.). Go right as the road elbows, our drive way is the first on the right. Blue house with a yellow front door, RR crossing sign in the back yard.

Hope to see you here!

Bill

Photo Contest Winners

Results of the June 2016 Chapter Photo Contest by Jim Pearson. There were a total of 8 entries for this contest from four different members. While all the photos were of great quality our judge, Jim Pearson, has narrowed down the field to the top three winning photographs.

First place goes to Bill Grady for his black and white photograph of Norfolk Southern train #891 at Paducah and Louisville Railways Oak Street Yard in Louisville, KY with 4 brand-new GE ES44TH's on the lead. Later in the day 2 of the units were placed on the South end of the consist for the trip over the PAL to the Warrior Mine just west of Madisonville, Ky.



I like how Bill has used the leading lines of the track in the foreground to help draw your eye into this photograph. Also the decision to make this a black and white photograph really makes it stand out with the clouds in the sky. Also, the fact that it was the first revenue run for these engines helps to make it a bit news worthy! Good job Bill!



Second Place goes to Rick Bivins for his shot of CSX X186-07, an empty intermodal with BNSF power, as it heads south under the bridge at Barnsley, Ky on the Henderson Subdivision.

Rick did a great job on his composition with this photograph! Good use of leading lines and placement of the engines make for a dynamic picture. Shot with iPhone also! Goes to show, it's not the camera that makes the photo, but the person that is behind it! Also, the best camera to use is always the one you have with you!

Continued on next page...

Photo Contest Winners

Third place goes to Blair Terry with his photograph of NS 611 at the station in Manassas, Virginia.

A great shot Blair! I think it would have been much better if you were a bit further back from the train to show a bit more of the environment and perhaps allow the viewer to see a bit more steam or smoke coming from the stack of 611.



"A bridge across the Mississippi was necessary to connect the Chicago & Rock Island and the Mississippi & Missouri railroads. The Mississippi had not yet been spanned, and the immediate reaction to the proposed railroad bridge was that it would be a hazard to navigation. However, the bridge was built, and it was officially opened on April 21, 1856. On the evening of May 76 the steamboat *Effie Afton*, which usually plied the New Orleans-Louisville run, cleared the open draw span then veered aside, turned around, rammed one of the piers, and suddenly and suspiciously burst into flames. The case of the bridge soon became one of railroad advocates versus steamboats advocates. The latter felt that even a single bridge would set an unfortunate precedent and soon there would be bridges every 40 or 50 miles along the length of the river. The railroad's case, argued by Abraham Lincoln, went one way then the other in successive courts, but in 1866 the U. S. Supreme Court held for the railroad. Several other railroads immediately applied to bridge the Mississippi at other locations."

Credits: Cartoon from *Railfan & Railroad Magazine*, March 2009, quoted paragraph from the: "Historical Guide to North American Railroads" by Kalmbach

Rail Flicks

By Tommy Johnson



Tommy's Rail Flicks feature will be taking a break for a while. I appreciate all Tom has contributed to the PennyRail over the last few years. He deserves a rest.

Modeler's Corner

Photos

Below: Keith Kittinger shares some progress on his HO L&N layout. To see a video of a train crossing the new span go to www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZpfgO5_rOs8&feature=youtu.be



Above left: This is the main line bridge over the wye. **Above right:** Atkinson Car Shop has been busy. Eight new cabs to go into service.

Radio Update by Chris Dees

New Radios for The Railfan Toolbox

Ask any die-hard, train-chasing foamer what his/her favorite tools to assist in railfanning are, and the answer will probably include “a radio scanner”. The scanner allows railfans to listen in to dispatchers, train crews, and support personnel perform various tasks from running mainline freights and setting up meets to the local wayfreight setting out cars at local industries. Fishermen use fish finders to catch the “big one”; railfans use scanners. For the most part, present railroad communications continue to be in normal analog mode, and receivable by even the most basic of radio scanners. That will likely change in the future.

Recent changes in radio technology have begun to cloud the horizon of railroad related radio communications. The first change was trunking – basically a sharing of a pool of frequencies that are assigned on demand. Thankfully, there is limited usage of trunking in everyday railroad operations, save for some major yard operations and transit authorities in major metropolitan areas.

The other change, digital radio, has posed a more darker, ominous cloud for railfans. Three major types of digital radio formats – all of which are incompatible with each other – are being utilized: Project 25, NXDN, and DMR. Project 25 is most commonly used in public safety communications for fire, EMS, and law enforcement; Hopkins County and Madisonville utilizes this type of digital format for their public safety operations. NXDN, or Nexedge, is the *proposed* format to be utilized by railroads; Christian County and Hopkinsville utilizes this type of digital format for their public safety operations. DMR, or Digital Mobile Radio, is becoming the de facto standard of digital radio in the business band segment of two-way radio as a cheaper alternative to Project 25.

Until recently, Project 25 was the only digital format that was available in radio scanners, with other modes requiring intensive scanner modifications along with utilizing a PC to process and decode the audio. A rather expensive option, the AOR DV-1 radio at \$1200, was introduced in 2015 but with several limitations that didn't allow for ease-of-use in the field. The other option was to purchase an actual NXDN or DMR radio and get it programmed – again not an easy or inexpensive option.

At this year's Dayton, Ohio Amateur Radio Convention known as Hamvention, two major announcements from Uniden and Whistler Group brought great news to scanner users regarding DMR and NXDN. First, Uniden Corporation announced a soon-to-be-released upgrade

to its BCD436-HP and BCD536-HP scanners that will allow reception and decoding of DMR. Then, Whistler Group announced two new models, the TRX-1 and TRX-2 radios, which will also allow reception of DMR, with NXDN decoding noted as being under development. Regardless of brand loyalty, these two announcements have given the railfan community a sigh of relief in regards to the future switch to digital radio communications by the industry, regardless of the format. These new developments, however, do come with a larger price tag than your run-of-the-mill analog scanner, with prices in the \$300 to \$500 range, but with tons of features that will continue to make the scanner a key tool for any railfan.

East Tennessee & Western North Carolina Notes of Interest

Bill Heaton recently visited Cranberry Mine where ETWNC hauled out iron ore.



Fred Ripley sent in this photo of more recent ETWNC activity. East Tennessee Ry. SW-1200 214 switches a metals recycling facility at Johnson City in April 2015. ETRY is now part of the Genesee & Wyoming family.



The Interchange

Expanded

Enco 8' X 30" vertical knee mill. 1 1/2 HP 110V motor. R8 spindle with collets. Includes Palmgren 4" vise, work clamping kit, angle table, and cast iron angle plate. This mill sells new by Grizzly Imports for \$3450 with no accessories. Purchaser must move it. \$1750 complete. Bob McCracken (270)584-3340



16 speed floor model drill press. 1/2" chuck, built in light. \$100
Bob McCracken (270)584-3340



Craftsman 12" radial arm saw. 22V single phase. Comes with stand and 2 extra blades (new). \$100. Bob McCracken (270)584-3340

The Interchange

Continued



One Miller Econo Twin HF TIG and stick welder. TIG weld range is 10-85 amps. Remote high frequency switch. Includes Weldcraft torch with collets and electrodes, spare gas cups, argon regulator and all gas lines, holder for stick welding, and aluminum top work table with light. Auto darkening welding helmet. Requires 220V 30 amp service line. \$350 for you. Purchaser must move.

Bob McCracken
(270)584-3340

Regional (Southern) Photo Section by Chris Dees



Above Left: Sweet Home Alabama - Alabama & Gulf Coast Train 210 patiently awaits its next crew at Aliceville, AL on 28-May-2016 with SD40-2 number 3309 in the lead.



Above: Mississippi Queen - By Chris Dees. The engineer on Alabama & Gulf Coast Train 111 ties down the motive power at Columbus, MS on 27-May-2016 in preparation for Memorial Day weekend. With reporting marks of AGR, the railroad is an affiliate of the Genesee & Wyoming, operating the former BNSF (Frisco) between Amory, MS and Pensacola, FL.

TIMETABLE #110
FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF RAILFANS ONLY

- **June 20** - Monthly meeting at Bill Thomas' home 1025 Lakewood Dr Madisonville
- **July 16** - Adams, TN, Steam Days
- **July 18** - Monthly meeting at L&N Depot
- **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.

Climb aboard **THE GALESBURG ZEPHYR** on an exciting excursion through Chicagoland with historic steam locomotive no. 765!

Departing the **CHICAGO UNION STATION** and **NAPERVILLE, ILLINOIS** on June 25th and 26th, no. 765 and its historic train will travel over 300 miles round trip to the Galesburg Railroad Festival and return in the afternoon.

Passengers can enjoy accommodations aboard historic railroad cars from the 1940s through the 1950s in **standard coach, deluxe coach, first class and dome car** classes. Passengers will lunch on their own during the three-hour layover in Galesburg.

First class and dome car tickets include continental breakfast, rolls, bagels, fruit, yogurt, snacks and non-alcoholic refreshments and snacks are included with all first class and dome car tickets. All arrival and departure times are contingent on operating conditions.

More information and tickets at <http://fortwaynerailroad.org/>

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

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