

PENNYRAIL

November 2016

VOLUME 20 NUMBER 9

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

or mail to

Bill Thomas,
Coldwell Banker
Terry & Associates
1096 N. Main St.
Madisonville, KY
42431.



Chapter Chatter

In this issue...

- ◆ Words From Our President
- ◆ Pickin the Points Story
- ◆ Reminders
- ◆ Photo Gallery with “alligators”

**Next Meeting Monday,
November 21, 2016, 7:00 pm
Hopkins County Government Center,
56 North Main Street Madisonville, KY**

**Bring a friend for
Program and
Refreshments**

IMPORTANT DATES

**DEC 3 - CHAPTER
CHRISTMAS PARTY
DECEMBER 11 - SET UP
MODULAR LAYOUT AT
TOWN SQUARE MALL
DECEMBER 12 - 23 -
OPERATIN OF MODULAR
LAYOUT**

Western Kentucky
Chapter, NRHS, Inc.

111 Reed Place
Madisonville, KY 42431

* * * * *

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:

Editor
Bill Thomas

1025 Lakewood Drive
Madisonville, KY 42431
(270) 339-9482 Cell
e-mail:
billtrainthomas@gmail.com



Just a sampling of the folks who enjoyed the annual Clayton/Watts Open House November 5.

This is unbelievable, the past two years have passed so fast. At our next meeting, we will be electing a new President for 2017. I believe the new slate of officers will serve our organization well for the upcoming year. I would like to wish them well in their leadership going forward.

If you have not received an email from Steve Miller about the Christmas Party at his house, then you need to contact him very soon. He needs a head count and what you plan to bring as a covered dish. The get together is on Saturday December 3rd, any time after 1 o'clock pm. Steve and his wife have just recently added on to their house and we should have more than enough room for the party. If you are not sure where Steve resides it is 1420 Billy Goat Hill Road, Hopkinsville, KY. His phone number is 270 839-7936, please get in touch with him.

James Kemp will have a signup sheet for the Christmas show work schedule. I talked with him last week and he indicated we have several empty shifts. We need for our membership to turn out for this event and help make it a big success. Please contact James soon and get on the work schedule. The show will start on December 12, 2016, 6:00 pm.

Along with the Christmas show we are having a raffle for a Lionel Ready to Run Train Set with remote control. The set is the New York Central Early Bird freight, value-- \$390.00. By now you should have received an envelope with three raffle tickets. We are asking each member to sell the

three ticket in order to cover our Liability Insurance Policy. The Raffle tickets are 5.00 dollars each and only 150 were printed. If you need additional tickets, please contact me. We will have tickets available for sale at the show in the Mall. If you are having a hard time selling the tickets bring them to your work shift at the Mall. You can tell anyone you sell a raffle ticket to that I (Bill Farrell) have a standing offer of 75.00 dollars to anyone who doesn't want the train set (if they win the raffle). Once you have sold all your raffle tickets please get the right side of the ticket along with the money to; Bill Farrell or mail it to me at, P.O. Box 457, Hopkinsville, Kentucky 42241. We need to have all stubs in by December 23rd for the raffle.

Our photo contest is now paying off. Jim Pearson will have a sample of the calendar at the November 21st meeting. I think he will be taking orders so that the calendar can be printed before January 1st. If you are going to have a train calendar in your house or office, why not the Western Kentucky Chapter/NRHS. Of course, all the pictures were taken by members of our organization, now that's cool. You might plan on purchasing more than one. The slate of officers for 2017 are as followed; President Ricky Bivins, Vice President Steve Miller, Secretary Wally Watts, Treas. William Farrell, Chapter Rep. to NRHS Will Kling. We will open the floor for any other nominations just before the slate is presented. If there are no other nominations then we can accept the slate by acclamation.

Bill Farrell, President

Pickin' the Points

Opinions and Stories by Bill Thomas, Editor



I am enthusiastically looking forward to our modular railroad layout display at Parkway Plaza Mall this Christmas season. I'm one of those who believes every kid should have a Lionel train set at some point in his or her life.

In a recent conversation with a real estate client, I heard those horrible words, "I don't know how they can stand those railroad tracks so close to the house! I don't want my grandchildren that close to the tracks!" In reality, the tracks are a full city block away. When we moved to town in 2003, I tried my best to get

near the tracks, but just couldn't find a place with enough yard. But, occasionally I can hear three trains at a time in my back yard, so I guess it turned out ok.

Back on track - I predict the modular layout will draw a crowd, we just need to get the word out! So spread the news where ever you go. If you're a Facebook, Twitter, or other social media user, post it on your timeline or page you manage.

I've enjoyed re-introducing my 10-year-old to the hobby through this project and hope we all can bring a little nostalgic happiness to those who come our way in the next few weeks.

Book Review By Ricky Bivins Will Resume in January



CHAPTER CHRISTMAS PARTY AT STEVE AND MARILYN MILLER'S HOME SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1PM 1420 BILLY GOAT HILL RD, HOPKINSVILLE, KY



Tidbits on the life of a railroader.

Early in the 20th century (and before the various "Safety First" campaigns that we still see today), a dozen railroaders -- on average died on the job each day . On any given day, tens of thousands more were injured or maimed.

That was often brought home by the fact that few conventional insurance companies would write policies for railroaders -- their jobs were considered too risky. So railroaders set up their own group insurance plans and mutual benefit associations.

An industrial pension program so that employees could expect to retire (rather than work until they died) was largely a railroad innovation. The first plans emerged in the early 1880s and led to the creation of the Railroad Retirement Board in 1934, which was the model for the Social Security Act a year later.

Hundred of thousands of railroaders worked in jobs that took them away from their homes and families. Sometimes they enjoyed networks of boarding houses, railroad YMCA's, beaneries, and places of entertainment and commercial affection. At other locations, the away-from-home accommodations could be threadbare or downright inhospitable.

And then, the names. For everyone from the president on down, official railroad documents generally identified the employees by a sterile two initials and surname, (J. T. Blow). Yet no group of industrial workers embraced nicknames more than railroaders. There was always a few Butches, a Nookie, Boogie, Shotgun, Skeeter, Barney, Screwdriver, Speedy, and all sorts of fellows who, for one reason or another, went by some alternate version of their given names.

All of which speaks to a larger truth. Despite the hazards and demands, railroaders were proud of their work. You would hear variations of this theme many times: "I hate the company but love the work." Or, "I can't believe they pay me to do this." - submitted by Gary Ostlund

All Things Trains and Photography by Jim Pearson

Jim will be back after the first of the new year with more helpful information about rail photography. For now, enjoy a few more examples of his work below.



Left: November 12, 2016 - Indiana Railroad's newly painted "In Honor of Our Veterans" engine 4005 (SD40-2), sits at the north end of CSX's Howell Yard in Evansville, Indiana. The unit was freshly painted at the National Railway Equipment Co. shops in Mt. Vernon, Illinois and is waiting to move on north along CSX's CE&D Subdivision for delivery to the Indiana Railroad.

Right: November 16, 2016 - A CSX L688 passes the south end of the siding at Slaughters, Ky with Atlantic Coast Line engine 7889 leading it's 11,500ft train, as it heads north on the Henderson Subdivision.



Left: November 16, 2016 - Huron and Eastern Railway 2026 (GP38-3) brings up the rear of the power lash up on CSX L688 as it passes the south end of the siding at Slaughters, Ky with a 11,500ft train, as it heads north on the Henderson Subdivision. Huron and Eastern Railway is a short line railroad operating 384 miles of track in The Thumb and Flint/Tri-Cities area of the lower peninsula of Michigan.

Modeler's Corner - Module Photos



Above left and right: Will Kling's module is coming along nicely. Gas service center and antique cars.



Left: Your editor's and son's module is not nearly as far along. We'll be incorporating a couple of operating Lionel accessories on a siding. Two modules are required.

Reminder!
No PennyRail
in December.

Bridge to Nowhere? No More!

By Rich Hane

For the last couple of years if my wife and I were in Louisville we have made it a point to walk on the new pedestrian/bicycle bridge over the Ohio River which is part of the riverfront park system just east of downtown. It is truly a wonderful attraction for a nice town and someone who likes history, scenery, railroads, or walking.

The Big Four Railroad Bridge which was owned by the New York Central Railroad connects Louisville, KY and Jeffersonville, IN and was completed in 1895 and updated in 1929. Forty two men lost their lives in the original construction. It is a six span through truss bridge type. The spans total 2,545 ft with a clearance of 53 ft and rests on 7 attractive and strong stone piers.

The original bridge had one standard gauge track along with a narrower interurban track between the standard



This old postcard from the early 1900s shows the Louisville approach to the bridge.



Interurban (passenger) service was a feature on both generations of the Big Four Bridge that continued until 1939. This scene shows two trolley cars entering the bridge from Indiana.

gauge track. Also, two pedestrian walkways were included. The bridge was almost 11,000 ft long with the approach ramps.

In the 1920's as trains became much heavier, it was decided to rebuild the bridge. A very novel plan was made to build the new bridge entirely within the old bridge while using the existing stone piers. When the new bridge was finished the old bridge works were removed. This plan cut about 2-3 years of work and the new bridge was finished in one year.

Interurban service lasted until 1939 and with the coming of the Penn Central merger the bridge was abandoned in 1969. The approaches were removed in 1974. For a while the bridge came to be known as the bridge to nowhere. Many people organized and promoted

the idea of a pedestrian and bicycle conversion for the bridge and this opened in 2013 with a spiral ramp on the Kentucky side and a ramp stairway on the Indiana side in 2014. A total of 326 precast concrete panels make up the deck's surface and lights and safety railings were added. The adjoining parks contain nice walkways, gardens, trees, and are well patrolled.

I encourage everyone to walk or bicycle this truly beautiful piece of history. The views are spectacular especially

when large ships are passing beneath the structure

or when the city skyline is lit up at night. We saw a lovely sunset recently and also passed beneath the bridge on a riverboat and enjoyed a fine dinner aboard the boat. The Belle of Louisville and the City of Jeffersonville are gorgeous examples of old riverboats. At night the bridge is lit up with thousands of lights that constantly change colors from red to blue, yellow, green, orange, etc.



Photo Gallery



Union Pacific railroad locomotive #844 pauses at Gorham Illinois October 13, 2016 en-route to Memphis TN. Photo by Rick Bivins.

Then Ricky found these...



**Minutes Summary of October 2016 Meeting
Wally Watts, Secretary/Treasurer**

- MINUTES:
- Minutes approved of September meeting.
- Treasurer's report approved from September meeting.
- Old Business: Photo contest discussed and the club calendar. Train watching day day in Hopkinsville. Also Xmas show and layout at the Madisonville Square Mall.
- New Business: Bill Farrell has modular layout plans. Modular layout about ready to go. Xmas layout at Mall discussed. Schedule for operating layout discussed. Modules should be ready by Nov (Dec?) first. Discussion about parts and supplies for the layout. Xmas dinner at Steve Miller's home on Dec 3, 1pm. Bring side dishes. New checking account discussed. Motion made to keep chapter dues at 5.00 per year, and approved.
- 2017 Officers Nominated: Rich Bivins, president, VP, Steve Miller, Secretary, Wally Watts, Treasurer, Bill Farrell, Chapter Rep, Will Kling.
- Announcements: Open house at Don Clayton's, November 5, 7 pm. Discussion on possible layout at old court house.

Members Present:

No report

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

**Treasurer's Report October 2016 Meeting
Wally Watts, Secretary/Treasurer**

Beginning Balance	1199.82
Income:	00.00
Raffle	
Balance	1199.82
Expenses (liability ins)	596.00
Balance	1795.82
Ending Balance	1795.82
Membership	33
Nat Members Added	
Nat Members Deleted	
Chapter-only Members Added	
Chapter-only Members Deleted	
Ending Membership	33

**Raffle Tickets
for Lionel
Train Set!
Don't forget
to sell or buy
and distribute.**

TIMETABLE #110
FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF RAILFANS ONLY

- **November 21** - Monthly meeting
- **No December Meeting**
- **December 3** - Chapter Xmas Party at Steve and Marilyn Miller's Home, 1420 Billy Goat Hill Rd, Hopkinsville, KY
- **December 4 - 6:30** - Annual Presentation of Handel's *Messiah*, First Presbyterian Church, Madisonville, KY.
- **December 11** - Set up modular layout
- **December 12-23** - Operate modular layout at Parkway Plaza Mall.



Phil Randall sent this photo in of new CSX ET-44-AH locomotives in front of GE plant near Alliance (Texas) airport.

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

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>

PENNYRAIL
% Bill Thomas, Editor
1025 Lakewood Drive
Madisonville, KY 42431