

PENNYRAIL

January 2017

VOLUME 21 NUMBER 1

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 New President
- ◆ Pickin the Points Story From NY
- ◆ Lots of Photos

**Next Meeting Monday,
January 16, 2017, 7:00 pm
Old Hopkins County Courthouse
Floor 3, Madisonville, KY 42431**

Bring a friend!

Program by Randy Teague

Future Railroad and Mining Museum

Refreshments by Ricky Bivins

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

DIRECTIONS TO OUR MEETING PLACE IN THE OLD HOPKINS CO. COURTHOUSE FOR JANUARY 16, 2017

We have been asked to enter on the East side basement door with access by an alley between E. Center St. and Court St. which is next to the old detention center. We will have a meeting room with a tour of the possible layout area. Go in and take the elevator to the 3rd floor.



Members enjoy the Christmas Party at the home of Steve and Marilyn Miller in Hopkinsville.

Greetings Everyone.

First and foremost, Thank You for a vote of confidence. With guidance from the Chapter officers, National and Chapter Members I hope to make 2017 a very good year. 2016 was exceptional. Looking back, we can see many events went into our history book. Track side visits, a picnic, meetings, work sessions and of course an excellent Christmas Dinner at the Miller residence. We finished the year with the Christmas Show showcasing the Chapters Modular Layout, Movies, Standard Gauge trains and of course Wally Watts and his steam engines.

I was surprised in several respects with the Christmas Show. The layout while there were some issues, ran very well “right out of the box” and for the first time! Parkway Plaza Mall was an excellent host. Bill’s Standard gauge trains were a hit with the children as were Wally’s steam engines. One thing I was very much pleased with was the level of participation from the membership. Many members helped in various ways. That being said, Bill Farrell gets the prize. Bill put many, many hours into the event as did Rich Hane and Jim Kemp. A special thanks goes out to these guys.

As for 2017, we have a lot of work to do if we are to top 2016! By now you have learned we have a possible meeting place change. Our January

meeting will be held in the old court house building, third floor. Enter via the basement entrance located on the buildings east side. Take the stairs or elevator to the third floor. The meeting space is on the north side of the building. Our program will be a guest speaker, Randy Teague. Randy will give us a tour of the proposed Coal and Railroad Museum space within the building. We will learn from Randy, what is in store for the building and of possible involvement with our Chapter. This will be a very interesting night. The Historical Society of Hopkins County has a media center in the building. I will provide refreshments and there will be a train video playing in the background. However, I expect our attention to be directed at the museum and Mr. Teague.

On January 2, 2017 I held an officers meeting at my house. The officers in attendance discussed the newsletter, the web site, dues, membership, programs, the photo archive and a host of other “thoughts”. Most will be brought before the Chapter meeting night.

With that being said, Monday January 16, 2017 will be a good night, an even better night if YOU attend...and bring a guest.

Ricky Bivins, President

Pickin' the Points

Opinions and Stories by Bill Thomas, Editor

I WAS enthusiastically looking forward to our modular railroad layout display at Madisonville Square Mall AND I was not disappointed! Thanks to our president Bill Farrell, Rick Bivins, Rich Hane, Jim Kemp, Wally, and others who helped set up, maintain, and take down the displays. I am of the opinion that this was a fantastic “touch point” for us with our community.

Thanks also to those who purchased and prepared modules for our display. You can see pictures in the following pages of the newsletter.

If room permits, I'll include some photographs I took on our family Christmas trip to New York

City, December 26-31. We were fortunate to visit a small RR museum in Huntington, WV (pictured with museum volunteer Jim Pickett, insert), as well as the Transit Museum of NY, and The Railway Museum of Pennsylvania, in Strasburg, PA. I can thank my wife Angela for scheduling those stops for me along with the visits to Gettysburg, Central Park NYC, and the Independence Hall area of Philadelphia. I finally saw the Liberty Bell!

Bill Thomas, editor, The PennyRail



Photo Gallery Bill Thomas' Trip to NYC

New York Transit Museum, Brooklyn, NY



Railway Museum, Huntington, WV



Railway Museum of Pennsylvania, Strasburg, PA



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.



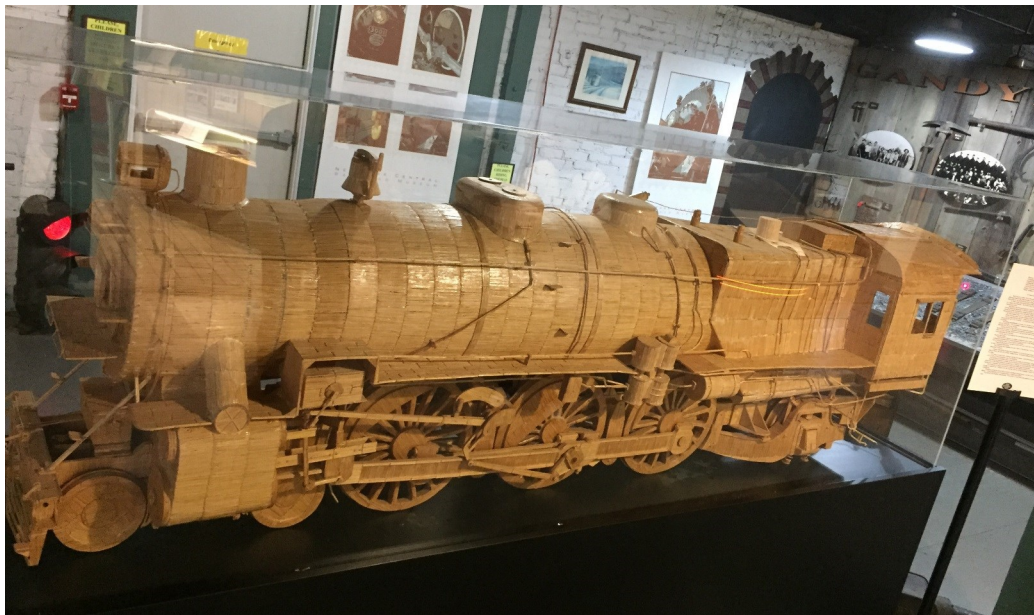
Left: Our first outing for the O Scale Modular Layout was in Hopkinsville at The Polar Express Day, Carnegie Library. Chapter members Rich Hane, Bill Farrell, Blair Terry, and Ricky Bivins worked hard to make sure the display was ready to run!

Right: Blair Terry is pictured with the Polar Express conductor.



Left: More from the Polar Express Day in Hopkinsville. Here is a multi-scale modular layout on display.

Modeler's Corner - Module Photos



Left: Rich Hane came across this Pennsylvania Railroad K4 type steam engine that I saw on a recent trip to the National New York Central Railroad Museum in Elkhart, Indiana. It is built out of 421,250 toothpicks and 40 pounds of glue and is about 8 feet long. It was built by Terry Woodling of Warsaw, In. after 7 years of labor.

The brakes, wheels, siderods, and windows all move. Mr Woodling has, also, built an 8ft. DC3, a Lear jet, a touring motorcycle, and a Huey helicopter and hopes to build a stagecoach.



Below Left: This is what 5.5 inches of super-elevation on a moderately tight curve looks like from ground level! The Northern Pacific's eastbound Mainstreeter leans into a the curve at Peak, North Dakota, while passing a freight cooling its heels in the siding.

65miles per hour was the speed restriction for this track segment. Though six inches was NP's maximum curve elevation, good engineering called for a half inch less here, because 65 MPH, the highest speed to be accommodated, was very near equilibrium (balanced) speed for that elevation.

The siding's curve, where much lower speeds occur (only 15 - 20 mph), is elevated only a half inch. Engine crews learned to honor this 65-mph limit. In 1960 the crack streamliner North Coast Limited was going a little fast around this curve when the flanges of the lead locomotive tried to climb the outside rail, nearly derailling the passenger train.

This was back in the days of "clickety-clack" jointed rail in 39 foot lengths. The sun angle provides good clarity of the bolted rail. Why 39'... you ask.? Old habits are hard to break, and in the really early days 39 foot rails fit nicely on a forty foot flat car. Today's welded rail is toted around in quarter mile or longer lengths.



Submitted by Gary O. Ostlund

Credits: Pix by Wilbur R. Shannon, text excerpts from the Northern Pacific Railway Historical Association calendar, May 2016.

Photo Gallery From Madisonville Square Mall



Wally Watts and his operating steam engines.



Treasurer's Report To Date—Bill Farrell, Treasurer

Post Date	Description	Debits	Credits	Balance
12/1/2016	Beginning Balance			1,780.50
12/15/2016	Check # 1009 Insurance	355.9		1,424.60
12/29/2016	Check #1010 Reimbursement Jim Pearson	260.86		1,163.74
12/30/2016	Check # 1011 ABC Hobby	315		848.74
12/30/2016	Deposit Raffle		655	1,503.74
12/30/2016	Deposit Conductor Pictures		63	1,566.74
12/30/2017	Deposit Miscellaneous Money		30.07	1,596.81
1/1/2017	Beginning Balance			1,596.81
1/11/2017	Deposit Calendar		180	1,776.81
1/11/2017	Deposit Dues		90	1,866.81

Minutes Summary of November 2016 Meeting—Wally Watts, Secretary

- MINUTES:
- Minutes approved of October meeting.
- Treasurer's report approved from October meeting.
- Old Business: Discussion on our upcoming Holiday Dinner. Steve Miller invited the chapter to his home for that—date to be announced in a few days.
- New Business: The Secretary reminded the membership of our upcoming officer election in January as there will be no meeting in December. So far as nominations go—Bill Farrell as Treasurer. Bill (Farrell) reminded the chapter about our upcoming layout display at the Mall, and Wally's stream engines. This will be over the Christmas holidays from about December 19 through the 28th. Not including Christmas Day and December 26. Volunteers are needed as operators.
- Meeting adjourned.

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 maintain and grow the organization

Like Our
Facebook Page



**West Kentucky Chapter of the
National Railway Historical Society**

TIMETABLE #110
FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF RAILFANS ONLY

- January 16 - Monthly Meeting
- February 20 - Monthly Meeting
- March 20 - Monthly Meeting

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



One more shot of the modular layout at Madison Square Mall

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