

# PENNYRAIL

April 2017

VOLUME 21 NUMBER 4

Please send your digital photos and story material to [billtrainthomas@gmail.com](mailto:billtrainthomas@gmail.com) or mail to **Bill Thomas**, First Christian Church 1030 College Dr. Madisonville, KY 42431.



## Chapter Chatter

**Next Meeting Monday,  
April 17, 2017, 7:00 pm  
Hopkins County  
Government Center  
Madisonville, KY 42431**

**Bring a friend!  
Program  
and  
Refreshments**



### *In this issue...*

- ♦ Words From Our President
- ♦ Photo Section
- ♦ What Got Me Interested in Trains from Jim Pearson
- ♦ Excursion Trips Updated
- ♦ Treasurer's Report
- ♦ FRA's Positive Train Control

Western Kentucky Chapter, NRHS, Inc.

\* \* \* \* \*  
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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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**Rich Hane shares some photos from the New York Central Museum in Elkhart, IN.**

## Ricky's Replies!

Greetings.

This will be short. As I forgot to send Bill my article! In the midst of spring we are all busy. Please forgive me. The April business meeting should be short, all we should be doing is recap-ping current business as it stands. Keep in mind the National convention is just a few months away and in Nashville Tennessee. That's very close and we should be able to have a few members present. I received an update from National membership status I'm pleased to say server members have re-joined on the national level.

Our next photo session is coming up the first full week of May. May 6 will be an outing in my hometown of Mortons Gap Kentucky. We will be trackside at the city park with the convenience stores and restrooms within 2 to 3 miles. Our Hopkinsville members will host a meeting next month in Hopkinsville at the former L&N depot which is trackside in downtown Hopkinsville. I am sure there is a lot I have it covered, if you have a business side of this mountain be sure and bring it up under new business Monday night. We will see you there!

Ricky Bivins, President

**Treasurer's Report To Date—Bill Farrell, Treasurer  
Available at the April Meeting**

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	260.9		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
1/17/2017	Deposit	Dues		5	1,871.81
1/23/2017	Deposit	Dues		20	1,891.81
1/23/2017	Deposit	Drawing money from 2016		41	1,932.81
1/23/2017	Deposit	Calendar		37	1,969.81
2/1/2017	Beginning Balance				1,969.81
2/2/2017	Deposit	Dues		5	1,974.81
2/21/2017	Deposit	Calendar		10	1,984.81
2/21/2017	Deposit	Drawing		6	1,990.81
2/21/2017	Deposit	Dues		10	2,000.81
3/1/2017	Beginning Balance				2,000.81
3/8/2017	Deposit	Dues		10	2,010.81
3/11/2017	Harland Clarke Check Order		20.24		1,990.57
4/1/2017	Beginning Balance				1,990.57
4/3/2017	Check #1200	Rail Camp Donation	100		1,890.57

**Minutes Summary of March, 2017 Meeting will be available at the April Meeting.**

# Update on High Iron Trips

From Don Clayton...

Due to some conflicting schedules with the 611 excursions, we are revising our Kanawha River trip schedule. This update is shown in the attached. The BNSF trip has been removed for rescheduling. Information on ticketing for the Piedmont & Northern trips will be available shortly. Sorry for any confusion!

**June 3-12, 2017: KANAWHA RIVER RAILROAD BEHIND** ex-NKP 765. (Note: Kanawha River Railroad is a former NYC line, now operated by WATCO).

**June 3:** Deadhead to Pickerington, Ohio (near Columbus), load passengers, run to the village of Eclipse (near Athens) or as far as practical. Use Kanawha River Railroad unit to pull train back to Pickerington/Watkins Yard. Total is about 150 miles.

**June 4:** Deadhead to Pickerington, Ohio to load passengers, then run two short trips, Pickerington to Glouster and return, about 114 miles per trip. Use Kanawha River Railroad unit to pull train on all westbound moves.

**June 5:** Deadhead train to either Nitro or Dickinson Yard for storage during week.

**June 9:** Diesel trip, Charleston as far as we can go toward Enon, MP WV253 and return. Total of about 140 miles.

**June 10:** Load passengers at the University of Charleston stadium in downtown Charleston and run to Maben. Bus passengers to the Beckley Exhibition Coal Mine, deadhead train to Mullens/Elmore to wye. Deadhead move may be occupied. Total is about 170 miles.

**June 11:** Repeat of Saturday's trip.

**June 12:** One way move from Charleston to Pickerington, Ohio, Then deadhead into Watkins yard. Equipment will be 611 Steam Train consist plus Caritas and Cimarron River. Pricing to be determined.

**September 14-22, 2017:** AAPRCO Convention in Burlington, VT

The Special Train will start in Albany/Rensselaer, NY on a route not yet finalized but including major portions of the Vermont Rail System. The actual convention dates are

**September 19-22.** We will be participating with the Caritas and Cimarron River.

Clark Johnson Today, 9:07 AM



NYC Railway Museum,  
Elkhart, IN.

Submitted by Rich Hane

# All Things Trains and Photography by Jim Pearson

Road trips don't always have to be somewhere far away or a long number of days on the road. As most of you know I'm pretty much hooked on trains! As such, I hit the road usually at least once a week to search for new and different train photos for my Facebook page, online sales store and my website.



*PCC & St. Louis Railroad, Conover, Ohio*

So, where did my addiction to photographing trains come from anyway?

Well, I can't really say for sure, but I've told my sister April and others that I think it comes from when we lived in Conover, Ohio, about a block away from the Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, Chicago & St. Louis Railroad, then commonly referred to as the Panhandle Route, which was part of the Pennsylvania Railroad system. Of course, I was only about 2 when we moved from there, so my sister and others say I couldn't remember trains from that young an age. As for me, who knows for sure.

It possibly came from our mom's brother who was my Uncle Willard Moore, who was a yardmaster at the then L&N Railroad's Atkinson Yard here in Madisonville, Ky. I can't however say that I ever recall going out to the yard to visit him there, but here again I was still young. I do remember walking the spur line that went to downtown Madisonville which came out to the bulk oil plant that ran alongside of the Government housing projects where I grew up most of my young years. We'd hike the tracks to downtown which was the center of the universe for a young kid back in the day when downtown was the happening place.



*L&N Depot, Madisonville, Ky - (West Ky NRHS Photo Archive Photo from the Harold Utley Collection)*

I recall passing the L&N depot when I'd walk this line with my brothers or friends. Can't say I remember any passenger trains stopping there then, but I know they did when I was a kid.

I guess I can truly say that I recall the most when this addiction began of photographing trains, at least that I can remember for sure, was in Germany!

I had just finished a graduate course in Photojournalism at the S.I. Newhouse School of Communication at Syracuse University in 1978 where the US Air Force had sent me for training to be a Photojournalist (PJ) where I worked with Combat Camera until I retired in 1995. My first duty assignment was at Rhein Main Air Base, just outside Frankfurt Germany. This is where I met the Grant Family. Norm was our photo maintenance man and he along with their son Dale and his wife Gloria, were all into trains and we struck up an instant friendship that carried us pretty



*Jim Pearson watches a maintenance operation from the cab of a German Steam engine outside Frankfurt, Germany in 1979. (Photo by Norm Grant)*

*(Continued on page 5)*

## Photography With Jim Continued

much through our whole lives. Norm recently passed away, but I'm still good friends with Gloria and Dale (who is an engineer for BNSF Railway now).

I can remember to this day our train trips to downtown Frankfurt's main train station where we'd spend countless hours photographing trains from the platforms there. I guess Germany and Europe in general was the place I fell in love with photographing trains. During all my travels, in the three years I was stationed in Germany, I always included photographing trains somewhere, on a regular basis.

After I left Germany and was assigned to Norton AFB in southern California where that love of photographing and chasing trains didn't change at all and has continued through today.

People say why and I say why not! LOL Everyone's got a hobby of some sort and this one has served me well over the years by taking me to places I might never have gone and allowing me to make friends with fellow railfans from around the world.

That's my story and I'm sticking to it!

Like Our  
Facebook Page



## 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
7. To maintain and grow the organization



*Me changing film at Leipzig, East Germany during an photo assignment in the area after the fall of the Eastern Block walls and fences. (Photo by Jose Lopez Jr.)*

## Photo Section



Ricky Bivins sent this photo of what looks to be a coal drag at Barboursville, WV.



This shot appears to be a southbound piggyback coming into Corbin. The water tower has been updated along with the track.

# Positive Train Control Update

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) released a status update on railroads' progress implementing positive train control (PTC) systems in the fourth quarter of 2016. The status update, based on railroad-submitted quarterly data, shows freight railroads continue to make consistent progress while passenger industry progress in installing and activating the life-saving technology only slightly increased. The latest data, current as of Dec. 31, 2016, confirms freight railroads now have PTC active on just 16% of tracks required to be equipped with PTC systems — up from 12% last quarter. Passenger railroads made less progress — with a slight increase to 24% from 23%.



## RELATED: Commuter rail continues to make progress on PTC

Due in large part to Amtrak's significant progress on PTC, 41% of passenger railroads' locomotives are now fully equipped with PTC technology, compared to 29% the previous quarter. Freight railroads' percentage of locomotives fully equipped with PTC technology rose to 42%, up from 38%.

"We continue to closely monitor railroads' progress implementing Positive Train Control," said Patrick Warren, FRA Executive Director. "With less than two years remaining to complete the implementation process, it is imperative that railroads continue to meet implementation milestones."

## RELATED: NCTD files app to begin revenue service demo of PTC

Congress requires Class I railroads and entities providing regularly scheduled intercity or commuter rail passenger transportation to implement PTC systems by Dec. 31, 2018. Only if some key implementation and installation milestones are met may railroads be eligible to obtain a limited extension to complete certain non-hardware, operational aspects of PTC system implementation no later than Dec. 31, 2020, subject to the Secretary of Transportation's approval.



NYC Railway Museum,  
Railroad China Display,  
Elkhart, IN.  
Submitted by Rich Hane

**TIMETABLE #110**  
FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF RAILFANS ONLY

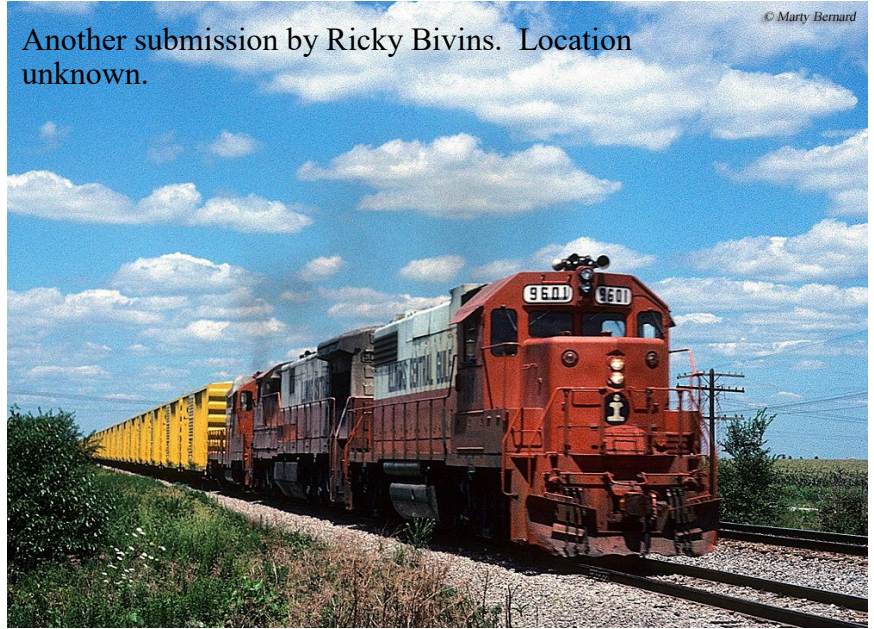
- April 17 - Monthly Meeting
- May 15 - Monthly Meeting in Hopkinsville, L&N Depot

**Photo Contest Schedule for 2017**

Week of May 1 – 7, 2017  
Submission Deadline: May 11, 2017  
Week of July 31 – Aug 6, 2017  
Submission Deadline: Aug 10, 2017  
Week of Oct 30 – Nov 5, 2017  
Submission Deadline: Nov 9, 2017

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

Another submission by Ricky Bivins. Location unknown.



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**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  
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UP 888-877-7267  
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**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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