

# PENNYRAIL

January 2018

VOLUME 22 NUMBER 1

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,  
Monday January 15**

**7:00 pm**

**Innovation Station  
(Former L&N Depot)  
Madisonville, KY**

**Guest Speaker - Ray Hagerman  
Director of Madisonville/Hopkins County  
Economic Development Corporation**

**Program Following Business Session  
and  
Refreshments Served**

### *In this issue...*

- ◆ Words From Our President
- ◆ Photo Contest Winners
- ◆ Links to Order 2018 Calendars
- ◆ Timetable Calendar
- ◆ Photo Gallery
- ◆ Modeling Idea for Local Industry

Western Kentucky  
Chapter, NRHS, Inc.

\* \* \* \* \*  
President  
Ricky Bivins

Vice President  
Steve Miller

Secretary-Treasurer  
Bill Farrell

National Director  
Will Kling

Director at Large  
Keith Kittinger

“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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**Page 6 - See ideas for modeling some local industrial businesses right under our noses!**

# November Photography Contest Winners



**West Kentucky NRHS Chapter Photo Contest  
First Place, November 2017 - by Chris Dees**

**West Kentucky NRHS Chapter Photo Contest - Santa has arrived early this year in Kokomo, Indiana. On November 25, 2017, the Indiana Transportation Museum operated several Polar Bear Express trips over the Winamac Southern Railroad between Kokomo and Liberty, Indiana. Former IC executive E-unit number 101 awaits the jolly old man for the 11AM departure.**

**Here's a link where you can purchase copies  
of our 2018 Chapter Calendars**

Small Calendar 8.5x11 -\$16.95 + shipping

<http://www.lulu.com/shop/jim-pearson/2018-west-ky-nrhs-small-calendar/calendar/product-23458388.html>

Large Wall Calendar 13x19 #14.95 + Shipping

<http://www.lulu.com/shop/jim-pearson/2018-west-kentucky-nrhs-large-calendar/calendar/product-23458434.html>

## November Photography Contest Winners Continued



**West Kentucky NRHS Chapter Photo Contest  
Second Place, November 2017 - by Ricky Bivins**

West Kentucky NRHS Chapter Photo Contest - A southbound CSX local passes the former L&N Madisonville KY Passenger Station during the new "Innovation Station" dedication ceremony November 16, 2017.



**West Kentucky NRHS Chapter Photo Contest  
Third Place, November 2017 - by Matt Gentry**

West Kentucky NRHS Chapter Photo Contest - Can any other railroad photo yell "Evansville" as loud as this one? Seen here on Sunday, November 26, 2017 is CSX AC44CW #68, along with sister locomotive #85, finally heading into Howell Yard with the giant Mead Johnson building looming in the background.

## Ricky's Replies!

Greetings fellow Western Kentucky Chapter, National Railway Historical Society members. And here we find ourselves in 2018. I keep searching for an app on my phone that says "slow down time"! I have yet to find it, if you do please, let me know!

On a sad note, we lost friend and model train aficionado Jim Bengert last month. Please keep his family in your thoughts and prayers. The January 2018 meeting will be held in the former train station in downtown Madisonville. We have been away from there for at least two years during a building renovation. Innovation Station as the structure is now called has been completely rebuilt and re-purposed. Madisonville Hopkins County Economic Development Corporation President Ray Hagerman will be my guest speaker. Ray will enlighten us to the changes, needs and future of our favorite train station.

Keep in mind our new officers will take office this month as well with the only change being Bill Farrell assuming the role of treasurer and secretary.

As I am sure you are aware by now, I took measures to cancel the Christmas show last month. Bill Farrell had a serious medical scare and I did not want to place any undue stress on him. Being

as Bill is truly 90 percent of the Christmas show, I felt it to be a necessary move.

The breakfast with Santa event was held December 16, 2017 and was well received. Bill will have a full report on same as well as the raffle.

The only old business I have is a reminder to pay dues. National as well as Chapter dues are...well..DUE! One can pay National Dues online with a credit card or via check. Chapter dues are to be paid to Bill Farrell by check or cash. In one of the National publications there was a note stating in the future National dues can be paid through the Chapter. That option is not yet available.

New Business will address our meeting space, Program idea's, Chapter trips etc. Etc. being anything the membership wishes to bring before the Chapter. Bill Farrell has suggested we drop the raffle as a fundraiser. Once he has presented the results of the Breakfast with Santa, Photos with the Polar Express Characters and the raffle, we will discuss this option.

As always, Members can step up with programs, ideas and suggestions. Trips trackside or to a museum etc. This is train enthusiast group...let us make 2018 another banner year.

Ricky Bivins, President

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## 2018 convention to be headquartered in Cumberland, Md.

The 2018 NRHS convention will be held Tuesday-Sunday, Aug. 7-12, with headquarters in Cumberland, Md. The tentative schedule includes scenic rail trips through the countryside of West Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania, plus the annual meetings of the Society. The registration room for the convention will open in mid-afternoon on Tuesday, Aug. 7. The board meeting for the NRHS Fund Inc., will be held that evening.

The first trip is scheduled for Wednesday with an all-day outing to Cass, W.Va. to ride the Cass Scenic Railroad up to Spruce, W.Va. At that point, there will be a "cross platform transfer" from the Cass steam train to the Salamander diesel train to Elkins, W.Va. Lunch will be served on the Salamander. Once in Elkins, NRHS members will re-board the buses for the return trip to the hotel in Cumberland.

The tentative schedule for Thursday includes a charter train ride on the Western Maryland Scenic Railroad from the depot on Cumberland (three blocks from the hotel) to Frostburg, Md., behind the newly rebuilt steam engine No. 1309. Photo run-bys are scheduled for this trip. Cab rides will be offered in both directions with proceeds benefitting the NRHS.

To read more from the NRHS News, go to [https://admin.nrhs.com/NRHSNews/NRHS\\_News\\_October\\_2017.pdf](https://admin.nrhs.com/NRHSNews/NRHS_News_October_2017.pdf).



## Photography Contest News

Below are the dates for upcoming chapter photo contests. During the months listed all members are invited to shoot pictures and submit no more than two entries to [webmaster@westkentuckynrhs.org](mailto:webmaster@westkentuckynrhs.org) by the deadline listed next to each contest. You must be a paid member of the chapter to participate in these contests.

Jim Pearson will judge the photos and select 1st through 3rd place and the winners will be presented in the PennyRail and on the chapter website. We'll also view them at the meeting following each contest.

At least the 1st place winners will be used to produce a chapter calendar for the next year. All submissions must have a caption that lists at least the railroad, location and date with photographer's credit and any other relevant information.

January 1-31, 2018

Submission Deadline: February 7, 2018

March 1-31, 2018

Submission Deadline: April 7, 2018

May 1-31, 2018

Submission Deadline: June 7, 2018

July 1-31, 2018

Submission Deadline: August 7, 2018

September 1-30, 2018

Submission Deadline: October 7, 2018

November 1-30, 2018

Submission Deadline: December 7, 2018



Some candid shots of our “Holy Train Night” gatherings over the last few weeks at Will Kling’s, Ricky Bivins’, and Keith Kittinger’s layouts.



## Industrial Montage for a Modeling Idea - Bill Thomas



Here are some shots I just happened upon a few Sundays ago on my way home from church. I've always had a fascination with the industrial maze of tracks often in tight and unfriendly-to-trains places. Alstrom Corp. in Madisonville is a bit wide open but has some interesting elements which would make modeling it enjoyable. Notice the "new" track in this first scene - it was re-laid just a couple of years ago and you can tell where CSX takes over on the west side of Pride Ave. Modeling such a transition of track conditions might be a challenge. I like the derail with the brakeman in action, chain link fence which the brakeman has to unlock, and the relatively steep grade the siding has to negotiate to get up to Alstrom's unloading dock. Couple all of this with the grain storage facility next door which currently has 7 or 8 covered hoppers of various ownership, and you've got some nice action in a tight space. Throw in the old siding extension to Calhoun Feed & Supply and you've got a winner. And there's more! Just a couple of miles west is Fortner Gas, now a regional propane distributor. Fortner just had their existing siding expanded and a second one added to accommodate multiple large tank cars to be unloaded simultaneously along with a track-mobile to move things around! AND... run a Dotiki or Warrior unit coal train through the scene for the cherry on top!

**Above Left:** Siding at Pride Ave crossing looking east.

**Below:** Same location looking west along CSX's Morganfield branch and grain storage facility. Note the concrete loading dock on the former Southern States property.



## Photo Section

**Below:** Photo Title: A Mournful Morning in Mitchell - On a cold and blustery morning, GP38-2s 2640 and 2665 are westbound at Mitchell, IN with CSX local J780 from North Vernon, IN to Washington, IN. In a few moments, the train will cross the former Monon mainline, whose tracks are to be removed in 2018 when CSX abandons the line south to Louisville. Photo taken 27-Dec-2017 by Chris Dees.



**Lower Right:** Yes, last week's story of the perils of the early-day brakemen included a "walk-in-the-park" picture. The brakeman was enjoying the majestic palisades of the Mississippi in SW Wisconsin. Such relaxing was not always the case. Just look at the ice and snow this brakeman endured in helping to slow and stop a moving train.

The drawing by O. V. Schubert appeared in Harper's Weekly in the 1880s. Note the lantern, kerosene no doubt, a handle with a hoop large enough to slide up his arm. No need to set it down, and if you did it would never be seen again.

Lanterns aren't used much today, and no one need climb to the top of moving box cars. Crews doing switching movements are communicating via hand-held radio. Inventions of Air-Brakes by George Westinghouse, and Knuckle-Couplers by Major Eli Janney were patented in 1869 and 68. Sadly, the railroads were not mandated by a Federal law to so equip their rolling stock until 1893. Even so the Railroads were slow to implement these safety features. Many brakemen never arrived at the destination terminal, and few switchmen had all their fingers, having had to manually couple cars with links and pins.

On the narrow-gauge lines in Colorado some safety features were not installed until into the 1920s. You can to this day see Telltales fronting tunnels on the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railway, a mighty fine ride.



# Putt Putts!

The gentleman on the velocipede is coasting down the line on the Tacoma & Eastern Railway. It's powered by "Armstrong," translated: human muscle and sweat. Going back up the grade his arms and legs will get a pretty good workout. There is no chain like on a bicycle, rather a reciprocating walking beam. They were also known as "Irish mail carts."

Velocipedes were complemented by four-wheel platforms with a see-saw affair whereupon up to four men could pump up and down to propel the rig down the track. These vehicles were used to transport track repairmen and equipment to their job-site.

As technology advanced numerous makers produced what most of us will remember as Speeders, or Putt-Putts. In the scene above, Roger Sackett is using a chain and come-along to man-handle his Fairmont Speeder past an obstruction. He and I spent the day up on Snoqualmie Pass trekking along the abandoned Milwaukee right-of-way.

After "setting on" (to use the proper RR term) at Garcia we scooted downhill to the washed out Hull Creek trestle. We then returned up a few miles above where we began, only to find this log that had penetrated our course. But Roger, always prepared, had the equipment for such a task. We succeeded and ventured on, only to find another near identical obstruction around the next curve. It was still a fun outing.

Thousands of speeders were produced by the Fairmont Corporation in Minnesota and the Kalamazoo folks in Michigan to name a few. They were belt driven and powered by a single-cylinder gas engine. The railroads switched to hi-rail vehicles, traditional pickup trucks with retractable flange guide wheels. Now only the railfan recreationist use them on treks around the country. Great fun.

Credits: Velocipede photographer unk., as seen in book: Rails to Paradise. Fairmont Speeder 35MM slide by me.

Submitted by Gary Ostlund



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## November 2017 - January 2018 Treasurer's Report

11/1/2017	Beginning Balance			1,464.57
12/1/2017	Beginning Balance			1,464.57
12/11/2017	Deposit	Drawing	8	1,472.57
12/16/2017	Deposit	Santa Pictures	93	1,565.57
12/20/2017	Check # 1223	Ky Farm Bureau Ins.	309 08	1,256.49
12/23/2017	Check # 1224	ABC Hobbycraft, Inc.	250	1,006.49
12/24/2017	Check # 1225	David Haverly (Raffle)	100	906.49
12/27/2017	Deposit	Raffle	720	1,626.49
12/27/2017	Deposit	Breakfast with Santa	257 92	1,884.41
12/27/2017	Deposit	Santa Pictures	93	1,977.41
12/27/2017	Deposit	Dues 2018	15	1,992.41
1/1/2018	Beginning Balance			1,992.41
1/4/2018	Deposite	Raffle	15	2,007.41

**Visit our website At [Www.westkentuckynrhs.org](http://www.westkentuckynrhs.org)**

### November 2017 Minutes

November 20, 2017

President Ricky Bivins called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm, November 20th 2017. There was a total of 12 members present. The were approved minutes were approved from the October meeting.

The treasurers report was given by Bill Farrell, of 1,464.57, approved.

Old Business; The Christmas Show will start set up after Thanksgiving. It will run from December 10th to the 23rd. We will take the display down after the first of the year. Breakfast with Santa and the Polar Express Friends will be on December 16th from 8:00 am to 10:00am at Catfish Harbor on the Anton Road. The cost will be 5.99 per person. All club members are encouraged to attend. Our annual club dues will remain the as last year, 5.00. The club Treasures will invoice all the members before the first of the year. The election of club officers took place and all the nominees were elected to their prospective offices. Ricky Bivins, President, Bill Farrell, Sectary / Treasure, Keith Kittenger, Officer @ Large, Will Kling, NRHS Representative and Steve Miller, Vice President. Our Liability Insurance is do with Kentucky Farm Bureau for 309.05. The members in attendance authorize Bill Farrell to pay the insurance.

New Business; Jim Pearson reported that the photo contest will finish at the end of November. Jim needs to know how many members want to order calendars. He will send out an email with the sizes and prices for each calendar. Christmas Party will be at Steve Millers home in Hopkinsville on December 2nd from 3:00 pm till. Steve and his wife will provide the meat. Club members are asked to bring a covered dish, casserole and drinks. Ricky Bivins reported we may be back in the Madisonville depots by January.

Meeting adjourned

Respectfully;  
William W. Farrell

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

- January 15 - Regular Chapter Meeting
- February 18 - Regular Chapter Meeting
- March 18 - Regular Chapter Meeting

If you know of regional events we can put on the Timetable, please forward those to me, [bill@fbcmadisonville.com](mailto:bill@fbcmadisonville.com).

**The Bumper**

If you have items for sale or looking something in particular, feel free to send a description and digital photographs to me for publication in the next issue of The PennyRail.



**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](mailto: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

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**Illinois RR Historical Society**  
<http://icrrhistorical.org/>  
**Illinois Railway Museum**  
[www.irm.org/](http://www.irm.org/)  
**Tennessee Central Railway Museum**  
[www.tcry.org/](http://www.tcry.org/)

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

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