



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



In this issue...

- ◆ Words From Our President
- ◆ Links to Order 2018 Calendars
- ◆ Timetable Calendar
- ◆

**Next Meeting Monday,
Monday April 16
7:00 pm**

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

Business Session

Program by Jim Pearson

Refreshments by Will Kling

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:

Editor
Bill Thomas

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

**Hey folks, we need material for May!
Editor Bill**

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.

Pickin' the Points

Opinions and Stories by Bill Thomas, Editor

My first real job out of college was with the Boy Scouts of America. Yes, I was a professional scout. Now get the images of being paid to camp out, go to pinewood derby races, and start fires with two sticks out of your minds. Professional scouting takes on a whole different set of activities, mostly servicing existing scout groups or units, starting new units, and raising money. As I stared at these empty text boxes on my computer thinking about what to write, it came to me that those brief years of my BSA experience contained a lot of good railroad memories.

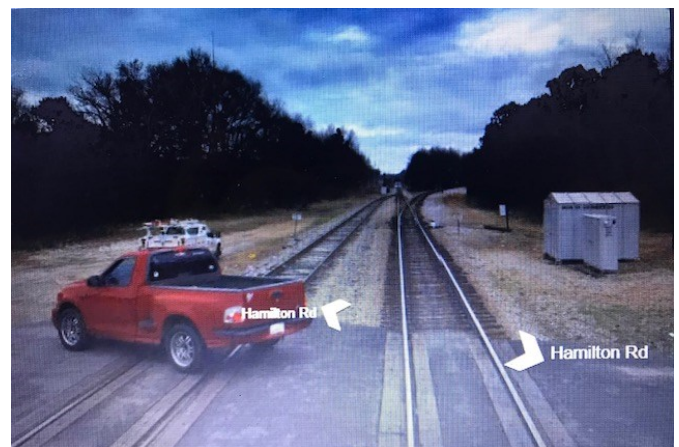
I arrived in LaGrange, GA, in the spring of 1988 - 25 years old, single, no mortgage, and about 60 lbs. lighter than present. I had to cover two counties, Troup and Franklin, in west-central GA. Actually, I was almost as west as you can go in GA. Fishing was great on West Point Lake. LaGrange was the intersecting point of the former Atlanta & West Point RR's line from Montgomery, AL to Atlanta, and former Seaboard Coastline's (I think former ACL) route between Waycross, GA, and Birmingham, AL. I also had to make weekly trips to Columbus, GA, where our council office was located. This brought me alongside the former Southern branch to Pine Mountain, GA (Callaway Gardens), and its origin at Columbus and Southern's line from Columbus to Birmingham.

Unfortunately, CSX had just completed some re-routing of their inherited lines. The Seaboard rose on a steady grade coming in on the east side of town and flew over the A&WP via a plate girder bridge, still in place when I arrived but without rails. The two lines shared an interchange yard on the east side near this location which

was mostly empty with the exception of a few cars for local delivery to lumber outlets and textile giant Milliken Mills. Today, it's completely gone and a wye has been installed between inbound tracks. The railroads once ran side by side through town, but now join as one on the west then separate on the east.

Now, what this created was a fantastic bottle neck for train watching. In great CSX fashion, the two roads joined on each side of town, but then entered a double main through high-speed switches (two motors to throw the points). Often, we could see two to four trains from one point. I often enjoyed pacing a 60 mph sand train heading north out of LaGrange toward Atlanta.

My regret is that cameras were not as readily available as they are these days. So, I have almost no pictorial recollections of all this fun I crammed in about 24 months of my young days. Below is a screen shot from an online street view app. Hasn't changed much except CSX finally came around and extended the 2nd main past the west/south split to avoid the bottle necking. It used to be located behind the camera, just beyond the street crossing.



Ricky's Replies!

Greetings my fellow Western Kentucky NRHS Chapter members, welcome to a wet and cold April! My hasn't the weather been strange? Of course, strange and unusual is what we expect in Kentucky this time of year!

There certainly was nothing strange about our meeting last month, March 19, 2018. We had an excellent time, Blair Terri presented a fabulous program on his travels out west. Bill Farrell made a return after his medical scare. With pizza for refreshments, along with homemade cookies, how could that possibly be strange? Indeed a large time was had by all.

If one takes the time to review the minutes provided by Bill Farrell of the March meeting, they would notice we have several events coming up. Please, check the newsletter and stay informed.

Do not forget the Chapter calendars are available for purchase online. The photos within that calendar were taken by club members during the periodic photo contest. Jim Pearson has done a great job putting that calendar together so please, consider purchasing one. Jim will give us a quick rundown of the upcoming photo contest and time periods. Jim will also conduct the judging contest for the previous photo period.

Once again we will be meeting at Innovation Station, which of course is the renovated L&N train station on Arch Street in Madisonville, Kentucky. Meeting time will be 7 PM. Refreshments by Will Kling and a program by Jim Pearson will follow a brief business meeting. I hope to see you there and bring a friend.

Rick Bivins

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>

This is a special invitation to TCA members and previous guests of Casey Jones Chapter train shows.

On Saturday, April 28th, several Memphis-area model railroad groups will hold an open house event to show off their model railroads to friends and family. Several of our chapter members also belong to a local O-gauge group, the Casey Jones Hi-railers, and will be there operating that group's large O-gauge railroad. They would love for you to come out and see their railroad along with several others that will be running that day.

The event is free and open to people of all ages. MMR just asks that children be accompanied by an adult.



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 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.

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



December to Date Treasury Report By William Farrell



Left: My major Seminary Professor, Dr. Doug Smith poses in front of the Dollywood Express in Pigeon Forge, TN, with his daughter Lara and his sister Marilyn. Knowing I am a train nut, he always thinks of me when near a train. I guess that's the way I'd want to be remembered.

Minutes from March 2018

Western Kentucky Chapter/NRHS Minutes March 19, 2018

President Ricky Bivins called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm, March 19th, 2018. There was a total of 13 members and 3 guest present. The minutes were approved from the February 19, 2018 meeting. The treasurers report was given by William Farrell, of 1,923.41, approved.

Old Business; Jim Pearson reported the March photo contest was over and the deadline for submission of entries would be March 22. Jim also gave the dates for upcoming contest in the future. Bill Farrell reported that the club calendars have been order but were shipped around the world by FedEx. The cost of the six calendars was 111.94. Club calendars should be available for the April meeting. Keith Kittinger reported on up coming train show in Louisville, March 24th. Day at the Gap with Ricky, May 19th. Club meeting at Bill Thomas's house on June 18th. Annual club dues are \$5 and national dues are \$50. National dues can be paid online.

New Business; Keith Kittinger reported that a good activity for the club would be a road trip to visit existing railroad depots in western Kentucky. We could car pool as a group. Bill Farrell had been talking to Steve Nelson of Korber models. Bill reported that our club members had a standing offer to visit Steve's facility in Indiana. The trip could take place in May and Steve would provide lunch. Membership cards have been sent out. Motion was made by Will Kling to adjourn the meeting, and seconded by Keith Kittinger. Meeting adjourned

Respectfully;
William Farrell

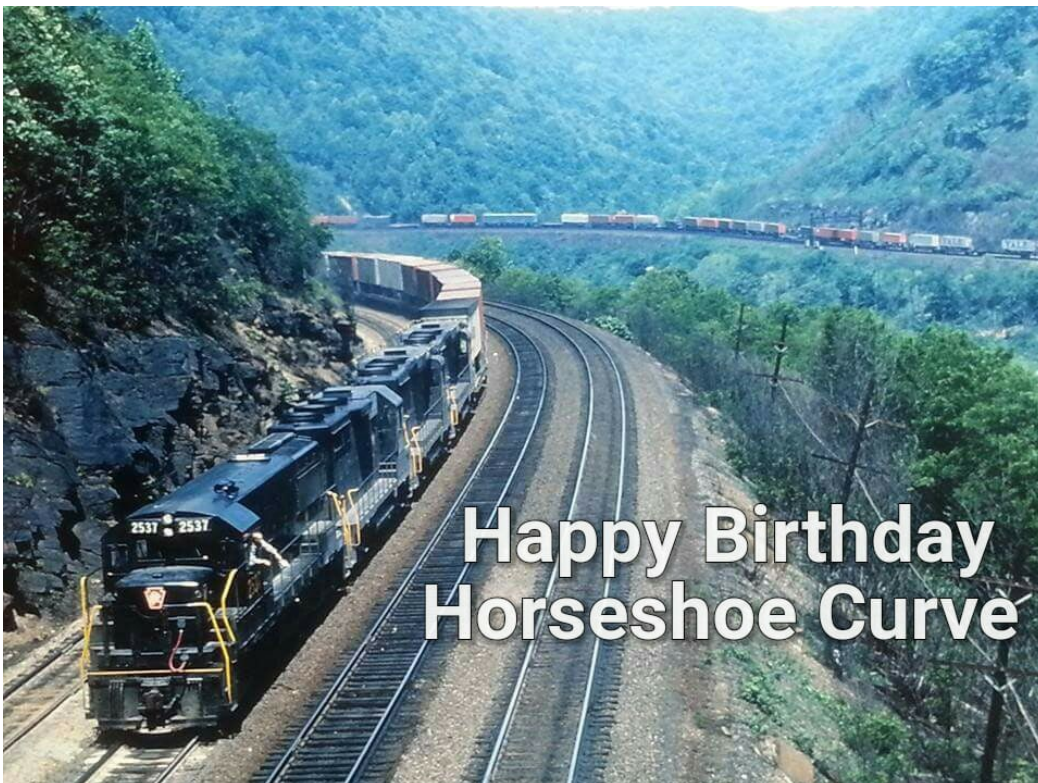
Current Financial Report

1/1/2018	Beginning Balance			1,899.41
1/4/2018	Deposited	Raffle	15	1,914.41
1/22/2018	Deposited	Dues 2018	65	1,979.41
1/25/2018	Deposited	Dues 2018	5	1,984.41
2/1/2018	Beginning Balance			1,984.41
2/12/2018	Deposited	Dues 2018	5	1,989.41
3/1/2018	Beginning Balance			1,989.41
3/4/2018	Deposited	Calendar Sales	11	2,000.41
3/4/2018	Deposited	Dues 2018	35	2,035.41
		Reimbursement for		
3/9/2018	Check # 1226	Calendars	111 94	1,923.47
4/1/2018	Beginning Balance			1,923.47
4/10/2018	Deposited	Dues 2018	10	1,933.47
4/10/2018	Deposited	Neurirk 2018 Raffle	10	1,943.47

Photo Gallery



April 6, 2018 - With permission, I was able to get this shot of Respondek Railroad Corporation's 415 and 2425 sitting in the old engine service facility at CSX's Atkinson Yard in Madisonville, Ky on the Henderson Subdivision. Last word I got was that these two units are going to be servicing industry in the Henderson, Ky area.



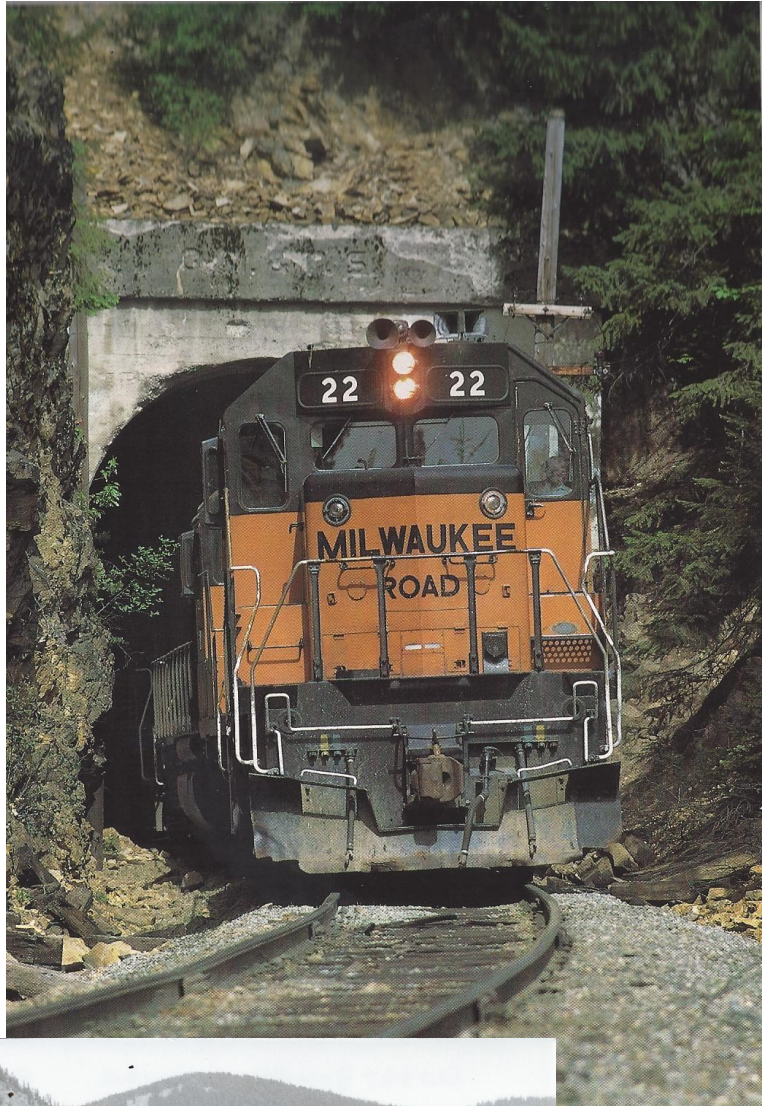
From Gary Ostlund.

Precious Memories...

Right: Gary Ostlund again has sent me a fantastic shot from the old Milwaukee Road. A westbound #22.

Below: Westbound #201, exiting tunnel 48, just west of Easton and about to cross the Yakima River. The river is entering Lake Easton. The Tunnel is only a hundred feet or so out of the picture to the right. I once drove my motor home through that tunnel. The bridges had been removed and I did a spectacular u-turn. Lots of maneuvering. As I exited the other end leaving I stopped short of the portal, got out and took a pix. A few weeks later they built an impassable berm, so the fun was over. The electrics ended here in 1972, 1974 in the Rockies. That is the former NP mainline leading up to Stampede Pass in the right coming under the Milwaukee.

All this right-of-way from Seattle to the Columbia River is State Parks trail system now. Obviously one must detour the bridge scene, but it's easy because the MILW crossed back to the west side of the river in about another mile. So all you need to do is trespass on the BNSF. (I didn't say that....) The BNSF (formerly NP) begins the 2.2 percent climb up to Stampede not far to the left out of the picture. Warren Wing, photographer, was a close friend of mine, he passed a few years ago. Enjoy.



TIMETABLE #110
FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF RAILFANS ONLY

- April 16 - Regular Chapter Meeting
- May 21 - Regular Chapter Meeting at Hopkinsville
- June 18 - Chapter Meeting at Bill Thomas' -
Cookout and Garden RR

**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
billtrainthomas@gmail.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