

PENNYRAIL

August 2019

VOLUME 23 NUMBER 8

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.



Chapter Chatter

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Next Meeting
Monday August 19
7:00 pm

Innovation Station
(Former L&N Depot)
Main Line & Arch St

Program by
Blair Terry

Refreshments
Served

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

UP COMING
PHOTO
CONTEST
Submission
Deadline Dates
On page 5

Ricky's Experiences

Train Day with Rick in the Gap. May 18, 2019 a motley crew and our first sighting of the new CSX heritage locomotives. The Veterans unit and the First Responders unit.



Road Trip Memories

On July 27, 2019, Rick Bivins hooked up with Matt Gentry at his home in Champaign IL for a day of railfanning. The following pics are from that trip. First stop was the old CB&Q line from Chicago to Galesburg via the quad cities.





Photography Contest News

All members are invited to submit no more than two entries each to webmaster@westkentuckynrhs.org. You must be a paid member of the chapter to participate in these contests. Your photo must have been shot between June 15-30th. The Membership will judge the photos at the meeting following each contest and select 1st through 3rd place. The winners will be published in the PennyRail and on the chapter website. At least the 1st place winners will be used to produce a chapter calendar for the next year.

**Our next contest will run:
September 15-30
Submission Deadline: October 7, 2019**



The Big Hook - Gary Ostlund

Mishaps will always be a part of railroading. These scenes show the old and newer methods of cleaning up a wreck scene. In years past the railroads owned and positioned “big hooks” and associated equipment out on the line. Such equipment was always in the ready-mode, warmed up and on the go in a moment’s notice.

In today’s “contract-out” way of doing business, private firms like Hulcher Services are called to the task. They and other firms have highway transportable lifting equipment on the scene dispatched from numerous locations around the country. Upon completion of the Interstate highway system truck-transported clean-up equipment allowed the rail lines to reopen sooner.

Note the special tread on the pair of crawler tractor side-mounted lifting machines. I didn’t use the word “Caterpillar” because their origin could be of a different manufacturer.

Photo by Clarence Lee – Fergus Falls Journal.



Picture by Hulcher Services, Inc.



Picture - Michael Del Vecchio collection



As of July 8, employees have begun light locomotive repairs and inspections.

Citing a rebounding rail industry and an increase in work orders, NRE reopened its 450,000 square foot Paducah, Kentucky plant on July 8, 2019. Employees have begun making light repairs and inspections of locomotives, as well as provide other service offerings.

“We are very excited to be able to reopen the Paducah plant,” said Steven Beal, President of NRE. “The Paducah plant and its employees have a nearly 100 year history of providing quality locomotive products and services. Our goal since we shuttered it two years ago has always been to bring it back online and to get our employees back to work,” he added.

NRE is actively seeking applicants to fill available positions at the plant as the plant increases its operations. If interested, please visit www.nre.com/careers.

When full-strength, NRE Paducah provides the following services:

- New Locomotive Builds
- Remanufactured Locomotives
- Locomotive Service
- Field Service
- New Parts and Components
- Remanufactured Parts and Components
- Salvage

“The reopening of the Paducah facility is merely the beginning,” said Beal. “Paducah will be a key component of the future of our company and we look forward to growing together.”

For more information, please contact Brandon Schwartz at 618.899.5591 or b.schwartz@nre.com.

Pipe Dream and Buffer Cars!



Twenty seven loads of “Big Inch” pipe from Kaiser Steel enroute to Wyoming.

So why the boxcars, fore and aft. Those empty cars are for crew protection in the event of a mishap along the way. Those heavy pipes would be like missiles in any kind of sudden stop. The buffer cars provide at least some level of personal protection.

This scene is just north of Sacramento very late in the steam era, September 1956. This Southern Pacific train will deliver the cargo to the Western Pacific at Marysville for onward shipment.

The use of buffer cars continues to this day. 100 plus car trains of crude oil, likewise lengthy trains of ethanol have buffer cars behind the power, you no longer see a caboos and the friendly wave from the crew. Buffer cars today are partially filled with sand to reduce the impact in the event of an accident.

The jury is still out as to the wisdom, efficiency, even the safety of shipping crude via rail or pipeline. My take is in favor of the rails, as the infrastructure allows flexibility in sources and destinations, on an existing transportation plant. No need to tear up the countryside and abuse the environment with underground pipe. Ethanol cannot be shipped via pipeline, so we’ll always that on the rails of barges.

Credits: photos by Richard E. Lohse as seen in Classic Trains – Spring 2018 Gary O. Ostlund

More From Gary



Railroads have long played a major role in the automobile industry, from the era of primitive converted wagons to today's high-performance cars. Auto manufacturing is a key market segment for railroads, so train schedules have often been geared to production deadlines and needs. There will be at least one follow-up to this series.

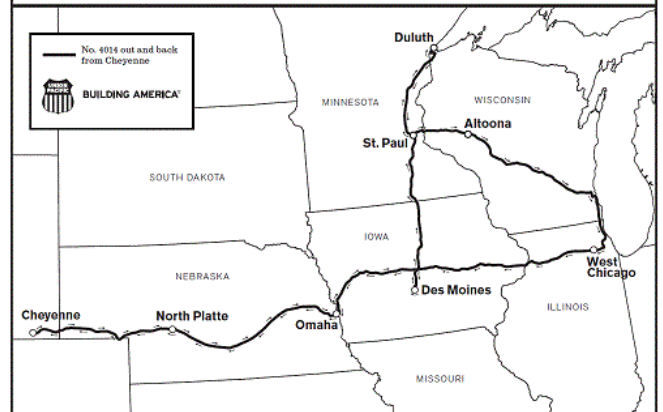
The evolution of change in handling finished automobiles is seen here.



Photo Gallery - Rich Hane Catches UP Big Boy in Chicago



The Great Race Across the Midwest
Union Pacific's No. 4014



Minutes from July 2019

July 15, 2019 - President Ricky Bivins called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm, July 15, 2019. There was a total of 15 members and no guest present for the meeting.

The minutes were read, from the June 17, 2019 meeting and approved.

The treasurers report was given by Bill Farrell, of 2,940.02. There was no activity in the treasurer since the last meeting. Copies of the Hancock Bank statement were circulated for the membership's approval. The treasurers report was approved.

Old Business;

Jim Pearson reported on the May photo contest winners, 1st place Blair Terry, 2nd place Bill Farrell 3rd place Gary Ostlund with honorable mention going to Cooper Smith. Jim reminded the membership that a new photo contest would start on July 15th and run through the end of the month.

President Bivins called on the Don Clayton slide committee for a report. Steve Miller reported that parts of the collection could be save to DVD, Thumb Drive or on the cloud. It would cost about 250.00 per thousand slides. Jim Pearson because of the large number of slides in the collect that we only save those perennate to western Kentucky. Steve made a motion to move forward in the preservation of the slides and it was seconded by Will Kling, approved by the membership.

Steve Miller added that original old slides sell for high prices on the internet. This would be a possibility for the slides collection after it has been copies. There was a discussion on how much to spend on digitizing the slides. The censes was to see how many slides would be digitized.

New Business

Ricky announced there is no program scheduled for August. Blair Terry volunteered to show a video from his extensive collection. There was some discussion about the remaining programs and refreshments. Bill Farrell reported there was only one date open for the remainder of the year, refreshments on November 18th. Vince Brown volunteered to fill that date.

President Bivins reported that the National Railway Historical Society would be having the national convention this month and three regional meeting during the year.

Wally Watts made a motion to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by Steve Miller, motion carried.

Business meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully; William Farrell

Current Financial Report

4/1/2019	Beginning Balance		2,825.02
4/2/2019	Dues, 2019	15	2,840.02
4/28/2019	Anonymous Donation	100	2,940.02
5/1/2019	Beginning Balance		2,940.02
6/1/2019	Beginning Balance		2,940.02
7/1/2019	Beginning Balance		2,940.02
8/1/2019	Beginning Balance		2,940.02

The Bumper

Chapter Interchange Track

Bill Thomas - Does anyone have information (other than what is online) about the Tennessee, Alabama & Georgia RR? Please email me, billtrainthomas@gmail.com.

If you have items for sale or looking for a particular item or items, Email me at billtrainthomas@gmail.com with the information and I will list it here.



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

TIMETABLE #110

August 19, 7PM - WKNRHS Meeting
September 16, 7PM - WKNRHS Meeting
September 28 - Crofton Picnic
October 21, 7PM - WKNRHS Meeting
November 18, 7PM - WKNRHS Meeting
No meeting in December

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

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>

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