

# PENNYRAIL

October 2019

VOLUME 23 NUMBER 10

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

### *In this issue...*

- ♦ Photo Galleries
- ♦ Rust on the Morganfield Branch
- ♦ Chapter Interchange Track
- ♦ Minutes & Financial Report
- ♦ *And more!*

**Next Meeting  
Monday  
October 21  
7:00 pm**

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

**Program and  
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:

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**Some of the goodies offered at the Chapter's annual picnic at Crofton, KY**

# Ricky's Experiences

*Remembering our friend  
Robert Metcalfe Jr.  
Rest In Peace.*



# Pickin' the Points

Opinions and Stories by Bill Thomas, Editor

## Rusty Rails on the Morganfield Branch

For 16 years now, I've watched the Morganfield branch (or what's left of it to Dotiki Mine) host hundreds of coal trains bringing the powerful mineral topside to help power our country. Little did I know that when that last train rolled out from under the tipple it would signal the end of a 52-year stretch of mining in one facility. I was 4 years old when they started.

Since the late Dennis Carnal took me on a tour of western Hopkins and Webster counties almost 15 years ago, I've been fascinated with history of mining that contributed to the success of the branch from Madisonville to Diamond. Now as I drive school buses in the area and cross it at Happy Lane, Columbia School House Rd, Bernard St., Schmetzer's Crossing, and SR 814, I see rust collecting on the shiny rails. The stacks of old ties bundled for re-use at home & garden centers and landscaping companies, the brand new asphalt crossings mentioned above speak of the volatile and often unexpected turns made in the coal industry these days.

No matter the reason, dirty coal, economic imbalance, or the continued battle against the coal industry in general, the trains are gone and now I wish I'd ventured out and taken more pictures. How we are lulled by the continuous sight of the passing train - thinking, "I'll catch it next time when the weather is better or I have more time or when the light is better - or when I have my good camera instead of my iPhone."

But, the great thing about being in a group like The Western Kentucky Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society is we are closely connected with those who often carry a good camera and are purposeful about getting those treasured photos. So here's my tribute to those in the chapter who get the shots - good light or bad. Thank you for sharing your work on our website and social media outlets. Thanks for burning the gas and taking the time so the rest of us can enjoy the memories.

Bill Thomas, editor



August 17, 2019 - CSXT 972 leads a load of 75 coal cars on J800-16 as they round the curve coming approaching the Happy Lane Crossing on the Morganfield Branch at Manitou, Kentucky. This one of the last trains to pickup a load of coal from Dotki Mine in Clay, Ky since it ceased operations on August 14th 2019. Photo and caption by Jim Pearson.



## Photography Contest News

All members are invited to submit no more than two entries each to [webmaster@westkentuckynrhs.org](mailto:webmaster@westkentuckynrhs.org). You must be a paid member of the chapter to participate in these contests. 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.

**November 1-15, 2019 – Chapter Photo Contest**  
**Submission Deadline: November 18, 2019 to allow time for the chapter calendars to be printed.**



Chapter members enjoy the annual outing to Crofton, KY for a day of picnic fare and train-watching.

# Holy Train Night Photo Gallery



Top - October 8, at Keith's.

Center - The Chicago-Miami Auto-Train circa 2006 exits Baker Tunnel on Steve's N Scale layout.

Bottom - "Tote Boats" on Steve's N Scale layout - October 15.



## Photo Gallery

Clinchfield F-unit number 800 is seen on the Ohio Rail Experience's DT&I North End excursion on Saturday, October 12, 2019 at Leipsic, Ohio. Hosted by the Indiana and Ohio Railroad, the excursion on the former Detroit Toledo & Ironton north to Diann Tower, Michigan allowed many rare mileage collectors to fill in a much needed segment of Henry Ford's railroad. Photo by Chris Dees.



CSX #3245 is in charge of the CSX E321-18 as he is about to finish crossing the Tennessee River and enter Bridgeport, Alabama on a fine late sun evening. Photo by Bill Grady.

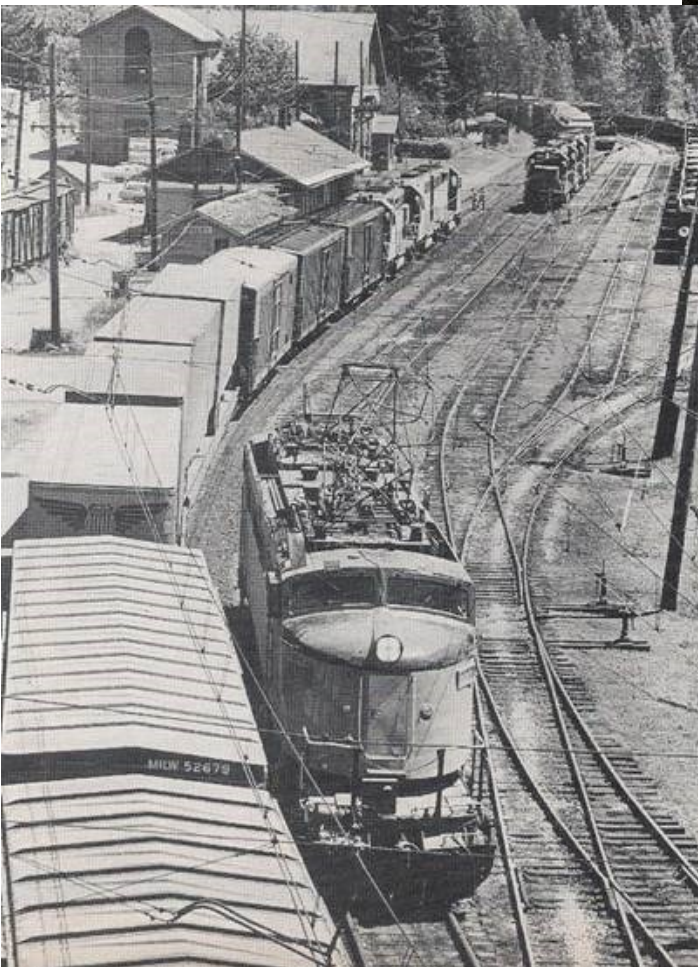
## Photo Gallery Extra

Upper Right - NS #167 eastbound with the "yellow nose" SD70ACC #1800 leads the way towards Louisville just east of Depauw, Indiana on September 1, 2019.

Below - Another scene that can never be replicated. This is Avery, deep in the Bitterroot Mountains of Idaho. You will recall the funny looking (not so) round house hanging over the river.

In its heyday, this is what Avery was all about. Exchanging steam or diesel locomotives for electric power facing a stiff climb up and through St Paul Pass Tunnel. Crews change here too.

In this busy scene the Little Joe in the foreground with it's quad-headlight still on just uncoupled from the westbound up the track, and is heading for that funny looking roundhouse. The Joe was added at Harlowton, back some 440 miles across three major mountain ranges. From the control position in the Joe, the engineer operates all the power, even setting the diesels at idle on level



ground, throttling up as needed. Soon a fresh crew will take the westbound on to points west terminating in Tacoma.

With the mainline cleared, a freshly serviced Little Joe will be placed on the point of the eastbound stopped at the depot. It's new crew will shepherd the freight up the grade. Then it's up the substation operator to supply the needed amps to get the job done. Substations like the one in the distance were located about every 30 miles.

This is the way I remember that day in July 1973 when I trekked through Avery with my wife and four kids in our new VW bus. They all remember the great ice-cream cones sold across from the depot.

Photo credit: Ted Benson featured in an Ed Lynch writing in Railfan & Railroad Magazine, October 1990

# Minutes from September 2019

President Ricky Bivins called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm, September 16, 2019. There was a total of 13 members and no guest present for the meeting. The minutes from the August 21, 2019 meeting were approved as printed in the club bulletin (PennyRail). The treasurers report was given by Bill Farrell, of 2,960.02. There was an increase of 20.00 over the August report due to dues payment and calendar sales. The treasurers report was approved.

## Old Business;

President Bivins called on the Don Clayton slide committee for a report. Steve Miller and Don Clayton have been working on the slide collection sorting out local shots of interest. Steve said they will give another report at the next meeting in October. Bill Farrell gave a report on a club jacket. Bill had four samples for the members to look at and try on for sizing. Ricky Bivins motioned to move forward on the purchasing of the jackets. The motion was seconded by Jim Pearson and carried. The entire membership will be contacted by club email with a mockup of what the jacket will finally look like. Purchase of the jackets for those members who were not at the meeting can be made through Bill Farrell. The club treasury will pay the vendor for the jackets and each member who purchases a jacket will reimburse the club treasury. Bill Farrell gave a report on club liability insurance, the Christmas Show, Toy Train Raffle and Breakfast with Santa. A motion from Steve Miller was made to continue with the Toy Train Raffle, and Breakfast with Santa. The motion was seconded by Betty Knight, motion carried.

## New Business

The club Picnic will be held in the fire station park at Crofton, Kentucky, on September 28<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am till?. Bill Farrell, will bring a grill and cook. Members can leave money for what they think they have eaten to cover the cost of the Pic Nic. There was some discussion on where to hold this year's Christmas Party. It was finally decided to contact Catfish Harbor and make a reservation for Saturday December 7<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 o'clock. President Bivins reminded all the members present that October is our month for nominating new officer. Jim Pearson reminded all the members that September would be our fifth photo contest and the final club contest would be November 1<sup>st</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup>. The members present elected to purchase liability insurance for the 2020 calendar year. Bill Farrell was direct to shop around for a better deal. If we could not get the insurance at 10% or less that what we are paying now stay with Kentucky Farm Bureau. Motion by Keith Kittenger, motion carried. It was announced that Wally Watts was celebrating his 89<sup>th</sup> birthday. Will Kling 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

7/1/2019	Beginning Balance		2,940.02
8/1/2019	Beginning Balance		2,940.02
9/1/2019	Beginning Balance		2,940.02
9/9/2019	Dues, 2019	5	2,945.02
9/9/2019	Calendars	15	2,960.02
10/1/2019	Beginning Balance		2,960.02



# The Bumper

## Chapter Interchange Track

## TIMETABLE #110

**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.

October 21, 7PM - WKNRHS Meeting  
November 18, 7PM - WKNRHS Meeting  
Christmas Party - December 7, 6PM  
No meeting in December

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

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### **PENNYRAIL**

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