

# PENNYRAIL

November 2019

VOLUME 23 NUMBER 11

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
- ♦ President's Report with nominations for 2020
- ♦ Chapter Interchange Track
- ♦ Minutes & Financial Report
- ♦ *And more!*

**Next Meeting  
Monday  
November 18  
7:00 pm**

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

**Program by  
Jim Pearson**

***Railfan Travels***

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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**Reminder  
No PennyRail  
In December**

**We need photo material and stories for January!**

# Ricky's Experiences

Greetings,

Hello again National Railway Historical Society, Western Kentucky Chapter members, and welcome to November. Cool (cold) weather is here!

We will have many things to discuss this month relating to upcoming events. The Christmas Show cancellation, Breakfast with Santa and the upcoming Christmas dinner. Also, we will make our second and final call for nominees for officers as our election will be held this month. Your attendance to these meetings and events is paramount. We need everyone's collective energy to make things work.

As for elections, we had our first call for nominees last month, remember, everyone is eligible to hold an office. We have the offices of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Chapter Representative. If you would like to hold an office, nominate yourself and don't be bashful. I do not plan to run for president. I wish to pass the torch so to speak. So, speak up, be heard. YOU can be President!!!

Blair's October UP 4014 program was a hit. Thanks Blair. The final photo contest has wrapped up. Jim will fill us in on same. Bill Farrell will have the final jacket order in hand, now we can all look sharp! I know Keith has been working on Breakfast with Santa, thanks Keith. Rich Hane suffered a fall this week. Not too serious I understand. We want to wish him a speedy recovery.

There will be more so be sure to attend. And again, step up and lead our Chapter in 2020!

Rick

**Right:** Against a setting sun, a Union Pacific Railroad shipment of Canadian potash is crossing the Snake River on a 3920' long viaduct. The Canadian Pacific Railway exchanges this and other traffic with the UPRR at the British Columbia border northeast of Spokane. The Joso Viaduct, opened on September 15, 1914, is



reported to be the last major "hot rivet" railroad bridge built in the west, although verification is elusive. The bridge was the centerpiece of a new direct and more efficient U.P. line reaching into the Inland Empire. The rail is 240' above the water. The bridge crosses the Snake near Starbuck, Washington, once an important UPRR town.

Building of the four notorious dams on the mighty Snake has flooded the region including some of the bridge piers. Concrete encapsulates the four tallest piers in the river due to higher water. This lake is the back pool of Lower Monumental Dam, about 20 miles downstream.

I used this picture and story in my "railfan Christmas card" in 2000. As you have seen by now, I do like sunsets and silhouettes. This shot was taken from the Lions Ferry State Park campground, obviously one of my favorite RV stops.

About a mile upstream is a recycled steel highway bridge. The state highway department took it apart, piece by piece, transported over a hundred miles and reassembled. That bridge and the ferry it replaced will be a subject for another day.

Ektachrome (and caption) by Gary O. Ostlund

## Photo Gallery

**Right:** November 12, 2019 - Union Pacific's "Big Boy" 4014 puts out a huge plume of steam in the cold November air as it departs Hope, Arkansas and heads north on the UP Little Rock Subdivision on its way to Prescott, AR where it will tie down for the night. I'm doing my first chase on the "Big Boy" today and tomorrow as it heads for Little Rock, AR.

According to Wikipedia: The Union Pacific Big Boy is a type of simple articulated 4-8-8-4 steam locomotive manufactured by the American Locomotive Company between 1941 and 1944 and operated by the Union Pacific Railroad in revenue service until 1959.

The 25 Big Boy locomotives were built to haul freight over the Wasatch mountains between Ogden, Utah, and Green River, Wyoming. In the late 1940s, they were reassigned to Cheyenne, Wyoming, where they hauled freight over Sherman Hill to Laramie, Wyoming. They were the only locomotives to use a 4-8-8-4 wheel arrangement: four-wheel leading truck for stability entering curves, two sets of eight driving wheels and a four-wheel trailing truck to support the large firebox.

Eight Big Boys survive, most on static display at museums across the country. This one, No. 4014, was re-acquired by Union Pacific and restored to operating condition in 2019, regaining the title as the largest and most powerful operating steam locomotive in the world.

**Below:** November 12, 2019 - Union Pacific Big Boy 4014 sits tied down at the Prescott, Arkansas depot, after its run for the day up the Little Rock Subdivision. Tomorrow morning it'll depart at 9am CST for Little Rock where it'll be on display till Friday morning before continuing it's move back to Cheyenne, Wyoming. According to Wikipedia: The Missouri Pacific Depot of Prescott, Arkansas is located at 300 West 1st Street North. It is a 1-1/2 story red brick building, with a breezeway dividing it into two sections. One section continues to be reserved for railroad storage, while the other, the former passenger ticketing and waiting area, has been adapted for use by the



local chamber of commerce and as a local history museum. It was built in 1911-12 by the Prescott and Northwestern Railroad, which interconnected with the Missouri-Pacific Railroad at Prescott. The line had passenger service until 1945.

The building is now known as the Nevada County Depot and Museum. Exhibits include area settlers, railroads, and military items from World War I, World War II, the American Legion, National Guard of the United States, 1941 U.S. Army maneuvers in Prescott. The depot building was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1978.

## Photo Gallery Continued



**Above:** November 13, 2019 - What a day!! I chased Union Pacific's 4014 "Big Boy" from Prescott to Little Rock, Arkansas and couldn't have asked for better weather! The cold really made the steam and smoke pop! Here we see 4014 as it departs Prescott early in the morning, after a slight delay to let two trains pass it. There's just something about a steam locomotive when it pokes its nose out of a cloud of steam!



## 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.**



## Minutes from October 2019

President Ricky Bivins called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm, October 21, 2019. There was a total of 13 members and two guest present for the meeting. The minutes from the September 16, 2019 meeting were approved as printed in the club bulletin (PennyRail). The treasurers report was given by Bill Farrell, of 2,960.02. The treasurers report was approved.

### Old Business;

President Bivins called on the Don Clayton slide committee for a report. There were no new developments since the September meeting. Bill Farrell gave a report on a club jacket. Bill told the membership present that the order for the jackets would be placed on October 29. At the time of the meeting we had 16 members wanting to place orders for club jackets. Bill Farrell gave a report on club liability insurance and there was not another company to beat the farm Bureau price from last year. President Bivins reported on the annual club pic nic in September. He said everyone seemed to have a good time and there were plenty of trains passing through Crofton. The club Christmas Party will be held on December 7th at Catfish Harbor in Madisonville. Bill Farrell reported that we have to turn in a head count for the restaurant. The party will start at 6:00 pm and all members are encouraged to bring their spouse or a guest to the party. Jim Pearson presented the entries for the September photo contest. Matt Gentry was the winner with a trolley/Bus.

### New Business:

Keith Kittinger volunteered to chair the Breakfast with Santa fund raiser this year. The date is Saturday December 14th at Catfish Harbor on the Anton Road. The time will be from 7 am to 11 am. Bill Farrell will chair the Lionel Toy Train Raffle event this year. Jim Kemp volunteered to assist him in the fund raiser. Ricky called for nominations for chapter officers for the 2020 calendar year. The nominations were as followed, President, Will Kling; Vice President, Steve Miller; Secretary/Treasurer., Bill Farrell; and Officer at Large, Keith Kittinger.

Steve Miller made a motion to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by Keith Kittinger, motion carried. Business meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully;

William Farrell

## Current Financial Report

6/1/2019	Beginning Balance		2,940.02
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
11/1/2019	Beginning Balance		2,960.02

# 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](mailto:billtrainthomas@gmail.com).

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



## TIMETABLE #110

November 18, 7PM - WKNRHS Meeting  
Christmas Party - December 7, 6PM at  
Catfish Harbor, Madisonville  
No meeting in December

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

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UP	888-877-7267
Amtrak	800-331-0008

### National Railway Historical Society

[www.nrhs.com](http://www.nrhs.com)

### Railway Preservation News

[www.rypn.org/](http://www.rypn.org/)

### Kentucky Railway Museum

[www.kyrail.org/](http://www.kyrail.org/)

### Indiana Railway Museum and French

### Lick Scenic Railway

[www.indianarailwaymuseum.org](http://www.indianarailwaymuseum.org)

### 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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