

# THE PENNYRAIL

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE  
WEST KENTUCKY CHAPTER OF  
THE NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Ahh! Spring is almost here! There are a few (train) places I often think about as spring approaches each year as I've seen pictures in magazines and websites. First is the southeaster part of Kentucky and western Virginia, on L&N's Cumberland Valley Sub. There's a spot between Big Stone Gap and Appalachia, VA, where the former Southern crossed over the L&N. Before this small portion of the L&N was relocated to share rails with the Southern, it dashed into a tunnel known as Callahan's Nose Tunnel (pictured right) and continued a parallel route to the SR into Appalachia. The roadbed, tunnel and bridge across Hwy 23 and the Powell River are now an active Rails to Trails path.

Hagen's Switchback is another location on my bucket list for a visit some spring. What a marvel, the only operating Class 1 mainline switchback in use and it was never meant to be a permanent solution. Relatively new, the long tunnel from the Kentucky side following the Martins's Fork of the Cumberland River, pierces through over a mile before exiting on the south side of the mountain where the trains reverse westward up the wye to the old CV line (now gone), then pulls ahead eastward. South tail tracks are too short to hold a regular train so they have 3 holding tracks if needed.



My hope is to visit these locations when the redbuds are in bloom. I hear they cover the sides of the hills. I hope you can get out and visit either your favorite rail fanning spots or find a couple of new ones. Either way, be safe, stay off the tracks, and enjoy the re-awakening of nature as we move into a new spring season!

Enjoy! Bill Thomas, Editor

In light of the fact that we make good use of the park facility at Crofton, KY, I thought it appropriate to post this notice from Bill Farrell. There will be 3 fish fries over the course of the summer.

# FISH FRY



**-Friday-**

March 26, 2021

Gordon Park

4:30 - 7:30 P.M.

**GORDON PARK**

13735 N. Old Madisonville Road

ALL DINNERS INCLUDE:

Fried Fish, Coleslaw, French Fries, White Beans, Hushpuppies,  
Dessert and Drink \$12.00 Adult—\$6.00 Children 12 and Under

**IT'S GOOD EATIN Y'ALL**

**LOAD THE FAMILY UP AND COME**

**LET US DO THE COOKING FOR YOU  
MASK ARE REQUIRED**

# NEWS BRIEFS



**March Meeting on As Scheduled!**



**Send me your pictures and stories for the April edition by April 10**

# Photo Gallery

Steve Gentry spotted this WFRX GP15 March 9, 2021, it was sitting on the site of the old L&N station in Evansville. The old L&N station was located on Fulton Ave close to Ohio Street. It has a fresh coat of paint. The track it was sitting on services a couple of downtown Evansville locations. Apparently 560 is being assigned switching duties at Berry Plastics in Evansville. Steve Gentry



# Snow Photo Contest Winners and Entries

1st Place West Kentucky Chapter of the NRHS Trains in the Snow Contest winner – NS #22A has made the trip up from the south through the second snowstorm where the snow was heavier and the cold air managed to make it stick. Here, #22A is in the siding for a meet with eastbound #23G at the Buechel, KY Depot on 2-17-2021 – Photo by Bill Grady





2nd Place West Kentucky Chapter of the NRHS Trains in the Snow Contest winner – February 19, 2021: Southbound CSX N013 passes the Ex L&N Hopkinsville, Ky depot with a blanket on snow surrounding it as it heads south on the CSX Henderson Subdivision. – Photo by Cooper Smith

3rd Place West Kentucky Chapter of the NRHS Trains in the Snow Contest winner – February 19, 2021: UP 4601 leads K403 south at the last light of day in Slaughters, KY as Q500's DPU can be seen in the background. – Photo by Cooper Smith



CSX Q028 heads through Mortons Gap KY on the Henderson Subdivision on February 17, 2021. – Photo by Ricky Bivins

# Photo Contest



SB CN ethanol train at Bobo Road, West Paducah, KY on February 20, 2021. – Photo by Ricky Bivins

CSX E303 ascends Barnsley Hill between Morton’s Gap and Earlington, KY, February 20, 2021, with nearly 100 empty coal hoppers. This is the ruling northbound grade on CSX’s Henderson Subdivision. ES44DC 5471 is under a Restricted Proceed signal (lunar) as it closely follows a “Tote” train. – Photo by Bill Thomas



NS #22A (dim headlight) has “dogged Lawed” in the siding at Buechel, KY on this cold day of 11 February 2021. The other train, NS #172 has pulled up next to 22A to pick up the crew and take them on to Louisville so everyone can get home. The focus on the bush shows that the Louisville area received about 1/4” of Ice. – Photo by Bill Grady

# PHOTO CONTEST INFORMATION

**Just as a reminder that our next Chapter Photo Contest for 2021 will run from 15-31 March 2021!**

Each dues paying member is allowed to submit two photographs taken anywhere during the two weeks. Entries with captions should be sent to

## Current Treasury Balance

1/1/21		1,898.41
1/25/21	595	2,493.41
2/1/21		2,493.41
2/9/21	34	2,527.41
2/9/21	115	2,642.41
2/9/21	80	2,722.41
3/1/21		2,722.41
3/8/21	15	2,737.41
3/8/21	15	2,752.41



I went out looking for a military train that was south bound and I ran out of light. I did manage to get a north bound mixed freight and a south bound coal train. Bill Farrell