

The Danville Flyer

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NEXT MEETING:

MARCH 15th

Jocko's Pizza Inn, 1:00PM

URBANA TRAIN SHOW:

MARCH 28-29

LINCOLN SQUARE MALL

URBANA, IL

OPERATING SESSIONS:

APRIL 4th *

MAY 2ND

Rossville Depot Museum

C&EIH S MEET:

APRIL 11th

Watseka Union Depot

Watseka, IL

Newsletter by the Danville Junction
Chapter, National Railway Historical
Society.

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pre-order, and don't know at the time of writing this when it will arrive.

All of the Scale Trains engines have the Lok Sound decoders in them, and with the Lok Programmer I split with Rick now at home, I can at least program them more quickly. But you also have to be aware that any time there is an update to the Lok Programming software, it will usually also update the firmware on the newer decoders. That always seems to go OK at least.

The ESU "Lok" series of decoders are very popular for a good reason: You can usually pair up two locomotives with them, in the same series, without much speed matching. In addition to the Lok Sound series decoders, there are also Lok Pilot decoders with no sound for older engines that don't have room for speakers. I have one of them in the big GE "C-boat" that usually pushes the cleaning car around.

The only other locos I own with ESU decoders are two Broadway C&EI SW7 switch engines. I had a fellow in Savoy that Rick knew replace the factory Broadway decoders with those. Those little engines are tiny compared to anything modern! I'm pretty sure he used N-scale size decoders in them. The other ESU is in my L&N switcher we use in Yard Center.

And I think this is the other "downside" in modeling. It's about technology as much as any hobby is today, and the older you get, the more there is you might not understand. I'm keeping up for the most part anyway... What I can't figure out on my own, Skylar usually can!

- Doug One

The Downsides of Model Railroading

One of the things I absolutely dislike about the model railroad hobby is the packaging of recent rolling stock, locomotives in particular. There are so many ways things can go back into the packing that it can drive you mad. I really feel sorry for the members that bring their own locos to the operating sessions, since they have to spend so much time unboxing at the start, and re-boxing at the end. But to each his own.

Even cars are packed much better than they used to be. I recall the classic Athearn blue box stuff in particular. If there was any paper or foam protecting those models, I don't recall it. You could shake those boxes, and the ends of the car would hit the sides. Now, we have clam-shell containers somewhat like the newer engines are packed into. Or at least a plastic shell base with a molded cover to contain the model in one place.

I have bought some Scale Trains engines in recent years. My two Milwaukee SD40-2's were from them, and of course I bought a duplicate CSX heritage unit to what Mark had, the Seaboard System #1982. I have the C&EI heritage unit on a

ABOUT US

The DANVILLE JUNCTION CHAPTER, NRHS, is a not-for-profit corporation organized to preserve the history of railroading in Eastern Illinois and Western Indiana and operates a museum located in the former Chicago and Eastern Illinois Railroad depot on East Benton Street in Rossville, Illinois. The museum is open weekends from Memorial Day to Labor Day and features many railroad displays plus a large operating HO model railroad. Membership in the Chapter is open to anyone having an interest in any aspect of railroading. Dues per year are \$30.00 for Chapter membership in addition to \$50.00 for NRHS membership.

Rossville Depot Museum membership is \$30 per year. Meetings are held on the third (3rd) Sunday of each month (except June, July, August and December) at the Jocko's Depot Restaurant, Gilbert Street (Illinois Route 1) and Williams Street, next to CSX (former Conrail), in Danville, IL with lunch beginning at 1:00 PM Central Time followed by meeting and program.

WELCOME NEW MEMBER!

This month we welcome **Caleb Smith** to our group. He is an avid fan of what we do on the museum layout, and is a welcome addition to the operating sessions. He is from Rossville, and joined as a Student.

PROGRAM NOTES

The Minutes say that President Schmitt will give the March program. He delayed it due to the great program given by Jeff Bossaer on Fountain County, IN railroads last month.

Danville Junction Chapter Officers for 2026

President: Henry Schmitt
Vice President: Doug Butzow
Secretary: Dick Brazda
Treasurer: Doug Nipper

Museum Direc: Bob Gallippi
Historian:
National Rep: Dick Brazda

Flyer Editor & Publisher:
Doug Nipper

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* On the Schedule in this issue, I showed the April operating Session as the 4th, even though that is Easter Weekend this year. Problem with delaying it a week is that the C&EHS Annual Meeting is in Watseka this time, and that is set for April 11th. So not sure of we will have one this month at all... I'll be able to gauge this when I send the notice out....

Danville Jct. Chapter, NRHS Meeting Minutes

The February 15, 2026, meeting opened at 1252 at Jockos.

The secretary's minutes were accepted as printed.

Expenses for the month were Rossville utility payments, and state corporation fee. Donations and dues were the major income for the month. Current checking account balance is \$5396.05. The CD renewed during January and is now worth \$5426.20.

The next operating session will be March 7. The February session worked well.

The Urbana train show is March 28 from 1000 to 1600 and 29 from 1100 to 1600. Members are needed to at the show since sale of some of Mark's equipment will be included.

A trip to ride the new South Shore extension will be planned. It will likely include a trip to Randolph St., followed by a return to Hegewisch for pictures, then back to the Monon extension. There appears to be some equipment problems, so the opening date is still not definite.

Meeting programs: Henry will be in March and Danny in April.

The Lebanon show was canceled due to weather.

Henry mentioned a program in Terre Haute on the 21st at 1030 about railroads in that city.

Dave mentioned the Wabash Hist. Soc. Convention will be in Monticello, IL in September.

Doug N. mentioned we may want to reduce lighting at the depot during the summer due to rising electrical costs.

The meeting was adjourned at 1302.

Jeff Bossaer presented a program on the railroads of Fountain County in Indiana.

THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Do not forget the Urbana train show at Lincoln square mall on Saturday March 28 and Sunday March 29. We will need help selling popcorn and part of the Mark Ziebart collection.

On Saturday February 21, Larry Ratcliff, ex CSX vice president, gave an excellent two hour presentation on Terre Haute railroads from 1852 to the present. There were at least one hundred people at the



Vigo County History Center at 929 Wabash Avenue for the presentation. There were eleven different railroad lines leading into or leaving Terre Haute. In 1920, they served over 75 businesses. Today they serve less than fifteen. Today, there are six lines entering or leaving. We saw many pictures from past and present.

Chauncey Rose built the first railroad out of Terre Haute in 1852 toward Indianapolis (old Pennsy Line). Terry Bodine's statement that the first steam engine in Terre Haute for this line came down the Wabash-Erie canal was confirmed by Larry Ratcliff.

The Vigo County History Center has three floors of exhibits. It is an excellent museum. The cost is only \$6 for seniors and \$7 for adults.

On Saturday February 28, Dave Sherrill, Nick Roderick, and I went to the Muncie, Indiana train show. It is an excellent show with many vendors of all gauges and many different operating layouts. On the way back, we stopped at Mr Muffins in Atlanta, Indiana. The layout is a very large O gauge three-rail layout. There were at least twelve trains running at any one time. The wall shelves are full from floor to ceiling with every imaginable paint scheme on all varieties of engines and cars. Two blocks away is a large three room store with many engines and cars for sale. The picture to the left is just a fraction of the layout.

-Henry Schmitt

LEFT:

2026-01-10 Amtrak 89
Palmetto at BWI sta., 637
(ACS-64, Siemens, 2015)
2508 (coach, Buidd, 1982),
2250 arr., 2135 (Acela II,
Alstom, 2017-20)

Photo by Dick Brazda