

The Danville Flyer

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NEXT MEETING:

SEPTEMBER 20TH

Jocko's Pizza Inn, 1:00PM

OPERATING SESSIONS:

NOVEMBER 7TH

DECEMBER 5TH

Rossville Depot Museum

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

SEPTEMBER 2026
VOL 58 NO. 6

We had a very good season at Rossville this summer, and it's hard to believe it's over already. Our last day open was Labor Day, Sep 7th.

The new drink cooler we bought is working out very well to have both pop and water chilled, as well as some candy and other snacks at the depot. Despite that rather large expenditure of a little over \$300, we are doing well, financially speaking, thanks to nice donations and some non-show sales of the excess model equipment. And thanks to Aden for taking the old fridge!

New member Chad Thomas has lead a much-needed cleanup of the baggage room, and we finally have all the cardboard boxes off the floor in that room. None too soon, since the heavy rains late in the summer did get one box wet, which Chad caught and we corrected in late August. My new saying is: *If it isn't inside a plastic tote box, it should at least be on top of one.* **No cardboard on the floor!**

Chad is also touching up some of the scenery on various areas of the layout, which was also needed a lot. Hard to think that Rick and Bob did most of that work back in the day...

The summer operating sessions once again were pretty popular. Since we are open anyway on those days, it keeps us busy even if there are few visitors.

The next big expense we will have is the rent bill from CSX for another year in the depot. That

is our largest bill of the year, but we always seem to cover it. It usually arrives in September.

So now we go back to the routine of monthly meetings at Jockos. Good news is, I assisted the signal forces at Monticello with automating the lights for the North Pole a few weeks ago, so that means I should not have to leave early from the November and December meetings. Butzow, however, will still have to miss those. Sorry, Doug 2.

Doug N

On August 19, Aden Barron informed Skylar that the restored Milwaukee Bicentennial locomotive #156 was headed east on NS train 148. Below is his shot of it west of Eldan. It was headed to Spencer, NC for the display there on 8/28-30.



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.

PROGRAM NOTES

The Minutes say that either Henry or Dave will provide the program for the September meeting.

Place your bets now!

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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<https://www.facebook.com/Rossville-Depot-Railroad-Museum-1317428034957274/>

We will skip an operating session in October, since a couple of participants are in the farming arena, or support thereof.

We will officially start the winter 26/27 sessions on November 7th.

Danville Jct. Chapter, NRHS Meeting Minutes May 2026

May 17 Meeting

Secretary report approved as sent out.

Treasurer Report: Expenses for insurance and utilities: \$655.79. Income was dues and donations: \$153.06 Total assets: \$12,244.88

Old Business

Operating sessions- May was good, June 6 is next session.

The trip to Old Rock Island shop at Silvis Illinois was very good. A large train show, a huge HO layout, and the thousand of parts that goes into rebuilding a steam engine.

South Shore trip from Dyer, Indiana—The group decided on Tuesday, June 9. People can meet at Rossville Museum at 7: 15 AM or at Dyer station, Train leaves at 9:36 Central time.

New Business

Museum opens Saturday May 23. Cleanup is that morning.

Member Chad Thomas has volunteered to grade Museum drive way when the weeds die that Bob Gallippi sprayed. Chad will donate gravel if necessary.

September program will be Henry or Dave. Will try to get Mike Benham, NS civil engineer, from Lafayette for October meeting.

Member Comments

Skylar Brown: The super rail car detector on NS at Williamsport has lights and camera installed. Next is to construct the building that trains will run through at speed.

John Mills rode a special train on northeast Indiana railroad at New York Central Historical Society Convention.

Jim Temple rode a special train out of Columbus, Ohio. Over 800 people were on this excursion.

The program by Aden Barron was on Nickle Plate steam engines on the Chicago to Fort Wayne division and on the Fort Wayne to Bellevue, Ohio division in the 1950's.

President's Message

This was a summer of tourist train activity. On June 9, Dick Brazda, Dave Sherrill, Skylar Brown, Jamie Walter, Caleb Smith and I rode the South Shore line from Dyer, Indiana to downtown Chicago and back. Most of the stations along this route are new. We stopped at Hegewisch station and saw some freight train action.

On August 7, Dave Sherrill, Aden Barron, Skylar Brown and I rode several Metra lines: the old Rock Island from Joliet to LaSalle Street station in Chicago, the Old Milwaukee Road from Union Station to Deerfield, Illinois and back, the old Burlington route from Union Station to Aurora and back, and the old GM&O from Union Station to Joliet. We also saw much commuter train action at the Western Avenue Metra station. In the future, we will schedule less lines so more people may be interested in riding Metra trains. Skylar Brown is a great guide.

Skylar Brown and I traveled to North Carolina Railroad Museum at Spencer NC. On August 28, we viewed the gathering of special painted 250 anniversary diesel engines. There were over twenty five special engines. Many were show cased on the operating turn table during the day. The round house has an excellent collection of engines, rail cars, passenger cars, pictures, and artifacts. The former main repair shop has a collection of cars, fire trucks, airplanes, and farm tractors. **Scale Trains** had a nice display of their products and introduced some 250 anniversary model diesel engines. There was also a short train ride around the grounds. If you are around Charlotte, NC, this is a must see train museum.

On the way home on August 29, Skylar and I stopped at the Age of Steam Roundhouse Museum at Sugar Creek, Ohio. The Jacobson family collection of steam engines is amazing. There are 0-6-0, 0-4-0, 2-6-4, 4-8-4, 2-10-4 and several others. The original constructed building around the turntable is very full. They have constructed another building around another part of the turntable. They do offer on certain weekends a short train trip behind one of their steam engines. If you like steam engines, this is a most stop. They are still planning to add more steam engines,

The September meeting program will be pictures from Spencer shops and Age of Steam.

The November 15 program will be by Michael Benham on Monon trains. He is a civil engineer with Norfolk Southern RR in Lafayette, Indiana. He has given presentations at Monon society conventions. He has also designed O scale Monon engines for Mr. Muffin.

-Henry Schmitt

Below, from Dick Brazda: 1973-06-00 New York, Floral Park, Long Island RR 611 (FA1, ex SP&S, 1949)

