

Train Club Celebrates Christmas

Written by Tim Moore

Tuesday, 15 December 2009 15:35



Madisonville, KY – The members of the Madisonville Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society met for their Christmas Party and train program.

The local chapter of the society has approximately 70 members, most of whom live in the area.

The chapter is made up of train enthusiasts who enjoy all aspects of the hobby, known to them as “Railfanning.”

Following the dinner, several members participated in a “show and tell” in which they shared items related to the train industry.



Dr. Fred Ripley of Murray, a former college professor and professional concert violinist, showed the group a book he has been compiling about the history of the Pennsylvania Railroad. The book talks about research he had conducted on the early years of the railroad, time tables of the passenger car days, and basic operational procedures of the former railroad.

Chuck Hinrichs of Hopkinsville, shared with the group his interest in the hobby which is collecting and reading books about railroads and their history. He brought with him a book about the steam locomotive days on the Western Pacific Railroad. Hinrichs credited his wife for getting him started in researching the historical aspect of trains and railroads and with collecting the books. He told of one time when he took off from work early so he could sit track-side and watch trains traveling up and down the “Henderson Sub” an area of tracks that run from Nashville to Henderson which also run through the Madisonville area.

And David Millem of Evansville, brought a set of keys ones used by the former L&N Railroad. Millem, a former prosecuting attorney from Indianapolis, said he purchased the keys from an estate sale. The keys date back to the early 1930's. Two of the keys were used to lock the doors of passenger cars when not in use. And the others were used to unlock the switches on cross tracks. The keys used to belong to a former L&N Clerk who worked for the railroad operations in Evansville.

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