

The Danville Flyer

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NEXT MEETING:

JANUARY 18
Jocko's Pizza Inn, 1:00PM

OPERATING SESSIONS:

FEBRUARY 7th
MARCH 7th
Rossville Depot Museum

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

JANUARY 2026
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The Rossville Operating Sessions

Unfortunately, we had to cancel the December 2025 session at the Depot. This was partly due to the weather, but had more to do with lack of operators. Both Doug Butzow and Bob Gallippi had other things they had to do, and that just put us with too few to make it happen.

I have a long history with sessions. When we first started having them, I didn't really participate, and instead watched the activity from the east balcony. Over time, with less people, I did get into operations, first as a dispatcher. But when running trains, at the start, I didn't really understand the car card system. Now, it seems I'm making the cards as Rick once did, and helping with the session setups too.

Operating on other layouts has been an issue for me. I was always welcome on Rick's layout, since I had helped so much with the signal system on his first one. I guess I was also his Chief Dispatcher. And I have been to a few other home layouts, but evidently I am just disagreeable enough to get uninvited from most of them. See, it's a Baby Boomer generation thing, and that generation has some issues. One owner in particular was not taking any critical comments, even if it was about another operator in a private exchange!

Many of the sessions on home-based layouts are also social gatherings, with meals and other Boomer things. I am at the very end of that generation, and just don't fit into those situations very well, since I can't eat an evening meal. I am also not married, and don't have any kids, which is a frequent topic of conversation. I always felt like an outsider at some of those.

So at this time, with Rick's layout gone, Rossville is the only layout I operate on. I still enjoy that, but worry that if we lose any more operators, we may not have enough in quite a few of the future sessions. We do attract some younger folks, like Skylar and Aden, but they are getting older too and may not have time some days. I don't think a lot of young people today will even own homes in the future, so those types of layouts will go the way of the dinosaur. Club layouts might be the holdouts for operations.

At Monticello, they get frequent offers of model railroads from widows, and have to turn most of them down. Some very nice pikes, like Rick's, end up in dumpsters. It's sad, but inevitable. You just can't save them all...

-Doug One

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 Danny Honn will give the January program.

I did not get a notice of what that might be, so I guess we'll all find out together!

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/>

Hope Everyone had a nice Christmas and New Year celebration. Now back to the same old grind, with winter weather to boot. It's no wonder these holidays are bunched up at the same time of year. Without them, folks would go mad! Valentine's (Fool's) Day is next....

Danville Jct. Chapter, NRHS Meeting Minutes

The November 17, 2025, meeting opened at 1252 at Jockos.

The secretary's minutes were accepted as printed.

Expenses for the month were utility payments. Donations and dues were the major income for the month. Current checking account balance is \$4839.68.

The next operating session will be December 6.

Meeting programs: Doug N. will offer one of Rick's videos for December, and Danny for January.

There was no update on opening the South Shore Monon line.

JD and Skylar reported on the potential impact of the NS/UP merger. It is likely that traffic thru Danville will increase significantly. Additional double track is being planned between West Point and Lafayette. Other upgrades are also being considered.

Henry and Skylar rode Metra the Friday before Halloween, starting in Joliet. Skylar picked up a flyer for the Elmhurst Model RR which showed open houses on Friday evenings and Sunday afternoons. The chapter may want to consider a visit.

Dave and Henry have tables at the Danville, IN show on 11/22. Henry will be selling some of the equipment from the Ziebart donation. This show has been a popular one.

The meeting was adjourned at 1309.

Dick presented pictures from an August 2025 trip to the Reading & Northern in Pennsylvania.

The meeting was adjourned at 1313.

Club News from the President

On November 22, 2025, the club sold donated model train items at the Danville, Indiana show. See the picture below. Sales were very good (\$560). The table cost was donated. Thank you Skylar Brown for helping me. Seven members visited our booth. We received one Danville Junction membership renewal and a C&EI HS membership renewal.

More items will be sold at the Lebanon, Indiana train show on Sunday, January 25, 2026 from 10 AM to 3 PM. The show is at the Boone County fairgrounds.

Some of the members cannot make the meetings on third Sunday of September, October, November, and first Sunday of December. I proposed beginning in September 2026 of going to the second Sunday of the month. This proposal seemed agreeable to members present at the December meeting.

Unfortunately, the second Sunday of the month is taken at Jockos for all of 2026. Maybe I can schedule the second Sundays in 2027.

Henry Schmitt

