

The Danville Flyer

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NEXT MEETING:

MAY 17TH

Jocko's Pizza Inn, 1:00PM

Depot Clean Up Day: May 23

Opening Days: May 23, 24, 25

OPERATING SESSIONS:

JUNE 6TH

JULY 11TH

Rossville Depot Museum

Hard to believe that this month we will be talking about cleaning and opening the Rossville Museum for another season. We have been doing this for more years than I can account for. At least the operating sessions will continue through the summer months like we've been doing the past few years. First Saturday of every month, with the exception of July 4th, for obvious reasons. That one will be pushed back one week to July 11th.

I keep thinking that something will eventually happen to keep the museum from opening, but thankfully, other than the pandemic, we have managed to keep it open every year since the late 1970's. I think we opened officially in 1979 or 1980. Insurance bill should be coming soon too, but we had nice enough sales at the Urbana show to cover that easily, as well as the rent bill from CSX that will come in the fall.

It may be very hot this summer, but who really knows until it comes? I would encourage minimal lights to be turned on, and only run fans when absolutely necessary, in order to keep electric use low. I am still looking into a beverage cooler to replace the old refrigerator up there. The fridge has a freezer section we never use, but it runs 24/7 to keep that cold. A floor-standing display model from Amazon would run right at \$1000. Has a glass front, so no one would even have to open the door to see what's inside. If

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

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REMINDER: No Meetings **or** Flyer in the
months of June, July and August!

anyone knows of a better price on one, please
let me know.

Also, with fiber optics going in the streets of
Rossville, I hope we can once again have
Internet at the depot. The company that is
doing this is Conexxus, and they are owned by
the same company that was my backbone
provider when I had the Wireless Internet
business. So when it becomes possible, I hope
they will let us have the lowest cost residential
option of \$25 per month. A few of the more
active members might want to split the cost of
that as we did before.

Doug N

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

We have two new members in the club
this time:

CHAD THOMAS from Hoopeston joined at
the end of March.

JEFF MARBLE of Danville joined at the
end of April. He even came to our May
session, and ran half the through trains!
Nothing quite like learning on the job...

We welcome both men to our group, and
hope they will stay with us for a long time.

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 Aden Barron will provide the program for the May meeting.

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/>

The July Operating Session (one of the new summer ones) will be delayed by one week for the July 4th celebration. Other than that, we will have them on their regular first Saturday of the month days. Not sure about September, but we usually skip October in any case.

Danville Jct. Chapter, NRHS Meeting Minutes

The **April 19, 2026**, meeting opened at 1258 at Jockos.

The secretary's minutes were accepted as printed.

Expense for the month was Ameren for \$116.41. This was two power bills. A large amount of income came from sales at the Urbana train show (\$1499.25). Current checking account balance is \$7279.25.

The next operating session will be May 2.

A trip to ride the new South Shore Monon extension is being planned. It will likely include a trip to Randolph St., followed by a return to Hegewisch for pictures, then back to the Monon extension. A tentative date of Saturday, June 13 was chosen. Further details will be in the May newsletter.

Aden will provide the May meeting program.

Henry mentioned a trip to the Railroad Heritage Center in Silvis on Saturday, April 25. Several members plan to make the trip.

Henry mentioned that Mike Benham of West Lafayette offered to present 2 programs. One would rail pictures and the other about building O scale equipment. They will be scheduled for the fall.

Danny reported an SD60 was at the Tilton yard, labeled "spare". Several people noted that the Progress Rail Tier 4 loco was at Newell. Dick mentioned a TV show "Riding the Rails with Geoffrey Baer" that aired on WTTW. It is available on the WTTW website. Chad Thomas, a new member was introduced. Skyler reported the CN Grand Trunk heritage unit was on a CSX empty phosphate train headed to Florida on Sunday morning.

Aden related that the preliminary schedule for the UP Big Boy going east does not utilize the Wabash. It would be routed via the Nickel Plate to Chicago and the Union Pacific to St. Louis.

New member Caleb Smith and his father, Brandon, were also introduced. Dave mentioned the Decatur show on June 27-8.

Nick mentioned working on an O scale box car. Bob said he installed a new water valve at the depot. JD indicated Mervis sold the coal loop to a rail car cleaning firm which may expand the trackage.

The meeting was adjourned at 1313.

President's Message

Skylar Brown, Danny Honn, Dave Sherrill, Caleb Smith, Jamie Walters and I went to the open house at the Railroad Heritage Midwest America Museum at East Moline, Illinois. This is at the old Rock Island RR Silvis shops. They had a large train show in the shop. Fortunately, there were no S gauge items so that I was not tempted to add to my too big of a collection. There was a large N gauge layout. There was a very large HO modular layout that went in many directions. It covered an area 50 feet by 150 feet.

The two UP steam engines that are being rebuilt have a long way to completion. It very interesting to see them torn apart. The size and number of pieces that make up a large steam engine is massive. To see all the machines and hoists needed to repair the steam engine is impressive. Remember this was all done without computers In the Rock Island days.

There was also a diesel pulled train ride around the shops. The hand car ride had too long a line for us to ride. There were some antique cars on display.

The Museum is next to the Iowa Interstate railroad yards and diesel engine servicing shop. There were several engines and railcars and coaches around the Iowa Interstate yard. The museum also houses a private diesel railroad engine repair shop. There are many derelict engines in their yards.

On the way home, we stopped at Galesburg, Illinois. The museum in the old depot next to the Amtrak station is worth visiting. We also stopped at the bridge overlooking the BNSF large yards. There were dozens and dozens of diesel engines with several in action. There were many tracks of railcars.

Remember the Rossville museum is open afternoons Memorial day through Labor day weekends. Skylar would always like to have company operating the HO layout and giving visitors tours of the artifacts.

The South Shore commuter train has a better schedule on week days with shorter layovers. If working people want to go in June, we can make the Saturday trip work.

Have a great summer,

Henry Schmitt

RIGHT: One of the steam locomotives being rebuilt at the former Rock Island Shops in the Silvis Shops near Moline, Illinois.

Photo by Henry Schmitt

