

The Danville Flyer (sort of)

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Next Meeting: September 21st at Jocko's Pizza Inn, 1:00PM

As most of you already know, we lost our Editor and National Representative last month. Rick Schroeder was a driving force for many years behind the Chapter. He died on August 15th at the age of 83.

Rick was my friend and mentor. I met him in 1976, after writing to the Chapter about membership. He encouraged me to join the club, despite only being 14 at the time, and not meeting the NRHS requirement of 16. The first thing I remember is cleaning out the former museum above the tavern at Catlin to make the move to Rossville. Rick and Randy were right in there sliding boxes down the back staircase.

For all the years since then, Rick was always available to discuss things, about the Chapter and the C&EI Railroad. When Bob McQuown passed away, Rick took over the Archives of the C&EI Collection at the Vermilion County Museum. He was tireless for the most part, in making sure that everything in those archives was relevant, and organized. The folks at that museum will miss him too...

He had two wonderful model railroads at his homes, and on the first one I assisted him with the construction of a fully-operable signal system. We had many good sessions there, but not enough on the second layout, as he had more health issues over those years.

So I don't know what we are going to do about this newsletter. I can't produce one like Rick did, nor do I want to. Henry has suggested that we just make up a sheet like this to feature some member articles, but I know that Rick struggled to get articles from members. We at least need to notify folks of the meetings, and have the minutes from the last one, which are below.

Oh, and please join the NRHS if you are on the fence. We don't want to lose our charter for lack of members!

Maybe we can discuss all this at the meeting.

Doug Nipper

A Tribute to Rick Schroeder

Rick was one of the original founders of the Danville Junction Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society in 1968. He was the first president. He was the leader of many interesting spring trips in the early years.

Rick had a vast collection of pictures of Danville area railroading. He presented several times per year very good picture shows to the chapter, not only of Danville but all over the United States. He was instrumental in obtaining many C& E I artifacts and setting up the chapter museum at Rossville, IL.

He also helped with the C&EI Historical Society Museum in Watseka, IL. The chapter's eight per year newsletter was put together by Rick. He was the chapter's historian and obtained many donations for the Danville Junction chapter and the C&EI Society over many years. Rick was a good friend and supported me well as the current president of the Danville Junction Chapter, He will be Missed.

Henry Schmitt

Danville Jct. Chapter, NRHS

Minutes from the May, 2025 meeting

The May 18, 2025, meeting opened at 1255 at Jockos.

The secretary's minutes were accepted as printed.

The expenses for the month were depot insurance and Rossville utilities. Revenue totaled \$250.04 in donations and interest. Current checking account balance is \$4405.79.

An operating session will be held on Saturday, June 7.

A possible trip to the French Lick Scenic Railway was considered but postponed for now. A suggestion to visit the Museum of Science & Industry in Chicago by using the South Shore extension from Dyer was proposed. This would depend upon the start of new service and schedule later this summer.

A depot cleanup session will be held Saturday, May 24 prior to the summer depot hours. The Museum is scheduled to be open Saturdays, Sundays and holidays 1200-1600.

Skylar reported that Mark's model equipment will be auctioned off, with chapter members perhaps having an opportunity for early access. Further details will be forthcoming.

Dick will present the program in September.

In Monticello, the water tank is almost complete and has been filled with water.

The meeting was adjourned at 1315.

Henry presented pictures from his recent trips to several rail museums.