

Next Meeting:

- **Program: Slides by members 10 March, 2007.**
- **West Carrollton Civic Center. West Carrollton, Ohio**
- **Meeting time, 7:30 PM.**

March Program....

The program this month will be slides by members.

Participants are asked to bring material to show in maximum 80-slide groups (1 standard carousel or 2 developer boxes).

Please plan on a lesser number of slides if significant narration will be included with the scenes.

This will allow more people to show. Of course, please feel free to bring extra material as a contingency.

Remember, effort spent down-selecting the slides will improve your presentation quality and make the group enjoy and appreciate your material all the more!

Looking Ahead

For the May Meeting we will be having our second "Digital Night".

Members can bring digital images for a short talkie program, a sound show compiled in something like Photodex ProShow, or a short DVD movie that they made. We do not want to resort to any commercially made DVDs.

The talkies should be under 50 images (either digital images or scanned slides or prints), with the sound shows or movies being kept to 20 minutes or shorter.

We will be providing the projector and the laptop used to show the images. Files should be brought on CD, DVD or USB Memory stick. Photos right from the camera or scanner can often be very large, so it is a good idea to convert the files to Jpgs and resize them to around 1024 x 768 for optimal viewing. If you are unsure how to accomplish this, need some help, or have other questions relating to Digital Night, please contact Chris Haines at chris@westernohiorails.com.

CSX News

Tri-Rail hires Amtrak to schedule train traffic

Dispatching to be transferred in corridor shared by CSX

By Michael Turnbull
South Florida Sun-Sentinel

January 27, 2007

Pompano Beach · Tri-Rail took an important step Friday to getting its trains running on time -- the commuter service hired Amtrak to schedule all traffic on

the 72-mile corridor it shares with Tri-Rail and CSX freight trains.

The state and CSX got the green light last August to begin negotiations that would transfer dispatching from CSX to Tri-Rail. But the state and CSX must agree on the details of the handoff and officials say it could be early next year before Amtrak takes on its new duties.

The \$15.8 million contract covers five years.

The state purchased the CSX corridor between Miami and West Palm Beach for \$264 million in 1988. But CSX retained control of dispatching, often crip-

pling commuter schedules by sending freight trains down the tracks at rush hour.

Tri-Rail led the nation's commuter rail systems in ridership growth in the last quarter of 2006. But about 20 percent of the trains ran late in November and December.

"We're attracting more riders and keeping them on our system," said Joseph Giulietti, Tri-Rail's executive director. "We're still not providing great service."

On Thursday, Mark Goggin waited almost an hour at the West Palm Beach station to catch his southbound evening train. "We've had problems all this week," Goggin said.

Also Friday, Tri-Rail chose a new company to oversee its daily operations.

The board awarded a \$64 million, seven-year contract to Maryland-based Veolia Transportation Service Inc. The contract includes an option for an additional three years for \$33 million.

Herzog Transit Services, whose contract expires this year, has had the job since 1993. Veolia will take over on July 1. The company runs commuter rail systems in Los Angeles and Boston and has a contract to run a new line in San Diego set to open later this year.

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West Virginia train derailment forces evacuation

Tue Feb 6, 2007 11:32 AM ET

NEW YORK (Reuters) - A train carrying liquefied petroleum gas and other chemicals derailed in West Virginia on Tuesday, forcing the evacuation of the small town of Handley, emergency officials said.

No injuries were reported, and none of the tankers were leaking chemicals, said Carolyn Charnock, director of 911 services in Kanawha County.

Up to 22 cars of a CSX Corp. train went off the track in Handley, a town of 200 to 300 households some 20 miles southeast of the state capital of Charleston.

Residents of Handley were being taken to shelters at a college and an elementary school in neighboring towns, Charnock said.

The train was also carrying sodium hydroxide solution and chlorobenzene, and officials at the scene were trying to determine if any of the tankers were damaged enough to pose a chemical hazard, Charnock said.

The Miami Valley Railfans is a loosely knit group of railfans that meet to discuss, exchange views and show slides and movies about railroads, We meet between the months of November and July, usually the second Saturday, at The West Carrollton Civic Center. Anyone interested is surely welcome!

Dues are \$10.00 per Calendar Year
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