

# The Pilot

Editor Chris Burchett

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## Message From The Central Region Rep. -

I want to thank all of those who voted for me, and let me tell you a little about myself for starters. I am 13 years old and I live in Logan, OH, which is about 60 miles away from Columbus. I am homeschooled and I also volunteer my Saturdays in the summer to work on the Hocking Valley Scenic Railway, which is based in Nelsonville. I have a HO scale layout called the Logan Southern Rail System and it has all the track laid!! I have hosted two mini-conventions here in Logan which included railfanning and a ride on the HVSR. Currently, I have a regional convention planned for May, but details will be given about that later on. I am also active in the TAMR Video Exchange and I own a video business called Dash 9 Videos, Inc. which specializes in railroad videos. All who are active in the video exchange, or have an idea for a Dash 9 product, let me know!!\*\*\*

## 1999 "Valley Flyer" Regional Convention -

This is what I have planned for the "Valley Flyer" so far:

1. - Tour of my layout;
2. - Railfan Athens via bike trail;
3. - Railfan Columbus, Marion, Galion, Crestline and Portsmouth;
4. - Ride the Hocking Valley Scenic Railway all day, with possible cabride. \*Note - The cabride has not yet been confirmed.\*

Please bring your own bikes, but if you aren't able to, we have two spare ones. But if you have a bike, PLEASE bring it!!! More info will be posted on this convention as it becomes available. Before I forget, the convention date will be set for May 31 to June 5.\*\*\*

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## Articles

If you would like to submit any articles, please either e-mail me at "the\_rail\_master@hotmail.com", or snailmail me at-

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I would be most grateful if you sent in any articles!! It can be about anything like your layout, railfanning trip you took, info about an RBU meet, ANYTHING!!!!!!\*\*\*

## Conrail Split-Up

by the Editor

The Conrail split-up is turning out to be one of the most exciting mergers of all time, in my opinion. It all started in 1996, when CSX decided they wanted to buy out Conrail, but a little bit later, Norfolk Southern got wind of it. NS and CSX went through a huge fight over who should get Conrail, while the rest of us stood on the edges of our seats wondering who would get Big Blue, if anyone. It seemed almost before the agreement, that NS was going to get Conrail because they offered a huge chunk of cash that just gleamed in the investor's eyes. Finally in early '98, CSX and NS reached an agreement to split Conrail amongst themselves. Implementation updates from NS and CSX alike poured every week, showing their progress, and finally it was time to send Conrail's death warrant to the STB. Again, we all sat on the edge of our seats, wondering what would happen. Finally, after 10 days of deliberating, they approved it.

(CR Split-Up Cont'd)

August 22nd was set as the Control Date, and it came slow for a while. But it did come regardless, and Conrail's officials resigned. NS and CSX had almost total control of Conrail, but they couldn't take over the operations end. At least we have a while until Conrail is officially gone. They reached an "official" Control Date, in which both railroads will be ready to operate their portions of Big Blue. The Date is set at March 1st (I think), 1999, so we have a while until Conrail is gone. A few good things will come out of the whole deal like: 1.) More trains will be moved over one line; 2.) better competition to the Northeast; and 3.) NS and CSX will have different engines to experiment with like the SD60M, SD80MAC and NS will have their chance at AC power for once!!\*\*\*\*\*

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