

# THE SIGNAL TOWER

## The Newsletter of the Largo Central Railroad

P. O. Box 60192  
St. Petersburg, FL 33784-0192  
Club Telephone: 727-585-9835  
Website: [www.lcrailroad.com](http://www.lcrailroad.com)

**Managing Editor:** Angelo Cantalupo  
Email: [angac2723@gate.net](mailto:angac2723@gate.net)  
Telephone 727-531-8651  
**Production Consultant:** Bruce Teerlink  
[bteerlin@bellsouth.net](mailto:bteerlin@bellsouth.net)



June 2005

### President's Message

Greetings, I am the former Vice President of the Club, Don Newberry. I say "former Vice President" because last week I woke up in the morning and through some 'Quirk of Fate' I was made President. I would like to take this opportunity to tell you some of my views on what direction the club will take.

I want to outline some of our goals. The editor of the newsletter will go into deeper detail on some of these goals since he took notes at our last Board Meeting.

(a) We need to shore up our Birthday Run crews with more volunteers as the teams are not up to strength.

(b) We absolutely want to make this a fun railroad that our families and members of other railroads can enjoy. More information follows as you read on in this newsletter.

(c) We want to improve relations with other tracks. Lets all work to get back "on track" and make it the way it was.

(d) We once had an unwritten rule to log in when members came to the railroad. I would like to see this rule reactivated.

In closing, I want to thank all members who participated and worked hard to make this railroad '**TOP NOTCH!**'

Don Newberry  
President

### Secretary's Report

4 June 2005

The meeting was called to order by Vice President, Don Newberry. The minutes of the preceding meeting were read and approved. The Treasurer's report was read, with all current bills paid. Motion was made, seconded and carried to accept.

The following items of business were discussed:

1. Discussion of the possible offer of 3 containers (hopefully, one of 40' and two of 20'), and the possible use and location of these containers.

2. Jerry Smithson discussed the possibility of a steel building. He will look into this and report back at the next meeting.

3. Check on activating the sprinkler system for fire suppression and getting hazmat signs for sheds where needed. Howard Pike will look into getting parts, and installation.

4. Track work: New rail will soon be needed. The use of steel rail was discussed and it was decided to obtain several lengths for installation.

5. Wally Hebel said "we need to know each other, and everyone should wear his/her name tag where it can be seen."

6. Three new members were introduced: Danny Thompson, Gregory Boden, and Jean Carter. All were accepted as full fledged members. (Jean Carter will assume the position of membership chair.)

7. Motion was made, seconded and carried to donate \$250 to the Largo Library for the donor wall in the new library and for a plaque on a bookcase.

8. Discussed the possibility of getting with FLS to set dates for meets at various tracks so out-of-state visitors and vendors can run at more tracks.

9. Jerry Smithson discussed the requirement by the city for criminal background checks on all members. He will get with the city about this.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Alex Watson  
Secretary

### Schedule for Fun Run Day, Work Day and Railroad Rodeo Day

This is how the schedule goes; Our

**1<sup>st</sup> Saturday** of the month is our *Public Run Day*.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday:** *Fun Run Day*. Run your equipment or repair and build your own equipment – Have fun!

**3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday:** *Work Day*. Varied small projects to repair and maintain the railroad. A list of projects will be on the board in the Clubhouse. Emergency projects that come up will take priority, of course. We have to change two track panels north of the station because of rail wear and ties rotting out. The more people we get on this one work day of the month, the easier it will be. So come on

out and that includes cooks, bakers, and candlestick makers.

**4<sup>th</sup> Saturday:** *Fun Run Day* or work on your own projects.

**5<sup>th</sup> Saturday** (when it occurs) will be the "*Railroad Rodeo Day*". This is a one day Mini Meet where we will have a cook out; and Warren Jamison has concocted some games we can play with trains. The Club will supply the meat for barbecue and drinks. Members can bring a covered dish. Members from other clubs are cordially invited to participate.

Members from other railroad clubs are always welcome at our track on any of the above days. Bring your trains and have fun. For more information, contact Warren Jameson, 727-581-3607.

## Membership List

Jean Carter, who is a new member, is helping Wally Hebel in the membership committee to get our list in order. She is really working hard to get the list updated so we can send you a copy of the Membership List. It will be as accurate as she can get it with the information she has. I am afraid the only time it will be 100 percent accurate is when members pay their dues for next year (2006). Jean is also on the Newsletter Committee – doing the computer work. She also sweeps the floor of the clubhouse once in a while.

You may get a call or an email from her about errors in your address and so forth.

## A Great Day!

Your editor and Jean Carter went to the Memorial Day Meet at the Family Lines in Parrish, Florida, on May 28, 2005. We have been there many times and we always have a great time.

Once you cross the tracks to enter the railroad, you magically go into another dimension of time. I get the feeling that this must be how the old South once was — manicured grass, trees, bridges and most of all, hospitality with peace and quiet. We rode the trains and topped it off with a great supper at Bev's place. Many thanks to Larry and Joan, Bev and Bob, and Pete for a great time.

Take a trip to their track on one of their meets. Alex Watson, our club secretary, and Edie, his wife, went there for the first time during the Memorial Day Meet. They liked it so much, Alex and Edie even joined the Florida Live Steamers.

## For Sale

### Want a great looking caboose?

Contact George Taylor. He custom builds them and they are beautiful. You can see them at our Largo Track.  
**For more information, call George at 813-468-0534.**

## NOTICE

This newsletter has a feature no other newsletter has. If you disagree with the editor, you can make arrangements to meet him and throw rocks at him. Please! Small rocks only – No boulders!

## Many Thanks!

Many thanks to Tom Keenan, Editor of the Trainline, Florida Live Steamers' Newsletter. This is what he wrote in the June-September 2005 issue of the Trainline.

*"I understand there has been a change of leadership at Largo Central Railroad recently. I sincerely hope this may signal a change of heart there and they will once more be a dynamic part of the FLS family. They have a superb facility and a great group of members. I know I'm looking forward to Angie Cantalupo's fascinating railroad and subway stories of his younger days in New York."*

Thanks again for your kind words, Tom.

Since we are on the subject of the Florida Live Steamers (FLS), I urge all members of all railroads in Florida to consider joining the FLS. Times are changing fast. There is great strength in numbers and the FLS already has over 300 members. Not only does the FLS bond you into one society, it has other benefits as well. A FLS member is welcomed at just about any track in the country. It also provides insurance for it's members at FLS sponsored meets. You will receive a spiral bound book of all known tracks in Florida, with maps, including a list of members in the FLS. This book is the best I have ever seen on listings. You will also receive Tom Keenan's Trainline with accounts of what is going on at these tracks. He also has a page to make you laugh.

All this for \$14.00 a year and that includes membership for the whole family. For more information, call Joan Smith, 941-776-2109,

E-mail: [kenrtz@comcast.net](mailto:kenrtz@comcast.net).

## Happy Birthdays To You!

Following are names of members who had a birthday this month (June)

Norman Barker  
Robert Conkle  
Tom Eckert

Charlie Bellizzi  
Don Newberry  
Dolores Pike

We may have missed your name because we do not have your birthday listed in our records. We are trying to get birthday dates and it looks like it is going to take some time. If we missed you, consider yourself in the above list as we say, "Happy Birthday and may good health and good fortune shine on you."

<p><b>July 23<sup>rd</sup>, Saturday</b>  Morning: 11:00 to 12:00AM  Afternoon: Still not booked – check Board in Clubhouse</p>	<p><b>July 24<sup>th</sup>, Sunday</b>  Not yet booked – check Board in Clubhouse.</p>
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## Who is Building What?

I am amazed at the number of members building engines and other equipment. I can only list a couple of projects this month.

**Greg Boden** is building a 3 3/4 inch scale Baldwin, World War One, Trench locomotive. *(I can't wait to see the engine. Editor)*

He is also building a Sandy River and Rangely Lakes flatcar. In gauge one – 7/8 inches to the foot – he is building a 2-4-4, Maine two footer. He is about 1/3 finished on these projects.

**Don Mann** has built a 7 1/2 inch gauge English engine, The Battle of Britain. You have to see this engine because you can't explain in words the beauty and workmanship involved. If it was mine, I would build scaffolding over the fireplace and set the engine there. This engine really belongs in a museum.

*Will continue next month.....*

## Public Run

Saturday.....July 2, 2005

Sunday.....July 3, 2005

Membership Meeting:....**After Saturday Public Run**

### Remember!

Enter this date on your calendar – **July 30<sup>th</sup> 2005** is **Railroad Rodeo Day** (5<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month).

## Birthday Runs for July 2005

<p><b>July 9<sup>th</sup>, Saturday</b>  Morning: 10:00 to 11:00 AM  Afternoon: 3:30 to 4:30 PM</p>	<p><b>July 10<sup>th</sup>, Sunday – Team 2</b>  Afternoon: 3:00 to 4:00 PM</p>
<p><b>July 16<sup>th</sup>, Saturday</b>  Morning: 10:30 to 11:30 AM  Afternoon: 2:30 to 3:30 PM</p>	<p><b>July 17<sup>th</sup>, Sunday – Team 3</b>  Afternoon: 2:30 to 3:30 PM</p>

## Changes

There has been a change in "Officer Positions". Following is a list of the present roster:

**President....Don Newberry**, 727-459-8480 (after 7:00 PM)

Email: don@tampabay.rr.com

**Vice President:.....**Managed by the Board of Directors

**Secretary:....Alex Waston**, 727-347-8408

Email: aledto@earthlink.net

**Treasurer:...Wally Hebel**, 727-323-5575

Board of Directors

Chuck Lisner.....941-764-0630

Howard Pike.....727-442-2545

Email: dolorespikefl@juno.com

Bruce Teerlink.....904-268-4075

Email: bteerlin@bellsouth.net

Bob Wolf.....727-584-2473

Angelo Cantalupo.....727-531-8651

Email: angac2723@gate.net

Liaison with the City and Park

Jerry Smithson

&

Warren Jamison

Membership

Jean Carter...727-531-8651, **Email:** cartj409@gate.net

## For Sale

**Horizontal/Vertical Mount – 8 inch rotary table** for your mill. **Brand new – still in crate.** It comes with two dividing plates and a tail stock. You can use either angular division or holes in the dividing plates. I paid almost \$300.00 for the above. Also has English and Chinese instructions. Asking \$160.00. Great Buy! Contact Angelo Cantalupo at 727-531-8651.

## NOTICE:

Just in case your dog chewed up the mail with the newsletter in it — Bruce Teerlink, our Web Master, will post it on the LCRR web site: [www.lcrrailroad.com](http://www.lcrrailroad.com)

## EXTRA

I want to thank George Taylor for writing the newsletter the past two and one-half years. George went to a course some time back and was told that the average life of a newsletter editor is about two and one-half years. I still can't figure how George did it. He has a family, fulltime job, builds railroad equipment and is active in the Boy Scouts. George has since developed some health problems he has to overcome. He needed a break.

Now, Angie comes into the picture. I wrote the newsletter for about five years. How come I lasted over two and one-half years? I just didn't know any better. I knew things were going wrong toward the end when members were complaining that I was starting to write the newsletter in Italian.

Now that I do not have to wear a straight jacket anymore, I have taken over for George. I will be the first to admit; George is a better writer and has a better command of the English language than I will ever have. There is a reason for this – so, read on.....

You see, I came from a small country off the east coast of the United States called Brooklyn. If you lived in Brooklyn, you were called a Brooklynite and you would speak in a dialect of English called Brooklynese. This dialect came from the Irish who lived in Brooklyn some years before.

This same dialect was also used on other islands in the vicinity, such as, Manhattan and Staten Island with some changes.

With the above in mind, let me tell you what happened in the 1930s' during the "great depression".

Hollywood started making gangster movies, using the above mentioned areas as a back drop. The actors they used were the toughest of the tough. They came from Hell's Kitchen in lower Manhattan. Names like George Raft, James Cagney and the Dead End Kids, to name a few. It didn't take long, however, when everyone from this area became stereotyped. If you came from Brooklyn, you were either a gangster or a racketeer. All you had to do was open your mouth, speak and people quickly knew where you came from.

The top bananas from the Board of Education stepped in and yelled, "**Basta**". Translated from Italian, the word means 'enough already'. They were going to get rid of this gangster stigma by eliminating the Brooklynese dialect.

I was attending grade school when the above happened, and Miss Kelly was our teacher. We had to pronounce words by properly moving our lips and contorting our faces to make the proper sounds. It was pure torture. Anyone watching us would surely think we were practicing to join the freak show at Coney Island.

This getting to, 'Speak the King's English' went on for sometime. The day came, however, when the Board of Education wanted to check the progress of their great

endeavor. They sent out educators to different schools to check them out. As luck would have it, one of the schools they picked was the one I was attending. Our principal graciously volunteered Miss Kelly's class to be tested. The kids immediately hated her.

We were all seated in our classroom when the educators came in, two men and one lady. They introduced themselves and explained why they came. One of the men stood up and it seemed like he was looking at me. My heart started racing at flank speed. Actually, he was looking at Louis Scotto, seated next to me. He pointed to Louis and asked him to please stand. Louis obeyed. The educator said to Louis, "I want you to repeat this sentence; "George, I want nothing to do with you until you clean the dirt off your hands." Louis twitched around for a couple of seconds and came out with, "George, I want nuttin to do with youse until youse clean the doit off yourse hands." The educator seemed like he was stunned and couldn't figure out what happened. Miss Kelly, who was standing near a window, kept looking out as though she was contemplating on jumping out, even though we were on the second floor.

The educator finally came to his senses and asked Louis to state his name and where he lived. Louis barked out, "My name is Louie Scotto, I live at tree tu tree, toughy toid street. Dat's just above toid avenue and I live on the toid floor."

The educator threw his hands up in the air and sat down. There was silence for a moment when the lady educator managed to get off her chair and picked Mary Feeny to test. That was a mistake. Mary was as tough as nails and could beat up just about anyone in the class. The lady educator asked Mary to repeat a sentence similar to the one Louis repeated. Mary gave her spiel which sounded like she was just released from "Sing Sing Prison".

The educators slowly raised themselves from their chairs and walked out looking like zombies.

So ended the great language fiasco. I am certain the people who came up with this idea found themselves pushing pushcarts and selling vegetables the next day.



*Have a great 4<sup>th</sup> of July and a great month. See you next time, Angie*

