

THE SIGNAL TOWER

The Newsletter of the Largo Central Railroad

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Happy Halloween

October 2005

President's Message

Greetings!

The year is racing to a close. Before you know it, our Winter Meet will be staring at us. What I need is your help in replacing track panels. Saturday, October 8th, we replaced two more panels on the mainline. Greg Boden and Tom Eckert helped me. Jack Outlaw showed up a little later on to help cart dirt and gravel.

We have to replace more panels before the meet to get the track in *tip-top* shape. So, come on out and get some exercise. Thanks to Greg, Tom and Jack for their help.

Sunday morning on Public Run Days is really getting to be a problem. Because members do not show up, we have trouble even getting one train out. We had a rough time on our last Sunday Public Run – more follows as you read on.

Have a great month!

Don Newberry
President

SECRETARY'S REPORT

October 1, 2005

The meeting was called to order by President Don Newberry.

The minutes of the preceding meeting were read and accepted. The Treasurer's Report was read with all current bills paid. It was noted that donations received today were in excess of \$700.00 which will be donated to hurricane relief. Motion was made, seconded and carried to accept.

OLD BUSINESS:

It was reported that during the past week, someone had been in the area and left the container door open and unattended. Be sure that the area is secure when you leave.

Bill Donati discussed his proposal for selling sections of track to raise income. After discussion, it was

recommended that he contact Warren Jamison, the club contact with the city.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Howard Pike has suffered a heart attack while up north, but getting better and will shortly return home for more surgery.
2. Jean Carter presented the names of 2 individuals to be accepted for membership: Jerry Edwards, Sr. and Jerry Edwards, Jr. Both live in North Florida.
3. Angie read an email from Foster Bond of the Ridge Club, inviting members to their Fall Meet, October 21-23. Pete Newcombe also invited the membership to the Manatee Club on November 12-13th. Remember our own Fun Run Saturday on October 29th.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Alex Watson
Secretary

Invitation

Foster Bond, of Ridge Live Steamers, has sent an email to invite LCRR members to their October Fall Meet, October 21st, 22nd, and 23rd.

On Saturday, October 22, the Carrolwood group from Disney will be present with a speech from Roger Broderick. He was part of the group to get steam locomotives from Yucatan, Mexico, to Tampa for rebuilding. The locomotives are now running at Disney World. The Polk County, Model "A" restorers have been invited. Lunch will be supplied by Ridge Live Steamers – donations welcomed.

The track is located 15 miles south of I-4 between Tampa and Orlando. From I-4 take Highway 27 south to State Road 542. Turn left (east) on State Road 542 going to Dundee, you will go almost one (1) mile when you come to a traffic light. Go straight through the traffic light. You are now on Alt. 27 (State Road 17). The track entrance is 2 miles past the stop light. When you start down the hill, the road will curve to the right then to the left and then another right. As you come out of the turn you will see the power substation on the left. The track entrance is the first driveway before (north of) the power substation.

So, come on members, take a ride out to Dundee for a good time. Better yet, get some car pools going to share traveling expenses.

If you think you will have a problem finding the track, call Warren Jamison at 727-581-3607 or Jerry Smithson, 727-841-9600. They will put you on the right track. If you want, just get on Google Search Engine and type in Ridge Live Steamers for their Web Site.

Do Not Forget ---

The Manatee Family Lines **Veterans Day Meet** on Saturday, November 12th and Sunday, November 13th.

As you probably know, there are three properties tied together with track. You ride through woods and over bridges with exceptional scenery to look at.

The beauty part of visiting different tracks is every one is different and unique.

There is a pot luck dinner in the evenings. Bring a covered dish and really enjoy yourself.

By the way, while you are there, renew your membership or join the Florida Live Steamers for 2006. Dues are due in December. A \$14.00 membership includes your spouse. Call Joan Smith, 941-776-2109 or send your dues to Joan Smith, 9111 Erie Lane, Parrish, Florida 34219-9049.

If you need directions to the Family Lines track, call the editor of the Signal Tower, 727-581-8651 or contact Joan Smith.

See you there!

Happy Birthday to You!

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

Alan House

Jay King

Devon Parsons



We may have missed your name because our records show no listing for your birthday. 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."

Report on the October Public Run

Normally I do not report on the Public Runs unless there is something unusual about them. Well, the Public Run of October 1st and October 2nd was really one for the books!!!!

The newspapers were advertising, for about two weeks, there was going to be a large Craft and Art Show during our run days. Train rides and other activities were mentioned.

Saturday, October 1st, not too many members showed up. We were able to get a number of trains out to start carrying passengers. In the ten years I have been with the club, I never did see a longer line of people waiting to ride the trains. The line stayed the same length all day. Luckily, as noontime approached, more members showed up.

Members were really done in by the end of the day. Many thanks to Pete Newcombe who came up from Manatee to help out. What we didn't know however, the worst was yet to come.

Sunday, October 2nd, nine members showed up in the morning. We were able to get two trains out. The line was just as long as it was Saturday. It was a hot day and two trains were like having no trains at all compared to the number of passengers waiting. Finally, we did get out another train and that helped some.

We informed people in line that it would be one half hour or more before they could get on a train. Didn't bother them a bit. They waited with their children to ride the train, no matter what.

In the afternoon, two more members showed up and we were able to have short breaks.

Anyway, it was a hectic day, to say the least. Many thanks to the following for keeping the trains running on Sunday, October 2nd.

Conductors and Engineers: Chuck Lisner, Greg Boden, Wally Hebel, Don Newberry, Angelo Cantalupo, Sandy Drayer.

Track Maintenance: Tom Eckert

Stationmaster: George Taylor

Ticket Table: Jim Moore

Insurance Waivers: Jean Carter

Afternoon: Alex Watson and Warren Jamison

We also want to thank, Bill Habarevich, Kay Lawrence and Tom Lawrence for helping us. What is unusual here is the above mentioned are not even members. They help us every chance they get.

Lastly, the donations we received on Saturday were given to the Hurricane Relief Fund, about \$700.00 plus.

In the two days, we gave about 3000 passengers rides.

Please, come out and help on Public Run Days.

Saturday, October 15th Work Day

Another great Work Day! Two track panels were installed on the mainline and two birthday runs completed. The weather also cooperated – not too hot.

Tons of Thanks to the following individuals:
 Tom Eckert, Marty VanZenten, Alex Watson, Bill Habasevich, Andrew Habasevich, Warren Jamison, Bill Donati, Howard Pike, Mark Zielinski, Jerry Smithson, Zachary Davis, Don Newberry, Sandy Drayer, Tom Lawrence, Matthew Lawrence, Bill Boyd, and Don Mann.
Well Done!

Approval

The Board of Directors were queried by telephone for approval of the LCRR Winter Meet dates. Approval was given for the following dates:

Winter Meet Dates for 2006

The Meet will start Tuesday, March 21, 2006 and continue through to Sunday, March 26, 2006.

The Banquet will be on Friday, March 24, 2006, starting at 6:00 PM. Price of a Banquet ticket is \$16.00.

Public Run

Saturday.....November 5th, 2005
 Sunday.....November 6th, 2005

Membership Meeting:...

After Saturday Public Run

BIRTHDAY RUNS FOR NOVEMBER 2005

November 12 th , Saturday Open – Check Board in Clubhouse.	November 13 th , Sunday – Team 2 Afternoon: 2:30 to 3:30 PM
November 19 th , Saturday Morning: 10:30 to 11:30AM Afternoon: 3:00 to 4:00 PM	November 20 th , Sunday – Team 3 Open – Check Board in Clubhouse.
November 26 th , Saturday Open – Check Board in Clubhouse	November 27 th , Sunday – Team 3 Afternoon: 3:00 to 4:00 PM

Reminder



October 29th is the 5th Saturday of the month. That means happy times are here again! Breakfast prepared by the world **renowned Chef**, Don Mann – about 9:00 or 9:30 AM. A little while later, you will find yourself enjoying a fabulous lunch prepared by the **lovable lady of the railroad**, Dolores Pike. This will be your day to run your trains and maybe Warren Jamison might have a train contest in mind.

Meat and drinks will be supplied by LCRR – bring a covered dish or dessert. Members and families of other railroad clubs are cordially invited.

Christmas Festivities



The Public Run Dates for December are Saturday, December 3rd and Sunday, December 4th.

On Friday, the day before the Public Run, members decorate their trains with Christmas lights, Christmas packages and mockups of Santa Clause, etc. The trains run on Friday and Saturday evening (after the Saturday run) to add to the festivities going on in the park. The public will **NOT** be given rides during the evening runs. Members' families can ride, however.

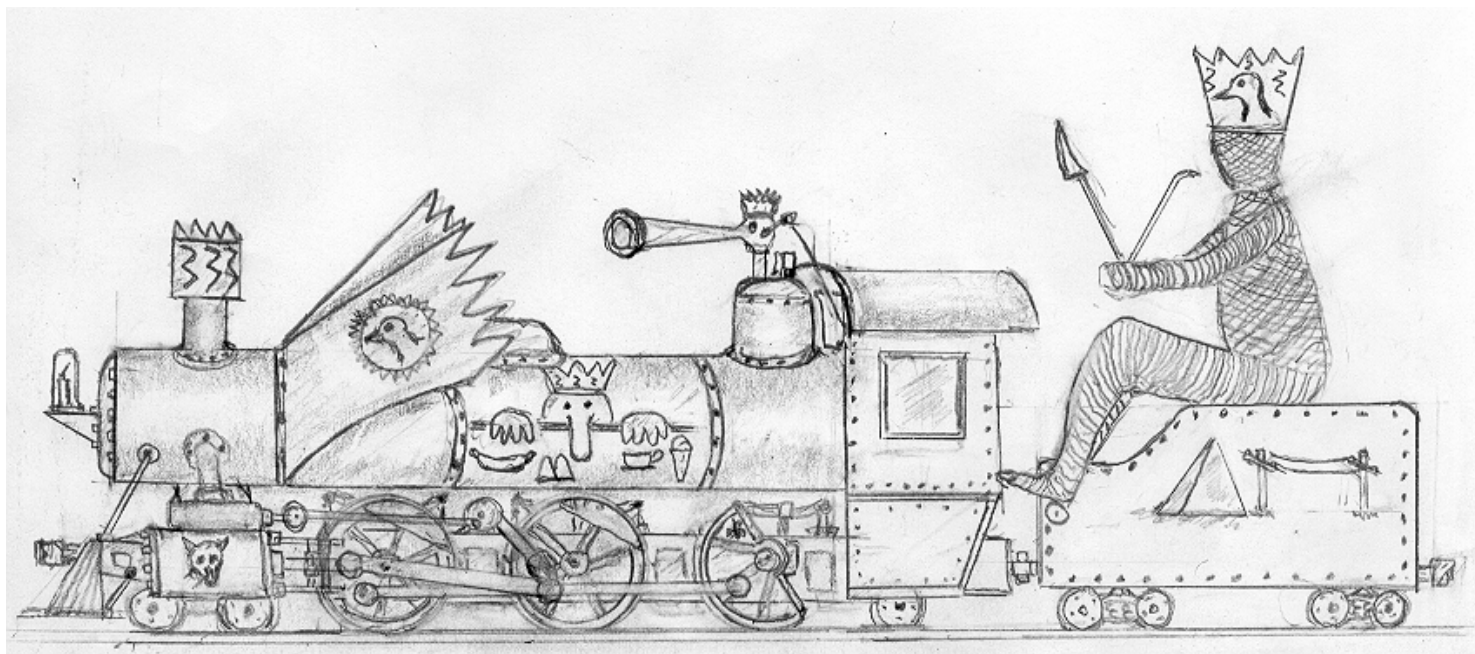
We will also need crossing guards with flashlights at the crossings to keep people from crossing when a train approaches. It is a big event and needs cooperation from the members.

Election

In the November newsletter, a proxy ballot will accompany the mailing to eligible voting members. There will be spaces to enter your own candidates that you are going to vote for. In other words, the candidate you choose will also be the one you voted for. Since it is a proxy ballot, you will have to sign your name to give Jean Carter, Secretary of Elections, permission to enter your vote.

There will be a ballot box in the clubhouse. If you vote at the clubhouse, the ballot will not have any proxy information on it and no signature is needed – more information – next month.

Exceptional Find In the “Valley of the Kings” — Egypt



4 – 5 – 1 EGYPTIAN

Professor Mamoud Babalook, Chief Archaeologist of the Cairo Museum, announced the details of a most extraordinary find in the **Valley of the Kings**. An underground tomb was unearthed revealing a 4-5-1 Egyptian Model locomotive, complete with the mummy of a Pharaoh and other precious artifacts.

It is known that Egyptian chariots had spoked wheels as far back as 2000 B.C. This engine has been carbon dated at 1950 B.C.

The wheel arrangement is certainly odd. As shown, the back drivers are slightly over one half. One is always touching the rails. According to the hieroglyphics in the tomb, this was done to give the engine a ‘thump’ to shake off sand that quickly accumulates on this machine.

The trailing truck, if this is what you want to call it, has only one wheel. The axle of this wheel extends to the other side of the engine and couples to an oil pump, water pump, air compressor and apparatus for making beer. This will be explained later. The beauty part of this arrangement is the simplicity of changing or repairing the equipment.

The writings reveal this model locomotive belonged to the playboy pharaoh, Rootin Choo Choo Tooten.

The hieroglyphics on the tender translate to **Pyramid Lines**. The ones on the engine translate to **Kilroy Was Here**.

As mentioned, when the engine was not being used, malt, hops and other grains were used to ferment into beer. Tooten would slowly add bubbles of air into the mix and made probably the best beer in Egypt. Beer was only for royalty, however, the royal family was constantly in a state of intoxication.

Beer was the demise of Choo Choo Tooten. He became involved in a terrible argument with his wife, number 35, in his harem. She was a Sicilian beauty named Tessarina. Tooten cut off her beer allocation and, in true Sicilian style, Tessarina cut him up in small pieces with a hand cranked chain saw.

The readings go on telling how the embalmer had to piece him together like a jig saw puzzle in order to preserve him. He now sits on the tender of his engine and rides off every night across the Nile to return by daybreak.

The engine and the Pharaoh will be placed in the museum located in BumFarook, Egypt.

Americans have become very adept at shafting other
Americans to relieve them from their *Coin of the Realm*.

Angelo A. Cantalupo (Absolutely no claim to fame)

Have a great month! See you next
time, Angie