

# THE SIGNAL TOWER

## The Newsletter of the Largo Central Railroad

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February 2006

**Your Membership Card is enclosed with this Newsletter, i.e. if you have paid your 2006 dues**

## President's Message

### Greetings!

February is a very busy month, considering the Florida Live Steamers Winter Meet and our club working feverishly getting ready for our Winter Meet.

There has been a considerable amount of track replacement on the mainline. I want to thank all who came out and helped. We can use more help as there is still plenty of work to be done. Remember, our meet is just around the corner. Good Luck for a real successful meet.

*Don Newberry*

President

## Mark Your Calendar

### Largo Central Railroad Winter Meet

March 21 to 26.....Banquet March 24<sup>th</sup>. 6:00PM  
Further Information: Contact: Ralph Tucker email:  
[ralptucker@hotmail.com](mailto:ralptucker@hotmail.com) or Angelo Cantalupo, 727-531-8651  
Or log on to our website: [www.lcrailroad.com](http://www.lcrailroad.com)

### Important Message from Dolores

As you know, our *Lady of the Railroad*, Dolores Pike, is in charge of Registration and the Banquet for the Winter Meet. She wants all club members and their guests to pay for their registration and purchase banquet tickets in advance. It will make it much easier for everyone as it gets kind of hectic trying to take care of our guests during the meet.

The registration fee is \$5.00 and the ticket for the banquet is \$18.00. Contact Dolores Pike at 727-442-2545.

I paid for two registrations and two banquet tickets. Then, Bill Donati chased me around the park and wrestled me to the ground. I gave him a donation for his 'Friends of the Railroad' project.

Who ever out there owns a Cadillac, I need a favor. I want to fulfill every poor American's dream; that is, to drive

up to the poor house in a Cadillac. I will have no baggage – just a toothbrush. *Editor*

## Secretary's Report

### February 4, 2006

Membership meeting called to order by the President, Don Newberry at 4:45 PM.

Secretary's minutes approved based upon the published minutes in the Newsletter, *The Signal Tower*.

Treasurer's report read and accepted.

Jere Wendt introduced Ron Taylor who is visiting from the Hesston Steam Museum, La Porte, Indiana

### Reports from Committees:

**Dolores Pike, Registration Committee**, stated that members should have their Registration and Banquet Fee to her no later than the March Run Days.

### Ralph Tucker, Meet Chairman

He has in place 13 Subcommittees and has a chairman established for each committee. If all members would donate at least one hour during the meet, we will have time to run our own equipment – Use common sense when doing this.

### Unfinished Business:

Greg Boden is making plans for the 5<sup>th</sup> Saturdays in the months for 2006. For April, he is getting together a Card Program. Greg explained the program and stated more details will be published in the Newsletter and will also be on the Website. For September, he is planning a Swap Meet.

### New Business

Greg Boden reported that when we are pulling 10 T-cars, the unloading zones for passengers are a problem. Don Newberry indicated we reversed the direction to facilitate this problem and used only 8 T-cars.

Bill Donati stated the name plate project "*Friends of the Railroad*" has been very successful. The project has generated \$1060.00, to date, for the club

Bill also stated that he and Jere Wendt brought a Ballast car. Payment for the car will be through donations. The name of person(s), donating monies will be put on the car.

Ralph Tucker read a proposal to change the By Laws regarding Regular Members and Associate Members.

## Proposed By Law Changes

### EXISTING

#### Section C – Membership Classes

##### Regular Member

Persons of good reputation having reached the age of eighteen years who have a serious interest in live steam as a means of power shall be eligible for active membership. Active members will be afforded one vote at all elections and on all matters, which come before the membership during the course of a duly called meeting.

##### Associate Member

Persons who do not meet the requirements for active membership may qualify for associate membership. Associate members may attend meetings but shall not have a vote. Associate members will receive one copy of all publications. Associate members may not be elected or appointed to serve as Officers or Directors of the Largo Central Railroad, Inc.

### PROPOSED CHANGE TO:

#### Section C – Membership Classes

##### Probationary Regular Member

Applicants for eventual Regular Member status must be persons of good reputation having reached the age of eighteen years who have a serious interest in live steam as a means of power or an interest in Large Scale Railroad, and must first serve a probationary period before being approved for full Regular Member status. Active Regular Members will be afforded one vote at all elections and on all matters which come before the membership during the course of a duly called meeting. During their probation, members may only hold a key by authorization of the Board of Directors

##### Associate Member

Applicants must be over 18 years of age and live more than 60 miles from the LCRR club track. Associate Members enjoy the use of the LCRR club track at any time when available or by alternate arrangement. Associate Members are not entitled to hold a key to the club property. Associate Members may attend meetings but shall not have a vote. Associate Members will receive one copy of all publications. Associate Members may not be elected or appointed to serve as Officers or Directors of the Largo Central Railroad, Inc

### Control Announcements

Don Newberry announced that Cameron Brown is in town. Also a Reminder: **Members, be sure to sign the "Log-In-Register".**

There being no other business, meeting was adjourned.

*Jean Carter*

*For Alex Watson, Secretary*

## Visitors

As mentioned in the Secretary's report, we had a visitor from the Hesston Steam Museum, La Porte, Indiana. Don Taylor, who owns a 10 wheeler and a Santa Fe diesel, pulls passenger trains every weekend from

Memorial Day to Labor Day. Our Jere Wendt is right there doing the same thing.

The Hesston Steam Train Museum is part of the La Porte County Historical Society. They have tracks in four gauges on 150 acres of land.

Ron helped us on both of our run days as a conductor and engineer. Thanks for visiting us Ron!

We also had Paul Pool from Gloucester, Massachusetts visit us. Paul is with Plum Cove Studios. They make entry level 7¼ or 7½ inch gauge equipment. More on this further down the newsletter.

Paul picked up a shovel and went to work with the track gang. Thanks a bundle, Paul!

Boy! You can't ask for better visitors than Ron and Paul.

## Fifth Saturdays

*Submitted by Greg Boden*

This year, there are five Saturdays in April, July and September. The intent is to expand our 5th weekend program to include some prototypical operation via card order.

In process, is the compilation of an equipment roster covering everything in the containers. The owners of the rolling stock will be contacted concerning the use of their equipment for train operation. Please, be forthcoming.

Many of us, in the club, either work in or have come from the smaller scales. I am seeking volunteers, with card order experience, to staff these events. Those with prototype experience, please, step forward. Needed will be a Yardmaster, Dispatcher, Safety/Flag persons and a crew for the passenger train.

This will be a lot of fun, for all who participate. Of course there will be food, prepared by Don Mann. We all know what a treat that is.

Because some may not be familiar with this type of operation, we are going to keep the first one simple. However, as these events proceed, the operational curve will increase. For now, start putting your crew together. We'll be running short crews (Engineer and Brakeman/Conductor). For these events, as is prototypical, the Conductor is responsible and in charge of the train.

That's all, for now. Feel free to contact me, either by e-mail or at the track. [Pockets999@msn.com](mailto:Pockets999@msn.com) *Greg Boden*

## Trip to Eagle Point

*Submitted by Jerry Smithson*

Story about Warren Jamison, Bill Donati, Jere Wendt and myself on trip to Eagle Point Railroad near Chattanooga, Tennessee.

First of all, I would like to say "thank you" to the President and the Board of Eagle Point Railroad for inviting us to their Fall Meet in 2005.

This is the second time Warren and I have been to Eagle Point, and the first time Bill Donati and Jere Wendt were there. I can tell you this is a great experience. What a great railroad.

The mainline route takes you over a summit, across many trestles, and crisscrosses between rocky ridges.

They have just finished three unbelievable trestles on the new lower loop which are the new wyes turnaround.

The crew at Eagle Point are a group of the nicest people you can meet. My hat is off to them for a great railroad and most of all, great hosts.

I plan on many trips to this wonderful railroad.

*Jerry Smithson.*



**Caption 1**

Jerry Smithson and his Union Pacific Engine. You can't say the other word any more – you know- like the word in "Labor Union" or Union Pacific will have you arrested.



**Caption 2**

You can see the back of Warren Jamison operating his Dash-9 locomotive. Looks like Bill Donati is discussing some business deal and Jere Wendt is standing by.

**Thanks for the report and photos, Jerry S.**

**LCRR and The Great Train Expo**

**January 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>**

Earl Mueller set things up so we could be represented at the *Great Train Expo, Tampa Fairground* for two days.

On Saturday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, Earl Mueller, Conrad Mueller, Howard and Dolores Pike and Vince Rizzo attended. Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, Earl Mueller, Conrad Mueller, Angie Cantalupo, Jean Carter, Howard and Dolores Pike, Bob Wolf and Jerry Smithson attended.

We had a video recording showing one of the Meets at our track. Many people stopped and asked questions. We did get some names. All in all, the project was very successful. Many thanks to Earl Mueller and all who participated.

**Caption 4** shows the setup. Equipment consisted of Howard's locomotive, engineer riding car, George Taylor built caboose and Earl Mueller's trolley. From left to right; Howard Pike, Earl Mueller, Dolores Pike, Conrad Mueller, Angelo Cantalupo and Bob Wolf.

As you can see, Angelo Cantalupo is giving Bob Wolf a tongue lashing for getting him involved in this hobby.



**Caption 4**

**Manatee Central Family Lines**

The Manatee Central Family Lines had their Meet from February 20<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Your editor attended the meet with other members of Largo Central on Monday, February 20<sup>th</sup>. Other members were going to attend on Tuesday, February 21<sup>st</sup>. The weather on Monday was gorgeous. We all had a great time and enjoyed the wonderful hospitality extended to us. Many Thanks to Larry and Joan Smith, Bev and Bob, and Pete Newcombe.

**Caption 5** – Shows the station area at Manatee. These buildings were built by Steve Booth. Bill Behrens gave us a ride. You can see Jack Outlaw's back.

**Caption 6** – Jack Outlaw at the controls of a Plum Cove Studios' Boxcab locomotive and flat car at Manatee.

**Caption 7** – Is the lift designed and built by Bill Behrens. This lift makes getting your equipment out of your vehicle and on the tracks a snap. Works great and is a new addition to the Manatee group. **Great work, Bill.**



**Caption 5**

## Plum Cove Studios

For newcomers, the best way to get started in railroading is to start with smaller equipment. Save the idea of building or buying a “Big Boy” for later. Your best bet is a small electric boxcab locomotive. Small enough to take to different tracks without buying a tractor trailer to haul it.

This is exactly what Plum Cove Studios does. They build entry level equipment to get you started. In *Caption 6* you see their boxcab locomotive in use. The locomotive operates at twenty-four volts and its two hefty motors really do it justice. The pulse width motor controller supplied with the engine is designed for commercial use with regenerative braking, current overload protection and deadmans stop.

They make a flat car and other equipment. Get more information by calling Paul Pool at 978-283-3010. His address is 19 Lenwood Place, Gloucester, MA, 01930. Website: [www.plumcovestudios.com](http://www.plumcovestudios.com). Paul is a very knowledgeable and pleasant person to talk too.



**Caption 6**

## Visit to West Tocoï & Bostwick Railroad, Jacksonville, Florida

*Submitted by Earl Mueller*

This was Saturday morning, February 11<sup>th</sup> at Jacksonville. It rained all afternoon; therefore, we had to pack it in before showers so the WOOD trolley would not get wet. Nice people, wonderful hospitality and a superb track. *Earl Mueller*



**Caption 3**

Earl and Nancy Mueller enjoying a ride with their trolley in Jacksonville. **Thanks Earl.**



**Caption 7**

## Now – Hear This!

Engineer’s – do not walk away from your locomotives when in an active state. Active state means, the motor running in a gas operated engine or power switch on in an electric locomotive. Shut off the ignition on gas jobs and turn off main power switch on electrics.

With children around, anything can happen. They can run over to look at an engine and accidentally hit the operating lever.

The loading of cars rests with the stationmaster and conductor. Engineers should not leave their locomotives. This applies doubly so with steam engines. As long as there is steam, steam engines are ready to move and coupled with the fact that onlookers can receive a nasty burn from a hot boiler.

Use common sense and always keep safety in mind.

## WHY USE ROBERT'S RULES of ORDER?

*Submitted by Ralph Tucker*

The basic principles behind Robert's Rules of Order are:

- Someone has to facilitate or direct the discussion and keep order.
  - All members of the group have the right to bring up ideas, discuss them, and come to a conclusion.
  - Members should come to an agreement about what to do.
  - Members should understand that the majority rules, but the rights of the minority are always protected by assuring them the right to speak and to vote.
- (reference: Webster's New World –Robert's Rules of Order – Simplified and Applied)

### APPLYING DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES TO ORGANIZATIONS

- The members rule through a decision-making process that they've established by a vote.
- Ideas come from the members and are presented to the assembly to decide upon.
- Leaders come from the people through an election process.
- Checks and balances between the leadership and the members are established in the governing documents.
- All members are equal – they have equal rights and responsibilities.
- The organization is run with impartiality and fairness.
- There is equal justice under the law; members and officers have a right to a fair trial if accused.
- The majority rules, but the rights of the minority and absent members are protected.
- Everything is accomplished in the spirit of openness, not secrecy.
- Members have the right to resign from office or from the organization.

(Reference: Webster's New World –Robert's Rules of Order – Simplified and Applied)

*Ralph Tucker*

**Thanks Ralph**

## Work Accomplishments

**Saturday, January 21<sup>st</sup>** – Birthday Runs, replaced track at station exit going south, repaired and replaced posts holding up the steam bays, additional switch behind the tunnel to restore the old mainline. Warren Jamison and Greg Boden built a Wye switch. Thanks to Ralph Tucker,

David Langdon, Don Mann, Terry O'Neill, Otis Lawrence, Warren Jamison, Bill Donati, Don Newberry, Gail Komar, Tom Lawrence, Matthew Lawrence, Greg Boden, Bill Boyd, Tom Kaufman, John Eason, Howard Pike and Sandy Drayer.

**Saturday, February 11<sup>th</sup>** – Birthday Run, replacing track, rebuilt switches and aligned tracks. The Park Department had Boy Scouts spreading ballast on tracks in preparation for the Winter Meet.

Thanks to John Ruper, Don Mann, Don Newberry, Bill Boyd, Bob Wolf, John Eason, Howard Pike, Terry O'Neill, Sandy Drayer, Otis Lawrence, and Jere Wendt.

**Saturday, February 18<sup>th</sup>** – Replacing track on mainline located on the west side of the tunnel. Aligning tracks, Park Department spreading ballast on tracks and Birthday Runs.

Thanks to Paul Pool, George Taylor, Jack Outlaw, Don Mann, John Ruper, Don Newberry, Ralph Tucker, Bill Boyd, Gail Komar, Vince Rizzo, Bill Donati, Howard Pike, Terry O'Neill, Sandy Drayer, Warren Jamison, James Sholan, Leigh Ann Sholan, Jerry Smithson and Dave Langdon.

## Public Run Weekend

Saturday..... March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2006  
 Sunday..... March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2006

## Membership Meeting:...

*After Saturday Public Run*

## Birthday Runs for March 2006

<b>March 11<sup>th</sup>, Saturday</b> Morning: 10:30 to 11:30 AM Afternoon: 3:00 to 4:00 PM	<b>March 12<sup>th</sup>, Sunday</b> <b>Team 2</b> Afternoon: 3:30 to 4:30 PM
<b>March 18th, Saturday</b> Morning: 11:00 to 12:00 AM Afternoon: Open	<b>March 19th, Sunday</b> <b>Team 3</b> Afternoon: 2:30 to 3:30 PM
<b>March 25<sup>th</sup>, Saturday</b> <b>Meet Day</b>	<b>March 26<sup>th</sup>, Sunday</b> <b>Meet Day</b>

All the problems in the world could be settled easily if men were only willing to think. The trouble is that men very often resort to all sorts of devices in order not to think, because thinking is such hard work...*Thomas J. Watson*



*How True!*

# Happy Birthday to You!

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

Bill Donati	Sanford Drayer
Beth Langdon	Matthew Lawrence
Chuck Lisner	Charles Lyon
Jackson Outlaw	

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

## Expenses

As you probably know, running a railroad is becoming terribly expensive. Prices of everything are on the rise. This includes postage stamps, paper, envelopes and printing for the newsletter. There are other hidden expenses that we do not charge the club for. Ink cartridges for the computer printer are an example and they are expensive.

What to do? How about receiving the newsletters by email? Folks, the handwriting is on the wall. Newsletters will not disappear but the snail mail distribution will. Like it or not, the distribution will be electronic.

There are other advantages outside of expense. You will receive photographs in color. Color adds another dimension to the newsletter. Speed is another factor. Everyone is receiving the newsletter in a matter of seconds. No more waiting.

So, let me know if you want to go with Email. Many members are already doing so. The newsletter is sent in PDF Format and requires **Adobe Reader** to open it. The Adobe Reader is a free download on the Web.

If you are interested or have questions, send me your name and email address [angnjean2316@gate.net](mailto:angnjean2316@gate.net).

## Membership Cards

If you have paid your dues, your Membership Card is enclosed with this newsletter. If the card is not enclosed, please contact me Jean Carter, at 727-531-8651 or email [angnjean2316@gate.net](mailto:angnjean2316@gate.net).

Remember, when renewing your membership a new **application must be completed** for 2006. This **application with dues is to be mailed to the Membership Chairperson, Jean Carter**, 8305 121<sup>st</sup> Place North, Largo, FL 33773. A new membership list will be available in April.

Your cooperation in following the above instructions will ensure an **up-to-date and accurate membership list**. *Jean Carter, Membership Chairperson*

## LCRR 2006 Meet Schedule of Events

### Tuesday, March 21

Railroad Open 8:00AM – ??  
Registration 9:00AM – 5:00PM

### Wednesday, March 22

Railroad Open 8:00AM – ??  
Registration 9:00AM – 5:00PM

### Thursday, March 23

Railroad Open 8:00AM – ??  
Registration 9:00AM – 5:00PM  
Field Trip 7:30AM – 4:30PM  
Bi-Directional Running on Signals – **Dark until ??**  
Lunch 11:00AM – 1:00PM

### Friday, March 24

Railroad Open 8:00AM – 5:00PM – **Reopen after Banquet**  
Registration 9:00AM – 5:00PM  
Banquet 6:00PM  
Bi-Directional Running on Signals – **Dark until ??**  
Lunch 11:00AM – 1:00PM

### Saturday, March 25

Railroad Open 8:00AM – ??  
Registration 9:00AM – 5:00PM  
Bi-Directional Running on Signals – **Dark until ??**  
Presentation in Feed Store **TBA**  
**“Walt Disney’s Railroad Heritage” .....**  
.....presented by Michael Broggie  
Carolwood Pacific Historical Society Founder & Chairman  
Lunch 11:00AM – 1:00PM

### Sunday, March 26

Railroad Open 8:00AM – ??  
Registration 9:00AM – 3:00PM

**There will be parking for Campers but no hookups are available.**

I found out one thing about age. As soon as you think you are old enough to know better, you find out you do not know anything at all.

See you next time, Angie

