

THE SIGNAL TOWER

The Newsletter of the Largo Central Railroad

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March 2006



Contact the LCRR Webmaster today with your User ID and a password to get the full benefit of our website. There is a section specifically for Members Only. There is also a Message Board.

The Website is an excellent source to keep up-to-date on LCRR events and what is happening. There are also pictures of interest. Be sure to contact Terry O'Neill, our Webmaster, with ID and password.

President's Message

Greetings!

You will probably receive this newsletter during the early part of the Winter Meet. Our busiest days will be Thursday, Friday and Saturday. It is not too late for me to remind you that visitors who are attending the meet are our guests. They travel a great distance with their families and equipment to visit us. With the above in mind, treat them with courtesy and respect. If you encounter a problem, call a club officer to resolve the matter. They come to have a good time and let us make sure they do.

Please carry a radio with you – communication is essential for operations and safety.

Thanks to Ralph Tucker, Meet Chairman, and all the members who worked hard to make this meet a success. GOOD LUCK!

Don Newberry

President

Mark Your Calendar

Saturday, May 6th, Public Run Day – We will run trains from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM. The Membership Meeting is cancelled for May.

Friday, May 19th, Concert Day – This will be a special fund raiser for charity. It will be the same as a Public Run Day, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

June 1st and June 2nd – We will be running two trains for about 2 hours each day from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. This event is happening during the week days. We will need help for this gig.

Largo Central Railroad Winter Meet

March 21 to 26.....Banquet March 24th, 6:00PM

Submitted by Ralph Tucker

LCRR will be operating the food concession at the Meet and the profits will help to cover the cost of the Meet.

Terry O'Neill is in charge and needs help to run the concession.

We will serve hot dogs, brats, Italian sausages, pepper & onions, chips, soda and water. Also, we will be selling coffee and sweet rolls in the morning. Prices will be reasonable and the food will be good. The coffee pot and refrigerator in the clubhouse will be off limits as they are needed for the Meet.

Our goal is to make money or at least break even so that LCRR is not spending club money needed for future planned projects.

Further Information: Contact: Ralph Tucker email: ralph.tucker@hotmail.com or Angelo Cantalupo, 727-531-8651
Or log on to our website: www.lcrailroad.com

Secretary's Report

March 4, 2006

The meeting was called to order by President, Don Newberry. The Treasurer's report was presented and motion was made, seconded and carried to accept. It was noted in the Treasurer's report that we carried over 1800 passengers on this day.

Reading of the Secretary's report was accepted as published in the Signal Tower.

Old Business: Terry O'Neill reported on sale of gray shirts for the public with LCRR logo. The shirts on hand sold very quickly. Following discussion, further sale of shirts was deferred to the Board of Directors.

Committee Reports:

1. **Dolores Pike** reported on preparations for the Banquet.
2. **Ralph Tucker** presented preparations for the Meet.
Things to be done Sunday, March 19th: Cleanup the yard area;
Monday March 20th 1:00 PM: Help will be needed to set up the tents.
3. **Vinnie Rizzo:** Volunteers are needed for running Birthday trains.

New Business:

1. Bruce Teerlink discussed IRS designation as a 501(c)(3) organization, and the necessity of registering with the State of Florida, specifically the Department of Revenue regarding obtaining a state tax number to enable our club to make purchases as a tax exempt organization, and the necessity of collecting sales tax on merchandise we sell to the public (and ourselves).
2. Because of a special program during the May Run Day, we may be asked to continue the run for extra hours.
3. On May 19th, we will have a special Run Day.
4. Warren Jamison discussed our relationship with FLS. They would like us to return to the fold so there would be continuity on Winter Meets with other clubs. After some discussion, Bruce Teerlink made a motion to have our Meet for 2007 starting Sunday, February 26 to Wednesday, February 28, 2007. Motion was second and carried.

Two new members were voted on and accepted: John Ruper and Tom Kaufman.

There bring no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Alex Watson,
Secretary

Florida Live Steamers' Meet

The Florida Live Steamers Meet of 2006 is now history. It was a very successful Meet according to the reports I received from the Largo Group. Our members, in blue, attended most of the participating clubs. One of our members, Warren Jamison, was voted into the Board of Directors of FLS.

The FLS membership yearbook will be out soon. If you joined, you will receive one and your name will be in it.

A Day at the Ridge Live Steamers

A number of the guys and gals in blue attended the Ridge Club during their Winter Meet.

Caption 1 shows Ralph Tucker as an observer. Unfortunately, I do not know the names of the other two gentlemen. Since no one sent me any pictures of the event, I heisted two of them off our website.

Caption 2 shows a serious Jerri Wendt. Walking away is a Largo member. It took quite a bit of study to identify him. He was identified by the small bald spot on the back of his head – Warren Jamison.

We thank the Ridge Club for a great time.



Caption 1



Caption 2

Who is Building What?

In the November 2005 issue of the Signal Tower, there was a write up of a NYC-4-8-2 Mohawk L2-C locomotive Earl Mueller is building. You can view the newsletter on our website, www.lcrailroad.com

This is a follow up on the progress made. The running gear, cylinders, valve gear and timing are almost complete. **Caption 3** shows a large section of pipe and part of the firebox. Drawings now have to be made to fabricate the boiler and firebox. This is a sensitive job as one mistake and the project can be in a 'world of hurt'. Building one of these large locomotives is a monumental undertaking. The prototypes are built in a large factory with many workers doing a specific job. Here, you have two or three people doing the whole job – much smaller of course. The engine size is scaled down from the prototype but the amount of work needed cannot be scaled.

Observe the thickness of the pipe's outer diameter to the inner diameter. This is another factor that cannot be scaled down. Steam obeys the laws of nature. If you are building a boiler for a power house or one in a thimble for a model, calculations are done using the same steam tables for the pressures needed.

The boilers for our hobby have a large safety factor built into them – even higher than the prototype. Boiler making is a serious business as it requires calculations, proper metals and a professional welder. Many clubs now require certification for the boiler.

Earl is now making up the drawings to have the boiler fabricated and certified. If you are at the Largo Meet and have any questions, Earl will be there to answer them. Good Luck, Earl.



Caption 3

Public Run Weekend

Saturday..... April 1st 2006
 Sunday.....April 2nd 2006

Membership Meeting:...

After Saturday Public Run

Birthday Runs for April 2006

April 8 th , Saturday Morning: 10:30 to 11:30 AM	April 9 th , Sunday Open
April 15 th , Saturday Morning: 10:30 to 11:30 AM Afternoon: 2:30 to 3:30 PM	April 16 th , Sunday EASTER
April 22 th , Saturday Morning: 10:30 to 11:30 AM	April 23 th , Sunday Afternoon: 2:30 to 3:30 PM
April 29 th , Saturday Fun Run Day	

Check the Birthday Run Schedule Board in the Clubhouse for changes and additions.

More Teams are needed

Volunteers for the Birthday Run Teams are as follows:

Team 1: Angie Cantalupo, Alex Watson, John Ruper

Team 2: NONE

Team 3: John Eason, Warren Jamsion, Kevin Stransky

Team 4: Ed King, Howard Pike, Don Newberry

Team 5: NONE

Alternate: Dennis Mills 813-996-0381

We need volunteers to fill all the Teams. Please help!

Happy Birthday to You!

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

Bill Behrens	Mike Keteltas
Bill Boyd	Joseph Schuler
Ross Conkle	Londal Thorpe
Raymond Heaton III	Marian Tucker
Martin VanZanten	Alex Watson

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."

Work Accomplishments

Saturday, February 25th

Track replacement, spreading gravel, leveling; and sandwiched in between are Birthday Runs. The place is a beehive of activity to get ready for the Winter Meet.

The crew is really putting the new ballast car to heavy use. It really does a great job spreading ballast on the track.

Thanks to Don Mann, John Ruper, Don Newberry, Sandy Drayer, Bill Boyd, John Eason, Mark Zielinski, Dave Langdon, Greg Boden, Tom Eckert, Wally Hebel, Vince Rizzo, and Alex Watson.

Saturday, March 11th

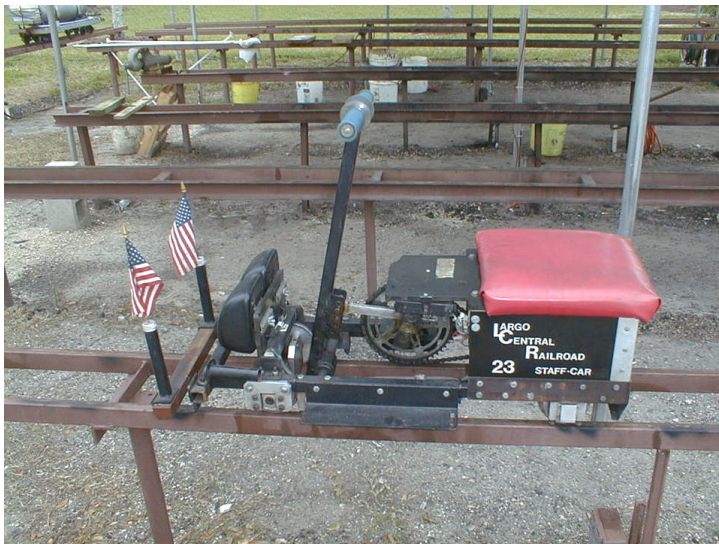
Much track work done, just below High Point in the wooded area; and including Birthday Runs.

Thanks to Don Newberry, Alex Watson, Bill Boyd, John Ruper, Don Mann, Howard Pike, Marty VanZanten, Jerry Smithson, Mark Zielinski, Bob Wolf, Greg Boden, Vince Rizzo, Tom Eckert, Andrew Habasevich, Chuck Hackett, Sandy Drayer, Jerri Wendt, Terry O'Neill, Judy Habasevich, Otis Lawrence, and Bill Habasevich.

Notice, Make sure you sign the logbook with your name, arrival time and quitting time. The logbook is on the desk in the Clubhouse. This is where I get most of the above names.

Flash

Take a gander at **Caption 4** - it is a handcar built by Angie about 8 years ago. "So what", you say. Well, our railroad is in for a big change and this handcar will be the key player. Just keep reading and let me tell you what happened.



Caption 4

The other day, one of the top bananas from the city came to the track and spotted the handcar. She started asking questions about it and even ran it in the yard.

Now, she wants to get rid of all self-propelled locomotives from the park. "Sell them, junk them or send them to a museum", were her words.

The plan is to use coupled handcars to pull riding cars on run days. The engineering for this fiasco was given to Angie. It was his handcar that started it all.

A man in good condition can average 1/6 horsepower for a reasonable length of time. Well, that's a man in good condition. When you look over the guys in our club, a slight finagle factor has to be thrown in. It now boils down that two members are required to produce 1/6 horsepower. Empirical data shows it takes around three horsepower to pull three loaded riding cars. Now, we have 36 members plus one member beating a large drum to keep cadence to pull a three car train. We also need a conductor. That makes 38 members all told.

Let us assume this plan is feasible. We have to look at the logistics of this nightmare. Pumping a handcar requires drinking water stops along the way. This manual labor is also hard on the kidneys. Now, we need Loo stops at strategic points. (A Loo is an English word for latrine or John. Loo is a much more romantic word, however.)

The only time 38 members are present at the railroad is when there is free food. They are there only when the food is being served. It is also estimated it would take over an hour to make a run with all the water and Loo stops.

You'd think this plan would be trashed. Not so, the lady from the city came up with the idea of using Gibbons. A Gibbon is a small ape about 4 feet high and can produce more horsepower than a human. They train easy and will work at high speed when they know a banana is waiting at the end of the trip. What about Loos? No need, anyplace and anytime is a Loo for them.

Housing will have to be built for the Gibbons and blue shirts and hats will be provided. Club members, who ran and conducted on trains, will now have the job of taking care of the Gibbons.

This plan has to be in operation within four months according to the city lady.

Wait a minute!..... Hold the phone!..... I just noticed the date, April 1st. April Fools Day!! Or is it Angie's Fool Day?

Membership Dues

If you have not paid your dues by March 31st, 2006, your name will be removed from the Membership List. Remember, when renewing your membership, a new **application must be completed** for 2006. This **application with dues** is to be mailed to Jean Carter, Membership Chairperson, 8305 121st 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*

See you next time, Angie

