

# THE SIGNAL TOWER

The Newsletter of the Largo Central Railroad

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September 2006

## Coming Adventures At LCRB

Fifth Saturday Fun Run Day  
Friends of the Railroad Day  
Spooktacular Halloween Run



## President's Message

Greetings!

It has been a busy, hot and wet month. The new side walks have been poured and steel track crossings have been fabricated and installed. There is still plenty to be done to finish up the crossings.

Track replacement is still an ongoing project. When all the track is replaced, you have to start all over again. Just like painting a bridge.

Terry O'Neill is fabricating engineer cars for our club locomotives. They certainly look good.

Remember, we have a fifth Saturday this month, September 30<sup>th</sup>. Let's all have a good time.

*Don Newberry*

President

## Mark Your Calendar

### September 30, 2006 – Family Run Day.

A card order run is planned for this day. Don Mann will have a mini breakfast around 8:30AM. Dolores Pike will have roast beef and mashed potatoes supplemented with goodies — Don Mann will also help. Please bring dessert or fruit. Lunch will start around 12:30 P.M. Dolores can use some help in setting up.

Let's all turn out and have a nice day. Members from other clubs are welcome. Bring your trains and give them a workout.

### October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2006 will be "Friends of the Railroad Day".

This day will be the Club's appreciation for all who gave a donation to become Friends of the Railroad. It will be from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

We will need all our members help to make this a real fun day. Come out and run your engines. We will run all our trains and all rolling stock will be on the rails. 750

people are expected. Even if you can spare a couple of hours, please come out and help. If you can volunteer for a longer period – that will be great. For more information call Bill Donati 727-942-7644.

### October 27, 28, & 29, 2006 — Ridge Live Steamers Fall Meet

Make your plans now to attend – Bring your rolling stock and ride a railroad that is different. Remember, every railroad is different and unique. Try it – I guarantee you will like it.

There will be a Pot Luck Dinner on Saturday. For more information, contact the Secretary, Allen Newcomb at 863-665-0482, or email [AllenPN@aol.com](mailto:AllenPN@aol.com).

If you plan to bring your camper, contact Tommy Bissett at 863-665-0482.

### October 28, 2006 – Spooktacular Halloween Run — 4:00 PM to 10:00 PM

This is a 'Public Run'. We are going to need plenty of help for this gig. We will be using the short run loop and also bypassing the pond. Crossing Guards will be needed due to the addition of new crosswalks. This is a nighttime operation with many passengers riding the trains for the first time. We really have to be on guard for any safety violations.

No open flame lanterns will be allowed in the park. Crossing Guards should bring flashlights or battery operated lanterns.

### November 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> [Saturday & Sunday] – Veteran's Day Run, Manatee Central Railroad

The Manatee Central Railroad is now two connected properties – Larry Smith's property and Pete Newcombe's property. Bev and Bob have decided to sell their property.

Because of this change, Larry Smith and his crew have been busy as bees. Thirteen hundred feet of track has been added to Larry's layout. They call it the *A Line* and the *B Line*. The *B Line* runs in the back of Larry's property and

interconnects, by switching, to *A Line*. So come to the **Veteran's Day Meet**, bring your rolling stock and not only see the changes, but run on them.

There is something for everyone at this railroad. The mainline 7 ½ inch, 4 ¾ inch, O gauge, number 1 gauge and ¾ inch scale. If you plan to bring ¾ inch scale trains, please contact Larry so he can setup the track. Larry informed me that some European countries make clock work (windup) trains in O gauge that have superb detail on them. Bring one along – if you have one.

Pete Newcombe has plans for expanding track on his property. He has been working on other projects and I do not know if he has completed any of the additions.

There will be food served on Saturday evening and lunch at 1:00 PM on Sunday. Bring a covered dish or dessert.

If you have any questions, please call Larry Smith, 941-776-2109 or Pete Newcombe, 941-776-9693.

### **December 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> [Friday & Saturday] – Holiday Stroll Evening Festivities Run**

Trains will be decorated with Christmas lights and packages. No public passengers – members only. Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> is a Public Run Day. Starting time for the evening run will be posted in the November newsletter.

**January 27, 2007: Touch-A-Truck Run – 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM**

## **Secretary's Report**

2 September 2006

The meeting was called to order by Treasurer, Jean Carter, due to the President's absence. The minutes of the preceding meeting were read and accepted. The Treasurer's report was read and discussed. Motion and seconded to accept. Motion carried.

The following items of business were brought before the membership and discussed:

1. Dolores Pike reported on the dinner for the meet on February 27, 2007. Dinner to be catered by Pit Boss.
2. Warren Jamison reported the availability of rail to be purchased from FLS at 60 cents per foot – 3,000 feet were authorized.
3. 'Friends of the Railroad Day' was discussed. Each friend will be sent a card which will serve as a ticket. It was decided to sell refreshments — a hot dog, bag of chips and drink at a price to be determined.
4. Birthday trains are an important source of income for the Club; each member must help with these trains and do your share on Birthday Runs.
5. Fifth Saturday Fun Run Day: Gail Komar presented a plan for the card order run.
6. Membership chair presented Victoria Santini for full membership. Accepted.

7. Treasurer reported that club property no longer being used cannot be given to members, property must be sold.

8. Dues increase was presented to the membership; \$25.00 Regular members, Junior \$15.00, Family \$40.00, Associate \$20.00; Motion and seconded to accept. Motion carried.

9. Terry O'Neill presented new By-Laws for review, along with a ballot for members' opinions and action.

10. Motion and seconded to sell Jere Wendt old track at scrap value of \$137.62. Carried.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

*Alex Watson*

Secretary

## **The Doers**

Following are members who show up to maintain the railroad and do Birthday Runs; without them we wouldn't have a railroad. Many thanks, Guys and Gals.

### **Saturday, August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2006**

Vince Rizzo, Terry O'Neill, Don Mann, Tom Eckert, Chuck Analetto, Marty VanZanten, Bill Donati, Chris Janks, Sandy Drayer, Alex Watson, James Salerno, Howard Pike, Dolores Pike, Jean Carter, Mark Zielinski, Tony Windsor, Warren Jamison.

### **Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2006**

John Ruper, Lottie Ruper, Jean Carter, Terry O'Neill, Don Newberry, Don Mann, Bill Boyd, James Salerno, Alex Watson, Sharisse Hoffman, Howard Pike, Jack Outlaw, Jerry Smithson, Warren Jamison, Tom Eckert, Bob Habasevich

### **Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2006**

Jean Carter, Don Newberry, Terry O'Neill, John Eason, Sharisse Hoffman, Gail Komar, Tom Lawrence, Chuck Analetto, Mark Zielinski, Bill Donati, Don Mann, Tom Eckert, Bill Boyd, James Salerno, Marty VanZanten, Vince Rizzo, Howard Pike, Chris Janks, Warren Jamison, Andrew Habasevich, Bob Habasevich.

### **Saturday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2006**

Sandy Drayer, John Ruper, Lottie Ruper, Howard Pike, Don Mann, Terry O'Neill, Tom Eckert, James Salerno, John Eason, Chuck Analetto, Jean Carter, Jerry Smithson.

## **Engineer Car**

Caption one shows the engineer car built by our master builder and mechanic, Terry O'Neill. Each of our club locomotives will have an engineer car.

The design and workmanship of these cars are absolutely superb. The frame is welded steel throughout. Take notice of the bar that runs from coupler to coupler. The pulling power of the locomotive is through this bar,

taking the stress off of the engineer car. The seat can swivel to make viewing a little more flexible.

Caption two shows the removable seat and reveals storage space. A tarp can be stored here to cover the engine and riding car in case of rain. A fire extinguisher or tools can also be stored.

Well done, Terry.



Caption One



Caption Two

## Story of Hesston Railroad

Submitted by Jerry Smithson

Over the Labor Day weekend I visited Hesston Live Steamer. I had a chance to run one of their engines thru the landscape full of trees and greenery. During my visit, they were holding the 1<sup>st</sup> run of the full size Shay# 7. I was giving a cab ride thru 250 acres and crossing in two States. I also was intrigued by the two 14 gauge steam engines which they also run thru the property. I found out that these two engines were bought from a Kiddy land in Melrose Park, Illinois. I used to ride these engine and passenger car when I was a child, many moons ago. It sure brought back great memories with my father.

Next I was taken over to the steaming barn where they showed me the old Steam Engine and passenger cars from the Brookfield Zoo. I couldn't believe it – an engine that I help run as a summer job back when I was attending Riverside Brookfield High School. Boy, what a stroll down memory lane.

During the weekend, they had a Steam Show with Steam autos, steam tractors, steam run lumber yard, steam electrical plant along with a railroad steam crane. All of the above were operating and they were putting on a very good show for the public.

They run every weekend during the summer months and over the three day Labor Day weekend they put on the Steam Show.

*Jerry Smithson*

## Public Run Tally

Saturday, September 2, 2006 1,343 passengers were given rides.

Sunday, September 3, 2006 1,045 passengers were given rides.

## Public Run Weekend

Saturday..... October 7, 2006

Sunday.....October 8, 2006

## Board Meeting

October 6, 2006 at 7:30 P.M.

## Membership Meeting:...

**October 7, 2006 after the Public Run**

**Be certain to attend.**

## Birthday Runs for October 2006

**October 14, Saturday**  
Morning: 10:30 to 11:30 AM  
Afternoon: 2:30 to 3:30 PM

**October 15, Sunday**  
Afternoon: 3:00 to 4:00 PM

**Team 4**

**October 21, Saturday**  
Morning: 11:00 to 12:00 PM

**October 22, Sunday**  
Afternoon: 2:30 to 3:30 PM

**Team 1**

**October 28, Saturday**  
Open

**October 29, Sunday**  
Afternoon: 2:30 to 3:30 PM

**Team 2**

**Check the Birthday Run Schedule Board in the Clubhouse for Team assignments on Sundays and for changes or additions. (Please note Team assignments – Some of these teams have no one!!!!)**

Volunteers for the Birthday Run Teams are as follows:

**Team 1:** Open,

**Team 2:** Chris Janks

**Team 3:** John Eason, Warren Jamsion, Chuck Analetto

**Team 4:** Ed King, Howard Pike, Don Newberry

**Team 5:** Open

If you are on a Team and cannot participate the day of the Birthday Run, please make arrangements for someone else to take your place. **Some Teams have no one**

**participating – if you are available the days these Teams are assigned to a Birthday Run – please come out and help.**

Alternate: Dennis Mills 813-996-0381

Contact Operations Committee Chairman, Vincent Rizzo, at 727-372-8648, for coordination of Birthday Teams.

## Happy Birthday to You!

*Members who had birthdays in August were erroneously missed and the members whose birthdays are in September now will have two birthday months in one year.*

*Your editor did not cause the problem. It was created by the ten fold increase in the activity of the 'Northern Lights' located at Archangel, Russia near the Artic Circle. This burst of energy caused thousands of computers to become erratic in operation for a short time.*

*Following is the Happy Birthday column that missed the August issue and the proper one for this issue.*

### August Birthdays

John Cantu	Dave Johnson
Russell Dostal	David Langdon
Wally Hebel	Earl Mueller
Howard Pike	Jean Carter
Charles Rizzo	Victoria Santini
Ben Schneider	George Taylor
Bruce Teerlink	Michael Venezia

### September Birthdays

Gregory Boden	Chris Janks
Robert Dickson	Gail Komar
Brandon McCaustland	Mark McCoy
James Sholan	Sean Santini
James Salerno	

*Happy Birthday and may good health and good fortune shine on you."*



## ANGIE'S CORNER

### NOW YOU KNOW!

What I have to tell you has nothing to do about trains; but it is important for you to know what I have learned. This information is so "hush-hush" that it has been kept from the general public. Not because it was bad, it was just not to "upset the apple cart", so to speak. When this newsletter goes out to the members, I will be going to France to join the French Foreign Legion. I was promised a good job operating a locomotive that pulls their munitions and high explosives train. It is not that I want to go, I have to go – or else.....

We all know of Fort Knox. There have been documentaries shown from time to time on television as to what goes on inside Fort Knox. There are many rooms marked with countries names that contain gold ingots. Workers, pushing carts, remove or deposit ingots into these rooms. For instance, the United States owes Sweden

\$100,000; gold ingots worth \$100,000 from the United States room are put on a cart and pushed to the Swedish room and deposited.

Our paper greenbacks had gold backing them up. I say 'had' because we went off the gold standard years ago. The gold at Fort Knox was worth \$35.00 an ounce while gold on the open market was up to over \$100 an ounce. There was also a rumor that we just about ran out of gold by rebuilding the whole world after World War II.

What then was the backing for our money? For the general public, it was the integrity and stability of the Federal Government. Foreign countries could care less about the integrity and stability of the government. They wanted something that was precious and in high demand to back up our bucks.

This backing of our money was becoming a dilemma. It took a senator from New York who solved the problem. It was decided to make "Pizza" the official backing of U.S. currency. That's it – just plain cheese pizza. Let's face it, pizza is the backbone of our country. Without pizza, millions of families would starve to death. There you have it – pizza is in very high demand when you consider every corner of every street has a pizzeria. It is also precious especially when you are scarfing down a slice.

Immediately, the U.S. Treasury installed ovens and started cranking out pizza by the millions. The more paper money that was printed, the more pizza had to be sent to Fort Knox. The Treasury could not keep up and had to subcontract to outside sources. When you see an ordinary looking automobile with a sign on the roof like "Louie's Pizza Delivery", it is really a government vehicle shuttling pizza from a contractor to a Federal Reserve Bank.

In the past fifteen years or so, most of the pizza is being deposited to the Chinese room in Fort Knox. The room covers almost one half of the building because we owe China so much money. Almost everything you can think of comes from China – even garlic.

Then it happened – it was decided that pepperoni be added to the pizza to bring up its value. China vehemently objected. They hate pepperoni. They would rather have pepper steak on the pizza. It reached a point where the Chinese Ambassador to the United States became embroiled in a fist fight with a treasury executive in the court yard of the Treasury Building. Both had to be taken to the hospital.

This incidence spiraled up to the top of each government. There was plenty of saber rattling and threats. It reached a point where each country decided to mobilize their Armed Forces.

This time, a soft spoken senator from Kentucky cooled things down. Pizza does not back our currency any more. The new backing is Moo Goo Gai Pan.

So, **Now you know!** You are now privy to information the general public knows nothing about.

I will send you a picture of me from France. I will either be dressed in the uniform of a Legionnaire or a striped uniform of a con.

**God Bless,  
See you next time, Maybe! Angie**

