

THE SIGNAL TOWER

The Newsletter of the Largo Central Railroad

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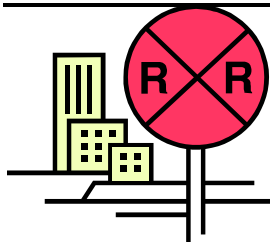
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February 2007



Winter Meet – February 26 to 28 Don't forget your Membership Dues



President's Message

Greetings! Well, my fellow railroaders, zero hour is almost here. February 26th will be our start date for our part of the Winter Meet. Some guest will probably arrive on Sunday, February 25th.

Please come and help out and do what you can. A few hours here and there will help in relieving members for a break.

I want to thank all who participated in working on track, switches and planning for the Meet. A special thanks to Don Mann, Terry O'Neill and others who came in on week days to work. Don and Terry have been coming in every day starting early in the morning to get things ready. Because of all the help, we are ahead of schedule for the Meet.

Please remember, guests who come to our meets have traveled great distances to visit us. Treat them with respect. Listen carefully when they tell you what they do at their home tracks. Much can be learned this way.

In the event a misunderstanding arises with a guest, politely excuse yourself and look for a club officer to settle the matter.

Good Luck to all for a successful Meet.

Warren Jamison
President

Mark Your Calendar

February 22 to 25, 2007: Ridge Live Steamers

The FLS Banquet will be held Saturday evening at the Dundee Community Center starting at 6 pm.

Please check the website at www.ridgelivesteamers.org for track details, maps and other information.

NOTE:

The annual election for Florida Live Steamers' Club Officers will be held during the Winter Meet at the Ridge Live Steamers.

February 26 to 28, 2007: Largo Central Railroad

Hobo Dinner – February 27, 2007, approximately 4:00 to 6:30 PM.

There will be a Concession Stand during the Meet selling hot dogs, hamburgers, etc. During the early morning hours, doughnuts and coffee will be on the menu. Prices will be reasonable.

March 31, 2007

Fifth Saturday in the Month – Family Run Day

Secretary's Report

Minutes of Membership Meeting of Largo Central Railroad, Inc.

Place: LCRR (Largo Central Railroad) Club House, Largo

Central Park, Largo, FL

Date: 02/03/2007



The President called the meeting to order at 4:29 PM

Minutes for the month of January 2007: Terry O'Neill motioned that the minutes as posted on the Website and in the Newsletter be accepted. Andrew seconded and all present approved.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's Report for the month of January 2007 and the Profit and Loss Statement were read. Delores Pike motioned and Jean Carter seconded that the Treasurer's Report be approved. All present approved. The count today was 963 rides given.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS AND GENERAL ORDERS:

Engines: Warren Jamison gave a summary of what happened in January with the Engines: During the January run, 2 engines went down, and we only had one club locomotive working. Options were explored.

Hobo Dinner: Delores Pike wants members to register for the meet and the Hobo Dinner tomorrow so she can get some counts. She has 25 registrations for the meet, and 19 for the dinner. She wanted to know what to do about the tickets for the drawings. After much discussion it was decided to give every one a drawing ticket with their registration. This would be for the items the manufacturers give us. Consideration was given for purchasing item(s) to hold a raffle.

Engine Logbook: Jean Carter reminded everyone that there is a logbook for members to record the time they have used the Club engines for their private use. The logbook is a red binder on which is written "Time/Engine's Use" on the spine. This log will be used to schedule maintenance. It is located on the desk in the Clubhouse. Members are to put the money for gasoline in one of the envelopes attached to the black box on the desk and to deposit these envelopes in the locked black box.

NEW BUSINESS:

2007 Meet: There is a sign up sheet for working the meet. It has been decided that if Club members help with the meet their \$5 registration fee will be waived. Another coffee pot is needed for the meet. It was asked if anyone has one they could loan to the Club. Delores Pike stated she has a 36 cup coffee maker and Sandy also stated he has one. Someone stated that Suncoast has ones that are 100 cups. Warren Jamison will check to see if we can borrow them. In the morning, we will have donuts, coffee, tea, and hot chocolate. In the evening, we will have cookies, coffee, tea, and hot chocolate. For lunch, we will have hot dogs, hamburgers, canned sodas, and chips. One night during the week we are dispatching with radios only, and constantly change the route.

Audit: Warren Jamison needs two people to audit the Profit and Loss Statement for 2006. The volunteers cannot be on the Board. Gail Komar explained what an audit entailed. Angie Cantalupo volunteered. Warren appointed Chris Janks.

New things that will be proposed to the Board at next week's meeting: 1) Use of individual tickets instead of the liability releases. That would eliminate having to have all the liability sheets signed. 2) Starting to charge individually for the rides.

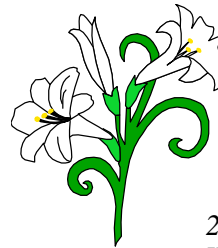
Track: Warren Jamison asked that members help work on the track in the next two weekends. He stated we also need to walk the track to see if there are any other problems with the track than the ones we already know about.

Adjournment: A Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Gail Komar, and seconded by Chuck Analetto. All present were in favor.

Meeting was ordered adjourned at 5:08 PM

Respectfully Submitted

Mary K. Brady, Secretary



Sympathy

It is with great sorrow to report the passing of Betty J. Eason, Wife of member, John Eason. Betty passed away on February 7, 2007 and was entered into Rest at Sea. We extend our deepest sympathy to John and his family.

Getting Ready for the Meet

In Caption A we see a work gang hard at work replacing a switch leading to the north side of the tunnel. From left to right, Don Mann, Warren Jamison and Sandy Drayer. In Caption B, Tom Lawrence is busy tamping ballast.

This work of replacing track, ties and switches has been going on for months. It sure takes plenty of work for a meet. This is why they call our railroading "A labor intensive hobby".



Caption A



Caption B

A Work of Art

Observe **Caption One**, you are looking at a 2-8-2 Canadian Pacific Heavy Mikado.

Let me tell you – this locomotive is some piece of work. One only has to sit in a chair and feast their eyes on the beauty that pours forth from this engine. It's like being in an art gallery.

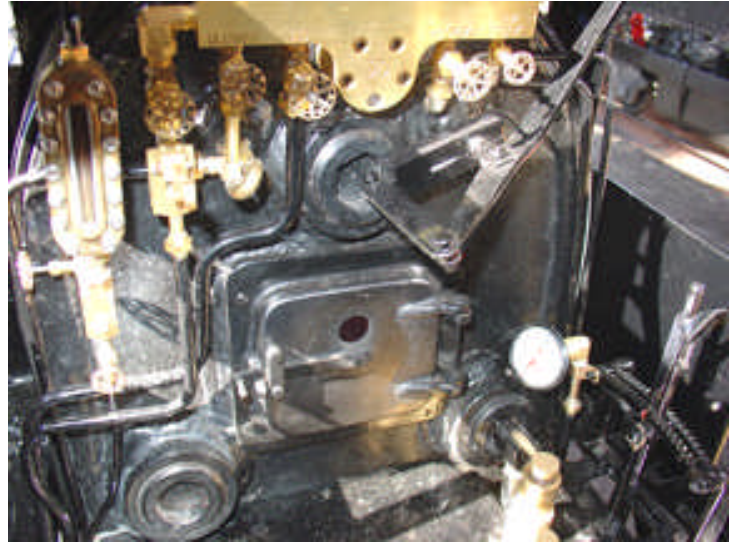


Caption One

The prototype was built by the Montreal Locomotive Works in Canada. It is a P-2f class starting with number 5385 and ending with number 5404. The drivers are 63 inches in diameter. The scaled down version in Caption One is the last of P-2f Class, number 5404. It was scaled down from the erection drawings with great accuracy. Using CNC equipment, the builder claims' he has kept the machining accuracy to one thousandth of an inch. The workmanship is absolutely superb.

The locomotive is oil fired and equipped with locomotive air brakes and train air brakes. The drivers actually have steel tires on their rims – just like the prototype. Steam valves are inside admission spools. The plumbing is a subject in itself and paint used for the boiler is Sikkens Acrylic Enamel of Dutch origin. There are many more features on this locomotive which would fill 2 pages.

Caption Two gives a partial inside view of the cab. The steam manifold is at the top of the photo and steam pressure gauge is above the manifold (not shown in the photo). The pressure gauge located in the lower right corner indicates air pressure. Adjustment for the two nozzles of the oil burner can be done by looking at the fire through a hole in the firebox door.



Caption Two

So, just who owns the 5404? If you look at Caption Three – on the right side of the locomotive stands the proud owner, Bill Donati. On the left side of the locomotive, is the Master Builder and Machinist, Ernie Beskowiney. His company is the New West Live Steam of Canada located in Benalto, Alberta, Canada. Well done Ernie.

We wish Bill the best of luck and many years of enjoyment with the 5404.



Caption Three

Public Run Weekend

Saturday..... March 3, 2007
Sunday.....March 4, 2007

Membership Meeting:...

*March 3, 2007 after the Public Run
Be certain to attend.*

Board Meeting

March 2, 2007 at 7:30 P.M.

FOR SALE Members Blue Shirts

At \$10.00

Size Available — Medium

These shirts have the imprint of FLS and Largo Central Railroad.
For purchase, see Jean Carter.

March 10, Saturday Morning: 11:00 to 12:00 Afternoon: 2:30 to 3:30	March 11, Sunday Afternoon: 2:30 to 3:30
March 17, Saturday Morning: 11:30 to 12:30	March 18, Sunday Open
March 24, Saturday Open	March 25, Sunday Open
March 31, Saturday LCRR FUN DAY	

Check the Birthday Run Schedule Board in the Clubhouse for changes or additions

Membership Dues

Your name will be removed from the Membership Roster on March 1st 2007 if dues have not been paid by that date.

Membership dues for 2007 are as follows:

Annual Renewal Membership	\$25.00
Family Membership	\$40.00
Associate Membership	\$20.00
Junior Membership	\$15.00

An application will need to be completed for Family Membership. You may obtain an application via email or snail mail by contacting Jean Carter at 727-531-8651 or email angnjean2316@gate.net. Also, there will be applications at the Clubhouse.

Mail your dues to Largo Central Railroad, Attention Jean Carter, Membership, PO Box 823, Largo, FL 33779-0823

Happy Birthday to You

February Birthdays

Beth Langdon	Charles Lyon
Matthew Lawrence	Jackson Outlaw
Chuck Lisner	Alan Woodbury
David Woodbury	Josh Clepper
Bill Donati	Sandy Drayer
Jerry Edward, Jr	Raymond Egerton

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



DUES FOR FLS

Florida Live Steamers dues are due January 1, 2007. Send Joan Smith \$14.00 for yourself or the whole family – one price does it all. Send to Joan Smith, 9111 Erie Lane, Parrish, FL 34219-9049. For information call 941-776-2109

Box for Gasoline Donation

There is a metal box for your gasoline donation and also a Log Book (Red Binder type) to record number of hours of engine use on the desk in the Clubhouse. The Log Book will help with scheduling maintenance.

A \$2.00 donation, for gasoline, is requested for each hour the engine is used for your personal use. *Jean Carter*

Public Run Tally

Saturday, February 3 2007, 963 passengers were given rides.

Sunday, February 4, 2007, 1335 passengers were given rides.

Birthday Runs for March 2007

FLASH

The scientific community has just released news of a successful heart transplant for frogs. Frogs have now been given a new lease of extended life.

Observe Caption 1 – Here you can see a worn out aluminum frog. The apex of the triangle is flattened out at the point and the sides, where the wheel flanges rub on, are completely worn. Aluminum frogs fail from derailments and wheel flanges slamming into their sides.

Bright minds have developed a solution to the frog problem. Observe Caption 2. This is the new heart for the frog. It was cloned by the well known and world renowned, Professor Chuck Hackett in his CNC laboratory.

A team of track surgeons installed the steel insert into the worn frog as shown in Caption 3. They estimate a 95 percent survival rate.



Names have been entered for the Baldwin Peace Prize because of this remarkable achievement. Winners will receive a boiler blow down valve made of pure gold.



Caption 1



Caption 2



Caption 3



Sick Call

Report from Ralph Tucker.

Marian will have her heavy back brace removed on Wednesday, February 24th. She will have to wear a lighter brace and will begin therapy. It will take a month or more to get back into shape. They will not be able to attend the meet.

I talked to Chuck Lisner – he has been kept busy going to doctors. He is doing pretty good but doesn't know when he will be able to visit the railroad.

FOR SALE Model 1911 Oil Electric 1

Box Cab Engine and Riding Car

\$2,500.00

Contact Bob Wolf by calling 727-584-2473



The Live Steamers' Locomotive Prayer

Give us this day our daily steam and deliver us from evil diesels and electric Locomotives.

The Diesel and Electric Locomotives Prayer

Give us this day our easy starting diesels and our electric pulse width controls. May the steam locomotive rest in peace.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Gee Wilikins — Haven't they got a prayer for Handcarts??

God Bless,
See you next time, Angie

