

# THE SIGNAL TOWER

The Newsletter of the Largo Central Railroad

P. O. Box 823

Largo, FL 33779-0823

Club Telephone: 727-585-9835

Website: [www.lcrailroad.com](http://www.lcrailroad.com)

Webmaster: Terry O'Neill

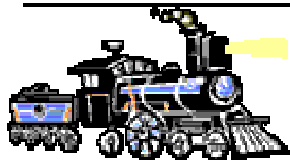
Managing Editor: Angelo Cantalupo

Email: [angac2723@gate.net](mailto:angac2723@gate.net)

Telephone: 727-531-8651



January 2007



## Want to know what is happening? Read On.....



## President's Message

*Greetings and a Happy New Year to all.*

As you all know by now, I am back in the pilot house at the helm for Largo Central Railroad. Committees have been appointed and the yearly audit is on the way.

We have been working very hard on getting the track ready for the meet. I want to thank all who put in time and effort to make our railroad what it is.

One of my top priorities is for our members and their families to have fun and enjoy the railroad. It seems like all we do is work. Let's plan things different to change that.

*Warren Jamison*

President

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

**February 25 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**

## Mark Your Calendar

### Please Remember

January 27, 2007 is **Touch-A-Truck Day** – 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM. This event draws a big crowd. It will be just as busy, if not more, than our Public Run Days. You will not be able to park in the parking lot as it will be taken up by fire engines, police cars, etc. Get to the track a couple of hours early and park in the back of the Park Maintenance area. If you arrive too late, you surely will be involved in a **grid lock**.

## Winter Meet Schedule

**February 10 to 11, 2007:** Northeast Florida Live Steamers

**February 12 to 18, 2007:** Big Boots and Western Railroad

**February 17 to 18, 2007:** Tradewinds and Atlantic Railroad

**February 19 to 21, 2007:** Manatee Central Railroad

**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](http://www.ridgelivesteamers.org) for track details, maps and other information.

**NOTE:**

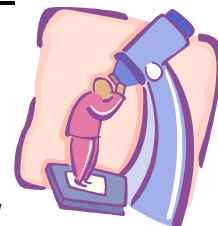
## DUES FOR FLS

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

## SICK CALL

- ▶ Marian Tucker went through a six hour surgery for her back. She is now recuperating and will soon be sent home.
- ▶ Jim Moore is ill.
- ▶ I haven't heard from Chuck Lisner. I expect he is doing well from his knee surgery as reported in last month's newsletter.

*Take a few moments and say a prayer or two for our sick comrades. It does help.*



# Membership Dues Are Due Now!!



Remember, there is a change in the membership dues rates. They are as follows:

<b>Annual Renewal Membership</b>	\$25.00
<b>Family Membership</b>	\$40.00
<b>Associate Membership</b>	\$20.00
<b>Junior Membership</b>	\$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](mailto: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**

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

## 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:** 01/06/2007

The President, Warren Jamison, called the meeting to order at 4:50 PM

**Minutes for the month of December:** Terry motioned and John Ruper seconded to accept the December meeting minutes as posted on the website. All present approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer's Report for the month of December, 2006 was read. Terry O'Neill motioned that the Treasurer's Report be accepted as read, and Vinnie Rizzo seconded. All present approved.

**SPECIAL ORDERS:** There were no special orders today.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS AND GENERAL ORDERS:

**2007 Winter Meet:** Howard Pike stated that Delores (his wife) only has one confirmed reservation for the 2007 meet. Warren Jamison stated there will be only self contained RV parking. Warren stated that it was the BOD's opinion to eliminate the Yard Master for the Winter Meet. We will have some people to assist with loading and unloading. We will run at night, but may not have the signal system in working order. If we don't, we'll have only one way travel. We also may have a couple of hours going 2 ways, using radios only. We want to concentrate on the unloading – two people to help at all times – one in steam area and one in yard area. We will need five people at any one time. The meet is only 3 days with largest turnout on Sunday afternoon

and Monday. As of Wednesday evening, the meet will be over. Anyone wishing to stay through the weekend, may do so, but they will run their locomotives at their own risk – they will have to look after themselves. If they want to help run the public, they will have to use our T-cars because of liability.

**Parking:** The city has asked us to no longer park our vehicles near the big tree. They are very concerned about the impact of the ground around the tree, and that they are concerned they may lose the tree. It is a very old large tree.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Operations:** Warren thanked Terry O'Neill and Jerry Smithson for cleaning up the clubhouse. He also stated that there are plans to get another storage building. Warren wanted to thank Alex Watson for taking over building the track panels. We have enough to finish what we need right now. He wanted to thank Terry, Ralph Tucker, and Chris Janks for working on the riding cars. The new trucks didn't quite fit, and the cars had to be modified for the trucks. Don Mann was also thanked for working on the track to get the new area working right.

**The 3rd Saturday Work session:** Warren will state at the Membership meeting each month what the work project will be for that month. This month, January, we will complete the installation of the new track from the bottom of the lake siding all the way up to the tunnel. We will have replaced 2200 ft of track this year. We still have to analyze the track and try and eliminate some of the problems we have been having. The other project this month will be the club riding cars. Warren stated that if we have a lot of people, we will get things done.

**New Member:** Bob Habasevich was approved as a member. His son Andrew has been a member for a couple of years. With the family membership, Lottie Ruper will also be a member now.

**Touch A Truck:** January 27 – We are required to run the trains, and we will be paid by the city. We will run equipment on an as needed basis.

**Birthday Trains:** Until we come to an agreement with the city, we will continue to run on Saturday and Sunday.

**Running the locomotives on unscheduled run times:** Warren has a request – during the week our club locomotives get a lot of use. We are going through an inordinate amount of fuel. When we come to run on the weekends for the public, we find we are out of fuel. We are going to start a new procedure. We are going to have a book here, and we want people to sign in and indicate the engine and the amount of time the train was run. This will help with scheduling maintenance. We are going to ask that a \$2.00 per hour donation be put in a box that will be here in the clubhouse. We figure that the trains use about 1 gal per hour. We use the middle grade of gas for the engines. If we find a lot more maintenance is needed, we may up the cost. The main thing we want to know is the amount of time each engine is used – for maintenance purposes. The CSX is only to be used for hauling the public right now – it is not to be used by members for their personal use.

**Exhibition opportunity:** Angie Cantalupo stated that there is an outfit in Sarasota that wants us to display our equipment – a model railroad exhibition at the Manatee Civic Center in Bradenton – no exhibit fee – help in unloading – man the exhibit to give people information. Unfortunately, it is on a public run weekend. If someone is interested in going down there, see Warren or one of the Board members. The F Unit could be used.

**Committees:** Warren Jamison informed the membership that at the Board of Directors meeting last night, he set up the following

committee structure and assigned some of the chairs for the major committees for this year. There are 3 major committees with several committees under them. The President and Vice President will be over all committees:

- Operations Committee: Vincent Rizzo, Chair
  - Public Run Day Committee: Will vary each run weekend.
  - Birthday Party/Private Runs Committee: Alex Watson & Mary Brady, Chairs
  - Special Public Events Committee (includes Boy Scout Merit Badges includes B.S. Merit Badges, Touch a Truck, etc):
- Maintenance Committee: Terry O'Neill, Chair
  - Facilities Committee: Don Mann, Chair
  - Equipment Committee:
  - Track Committee: Jerry Smithson, Chair – Warren Jamison assisting
  - Safety Committee (i.e. Engineer, Conductor, Stationmaster Training Operations): Jerry Smithson, Chair
- Finance and Membership Committee: Jean Carter, Chair -
  - Communications Committee (publishing the newsletter and any other public communications): Angelo Cantalupo, Chair
  - Store Committee: Alan Woodbury, Chair
  - Social Affairs Committee:

**AD HOC COMMITTEES:**  
 2007 Winter Meet Committee: Warren Jamison, Chair; assisting members: Jerry Smithson, and Terry O'Neill

Members: Jim Moore will not be renewing his membership. Charlie Lyons sent a note of thanks for his lifetime membership. Warren read it to the membership.  
Adjournment: A Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Vinnie, and seconded by Chuck. All approved.  
 Meeting was ordered adjourned at 5:30 PM Respectfully Submitted  
 Mary K. Brady,  
 Secretary

## Box for Gasoline Donation

(See the Minutes of the Membership Meeting of January 6, 2007.)

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*

## Now Here This!

Greg Wright, the supervisor in charge of Largo Central Park, has informed us twice in one week about parking cars on the grass in front of the yard. You can bring your car down to the yard to unload or pick up equipment, etc. Take your car back to the parking lot.

He also wants us to use the hardtop road for our golf carts when possible. This is the time of year when it is real tough to keep the grass in shape. We are flattening the grass and it does not look good.

## Public Run Tally

Saturday, January 6 2007, 1451 passengers were given rides.

Sunday, January 7, 2007, 1180 passengers were given rides.

## Public Run Weekend

Saturday..... February 3, 2007

Sunday.....February 4, 2007

## Board Meeting

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

## Membership Meeting:...

**February 3, 2007 after the Public Run**

**Be certain to attend.**

## Birthday Runs for February 2007

<b>February 10, Saturday</b> Morning: 10:30 to 11:30 AM Afternoon: 3:00 to 4:00 PM	<b>February 11, Sunday</b> Afternoon: 2:30 to 3:30 PM
<b>February 17, Saturday</b> Morning: 11:00 to 12:00 AM	<b>February 18, Sunday</b> Afternoon: Open Check Board
<b>February 24, Saturday</b> Time not available – Check Board	<b>February 25, Sunday</b> Afternoon: 2:30 to 3:30 PM

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

## Happy Birthday to You

### January Birthdays

Fred Clepper Robert Habasevich

Doug Fulthorpe Don Mann

George Robert Matt Wolf

Andrew Habasevich

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



## 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.



Caption One

## Who Built What!

Observe Caption 1 – What you are looking at is a SD 45X EMD locomotive. Sure is a beauty. The prototype SD 45X evolved from a series of SD45s' and was the last of its type. It has a supercharged 20 cylinder diesel engine developing 4,200 horsepower.

The engine you are looking at was built by Jon Hollahan and Norman Brand. The shroud or cover was fabricated by Jon and Norm from 16 gauge steel. No fiberglass for Jon – he wants things built of steel. They do their own painting using Nason Fulthane epoxy. Trucks were made from kits supplied by MDM Locomotive Works. Each of the two trucks has air brakes, 3 axles and each axle is powered by a .55 horsepower DC motor. The controller is an English 4QD – 300 ampere type. Four large 6 volt deep discharge storage batteries supply the electrical power.



Kevin Hollahan putting the SD 45X through its paces on the Tradewinds and Atlantic Railroad tracks.

For more information, log on their website, [www.normandjon.com](http://www.normandjon.com) You will not believe what Jon and Norm have built. The website is easy to look at and you will enjoy it.

This is a perfect example of the talents and expertise members of our hobby possess.

Many thanks to Jon and Norm for letting me print their SD 45X pictures and to Larry Zauder, President of Tradewinds and Atlantic Railroad, for sending me their newsletter. 'The Telegraph' where I spotted the article on the SD 45X.

Well done Jon and Norm!

## Members Who do the Work



Many thanks to members who give up their time to do chores for our railroad  
**December 23, 2006**

Don Mann, Bill Donati, Warren Jamison, Chuck Analetto, James Salerno, Sandy Drayer, Terry O'Neill, Bill Boyd, Tom Lawrence and Matthew Lawrence.

Work was done on tracks for the new walkway at the approach to the tunnel.

**December 24, 2006**

I stopped at the yard and couldn't believe my eyes when I entered the Clubhouse. Terry O'Neill and Jerry Smithson were cleaning out the Clubhouse. I told them it was the day before Christmas and they should be home with their families. Well, from what they told me, they were fed up with all the stuff just piled on top of each other and wanted to clean up the pig pen for Santa.

They worked all day on this caper. Toward late afternoon the coke machine and the fridge were moved to a different location to make more room. They threw out tons of stuff that was lying around for years. You can actually see the floor and the place looks like a Clubhouse.

**We hope the members keep it that way!**

I am sure Santa was real proud of these two when he visited the Clubhouse on Christmas Eve. Many Thanks for a job WELL DONE!

**December 30, 2006**

Sandy Drayer, Alex Watson, John Eason, Terry O'Neill, Don Mann, Jack Outlaw, Howard Pike, Warren Jamison and Otis Lawrence.

**January 13, 2007**

Alex Watson, Howard Pike, Terry O'Neill, Don Mann, Sandy Drayer, James Salerno, Marty VanZanten, Chuck Analetto, Otis Lawrence, Charlie Lyon, Mark Zielinski, Jerry Smithson, Vince Rizzo and Warren Jamison.

Track switch panels were being fabricated in the yard. Terry O'Neill and Don Mann were working on the S-12 locomotive and the GP-9 Seaboard locomotive.

**January 20, 2007**

John Ruper, Tom Eckert, Bill Boyd, Chris Janks, Jack Outlaw, Vince Rizzo, John Eason, Tony Windsor, Sandy Drayer, Gail Komar, Chuck Analetto, James Salerno, Alex Watson, Warren Jamison, Terry O'Neill, Don Mann, Don Koerner and Jerry Smithson.

Eight track panels were replaced just south of the tunnel. More track work will have to be done before the February Meet. Thanks to All.

At this time, I want to give a special thanks to Alex Watson, Don Mann and Terry O'Neill who come to the track just about every day to work.

Alex Watson builds our track panels day in and day out. Don Mann recently fabricated six switch throws and switch points in his shop for the railroad. The maintenance duo – Terry O'Neill and Don Mann maintain our locomotives and T-Cars.

They recently replaced all the chain and sprockets on our S-12 Seaboard locomotive. This project was complicated by the fact the wheels were welded on the axles.

Believe it or not, our railroad would not have any club locomotives running if it was not for Terry and Don. Most of our club locomotives broke down at about the same time.

How do they do all this? I heard a rumor that they both deal in the Occult. A member came to the track late at night, during a full moon, and spotted Terry and Don doing some kind of ritual. They were both twirling a dead chicken over their heads as they circled the ailing locomotives and mumbling some secret words. Lo and behold – the next morning the locomotives were repaired and running.

Shades of Rosie O'Grady, I am going to ask them about that ritual. Just think, I can twirl a dead chicken over my head as I circle around Jean Carter, mumble some funny words and the Signal Tower will miraculously be written up and ready to be mailed. What a deal, Heck, if it doesn't work out I can always throw the chicken in a pot and make soup.

## What's Going on Here?



Caption 3

Observe Caption 3. It's a poor soul who just had a bucket of rocks dumped on his head. It happened during the "Throw Rocks at the Editor" event on January 13, 2007.

This day was a headache for your editor in more ways than one. If you remember there was no November newsletter. It was because Jean Carter, who runs the linotype machine, inks the rollers on the printing presses, loads the paper, oils the mechanisms, stuffs the envelopes

and makes coffee for the editor, found out I was paying her with Confederate money.

She took off for Washington, D.C., with her soap box to stand on, to protest the poor working conditions she was subjected too. Well, when her jaw bearings were about to seize up, she returned home and we did get the December newsletter out.

Now we get to the part that triggered the **bucket event**. Jean was in the checkout line at the supermarket to pay for her groceries. When she took out money from her purse, three of the Confederate bills I used to pay her fell out on the counter. The young cashier picked one up and wanted to know what country they came from. Before Jean could say anything, an older man in line asked Jean what outfit she served in during the Civil War. Jean was now doing a slow burn and, not to cause a fiasco, told the man she rode with 'Quantrill's Raiders'. With that, she stormed out of the store, embarrassed and with revenge on her mind.

So, now we get to the 'Throw Rocks at your Editor Day'.

I was just standing around waiting for people to come to the event. Behind me, a bucket of rocks was dumped on my head. I just remember these objects falling from the sky and then it became pitch black. Well, I figured I just expired and went down, not too hard though, and was waiting for instructions to start my journey upstairs or downstairs. I remember I sure was worried about going downstairs. As I told you before, trainmen are usually sent to the 'Lucifer Express'. The locomotive of this train has no cab. What happens is you find yourself with the firebox door behind you, because you are in the firebox.

Someone came over and pulled the bucket off my head. I was happy to know I didn't "shuffle off to Buffalo" and was very much alive.

Now came the crowning glory to make my life real miserable. When the 2007 Club Officers were put into place, the President made Jean 'Financial Committee Chair' and put the newsletter under her structural umbrella. Now she pays me in Confederate money.

You know, I'm a nice guy – why do I have to suffer like this?

---

**FOR SALE**

**Editor's Job**

**Wield the power of the pen.**

**Become important and be treated with respect.**

**Call Angie for details.**

---

**Candidate Wanted**

Florida Live Steamers (FLS) is looking for a candidate for Secretary.

If you are interested, call Phil Paxton at-863-763-5498 or email: [jppaxtonsr@aol.com](mailto:jppaxtonsr@aol.com)

# Information Sent to me From Other Tracks.

*Email from John Boots*

Hello every one,

Saturday morning at 6:33 the BB&WRR crew got underway to Manatee with four trailers a 25' 14,000# goose neck, 16' flat, 22' spine and a 7x14' equipment trailer. We arrived at Bob & Bev Kiser's about 9:45am and by 11:30 we had the 33' tunnel on the 25' gooseneck trailer. We took a photo break and went straight to work on removing track and by 1:00pm, we had the 22' spine trailer loaded and ready to go.

A fine lunch was prepared by Bev, fried chicken, coleslaw, baked beans mac & cheese, beer and soft drinks. Approximately 2:00pm, we started loading the culvert full of track panels while part of the crew was loading rolling stock on the other two trailers. By 3:00pm the first trailer was sent on its' journey back to the BB&WRR 130 miles North. At 4:30pm the second trailer with rolling stock went on its way. By dark, we had successfully removed all but 1,000 feet of the railroad – most of it being in the car barn and 16 pieces of rolling stock.

Bev prepared Lasagne and a salad for supper and by 9:30pm we were all ready for bed, Dogtired. Bob prepared a great breakfast and by 8:15 we were headed home with all the toys. We arrived at the BB&WRR at 11:30 and started unloading. By 3:30pm the trailers, the culvert and the trains were unloaded and a happy hour train ride using Bob & Bev's dining cars was made. All this was accomplished with 7 members of the BB&WRR crew! For all that don't know, Bob & Bev Kiser have donated their motor home, tunnel, roundhouse, car barn, building materials, track and the use of all their trains to the BB&WRR. Between now and the Winter Meet, we will be making more trips down to retrieve the balance of track and start dismantling the roundhouse and car barn.

If you would like to help, please contact me or Larry Boyce. *Capt. Boots* Email: tracknazi@earthlink.net

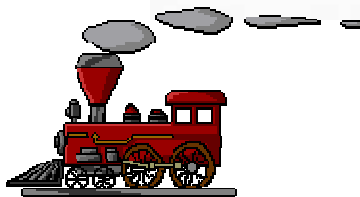
## Editor's Note:

Occasionally I receive information from other tracks and print it in the newsletter if space is available.

## Advice from Angie

*Pick your words carefully when conversing with someone so your tongue does not cut your throat.*

God Bless,  
See you next time, Angie



# FLASH

**This just came in.....**

Howard Pike has been admitted to Morton Plant Hospital for a couple days. Will keep you posted.

**Hurry up and get well Howard, the Railroad needs you.**



Sitting is our President, Warren Jamison and standing is Terry O'Neill. They are inspecting the new CSX locomotive.

