

THE SIGNAL TOWER

The Newsletter of the Largo Central Railroad

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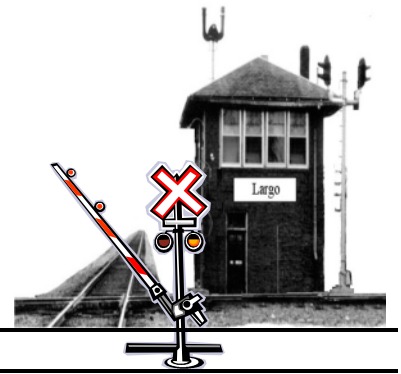
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April – May 2011

President's Message

Greetings,

The fifth Saturday in April was an enjoyable break for all. We ran our trains, had a great supper and finished it off with a night run that was well attended. Thanks to all who participated and special thanks to Chris Janks who cooked the supper for us.

The leaking container has been fixed. Our plans for moving the mainline track away from the oak tree and the replacement of the yard tracks has been postponed until fall when the weather turns a little cooler. We had to replace some of the old tracks near High Point with West Coast rail to accommodate the heavy locomotives.

The last couple of months have been a sad time for club members. We lost three of our old timers this year; John Eagan, William Boyd and Howard Pike. They surely will be missed.

I want to thank Marty vanZanten for rewriting the safety and operational rules. They will be made available to all members.

Thanks to all the "Doers" who keep the railroad running.

See you at the track

Warren Jamison,
President

A MINUTE FROM THE SECRETARY

As you know, safety is an important issue for the Largo Central Railroad. To ensure that our excellent safety record continues, a complete re-write of our training and safety guidelines has been done. This material will be published soon and all members will be given a copy. It will be the responsibility of each member who wants to be certified for a train crew position to read and show that they understand the material. This applies to all members, even those who have been certified in the past. This is being done to be sure that everyone is familiar with all our current procedures and has been brought up to date on them.

Over the course of the next several months a certification or re-certification of all train and station crew will be done. The Board of Directors asks for your complete cooperation in this activity. No matter how long any of us have been "working on the Railroad", we need to be sure we have not forgotten some important detail and that we maintain our excellent standards of operation.

See you at the track.
Marty



ATTENTION

Attached to this newsletter is the Membership Roster for 2011.

Please check the roster to ascertain if home address, email address and phone numbers are correct. Emails have been returned because of incorrect addresses. So, be certain that all information of record is correct.

If corrections are needed, please email Jean at angnjean2316@verizon.net.

LCRR Board Meeting

Board Meeting Friday, June 3, 2011 at 7:30 PM.

LCRR Membership Meeting

Saturday, June 4, 2011 after the Public Run



Our Sympathy

It is with great sorrow to report the passing of Howard E. Pike, a colorful and loved member of LCRR. Howard passed away on May 24, 2011, at 11:30 AM. He was 87 years old and married to Dolores for 64 years. He was a submariner during World War II and had many stories to tell of his experiences during that time. He was very active in the hobby and built his diesel locomotive, the Wabash.

We extend our deepest sympathy to his wife, Dolores, who also is a member of LCRR, and his family. We all will surely miss him. God rest his Soul.

Services will be held at Sylvan Abbey Funeral Home, 2853 Sunset Point Road, Clearwater, FL 33759, telephone 727-796-1992, on Saturday, June 4, 2011 with visitation 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM and Service at 2:00 PM.



Prayers Are Needed

Please pray for the following:

Pat Watson, member and wife of Alex Watson, who is hospitalized with a back injury.

Bill Behrens (former member) who has been in the hospital and according to last report is improving.

Pray for their quick recovery and fast healing.

Happy Birthday to You!

May 2011 Birthdays

John Beard	Mitch Cary
James Green	Chuck Hackett
Warren Jamison	Austin Gable
Otis Lawrence	Bob Patrick
Vince Rizzo	Darrel Woodbury



June 2011 Birthdays

Charlie Bellizzi	Mary Brady
Thomas Eckert	Alan Isaac
Shirley Koerner	Donald LaPlante
Dolores Pike	Marilou vanZanten
Jim Herron	

Happy Birthday! *May your day be filled with sunshine and smiles, laughter and love.*

Birthday Runs for June 2011



Saturday, June 11, 2011

Morning	11:00 to 12:00 PM
Afternoon	2:30 to 3:30 PM

Saturday, June 18, 2011

Morning Shelter 1	9:30 to 10:30 AM
Morning	11:00 to 12:00 PM
Afternoon Shelter 1	4:00 to 5:00 PM

Saturday, June 25, 2011

Morning	Open
Afternoon	Open

Birthday Runs can be added or canceled after the newsletter is printed; so be certain to check the Birthday Run Schedule Board in the Clubhouse for changes or additions

A MYSTERY WORKER?

Submitted by Marty

In every issue of the Club's Newsletter, "The Signal Tower", there is usually a column called the "Doers". It is a listing of all the members who have been out to the track and working on the various projects and activities that keep the Largo Central Railroad running so well. At least the list of workers is supposed to have all the names. But I have noticed for awhile now that one worker's name is never on the list. Is he a mystery Worker? If not, why is his name not among the "Doers"?

I know he is there because I have seen him, "doing" on many occasions. So why doesn't he show up on the list? It is high time this mystery worker was exposed for what he is, a very hard worker for the Club who gets little recognition for all that he does. Now, if anyone else knows who the mystery worker is, they should tell him thanks and tell him to put his name on the list so this mystery gets solved once and for all.

Marty



DOERS

Saturday, April 9, 2011

Alex Watson, David Hull, Tom Eckert, Marty vanZanten, Otis Lawrence, Jean Carter, Gail Komar, Warren Jamison, James Salerno, Matt Bryant and Sharon Bryant.

Saturday, April 16, 2011

Shawn Keeney, Sandy Drayer, Alex Watson, James Salerno, Tom Eckert, Jim Green, Mike Gulino, Matt Bryant, Rodger Bryant, Alan Clark and Chessie.

Saturday, April 23, 2011

Alex Watson, Tom Eckert, Dan Hodgen, Alan Isaac, Jean Carter, James Salerno, Warren Jamison, Alan Clark and David Hull.

Saturday, May 14, 2011

Dan Hodgen, Alex Watson, Tom Eckert, Alan Clark, Marty vanZanten, Jean Carter, James Salerno Bob Patrick and Mike Gulino.



Saturday, May 21, 2011

Dan Hodgen, Alex Watson, Tom Eckert, Alan Clark, Marty vanZanten, Jean Carter, James Salerno, Bob Patrick, Mike Gulino and Chessie.

Saturday, May 28, 2011

David Hull, Dan Hodgen, Alex Watson, Tom Eckert, James Salerno, Alan Isaac and Jean Carter

Thanks to all for a job Well Done~~!!

The Superintendents

As we all know, Chessie is the yard superintendent and we also have another superintendent not well known to many. Observe the following photos. Here you see Cie Cie, the superintendent of 'Ways'. Cie Cie is a full paid card carrying member of LCRR. Believe me, she takes her job seriously as you can see by her expression. Sitting with Cie Cie is Jere Wendt and we do not know who is the master or who is the subservient – Jere is also a long time member of LCRR.

Cie Cie and Chessie do not get along very well with each other; a common occurrence in railroads when you are in the upper ranks. According to Jere, when he is at the controls of a locomotive or as a conductor, Cie Cie perks right up when she hears a noise, like a bearing squeal or anything out of the ordinary causing him to go on high alert.

This is the crowning glory, though, and is the honest truth. Jere and Cie Cie were on a train waiting at the station for orders. Jere was having a long conversation with another conductor and Cie Cie was getting irritated because it was taking too long to get underway. After all, she had work to do to inspect the right of way. Finally, she had enough, she hopped off the train and jumped on another train that started to move. As mentioned, 'she takes her job seriously'.

We all know Jere and call him Jerry. He is a real amicable chap, easy to talk too and has a great sense of humor. We are lucky to have Jerry and Cie Cie as club members.



PLEASE READ

As you know, everything eventually comes to an end for whatever reason. Well, your old editor is going to give up the newsletter. The reason, I finally found out the older I get the better I was. I am tired and just want to gallop around the corral, put on the feed bag and watch the fillies go by.

"What will happen to the "Signal Tower" you might ask? I guess someone in the ranks has to volunteer to take the job of being an editor. I know there are members out there that can do a better job of writing than your present editor.

If you are interested, give me a call at 727-531-8651 or email me at angac2723@verizon.net.

EXCERPT FROM ANGIE'S BOOK OF LOPSIDED KNOWLEDGE

Contrary to what is published about how the value of the dollar is calculated, it is not true and is a lot of malarkey.

The value of the dollar (the government will not tell you this) is determined by the diameter of the tube that toilet paper is wound on and is inversely proportional to this diameter. In other words, the larger the diameter the less the dollar is worth. The diameter of the tube is starting to increase at an alarming rate. It has been calculated that in less than two years the tube will hold less than fifteen sheets of toilet paper. You can't do much with that — might as well wrap the dollar bills around the tube.

*Angelo Cantalupo
Absolutely no claim to fame, whatsoever.*

Funny Things Happen at the Railroad (True Stories)

1. It was a quiet day at the track, no trains running or in sight. Member, Dave Hull, was doing a chore when a woman walked up and asked where she could buy a train ticket.

Dave: "We do not sell tickets".

Woman: "Well, what do I have to do to get on the train?"

Dave: "You have to sign a piece of paper called a 'Release', then, we give you a train card so you can board the train."

Woman: "That sounds great, but how much do I have to pay?"

Dave: "We do not charge but we do take donations."

Woman: "That's fantastic, I can't believe it. My vacation will be over in a couple of days so can you tell me when the train to Montreal leaves on Tuesday?"

Dave had to explain to her Largo Central Railroad is a park railroad. She evidently thought it was a railroad that took you to different cities.

2. More than once, when I was a conductor, a passenger would ask me, "Do you take up the tracks and put them away like you do the trains when the day is done?" Well not to embarrass the passenger, I would reply, "the tracks are put down the same as the big railroads and we do not move them."

Update on Earl Mueller's Mohawk

Submitted by Earl Mueller

Here is the beginning of the Mercer 6 wheel commonwealth trucks. These are hard to do especially as the drawings are not complete and incorrect. We have the center bolster completed with the swing links. We hope to have a tender runnable by the time of our September Meets at Mid- South, Eagle Point & Canton. The tender should be done before the end of the year.



Photo by Earl Mueller

From the Editor: Many Thanks Earl and Conrad. Well done!

Public Run Tally for April & May

Saturday, April 2, 2011, 1,804 passengers were given rides.

Sunday, April 3, 2011, 801 passengers were given rides.

Saturday, May 7, 2011, 1,527 passengers were given rides.

Sunday, May 8, 2011, 997 passengers were given rides.

Trains Run on Time?

Back at the turn of the 19th to the 20th century, trains took a beating by comedians and people in general on trains running on time — even the famous Mark Twain got his licks in.

While visiting New Zealand in the late 'nineties', Mark Twain found that trains were exceedingly slow moving. One day he caught a train that seemed unusually slow, even for New Zealand. When the conductor finally came around, Mark promptly handed him half a ticket which was customarily used for juvenile passengers. The official looked hard at the white-haired, bushy mustache humorist and demanded sarcastically, "And are you a child?" "No not anymore", replied Twain, "but I was when I got on your darn train".

A lady handed the conductor two tickets, one whole ticket and a half ticket. He said, "Who is this half ticket for?" She said, "My boy". The conductor said, "He's not a boy, he's a man — under twelve, half fare, over twelve, full fare". She said, "He was under twelve when we started".

Hey Ang,
I heard your
short term memory
span is just about
gone!

Not true – My memory is not as sharp as it used to be. Also, my memory is not as sharp as it used to be. Oh! Did I tell you, "My memory is not as sharp as it used to be?"



Vince



Ang

Vince and Ang in
La La Land

God Bless,!

See you next time, Ang

