

# THE SIGNAL TOWER

The Newsletter of the Largo Central Railroad

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October – November – December 2011

## Merry Christmas

### President's Message

Greetings,

The year 2011 is almost over and 2012 will start very shortly. We had our annual membership meeting and Christmas dinner to celebrate.

One thing I can tell you for 2011 is that the railroad is in the best shape it has ever been. The only thing left to do is the yard trackage and moving the main line away from an oak tree. The mainline has all new west coast rail and ties. Our T-cars are new complete with Tom Bee's heavy duty trucks. More T-cars, trucks and locomotive are being ordered to give the railroad redundancy for breakdowns and because of increasing passenger usage. When passenger loads are between 1,700 to 2,000 during a day of public running, one train breakdown can really give us problems.

All of the above could not come to fruition without careful planning and hard work by members. Railroaders who run our track compliment us for its smoothness and free from derailments. Our derailments are far and few between and usually caused by a stone or debris on the rail.

I want to thank all for their labors and dedication. I also want to thank the City of Largo and the Parks Department for their help and cooperation.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all and may the New Year be kind to you.

See you at the track

*Warren Jamison,*  
President



### Try Something Different!

On **December 31, 2011, the Fifth Saturday** of the month, we will have our Fun Run Day by running our trains on New Year's eve — sounding our train horns and noise makers at 12:00 AM to welcome 2012.

The track will open at 12:00 Noon, Saturday. Around 6:00 PM we will have pizza. All railroaders and their families are welcome. There will be no planned train events unless you want to think one up. Bring your equipment to run. We have cars you can use. It will be just a train pot luck thing. See you at the track!!

### Largo Central Railroad Touch a Truck and Florida Clown Day January 28, 2012, 11 AM to 4 PM

We have been involved in this gig for many years. This is a very important event for the City of Largo. Please show up to make this a happy time for children and adults.

### February FLS Winter Meet

Our time slot for the Winter Meet is February 16 to 18, 2012. We have to get things ready for this meet. The yard and steaming bays have to be presentable to our guests. Please show up to help us make this a great meet.

### LCRR Board Meeting

Board Meeting - Friday, January 6, 2012 at 7:30 PM.

### LCRR Membership Meeting

Saturday, January 7, 2012, after the Public Run



### NOW HEAR THIS!

### Big Boots & Western Railroad

Saturday, January 21, 2012 Meet  
FLS Winter Meet, February 6 to 12, 2012

### Central Pasco and Gulf Railroad Christmas Night Runs

December 16 – 17, 2011 7 to 10 PM  
For more information, call 727-569-2289

### Manatee Central Railroad

FLS Winter Meet – February 19 to 22, 2012  
Spring Meet – April 13 to 15, 2012  
Memorial Day Meet – May 26 to 28, 2012  
Fall Meet – November 9 to 11, 2012

### Ridge Live Steamers

FLS Winter Meet – February 23 to 26, 2012  
Spring Meet – March 23 to 25, 2012  
Fall Meet – October 19 to 21, 2012

# 2012 Winter Meets



West Toccoi and Bostwick	Feb 3 to 5
Big Boots and Western	Feb 6 to 12
Central Pasco and Gulf	Feb 10 to 15
Largo Central Railroad	Feb 16 to 18
Tradewinds and Atlantic	Feb 17 and 18
Manatee Central	Feb 19 to 22
Ridge Live Steamers	Feb 23 to 26
Annual Banquet	Feb 25 in Dundee
West Toccoi and Bostwick (open house)	Feb 26 to 28
Sebring System	March 9 and 10

## Elections Results for 2012 Officers

Supervisor of Elections lists the following officers for 2012.

President —	Warren Jamison
Vice President —	James Salerno
Secretary —	Marty van Zanten
Treasurer —	Jean Carter

### Board of Directors

Alan Clark	Tom Eckert
David Hull	Chris Janks
Don Mann	

We thank all of the above. Please support them.

**Editor's Note:** Angelo Cantalupo is no longer a board member, however, feel free to support him – no coins, only green backs will be accepted.

## MEMBERSHIP DUES



Membership dues are due January 1, 2012. You may mail your dues to Largo Central Railroad, Attn: Membership, PO Box 823, Largo, Florida 33779-0823. To pay dues in person, see Jean Carter.

Regular Member	.....\$25.00
Associate Member	.....\$20.00 <i>must live over 60 miles from track.</i>
Family Membership	.....\$40.00
Junior Membership	.....\$15.00

Remember, if your dues are not paid, your name will be removed from the Membership Roster.



## Birthday Runs for January 2012

### Saturday, January 14, 2012

Morning Shelter 1	9:30 to 10:30 AM
Morning	11:00 to 12:00 Noon
Afternoon	2:30 to 3:30 PM
Afternoon Shelter 1	4:00 to 5:00 PM



### Saturday, January 21, 2012

Morning Shelter 1	9:30 to 10:30 AM
Morning	11:00 to 12:00 PM
Afternoon Shelter 2	4:00 to 5:00 PM **
Afternoon Shelter 1	4:00 to 5:00 PM**

\*\*This is not an error. We have 2 Birthday Runs at 4:00 PM. Please come out to help.

### Saturday, January 28, 2012

Touch-a-Truck 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM

*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 Minute from the Secretary



There was a short membership meeting on December 3, 2011. It was held in the Largo Feedstore following the Club's Holiday Dinner. Needless to say, it was well attended with 58 members and guests on hand. No doubt the delicious meal prepared by our resident chef, Chris Janks had something to do with the great turnout.

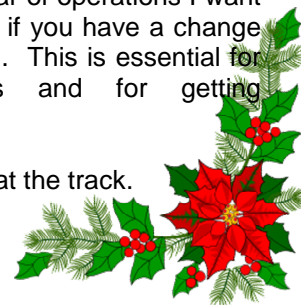
The main topic of the meeting was to announce the results of the election that took place that day. One change in the leadership of the Club was the election of Alan Clark as a new member of the Board of Directors. Congratulations Alan.

Regretfully, it must be noted that the other change was the bowing out of the sage of the LCRR, Angelo Cantalupo. He will be missed as a member of the Board and as editor of the Club newsletter, *The Signal Tower*. He claimed that he was too old to continue with these responsibilities. However, I have it on good advice that he really wants more time to spend on the beach enjoying the "scenery".

As we approach the start of a new year of operations I want to remind everyone to notify the Club if you have a change in e-mail address or other information. This is essential for communications among members and for getting information out about Club activities.

Thanks for a great year, and see you at the track.

Marty



# Happy Birthday to You!

## November 2011 Birthdays

Charles Brillant	Angelo Cantalupo
Connie ChiWhit	Harold Powell
Jere Wendt	Mark Zielinski



# Glory Be!

Mr. and Mrs. Claus visited Largo Central Railroad during our December Public Run. They gave out candy canes to the children and spread joy to all. It is well known that Santa also loves trains and he showed every one by running a train around the track. It was a great two days for the children.



Our wholehearted thanks go to Norma and David Woodbury for making arrangements to bring Mr. and Mrs. Claus down from the North Pole for this happy event. Who said "there is no Santa Claus?"

## December 2011 Birthdays

Antonio Damalos	Nick Damalos
David Jahn	Donna Rizzo
Jerry Smithson	

## January 2012 Birthdays

Don Mann	James Reid
George Robert	Chip Sorensen
Doug Fulthorpe	

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

# DOERS



## Saturday, November 19, 2011

Alex Watson, Tom Eckert, Matt Bryant, David Hull, Alan Clark, Alan Isaac, Marty vanZanten, Jean Carter, Dan Hodgen, Warren Jamison and Don Mann.

## Saturday, November 26, 2011

Tom Eckert, Warren Jamison, David Hull, Otis Lawrence, Mark Zielinski, Alan Clark and Chip Sorensen.

## Saturday, December 10, 2011

Chip Sorensen, Don LaPlante, Tom Eckert, Jean Carter, Marty vanZanten, Alan Clark, Warren Jamison, David Hull and Chessie, Yard Superintendent.



Thanks to all of the above for their continuing help and dedication.

## New Superintendent for the Railroad

Joining the Superintendent of the Yard and the Superintendent of Ways will be the Superintendent of Signaling. As you probably know the Ways Super is Cie Cie — a dog, Yard Super is Chessie — a cat, and Super of Signaling is Ohio — a cat. As usual in the upper levels of command, Chessie and Ohio are already feuding on how the railroad should be run.

## Something to Do

The British military has a song called 'The Children of the Regiment'. How about someone out there compose a song "The Children of the Railroad?" I would try but I am musically declined.



Photos furnished by Norma Woodberry

## Proclamation

Henceforth: Anyone telling children there is no Santa Claus, to steal their hopes and happiness, will be tarred and feathered and exiled to the South Pole.

Santa Claus Federation of the World

## ANNOUNCEMENT

The Signal Tower Newsletter will have a new editor starting January 2012. Member, Connie ChiWhit will be taking over so your present editor can go to school to learn how to write.

Connie has written newsletters before for different organizations. She will need all the help she can get. She lives in Brooksville, quite a distance away from the track. So send her articles and happenings at the track by email or phone. Her phone number is 727-410-5432, email: [freedomconnie@msn.com](mailto:freedomconnie@msn.com)

Good luck, Connie



Submitted by James Salerno

memento built for his service and good work he is doing on earth. St. Nick (being a modest person) did not want any memento all he wanted was, when his time came, to enter the Kingdom of Heaven to be with the Lord.



That was all well and good but God wanted him to have a memento for all his good work and that is what he was going to get. God sent for his most talented Angel and gave him the following criteria to design a memento for St. Nick: 'It must be completely hidden yet be so abundant and available to everyone. Even though it will be easy to find, it will take centuries for the memento to be found — then, only one who is of the faithful will find it.' That poor Angel really had his hands full. However, he did design the memento and it was approved and implemented.

Time marched on — then one day, during the 1930's, a young girl, Jeanne Cuciti, and her mother was feeding peanuts to the squirrels in the park. The young girl was splitting the peanut kernels so she would have more to give to the squirrels. Her eyes opened wide when she spotted something in one of the kernels. She ran to her mom and yelled out in surprise, "Mom, there is a Santa Claus in every kernel of the peanuts!" And so it was that one of the faithful discovered the memento for St. Nick.

See for yourself, carefully split the kernel of a peanut apart at the seam and Saint Nick will be there. The photo below shows the peanut kernel half with Saint Nick that I touched up with paint.

Okay, the story is over — you can now go back to sleep. *The editor*

## A Story

First, I want to admit to you that I am not really a train buff. In 1995, I happened to be looking through the chain link fence at the railroad guys in Largo Central Park and they invited me to come in and look around. The next thing I remembered, some fast talking train type congratulated me that I was now a member and to show their hearts were in the right place made me the newsletter editor. The next day was a Public Run Day and I could not believe the happiness in the children's faces, so, I decided to stay.

This now brings me to my story. I am going to write about a man who loved children and everyone around him; he is still with us to this day. His name is Saint Nicholas, who is also known as Sinterklass to the Dutch. The Dutch emigrated to the New World and founded the colony of New Amsterdam in 1664 that later became New York.



Sinterklass translates to Santa Claus for Americans.

Saint Nicholas, also known as Saint Nick, was at one time the bishop of Myra, a town in Asia Minor (modern day Turkey). He died on December 6 which is why Dutch Children still await the visit of Sinterklass on this date. He has a long list as a Patron Saint that includes children, sailors and even Russia. If you enter Saint Nick on Google, 5,470,000 hits will show up.

And so it was that one day when St. Nick was still on earth, an angel from God entered his dream and informed him that God wanted him to have a statue or some kind of



## Public Run Tally for October, November and December

**Saturday, Oct 1, 2011**, 1,778 passengers were given rides.

**Sunday Oct 2, 2011**, 2,126 passengers were given rides.

**Saturday, Nov 5, 2011**, 1,868 passengers were given rides.

**Sunday, Nov 6, 2011**, 1,909 passengers were given rides.

**Saturday, Dec 3, 2011**, 1,510 passengers were given rides.

**Sunday, Dec 4, 2011**, 1,785 passengers were given rides.





Photo by Earl Mueller

The above photo is a very interesting picture of Earl Mueller's beautiful Mohawk locomotive. Earl's engine is big but the camera angle makes it look bigger yet. The original picture had the smoke stack exactly aligned with a long tree trunk in the background and made the trunk look like it was coming out of the smoke stack. Jean used her magic and removed the tree trunk.

Admiring the locomotive is George Johnson, president of FLS.

I was talking to Earl the other day and he is on the warpath after a few mishaps he recently observed. He recommends all engines – steam, diesel or electric, should have some type of dead-man's control for safety sake. It must be of a simple type not depending on electronics. Earl is willing to help anyone who wants to equip their locomotive with dead-man's control. For more information, call Earl at 727-525-9038. Earl is very knowledgeable on these matters. The building of the Mohawk proves that.

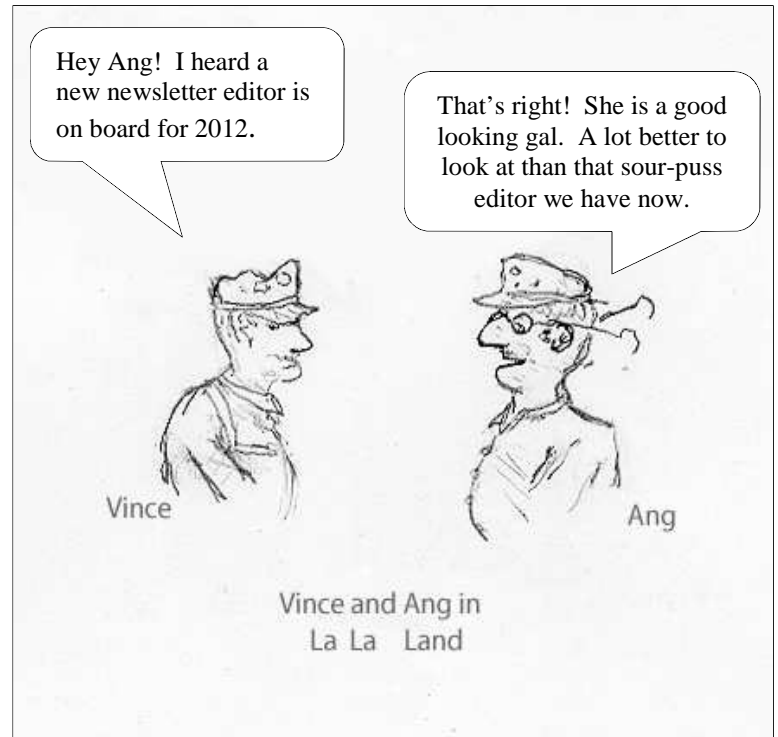
## Notice!

Better mail your FLS dues in now. They are due in January. The price is still \$14.00 but not for long. The Board of Directors are recommending to increase the price to \$20.00.

Send you check to Joan Smith, 9111 Erie Lane, Parish, FL 34219-9049. Make sure to inform Joan of any changes such as email address, etc.

## Courtesy Service

After paying all your club dues and other expenses, there will be transportation services (time to be announced) to take you to the poor house. No milling machines, lathes, tools, cats, dogs or girlfriends will be allowed – Just yourself.



## Farewell

I want to take this time to thank all who put up with my shenanigans as editor of the Signal Tower during the past years. I especially want to thank my better-half, Jean Carter, for putting the newsletter together which is a tougher job than writing it. She did a great job.

Many thanks to George Johnson, Gail and Greg Komar, Ralph Tucker, Earl Mueller and many others for their kind words and encouragement throughout the years. Thanks to those who did furnish articles and pictures.

Farewell and happy railroading. *Angie*

*Merry Christmas and  
God Bless all.*

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

