

# THE SIGNAL TOWER

## The Newsletter of the Largo Central Railroad

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February 2010

## President's Message

Greetings,

Well, our part of the "Winter Meet" has come and gone. I must admit this was an exceptionally well attended and most enjoyed Winter Meet we put on in a long time. Our members put in a great deal of hard work to get things ready so our guests could have a great time. I cannot thank our members enough for putting in many extra hours of their time to make this meet a real success. Well done guys and gals, I am proud of you all.

We thank the "Florida Live Steamers" for inviting us to share, with other railroads, in this important event. We also thank the Recreation and Parks Department of the City of Largo for putting up tents and their cooperation.

The Meet is over for us, but the work to keep the railroad running will never end. Thirteen T-car frames have arrived from Scott Long. Now comes the job of building up the frames to rolling T-cars and replace the ones that have served us for many years.

Thanks again to all! See you at the track

Warren Jamison

President



## Now Hear This!

If you have not paid your dues to the Florida Live Steamers or Largo Central Railroad, I hate to tell you, you will be removed from the membership list by the time you receive this newsletter.

Now, if you are especially nice to Joan Smith, Florida Live Steamers and Jean Carter, Largo Central Railroad and quickly send in your dues, they may overlook the fact it is after March 1 and reinstate you.

### 1. Florida Live Steamers

One price – \$14.00 for family membership.

Send check to: Joan Smith

911 Erie Lane

Parrish, FL 32419-9049

Phone: 941-776-2109

### 2. Largo Central Railroad

Regular Member \$25.00

Associate Member \$20.00

Family Membership \$40.00

Junior Membership \$15.00

Send check to: Largo Central Railroad  
Attention: Membership  
PO Box 823  
Largo, FL 33779-0823

## ATTENTION



Public Run Days in April are on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> day of the month. April 4<sup>th</sup> is Easter Sunday. Trains will not be running on Easter Sunday; however, they will run on Saturday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>.



## Mark Your Calendar

### Sebring Systems Railroads

#### Spring Meet – March 12 & 13, 2010

Bill Koster and Bruce Elder

This railroad spans two properties with 7000 feet of track (including sidings). The railroad is a point to point system with return loops at each end. With more than one train on the line, radio communications must be used. There are 6 passing tracks, and have run as many as 7 trains at the same time. It is an exciting railroad to run.

If you plan to attend, it will be wise to call Bill Koster at 863-382-2819 and let him know. Due to fire danger with scrub vegetation – no solid fuel locomotives – Please.

### Ridge Live Steamers

#### Spring Meet, March 26 to 28, 2010

For more information, contact Allen Newcomb 863-665-0482

### Manatee Central Railroad

#### Spring Meet, Friday April 9 to Sunday, April 11, 2010

Larry & Joan Smith and Pete Newcombe

Visit the 'Old South' and enjoy a relaxing day on a great railroad. For more information, contact Larry Smith at 941-776-2109.

## Board Meeting

March 5, 2010 at 7:30 PM

## Membership Meeting

March 6, 2010 after the Public Run

## A Minute from the Secretary

By the time you read this the LCRR's portion of the FLS Winter Meet will be over. All of our many guests will be on their way to the next live steam event or on their way home. By all accounts, it was a great success. Of particular note, the track was in top notch condition allowing for the smooth running of many engines and trains of all kinds. So, all the hard work of those who helped get the track and yard ready paid off. As was noted at the last meeting; a rousing vote of thanks was offered especially to Tom Eckert, Dave Hull, Don Mann, Dave Langdon, and Warren Jamison for their efforts on behalf of the Club.

On Saturday of the Meet, the 13 new riding car frames we ordered were delivered. Room was found to store them until they can be painted and have trucks and seats installed. This is an important project so please lend a hand to get this work done as soon as possible.

See you at the track.  
Marty

## Fifth Saturday Festivities

– January 30, 2010

Our Fifth Saturday Festivities fell on our *Touch-a-Truck and Florida Clown Day Run*. We had to shutdown the railroad at around 2:00 PM due to heavy rain.

At 4:30 PM, The First Lady of the Railroad, Dolores Pike, put on one of her great meals. We had roast beef, mashed potatoes, peas & carrots, and other goodies brought in by the members. We all had a great time. Many thanks to Dolores and all others who helped. After supper, the night run attracted a number of the members to the tracks.

## Tally for Locomotives and Guests Winter Meet - Largo

Visitors and Vendors –	145
Members and their Guests –	<u>75</u>
<b>Total:</b>	220 Attendees

**Locomotives:** Total of 36

10 steam locomotives; 2 Vertical boiler beam steam locomotives; 10 Diesels – gas driven; 11 Diesels – electric driven; 1 Rail Bus; 1 Rail Truck; 1 Double Trolley

A number of locomotives were up in the heavy class:

2 4-8-4 Northerns	1 4-6-4 Hudson
1 4-8-2 Mohawk	1 2-8-0 Narrow Gauge

To really appreciate the beauty of all the above locomotives, visit our website; [www.lcrailroad.com](http://www.lcrailroad.com) — Scroll down and click the “Enter” button, then click “Pictures” ; click on “Meet Week 2010” (last button on left).

**Twenty States** were represented by our guests and vendors.

We thank all the guests and vendors for visiting us and we look forward to seeing them next year.



Photo by Greg Komar

## Public Run Tally for December

**Saturday, February 6, 2010**, 1752 passengers were given rides.

**Sunday, February 7, 2010**, 1013 passengers were given rides.

## Great Music from 'Days Gone By'

Observe Caption 1 – To our left, a railroader and his accordion, Larry Blecha, from Iowa, has been coming to our meets for many years. On the right, Dan Bricker from St. Petersburg, adds the string base for the accordion accompaniment. They are serenading the ladies at the registration desk with polkas and songs from a long time ago.



Caption 1



Caption 2

Now, observe Caption 2 – Dan is playing a very interesting instrument. Made by the Ozark Musical Instrument Co., this instrument is not as simple as it looks. First of all, this is one of their lower priced instruments costing \$50,000. I know what you're thinking – "Boy – what's this malarkey this guy is feeding us?" Consider this, 1 in 300,000 paint buckets will produce the proper tonal resonant qualities. The string used is made from the flax plant grown at an undisclosed place in Ireland for its

vibrating characteristics. The wood is maple and comes from Croatia. The wood is treated the same way Antonio Stradivari used when he made his famous Stradivarius violins in the 1700s. An infusion of borax, fluorides, chromium, iron salts and long aging.

So you see, I am describing real quality. If you buy one of these instruments from Ozark, they will also give you, for free, a deed of ownership to one rivet on the Brooklyn Bridge. Say – can April Fool's day be far away?

Thanks Larry and Dan for some great music. If you want to hear and see the above duo play, log on to our website – go to pictures, then Meet Week 2010 as described earlier. Scroll down to the end of the pictures and click on "You Tube" site. George Johnson from the Florida Live Steamers sent me this movie clip. Thanks George.

## Birthday Runs for March 2010



### March 13, Saturday

Morning	11:00 to 12:00 PM
Afternoon	Open

### March 20, Saturday

Morning	Open
Afternoon	Open

### March 27, Saturday

Morning	Open
Afternoon	Open

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

## Information Needed

Three nice ladies visited us during our run at the Winter Meet. Barb Reese, Barb Emch and Emmy Pausch. They really had a great time riding the trains. They are familiar with railroading as one of the ladies husband's, Paul Emch, is with the Lake Shore Live Steamers in Ohio.

So happens they could not get their husbands to come to Florida. Must be they like cold weather. Anyway, they need information on who to call or how to find out about renting a 2 bedroom house or mobile home for next years meet. We also encourage husbands, Wally Pausch and Paul Emch to come on down to Florida next year.

If you can help the ladies out, email [pemch@sbc.net](mailto:pemch@sbc.net)  
See you next year!

# Happy Birthday to You!

## February Birthdays



Paula Cary	Bill Donati
Sandy Drayer	Ray Egerton
David Hull	Kay Lawrence
Matthew Lawrence	Chuck Lisner
Charles Lyon	Jackson Outlaw
Pat Watson	David Woodbury

*Happy Birthday! May good health and good fortune shine on you*

# Special Thanks to:

1. Greg Komar, Largo Central Railroad, for his professional photographs of the Winter Meet on our website.
2. George Johnson, Florida Live Steamers, for the video he took of our musical entertainers. Now a link to "You Tube" on our website
3. Terry O'Neill, Largo Central Railroad, Website Master, for getting all of the Meet information on our website.

## Doers



### Saturday, February 13, 2010

Tom Eckert, Alan Isaac, Marty van Zanten, Sandy Drayer, Bob Patrick, Jean Carter, David Langdon, David Hull, Warren Jamison, James Salerno, Ralph Tucker and Chessie.



### Saturday, February 27, 2010

Alex Watson, David Hull, James Salerno, Bob Patrick and Warren Jamison.

Thanks to all for a job 'well done'. We received many favorable comments and thanks for our part of the Winter Meet. Our guests expect to come back to see us next year.

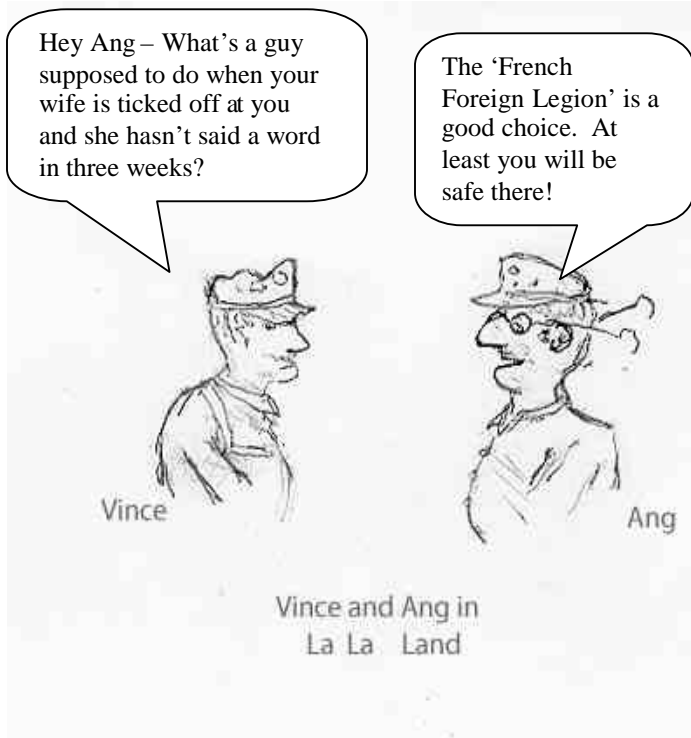
## Angie's Corner

In the last page of the December 2009 Signal Tower there is a picture of a young soldier (me) with my arm around a young lady. I have been asked a number of times whom she is. Well, the best way I can tell you is by the lyrics of a song.

This song was sung and loved by every German soldier in the Afrika Korps. It was broadcast to Europe and the Mediterranean by the captured radio station, Radio Belgrade. It didn't take long for troops of the British 8<sup>th</sup> Army to pick it up and the lyrics were translated into English. Troops of the American Army latched on to it and it spread like wild fire. It soon was translated into 27 different languages. I am sure old timers, like me, have guessed the name of the song by now. Marlene Dietrich sang the German Version and Vera Lynn the English version.

So, if you want to know who the young lady is, log on to Google and enter, "Lilly Marlene". About a 3<sup>rd</sup> of the way down, click on the site and you can hear it in a number of different languages.

Back issues of the Signal Tower are on our website [www.lcrailroad.com](http://www.lcrailroad.com) and click on "Signal Tower".



*God Bless,  
See you next time, Ang-*

