

THE SIGNAL TOWER

The Newsletter of the Largo Central Railroad

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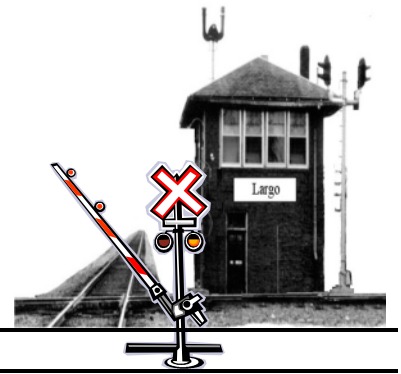
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February – March 2011

President's Message

Greetings,

Our two days of the 2011 February Winter Meet was one of the best we ever had. The weather was perfect, the guests who attended were perfect and the mainline track was perfect. Everyone had a great time including LCRR members running equipment around the track. It sure was a great meet! It even ended with the traditional accordion music by Larry Blecha who comes all the way from Indiana to visit our track. Larry is a prolific builder of steam locomotives and brought his new steam engine. Many thanks, Larry. Earl Mueller also brought his beautiful 'Mohawk' locomotive and had a great time. I want to take this time to thank and congratulate our members for the fine work they done on the mainline track and getting things ready for the Meet.

Getting down to other priorities – the moving of the track just outside the yard, to get it away from the roots of a large oak tree, will start shortly. After that, we will tackle the yard. Sealing of the tunnel portal has been done. We developed a leak in the roof of one of our train storage containers. This will also be taken care of.

Remember, we have a fifth Saturday in April. More information follows in this newsletter.

Again, I want to thank all the 'doers' for their labors and dedication to the railroad.

See you at the track

Warren Jamison,
President



Now Hear This!

Manatee Family Lines Spring Meet

Friday to Sunday, April 8 to 10, 2011

Largo Central Railroad

5th Saturday Festivities, April 30, 2011,

1:00 PM to whenever.....

Afternoon activities are planned and 'Supper' will be around 5:00 PM. Please bring a dessert to share. There will be a night run – possibly bi-directional. Members and their families from other railroad clubs are always welcome

Manatee Family Lines Memorial Day Meet

Saturday to Monday, May 28 to 30, 2011

FLASH

Communiqué from Chuck Olejniczak,, Illinois Live Steamers, Corresponding Secretary.

Illinois Live Steamers are extending an open invitation to members of Largo Central Railroad to attend their 44th Annual Meet, Friday to Sunday, August 19 to 21, 2011 at their railroad.

ILS is a private railroad and open only by invitation. There will be food service both Saturday and Sunday. If you plan to attend, get in touch with Chuck with how many guests you are bringing so he can accommodate with food service and track time. You can contact Chuck by email or phone: chooch0238@sbcglobal.net telephone 219-865-3129

Editor's Note: Florida train activities die down during the summer so here is your chance to visit a great track and have a good time.



LCRR Board Meeting

Board Meeting Friday, April 1, 2011 at 7:30 PM.

LCRR Membership Meeting

Saturday, April 2, 2011 after the Public Run

A MINUTE FROM THE SECRETARY

Date: Mar. 5, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 4:45 p.m. by President Jamison.

Minutes from the last meeting: A motion was made by Alex Watson to accept the minutes of the Feb. 5, 2011 meeting. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer report was given and approved.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. The Winter Meet went very well and there were many comments about our track being in good condition. Warren Jamison thanked all who helped to make the



Final Journey

With sorrow, I have to report the passing of two of our members who were also good friends.

John B. Egan, 82, died on January 11, 2011, Bay Pines, Florida.

William Baggett Boyd, 92, died on February 25, 2011, Pinellas Park, Florida.

John Egan was born June 19, 1928 in Gorham, NH. He was an Army veteran and a long time employee as a conductor on the Grand Trunk Railroad-East. After a 37 year career with Grand Trunk, he was able to buy the caboose he worked in during that time and had it moved to North Conway Scenic Railroad in New Hampshire. He had the caboose refurbished and lived in it while working for North Conway Railroad as a conductor during the summer. During the winter, he was a member of Largo Central Railroad and was liked by all.

William Baggett Boyd was born March 5, 1918, in Tarpon Springs, Florida. Bill was a World War II Navy veteran. He was a public school teacher and retired after 17 years as a reference librarian at St. Pete College. Bill was a former commander and member of the Civil Air Patrol for 40 years. A long time member and former president of Largo Central Railroad, he was still conducting for the railroad while in his 90's.

We extend our deepest sympathy to the families of the above members who made Largo Central Railroad what it is today.

Farewell Comrades and God rest your Souls.

Meet a success, with special appreciation to Tom Eckert for his work on track replacement and repair.

2. The issue of a signal system has again come up as Chuck Hackett has proposed a wireless system that would eliminate the need for trenching. This latest proposal will be considered.

3. Jean Carter reported that there are some members who have not paid their dues for this year. In some cases, payment is expected and others that remain unpaid will be dropped from the membership roster.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. There is an engine for sale by Jere Wendt, a MP15 that is currently being test run on our track to see if would be suitable for us to purchase. After a close inspection, a decision will be made on it.

2. There will be a 5th Sat. in April this year. We will have a "Fun Run" beginning at 1: pm and a dinner served at 5: pm.

3. The work priorities at this point are to seal/paint the tunnel portal, fix the roof on the leaking container and lay out the new track configuration coming out of the yard so the Park workers can dig the trench for us.

4. Some additional safety guidelines are being established: A person must be at least 16 years of age in order to be on a train crew during public run days or birthday runs. There is to be no smoking by the train crew while running the public and no smoking in the train yard.

3. Jean Carter recommended the membership application for Shawn Keeney and family be approved indicating he had fulfilled the requirements. Dave Langdon moved that Shawn be accepted as a new member. Motion carried. It was also noted that we have a prospective new member, Alan Clark.

4. Warren made a special note of thanks to Tom Eckert and Dave Hull for repairing the hydraulic lift.

There being no further business to discuss, Dave Hull moved to adjourn. Motion carried, meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:
Marty van Zanten, Secretary

Happy Birthday to You!

March 2011 Birthdays

Mattaniah Jahn
Martin VanZanten
Tony Windsor

Londal Thorpe
Alex Watson
Shawn Keeney



April 2011 Birthdays

Don Koerner
Daniel Toll
Norma Woodbury

Terry O'Neill
Ralph Tucker
John Eason

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

Birthday Runs for April 2011



Saturday, April 9, 2011

Morning	11:00 to 12:00 PM
Afternoon	2:30 to 3:30 PM
Afternoon Shelter 1	4:00 to 5:00 PM

Saturday, April 16, 2011

Morning	Open
Afternoon	2:30 to 3:30 PM

Saturday, April 29, 2011

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

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



LCRR 2011 Winter Meet



20th Anniversary Largo Central Railroad, Inc. 1991-2011

Largo Central Railroad took the opportunity to celebrate its 20th Anniversary at the Winter Meet. A lot of water has passed under the bridge. Actually, that much water has not passed under the bridge as our bridge over the pond is only about 6 years old. Nevertheless, we congratulate the members who had the foresight to plan what we have today. We made thousands of children happy over the years. There is no reward greater than when a child comes up and hugs you to thank you.

The above caption shows Jean Carter, Treasurer, cutting the cake with President, Warren Jamison, (*to the left*) supervising. Many of us will not be around when another 20 years goes by; but we had the pleasure of serving the first 20 years.



Photo by Mark Zielinski

This caption shows two very good friends of Largo Central Railroad. Valerie and Fred Clark enjoying the beautiful weather and their ride.



The above caption shows Larry Blecha serenading us with polkas. This has become a tradition when our share of the Winter Meet comes to an end and guests are loading their equipment to travel to other tracks. It would not be a meet without our good friend, Larry. Many Thanks.

DOERS

Saturday, February 12, 2011 (Work Saturday)

Alex Watson, Tom Eckert, Gail Komar, Dan Hodgen, Marty vanZanten, David Hull, Jean Carter, Bob Patrick, John Eason, David Langdon, Bill Larson and Chessie, Yard Superintendent.



Saturday, February 18, 2011

David Langdon, David Hull, Don LaPlante, Alex Watson, Sandy Drayer, Tom Eckert, James Salerno, Dan Hodgen and Jere Wendt.

Saturday, February 26, 2011

Don LaPlante, Alan Isaac, Sandy Drayer, Warren Jamison, David Hull, Otis Lawrence, James Salerno, Alex Watson and Matt Lawrence.

Saturday, March 26, 2011.

Alex Watson, Don LaPlante, David Hull, Jean Carter, Alan Isaac, Bob Patrick, David Langdon, Roger Bryant and Matt Bryant.

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

Technical Stuff



Photo by David Hull

David Hull submitted an article on Battery Cable connectors in the August, 2010 issue of the Signal Tower. The article can be read by looking up the Signal Tower on our website. Since then, he has installed external KST connectors, made by KS Terminal Co., to our locomotives. This will enable us to jump start and charge the battery without taking the shroud off the locomotive – which is quite a job.

His latest entry on this subject is a 15 foot jumper cable that can extend over a number of tracks in the yard, in order jump start locomotives with a dead battery.

Dave purchased a 15 foot jump start cable for automobiles. He then replaced the cable connectors with KST connectors. Make sure the cable has #6 gauge wire if you intend to make one. The above caption shows it all.

Many Thanks, Dave – Well done!

Super Full Moon over Largo, Florida March 19, 2011

Last occurrence was about 18 years ago



Photo by Mark Zielinski

What a moon!! I have never seen it this large. I could not resist howling at it like a wolf does – or is it something in my bloodline that gives me the urge. You

see, my last name is **Cantalupo**, it means the “singing wolf” in Italian. That’s what I did, and the lady next door was going to call the rescue squad because she thought I was having a heart attack. What can I do – I have to howl at the moon. *The editor.*

Public Run Tally for February

Saturday, February 5, 2011, 1123 passengers were given rides.

Sunday, February 6, 2011, 1081 passengers were given rides.

Saturday, March 5, 2011, 2103 passengers were given rides. ***This is a record number of riders for one day.***

Sunday, March 6, 2011, 1424 passengers were given rides.

ANGIE'S CORNER



Photo by David Hull

Study the caption above as a drama is in the making. Chessie, our yard Superintendent, is staring at Tom Eckert, our track expert, while he is leveling out a new section of track.

So, where is the drama? Well, Chessie is exacting and meticulous when it comes to track. By the same token, Tom Eckert is a stickler to just about everything he does – it has to be right! What we have here is a monumental personality conflict. Chessie, for all practical purposes, is a person.

Chessie is staring at Tom and waiting for him to make a mistake. Tom is very careful not to make a mistake. Tensions run very high when these situations occur and they usually end in a standoff. After all, we are talking about two pro’s here.

It is for this reason our track is in very good shape. Many thanks Tom and Chessie and thanks to David for capturing the moment with his camera.

Hey Ang!
I haven't seen you in weeks. Where have you been?



Vince



Ang

Vince and Ang in
La La Land

Well, Warren told me to purchase some specials bolts at a hardware store in St. Pete. I told him I did not know how to get there. He gave me his GPS and told me to do exactly as the voice tells me. Two days later, I found myself in Hoboken, New Jersey. The man at the gas station told me to touch "Home" on the GPS display to get back. Two weeks later, I was on the Alaskan Highway. I then threw the GPS unit in the trunk and bought a travel map. When I finally got back home, after a week and a half, Warren chewed me out for not getting the bolts he needed. What a grouch!



Editor's Note: Warren Jamison is the kindest man you will ever meet. So, the only way we can know what he is like as a 'grouch' is by fiction. He now has the best of two worlds – 'a good guy' and a 'grouch'.

FOR SALE

**Locomotive – Alco FA-1
7 ½ inch gauge train set
Battery Electric Drive**



SPECIFICS

- 36 volt drive system with pulse width controller.
- 36 volt battery charger included.
- Red and white marker lights.
- Phoenix sound system.
- 3 cars plus caboose.
- Visible battery condition indicator – electronic.
- Manual with wiring diagrams.

Train is located at Largo Central Railroad, Largo, Florida. For more information, contact Sandy Drayer, 727-483-2399

Get Active!

The best way to have a voice in what is happening in our organization is to **GET ACTIVE!** Below are two great ways of doing this.

1. New members need to be recruited! A new membership chairperson would bring in new ideas – so, step up take over this position and put your ideas to work. Also, you will get to know all the members of LCRR a lot better. We have many interesting members. Contact Jean at angnjean2316@verizon.net or call 727-531-8651.
2. The club needs a Bookkeeper. Records are kept with QuickBooks. QuickBooks is an easy computer program to learn and we are very willing to teach you. Contact Jean Carter, 727-531-8651 or Gail Komar, 813-362-7690 for more information

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

