

# THE SIGNAL TOWER

The Newsletter of the Largo Central Railroad

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January 2010



## President's Message

Greetings,

Seems like, maybe, the cold weather has left us and hope it does not come back. Did it bother our crew working on track? Heck no, they were out there all bundled up in warm clothes working away. I was out there with them every day after work during the week. We really made some great progress. Thanks to all who came out to help.

We are now getting our yard in shape for the Winter Meet. Angie has some pictures of the new panels being installed. As trees grow larger, their roots raise up the ground causing the tracks go out of gauge and giving them super elevation they do not need. Replacing the track is not the hard part; however, dealing with the tree roots is a 'bummer'.

February is just around the corner signaling the start of the FLS Winter Meet. There will be a large tent setup for the vendors and guests. We will also have a couple of tables set up for swapping hobby related items.

I want to thank all the 'doers' and members who show up for our Public Runs. We have worked real hard to get ready for this meet and I think this one will be the 'best ever'.

Warren Jamison

President

## Mark Your Calendar

Touch a Truck & Florida Clown Day

Saturday, January 30, 2010

11:00 AM to 4:00 PM.



We have been doing this run quite a few years now. It is an important event for the City of Largo so please show up to help with this gig.

The run falls on our 5<sup>th</sup> Saturday and it has been decided that the 'First Lady of the Railroad', Dolores Pike, is going to feed us. She will be serving roast beef, mashed potatoes, peas and carrots and a salad. Please bring a covered dish or dessert. The run will quit at 4:00 PM and supper will be served around 5:00 PM. Please give Dolores a helping hand with the setup and cleanup after the meal.

## Florida Live Steamers 2010 Winter Meet

Overlapping days are travel days to other tracks

February 4, 5, 6, 7, 2010 —

North East Florida Live Steamers

February 10,11,12,13,14, 2010 —

Big Boots & Western Railroad

February 14,15,16,17, 2010 —

Central Pasco & Gulf Railroad

February 17,18,19,20, 2010 —

Largo Central Railroad

February 20,21,22,23, 2010 —

Manatee Central Railroad

February 25,26,27,28, 2010 —

Ridge Live Steamers

February 27, 2010 — FLS Annual Meeting at  
Dundee Community Center.

**Largo Central Railroad Meet:** Following are some of the vendors who will be at Largo for the Meet:

**Scott Lindsay**

Custom Rail Cars

**David Barfield**

Flashers and Other Goodies

**Herring Engineering**

Locomotive Engineering & Builders

**Backyard Engineers**

Manufacturer of valve gear, cylinders, pistons, etc

**Little Engines**

Mike Venezia

**Tom Bee**

Trucks, brakes & accessories

**Richard Sales**

Mr. Motion – Locomotive builder

**Don Orr**

Loco Parts – Accessories for steam locomotives

Limited Parking for RV's will be in the Maintenance area of the park – no hookups are available, however.

## Registration:

### Largo Central Railroad Meet

We will need volunteers to help with registration. This will also involve signing of Release Forms and Badges. If you can help, please let me know days and times. You may email me at [angnjean2316@verizon.net](mailto:angnjean2316@verizon.net) or call 727-531-8651. Your help will be very much appreciated. *Jean Carter*

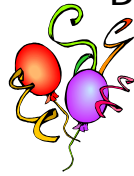
# Board Meeting

February 5, 2010 at 7:30 PM

# Membership Meeting

February 6, 2010 after the Public Run

# Birthday Runs for February 2010



## February 13, Saturday

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

## February 20, Saturday

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

## February 27, Saturday

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

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

# A Minute from the Secretary

At the start of this New Year we have a new set of officers and directors; who look suspiciously like last years gang of 9. So we have plenty of continuity.

The new big item to look forward to is the Winter Meet! We will need the help of everyone to see that the Meet goes smoothly. In the mean time, there are still some areas of the track that need work so plan to help on each Saturday between now and Feb. 17<sup>th</sup> to get this work done.

We expect that the 13 new riding car frames we ordered will be delivered during the Meet. After they arrive we will add seats, trucks, paint etc. to get them ready for use on run days. We may be adding some steel cabooses to our rolling stock as well.

An updated set of safety guidelines will be distributed soon and now more then ever we need to focus on the safety of our visitors. Remember, with the many children and adults using the Park on our run days there always seems to be someone walking, running, biking, rollerblading, etc. around the trains. Consequently, whenever engineers are operating their trains, they should always focus their attention on the track ahead. It is easy to be distracted by questions from riders or lose focus after a long day of going around and around. Keep alert for the unexpected!

See you at the track.

*Marty*

# MEMBERSHIP DUES

Membership dues are now due. 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
Family Membership	\$40.00
Junior Membership	\$15.00

**If dues are not received by March 1, 2010, your name will be removed from LCRR Membership List.**

# For Sale

Here is your chance to own these beautiful F7 locomotives (Caption One) built by the Reese's of E&S Lines. The Reese's F7 is one of the most reliable and long lasting locomotives built. Our club has one that is about 15 years old and is still in running condition.

This locomotive set has very low running hours and is in excellent condition. You have to see it to really appreciate them.

It has a 16 HP 'Vanguard' industrial gas engine powering the hydraulic system. Also equipped with the second generation hydraulic brake spool for positive locomotive braking. Self starting and engine driven electrical system for lights and battery charging.

If you are interested or have questions – contact Sandy Drayer, 727-483-2397.



Caption One

Here is a story from Tony Windsor, the Tom Sawyer of the railroad.

## Railroading Life and Times of Kenneth Tony Windsor

*Submitted by Tony Windsor*

Back in 1946, at the age of 10 years, I hopped on my first (and last) freight train in Elmwood Park, Illinois. It was only going 5 mph, an easy jump, but than it speeded up to 40 plus mph. Afraid to jump off, I went to the top of the box cars to the loco cab and said "hi" to the engineer and fireman. They were quite startled and told me they were not stopping until Moline, Illinois. They gave me food and water and let me help shovel coal. I was enthralled by all the brass gauges and valves. I slept at a hobo camp outside the freight yard. The engineer had told me to listen for 4 toots of the whistle to let me know when I could get on the loco going back home to Chicago; he would slow down at Elmwood Park and let me jump off the locomotive.

My father and other guys across the street had layouts in their basements of American Flyer and Lionel trains, 3 railers. Around 1962 or so, I left the states as a TTT (typical tropical tramp) and a SOF (soldier of fortune) for Central America. I rode on a lot of live steam trains and paid my fare, (you get shot for hopping freight trains without paying).

Flash forward to 1965: I got married in 1966 in Chicago.

During the next 39 years, we rode the Durango/Silverton, Cumbres/Toltec, Smoky Mountain, NC, 2-3 railroads in Texas, Parrish, FL. Busch Gardens, Tampa, FL. - all live steamers, of course. Many times I could bribe the engineer and fireman to let me ride in the cab and help shovel coal. We settled down in Riverview, Florida. In 2005, I started to hang around Largo Central Railroad in Largo, Ridge Live Steamers near Dundee, and Manatee Central Railroad in Parrish, Florida — all 7 ½" gauge, 1 ½" scale. I bought my first locomotive, a Plum Cove Studios generic electric and flat car as kits. I joined the 3 clubs and again became an activist railroader. In January 2008, I purchased my first live steamer, a British narrow gauge tank engine, propane fired, 3 ¾" scale. Since my last name is Windsor, and the loco, tender, riding car, tank car, and cabooses, are insured by Lloyds of London, it is a limeyish fit!

*Tony Windsor, 10715 Amazon Creek Pl, Riverview FL, 33578  
813.677.3176 [kwindsor001@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:kwindsor001@tampabay.rr.com)*

*Thanks Tony – Swell Story.*

## Public Run Tally for December

**Saturday, January 2, 2010**, 1592 passengers were given rides.

**Sunday, January 3, 2010**, 703 passengers were given rides.

*Please note, this weekend was real cold.....especially Sunday!*

## Happy Birthday to You!

### January Birthdays

Doug Fulthorpe	Andrew Habasevich
Robert Habasevich	Jill Kaufman
Don Mann	James Reid
George Robert	Matt Wolf

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

## The Awakening

*Submitted by James Salerno*

The warming half-light of dusk caressed the man and the boy as they stood hand and hand, in a silence only broken by singing crickets along a mainline.

"Why are we here Dad?"

"To see something special — A steam locomotive."

The boy smiled and asked: "Why is this one special?"

At that moment, a spiraling light pierced the gathering gloom far down the track. A low pitched, mournful wail filled the air. A warning for the near by crossing. It didn't sound like the shrill, tooting whistle the boy remembered. As the locomotive drew closer he noticed the monstrous boiler with something that resembled a one eyed monster.

The spectacle was upon them, flickering firelight reflecting off the ballast, the sound of its fury, more felt than heard. Boiling water, roaring coal fire, throbbing pistons, whining generator, escaping steam, a sound one would expect from the passing of the DEVIL himself!

The boy's legs tensed, he wanted to run, but his father held his hand firmly. Curiosity replaced the boy's fear and the boy realized that it was a very special locomotive. As the giant he feared for seconds roared passed the smoke and steam cleared, he turn to his father and asked:

"What kind of locomotive was that Dad?"

His father replied:

"A Union Pacific Big Boy."

*Great Story James, Many Thanks.*

## Doers

### **Saturday, December 26, 2009**

Sandy Drayer, Jean Carter, Otis Lawrence, Tom Eckert, David Hull, Mike Smith, Alan Isaac, Warren Jamison, Mary Lefferson, and Bill Boyd.

Many thanks to Chris Janks for the meal he furnished at his own expense. Cooking was done on the new grill the club just purchased.

### **Saturday, January 9, 2010**

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

**Saturday, January 16, 2010**

Mark Zielinski, Tom Eckert, Alex Watson, Alan Isaac, Bob Patrick, Marty van Zanten, Sandy Drayer, Jean Carter, James Salerno, Gail Komar, David Langdon, Warren Jamison, Mark McCoy, David Hull and Chessie.



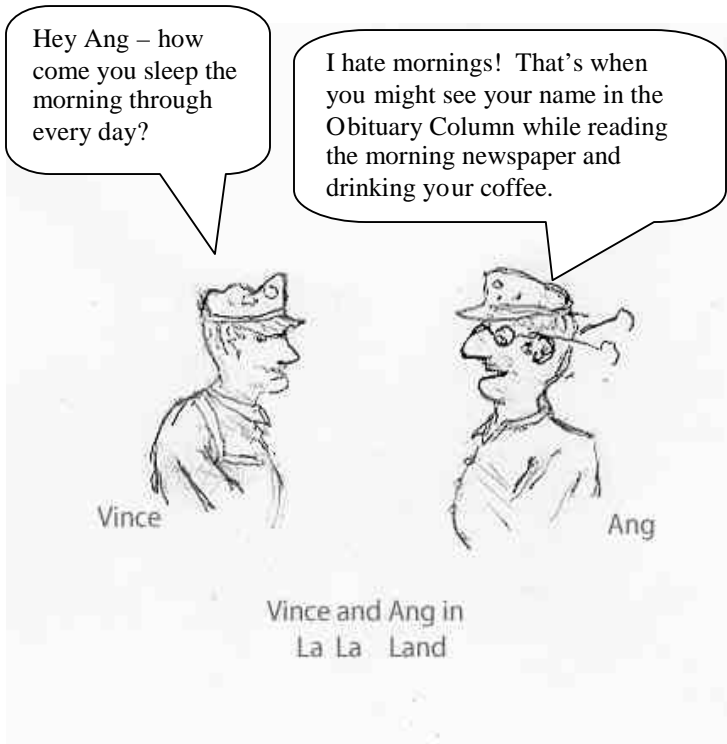
**Saturday, January 23, 2010**

James Salerno, David Langdon, Alan Isaac, Bob Patrick, Sandy Drayer, Mark Zielinski, David Hull, Tom Eckert, Alex Watson, and Warren Jamison.

Many thanks to all of the above and especially the members who come in during week days. Well Done.

**Florida Live Steamers' Dues**

FLS dues are due January 1, 2010; they are still \$14.00 for the family. Send your renewal dues to Joan Smith, 9111 Erie Lane, Parrish, Florida 34219-9049.



**Excerpt from Angie's book of 'Lopsided Knowledge'.**

Sometimes, one wonders when a person tells you they are the best in what they do. Is their best the best of the best or the best of the worst?

*Angelo Cantalupo  
Absolutely no claim to fame - whatsoever*

**Yard Maintenance & Clean Up**

Captions 2 and 3 shows new track panels being installed in the yard.

When you think of it, Meets are really a good thing as they force you to clean up your house and your act. No club wants to hear that guests are going to other clubs saying, "I just left that so and so club - what a pig pen! You are lucky to get out of the yard to get on the mainline so your locomotive can fall off the track."

See you all at the Meet.



Caption Two



Caption Three

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

