

THE SIGNAL TOWER

The Newsletter of the Largo Central Railroad

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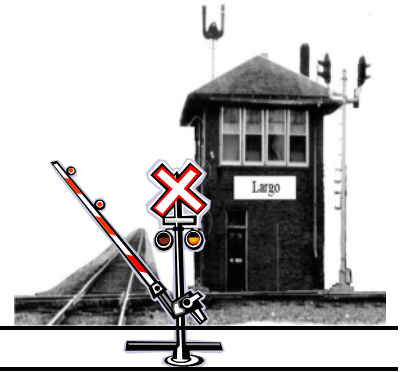
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June – July 2011

President's Message

Greetings,

In spite of the awful heat, things are still getting done. Track panels are still being built and track is still being replaced, where needed, with heavier west coast rail. Luckily the replaced areas had large trees shading the workers from the intense heat of the sun. Many thanks to Tom Eckert and the members who worked on this project. I also want to thank David Hull, Don Mann, James Salerno and Tom Eckert who show up during the week to work on track, T-cars, and locomotives. Our Bob Cat has a new starting motor installed by Don Mann and David Hull. Many thanks to all of the 'Doers' who keep the railroad in tip top shape.

There is a 5th Saturday this month (July). Angie will fill you in with more information on this event.

We will be giving rides on July 29th, 10:00 AM, to children who are attending Kids Camp sponsored by the Ridgcrest Community Services. **We will need help for this gig.**

See you at the track.

Warren Jamison,
President

Communiqué from: Earl Mueller.

This September there will be 3 meets in Tennessee & Georgia. Mid-South will be September 21st through the 24th. That is an open meet for everyone. Right after that we will be having the Mueller Ramble at Eagle Point in Dunlap, Tennessee. September 26th through the 28th. From there it will be another Mueller Ramble at SPPPRY (Canton, Georgia) September 29 through October 1st.

The meet at Mid-South is open to all. Members of Eagle Point are also automatically welcome but I need to know who will be attending and what kind of equipment and vehicles. They usually have enough room for everyone but it's better to check with me. There is only one motel there so get your room early or drive over 30 miles to the next town.

If you are planning to attend the Canton Meet (except for members), you will HAVE to contact me as their spaces are limited and it's a first come first serve as far as vehicles, motorhomes and trailers. I will be doing all the inviting for this meet. I hope to start writing invitations next month but best to get with me before then if possible. This will be like a round robin set of meets. My E-Mail is earls-in@ij.net and my phone number is 727-525-9038. Thank you. *Earl Mueller.*



ATTENTION

Saturday, July 30, 2011 is the 5th Saturday of the month – that means 'FUN RUN DAY'.

Starting time is 1:00 PM with various events to be carried out in the afternoon with dinner being served at around 5:00 PM. Bring fruit or dessert to share with others. Come on out and relax or run your train. Members of other train clubs and their families are always welcome.

Saturday, October 22 2011 will be treated as our 5th Saturday (FUN RUN DAY). City of Largo will be having the 'Spooktacular' festivities on October 29, 2011 from 4:00 PM to 10:00 PM.

LCRR Board Meeting

Board Meeting Friday, August 5, 2011 at 7:30 PM.

LCRR Membership Meeting

Saturday, August 6, 2011 after the Public Run

Birthday Runs for August 2011

Saturday, August 13, 2011

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

Saturday, August 20, 2011

Morning	Open
Afternoon	Open

Saturday, August 27, 2011

Morning	Open
Afternoon	2:30 to 3:30 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.

Secretary's Minutes

Date: July 2, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 4:46 p.m. by President Jamison.

Minutes from the last meeting: Alan Clark made a motion to dispense with reading of the minutes from the June 4, 2011 meeting. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's report was presented by Angelo Cantalupo. There being no questions concerning the report, Dolores Pike made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report. Motion carried.

President's Report: Warren Jamison reviewed the Club's operation during the first 6 months of 2011. Many things were accomplished especially track replacement and riding car replacement. Considering the high volume of riders, we managed the public well during our run weekends and kept our equipment well maintained. We continue to have good relations with the City of Largo and the Park management. A special thanks went to Tom Eckert and Dave Hull for all the work done on the track.

Areas in need of improvement included better communication during run days as well as among our membership. We agreed to set up a communication link between the station and the yard and to send out more e-mails concerning Club activities. We also need to recruit more new members. We will have displays at more of the local train shows and perhaps make a video of our "Fun Run" activities on the 5th Saturdays to show.

Unfinished Business:

1. After some testing, it has been decided not to purchase Jere Wendt's engine. We will have to work on the F7 engine we took in trade to get it ready for use. While all the engines ran well today, Warren believes that one more engine is needed to always have a backup available. We may look into this further.

2. During July, we will offer a special run to the Largo City "Train Camp" kids during the week of July 7-11. Also a run between 10: and 11: am for the Ridge Crest students on the 29th.

3. There will be a 5th Sat. in July. We will have an evening meal and fun run activities. There will also be a 5th Sat. in Oct. and at that time the Club will celebrate its 20 year anniversary. The City may participate in recognizing our 20 years at Largo with a ceremony on Oct. 1, 2011.

New Business:

1. Dolores Pike provided a letter she wrote to the Club concerning the passing of her husband Howard. The Letter was read to the members by the Secretary.

2. During the work day on Sat. the 16th, we will continue to work on track as needed and get the last group of new riding cars ready for use.

There being no further business to discuss, Alan Isaac moved to adjourn. Motion carried, meeting adjourned at 5:20 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Marty van Zanten, Secretary

Our Sympathy



We extend our deepest sympathy to member, Sandy Drayer and his family. Sandy's wife, Joan, 81, passed away June 26, 2011. Sandy and Joan were married for 59 plus years.

God, please rest Joan's soul and grant her eternal life.

Happy Birthday to You!

July 2011 Birthdays

Stamati Damalos

Mary Lefferson



August 2011 Birthdays

Jean Carter

Alan Clark

Wally Hebel

Daniel Hodgen

Marie Keeney

David Langdon

William Larsen

Judy Patrick

Rodger Bryant

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

THANK YOU!

Many thanks go to Don Mann and David Hull for completing the painting and installation of the wood benches and foot boards on our new T-cars. The cars were painted blue and will soon join our red painted T-cars. T-cars sets are now identified by color.

With new T-cars equipped with heavy duty Tom Bee trucks and new track, derailments have practically diminished to zero.

EDITOR REPLACEMENT

In the last newsletter, I made a plea for someone to take over the editor's job because I am really getting old and feeble.

To my surprise, the phone rang off the hook with people calling to take over the job. Even Warren Jamison called. Suddenly, I found myself on the floor as I fell out of bed — It was a great dream!

So, how many people have really called? — 'Nada'

Your old feeble editor.



Caption 1

Don Mann's New Project

Observe Caption 1 – This is the Siemens electric train that was planned to run between Orlando and St. Petersburg. For whatever reason, the project was cancelled. Not for Don Mann, though. Take a look at Caption 2 and 3 and see what he has built. The prototype first car of the Siemens train was displayed at the Museum of Science and Technology in Tampa. Don took pictures and talked to engineers about the train. He returned home and built the lead car. There are no castings available or plans you can buy, he fabricated it all. It is probably the only one in our scale in the country.

In the June 23, 2011 "Largo Leader" newspaper, the front page has a write up of the lead electric train

car Don built and a picture of him and Largo Mayor Pat Gerard congratulating Don as the car will run on the Largo track very soon. He is also going to build an engineer car that will have the same paint scheme as the lead car. Don has worked on this project for about seven months.

Let's get down to some specifics. The prototype consists of 8 cars. More can be added as they are all self-propelled. The 8 car consist measures about 600 feet long. Powered by 15 or 25 Kilovolt AC picked up with pantographs from overhead wire and converted to 3 phase power. Traction power is 8,000 KW or approximately 11,000 horsepower. Three types of braking systems are used, regenerative, eddy current and air brakes. The design speed is 220 miles per hour and is capable of reaching 250 miles per hour.

Now for Don's creation. His car can operate on 24 or 36 volts. The body is made of sheet steel, not fiberglass. The side windows are ¼ inch tinted glass and the front cab window is ¼ inch glass. The car measures 21 inches in height, 16 inches wide and 6 feet long. It can carry a total of three 12 volt deep discharge batteries. The rear of the car contains a panel with a voltmeter and ammeter with various switches to control the front lights and the small red blinking light above the cab.

Don modified 2 Tom Bee trucks to carry 2 axle hung electric motors for each truck. Motors are ½ horsepower each giving a total of 2 horsepower for traction power. The motors are powered by a Curtis pulse width controller used for golf carts and a reversing switch.

This project is some piece of work. Don worked alone fabricating the entire car including the modification of the trucks and the painting. The other projects he has built are a beautiful English steam engine, The Battle of Britain with Winston Churchill's name plate; and a Thomas the Tank engine that can pull 12 people. He also built a British Stanier Corridor Passenger Coach complete with upholstered seats, carpeting and sliding door on the corridor side. This is all contained in a module that can be removed.

Editor's Note: In the 16 years I have been with the club, no one in the club has ever matched Don Mann in the quantity of



Caption 2
Photo by Don Mann



Caption 3
Photo by Don Mann

rolling stock he has built. Don's trade is electronics and he owned a television repair shop in Dunedin for many years. He is also a mechanical type with a well-equipped machine shop in a building behind his home. Don has completed many projects at the track to improve our railroad.

Well done Don! We are all proud of you and it is an honor to have you as a member of our club.



DOERS



Saturday, June 11, 2011

Alex Watson, Don Mann, Sandy Drayer, Marty vanZanten, Jean Carter, Dan Hodgen and Tom Eckert

Saturday, June 18, 2011

Alex Watson, David Hull, Don Mann, John Eason, Jean Carter, Dan Hodgen and Alan Clark.

Saturday, June 25, 2011

Tom Eckert, Alex Watson, Don Mann, David Hull, John Eason, Warren Jamison, Sandy Drayer, Dan Hodgen, Matt Bryant and Sharon Bryant.

Saturday, July 9, 2011

Tom Eckert, James Salerno, Alex Watson and Don Mann.



Saturday, July 16, 2011

Tom Eckert, David Hull, John Eason, Marty vanZanten, Alan Isaac, Jean Carter, Don Mann, Warren Jamison and Chessie, Yard Superintendent.

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

Note: To all members: Members are to sign in when at the track. There is a log book for this purpose on the desk in the clubhouse. Also, this is where the editor gets the list of "Doers".

Public Run Tally for June & July

Saturday, June 4, 2011, 1,667 passengers were given rides.

Sunday June 5, 2011, 1,359 passengers were given rides.

Saturday, July 2, 2011, 1,436 passengers were given rides.

Sunday, July 3, 2011, 1,290 passengers were given rides.

*God Bless,
See you next time, Ang*



New Brakeman on the Job

Years ago on the Illinois Central, one train ran into another one. There wasn't much damage – just shaking up of the cars.

In the investigation the following morning, the new rear brakeman of the first train was asked whether he had thrown off any fuses (Flares) in the fog. (It happened to be a foggy night.) The brakeman testified "Yes". Later on in the hall the conductor said to him, "Hey, Bill, I looked back and I didn't see any red fuses. I didn't see any light." The brakeman said "What! Are you supposed to light them?"

Where Are My Shoes?

Late one night, while running out of New York, porter Alan Kane broke company rules by gathering up all the shoes in his car and took them to the next Pullman car to shine. After shining all the shoes to a high gloss, Kane attempted to return to his car but was shocked to discover that his car was gone! While he was shining shoes, his car had been switched to another train. As far as we can tell, his passengers are still looking for their shoes.

Hey Ang,
Last Tuesday you were seen scarfing down food and gulping down beer while you were on your front porch. What gives?

Tuesday was supposed to be the end of the world. I wanted to make sure I wasn't hungry when it happened. The only thing that did happen was I gained 10 pounds.



Vince



Ang

Vince and Ang in
La La Land