

# THE SIGNAL TOWER

The Newsletter of the Largo Central Railroad

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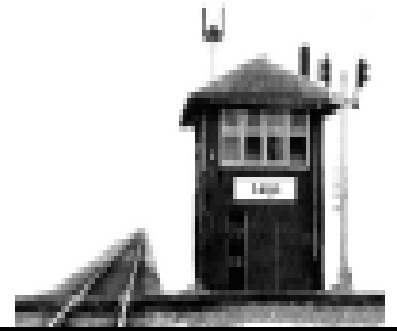
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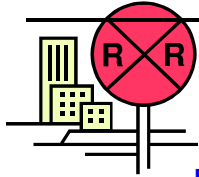
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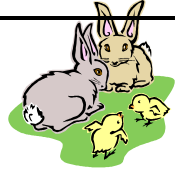
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March 2009



## Notice



Due to rising expenses, the newsletter will be dropped from 12 issues to 3 issues a year. Please read details on page 4.

## President's Message

Greetings,

Well, the 2009 Florida Live Steamers Winter Meet is now history. All told, it seems like it was well attended and everyone had a good time.

As for our part "Open House", I am very well pleased by the attendance and the 'no stress' operation of the railroad. Guests ran their equipment as long as they wanted. To be real honest, the guests ran the railroad. We supplied engines and riding cars for railroaders who did not bring any equipment. Thanks to all who attended and thanks to club members who showed up to help.

On another note, the park crew drained the pond and did necessary repairs to replace and reset the stones around the edges. The water should now clear up as I believe they replaced the filters.

Thanks to all who show up for work days and Public Run days. See you at the track!

Warren Jamison,  
President

## Mark Your Calendar



### Ridge Live Steamers – Spring Meet

Friday, March 27 to Sunday, March 29, 2009. For more information, email Allen Newcomb at [allenPn@aol.com](mailto:allenPn@aol.com)

### 2009 Manatee Central RR – Spring Meet

Friday, April 3 to Sunday April 5, 2009. For more information, contact Larry Smith 941-776-2109

### Big Boots & Western RR – Easter Weekend Meet

Saturday, April 11 and Sunday, April 12, 2009. For more information email Captain Boots at [bigbootsrr@embarqmail.com](mailto:bigbootsrr@embarqmail.com)



**Manatee Central RR – Memorial Day Meet**  
Saturday, May 23 to Monday, May 25, 2009

**Largo Central RR – Operating Session**  
5<sup>th</sup> Saturday – May 30, 2009

## Public Run Weekend

Saturday, April 4, 2009

Sunday, April 5, 2009

## Membership Meeting

April 4, 2009

**Be certain to attend!**

## Board Meeting

April 3, 2009 at 7:30 PM

## A Minute from the Secretary

The open house we held as part of the Florida Live Steamer's Winter Meet was well attended, much to our surprise. Apparently there are some people who just never get tired of playing with trains. Enough LCRR members showed up to keep things running smoothly. It was a laid back, low key kind of opportunity for visitors to enjoy our track and the nice surroundings. Any good track can "cut the mustard" as they use to say but our track is the "Grey Poupon" as one visitor told me. The Park makes a great setting for our railroad, something we may sometimes fail to appreciate.

As you may know, we have now received all three of the new engines that were ordered. So now that we have enough pulling power we need something to pull. Much needed new riding cars are in the works. To that end, we now have 10 sets of trucks on hand and are in the process

of fabricating steel frames for "T" riders. This should provide enough riding cars for our busy run days.

One final item: We discussed the issue of infant children riding the trains. This is a frequent dilemma for us and at the last meeting the consensus was that a child must be at least one year old in order to safely ride the trains. This policy is now in effect and all members should be aware of it.

Until the next meeting, see you at the track. Marty

## An Engineer in Training

Observe Caption 1 – If the famous American artist, Norman Rockwell was still with us, he would put this picture on canvas in a heartbeat. The engineer in training is Quinten Bieri, 2½ years old. His grandfather, member Marty VanZanten, is coaling up his Mogul locomotive. I expect Quinten will be operating the locomotive in a few years. Many thanks go to Marilou VanZanten (Grandmother) for sending us the photograph. It sure is a 'keeper'.



Caption 1

Photo by Marilou VanZanten

## People News



Our First Lady of the Railroad, Dolores Pike, will be going to the hospital for surgery in April. Keep her in your prayers for a speedy recovery.

Sergeant Rafael Quesada will be shipping out to Iraq. This is his third tour. We wish him well and we will miss him.

Good News! Gail and Greg Komar have become grandparents for a second time. Gail's daughter, Karen, gave birth to Shelby on March 12, 2009, 9:24 AM. Congratulations!

## Happy Birthday to You! March Birthdays



Bill Boyd  
Marty VanZanten  
Tony Windsor

Londal Thorpe  
Alex Watson

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

## Birthday Runs for April 2009

### April 11, Saturday

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

### April 18, Saturday

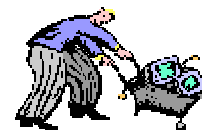
Morning	Open
Afternoon	Open

### April 25, Saturday

Morning	Open
Afternoon	2:30 to 3:30 PM

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

## The Doers



### Saturday, March 14, 2009

James Salerno, Tom Eckert, Alan Isaac, Mike Smith, David Hull, Bob Patrick, Bill Boyd, Sandy Drayer and Otis Lawrence.

### Saturday, March 21, 2009

Bob Patrick, Dave Hull, Warren Jamison, Sandy Drayer, Tom Eckert, James Salerno, Carol DeVogel, Alan Isaac, Bill Boyd, Connie Chichester, Jean Carter, and Gail Komar.

**Thanks for your continued help on maintaining our railroad.**

## Public Run Tally for March

Saturday, March 7, 2009, 1426 passengers were given rides.

Sunday, March 8, 2009, 1721 passengers were given rides.

## Mini Report on the Open House Meet” According to Angie

Since we had an Open House Meet instead of a regular meet, we all had an enjoyable time due to everything being of ‘low key’. It gave me an opportunity to meet guests that I have seen before but never had a chance to talk too.

It was great to see George Whitiker as he is a good friend. George didn’t bring any equipment with him, so, we fixed him up with a locomotive and riding car. He had a great time.

Next on the list is Larry Blecha from Indiana. Larry has a book of pictures of all the models, locomotives and farm engines he built. If you look at Caption 2, Larry is pulling out of the tunnel with his locomotive and rolling stock he built. He can actually start a museum with what he has made. I asked him where did he get all this time from; he replied, “you can’t do much when you are snowed in but work in the shop. This is Indiana and the winters are ruff.”



Caption 2



Caption 3

If you look at Caption 3, Larry is playing his accordion on the last day while railroaders were loading up to leave. He was playing polkas and songs us old timers remember. If you look down, Larry has his hat on the ground trying to collect money to get back home. Carefully look at Caption 3 and you will notice Howard Pike in the background. Howard has the uncanny ability to hear the sound of a dime hitting the ground at 100 yards. He is quickly hobbling up to the hat on the ground to con Larry out of his coins. We still do not know if Larry made his way back home. Let us know when you get back home, Larry!

On the list are Ted and Marie Nyland from Ohio. You will know who they are by the beautiful twin coupled Interurban rail cars they own. Ted rides on one and Marie rides on the other. The cars are made of highly polished stained wood and are very impressive looking. They come to most of the Winter Meets. Not only did they come to our Open House, but also returned on the weekend for our Public Run. Thank you for your visit and your generosity.



The Shifter with Optional Cab in the Making.

Next, Richard and Virginia Sales of Ohio is a most interesting couple. Richard’s trade name is Mr. Motion. He designed and built an electric locomotive he calls the “Shifter”. In his own words, “This 1.5 scale 7 ½ inch gauge Diesel Locomotive replica is truly built for long haul. Will easily and smoothly pull you and 10 people around a ½ mile track – including 30 yards of 3% grade – for a full 8 hours and still have power to spare. Ring the bell or sound the diesel horn and pull out of the station as Chief Engineer on the locomotive of your choice.”

The locomotive has a well designed electric motor powering the wheels. What is unique about the locomotive design is the weight distribution. The high capacity deep discharge batteries are over the wheels giving plenty of tractive effort. He also uses a high quality speed controller with dynamic braking.

An optional feature is a dummy cab that can be slid on the locomotive to make it a cab forward, center cab or rear cab type. It’s for whatever your mood desires for the day.

Virginia hopped on the locomotive while I sat in a Richard design riding car and gave me a ride around the track. It made my day.

Mr. Motion builds and sells the 'Shifter' locomotive. He also can supply a put together kit at a very reasonable price. The 'Shifter' is a great locomotive to start you in the hobby.

If you are interested, log on Mr. Motion's website [www.mr-motion.net](http://www.mr-motion.net)

Many thanks for your visit, Virginia and Richard.

Lest we not forget Earl Muller who ran his 4-8-2 Mohawk locomotive around the track and had a good time. His locomotive ran flawlessly and 'no' it did not derail once. Thanks for your visit, Earl.

## Getting Smart

Due to lack of interest, '**Getting Smart**' is now terminated. No more school – you all can go on permanent vacation now.

The only diploma to be issued will be for "Chessie" the cat, our club mascot. All others will receive '**Dunce Caps**'.

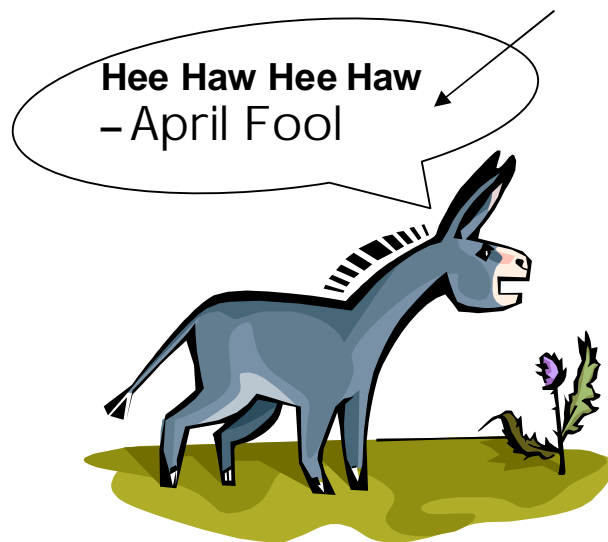
## Angie's Corner

It was March 1, 2009 when I suddenly realized I didn't pay my club dues. I also realized I was not a member of LCRR anymore. Then, I felt like the weight of a 200 pound anvil left my shoulders – I was free!!!! I was so happy I found myself kicking the kitchen chairs around the house and jumping up and down on the couch. No more newsletter writing, no more deadlines to meet, no more birthday runs to do, no more Public Runs. Happy days are here again. It was like the last afternoon of school when summer vacation was to start. You just ran around the school yard to relieve the stress of school and home work.

Free – Free – then it happened! There is this character, who is a real pest and he lives in my head. I can see him from the back side of my eyes. His name is Luigi Doo Goodie. The moment I spotted him, I knew I was in for it. This is the way it went. "Ang, you are the biggest idiot who ever walked the face of the earth. You know darn right you love to see the joy and smiles on the childrens' faces when they ride the train. You love it when they come up and thank you with a hug. You, yourself admitted, that alone, was worth a million bucks. And don't you forget for one minute that they are God's children. You should also thank Him for keeping an old bag of bones like you around and fit enough to give something back to His world. You sure are a first class nitwit.

I paid my dues. I was free – just for a little while.

## Newsletter Particulars



I Gotcha Good – again!!.....the editor

*God Bless,  
See you next time, Ang*

