THE SIGNAL TOWER

The Newsletter of the Largo Central Railroad

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March 2010

NOTICE – Starting June 1, 2010, The Signal Tower Newsletter will be on a subscription basis; $10.00 per year. See last page for particulars.

President Message

Greetings,

We have really accomplished a number of projects that needed doing. One, was the removal of all the wood from the southern end of the tunnel. We are in the process of the necessary bid proposals to replace the wood with a long lasting, no maintenance, masonry type material resembling a brick structure. I think Angie has pictures of the stripped end of the tunnel in the following pages.

The other project was getting the T-car frames primed for painting and fabrication into a finished product. Six of the T-cars have been completed and ready to be put into service. Only 8 more too go!

It is easy to say we done this and that, but, believe me, it took a great deal work done by dedicated members. Without them, I can honestly say, we would not have an operating railroad.

I cannot thank the following members enough for their help on the tunnel and T-car projects; Bob Patrick, Don Mann, Tom Eckert, Dave Hull, Marty Van Zanten, Gail Komar, Wally Hebel and James Salerno.

I also thank Chris Janks for feeding the troops on workday, March 20th and Dave Langdon and son for a project they are working on.

Well Done!

Warren Jamison
President

Editor's Note: *Warren, our president, was right in there working with the group.*

Now Hear This!

There will be a run on April 17, 2010 for the "American Cancer Society Relay For Life". This will be a fund raising event for a very worthy cause.

Run time will be from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM. Please show up for this important event. Get to the track early because of the 9:00 AM start time.

ATTENTION

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

Mark Your Calendar

.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.

Manatee Central Railroad
Memorial Day Meet
Friday, May 28 to Sunday, May 30, 2010

Board Meeting Has been Changed to -

April 9, 2010 at 7:30 PM

Membership Meeting

April 3, 2010 after the Public Run

Happy Birthday to You!

March Birthdays

William Boyd
Marty van Zanten
Tony Windsor
Londal Thorpe
Alex Watson

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

Minutes of Membership Meeting

Date: March 6, 2010

The meeting was called to order at 4:40 p.m. by President Jamison.

Minutes from the last meeting: A motion was made to suspend the reading of the minutes of the February 6, 2009 meeting. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer reported that we gave 1,760 rides today and also reported on finances. There being no questions, motion to approve the Treasurer's Report, David Langdon second. Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Six couplers were bought from Tom Bee. Adjustable drawbars will be used on T cars.

2. Warren Jamison, President, thanked all for participating at the Winter Meet. There were many favorable comments from the guests and many are planning to come back next year.

3. We will have "Friends of the Railroad Day"; however, the name will be changed to "Largo Railroad Day". For a donation of $25.00, will have lunch (hotdog, chips, drink for a family of 4), ride trains, tour of the yard, also child railroad activities. Event will be October 16, 2010, 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM. October 16th is a work day.

4. This month there will be 2 work days, Saturday, March 13 to paint the T car frames. Help will be needed to prepare metal for priming and painting. Please show up – we will need at least 5 to 6 people.

5. March 20, 2010, regular workday – Wood will be taken off the tunnel portal. Warren showed tunnel portal model of cut stone which will need very little maintenance. Three bids will be sent out. We need as many people we can get for this project. Food will be served for car frame day and tunnel portal day.

6. Extension of cover over steaming bay: We will add 16 ft. Carolina Car Ports is engineering the project to tell us if it is feasible by taking the swing of the turntable in the evaluation.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. New Associate Member from New Hampshire, Donald LaPlante. Board of Directors has approved. Membership also approved.

2. We will not run on Easter Sunday, April 4th. We will run on Saturday, April 3rd.

3. We will not be running on the 3rd or 4th of July.

4. Do not touch or move a guest's engine or cars unless the guest asks for help.

5. Warren thanks all again for the Winter Meet membership participation.

6. Wally Hebel talked about the gas cans in the shed. The OSHA 5 gal approved cans were suggested and we would need about 11 cans. This will have to be presented and approved by the BOD.

There being no further business to be discussed, Wally Hebel made a motion to adjourn. James Salerno seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Angelo Cantalupo for
Marty van Zanten, Secretary

Correction

George Johnson informed me he did not take the video clip of Larry Blecha playing the accordion and Dan Bricker playing base on his special musical instrument shown in the February Signal Tower, "Music from Days Gone By".

The video was taken by a guest at the Winter Meet, Michael Guy from Toronto, Canada. Many Thanks to Michael and to George for sending me the clip.

New President for FLS

President	Harold Dunsford
Vice President	Rich Dobler
Secretary	Joan Smith

T-Cars

Caption 1 shows a completed T-car with Tom Bee heavy duty trucks. The cars were first sprayed with primer on Saturday, March 13 by David Hull, Tom Eckert and Bob Patrick. Don Mann then took over and worked all week putting lumber, metal, drawbars and trucks to complete 6 T-cars shown in Caption 2. Don sure must have been bushed after completing this lot. Don works alone.

It is like I always say, "There sure is a lot of talent in our hobby railroad clubs".

Caption 1

Caption 2

Public Run Tally for March

Saturday, March 6, 2010, 1,760 passengers were given rides.
Sunday, March 7, 2010, 1,566 passengers were given rides.

Tunnel Portal

Observe Caption 3, Bob Patrick at the top of tunnel is assisting Tom Eckert on the ground in removing the old wood from the face of the tunnel. At the wood pile is Marty van Zanten stacking the removed wood that will be carted away. By the ladder, on the left are Sandy Drayer and Warren Jamison to his right.

In Caption 4, Warren Jamison is on the ladder waiting for the board to drop down while Bob Patrick is prying it away from the wall. Gail Komar, (not shown because she was in back of the photographer), is putting wood on the truck to be taken to the dumpster. We had a problem at this point. You can see the top of Warren's head in the shot. We had to put dulling spray on the bald spot as it was reflecting the sun into the camera lens. "Just kidding Warren, you should be wearing a hat"!

Caption 3

Caption 4

Birthday Runs for April 2010

April 10, Saturday

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

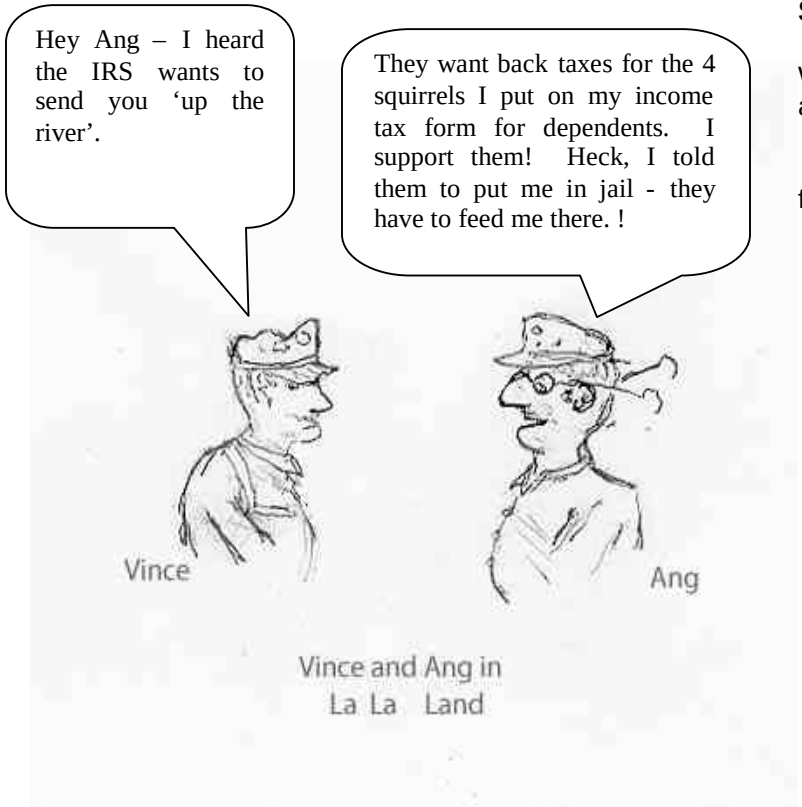
April 17, Saturday

Morning	Open
Afternoon	Open

April 24, Saturday

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



Excerpt from Angie's 'Book of Lopsided Knowledge'

The old saying, "you can lead a horse to the water trough, but you can't make it drink" works great for horses, but not for humans – especially if the trough is filled with beer. Not only will the beer disappear in hurry, but so will the trough, by the looks of some people.

Angelo Cantalupo

Absolutely no claim to fame – whatsoever.

Doers

Saturday, March 13, 2010

Marty van Zanten, Jean Carter, Bob Patrick, Warren Jamison, Alex Watson, David Hull, Tom Eckert, Sandy Drayer, Don Mann, and David Langdon and son.

Saturday, March 20, 2010

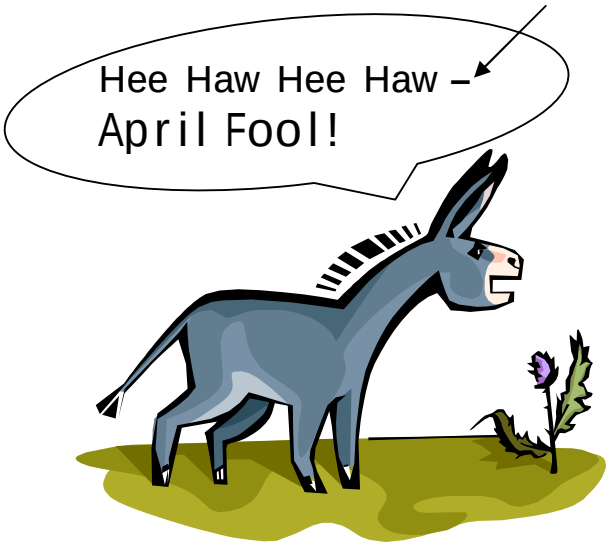
Wally Hebel, Tom Eckert, David Hull, Sandy Drayer, Marty van Zanten, Alan Isaac, Gail Komar, Bob Patrick, Alex Watson, Jean Carter, Alan House, Don, Mann, Chris Janks, and Chessie.

Saturday, March 27, 2010

Sandy Drayer, Alan Isaac, Bob Patrick, Tom Eckert, Warren Jamison, Alex Watson, Don Mann, Jean Carter and James Salerno.

Thanks to all for your help. Thanks to Chris Janks for feeding the hungry workers.

Newsletter Subscription



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

God Bless, Happy Easter!
See you next time, Ang