

THE SIGNAL TOWER

The Newsletter of the Largo Central Railroad

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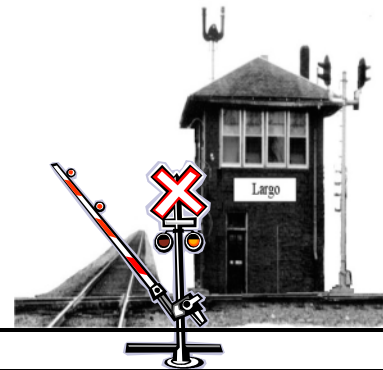
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September 2010

President Message

Greetings,

Not much to report this month as it is the same every month – Work! Work! Work! The tunnel portal has been completed and it looks great. I am waiting for the sun to darken the color a bit and I will have a photo in next month's newsletter. The figure eight crossover is working fine. Work is progressing, at a good pace, on the rail replacement in the woods just south of High Point. After that, we will attack the yard.

Scott Long informed us the T-car frames have been completed and waiting for pickup.

David Hull, with Dan Hodgen helping, is really doing a superb job on priming and painting the ES 44 locomotive. As soon as it is completed, we will have photos in the newsletter and on our website.

Many thanks to all for your help on keeping the railroad in good shape. There is one thing though – does anyone know why I keep getting calls on battle tanks for railroads? I must have missed something in the last newsletter.

See you all at the track!

Warren Jamison,
President



Mark Your Calendar

Largo Central Railroad

October 30, 2010 — 5th Saturday Festivities

Plans for this event have not been finalized. More information will be coming up in the October issue of the Signal Tower.

Board Meeting

October 1, 2010 at 7:30 PM

Membership Meeting

October 2, 2010 after the Public Run

Events at Other Railroad Clubs

Ridge Live Steamers

October 22 – 24, 2010 – Fall Meet

Central Pasco & Gulf Railroad

October 22 & 23 — 29 & 30, 2010

Halloween Night Runs — 7 to 10 PM

Manatee Central Railroad

November 12 to 14, 2010 Fall Meet

FLS Board of Directors Meeting

on Saturday at 1:00 PM

Log on www.floridalivesteamers.com for further information.

2011 Florida Live Steamers Winter Meet Schedule

NEFLS	February 3 to 6, 2011
Mosquito Junction	February 6 to 9, 2011
Big Boots & Western	February 9 to 13, 2011
Central Pasco & Gulf RR	February 13 to 16, 2011
Largo Central RR	February 17 to 18, 2011
Manatee Central RR	February 19 to 22, 2011
Tradewinds & Atlantic RR	February 19 to 20, 2011
Ridge Live Steamers*	February 24 to 27, 2011
*Banquet at Dundee Center, Saturday, February 26, 2011	

Communiqué from Captain Boots

Hello everyone,

I have been building up a new contact list for the RR after buying a new computer this year — if you know of someone who is not on the list, pass it on to me.

As of now, we have the October 30-31, 2010 Halloween Meet and the FLS Winter Meet is scheduled February 9-13, 2011.

I am planning a Christmas/birthday party meet for December and will have the date for that soon.

Also, I would like some input on dates that would be good for the upcoming year.
Capt. Boots



Minutes of Membership Meeting of Largo Central Railroad, Inc.

September 4, 2010

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

Minutes from the last meeting: Motion made by David Langdon to dispense with reading of the minutes from the meeting of August 7, 2010 and Dolores Pike seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: We gave 1,716 rides today. Tunnel portal is completed and the contractor is paid. We are still under budget in donations for Public Runs otherwise our finances are good shape.

Motion made by Howard Pike to accept the Treasurer's report, seconded by David Hull. Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Warren Jamison, President, thanked all for doing a great job with today's Public Run.
2. We started using the figure 8 crossover today. Reason it was done was to keep the railroad operational to work on the mainline. Old track will be removed in the woods and replaced. After the mainline, we are going to replace the yard track and improve the entering and leaving the yard to the mainline. Hopefully it will be done before February of next year. More track panels need to be constructed.
3. Club will take delivery of 4 new riding car frames. The club may be buying a new locomotive next year – possibly electric.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. BOD will hold back on the new signal system until the completion of the yard.

David Hull made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion Carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

*Angelo A. Cantalupo for
Marty van Zanten, Secretary.*

Visitor

Richard Shores from Tradewinds and Atlantic Railroad, Coconut Creek, Florida, visited us on September 11, 2010.

We had a pleasant conversation about our clubs and people we know. Thanks for the visit, Richard, and stop in to see us when you are in our area.

Public Run Tally for September

Saturday, September 4, 2010, 1,716 passengers were given rides.

Sunday, September 5, 2010, 1,442 passengers were given rides.

Birthday Runs for October 2010

October 9, Saturday

Morning	Open
Afternoon	Open



October 16, 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

October 23, Saturday

Morning	Open
Afternoon	Open

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



Sympathy

It is with great sorrow to report the passing of a former Marine, Peter Watson 57, son of member, Alex Watson. We extend our deepest sympathy to Peter's Family. God, grant Peter eternal rest.

Doers



Saturday, August 28, 2010

David Hull, Mark Zielinski, Alex Watson, Dan Hodgen, Tom Eckert, John Eason, Alan Isaac and Jean Carter.

Saturday, September 11, 2010

Tom Eckert, David Hull, Sandy Drayer, Alex Watson, Jean Carter, Dan Hodgen and Scott Reed.

Saturday, September 18, 2010

Tom Eckert, James Salerno, David Hull, Sandy Drayer, Marty van Zanten, Alan Isaac, Jean Carter, Mark Zielinski, Gail Komar, Dan Hodgen, Warren Jamison, Chris Janks and Chessie, Yard Superintendent.



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Saturday, September 25, 2010

Dan Hodgen, Alex Watson, James Salerno, Sandy Drayer, Mike Smith, Tom Eckert, Marty Van Zanten, Alan Isaac, David Hull, Jean Carter and Chris Janks.

Thanks to all of the above for their help and dedication. Special thanks to Chris Janks for putting in many hours to feed the gang.

Happy Birthday to You!
October Birthdays



Loretta Bullock
Alan House
Michael Piechota

Danielle Damalos
Christian Gable

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



Photo by Don Mann



Editor's Note

Last month, a picture of Earl Muller's beautiful Mohawk 4-8-2 locomotive he constructed was featured in the newsletter. This month we pay tribute to another master craftsman, Don Mann, (LCRR Member) for the construction of an English, Stanier Coach he recently completed to compliment his "Winston Churchill Battle of Britain" 4-6-2 locomotive and tender he constructed.

The locomotive is propane fired and Don wanted to hide the ugly propane tank. With no plans available, he studied pictures of English coaches and came up with the "Stanier Corridor Coach" built around 1949. The coach was built with safety in mind and is well ventilated because of the propane tank. The characters behind the window are not painted on but are Mattel miniature figures. The curtains are handmade and the windows are made of real glass. Also, the center top lifts off revealing the propane tank.

Following is Don Mann's explanation of the coach he built.



Photo by Don Mann

A British Stanier Corridor Passenger Coach Submitted by Don Mann

As my Battle of Britain, "Winston Churchill" is propane fired – it required some method of hauling the propane tank. I figured that if I constructed a British Corridor passenger coach it may solve the problem.

Studying pictures of various coaches I was able to come up with something that would do this job and look appealing at the same time. The design is from a British Stanier Corridor Passenger Coach. It is 5 feet long and bowed at each end made from 1" hardwood and metal clad. There are three 3/4 inch angle iron runners that go the length of the coach for strength and rigidity. The sides are made out of 18 gauge aluminum with cut outs for windows made of glass.

I had some Tom Bee trucks that I used but as this coach rides high the trucks looked kind of naked. To solve this problem I studied various U.K. trucks or bogies as they are called in the U.K. The solution was to "dress" up the outside of Tom Bee's trucks with none working leaf springs and dampers, etc. The result was rather pleasing. The coach contains a fork lift propane tank, a nitrogen tank for the braking system and a small 12 volt battery for lighting the coach and locomotive. There is a passenger compartment complete with upholstered seats, carpeting, and a sliding door on the corridor side. All this is contained in a module which can be remounted if need be. I managed to keep the construction at around 1 1/2" scale. There were some rather frustrating moments but, all in all, it was an enjoyment to build. If I build any more coaches, they will be all aluminum and for show only – besides it's a good excuse to buy a TIG welder.

Till next time, Don Mann

If you have any questions, call Don Mann at 727-584-1058.

Many thanks Don! You do a terrific job on the models you build. Well Done! The Editor

An Editor's Lament

Back in 1995 I was looking through the chain link fence watching the guys working on a steam engine in Largo Central Park. Bob Wolfe invited me in to look at the steam engine and then dragged me into the clubhouse. The next thing I know, I was made a member of LCRR and editor of the Signal Tower. I really didn't know what hit me.

Well, I plugged along on the Signal Tower for about a year when I came across an article of a study that read, "The life of a newsletter editor is about 2 years before burnout". Of course, being an editor and from Brooklyn, I knew everything so I dismissed the article as a lot of baloney. This all made me remember the medical researchers, where I worked, walking into walls and uttering, "Publish or Perish".

The years rolled by and I kept editing. Most of the time I kept editing my own writings as hardly anyone would submit anything to publish. I tried many times to sell the editor's job but, to no avail.

Well, Caption one is when I started and Caption two is the present. This is proof that I do not know everything and am a real schlep. Some one better take over the editor's job before it is too late!



Caption One



Caption Two

Election Notice

We are at that time of the year when we need to start thinking about LCRR officers for 2011.

If you are interested in having a say in how the club operates, this is your chance. Call Angelo Cantalupo, Secretary of Election, and have him enter your name on the ballot for the position you are seeking. Contact Angelo at 727-531-8651 or angac2723@verizon.net.

