

Ridge Live Steamers

April 2011

CALENDAR

Ridge Regular Run Day	Saturday	April 23, 2011
Ridge Regular Run Day	Saturday	May 28, 2011
Manatee Family Lines Memorial Day Meet	Saturday-Monday	May 28-30, 2011
Ridge Regular Run Day	Saturday	June 25, 2011
Ridge Regular Run Day	Saturday	July 23, 2011
Ridge Regular Run Day	Saturday	August 27, 2011

CAROL FOR MVP It has occurred to several of the members that Carol Pfister is everywhere doing everything all of the time. Therefore, we nominate her for MOST VALUABLE PERSON around here. She mows with the push mowers while many of us use the riding mowers, she weeds, trims, plants, and waters plants, and she picks up trash all over the property. In addition, she cleans the restrooms, uses the blower on the floor of the pavilion, tidies up the pavilion, and cleans the kitchen area. And then she substitutes in the Emporium, helps with registration, straightens the office area, and helps with and takes charge of the covered dish suppers. Probably the list is even more extensive, but she is usually out of sight doing jobs and tasks that we don't see. A GREAT BIG "THANKS" from all of us to our MVP, Carol Pfister.

The Dust Has Settled, the elections are over. Here are the Officers for 2011:

Harold Dunsford, President (2011 - 2012)
Bruce Rauch, Vice President (2011 - 2012)
Tom Pfister, Treasurer (2010 - 2011)
Allen Newcomb, Secretary (2011 - 2012)
Tommy Bissett, Jr., Immediate Past President (2011 - 2012)

Board Members:

Mort Tiley (2010 - 2011)
Mitchell Hardy (2010 - 2011)
Bill Koster (2010 - 2011)
Jerry Rivet (2011 - 2012)
Foster Bond (2011 - 2012)
Fred DeLoach (2011 - 2012)

Phase III Expansion. Recent advances with the expansion include a complete reversing loop at the far end, a golf cart bridge over the cut in the reversing loop and the supporting piers for the trestle are in. The ride out to, and around, the reversing loop is about as smooth as it could be, thanks to Bill Hays and John Bortz. They tweaked just about every foot of track and reballasted it. Thanks, guys.

Car Barn Proposal. Allen Newcomb has taken the lead in proposing a new car barn. This barn would be placed inside Coach Whip cut, behind "Thomasville". It is planned to be a 12ft by 64ft Gambrel roofed structure identical to the "G" barn except it is planned to have a concrete floor. So far three members have made a commitment to the barn. One more investor is needed before any firm plans are made. If enough members express a desire to commit to a barn a second barn could be built beside the first. Contact Allen Newcomb if you have any questions about the barn or its location. The site and configuration of the barn have preliminary approval of the Board of Directors.

Report of the Ridge Live Steamers Feb Meet 2011. Trains ran almost continuously from Thursday to Sat in perfect weather. We had 29 steam engines powered by coal, gas or fuel; 6 electric steam engines; 20 gas powered diesel; 43 electric powered diesel engines; 5 rail busses; 10 plumb cove engines and 1 snoop; Grand total 115 engines and 168 pieces of rolling stock;



This shows the steaming bays and the food vendor red truck. The bays were busy most of the day.



One of our recent additions are three stub sidings with plugs for charging electric engines. As electric engines continue to gain on other types of power there is an ever-increasing need for plug in sites.



The Foster Bond station seems to be a good place to hang out and watch the fun.



The Gauge 1 tracks were busy. Here are several of our Florida steamers with tents.



These are three gas engines built by Don Leslie. We had a good collection of stationary engines run on air and steam.

A new feature this year was a boat pond, which was located adjacent to the main gate. The pond is 20 by 36 feet and provided enough room for boats to turn around in. We had 7 steamboats, one electric paddle wheeler and 1 sailboat.



Harvey Ulch is about to put the lid on his Water Taxi, steam powered.



Here it is under steam



We had two handcars operating



Here we have bidirectional running.



Charles Piantieri and his 3-year-old son, our youngest engineer.



Mark McCoy and his Daylight



Ted and Marie Nyland on their beautiful varnished trolleys. It must have been hot in the afternoon sun.

Respectively submitted, Harold Dunsford

EMPORIUM: Just because we're not having a meet, doesn't mean that the Emporium is closed. I (Bruce) will have a selection of shirts available every run day that I'm at RLS. Some items are always in stock and are available any time you see me. Shirts can be available anytime if you let me know what you want.

RLS logo hats are completely sold out. The hats I've been getting are no longer available. I'm soliciting suggestions on what type and color(s) of hats to stock for the October meet. I would like to change the embroidery on the hats. I welcome any sample drawings that are fairly simple in design and color scheme. If your design is chosen, you will receive a free hat.

SWITCH YARD SALE: We are still looking for someone to assist Jerry Rivet in the SYS tent. The SYS is becoming very popular but Jerry can't be expected to do everything himself. Contact Bruce or Jerry if you would like to help.

Ridge Live Steamers Spring Meet 2011

The Weather was perfect for steaming events both Friday and Saturday.



Jim Reid pulls passengers



Chris Forte and John Forte steaming



Bill hays on his electric diesel



Paul Levy on his Crescent



Mike Richards on his Mogul steamer



Bill Chamberlain on Porter and Harold Dunsford on Beam Engine



Bobby and Anice McElroy



Dave Funk on his Rail Bus



Tim Meyer steams over new bridge over cut.
Note long train



The Gauge 1 was busy with both electric locomotives and steam engines.



Bob Dean on his great northern locomotive

No pictures were taken of the boats, but the pond saw several steamboats and one electric paddlewheel boat built by Mason Michael. The Pond is now dormant and will be ready for Feb 2012.

We will be open for running on the Fourth Sat of each Month through the summer.

Respectively Submitted by Harold Dunsford
Pictures by Tom Pfister



Charles Piantieri and son

General Membership Meetings will be held the fourth Saturday of each month, unless otherwise noted. They will be held at the pavilion after lunch. This is to satisfy the Requirements of Article 1, Section 4 of the Ridge Live Steamers By-Laws.

The 50-50-90 Rule. Anytime you have a 50-50 chance of getting something right, there's a 90% probability you'll get it wrong.

O.K., NOW WE REALLY MISS

HARVEY. This photo is published to accomplish two things: Get Harvey Ulch to come back from Arkansas/Wisconsin really quick (Harvey has some ideas about a real tipple), and to get a real ballast tipple put on the long-range plan (or concept). Rich Dobler and John Bortz cobbled together this TEMPORARY ballast tipple to check out a possible design and to make it possible for one man to ballast track until the new ballast cars arrive. They used scrap wood and made a number of modifications until this contraption sort of worked. Design ideas and modification suggestions are welcomed (burning this one and starting over has already occurred to the builders).



3-Year Plan (or Concept) Suggestions. At the April BOD meeting a 3-year plan was suggested so that members would have an idea as to the several projects that were contemplated, and members could undertake an individual project. Final Board approval will be needed before starting any given project. President Dunsford assigned Allen Newcomb to chair the committee. Other members of the committee are: Bruce Rauch, Tim Meyer, Lindsay Raley and Rollin Patrick. Contact any one of these members with your suggestions.

- Finish Elston Yard Expansion
- Install 3 (or more) industry tracks at bottom of hill (switch is there)
- Paint everything
- Extend silver thorn plants north along east boundary
- Add steaming bays
- Build yardmaster's tower
- Improve septic system for #2 and #3 toilets
- Improve road to pump house
- Expand campground
- Improve electrical service to the campground
- Build control tower in YeeHaw
- Add bridge to Coachwhip Cut to hang pipes
- Repairs to Ridgeville Station (benches and roof)
- Replace worn rail in several locations
- Add shelves to inside of trailer to get stuff off of the floor

Electronic Distribution. Help the Treasurer and the Secretary/Editor to save money, and time. If you do not already get the newsletter, and more recently the 2010 Membership List, via e-mail, please e-mail me at allenpn@tampabay.rr.com with your e-mail address. Please be sure to add me to your mailbox so that I won't be blocked. Please be assured that only RLS mail will be sent to you and it will be as a "blind copy" to prevent anyone else gaining access to your computer.

Name Badges. Please wear your name badges when at the track, especially during run days, so that we may all learn the names of members we don't know, and new members may get to know us. Additional, or new, badges may be purchased for \$6.00.