

Ridge Lines

Voice of the Ridge Live Steamers

April 2014

Dundee, Florida

CALENDAR

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| RLS Work Day | Saturday | April 5, 2014 |
| Manatee Central April Meet | Friday – Sunday | April 11-13, 2014 |
| RLS Work Day | Saturday | April 12, 2014 |
| Scheduled Board of Directors Meeting | | |
| RLS Work Day | Saturday | April 19, 2014 |
| RLS Run Day | Saturday | April 26, 2014 |
| and General Membership Meeting | | |
| RLS Work Day | Saturday | May 3, 2014 |
| RLS Work Day | Saturday | May 10, 2014 |
| Scheduled Board of Directors Meeting | | |
| RLS Work Day | Saturday | May 17, 2014 |
| RLS Run Day | Saturday | May 24, 2014 |
| and General Membership Meeting | | |
| Manatee Memorial Day Weekend | Saturday – Monday | May 24-26, 2014 |
| RLS Work Day | Saturday | May 31, 2014 |
| Second Annual Picnic/Run | Friday | July 4, 2014 |
| Manatee Fall Meet | Friday – Sunday | November 7-9, 2014 |
| Ridge Fall Meet | Friday – Sunday | October 24 – 26, 2014 |
| and General Membership Meeting | | |
| Ridge Winter Meet | Thursday – Sunday | February 26-March 1, 2015 |

SPRING HAPPENINGS AT RIDGE The Ridge Track has had a busy spring so far with the fourth card order operating session and the Spring Meet under their belts.

The last card order meet for the winter/spring season was held on March 8 and two passenger trains, six freight trains, and a busy yard crew put out 17 trains during the meet. The dispatcher, yardmaster, trainmaster, yard crew, passenger crews, and freight crews enjoyed a day with perfect weather as they moved passenger service and freight delivery around the railroad. The operating scheme is a track warrant –ABS system using car cards, operating forms, and waybills and the railroad was configured in a point-to-point pattern with Ridgeville and one end of the railroad and Elston Yard at the other. Our hope is that next year, more individuals will participate and we will try to get the schedule out as soon as possible.

The Spring Meet was also a busy meet with 33 trains participating in the three day event. Night runs were held on Friday and Saturday nights and 36 people were fed at the covered dish supper on Saturday evening. There were a number of children attending and many were seen operating trains under supervision. A number of visitors were given rides during the weekend as once again, the weather was great.

**Newsletter of the Ridge Live
Steamers, Inc.**

Board of Directors

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Director (2013-2014): Rollin Patrick

Director (2013-2014): Foster Bond

Director (2013-2014): Fred DeLoach

Director (2014-2015): Mort Tiley

Director (2014-2015): Jim Burby

Director (2014-2015): Tom Pfister

Past President: Richard Dobler

Newsletter Editor/Publisher:

Allen Newcomb

Submissions: Ridge Lines welcomes articles, news items, digital photos, and other contributions. Please contact the Editor.

Membership: Anyone interested in joining the Ridge Live Steamers should contact the Secretary.

Switch/Turnout Identification. Special thanks go to Rollin Patrick for completing (with a few exceptions) the identification of all the switches. Each switch has a tag identifying the serial number and location of the switch. A few switches, such as the Northeast Corner, still need to be identified. Any problems with any switch should be reported to Rollin with the Serial Number and Location identifier to locate the exact switch with a problem. “That switch out there” won’t help solve the problem. Rollin, and Bill Hays, have taken on the responsibility of maintaining the switches. Let’s make it easier for them.

Electronic Distribution. Help the Treasurer and the Secretary/Editor to save money, and time. If you do not already get the newsletter 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. In addition, and very important, please advise us if your e-mail address changes.

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.

Board of Director Meetings are scheduled on the second Saturdays of every month, subject to cancellation with at least one weeks notice by the President. This is to satisfy the Requirements of Article II, Section 3, Paragraph (1) of the Ridge Live Steamers By-Laws.

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.

The Florida Live Steamers is an umbrella organization that coordinates the railroad activities around the state. If you don’t belong, it is time you did. If you do belong, dues are due. \$20.00 a year should be mailed to FLS, 9111 Erie Lane, Parrish, FL 34219.

President's Page

By Bruce M. Rauch

As the snow drifts melt in the previously frozen north, so our snow-birds begin to drift away and start their spring migration to their summer residences. They leave behind a winter's worth of work at RLS. Like the cobbler's elves, they have performed many works that seem to have been created overnight. Their hours, days, and weeks of toil have made our facility so much better. Thank you, snow-birds, for your dedication to your tasks. Have a safe trip home. We look forward to your return when your skies darken, the wind whips the fallen leaves, the mercury plunges, and those white flakes begin to fall.

More and more trains are using the track more and more days of the week. In order to avoid conflict we must remember:

- Use the signals at all times, even if you know that yours is the only train on the track. The more you use the signals, the less you have to think about remembering to use them. Usage becomes almost automatic.
- **Do not leave a parked train unattended on the mainline.** This is important all around the track and especially in the Holman/Foster Bond Station area. There are several tracks to park on in that area where you won't block other traffic.
- Members are welcome to bring guests at any time. However, it is the member's responsibility to see that all of his/her guests sign liability waivers upon arrival at the property.
- Children must be under adult supervision at all times. There are too many hazards to allow them to wander about unescorted.

Save the date. It's not too soon to start thinking about our second annual 4th of July Picnic/Run. Many members and their families enjoyed this event last year. Plan to join in on the fun. Details to follow.

Are you tired of being confined to the rails as you travel around our property? Do you wish you could go just about anywhere you want without regard to where the tracks go? Have I got a deal for you! You can use one of our flangeless, wheeled vehicles and travel through the trackless fields to your heart's content. And, while you're at it, you'll be leaving short grass in your wake. Do enough driving and you can get rid of the shaggy look of our grass expanses. The vehicles to use are in the pump house. If you haven't driven one before, just ask. We'll be happy to give you instructions. If you'd rather walk and get more exercise, we have specialized equipment that you can walk behind and have the same results.

According to the Ridge Live Steamers, Inc. By-Laws, Article X, Amendments, the following amendments may be made by an affirmative vote of the members present at any regular or special meeting of the corporation, provided notice of such amendment(s) and the exact nature shall have been given to the members of the corporation fifteen (15) day prior of the meeting at which such amendment(s) is (are) to be presented for consideration or vote.

Such meeting will take place on Saturday, April 26, 2014 during the General Membership meeting.

Report from Bylaws Committee –Lindsay Raley reviewed the proposed changes at the March 8, 2014, Board of Directors meeting stating that they were of a “housekeeping” nature, as follows (Italics =removal, Underline=addition):

Article I, SECTION 6. VOTING

Each person qualified to vote under article v. shall be entitled to one (1) vote (*IN PERSON ONLY*). All (*ELECTIONS AND*) questions shall be had and decided by the majority of those present who are qualified to vote. When appropriate, Robert’s Rules of order shall determine procedure of any meetings of membership and directors.

Article II. DIRECTORS

SECTION 1. NUMBER AND TERM

The number of directors shall not be less than seven (7) nor more than eleven (11). five (5) of such directors shall be the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and IMMEDIATE Past-President. (*THERE SHALL BE, IN ADDITION, AT LEAST TWO (2) REGULAR MEMBERS OF THE BOARD.*) The officers and the board members shall be elected at the regular February meeting and hold office for a term of two (2) years. (*OR UNTIL THEIR SUCCESSORS HAVE BEEN DETERMINED.*) ALL DIRECTORS MUST BE REGULAR OR LIFE MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING IN THE CORPORATION.

Article III. OFFICERS

SECTION 1. (*APPOINTMENT*) ELECTION OF OFFICERS

(*OFFICERS, IN ADDITION TO THOSE PROVIDED IN THE ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OR UPON A VACANCY, FOR ANY REASON, SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS. PROVIDED, HOWEVER,*) The President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected by the general membership. all officers (*AND DIRECTORS*) must be Regular or Life members, in good standing, in the corporation.

Article VI. ELECTIONS

SECTION 7 BOARD MEMBER AND OFFICER VACANCY

Should a vacancy occur, the President will nominate a temporary replacement director or officer. This replacement will need to be approved by the general membership at the next available membership meeting and will fill the vacated position until the expiration of the original term. Should the office of President be vacated, the Vice President shall become President and fill the open vice president position as described above. IF THE IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT IS UNABLE TO SERVE OR CHOSSES NOT TO SERVE ON THE BOARD, THAT POSITION SHALL REMAIN VACANT.

Article IX. Structures

SECTION 4 IMPROVEMENT ON RLS PROPERTY

Proposed improvements on Ridge Live Steamers, Inc. property must have board of director’s approval. Prior to improvements being made, plans and estimated costs must be presented to the board of directors for approval. In accordance with Florida law, any improvements to RLS property, immediately becomes the property of Ridge Live Steamers, Inc. upon original groundbreaking or placement of item in or on the ground. NORMAL AND ORDINARY “REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE” ITEMS ARE EXCLUDED FROM THIS SECTION.