

Ridge Live Steamers

December 2011

CALENDAR

Ridge Regular Run Day	Saturday	December 17, 2011
And Board of Directors Meeting, if necessary		
Ridge Regular Run Day	Saturday	January 28, 2012
And Board of Directors Quarterly Meeting		
West Toccoi and Bostwick	Friday – Sunday	February 3 – 5, 2012
Big Boots and Western	Monday – Sunday	February 6 – 12, 2012
Central Pasco and Gulf	Friday – Wednesday	February 10 – 15, 2012
Largo Central	Thursday – Saturday	February 16 – 18, 2012
Manatee Central	Sunday – Wednesday	February 19 – 22, 2012
Ridge Live Steamers Winter Meet	Thursday – Sunday	February 23 – 26, 2012
And Board of Directors Meeting, if necessary, Saturday		February 26, 2012
FLS Banquet at Dundee Civic Center	Saturday, 6:00 PM	February 25, 2012
West Toccoi and Bostwick Open House	Sunday – Tuesday	February 26 – 28, 2012
Sebring Systems	Friday – Sunday	March 9 – 1, 2012

It Won't Be Long Now! What won't be long? The long awaited completion of the track expansion. The "Big" bridge is in, the approach bridges are in, track is in up to the bridge, across the bridge and out to the wing wall. The "short" bridges are waiting for the expanded metal for the walkways. It will be a momentous occasion when we finally can ride the complete mainline.



What else? Believe it, or not, the Winter Meet is just around the corner. Where has the year gone? Yes, two short months and the Winter Meet will be upon us. There is still much to be done before we can relax. President Dunsford will be outlining the projects necessary to get us ready.

The Winter Meet Invitation is included with this newsletter. Please respond with your camping and banquet reservations.

Letter from the President - This year I will be replacing T.J. Bissett as Meet Chairman; T. J. Bissett will be helping me get used to what ever needs doing. If you are new to the organization we will have signup sheets with jobs that need volunteers. Look for clipboards at the registration area. If you have volunteered for jobs before please let me know. We need additional people to help with unloading and work in the yard. For suggestions, complaints, or any other communication please email me; hdunsford@tampabay.rr.com

What's in a name? Elston, VanSickle, Walter, or Bowen. Elston Yard, our main yard, is named after Jack Elston, the long time Treasurer of the Ridge Live Steamers. Jack also built many track panels with a Yankee screwdriver. If you don't know what a Yankee screwdriver is you've missed a lot. Google it. Henry Walter was a long time member of RLS and a hard worker. Among other things when the track was taken up from the Lakeland location, Henry took all the switches home and re-tied them, on tie at a time. He also established a contract with a concrete block plant in the Eustis area and virtually single handily loaded, transported, and unloaded over 400 concrete blocks for what is now the "Henry Walter Memorial Tunnel." Julian VanSickle, another long time member of RLS, for whom the "Julian VanSickle Engine Facilities" is named, among other things built the transfer table we use at "the Ridge." Bowen Branch line is named for Bob Bowen who created an ingenious system of wedges to align the support poles perfectly vertical at the main passenger platform, and built the fixtures that allowed the concrete block ceiling in our tunnel.

EMPORIUM: Back in stock – RLS logo hats and hickory striped hats in blue or pink, adult and children's sizes. All shirts are now available in all sizes from adult S to XXL, with some available in XXXL. As usual, everything will be available at the upcoming meets. I try to remember to bring at least one of each size on run days. If there is something you want at other times, just ask me (Bruce Rauch), I'll be glad to bring it for you.

Some of you have asked about having your name embroidered on your Ridge polo shirt. Lindsay Raley has offered to take shirts to have names embroidered on them. You may bring in a Ridge polo shirt you have or purchase a new one. The cost will be \$7.00 for the name plus \$23.00 (\$25.00 for XXL or XXXL) if you want a new shirt. The deadline for ordering, payment, and to bring in your existing shirt is Saturday, January 28, 2012. A sign-up sheet will be in the registration area so we know how many of you want to take advantage of this one-time offer.

SWITCH YARD SALE: The SYS will be back in operation for the Winter Meet in February. Save your railroad and hobby related items for sale at the SYS. You are responsible for establishing a reasonable selling price for anything you bring in to sell. **DO NOT** bring anything to RLS prior to the meet. We have no place to store SYS items. As in the past, RLS will retain a 10% commission on anything sold at the sale. If you have any questions, contact Jerry Rivet or Bruce.

Dues Notices. The Secretary has not figured out how to take a "Mail Merge" from Filemaker Pro and make an e-mail out of it. So, all those who ordinarily receive newsletters, etc., by e-mail received their notices by "snail mail." Due are due by January 1st.

Letter from the President

This summer has provided me with unusual opportunity to work on my models. In the last letter I described the construction of the Talisman, a stern paddle wheeler. This year while at the Diamondhead Steamup I was fortunate to purchase a kit steam launch. The OPAL was built in 1907 as a Fast Steam Launch. This model was prepared by Marten, Howes and Baylis a model boat company known for their steam launches. They make the hulls G.R.P molded (I think fiberglass), the boiler and used to make the engine. This model is equipped with a Cheddar Pintail V Twin engine. These can now be purchased from Stuart Models.

All the rest of the boat is made from wood. This was one of the most difficult and confusing kits I have ever built. There must be hundreds of steps where you glue something and wait a day for it to dry. Also the plans were not always exactly like the reality of the parts provided. The boiler mounted ok but the engine had to be moved $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch toward the rear in order to attach the steam pipe.



This picture shows the rudder and propeller support. The servo controlling the rudder is under the back deck. A hatch was cut after taking this picture.



This picture shows the deck and seats after several coats of varnish.



Seat cushions were supplied with the kit and they have been glued in here. The engine will go just forward of the thwart and the boiler forward of that.



Here the boat is steaming in the bathtub. All the fittings have been attached. The boiler produces about 60 pounds of steam and I think this boat will boogie. However it runs out of gas in about 10 minutes. So it will be a fast but short run.

Both this boat and the stern paddle wheeler are radio controlled with a new spectrum DXCi transmitter and a spectrum AR600 6 channel receiver. I purchased these at Graves Hobby. This should cure the glitching problem we have been having at the Ridge Yacht Club.

Respectively Submitted
Harold Dunsford; President RLS
October 14, 2011



2nd Annual

HAPPY NEW
YEAR!

Picnic

January 1, 2012

12:00 Noon

RLS Railroad Pavilion

Please bring a dish to pass.
Meat and bread will be
furnished.

