

# Ridge Lines

## Voice of the Ridge Live Steamers

December 2013

Dundee, Florida

### CALENDAR

|   |                  |                         |
|---|------------------|-------------------------|
| RLS 2 <sup>nd</sup> Card Order Op Session   | Saturday         | January 4, 2014         |
| RLS Work Day                                | Saturday         | January 11, 2014        |
| <b>Scheduled Board of Directors Meeting</b> |                  |                         |
| RLS 3 <sup>rd</sup> Card Order Op Session   | Saturday         | January 18, 2014        |
| <b>RLS Run Day</b>                          | <b>Saturday</b>  | <b>January 25, 2014</b> |
| RLS Work Day                                | Saturday         | February 1, 2014        |
| West Toccoi & Bostwick Winter Meet          | Friday-Monday    | Jan 31-Feb 3, 2014      |
| Big Boots & Western Winter Meet             | Tuesday-Sunday   | February 4-9, 2014      |
| RLS Work Day                                | Saturday         | February 8, 2014        |
| Largo Central Winter Meet                   | Sunday-Friday    | February 9-14, 2014     |
| RLS Work Day                                | Saturday         | February 15, 2014       |
| Manatee Central                             | Thursday-Tuesday | February 13-18, 2014    |
| Ridge Live Steamers Winter Meet             | Thursday-Sunday  | February 20-23, 2014    |
| FLS Annual Meeting (at Ridge)               | Saturday         | February 22, 2014       |
| Central Pasco Winter Meet                   | Sunday-Monday    | Feb 23-March 3, 2014    |
| RLS Work Day                                | Saturday         | March 1, 2014           |
| RLS Work Day                                | Saturday         | March 8, 2014           |
| Sebring System                              | Thursday-Sunday  | March 13-16, 2014       |
| RLS Work Day                                | Saturday         | March 15, 2014          |
| RLS Spring Meet                             | Friday – Sunday  | March 21 – 23, 2014     |

**Card Order Meets (Past and Future)** Our first Card Order Meet was held on Dec. 7 and had approximately 30 participants. Sixteen trains were made up and sent out of the yard by Yardmaster John Forte and his switch crew of John Bortz and Harvey Ulch. Chris Forte and conductor John Tribble kept the passenger train on schedule and many of the eight different jobs were able to clear the main ahead of the passenger train. There were nine different engineers and their trains were kept busy by Station Agent Lindsey Raley as he worked the station boxes for the different jobs. Train crews of conductors and switchmen were filled by club members and members of several HO and other live steam organizations.

The next Card Order Meets will be held on Sat., Jan. 4, and Sat. Jan. 18 starting after 9 o'clock A.M. and ending around 3 or so in the afternoon. Engineers, train crews, and other people are needed to make the meet successful, so please make plans to attend. A number of people at the first meet had never been at a card order session before and seemed to have a great time, to please give it a try.

**Christmas Night Run** The second annual Christmas night run was bigger and better than the last year. Although there was about the same number of attendees, there were more trains running with more lights and decorations than before. We are really getting into this new tradition. If you missed it this year, mark your calendars now for the Third Annual Christmas Night Run – Saturday, December 13, 2014.

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

Board of Directors

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Director (2012-2013): Mort Tiley

Director (2012-2013): Mitchell Hardy

Director (2012-2013): John Forte

Director (2013-2014): Rollin Patrick

Director (2013-2014): Foster Bond

Director (2013-2014): Fred DeLoach

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.

**Nomination of Officers** At the December Membership meeting, Nominating Committee Chairman, Tim Meyer, presented the slate of nominees for the 2014 election. For Treasurer, John Forte; for the three positions as Directors: Jim Burby, Mitchell Hardy, Tom Pfister and Mort Tiley. Nominations from the floor may be made at the January, 2014, meeting.

**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](mailto: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.

**One Fifteen Foot Length Of Track.** One piece of track starts with purchasing 15 foot pieces of rail from Florida Live Steamers. They obtain the rail by locating an aluminum extruder and, under the direction of Foster Bond, contract for rail extruded and hardened to FLS specifications. The rail is then fastened to ties by track screws.

The ties are made of yellow pine that has been scrounged from dumpsters at the truss plants in the area, cut to length, ripped in half, bundled in 6 pieces by 6 pieces bundles, taken to a pressure treatment plant at Raiford Prison near Stark, Florida, pressure treated, brought back to RLS, dried for a month or so, punched at one end of the tie using a pneumatic punch to located track screws, and then stacked in the work area at the trailer at RLS. (WHEW!!)

Then, 42 ties are positioned on the track jig and 168 screws are used to fasten the rails to the ties. One rail is fastened using the pre-punched holes in the ties as references and then the other rail is fastened using gauges to space the rails properly. If curved track is to be made, the rails are pre-curved by running the rail through a rail bender that was made by Tim Meyer.

Recently truss plants have changed to computer operated saws, which means that the drops are no longer suitable for our use. That necessitates that we now purchase bundles of yellow pine, making the cost of each piece of track increase greatly.

Next we can talk about turnout construction.