

Ridge Lines

Voice of the Ridge Live Steamers

December 2016

Dundee, Florida

CALENDAR

RLS Card Order Operation Session	Saturday, Sunday	January 7 & 8, 2017
RLS Work Day	Saturday	January 14, 2017
Scheduled Board of Director's Meeting		
RLS Card Order Operation Session	Saturday, Sunday	January 21 & 22 2017
RLS Run Day	Saturday	January 28, 2017
General Membership Meeting		
North East Florida Winter Meet	Wednesday-Sunday	February 1-5, 2017
RLS Work Day	Saturday	February 4, 2017
Big Boots & Western Winter Meet	Monday-Sunday	February 6-12, 2017
Largo Central Railroad Winter Meet	Friday-Monday	February 10-13, 2017
RLS Work Day	Saturday	February 11, 2017
Scheduled Board of Director's Meeting		
Manatee Central Winter Meet	Friday-Monday	February 17-20, 2017
RLS Work Day	Saturday	February 18, 2017
Tradewinds Winter Meet	Saturday-Sunday	February 18-19, 2017
Ridge Live Steamers Winter Meet	Thursday-Sunday	February 23-26, 2017
FLS Board Meeting & Banquet	Saturday	February 25, 2017
Central Pasco & Gulf Winter Meet	Sunday-Tuesday	February 26-March 6, 2017
RLS Work Day	Saturday	March 4, 2017
North East Florida Winter Meet	Friday-Sunday	March 9-12, 2017
RLS Work Day	Saturday	March 11, 2017
Scheduled Board of Director's Meeting		
Sebring Systems	Friday-Sunday	March 17-19, 2017
RLS Work Day	Saturday	March 18, 2017
Tradewinds	Saturday-Sunday	March 18-19, 2017
Ridge Live Steamers Spring Meet	Thursday-Sunday	March 23-26, 2017

Happy New Year

WINTER MEET 2017

We are between two major holidays that bring families together to share memories of times past and create memories for the future. I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving. Our little family here at the Ridge Live Steamers Track had a turkey dinner with stuffing and other side dishes. We all over ate.

I have been looking ahead to the week of February 20 2017, which is the Monday before the Winter Meet starts.

The banquet will be held at Camp Endeavor again this winter. The meal will again be catered by Bob Evans Restaurant with the same menu as last year.

I will have signup sheets for anyone who would like to volunteer some of their time to fill jobs that are necessary to have a successful meet. The job sheets will be available the first part of January.

Let us work together to help our visitors and us to share old and create new memories. Enjoying the warm weather.

Dana Bliss, Meet Chairman

Newsletter of the Ridge Live Steamers, Inc.

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Director (2015-2016): Richard Dobler

Director (2015-2016): Fred DeLoach

Director (2015-2016): Bob Moutray

Director (2016-2017): Bob Babcock

Director (2016-2017): Dana Bliss

Director (2016-2017): Jim Reid

Past President: Bruce Rauch

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.

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 \$7.50.

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 3421

NEWSLETTER EDITOR NEEDED. I have been publishing this newsletter for more than fifteen years and my pen has gone dry. I will publish and distribute if you will write the articles for the newsletter.

LET THERE BE LIGHT, or television and microwave, or coffee pot and air conditioner, or microwave and coffee pot, or

Thanks to Bob Moutray and the many campers that donated to the "power improvement project" we can do just about all of these things. The battle to improve goes back at least ten years when the size of RVs and 5th-Wheelers began to grow and circuit breakers began to "pop" and antiquated receptacles refused to work. Finally someone with an understanding of what was needed took charge and designed a system to conquer all of that.

Bob approached many of the campers with his idea and plans. The only way to accomplish the project was for them to donate to the cause. He presented his plans to the Board of Directors with the assurance that it would be self supporting. With the board's approval he began searching for an electrical contractor who would undertake the job. Securing the building permit was the first essential step. Bob Peppel helped find a contractor who would do it, and they presented Bob's plan to the county. Rejected, the county thought we were an RV Park and our land use did not allow a RV Park. Finally, we were right, we

Let there be Light (Continued from page 2)

are not an RV Park, but the county permit people redesigned Bob's plan to require 22 sites instead of the 14 requested and the permit was issued. Gary Penglase secured the "pony" pole, Jeff Stanek and his connections arranged for the pole to be erected. Thanks to John Bortz and Rich Dobler, with the help of a "Ditch Witch" the necessary ditches were dug, the contractor laid the conduits, installed the panels, wire, and receptacles. The inspector signed off on the permit and Duke Energy was contacted for the final hook-up. At last the meters were installed but we had to wait because the meters had to be identified "A" and "B." Then John Forte and Rich Dobler had to jump thru hoops with Duke Energy because the many people contacted at Duke Energy couldn't agree on this, that, or the other thing. And finally, FINALLY, everything was done and power was connected. Let there be light.

Recently, a former Ridge member criticized me saying, "You should stop trying to improve things and just run."

As Bob Dustin, a long time friend and "savvy" railroader told me 30 years ago, when he got me into this crazy hobby, "Rule number one in model railroading is, 'Never finish the layout'."



HAPPENINGS AT THE RIDGE TRACK as taken from the Fall 2016 Train Line By Richard Dobler

With the arrival of our winter visitors in the campground, lots of projects are under way at the Ridge Live Steamers track in Dundee. Five additional steaming bays have been fabricated and are being installed at the VanSickle engine facility. A new 60' by 18' equipment storage barn is being built in the Long Barrel area which will house Ridge Lines cars and locomotives

. At this time the slab has been poured and track work has been started. The metal building will be installed on the slab in the next few weeks. John Forte has been busy changing the signalsystem to an automatic system similar to Chuck Hackett's system at Pasco. So far one block has been changed withanother block ready for conversion. Bill Hays is building turnouts for the new storage barn and is doing his usual tweaking of track work around the railroad. The campground electrical upgrade has been completed so that most sites will have 30 amp.service for the Feb. Meet. Another storage barn is being contemplated for private storage and those wishing to be included in this barn should contact Tim Myer. The Run Day in November was highlighted by the defense of the bridge at Black Widow Gap by a large Coachwhip Snake. For about 3 hours the snake would stick his head up through the track to challenge each (Continued on page 4)

HAPPENINGS AT THE RIDGE TRACK (continued from page 3)

train passing over the bridge. Bill Bryan went really slow to see just when the snake would move and several times the snake would keep its head up even when the locomotive was above it. Coming events are the Christmas Run on Dec. 10, the New Year's Day lunch at the pavilion, and operating sessions in January.

CARD ORDER OPERATION AT RIDGE

Three operating sessions have been scheduled at the Ridge Lines track in Dundee. Two will be in January 2017 and one in March 2017. The dates are: Jan. 7-8, Jan. 21-22, and March 11-12, 2017. We will begin at 9:00 A.M. on the Saturdays and Sundays with operations going into the night on Saturday and ending at noon or so on Sunday. Bring equipment to run or crew on trains that are at the track. If you can't be at the track at 9, just come when you can and you will be worked in to the fray when you arrive. We will break for lunch at noon and dinner is on your own schedule with food that you bring to the track.

Freight trains operate out of Elston Yard and must clear the main for the two passenger trains that operate on a schedule. There are eight different jobs and more than 50 industries to switch on the railroad. Trains crews consist of an engineer, a conductor, and one or more switchmen.

If you have never tried operation, we can put you with experienced operators, so please come and join in the fun. We do a pretty relaxed operating session with enjoyment being the primary objective

LAST RUN

Tony Windsor passed away on March 21, 2016. He had been a member since June 2006. Tony had contributed interesting and amusing articles for the news letter. He was probably best known for his "ice cream" train with all the musical sounds coming from his engine.

Jere Wendt passed away on Saturday, August 27, 2016. He was born in Peru, Indiana, on November 2, 1941. He was a volunteer at the Heston Steam Museum, Heston, Indiana, a member of the Central Pasco and Gulf Railroad at Crews Lake Park in Shady Hills, Florida, as well as a member of the Ridge Live Steamers since February of 2004.

Ron Taylor passed away December 9, 2016. He was born March 10, 1939, in St. Joseph, Michigan. He was a volunteer at the Heston Steam Museum, Heston, Indiana, for twenty years and had been a member of the Ridge Live Steamers since February 2007. He withdrew in 2014 for health reasons.

NOTICE

The new Over and Under Storage Barn "N" still has 2 lower tracks available, the cost is \$2500.00 ea. Contact Tim Meyer at floridatenwheeler@verizon.net if you are interested.

Train for Sale

Contact Bruce Rauch, (863) 427-9426 or railbuf@verizon.net

- Two electric center cab switchers (#0803 & # 1004) by J & S Railcar. These are two axle locos, both axles are powered. The two can be MUEd or operated independently. Each unit has two deep cycle 12v batteries, an upgraded horn, electro-mechanical bell, and connector for brake and train power. Four battery chargers are included.
- *AND* -
Engineer's riding car (#070) by Tom Bee. This is a half flat/half gondola car with seat for engineer. It also contains the compressor and controls for the air brakes, and control for head-end power to the rest of the train. This car has brakes. **All three units as a set = \$6,500.00**
- Crew car (#082) by Tom Bee. This car has two deluxe folding, swivel, pedestal seats. The car can be operated in either direction with the same amount of space and foot room for the riders. This car has brakes. **\$1,200.00**
- Tool car (#093) by J & S Railcar. This is a low-sided gondola equipped with a rack for rakes and shovels and space for a tool box, etc. This car has brakes. **\$1,000.00**
- Flat car (#136) by J & S Railcar. This car has one easily removable pedestal seat. It can be used as a utilitarian flat or riding car. This car has brakes. **\$1,000.00**
- Crane car (#104) by J & S Railcar. This is an operating crane. It can be powered by eight "D" cells or plugged into the head-end power.
- Crane tender (#105) by J & S Railcar. This car is part box car and part flat with sides. **#104 & #105 sold as a set only = \$3,500.00**
- Caboose (#071) by J & S Railcar. This car has a whimsical custom interior including lighting and a flushing toilet. **\$1,500.00**

All cars have Tom Bee trucks. Couplers are either Tom Bee or Mountain Car Co. All cars are about five feet long. Double safety chains connect all locos and cars. All cars have through electrical (12 volt) connection at each end (except caboose doesn't have connector on rear).