

Ridge Live Steamers

Florida's Highest Railroad

January 2009

CALENDAR

Run Day	Sat.	Jan. 24, 2009
Northeast Florida L.S. Winter Meet	Sat.-Sun.	Feb. 14-15, 2009
Central Pasco & Gulf Winter Meet	Mon.-Wed.	Feb. 16-18, 2009
Big Boots & Western Winter Meet	Thur.-Sat. (Open all week)	Feb. 19-21, 2009
Manatee Family Lines Winter Meet	Sun.-Wed.	Feb. 22-25, 2009
FLS Annual Meeting at Ridge Lines	Thurs.-Sun.	Feb. 26-Mar. 1, 2009
RLS Annual Meeting	Sun. 2PM	March 1, 2009
Largo Central RR	Mon.-Wed.	Mar. 2-4, 2009
RLS Spring Meet	Fri.-Sun.	March 27-29, 2009
Run Day	Sat.	Apr. 25, 2009

WINTER MEET. The time has come, once again, to gather for the Annual Florida Live Steamers Winter Meet. As noted in the Calendar the dates are Thursday, February 26th through Sunday, March 1st 2009. As in the past there will be night running for those interested. Friday night will be the usual Pot Luck dinner at 6 pm in the pavilion. Saturday night will be the Annual FLS Banquet at the Dundee Civic Center at 6 pm. Tickets are still \$15.00. We are restricted to 140 people so please make your reservations early. Tickets may be picked up at the Registration Desk in the pavilion. RLS members may purchase their banquet tickets early by contacting the Secretary, Allen Newcomb.

LADIES: Check at the Registration Desk for any special ladies activity.

WINTER MEET PACKET. The full Winter Meet Packet will be distributed soon, also by e-mail.

VISITORS AND GUESTS. Last year we restricted the numbers of visitors and guests to railroad connected people, any gauge any where, and personal guests of members. This is an unfortunate situation but a necessary one to protect RLS and operating members. Greeters will again be stationed at the North and South roads into the property. Please advise your family and guests to identify themselves to the greeters as your guests. All members must register and guests must register and sign waiver forms. No guest will be allowed to ride the trains without registering. Wrist bands will identify members and guests that have registered. Campers and Equipment will enter via the South road to the campground and unloading areas, visitors, guests and RLS members without equipment will enter via the North road and will be directed to parking areas. Our Winter Meet is a working meet for RLS members. Volunteers are needed to assist in the many areas. Tommy Bissett can explain the duties to you. It will only entail about 2 hours at a time. Many thanks to last years volunteers.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE. The Nominating Committee has made its report as follows. President Tommy Bissett, Jr.; Vice President, Chris Forte, Secretary, Allen Newcomb; Directors, John Collins, Foster Bond and Fred DeLoach. Harold Dunsford will become a Director by virtue of being Past President. Holdovers on the Board of Directors are: Tom Pfister, Treasurer; Directors Mort Tiley, Bil Koster and Rich Dobler. Election will be held at the Annual Meeting on Sunday at 2pm. Proxy Ballots are enclosed.

DUES. Thanks go to all the members who responded on time (January 1). The response has been fantastic; many have chosen the Family Membership offered for the first time this year. Dues cards may be picked up at the Registration Desk; Annual Waivers must be signed at that time. Dues cards not picked up will be mailed, along with Annual Waivers to be signed and returned, after the meet.

NAME BADGES. We have had many new members this past year. Please wear your name badges when at the track, especially during run days, so that we may all learn the names to members we don't know.

MAIN LINE EXPANSION. The second phase of the Main Line expansion, running from the crossover to the campground crossover is in, leveled and ballasted. The South Yard tracks are in and will be ballasted before the Winter Meet. Many people have worked diligently on this project. It is impossible to mention all the people who have worked on this, but notably are Tim Meyer, Tom Pfister, Bobby McElroy, "Butch" Trella, Jim Phillips, and Bill Hays. My apologies to those I missed.

PROJECTS. The never-ending list goes on. Bill Hays has, again, taken on the responsibility of inspecting and "tweaking" all the switches. We have well over 100 switches and more are being added all the time. Rich Dobler has been kept busy machining switch points and building switch throws on a regular basis, along with all the other tasks he has taken on. The retaining wall leading to the "C" yard will be rebuilt by meet time, and the bridge at the Summit is being or will be scraped and painted by meet time. Carol Pfister is our "Green Thumb" lady, joined recently by Donna Phillips. Thank them for the greenery out and about. Mowing and trimming are on-going projects. Bobby McElroy, Jim Reid, Tom Pfister and Rich Dobler have been the regulars in this project, along with help from John Tribble and Fred DeLoach. Again, my apologies to anyone I've missed. If it weren't for some very dedicated people we would be in serious trouble.

E-MAIL DISTRIBUTION. This newsletter will be the first distributed by e-mail. If you would like to receive future newsletters, and RLS news, via e-mail please let the Secretary, Allen Newcomb, know by providing your e-mail address to him. If you do not want your e-mail address known to the general public let him know that also. Only Ridge Live Steamers and Florida Live Steamer information will be sent to you in that case and will not be published in the Membership List.

BOILER INSPECTIONS. All boilers not inspected in the past 12 months must be reinspected before they will be allowed on the track. Foster Bond, and perhaps others, will be available to perform the inspection.

RLS EMPORIUM NEWS Be sure to check out the Emporium and get one of our all new Tee Shirts. We will also have a supply of hats, polo shirts, sweat shirts, patches, pins, and many other items. Shop early before your size is sold out.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING 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 of the Ridge Live Steamers By-Laws.

PROXY BALLOT

Please mail, or present your Proxy Ballot to the Secretary

President — **Tommy Bissett**

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Vice President — **Chris Forte**

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Secretary — **Allen Newcomb**

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Directors (Vote for three)

— **John Collins**

— **Fred DeLoach**

— **Foster Bond**

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