

Ridge Live Steamers

Florida's Highest Railroad

July 2009

CALENDAR

Run Day	Saturday	July. 25, 2009
Run Day	Saturday	August 22, 2009
Run Day	Saturday	September 26, 2009
RLS Fall Meet	Friday, Saturday, Sunday	October 23, 24, 25, 2009
RLS Winter Meet	Thursday – Sunday	February 25 – 28, 2010

Note: The Ridge Winter Meet date is the only confirmed date, dates for other tracks will be included in future issues.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK First, I want all of you to know that you should feel free to contact me at any time. I would welcome any comments, or suggestions; any one has on the organization. Your ideas of how you want the organization operated are of prime importance to me. I dearly want to have a club that every one can enjoy. You may call me at 863.984.2035 or e-mail me at bissettj@Verizon.net. Also, you may rather write me at 1638 Holy Cow Road, Polk City, FL 33868-9242. I will make sure that you comments are brought up at the next meeting.

As far as progress at the track is concerned, work is continuing on the main line expansion. A new track and switch building table has been constructed. The main bridge needed has been contracted for and is under construction. The Foster bond station with two stub tracks was completed before the spring meet. The Gauge-1 track has had much maintenance and many improvements. Lastly, I should say there are a number o other projects that are under consideration. New signs for the yard tracks is one. Another is a crossing behind the picnic shelter so we can use the low area behind it for vendors at the winter meet.

MAIN LINE EXPANSION. The phase of the main line expansion from the new South yards to the back corner of the property is well under way. The passing siding switch is in, the switches for the “Y” are made and ready, the “Y” tracks have been located and rough grade has been determined. As soon as the main characters have had their vacations we will begin laying the clay for the passing siding. Track work follows the clay soon after. Dan Thomas has assured us that the concrete “mush” that was so important in leveling the South yard is again available. We still have a lot of grading to do and the mush will make that part of the job a lot easier. The latest report from Mort Tiley on the bridge is that the several pieces of the bridge are cut and welding will soon begin. For subscribers of *Live Steam* magazine, the July/August issue on page 51, Photo 14, is a picture of the Adirondack Live Steamers Bridge. Our bridge is being built to the same plans. Take a look.

IN MEMORIAM. *Tom Caron* passed away on February 2nd. He had been “poorly” for some time and had been in and out of the hospital several times over the previous year. He always had a smile for everyone and took it upon himself to beautify trackside with the building of Thomasville, consisting of two warehouses, a Sheriffs office, a Saloon, a Passenger Platform, and some “Trailer Trash” residents. Thomasville even has its own siding.

Jack Kitson passed away on April 24th of this year. He had been diagnosed with Lung Cancer almost two years before his passing. He was told he only had 18 months, but he beat the odds. Jack had a great storehouse of railroad knowledge and willingly shared it with anyone interested. He undertook several jobs around the track by himself. In later months he was only able to come to the track for the fellowship until he was no longer able to drive.

News from the EMPORIUM by Bruce M. Rauch, Emporium Manager. The RLS Emporium continues to add to the club treasury. Sales at the Winter Meet were better than expected, resulting in a decent return on investment in the inventory. However, success is breeding more diversified business than I can or will handle. Several members offered items for sale at the Emporium as a donation to the club or on consignment with a percentage going to the club. While this is much appreciated, I had to refuse these items before it got out of hand. I only have so much room to display the items I already sell.

I suggest we start a “Flea Market” or “Swap” table where members can leave items for sale either as a donation to RLS or on consignment with the club retaining a percentage of the sale. We would have to make known that we have such an operation to give everyone the opportunity to bring in items for sale. It will also require one person to commit to setting up and running such an operation. I would be glad to help set up the procedures and paperwork needed to efficiently manage this endeavor. I suggest that this sale table be started at the Fall Meet in October as a trial run. We can work the bugs out and have a good sale table at the Winter 2010 Meet.

As stated above we need one person to make the commitment to set up and run the “Flea Market” table. If you would like to do this, please contact me or a member of the RLS Board. If no one wants to do this, please understand when I cannot accept your donations to sell at the Emporium.

TOWN MANAGER AND SHERIFF WANTED for the town of Thomasville. Since the passing of its founder, Tom Caron, the buildings of Thomasville have begun to fall into disrepair. They need painting, and a few structural repairs. No previous experience required, just go ahead and do it.

NAME BADGES. 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.

FOR SALE. 7 ½ inch gauge passenger cars built by J&S Railcar (Scott Lindsay). First is a Baggage Car for \$1300.00, a Passenger Coach for \$2100.00, and an Executive Coach for \$2140.00. All are on trucks with couplers and in excellent condition.

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.