

Ridge Lines

Voice of the Ridge Live Steamers

July 2015

Dundee, Florida

CALENDAR

RLS Run Day	Saturday	July 25, 2015
General Membership Meeting		
RLS Work Day	Saturday	August 1, 2015
RLS Work Day	Saturday	August 8, 2015
Scheduled Board of Director's Meeting		
RLS Work Day	Saturday	August 15, 2015
RLS Work Day	Saturday	August 22, 2015
General Membership Meeting		
RLS Run Day	Saturday	August 29, 2015
RLS 4 th of July Run	Saturday	September 5, 2015
RLS Work Day	Saturday	September 12, 2015
Scheduled Board of Director's Meeting		
RLS Work Day	Saturday	September 19, 2015
<i>Looking Ahead:</i>		
RLS Fall Meet	Friday – Sunday	October 23-25, 2015
RLS Christmas Run	Saturday	December 12, 2015
Card Order Session	Saturday	January 2, 2016
Card Order Session	Saturday	January 16, 2016
RLS Winter Meet	Thursday – Sunday	February 25-28, 2016
RLS Spring Meet (Tentative)	Friday – Sunday	March 25-27, 2016

Boy Scout Troop 888 visits RLS for the BSA Railroad Merit Badge Contributed by Jeff Smith

On Friday, April 10, 2015, Boy Scout Troop 888 from Stuart, Florida loaded up the vehicles with eight Scouts, three leaders and myself to travel to Ridge Live Steamers so that the fine young men could earn their "BSA Railroad Merit Badge". We arrived at the track around 10:00 pm to be met with a very friendly welcome from fellow Ridge members Rich Dobler, Jim Reid, John Bortz and Dana Bliss (I hope I didn't miss anyone else so please forgive me if I did) to discuss where to camp for the weekend and what will take place over the entire weekend. Because the boys had school we had to leave in the evening and thus we had the privilege of making camp in the dark.

The next morning the boys were up early, made their breakfast and were anxiously waiting for a train ride around the track. The club train showed up along with Jim Reid and his train at the station and a few trips were made and then around 10:00am they were off to the pavilion to take an "Operation Life Saver" class and learn a few other badge related items. The most exciting part for many of the boys followed those classes and that was where they got to operate a beautiful 2-8-2 Mikado (owned by member Fred DeLoach) in the yard to demonstrate the signals that they just learned. Each of the boy and adults got to operate the engine in the yard and I was blessed with the opportunity of taking it around the entire track once with Fred while the boys continued on in other classes.

Around noon we stopped for lunch and the boys made their lunch while the adults made theirs separately. As we ate we fellowshiped about many items including how great of an opportunity this was for the boys. After lunch we all loaded up in the vehicles and headed over to a beautiful old school house in a nearby adjacent town to a very nice HO model train layout. While there, the boys were provided with two model car kits and they got to build one car while there and they put them all together as a train and got to see the train operate. (Continued on page 3)

Newsletter of the Ridge Live Steamers, Inc.

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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 \$6.50.

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 34219.

Emporium. The Emporium has been restocked with the popular sizes in T-shirts, Polo shirts and Denim shirts. Just place you orders with the Emporium Manager (Allen Newcomb) and the shirts will be delivered at the pavilion on the following Saturday.

Third Annual July 4th Picnic a qualified success. The heat and threat of rain kept a few good folks away, but 30 members and guests came and went during the day. 20 managed to stay on for the cookout, plenty of food and good times were had. The heat of the day was enough to bake cookies, rain only showed up in the distance about dinnertime. Chris Forte and Allen Newcomb put some good mileage on their trains. Bob Babcock, Jeff Smith, Jacob Smith, Fred Clark and John Sollebello added some mileage also. Very special thanks go to Gillian Forte. She blew the rain residue out of the pavilion, wiped down the tables, benches, counters, and cleaned the sinks to ready the pavilion for the cookout. When the day was done, with some help, washed the serving implements. Then quietly went home.

Boy Scout Troop 888 visits RLS for the BSA Railroad Merit Badge (Continued from page 1)

They also learned about various types of cars and trains.

Once that portion of the merit badge was completed, everyone loaded back up in the vehicles and it was back to RLS for some free time prior to making diner. During that time I operated the club train with the entire troop and leaders and we made a few trips in various directions taking various routes along the railroad to see different areas. When our free time was completed, it was time to make diner and then a night run was on the schedule. After diner there was one problem though that kept the night run from occurring, it rained like it did at the 2015 FLS winter meet at RLS this year! It poured, but everyone's tents were fine except for two people, fellow RLS member Jacob Smith's tent and my larger tent were soaked inside, Jacob's to the point that it actually had 4" of water and his air mattress was floating within the tent. (I tried to take a picture but it was dark and the rain was so bad it didn't come out.) All of our clothes and both sleeping bags were soaked so we decided to make camp in the pavilion for the night. We were able to dry our clothes and sleeping bags in the RLS dryer so that was an added bonus for such a bad storm.

The next morning the boys got up and made their breakfast and then broke camp. Once everything was packed and loaded a few more trips were made around the track with Jim Reid and then we headed back to Stuart. I made it a point to ask each scout if they had a good time and the general consensus was that they, including the leaders and myself had a GREAT time! Everyone had such a great time that they are hoping to return next year if RLS would host the event.

During the weekend, I had the opportunity to speak with Rich Dobler about him personally teaching and issuing over 600 Railroad Merit Badges, and the one question I had to ask, where his answer stuck out vividly in my mind was, "out of issuing over 600 badges, do you know if any of them proceeded on to stay in the live steam hobby?" and his response was (please forgive me Rich if I state it differently than you said it) that he is pretty sure that none of them have become members in the hobby after taking the course. That leads me to wonder what we can do as members to change that, but that is a different conversation all together that we can save for the campfire or discussion at that RLS pavilion some time.

There has been a period of time between the event and preparing this article, and after Jacob returned from his last scout meeting he told me that one of the boys was very fascinated with the hobby after attending and that he would like to go into the hobby. He also wants to learn how to build an engine and learn to machine, and Jacob also explained to him that he could buy an engine off of Discover Live Steam. I hope to talk to the boy's father at the next Scout meeting and see if they would be interested in joining the club and the hobby.

I would like to thank RLS for hosting this event and members Rich Dobler, Jim Reid, John Bortz, Dana Bliss, Fred DeLoach, John Tribble and any others that helped that I may have forgotten. It was well worth the trip and made a huge impact on the boys of Troop 888.



Troop 888 starting off Saturday morning with the raising of the American Flag.



Troop 888 set up camp near Bissett Yard.



The Troop is listening to instructions and soon they will be taking their first ride around the track.



Rich Dobler teaching Operation Lifesaver.



Fred DeLoach's beautiful Mikado that was Used for the locomotive signal portion of the Railroad Merit Badge.



Dana Bliss explains to the boys how to operate the steam whistle.



RLS member and Troop 888 member Jacob Smith finally gets to make a long time dream come true by taking the Railroad Merit Badge at RLS. He has wanted this badge since the first time he saw it at our first visit to the Scout store to purchase his first uniform prior to earning his Bobcat Badge, the first badge earned as a Cub Scout.



All of the Troop adults got to take a turn on the steam locomotive, and the response was it was "So cool and worth the drive".



Rich Dobler teaches about the various types of railroad cars utilized throughout the railroad industry.



Dana Bliss teaches how to build the HO scale railroad cars that the boys will use to build a train.



The boys collect their new HO train cars after the train made a few trips around the track.



The reason there wasn't any night runs under the stars on Saturday night.

MOTOR/RAIN GAUGE??? By Rich Dobler

Last week (May 7) Fred DeLoach came over to load his engine to take to Canton, GA. and the motor on the transfer table hydraulic pump clicked but no action. Thinking that the battery was dead we put a charger on it and kept trying the motor. Still thinking the battery was the problem I put the 50 amp. setting on the charger and pulled the switch on the transfer table motor. At that point I noticed the SMOKE and large SPARK coming from the motor. Coming to the conclusion the transfer table would be of no further use, we loaded Fred's engine by backing up to the end steaming bay and using the long bridge to make the moves.

So the next morning I took the pump and motor to the starter-generator shop and Mike there said he would have a new motor the next day. Next day I went to pick up the motor and Mike told me that he had a real hard time getting the end cap removed from the motor and when he did, he got a bath from the water in the motor.

Most of the rain during the FLS Winter Meet went into the motor while people loaded equipment in the bad weather. Turns out that the bottom of the end cap was sealed much better than the top, thus the new rain gauge. Tomorrow morning I will seal the end cap with silicone and we will need to find something else to use for a rain gauge at the steaming bays.

DISH DRAINER STACKER HACKER, Contributed by Tony Windsor

The last time we had a dishwasher was back in 1995 in our Treasure Island house 20 years ago. With the kids gone, and only the two of us we no longer needed a dishwasher. So, we bought a dishpan and drainer basket that sits on the sink to put the wet dishes on to drain, and dry.

I discovered that loading the basket is an art in itself. The first year of loading I made a lot of silly mistakes filling the drainer. Stuff upside down, sideways, unstackable, unstable. Sneeze and the whole mess would wind up on the floor. It would also happen at around 2 to 4 am when a low flying airplane flew overhead and shook the house. Live and learn.

Ninety-nine percent of the time, all the dishes dry overnight if stacked the way they are supposed to be. Stacking is truly an art form. It takes time to learn all the Ins and Outs of stacking a simple thing like dishes, especially when I have stacked them twenty-two inches high.

FROM THE DRAWING BOARD OF THE BUILDING COMMITTEE. Now that 'Wixson' is growing as I had hoped and planned, materials are needed. When you are cleaning out garages or sheds and coming across materials you no longer need, please think of the building committee, and donate those unwanted materials to us.

Materials needed: Glass (or frames with glass); plywood (1/2" or thinner); plexi-glass, 1 x any size, 2 x any size

Thank-you, Jim Humerez

GENERIC RIDGE BUSINESS CARDS. Generic Ridge business cards are now available in the pavilion for any member. The front has room for the individual to add his name and telephone number. The back has dates of meets, work and meeting days. Available for the asking.



Ridge Live Steamers, Inc.
Florida's Highest Railroad

www.RidgeLiveSteamers.org

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7750 North Scenic Highway, Lake Wales, FL 33898
www.RidgeLiveSteamers.org

Winter Meet: 4th Weekend of February

Spring Meet: 4th Weekend of March

Fall Meet: 4th Weekend of October

Run Day & General Membership Meeting
4th Saturday

Weekday Work Days

Mondays, Wednesdays & Saturdays