

Ridge Live Steamers

March 2011

CALENDAR

Ridge Live Steamers Spring Meet	Friday - Sunday	March 25 – 27, 2011
Manatee Family Lines Spring Meet	Friday-Sunday	April 8-10, 2011
Ridge Regular Run Day	Saturday	April 23, 2011
Ridge Regular Run Day	Saturday	May 28, 2011
Manatee Family Lines Memorial Day Meet	Saturday-Monday	May 28-30, 2011
Ridge Regular Run Day	Saturday	June 25, 2011

Spring Meet Last Minute Reminder. The Spring Meet is coming soon. Don't forget the Pot Luck Dinner on Saturday, March 26, at 6:00 PM.

From the President's Desk. The February meet at Ridge went well. The weather was perfect. The tracks were busy and everyone seemed to be having a good time. I extend a great big thank you to all the many people both members and guests who helped put the meet together. The Friday night pot luck fed over 100 people and the Sat Banquet was enjoyed by about 140 people. I hope some will return to enjoy our Spring Meet March 25 and 26.

Sue Did It Again!!! On Friday night of the FLS Winter Meet, Sue Bissett did it again. She and her wonderful crew of ladies organized and provided the labor for another great covered dish supper at the Ridge Lines track. Sue and the ladies fed 102 hungry people, set up the serving lines, provided drinks and service, and cleaned up afterward. Sue, from all of us, thank you and all of your ladies for your continued service to all of us.

Registration Desk Stalwart Gwen Leslie again held down the fort. Carol Pfister, Bonnie Phillips and a couple of others that I can't remember helped out.

Emporium. The Emporium enjoyed a quieter meet this year than in 2010. Remember the cold, rainy Saturday last year? Sweatshirts and long sleeve denim shirts just about sold out. The warm, dry weather this year was more conducive to playing trains than shopping for shirts. Still, we were able to supply almost everyone with the size they wanted in the garment they chose. We are just about sold out of RLS logo hats. Look for an all new hat for 2012. A redesigned tee-shirt may also appear before too long. Is there anything you would like to see available in the Emporium? Remember that we only have three weekends a year when the Emporium is set up and we have a very limited customer base. Items that are small and easy to store, inexpensive, not dated, and will keep without deteriorating are the best items for us to handle. I'm just trying to get some ideas.

Switch Yard Sale. Even with little to sell, the SYS was able to clear a significant profit for RLS. One thing we learned is that Jerry Rivet needs an assistant or co-worker to help with the SYS. As much as he tried, Jerry just couldn't be in two places at the same time. If you would like to help out, please contact Jerry or Bruce Rauch.

Jerry wanted to keep up the momentum and open the SYS for the spring meet, but he is unable to do so. If we can find someone to fill in, the SYS will be set up in the pavilion, saving the effort of putting up the big top. Please bear with us as this feature of our meets continues to evolve.

Inaugural Sail at the new Ridge Yacht Club saw several visiting boats during the February Meet. *Submitted by Harold Dunsford*



This picture gives an overview of the pond. Tom Phister is running my steam boat. The pond is 20 by 36 feet, with a minimum depth of 6 inches. This was adequate for all boats except a sail boat that attempted to run.



The above picture is of my Seguin Steam Tug. This tug has a Bill Ford water system that extends its run to 30 minutes.



Scratch built open launch
The bottom left picture is my scratch built open launch powered by a Regner Compact Steam Plant. This steam plant has a large boiler and will also run for 30 minutes.



Harvey Ulch's Water Taxi is also powered by a Regner Compact Steam plant and runs very well.



Dave Conroy runs his beautiful steam tug. We had a total of 7 steam boats, one electric paddle wheel and one sailboat. Bring your boats to our Spring meet.

The Gauge 1 Track saw heavy traffic during our Feb Meet. Once again we had visitors running trains each day of the meet. *Submitted by Harold Dunsford*

Mike Borowski ran electric trains



This is the Florida Gauge 1 group on Friday



Dave Conroy ran his K 27



In this picture Norm Saley watches a C-19 pass by.



In this picture we can see a group watching stationary engines.



I think all our visitors enjoyed the track as well as watching the larger trains run around. So bring your gauge 1 trains to our Spring Meet.

Revised Ridge Live Steamers By-Laws. Distribution via e-mail will be made to all signed up for electronic distribution. Hard copies will be sent to other members upon receipt of a request.

Committees. The February newsletter made reference to the formation of committees for one, or another reason. This is a followup to document formation of such committees.



Much deliberation was required for the base of the East Yard water tower. This second picture better identifies the committee members.

A Great Big Thank You To Our “Snowbird Flock.” Starting with **Harvey and Judy Ulch** arriving before Thanksgiving. Harvey started right away with tractor work for the expansion. **Bill and Gisela Hays** and **John Bortz, Jr.**, followed shortly after. Bill and John got right to work on the 100-plus switches, making sure they all worked properly, and leveling track wherever. **Dana and Gail Bliss** arrived right after. Dana started, and finished, a new Meat Packing plant (to be named later) in the Pine Level branch line, as well as helping with the tracwork. Joining the “flock” this year were **Tony and Diane Mazurek** and **Kevin and Mageeda Doe**. It was great to see **Harold and Rose Maxwell** and **Jim and Theresa Slimp** back again this year, we had missed them. Not to be forgotten in the workforce were Rich Dobler, Lindsay Raley, Tom and Carol Pfister, Bruce Rauch. Joining in on the fun lately were “members-to-be” Rollin Patrick and Ken Cromer. I know I have forgotten someone, I’m sorry.

What is this? If you don’t recognize it, you are not alone. We have been waiting for it for a long time. It is one end of the 47-ft steel arch bridge. The other two pieces are at a local facility for welding the three pieces together, sand blasted and painted. Delivery of the complete bridge is not expected for another month.



Electronic Distribution. Help the Treasurer and the Secretary/Editor to save money, and time. If you do not already get the newsletter, and more recently the 2010 Membership List, via 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.

Last Minute News Flash. The reversing loop at the East end of the expansion is complete. The “Cut,” roadbed, clay, track and ballast, it’s all there.

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 4 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.

Wow, that’s a lot of “stuff.”