

# Ridge Lines

## Voice of the Ridge Live Steamers

March 2014

Dundee, Florida

### CALENDAR

Harris Chain of Lakes Steamboat Meet Whooton Park, Tavares, FL	Thursday-Thursday	March 6-13, 2014
Card Order Session Scheduled Board of Directors Meeting	Saturday	March 8, 2014
Sebring System	Thursday-Sunday	March 13-16, 2014
RLS Work Day	Saturday	March 15, 2014
RLS Spring Meet	Friday – Sunday	March 21 – 23, 2014
RLS Work Day	Saturday	March 29, 2014
RLS Work Day	Saturday	April 5, 2014
RLS Work Day	Saturday	April 12, 2014
RLS Work Day	Saturday	April 19, 2014
RLS Run Day	Saturday	April 26, 2014

RIDGE LIVE STEAMERS WINTER MEET. Once again the winter meet has come and gone. Trains of all types ran during the day and into the night. People watched the trains, talked trains and road on the trains.

I want to thank all of the people who worked at the various jobs required to have a smooth running meet.

I thank Sue Bissett and Gwen Leslie for their help at the registration desk. They had help from several of the lady members. After a little instruction, Sue and Gwen were able to take well deserved breaks.

Thank you transfer table operators. The people that pushed the transfer table to and from trucks and trailers to the track moved more freight than any one train.

The Yard Master was busy keeping traffic moving through the yard. The job also included resetting the turnout from station to main line when passenger trains were running.

The station agent explained the safety guide lines for riding the train to the waiting passengers. The agent would then entertain the passengers with stories and facts about railroading.

The gazebo was placed in an excellent location to serve as a tower for fire watch. The tower allows the attendant to see most of the property and track. There were no reported ground fires this year.

The Gauge One was busy with trains running most of the day. The live steam guys were seen following their trains to make adjustments as the locomotives ran. The spectators could only dream of riding on these trains.

The vender area saw fewer vendors this year. The SYS tent had a good selection of items for sale.

The area for campers was covered with 37 various types of camping units.

The meet was blessed with good weather and free of any serious injuries.

Dana Bliss

**Don't forget, Card Order session, March 8, starting at 9:00 am.**

**Newsletter of the Ridge Live Steamers, Inc.**

Board of Directors

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Director (2013-2014): Rollin Patrick

Director (2013-2014): Foster Bond

Director (2013-2014): Fred DeLoach

Director (2014-2015): Mort Tiley

Director (2014-2015): Jim Burby

Director (2014-2015): Tom Pfister

Past President: Richard Dobler

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.

**Election of Officers** President Rauch appointed Dana Bliss and Bob Moutray as election tellers. The results of the election are Treasurer, John Forte; for the three positions as Directors: Jim Burby, Tom Pfister and Mort Tiley. They will join Bruce Rauch as President, Chris Forte as Vice President, Allen Newcomb as Secretary, and Board members Rollin Patrick, Foster Bond and Fred DeLoach as the RLS Officers for 2014.

**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](mailto: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 \$6.00.

**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.

**LAST RUN** Air Force SSgt Mike Dobler passed away on February 18, 2014 from brain cancer. His parents are Richard and Nancy Dobler and he leaves wife Amanda and 21-month old son Noah. Mike was a long time FLS and Ridge Live Steamer member. As a youngster, Mike help lay track and carry ballast at Tradewinds, Largo first and second track, Bostwick, and the Ridge Club. He could be seen firing and running his dad's Chloe and he was Station Master at Lakeland and helped at the station at Largo and at NE Georgia at Duluth. Mike was an Eagle Scout and learned to fly an airplane that he helped build. He served in Afghanistan, Germany, Korea and was stationed at Holloman AFB in New Mexico when he passed away. Those wishing to remember him might consider donations to Wounded Warrior Project, Fisher House, or Gulf Ridge Council, BSA.

## President's Page

By Bruce M. Rauch

The Winter Meet is over – phew! Over 400 individuals visited us at some time during the meet. From all accounts, everyone enjoyed our facilities and hospitality. Many comments were heard about the excellent condition of our track. I want to thank Dana Bliss for agreeing to be the meet superintendent although he was railroaded into it. Dana was very thorough and diligent and was right there to handle any conflict or problem. I think we can all agree that he did an outstanding job.

Speaking of the condition of the track, I want to thank all those who have labored to get it to the current state of near perfection. I'm not aware of any problems caused by the condition of the track.

Thank you all for continuing to support the Emporium under the new management of the very able proprietor, Allen Newcomb. Thank you, Allen, for assuming responsibility for the Emporium. Thanks also go to Rollin Patrick for designing the artwork for the new T-shirts.

Thanks to "Commodore" Harvey Ulch for getting Lake Harold rebuilt and filled for steamboat operations.

Thanks to everyone who stopped by the Switch Yard Sale. Although we didn't have a big inventory, sales were made that made the purchaser, seller, and RLS satisfied with the results. Save your railroad and hobby related items to bring to the sale next year.

Thanks go to everyone, too numerous to mention by name, who made the Meet a huge success. This includes, but is not limited to:

- The ladies at the registration desk
- Those who organized, served, and cleaned up after the pot-luck
- Those who picked up litter and collected trash from the many trash cans
- Those who kept the restrooms and shower rooms clean and neat
- Those who watched over train operations and kept them moving
- Those who helped our guests with loading and unloading their equipment
- Those who helped set up and clean up before and after the banquet

There are so many people involved in running this meet, please forgive me for missing some.

At the Annual Meeting on Sunday, 02/23/14, John Forte was elected Treasurer, Jim Burby, Tom Pfister, and Mort Tiley were elected to serve as Directors for the next two years. I want to thank Tom Pfister for his six years of diligent service as Treasurer. I also want to thank Mitch Hardy for his many years of service to RLS in various positions.

It has been noted that the grass (and weeds) is starting to grow. Looks like the lawnmowers will be getting a workout before long. I think our biggest challenge is keeping all the vegetation under control. As always, all help is appreciated.