

Ridge Lines

Voice of the Ridge Live Steamers

March 2018

Dundee, Florida

CALENDAR

RLS Run Day	Saturday	March 31, 2018
RLS Work Day	Saturday	April 7, 2018
RLS Work Day	Saturday	April 14, 2018
RLS Work Day	Saturday	April 21, 2018
RLS Run Day	Saturday	April 28, 2018

Scheduled Board of Director's Meeting, 11:00 AM

General Membership Meeting, 12:15 PM

RLS Work Day	Saturday	May 5, 2018
RLS Work Day	Saturday	May 12, 2018
RLS Work Day	Saturday	May 19, 2018
RLS Run Day	Saturday	May 26, 2018

Scheduled Board of Director's Meeting, 11:00 AM

General Membership Meeting, 12:15 PM

RLS Work Day	Saturday	June 2, 2018
RLS Work Day	Saturday	June 9, 2018
RLS Work Day	Saturday	June 16, 2018
RLS Run Day	Saturday	June 23, 2018

Scheduled Board of Director's Meeting, 11:00 AM

General Membership Meeting, 12:15 PM

RLS Work Day	Saturday	June 30, 2018
RLS Fall Meet	Friday, Saturday Sunday	October 26, 27, 28, 2018

Scheduled Board of Director's Meeting, 11:00 AM

General Membership Meeting, 12:15 PM

RLS Winter Meet	Friday, Saturday Sunday	March 23, 24, 25,
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2018

Scheduled Board of Director's Meeting, 11:00 AM

General Membership Meeting, 12:15 PM

RLS Card Order Session	Saturday - Sunday	December 8, 9, 2018
RLS Card Order Session	Saturday - Sunday	January 5, 6, 2019
RLS Card Order Session	Saturday - Sunday	January 19, 20, 2019
RLS Card Order Session	Saturday - Sunday	March 16, 17 2019

FLS WINTER MEET WRAPUP Contributed by Rich Dobler

The Ridge Lines hosted the Annual Meeting of the Florida Live Steamers at the meet at the end of February. There were lots of trains and lots of people at the four day event. The covered dish supper on Friday fed about 95 people and 150 attended the FLS Annual Meeting and banquet on Saturday evening. Once again Frank Woodard did his magic by coming up with door prizes for all who attended. Meet Superintendent Dana Bliss wore many different hats during the meet as he parked RV's, solved traffic problems, answered many questions, and seemed to be (Continued on Page 2)

Newsletter of the Ridge Live Steamers, Inc.

Board of Directors
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Director (2016-2017): Bob Babcock
Director (2016-2017): Dana Bliss
Director (2016-2017): Jim Reid
Director (2017-2018): Richard Dobler
Director (2017-2018): Bob Moutray
Director (2017-2018): Bruce Rauch
Past President: Rollin Patrick
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 fourth Saturday 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 \$7.50.

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 3421

(FLS WINTER MEET WRAPUP Continued from Page 1)

everywhere all of the time. Many thanks to the numerous volunteers that worked the registration desk, helped unload and load equipment, did track maintenance, worked in the Emporium, helped set up and coordinate the covered dish supper, and did the many other tasks necessary for a successful meet.

2018 WINTER MEET from the desk of Superintendent Dana Bliss

We had Hot Dry weather for the meet this year. The number of campers was 44 this year, four more than last year. The Rails were polished beginning in February. We did not change the direction of running this year because of the increase in the number of trains. The Passenger service was not as smooth as I would like to have seen. Thanks to all of the help getting things ready before the meet and the help during the meet.

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

The article from the Superintendent made it almost sound easy to be Superintendent.

To fit all the campers into the camp ground is like assembling a picture puzzle. The slide-outs can't interfere with the neighbors slide-outs, in order to fit the campers side by side the slideouts may have to snuggle in between the trees, the campers parked back to back can't stick out into the roadway. The timing of arrival for the many campers sometimes complicates the location.

While all this is going on the Superintendent is calling for volunteers to man the Registration Desk, volunteers to assist in the unloading/loading of visiting trains, volunteers to work in the yard arranging trains for easy arrival and departure from the yard.

At this point the Editor apologizes to the volunteers. By the time I asked the several chair persons for name of the volunteers they had destroyed the signup sheets. Two people, however, stand out. Stuart Maginnis quietly organized the table behind the registration counter. He got rid of unnecessary paper, moved the storage drawers to a more convenient location on the table, organized the remainder in the process cleared one end of the table for John Forte to have the "command central" he needed for the signal system.

The other is Katie Brutcher. She took the mishmash of containers of Emporium stock, set up the displays, and took care of the sales for the entire weekend which saved the editor from a large headache. Thank You, Katie!

AND FROM THE GRILLE OF THE BURGER MEISTER, Bob Moutray. This year the dining car served 340 cheeseburgers, 144 hotdogs, and 30 to 40 pulled pork sandwiches. This coupled with 200 bags of chips and sodas, netted us around \$1,200 for the club. This is a little less than last year. Thanks to all that helped cook, serve and prepare.

BUSY ST. PATRICK'S DAY

St. Patrick's Day at the Ridge Lines Track was busy with the celebration of Stuart McGinnis' 90th birthday and a visit by scout groups.

Stuart McGinnis celebrated his birthday with a gathering of his extended family from all over the country and there were more than 30 family members along with a number of Ridge members at the luncheon put on by Stuart's daughter, Lynn McCoy. His family presented him with a 7 1/2" gauge bobber caboos and metal cut outs of the C & NW logo.

Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts from the Auburndale area visited the Ridge Lines track in the afternoon and were given train rides and then a presentation of Operation Lifesaver. The scouts asked numerous questions which led to a tour and demonstration of the work area at the trailer. Mike Richards gave a great explanation of steam while showing the scouts his engine.

Gauge 1 (G scale) - Upgrade & Modernisation 2016/17.

The small scale track at Ridge Live Steamers is an attractive but much underused facility, partially due to its somewhat limited number of tracks and the opportunity for the running of both Electric & Live Steam locomotives.

Currently, there are two track “loops” available for Live Steam locomotives, and one for Electric or Battery operated locomotives.

The intention is to upgrade the existing tracks, by the addition of another loop of track for the use of Electric or Battery operated locomotives, and also add another feature with the construction of a “yard” area, to allow the assembly of rolling stock into complete trains, without blocking any of the main lines, and for the future introduction of an opportunity to run potential small scale ‘Card Order Sessions’ as currently operated by the Clubs “Big Boys”

Phase 1 would involve the extension of the two existing branch sidings or spur lines, which make up the inner partial loop of track, into becoming a further complete loop of track, and then add two further branch sidings in the same areas of the existing railroad, so that there are still two spur lines on the most inner part of the railroad, to be used for either the storage of rolling stock, or complete trains to be “parked” when not actually running.

Phase 2 would be the construction of a Switch Yard, comprising of some six tracks allowing entry from the two (Live Steam) main line loops, in either direction. These tracks would be controlled by a number of remotely operated switches (using the ‘Aristocraft Revolution’ control system).

A “back-up” in the form of Manually operated switches was to be provided, for use in the event of the failure of any of the remotely operated switches.

The Switch Yard would be available for use by either Electric, Battery or Live Steam locomotives, it only being necessary to isolate mains switch power to the tracks, before the operation of any Live Steam equipment.

A new ‘Walk-About’ train Controller was to be purchased, to allow those running Electric locomotives, to operate their equipment from two locations - one in the covered area of the railroad, and a second control point in the area of the new Switch Yard.

The cost for this upgrade was to be totally funded by donations from myself and other club members, and I am grateful for contributions from John Abbott, Jim Burby, Bob Good, and Jim Reid (Sorry, if I’ve missed anyone).

The actual work was carried out by a small, but beautifully formed team of fine physical specimens, headed up by Jim Reid, Bob Good, John Brutcher and myself, both phases were commenced in December 2016, and completed in time for the Ridge Winter Meet in February 2017.

Phase 1 required the installation of an additional timber track support along the complete length of the inner loop of the track area; this required the siting of a new bridge, alongside the three existing bridges, and the running of new power cables, to provide track power to the newly constructed additional loop(s) of track.



Photo of two members of the Construction Team in full operating mode.



The completed Switch Yard - in this photo, two Manual Switches have yet to be installed to allow a 'cross-over' between the two main line inner loops. This has since been completed.

In this photograph, Ridge Club President 2016, Rollin Patrick strikes the Golden Spike signifying the completion of the construction programme.

I hope that these changes to the Small Scale Railroad layout at Ridge will encourage more Club Members and Visitors from other Clubs, to use the tracks and enjoy this additional facility whenever they get the opportunity of visiting.

David F Howarth

It's a Small World By Bruce Rauch (Regular Member ALS & RLS)

When I first joined Adirondack Live Steamers in 1987, I had no idea how big a part of my life this hobby would become. I thought I would go to the track, help out where I could, and enjoy watching the other members with their trains. When Stan Cardish, a founding member, passed on I had the opportunity to buy his speeder from his estate. That's when my interest in railroading "speeded" up. I soon acquired a New York Central F7 Diesel and build a circus train. Through the years I served as President, Secretary, and Membership Secretary of ALS. The more I got involved, the more I wanted to do. Often, I was the first to arrive on Saturday morning and the last to leave in the evening. But, all things must come to an end. When I was nearing retirement, and planning on moving to Florida, I assumed my involvement with this hobby was over. I sold my train and was content to move on to a new life in the Sunshine State.

After about six months in Florida, I met a gentleman in the swimming pool wearing an engineer's cap. Everyone referred to him as "trainman". I got talking with him and learned that there was a live steam club about twenty-five minutes away. Did I want to get back into the hobby? I decided I had to go and at least visit the club.

My first visit to Ridge Live Steamers rekindled my interest. A long tunnel was near completion. A gauge 1, G scale elevated track was being built. As I still had a lot of LGB equipment, I decided join the club and help with the completion of the G scale track. Before long, I acquired a small, 2 axle, center-cab switcher and, a 25% interest in a forty-foot, four track carbarn. More cars followed along with a second center-cab switcher.

Again, I got more involved serving as Vice-President, President, and Director. Recently, the RLS Secretary, Allen Newcomb, asked me if I knew Lloyd Coon from the Albany area. I had seen heard his name mentioned. It sounded familiar but, I didn't think anything of it. When we finally met, it turned out that we were classmates at Albany High School over fifty years ago. Although we were acquaintances, we were not close friends. Then I found out that he had joined ALS after I moved to Florida. We had a great talk about high school and our somewhat similar lives since graduation.

When we got talking about this hobby, he said he had a question about ALS for which he was never able to get a definitive answer. Why are the "mile markers" eighty-eight feet apart. Tom Rhodes designed the markers and the spacing. I made the markers and installed them. Eighty-eight feet is one 60th of a mile. That spacing makes it very easy to calculate your speed. Just determine the number of seconds it takes to travel between two markers, divide that number into sixty and you get your actual MPH speed. Multiply actual speed by eight and you get scale MPH. He then asked about the spacing at RLS. Although I made the RLS markers using the ALS design, the spacing of one hundred feet had been established long before I became a member.

Small trains in a small world brought two people together who hadn't seen each other in over fifty years. Anyone visiting central Florida is encouraged to visit RLS. Feel free to contact me. My current info is in the ALS and RLS rosters.