

# Ridge Live Steamers

## Florida's Highest Railroad

May 2010

### CALENDAR

RLS Run Day	Saturday	May 22, 2010
Manatee Central Memorial Day Meet	Friday, Saturday, Sunday	May 28, 29, 30, 2010
RLS Run Day	Saturday	June 26, 2010

**Considering the weather** the Winter Meet was successful. Cold, Wind, Rain, Cold, Wind, Rain. In spite of the cold weather the meet was well attended and lots of trains ran most days until the rain around noon on Saturday and after the Annual meeting Sunday afternoon the sun came out for a beautiful afternoon. For the Friday Pot Luck dinner the tarpaulins were dropped for protection from the weather and served 115 people. The Saturday Banquet was sold out for 150 souls and once again proved the wisdom of having an indoor facility for this event. The Lunch Wagon was slowed by the weather but did a reasonable business in spite of it. Our "Official" equipment counter, Foster Bond, reported that we had 6 Beam engines, 15 coal fired, 5 propane fired, and 2 oil fired for a total of 29 steam engines. In addition there were 2 Interurbans, 17 gas hydraulic and 34 electric powered engines. Filling out the count were 163 cars and cabooses. Foster also performed 8 hydro boiler tests. Many took a tour of our mainline expansion which is 2/3 finished. We hope to have the bridge and trestle installed completing the mainline extension by next February. But, most importantly, socializing went on full steam and I guess that's what it really about. Much of this article was plagiarized from Harold Dunsford's *Train Line* article.

**Spring Meet.** Weather for the Spring Meet is what the Winter Meet should have had. Beautiful Sunny and Warm. Several engines were running throughout the weekend and, again, everyone had a very good time. The Saturday Pot Luck fed about 40 hardy souls.

**Emporium News:** The Emporium continues to thrive at the RLS Meets. This year we were ready for the colder than normal weather with brisk sales of sweatshirts and an all-new long sleeve denim shirt. The denim shirt proved so popular that we sold out in February. Better than normal sales of all items resulted in a Spartan display of goods for sale on Sunday of the FLS Meet. We were able to restock for the Spring Meet in March where we again realized better than expected sales. I want to thank all of you who have supported RLS through your purchases.

**Switch Yard Sale:** The SYS is becoming a very popular attraction at the Meet. You can sell you surplus railroad/hobby items and purchase someone else's treasures of the past. SYS manager Jerry Rivet is becoming part of the attraction himself, part wheeler/dealer, part carnival barker, and part shrewd businessman. Even if you're not looking to buy anything, be sure to stop in the big white tent and say "Hello" to Jerry.

**Florida Live Steamers.** Congratulations to Harold Dunsford being elected at President of the Florida Live Steamers. I am sure that he will be as precise as President of FLS as he was President of RLS. Foster Bond continues as Vice President and Richard Dobler as Secretary. FLS is in good hands.

**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.

**New Members.** The Winter Meet is where we gain the most new members. I believe it is because visitors notice the progress we make form year-to-year and decide, “Hey! I think I’d like to belong here.” This year we welcomed Lindsay Raley, Glen Lesnett, David Wilson, John Sweeney, David and Mary Wheeler, Roger Billings, John Bortz, Jr., Kevin Doe, Donovan Lewis, Peter Machen and Stephen Marshall. Yes, I know that some of them have been here several times, but ..... Perhaps the most important thing for gaining new members is a making visitor welcome. Show them around, get them a ride so that they can see the progress we are making, and invite them back.

**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, and new members may get to know us. Additional, or new, badges may be purchased for \$6.00.

**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@AOL.com](mailto:AllenPN@AOL.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.

**Membership List Corrections.**

Change telephone number for Chris Forte to 321-728-9744

Change telephone number for Scott Lindsay to 931-359-1948

Correct address for Jesse Perkins, Sr., to Shady Oak Drive W., and delete the 3251 telephone number

Change membership status for Bob Babcock from Associate to Regular.

**The original intent** of this issue was to acknowledge the contributions of the several members of RLS. However, in doing this I am sure that I would forget some, and I don’t want to hurt anyones feelings. So, I will try to remember as many projects that have taken place this past year as possible: the extension of the track from the crossover to the East yard; the Wye; the power extension toward the new South yard; the stacks of new track panels, the cutting, stacking, ripping, punching and restacking of 3000 pressure treated ties; the addition of sidings in Elston yard; the addition of sidings for charging electric engines in the wye at Yee Haw junction; the planting of 200 pine trees at the east end of the expansion; the planting of many oak trees lining the track at the east end of the expansion; the vendor crossing; the vendor siding; the leveled roadway to the vendor crossing; the steps and retaining wall from the pavilion to the vendor roadway/

**IN MEMORIUM.**

Norm Stanek, passed away November 20, 2009. Norm had been a member of the Ridge Live Steamers since 1995.

Ernesto Estrada, passed away December 19, 2009, not active but believed in the hobby and supported it with his membership.

Nancy Dobler’s mother passed away the week of March 12.