

Ridge Lines

Voice of the Ridge Live Steamers

October 2013

Dundee, Florida

CALENDAR

West Toccoi & Bostwick Fall Meet	Friday-Sunday	October 11-13, 2013
RLS Work Day	Saturday	October 12, 2013
And Scheduled Board of Directors Meeting (see notice)		
Big Boots & Western Fall Meet	Friday-Sunday	October 18-20, 2013
RLS Work Day	Saturday	October 19, 2013
Central Pasco & Gulf Halloween Run 1	Saturday –Sunday	October 19-20, 2013
RLS Fall Meet	Friday-Sunday	October 25-27, 2013
And General Membership Meeting		
Central Pasco & Gulf Halloween Run 2	Saturday-Sunday	October 26-27, 2013
Central Pasco & Gulf Fall Meet	Friday-Sunday	November 1-3, 2013
RLS Work Day	Saturday	November 2, 2013
Manatee Central Fall Meet	Friday-Sunday	November 8-10, 2013
And FLS BoD Meeting	Saturday	November 9, 2013
RLS Work Day	Saturday	November 9, 2013
And Scheduled Board of Directors Meeting (see notice)		
Sebring Systems Fall Meet	Friday-Sunday	November 15-17, 2013
RLS Work Day	Saturday	November 16, 2013
RLS Run Day	Saturday	November 23, 2013
And General Membership Meeting		
Thanksgiving	Thursday	November 28, 2013

RLS Fall Meet is just around the corner. Don't forget the Pot Luck dinner on Saturday night at 6:00 pm. See more details in the President's Page.

CARD ORDER OPERATING DEC. 7, 2013 The first of three Card Order Operating Sessions will be held on Sat. Dec. 7, starting at 10:00 A.M. Train crews will consist of an engineer, conductor, and brakeman. The passenger train will operate on a schedule and the station agent will ride the passenger train to work the station boxes. If you are planning to attend and operate, please let Rich Dobler know, so an appropriate number of trains can be made up in the yard. If you have never done this before, please give it a try as we are all learning about the operating sessions. Just show up and we will put together the crews as people come for this first session. We will need the following jobs filled:

- Passenger engineer
- Passenger conductor
- Station agent
- Yard switcher engineer
- Yard switcher brakeman

Let Rich Dobler know if you will fill any of these jobs. There are about 50 industries on the railroad to switch, so there is plenty of opportunity for all of us to have a fun day at the railroad.

Newsletter of the Ridge Live Steamers, Inc.

Board of Directors

President: Bruce Rauch

Phone: 863-427-9426

E-Mail: railbuf@Verizon.net

Vice President: Chris Forte

Phone: 321-728-9744

E-Mail: cjf@cfl.rr.com

Secretary: Allen Newcomb

Phone: 863-665-0482

E-Mail: allenpn@tampabay.rr.com

Treasurer: Tom Pfister

Phone: 863-325-9768

E-Mail: Deltatp@Yahoo.com

Director (2012-2013): Mort Tiley

Director (2012-2013): Mitchell Hardy

Director (2012-2013): John Forte

Director (2013-2014): Rollin Patrick

Director (2013-2014): Foster Bond

Director (2013-2014): Fred DeLoach

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.

If it needs to be done, Do it. There are many of our members who, when they see something that needs to be done, just go ahead and do it. They do it without fanfare and without taking credit for doing it. This case deserves mention. New member **Al Schneider** and his wife, **Lorraine**, quietly joined Ridge, and immediately saw that the palm trees in the parking area near the pavilion needed trimming, and so started trimming. The trees look fantastic. Thank You, Al and Lorraine, for a great job. And, Thanks, too, to everyone who just "Do It."

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.

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.

HOUSE FOR SALE Rich and Nancy Dobler are offering their house for sale, located adjacent to the Ridge Live Steamers track. The house is 15 years old and is 2400 Sq. Ft. with three bedrooms, three baths, and a 200 sq. ft. air-conditioned shop. There is also 100 lineal feet of 7 ½" gauge storage track on one acre of land. The house is offered for a period of time to RLS members before offering it to others. If interested, please call Rich Dobler at 863-438-8714.

Winter Meet Schedule

West Toccoi & Bostwick

Big Boots & Western

Largo Central

Manatee Central

Ridge Live Steamers

Central Pasco

Sebring System

Friday-Monday

Tuesday-Sunday

Sunday-Friday

Thursday-Tuesday

Thursday-Sunday

Sunday-Monday

Thursday-Sunday

Jan 31-Feb 3, 2014

February 4-9, 2014

February 9-14, 2014

February 13-18, 2014

February 20-23, 2014

February 23-March 3, 2014

March 13-16, 2014

President's Page

By Bruce M. Rauch

It's here! Summer is officially over and now we can really get to work in the *cooler* days of autumn. It must be cooler, the TV weatherman said it would be cooler. Of course, the Florida definition of a cool fall day is when the mercury doesn't go into the 90s. This is the same guy who, on the first full day of fall, told us that, "from now on the days will be getting shorter." Never mind that the daylight hours have been getting shorter since the Summer Solstice in June. Are these the guys we want to rely on when a hurricane is approaching? Duck and cover.

If it's October, it's time for the RLS Fall Meet. Before the meet (Oct. 25-27) there is much to be done on our property. With all the rain we had this summer, the weeds, grass, bushes, and trees have all gone crazy with new growth. Everything needs to be trimmed, cut, or cut back so that we can reclaim our layout from the encroaching jungle. Please don't expect a few people to do all the work. If you can come out for a couple hours to cut grass, pull weeds, trim low hanging trees, cut back spreading bushes, etc., your help would be greatly appreciated. Just look around and you'll find something that needs attention. The meet gives us a goal for getting everything in shape. If we all help, we can do it.

The meet will give us a taste of what to expect in February. We should treat our guests with respect and honor. We should be proud to showcase our facilities and the improvements made over the past year. There isn't as much pressure at this meet as there is in February. That means it's a more relaxed atmosphere and, for some, more enjoyable. Of course there are those of us who thrive on the busyness that February brings. Whether you've been with RLS for 20+ years or are a new member this year, come to the meet, volunteer to help, and above all, have fun.

Christmas night run and pot luck. Saturday, December 14, 2014, we will have our second annual Christmas Night Run. For those of you who didn't attend last year, it works like this: come to RLS any time during the day and decorate your train, the pavilion, a building, etc. At 5:00 p.m. we will have a potluck supper. Make your favorite recipe for this festive occasion. After the potluck, we light up the decorations and the trains for a magical (sorry, I worked at WDW) train rides through the cool, dark night. Last year some of us waited until the last minute and couldn't find the lights and decorations that we wanted for our trains. The stores are stocking more and more Christmas decorations each day. Get your supplies now while there is much to choose from.

See something, say something. There have been a few instances lately when something has been broken and discovered only when someone wanted to use it. It's a fact of life: Accidents happen. If you happen to break something or if you discover something broken, please bring it to the attention of a Board member or someone who may be able to do something about it. If no one is around, leave a note in the registration area. I'll try to come up with a uniform place for notes to be left.

Signals and Switches. The track gangs and signal maintainers have been very busy lately. There have been several minor modifications to the track, several electric turnouts have been installed, and the signal system continues to evolve. If you aren't familiar with the improvements, please ask. Running bidirectional 24/7 requires that we use signals all the time. Even if you are sure that you are the only train on the track, use the signals. Before long, it will become virtually automatic to you and you won't have to think about it.

Speaking of track...We are amassing materials for expansion into our northeast corner. Over the coming months we will be building track panels and turn outs, clearing the right-of-way, laying the track, expanding and upgrading the signal system. There is so much to be done it's almost overwhelming. Again, everyone is asked to help out where and when you are able.

Storage. We currently have eleven (11) car barns scattered around the track. All but four (4) of those buildings were built by the occupants. If you want to store rolling stock at RLS, consider getting together with others who are looking for space, and construct another car barn for your own use. The Board must approve the site and construction of all buildings. See Article IX, Sections 1, 3, & 4 of the Bylaws.