

# Ridge Live Steamers

September 2011

## CALENDAR

Ridge Regular Run Day	Saturday	September 24, 2011
And Board of Directors Meeting, if necessary		
RLS Fall Meet	Friday, Saturday, Sunday	October 21-23, 2011
And Board of Directors Quarterly Meeting Saturday		
Big Boots & Western RR Fall Meet	Saturday	October 22, 2011
Northeast FL Live Steamers	Friday, Saturday, Sunday	October 28-30, 2011
Central Pasco & Gulf Fall Meet	Friday, Saturday, Sunday	November 4-6, 2011
Manatee Central Fall Meet	Friday, Saturday, Sunday	November 11-12, 2011
Big Boots & Western RR Fall Meet	Saturday	November 19, 2011
Ridge Regular Run Day	Saturday	November 19, 2011
And Board of Directors Meeting, if necessary		
Ridge Regular Run Day	Saturday	December 17, 2011
And Board of Directors Meeting, if necessary		
Ridge Regular Run Day	Saturday	January 28, 2012
And Board of Directors Quarterly Meeting		
Ridge Live Steamers Winter Meet	Thursday – Sunday	February 23 – 26, 2012
And Board of Directors Meeting, if necessary, Saturday		
FLS Banquet at Dundee Civic Center	Saturday, 6:00 PM	February 24, 2012
Manatee Central Winter Meet	Saturday – Tuesday	February 18-21, 2012

**FALL IS COMING** and so is our FALL MEET. October 21, 22 and 23 are the dates with a Pot Luck Supper on Saturday night at 6:00pm. Many people have been working hard to keep the track running in top shape; mowing, weeding, spraying, trimming, and painting. The weather should be cooler; night running is always a possibility. Plan now for a fun time.

**EMPORIUM NEWS:** The Emporium is gearing up for the coming series of meets, starting in October. Back by popular demand – hickory striped engineer hats in both blue and pink, adult and children's sizes. RLS logo hats will be back in stock. A complete selection of sizes, although of limited quantity, will be available for RLS logo T-shirts, polo shirts, sweatshirts, and long sleeve denim shirts. The Emporium will be open Friday and Saturday from about 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. It will not be open on Sunday.

**SWITCH YARD SALE:** The Switch Yard Sale will not be a part of the Fall Meet. We do plan on setting up the SWS for the Winter Meet in February. An assistant to Jerry Rivet is urgently needed if we are to have a successful sale. If you would like to help any of the sale days for a couple hours or the whole day, please contact Jerry Rivet or Bruce Rauch. Put aside your surplus railroad or hobby related items and bring them to the SWS in February. You get some cash for your unused items and RLS gets a 10% commission on all SWS sales.

**NEW CAR BARN.** The new barn is finally starting; site preparation is underway thanks to Tim Meyer. Once the site is ready a concrete slab will be poured and construction will begin. No schedule has been firmed up, a lot depends on available hands, weather, etc. When all was said and done four investors committed to the barn. No doubt a second barn will become a reality in the near future.

## Letter from the President

For the past two months I have been unable to get out into the sun due to a drug reaction. I am slowly recovering and hope to be out and about for the Fall Meet.

In the Meantime this has greatly increased my modeling time at home. I have been working my way through old Live Steam Magazines, which TJ Bissett gave me last year. I came across an article "building a low budget sternwheeler" by Andy Sprague; Nov Dec 1996. In this article he gives fairly detailed pictures and descriptions of building the stern paddle wheel, which is the hardest part of this project. Many of you have seen the paddle wheel out at ridge this spring. The boat that inspired this project is the Talisman. A two deck stern paddle wheeler once piloted by Abraham Lincoln down the Sagamon River from New Salem in the spring of 1832. The hull is scratch built using oak veneered 3/16 plywood. Fiber glassed and painted.



This picture shows the arrangement with a PM research V twin oscillator in center and a Wileco boiler forward. The paddle wheel is driven by pulleys and spring belts with reduction provided by a 4-pulley shaft. The outboard hanging of the rudders was inspired by plans for a different boat. I am hoping that the three rudders will help it to turn in our pond.



This picture better shows the rudders hanging behind the stern paddle wheel.



This view shows the upper deck chimneys and pilot house. I used dollhouse railings to complete the upper deck. The deck is planked and varnished.



Here is the finished boat ready for the pond. Note the small keel glued to the flat bottom. Also an effort to provide easier turning. It runs great in the bathtub. Next time I will describe the Opal, a fast steam launch.

Respectively submitted  
Harold Dunsford, President RLS

**Quick Quiz???** What are these blue things?? They are the chassis of our new Ballast Cars thanks to Jim Reid, Bob Babcock and Rich Dobler. Both are finished and ready to go into service. This past winter Bill Hays' ballast car worked so well that it was decided we needed one for ourselves. Jim, Bob and Rich decided one was not enough. So, two chassis were ordered from John Sweeney, who made the original, Bill chipped in with some steel for the projects, and helped John weld the chassis. Jim Reid brought them home on one of his many trips back and forth between Florida and Ohio/Tennessee/Michigan. Rich has fabricated the body for his and Allen Newcomb has fabricated the body for the Reid/Babcock car.



**Thomasville has a new Mayor.** Rich Kralik, of the Ridge Model Railroad Club, has taken on the task of rehabilitating Thomasville. As you know after Tom's death it fell into a state of disrepair. Rich has decided that he can "fix it." Little by little Rich is repairing and repainting. Soon you will smile when you ride by Thomasville. Thanks Rich.

**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.

**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](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.

**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** will be held on run days in January, April, July and October. This is to satisfy the Requirements of Article II, Section 3, Paragraph (1) of the Ridge Live Steamers By-Laws. By direction of the President additional Board of Director meetings will be held right after lunch on run days during the intervening months, if necessary.