

Ridge Live Steamers

January 2011

CALENDAR

RLS Run Day & Card Order Session	Saturday	January 22, 2011
Northeast FL Live Steamers Winter Meet	Thursday – Sunday	February 3–6, 2011
Mosquito Junction Winter Meet	Sunday-Wednesday	February 6-9, 2011
Big Boots & Western Winter Meet	Wednesday-Sunday	February 9-13, 2011
Pasco County Winter Meet	Sunday-Wednesday	February 13-16, 2011
Largo Central Winter Meet	Thursday-Friday	February 17-18, 2011
Manatee Family Lines Winter Meet	Saturday-Tuesday	February 19-22, 2011
Trade Winds & Atlantic RR Winter Meet	Saturday-Sunday	February 19-20, 2011
Ridge Live Steamers Winter Meet	Thursday-Sunday	February 24-27, 2011
FLS Banquet at Dundee Civic Center	Saturday, 6:00 PM	February 26, 2011
Ridge Live Steamers Annual Meeting	Sunday, 2:00 PM	February 27, 2011

From the Desk of the President. This will be my last note to you as by the next newsletter I will have turned the presidency over to my successor. I wish him the best of luck in his job for the next two years. I did not accomplish as much as I had hoped during my term and we had quite a bit of turmoil I did not expect. In that we had an officer and a board member resign and I was called on to appoint replacements for both of them on the spur of the moment. I think that Harold Dunsford stepped into the Vice Presidents job and will do a fine job as your next President. I the appointed one of our new members, Lindsay Raley, to fill his spot on the Board of Directors along with Mitchell Hardy to fill Rich Dobler's vacancy on the Board of Directors. I hope everyone will give their support to all of them in their new positions.

As I write this preparations are well under way for the FLS meet in February. The arrangements for the dinner have been made. Same menu, same vendor, same place, and same price. Also, the food booth will be the same. Other details still need to be finalized, but we are well on our way.

I am proud to have served as your president, again. It has been a pleasure.

In closing, let me say I hope you all had a Merry Christmas and are started on a great New Year.

Best Wishes, and great steaming. T.J. Bissett, Jr.

January Card Order Session. I have had a few early notifications via e-mail as requested for the upcoming Card Order, I believe the total count stands at 5 at the time of this writing. If you are interested please notify me by e-mail at fdeloach@tampabay.rr.com or if you do not have access to email you can call my home number 941-981-9831 so that I can put a job duty assignment together. Please indicate if you have a particular job duty assignment that you would like. I will need more participates to turn this into a successful card order session, so if you have not contacted me directly please do so. Since the card order will be run on a regular run day I am planning on having a dispatcher run the railroad to allow for both card order trains and regular running trains. All will need to receive their clearance order from the dispatcher before proceeding on the mainline and therefore any participants for the day will need to have their FRS radios for dispatching. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Thanks, Fred DeLoach

Boat Pond at Ridge Live Steamers. A long awaited addition to running at ridge is scheduled to be constructed by the end of January. A 20 by 36 foot above ground pond is being built just inside the main gate behind the pine trees. The 12 inch walls will be lined by plastic and filled with water providing between 6 and 8 inches water depth. Boaters can drive over the former vendor crossing and park near the pond. The plastic lining is very thin so please do not plan to walk in the pool. Long poles will be provided to retrieve your boats. Harvey Ulch has built a 52 inch water taxi ; I have 6 model steam boats which will be seen running. I anticipate several pop-pop steam boats to make an appearance. Boaters should check to be sure the frequency their radio equipment uses is not being used by other boats running. So bring your boats.

Nominating Committee. At the monthly meeting in December the Nominating Committee gave the following report. For President, Harold Dunsford; for Vice President, Mitchell Hardy; for Secretary, Allen Newcomb; for Board Members; Foster Bond and Lindsay Raley. The floor will be open for nominations from the floor at the January meeting.

FIRE!!! Now that we are into the dry season, we have been able to control the overgrown weeds and have cut back much of the jungle. You can actually see the track of the little used sidings. The problem is that there is dry grass, weeds, and leaves all over the property. The smallest spark can ignite a rapidly spreading fire. Be ever vigilant as you ride around the track. If you use the water in a bucket or see an empty fire bucket, please fill it at the nearest spigot. You don't want to find empty buckets when you really need them. The new, red, buckets have tops that slow evaporation and algae growth while letting in rain water to help keep them filled. As we get more of the red buckets, empty buckets should be less of a problem.

I can't wait to see the **Ridge Yacht Club** in action. Don't know what I'm talking about? Come to the club and see what's new.

Are you searching your attic, shop, garage, etc. for surplus railroad or hobby related items to sell at the **Switch Yard Sale** during the meet in February? Remember that you must establish the selling price and RLS retains 10% of the selling price or \$1.00 per item, whichever is greater, as commission when an item is sold. This commission applies only to the Switch Yard Sale, not independent vendors.

The **Emporium** will be restocking for the February Meet. The usual assortment of shirts, hats, patches, pins, etc. will be available. If you need an unusual size, larger than adult XXXL or smaller than adult S, let Bruce Rauch know and he will see if your request can be accommodated.

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 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.

DUES. When you receive the envelope with your dues card there is an Annual Member Waiver in it. Please sign and date it and return it to the Secretary, Allen Newcomb. Thank You.

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.

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.

SIGNALS NEED THE HIGHBALL

The existing signal system at RLS needs some repair and after much discussion, some decisions have been made concerning a proposal for the work that is to be done. The following is proposed:

- Keep the red and green aspects – no yellow
- Keep the operator control - push buttons or similar
- System should lock out the second activation eliminating the simultaneous hit concerns
- System should delay the red at the opposite end of the deactivation button allowing for alternation of trains through blocks
- Use Stephen Marshall's design for signal heads
- Using solar panels to keep batteries charged, the system should remain on 24/7
- Build some replacement heads for the Feb. 2011 meet and then install new system after the meet

Circuit designs are being worked on by Stephen Marshall and John Forte and Scott Lindsay has volunteered to make the new targets out of ABS on his CNC machine. Stephen Marshall has located some very bright LED's, and with longer hoods, the signals should be bright enough to read in the direct sunlight during the day. There is so much traffic on the railroad during the winter that having signals in operation all of the time is really becoming necessary. Mitch Hardy's son has used solar panels available in the 5 – 15 watt category, so keeping batteries up should be pretty easy in our sunlight situation. Following board approval, work will begin.

Editorial Thanks. Many thanks to the members contributing articles for the newsletter. Bruce Rauch, Rich Dobler, Tommy Bissett and Harold Dunsford. It wouldn't be possible without them.