

Ridge Live Steamers

February 2011

CALENDAR

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
Central Pasco & Gulf 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
Sebring Systems Railroads Spring Meet	Friday - Sunday	March 11 – 13, 2011
Ridge Live Steamers Spring Meet	Friday - Sunday	March 25 – 27, 2011
Manatee Family Lines Spring Meet	Friday-Sunday	April 8-10, 2011
Manatee Family Lines Memorial Day Meet	Saturday-Monday	May 28-30, 2011

Officer Balloting. All members of the Ridge Live Steamers eligible to vote are receiving, with this newsletter, a ballot for officers and a post-paid envelope. Please return your marked ballot in the enclosed envelope before Sunday, February 27.

After the nominations for officers and directors were closed, President Bissett requested the Secretary to solicit statements from the nominees for publication in the next newsletter. Following are the statements received from the nominees as of the deadline set at the meeting:

Bruce Rauch, nominee for Vice President

I have been a member of RLS for about six years. For almost five years I have been at RLS just about every Saturday and Monday, working on projects independently or with others.

I started and continue to operate the Emporium at all of our meets.

Before moving to Florida in 2004, I was an active member of Adirondack Live Steamers in Saratoga County, NY for over seventeen years. During that time I served as President for four years, Secretary for five years, and Membership Secretary for four or five years.

I have served as Secretary for two barbershop choruses and have been an active church elder for over twenty-five years. I have a history of working with others on boards and committees. I accept the nomination as Vice President of RLS and believe I am well qualified to fulfill the duties and responsibilities of that office if elected.

Mitchell Hardy, nominee for Vice President

My experience in model railroading began in 1969 when I joined the Ridge Model Railroad Club. Shortly thereafter I became involved in 1 1/2" scale and helped build our first track in Auburndale. A few years later we started construction of the Lakeland track. After enjoying many successful meets there we were forced to vacate the property when the new owner decided to continue development. In 1997, with the generous financial assistance of many dedicated members we were able to purchase our Dundee property and start construction of our present track. Having just retired, the construction and procurement of necessary materials became my 5, and sometimes 6 days per week job for 16 months.

Experience, accomplishments, and responsibilities 1969 to present:

Member of the Florida Live Steamers & Railroaders. Twice elected as Secretary.

(Continued next page)

Mitchell Hardy (Continued) Served as a member of, and spokesman for the committee that planned and completed the separation of the 7 1/2" group from the Ridge Model Railroad Club, resulting in the formation of the Ridge Live Steamers, Inc. Negotiated and executed the purchase of our present RLS property. Co-designed our Dundee track plan with Julian VanSickle. Elected President of RLS - 3 times, and several terms as Past President, and Director.

Participated in numerous rambles and visited many railroads from coast to coast across the country since 1989. At each of these there is an opportunity to learn from the many people you meet, and observe how each group builds and operates their railroad.

Since 2005 Dick Parker (Illinois Live Steamers) and myself have taken two, one-month trips each year attending meets, and visiting railroads while working as contract employees. We build, rebuild, and repair bridges, turntables, steaming bays, and structures.

My 30-year career as an Engineer ingrained a logical and disciplined thought process within the boundaries of rules, regulations, specifications, and good practice. Advanced thru the ranks to Supervisor and Management.

The RLS track we now enjoy did not happen by chance, nor in fits and starts. It is a result of planned, orderly, approved growth enabled by the labors of many dedicated members toward a common goal. I believe I have the experience, skills, and leadership ability to continue those efforts that best serve RLS, as your Vice President.

Winter Meet Banquet Reservations. Have you made your reservations, yet???

Member's Annual Waiver. Many thanks to those who have returned their "Member's Annual Waiver." It has relieved the Secretary from having to chase people around the track.

Jerry Rivet, Candidate for Board Member. My main concern is so that the club does not become stale by continuously voting in the same officers every term, in my opinion and that of others that is what is presently happening now, yes we all get old but time marches on and we as a club must strive to forge ahead. I will try and accomplish what my fellow members want to try and institute, and listen to what other directors have to say. I have been in trains since 1948 when I received my first American Flyer train set. I was one of the 13 railroad historians, I covered the (6) six New England States ran model railroad conventions and was a manufacturer of "S" scale models. I have been and still retain directorship in other railroad affiliated clubs and committees.

Foster Bond, Candidate for Board Member. Railroad History,

First electric train - 1936

First HO scale model - 1947

Founding Officer:

1. Two model railroad clubs, not in Florida.
2. Ridge Model Railroad Club, 1959.
3. Florida Live Steamers & Railroaders, 1972.
4. Ridge Live Steamers, when separated from Ridge Model Railroad Club.

Live Steam 7 1/2" gauge - 1951 to present.

Designed 2, 1:1 scale, loco three stall metal building shops - 1957, still in use today.

Most out of state track visits in 1950's & 1960's.

First 7 1/2" gauge trucks machined from castings - 1957.

Scratch built 7 items of rolling stock in 7 1/2".

Scratch built an SW-7 loco running in May 1970, with gasoline engine. Converted to battery in 2005.

Installed track at: Canton, St. Paul & Pacific RR - Georgia; RMRRC / RLS - Auburndale, Lakeland, & Dundee; two other Florida tracks.

I desire to continue on the RLS Board of Directors another 2 years representing best interests, as in the English word NEWS, derived from (North, East, West, South)

January Card Order Session by Fred DeLoach. With the clubs official card order session behind us I look forward to all the activity during the February Winter Meets. Overall the Card Order session was successful and I believe all that participated enjoyed the day's activities. We had 4 engine crews working all over the railroad with additional passenger and individual trains running at the same time, this tended to make things interesting at times but the dispatching crew was able to get everyone squared away. The yard crew was busy with 2 engines switching approximately 75 cars and making 11 consists to send out on the track. Radio traffic was busy throughout the day only quieting down around lunchtime. I have received suggestions for a future session and hope to have as much or more participation for the next card order. My suggestions for the next card order would include to hold the card order on a non-run day, control the train traffic by the block signals and run a passenger train on a schedule for flipping the waybills. I know I put in a few hours or more preparing the activity and want to thank all those that pitched in and gave a hand setting up on Friday and putting things away.

The Sebring System Railroads of Bruce Elder and Bill Koster are hosting a meet at their tracks on March 11 through 13. The combined railroad includes 7,000 feet of track operated bi-directionally. For this reason, FRS radios are used and a portion is signaled. Minimum radius is about 30 feet and the grades are about 2 1/2 percent. Due to the fire hazard, solid fuel locomotives cannot be operated. Limited camping space is available for self-contained vehicles. Contact Bill for camping reservations at 863-382-2819.

Our location for unloading is at Bruce's property at 9151 McRoy Road, Sebring. To find us, go south on US 27. Approximately 4 miles after you pass Lake Jackson (the big lake on the left) you will come to an intersection of US 98 and State Road 66. Take SR 66 3 1/2 miles West to McRoy on the left. About 1/2 mile down McRoy you will see Bruce's driveway on the right.

Boy Did I Learn Some New Words by Rich Dobler. At the last Fall Meet, I was walking through Yee Haw Junction early on Saturday morning when I heard an expression of verbal concern reminiscent of my boot camp days. I found Bruce Elder expressing deep frustration, in words that he learned in the Navy, with his battery charger and the electric box to which it was attached. After some examination of the situation we determined that the electric outlet was dead but the breakers at the four-track engine house were all O.K. A few more new words followed and then we discovered that the charging outlet at YeeHaw was connected to the switch on the side of the engine house. It seems that some dummy (that would be me) in his capacity as signal maintainer had gone by on Friday night after running had stopped and turned off the switch which controls the power supply for the signals. When I turned the switch back on, Bruce's battery charger worked just fine. Turns out that people had commented at the previous February Meet that their batteries were not taking a full charge in YeeHaw. I guess they wanted that switch left on all night too. Bruce Rauch came to our rescue and rewired the outlet away from the switch, so the signal maintainer can't turn off the battery chargers any more. Just goes to show that an old Marine can still learn new words from a shipwrecked sailor.

The "Accidental" Party. It all started with a visit from my cousin, Amanda Hauser, who came to spend a few days in sunny Florida as a welcome change from the Wisconsin Northwood's where she lives. I thought it would be nice to give her something she has never had in her life: an outdoor picnic on New Year's Day. Harvey and I passed the word around that I would cook "stringy beef" sandwiches and all were welcome to come. The word travelled very quickly and soon we had offers of potato salad, appetizers, desserts, vegetables, and all kinds of things. We were also told that people who were planning to go somewhere else that day cancelled those plans to stay at the railroad. It turned into a party and when all was said and done, we had 43 people attend. The last that I heard is that people want this to be an annual event which Harvey and I think is a fine idea. -Judy Ulch

Notice of Proposed Changes to RLS Articles of Incorporation

At the January 22, 2011 RLS membership meeting, there was a proposal set forth to amend our present Articles of Incorporation to increase the maximum number of Directors from nine (9), as presently stated in our Articles of Incorporation, to a maximum number of eleven (11). This is the number of Directors we will actually have after our February 2011 elections.

According to Article IX of the RLS Articles of Incorporation an Amendment may be made by a vote of the members in accordance to the manner provided by the By-Laws.

According to RLS By-Laws, Article X, amendments are made by an affirmative vote of the members voting at a regular meeting and the nature of said changes be provided to the membership 15 days prior to the date of the meeting.

As stated above, the exact change being proposed for a membership vote to the RLS Articles of Incorporation is to increase the maximum number of Directors from the present number of nine (9) to a maximum number of eleven (11).

Ridge Live Steamers, Inc. By-Laws Revisions. Your By-Laws committee has been working diligently on making meaningful changes and additions to our By-Laws for the protection and betterment of our Corporation. This process is almost complete and will be ready for presentation and vote for approval at the February 27, 2011 general membership meeting.

Your By-Laws Committee

Shop at the RLS Emporium. The Emporium will be stocked for your needs whatever the weather at the meet. From Tee shirts to sweat Shirts, from polo's to denims, a full supply of sizes will be available but limited. Shop early to get your size. Did you forget your FRED (flashing rear end device)? Don't be concerned. We have them complete with batteries. Have a sweet tooth? Candy will also be available. Stop by and see what else is in store.

Switch Yard Sale. Jerry Rivet will be back in charge of the SYS. Every meet the SYS is growing in popularity with both buyers and sellers. Briefly, bring your surplus railroad or hobby related items to the tent. You set the selling price. When an item is sold, a 10% commission is retained by RLS. Jerry has the right to refuse inappropriate items. We don't want to sell toasters, etc. The 10% commission applies only to consignment items left at the SYS tent. It does not apply to independent vendors.

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.

Committees Forming at RLS. It has come to the attention of the RLS membership that it is necessary to form committees for the various kinds of work that needs to be done at the Railroad. Everyone has at least one talent that can be utilized for the betterment of the club. Most people have more than one talent and that is great, too. If you can sit silently and watch a finger machine run for an hour, if you can watch a small steam engine run without moving or talking, if you can watch fire burn without fidgeting, if you are patient enough and determined enough to watch concrete harden, or if you are especially good at watching paint dry, RLS can use your talents. One of the biggest needs we have here at RLS is the need for pockets. Why are pockets necessary, you may ask? You have to have a place to put your hands while you are serving on the various committees. If you feel that you are qualified in any of these areas, come on out to Ridge and join one of the committees. -Judy Ulch (Names of existing committee members have been omitted to protect the innocent. *Ed.*)

Track Rats, et cetra. Bill Hays began with his annual switch and track inspection. This year he had help from John Bortz and Dana Bliss. From there they joined with Tim Meyer, John Tribble, “Butch” Trella, Rich Dobler, Harvy Ulch and Bruce Rauch to build a few switches, finish the East Yard, add a tail track, and install what could become a REA track. All we need now is “the bridge.” Harvey Ulch and Bob Babcock are rehabilitating the saloon at “Thomasville.” Maybe they will work on the jail next. Dana Bliss is building a major contribution to the trackside buildings with a 12’ Meat Packing plant at Pine Level. One suggestion for a name is “Newcomb’s Meat Packing and Finger Food plant.” Thanks guys.

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.

Florida Live Steamers’ Dues. The cost has not changed, \$14.00 for family membership. Send your dues to Joan Smith, 9111 Erie Lane, Parrish, FL 34219-9049. If you have any questions call Joan, 941-776-2109

For Sale



- NW-2 switch engine. Engine is Electric Remote Control.
- Engine Weight 900 lbs.
- Engine Built By John Sweeney
- Six foot flat/riding car with 6 axle buckeye trucks.

Asking Price: \$10,000.00 (See Dennis Parker or Call 863-370-1233)