

Ridge Live Steamers

Florida's Highest Railroad

July 2010

CALENDAR

RLS Run Day	Saturday	August 21, 2010
RLS Run Day	Saturday	September 25, 2010
RLS Fall Meet	Friday, Saturday, Sunday	October 22-24, 2010

President's Message. So far its been a rough summer. We have lost the Vice President due to his resignation. He felt that the distance he lived away from the track would prevent his being able to perform the duties next year. With regret I accepted his letter of resignation. As per the bylaws I have appointed Harold Dunsford to complete the term of Vice President. This opens a spot on the Board of Directors, which will be filled by a special election. Also, a member of the board resigned earlier in the year. Nominations from the nominating committee at the July meeting will fill these positions.

As far as the work on the track goes the bridge east headwall is about done, the supports for the main span are in, and work is under way on the four spans to span the distance from the 47ft bridge to the switch for the reversing loop at the east yard. As far as other work goes a number of other small projects have been completed. Also the first box of DVDs are in the file cabinet for use by club members.

I hope the rest of the summer goes smother. I'm looking forward to seeing all of you at the track.

It's Not Too Soon to start thinking about our Fall Meet. October is just around the corner. As usual parking for campers will be on a first-come-first-served basis. A "Pot Luck" dinner will be at 6:00 pm on Saturday. Night running will be up to whom ever wants to run, weather permitting. Progress on the expansion is on hold, but we are hoping.

RLS Goes Video. Thanks to a generous donation by Jim Reed, we now have a television and DVD player set up and ready for use. You may wish to bring DVDs of your old pictures of RLS or other railroad related topics. We can even tune in local TV stations to track approaching storms if necessary.

Emporium News. I've (Bruce Rauch) had several requests for Emporium products since the last meet. Therefore, I will be bringing a limited selection of shirts, hats, and a few other items each time I come to the property. If there is an item you know you want, just give me a call at (863) 427-9426 and I will be glad to bring you whatever you want that's in stock. Due to critters, heat and humidity, I can't keep an inventory on site.

Switch Yard Sale. The next yard sale won't be until the October meet. Now's the time to start thinking about what surplus items you have that you would like to sell and set them aside where you know you will find them. **DO NOT BRING THEM TO RLS.** We have no place to store any sale items for the meet.

Card Order Sessions. Several people, and much conversation, has happened on the subject of Card Order Sessions. In fact, two trial sessions have been help with positive feed back. The major question now is, “When.” One schedule suggestion has been: September, weather should be cooler and not interfering with the Fall Meet; January, good weather, not interfering with the Winter Meet, and some members “from away” could be on the property; April, still good weather, track should be in tip-top condition, some “away” members could still be here to enjoy. Feed-back, suggestions, ideas, etc., are appreciated. Just e-mail me at allenpn@tampabay.rr.com, or drop me a note at 433 Seawane Circle, Auburndale, FL 33823.

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.

Groundskeepers, Grasscutters, tree trimmers, whatever. A few people are trying valiantly to keep the grass cut, the weeds pulled, and the track passable. We have a lot of acreage to cover and it’s not easy in the midst of the summer heat and humidity. If a few more members would help, the burden would be lighter for everyone and the vegetation could be kept under control. We all enjoy the expanded track to run on, however with it comes more maintenance.

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 (note the new e-mail address) 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.

It is with sadness that we inform you of the passing of Barbara Hutchins, wife of longtime friend and regular visitor, Frank Hutchins. Frank and Barbara were the operators of Banana Junction. Frank can be remembered unloading his yellow trolley from the trunk of his car, assembling it, and derailing regularly around the track. Frank credited Barbara with keeping his track in running order. When she became sick he sadly announced that the track was going to ruin. Our hearts and wishes go out to Frank, his sons, and daughters. An unknown fact about Barbara, she was in the Navy during World War II.