



Fall 2020



Approaching the trestle downgrade at the Oak Grove Southern, Dickson, TN.

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18 year old Jacob Smith chatting with 92 year old Enos Yoder!

The Editor's Corner ***Kathy Brassard***

Well, here goes folks! Sally Paxton has done an awesome job as the Editor of Trainline for many years and has decided to retire! Thanks Sally for all your dedication and hard work. It seems I will be trying to fill her shoes with a little help from my friends. If all of us work together, we can make this the Trainline we all know and love! I've been involved in this hobby for a few years and since I help Joan Smith with FLS dues, I have gotten to know quite a few of you! So let's have some articles, info and pictures of what's happening at your tracks! Thanks and keep it between the rails!

The President's Message

Phil Paxton

I don't have much to say this go around.

It has been a rough few years for me but things are looking up.

I have all of the steel parts for the Cly Shay boiler ready for welding.

The last BOD meeting went well and we did accomplish several items that should result in the directory getting out soon. Our thanks to George Johnson for his handling of this.

Sally and I will see you all at the winter meets in February.

Phil Paxton

Dues, Please!! It's that time again. Please mail \$20 to FLS, 9111 Erie Lane, Parrish, FL 34219
Make Checks payable to Florida Live Steamers Please!

Names to Remember and how to contact them:

President Phil Paxton
PO Box 1767 OKEECHOBEE, FL 34973 954-243-6582
E-mail: jppaxtonsr@aol.com

Vice-President Fred DeLoach
11230 82nd St E., Parrish, FL 34219 941-981-9831
E-mail: frdeloach@outlook.com

Secretary: (Vacant)

Treasurer Joan Smith
9111 ERIE LN, PARRISH FL 34219-9049 941-776-2109
Membership E-mail: kenrtz@verizon.net

Trainline: Kathy Brassard
8103 OAK DRIVE, PALMETTO 941-592-5279
E-mail: kathybrassard6148@gmail.com

Rail Sales: Rich Dobler
7750 N SCENIC HWY, LAKE WALES, FL 33898 863-438-8714

Calendar

2021 Winter Meet Schedules

Boots – Feb 1-7, 2021
Pasco – Feb 11-15, 2021
Largo - Feb 12-14, 2021
Manatee – Feb 18-22, 2021
Tarr – Feb 20-21, 2021
Ridge - Feb 25-28, 2021

No Banquet this year.

Sebring - Mar 5-7, 2021
NEFLS – None scheduled at this time

Help Wanted!!

We need a reporter/photographer for Trainline. A person who can write a paragraph or two and add a couple of photos describing a visit to a track. This is particularly needed during the Fall and Winter Meets and is welcome any time. It doesn't have to be Shakespeare or something suitable for the National Geographic cover. Contact Kathy Brassard kathybrassard6148@gmail.com or George Johnson gjohnson5613@yahoo.com or by FLS email.

We need a webmaster to replace Bob Moutray who is retiring and moving away. Some internet knowledge would be very helpful. There are tools/programs that make things a little easier but understanding DNS and web hosting services would be very helpful.

We also need a Secretary. This job requires a little typing and email skills. One BOD meeting/yr is by email. Send a note to floridalivesteamers@yahoo.com and avoid the rush.

Sebring Systems

Ed Archer, Brian Roberts, Bruce Elder

The Sebring System Fall run, Saturday November 7th was a quiet and somber time. A wonderful time was had by all who attended though. Turnout was low but expected due to the conditions of covid-19 or was it the lack of Sebring's favorite food display. Hopefully next Winter Meet (March 5th & 6th, 2021) we won't have the same problems and a lot more people will come and enjoy our railroad and again the food display.

Brian had a major failure on his Accucraft Plymouth switcher which has four motors, two driving each shaft. Two of the motor shafts had a tremendous amount of play which was locking themselves up on the axle gear, so we had to put the train off the track and then transport it back to base later on a flat car.

Pulling it apart and after careful examination we found that two of the motors had very loose shafts on the pinion end. Opening one motor the bronze bearing housing had broken away and allowed the bearing a lot of slop. I am now in the market for two new motors. At present it is running on two motors on just one axle.

The guests he was giving a ride around the track had to walk back to their car. They were excited and tickled pink at their first ride!



Brian's loco on the side.

Further news: Bruce Elder is doing OK. Our prayers are still with him. Word about Cheryl elsewhere in the newsletter.

Some Meet Photos: (did not take many this year)



Bruce heading out with the family members in tow with Steven Marshall tending switches.



Jim Kovalsky's new loco hauling the work train. Photo by Jim.



Rich Clemons having fun.

Progress:

Some photos of progress on the south run over on Ed's side. The wye trackage between Bruce's and Ed's has been 'completed' thanks to Brian and Charles. Trackage is progressing southward thanks to a wonderful land clearing individual or two or four. Not to forget the track placers.



Latest pic looking north at wye branch.



Wye branch with Brian Roberts approaching with the speeder.

Looking south from wye branch switch. At the end of the visible clearing, the clearing continues on to the right toward the driveway. Additionally, Brian has been reworking trackage at North Pole to have a storage track pass through the barn. See photo's below.



South switch to the barn.

Corn Corner:



Some quick 'bandage' track work.



North switch to the barn.

Sebring dates to remember:

Work Days 2020

No group work days planned for the rest of this year. Any individuals wishing to help out, even during the week, are welcome. Please email ahead to confirm. (cbril@aol.com)

Winter Meet 2021

March 5, 6, 2021 (first weekend in March, Friday & Sat.)
Final information will be determined by the covid-19-20-21 chaos next year when closer to the meet dates.

Best Steaming,

Ed Archer edarcher@bellsouth.net

For Charles: cbril@aol.com

For Brian: roberts.brian@verizon.net

Cheryl Elder *** - 11/7//2020

Cheryl Elder, part-owner of the track at Sebring and host to many meets, has passed away. Cheryl Elder was an outstanding person. She was always very pleasant and willing to do anything she could for you. Cheryl was a Nurse and worked in the public health sector in Florida. Though already retired, when Hurricane Andrew hit, Cheryl went back to work. Married for 58 years to Bruce, when he took up the live steam hobby, she joined him. At some of the early meets she could be seen pulling the throttle of a steam locomotive. When the Riverside & Great Northern started up as a 15" gauge railway volunteer organization, both of them quickly made many 1,400 mile trips to the Dells. Bruce would repair anything mechanical while Cheryl would bring her sewing machine and sew on patches, make curtains or anything else requiring a stitch. She would also help wherever else she was needed. She was an excellent quilter, producing a number of beautiful quilts..

The Elders lived in Lake Worth, Florida and hosted many of the live steam meets on their track. Both Bruce and Cheryl took their turn at being President of the Florida Live Steamers and performed many other duties for the club. By the turn of the century they had moved to Sebring, Florida to join tracks with Bill Koster and now Ed Archer. Their train meets were always very popular.

The Florida Live Steamers owe her a great amount of gratitude for her service through the years and recognized her with a President's Award. Cheryl was 80 years old. She will join many others in building an outstanding railway in heaven.

Bill Koster



Cheryl on a locomotive in Bill Koster's backyard at a meet in the 1970's

Manatee Central

Larry and Joan Smith

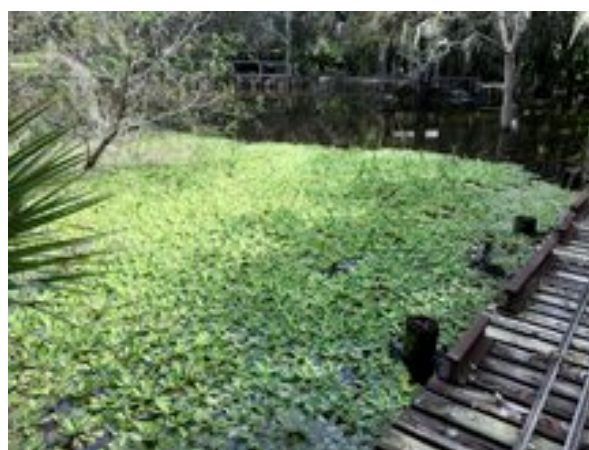
Article by GEJ

Photography by Kathy Brassard

The Fall Meet at Manatee fell alright, a victim of a tropical storm. The property flooded 2 days before the meet and made it impossible to park or unload. Two trees came down on the track. Pounds and pounds of fire ants covered floating debris and made it impossible to clean up much of the south end of the property immediately. This picture was taken Friday, 2 days after the storm passed and on the first scheduled day of the meet. It was taken from the south end of the tunnel shed looking towards the south boundary of the property. By this time the water had dropped a bit but still was above the ties on much of the mainline. The roadbed was very soft and unable to support even a person walking much less a heavy locomotive.



The pond normally ends where the bridge starts. This was taken a day before the picture above it. The pond is a little larger due to flood water that completely covers the south end of the property. The picture was taken before the water drained off a bit but is still over a foot deep around the steaming bays.



A seemingly endless line of trains filled with barrels of debris ran all day Saturday and Sunday. Visitors from Larry's motorcycle club got a dose of hernia-class scale railroading and kept the burn pile busy. With their very effective help, the track was cleared and a couple of passenger trains ran late Sunday. Mark Zielinski and Zane Ellis from Largo were here Saturday and worked all day.

Lutz and Pam Braun came all the way from Tennessee but the ground was too soft to park or unload. We had a carport full for lunch and dinner Saturday and again for lunch on Sunday. Brats, dogs, fried chicken, chicken casserole, baked beans, deviled eggs, apple cobbler and more were plentiful. Nobody left hungry. Although the crowd was small, the “meet” was very successful as everyone had a good time. And plenty to eat. Many, many thanks to all who showed up and helped out. The note below from Mark Zielinski was a very pleasant addition:

George,

Yesterday Nov. 14, I picked up Zane, an 18 year old member of Largo to take him for the first time to Manatee to see the track and to help out with the cleanup. We were at Manatee from about 9 AM to 5:30 PM. I gave Larry the one gallon bucket of stainless steel screws for the track that Tom Eckert did not want to reuse. The wider head screws are only one millimeter wider. Instead of being thrown out, I saved them for Manatee. I showed Kenny the screws. Zane and I helped Larry clear lots of palm fronds and other debris, loaded all of it on the train and took it to the burn pile.

A few other people showed up and two others helped for a bit. Zane and I filled many barrels and went to the burn pile with loads many times. Larry and Joan were really grateful for the help. It is the least I could do after enjoying the Manatee track for many, many years. When Zane gets a car, he will come more often to Manatee. He wants to come when a run time is scheduled. I hope you are doing better with the leg and I am looking forward to seeing you at one of the meets.

Mark

(Ed note: Manatee runs every Sunday which is a regular work day. Drop-in visitors will find a seat for a ride and a shovel or rake that fits their hands readily available. All are welcome.)

Note: The Board of Directors Meeting scheduled for Saturday during the Manatee meet was rescheduled to the card order meet at Ridge December 5 at 1:00. All FLS BOD meetings are open and any member in good standing may comment on any issue presented or raise a new one. Only BOD members may vote. By the time this is published, the next meeting will be at Ridge during the annual General Meeting in February.

Manatee Central 2021 Calendar

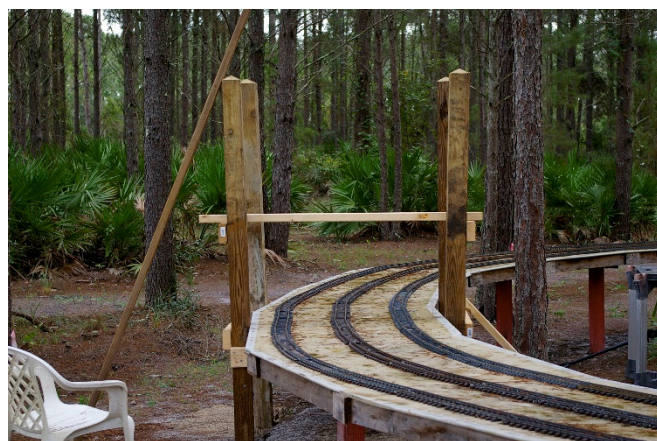
Winter Meet	Feb	18 - 22
Spring Meet (BOD 4/10)	Apr	09 - 11
Memorial Day Meet	May	29 - 31
Fall Meet (BOD 11/13)	Nov	12 - 14

As always, early arrivals and late departures are negotiable. Call Larry.

NEFLS** **Stephie Kolata

The president of the North East Florida Live Steam, Paul Cipriani, passed away shortly before Christmas from a lung disease. Ted Pruett moved from VP to the President of the club,

The update on the NEFLS, first the G gauge group finished their layout in early October. Then the group built a walkover and finished adding a third mainline. They are waiting for electric to be run over to the layout.





The 7.5 gauge progress is slow waiting for the solid to pack down and to be final graded. The next step is burying water pipes and signal pipes then marking the center line and adding carpet and ballast, then track. At the same time we replaced the old north leg switch and relocated a new switch that was dropped in place.



<https://www.floridaagmuseum.org/>
 7900 Old Kings Rd. North, Palm Coast, FL 32137
 Phone: 386-446-7630 * Email:
 info@floridaagmuseum.org

Riding the Rails

G. E. Johnson

Photos by Steve DeLoach

The main loop at Oak Grove Southern is finally complete. It has been under construction for 8 years. Steve DeLoach, an FLS member, has done almost all of the track work personally along with laying out the entire railroad and house and barn. Trains are not only running, friends and neighbors are showing up for rides after hearing the whistle blow.

On the cover is a picture of the approach to the trestle going downgrade. Note the drop to the pond. It is a long way down.



Ample room for the dog. The trestle is designed for easy and safe egress in case of a derailed train.



Approaching the crossing and future station/boarding area.

Note the beam and hardware on the lower left of the picture above. There is one of these beams under each rail on the trestle. Bents are spaced at 10 feet. It is as solid as the crossing! Just beyond the driveway you can see some of the rockwork that holds back the roadbed on many parts of the railroad. I have said before that the only level spot on the whole farm is the surface of the pond. This picture is a good example. With compacted red clay as a base, coarse gravel and finer ballast all tamped with a pneumatic tamper, plastic ties and steel rail, this is one exceptionally smooth riding railroad.



Installation of a lift and turntable and a few steaming bays will follow. Steve wants to be able to take his train elsewhere to run and at least one bay is needed for maintenance. Of course, a few small invitational meets might occur along the way. The steel work is done in that the lift and bays are ready to install, but the holes and grading are not. This will take at least another year. They have this thing called Winter up there.

Tradewinds & Atlantic Railroad

Michael Smith

Tradewinds is open at this time. We are going to attempt to give rides with rules set in place by the park and county. Wish us luck.....

BB&W

John Boots

Editor's note: John is not doing well. His health is not good and any cards, letters to the BB&W should be sent to the address below. Thank you for caring.

Capt. John R. Boots III
email info@bigbootsrr.com
web page bigbootsrr.com
P. O. Box 41
Candler, FL 32111

Central Pasco and Gulf Railroad

Tom Maladecki

Largo Central

Lynn O'Conner

Largo is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year. The Winter Meet is overlapped with Pasco by negotiation.

Pasco – Feb 11-15, 2021
Largo - Feb 12-14, 2021

Largo Central Railroad held the December Public Run on Saturday, December 5th. Largo Central Park was beautifully decorated with lights and decorations for the holiday. For this run, we decorated our locomotives as reindeer. Santa and Mrs. Claus rode up to the station on the first train of the day. They stayed up at the station after their arrival there and greeted the public, asked the children what they wanted for Christmas and distributed candy canes. This year, they did all of that while wearing masks and social distancing. To assist our passengers' safety, we used our new digital sign-up system to cut down on public/volunteer contact. We loaded every other car instead of all passenger cars, had only one party per car, and had a "spacer" car that gave extra separation between each engineer/conductor pair from their riders. We also disinfected each car that held passengers between each trip. The weather was great and everyone seemed to enjoy the event.



Photo by Mark Zielinski



Photo by Mark Zielinski



Photo by Mark Zielinski



Photo by Mark Zielinski

Zane Ellis, one of our youngest full members, built a brand new diamond to replace the old diamond in the center of the railroad that had badly rotted ties. He built the diamond and installed the diamond with minimal help and in record time! He did a great job! Thanks, Zane!

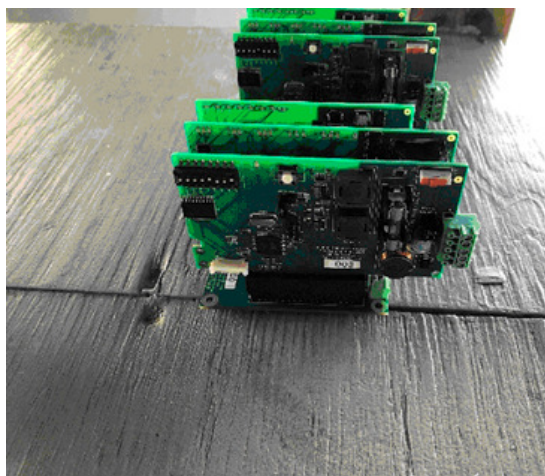


Photo by Jim O'Conner

“Happenings” at the Ridge Live Steamers ***Fred DeLoach***



There have been many improvements around the Ridge Live Steamers track over the past several months, some more visible than others. As we have surpassed 20 years now (believe it or not) at the current location some maintenance items are starting to show up, this year we saw some major repairs to both the “work horse” tractor and the well pump’s electrical controls, both of these items being less noticeable to our visiting live steamers but very critical to the maintenance and operation of the property. Many of the more visible items around the track to make notice of your next visit are: installation of plastic ties and replacement of mainline track curves all across the railroad, the gauntlet trestle has had the bents “unearthed” after many years of the north slope burying them, additional spots in the campground have been stabilized, a beautiful church is being erected in the Town of Wixson along with a wonderful park, the signal system took 2 major lightning hits over the summer and with a lot of hard work by many ran great during both the Fall Meet and the Dec. 5th Card Order session.



Projects and improvements around the bend include: continued mainline curve replacement (donations are being collected for rail, plastic ties and ballast), upgrading

the signal controllers to the latest hardware version which are more resilient to lightning, being on a ridge and next to a substation surely don't help avoid the lightning, (donations are being collected for the signal upgrade as well), additional trackside scenes seem to be popping up all the time (make sure you keep an eye out next time you travel the mainline).



Winter Meet 2021

Be on the lookout for the Winter Meet packet. I personally hope that everyone is able to get out this winter and come visit "The Ridge" and enjoy our great hobby, just like my son and I do.

Happy Steaming,
Fred R. DeLoach
President, RLS

**FLORIDA LIVE STEAMERS
WINTER MEET
February 25-28, 2021**

Hosted by
Ridge Live Steamers, Inc.
7750 North Scenic Highway
Lake Wakes, FL 33898

You are invited to the annual WINTER MEET of the Florida Live Steamers at the RIDGE LINES 7 ½" scale track just South of Dundee, Florida, on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, February 25 – 28, 2021. There will be night running and loop running, so please bring your 7 ½" gauge, Gauge One and G-gauge equipment and run as much as you like. A number of live steam vendors will be on the site during the meet for your convenience. An RV parking area, most with water and electricity, is available on a reservation basis. There may be restrictions on awnings and pull-outs if we really get crowded. Please fill out and send the RV parking reservation slip to Dana Bliss, if you have not already made reservations for the RV parking. Use of the RV parking area is by donation and the parking area is available throughout the month of February for those who might want a home base for the other activities in Florida. A "Diner Car" will be available for noon meals, hamburgers, hot dogs, and chips. There will be a covered dish carry-in supper at 6:00 p.m. on Friday evening. There will be no banquet this year.

Please check the Ridge Live Steamers' web site at www.ridgelivesteamers.org for track details, maps, and other information. Parking for the meet will be along the North road in the station area. We are asking that equipment and camping only use the South road. Each engineer will be asked to attend a brief safety meeting prior to operating equipment on the track. In order for the meet to run smoothly, there will be a number of one hour job slots to fill. Dana Bliss will have the duty rosters.

The Ridge Live Steamers Inc. (RLS) plans to hold our annual Winter Meet February 25-28, 2021. Final decisions related to planning: camp ground capacity restrictions, Friday Night Pot Luck, afternoon Lunch Truck and other items will be decided closer to the meet date to account for any updates from the Florida Department of Health as it relates to COVID19 mandates. ***The Florida Live Steamers (FLS) Annual Banquet hosted by RLS and usually held on the Saturday night of the meet weekend will not be held this year, as decided by the FLS BoD.***

Be on the lookout for your "Winter Meet Packet" from the club secretary which is typically distributed towards the end of December. I hope all of our winter visitors take note of some of the improvements around the track, most notably replacement of many main line curves which now include plastic ties and new FLS rail, replacement of the curve at Pebbledale including a nice retaining wall (makes a great place to stage your train for a picture with the RLS signage), additions to the Town of Wixson, stabilization of some camp ground spots, de-sanding under the trestle and those improvements not seen but equally important, repairs to the water well's electrical controls.

So if you're looking for a reason to get away for a little bit, maybe get away from the cold, head on down to FL like our "normal" winter visitors do to enjoy our wonderful hobby in our wonderful Sunshine State.

Happy Steaming

Fred DeLoach

President, Ridge Live Steamers, Inc.

SOME RESTAURANTS in the area (Maps and Directions available at trackside)

Dundee B-B-Q 2 miles
Downtown Dundee
The Pizza Shop
Across from Melonies
Perkins 8 miles
Across from Legoland
Ruby Tuesday's
In front of Legoland
Shack's B-B-Q
Cypress Gardens Road
Hurricane Grill 'n Wings
Cypress Gardens Blvd 5 miles
Bob Evans
In front of Lowes, Rt 27 South
Brock's Smokehouse &
Acropolis Italian 4.5 miles
At Eagle Ridge Mall
Subway
In Winn Dixie Shopping Center
Woody's BBQ
Beef O'Brady's
Super Markets
Winn Dixie Rt27, Dundee
Publix (South on Rt27)
Just South of Home Depot
LP Gas, South of intersection of
Waverly Road and Rt. 27
Norby's (Great Steaks)
Lake Wales, across from Wal-Mart
Denny's 4.5 miles
Near Home Depot, Rt 27 South
Wendy's 4.5 miles
Rt 27 in Dundee
Manny's Chop House Rt 27, Haines City
McDonald's 4.5 miles
Rt 27 in Dundee
Chili's
In front of Eagle Ridge Mall, Rt 27 South
Cherry Pocket
Great Food – Slow Service
Sonny's BBQ
Rt 27 North, Haines City

Hardee's
At corner of Winn Dixie Center
Sizzlin' Grill
Next to Green Gables Inn, Rt. 27
The Port
16000 Hatchineha Rd, Haines City

Motels North on Rt 27

Monticello Motel 3 miles
Economy Motel 3 miles
Traveler's 3 miles
Rodeway Inn 8 miles
Howard Johnson's 9 miles
Cypress Garden's Blvd
Best Western 6 miles
Ranch House Inn & Suites
800-366-5996

Some Campgrounds in the area

Holiday Travel Park Cypress Gardens
7400 Cypress Gardens Blvd, Winter Haven
863-324-1350
Paradise Island Campground
32000 Hwy 27, Lake Hamilton
863-439-1359
East Haven RV Park
4320 Dundee Road, Winter Haven
863-324-2624
Central Avenue area Lake Wales
South of Florida Natural OJ, over the hump

Motels South on Rt 27

Hampton Inn & Suites
Across from Eagle Ridge Mall
Holiday Inn Express
Next to Home Depot, Rt. 27
Green Gables Inn 5 miles
Country House
Rt.27, South of SR60

RV PARKING RESERVATION

Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ - _____ - _____ E-Mail _____

Camping Equipment Description (Type, Length, Number of Slides [Left/Right], etc.) _____

Arrival Date _____ Departure Date _____

Please Send To: Dana Bliss, Meet Chairman
Ridge Live Steamers
P.O. Box 359
Dundee, FL 33838

2021 Ballot for Officers

President: Phil Paxton: _____ Write in: _____

Vice President: Fred DeLoach: _____ Write in: _____

Secretary: _____ Write in: _____

Treasurer: Joan Smith: _____ Write in: _____

Directors:

Cast your vote for **ANY OR ALL** of the following candidates.

Approve

Disapprove

_____	Stephie Kolata	_____
_____	Kathy Brassard	_____
_____	Kenny Swartz	_____
_____	John Wegenka	_____
_____	Jack Wood	_____
_____	Frank Woodard	_____

Retained Directors:

George Johnson

Bob Moutray

Brian Roberts

Return completed ballots by **U.S. Postal Service** to

FLS Secretary of Elections
George Johnson
372 El Greco Dr
Osprey, FL 34229