

January 31, 2005

Hello, Steam Team:

By next week, it will be up to the new Management Group and the Board to tell me whether to continue this weekly news. I have enjoyed it, and I hope it has served some purpose. Whether it continues or not, good things are yet to come!

Our "boys" (Bill Schwoebel, Bill Rule, and Butch Cannard) did us proud with the little Model CX at Ormond Beach. Thanks to them and to Jim Personti and Jerry Lucas who helped prepare the car, all went well, and they pleased the crowd and the authorities there, as well as the press. Rain held off during Friday and Saturday during the events, but there was no "racing" on the beach because of its poor condition. They were able to drive a couple of blocks down the beach on Saturday, and then took a 25-mile tour through the countryside, along with several of the antique cars that were there. They are on their way north now, and should arrive home tomorrow. I think we should squeeze a short report from them into our Annual Meeting agenda Thursday night. Congratulations, "boys"!

Our membership has now climbed above 40. Indications are for a good turnout Thursday night for the Annual Meeting, and the weather forecast seems favorable. We'll do our best to open up some parking across the road, as Rose Ann suggested, but we can park at least 15 cars in the yard as well. We hope you will attend.

There is ongoing work on Locomotive 402 and on one of the passenger coaches, mostly having to do with springs. Also, the Model 76 rear axle can be taken apart. The electric motor needs to be hooked up on the Rauch and Lang (Emil and company), and flue work is continuing on the Model 87 (also Emil and friends). The CX will need to be cleaned up with a few minor repairs before it is returned to the museum. I've been plodding along on a few "improvements" on the Model K, but desk work, much of it in preparation for the Annual Meeting, has taken some time. HAPPY FEBRUARY! Tom