



# Maricopa Live Steamers

## STACK TALK

FEBRUARY 2019

The official newsletter of the Adobe Mountain Railroad in Phoenix, Arizona.  
Operated by the Maricopa Live Steamers Railroad Heritage Preservation Society.



### President's Page

Well, the Winterfest has come and gone, and was a big success for those folks from areas with very cold temperatures. They were able to enjoy 70° perfect weather in the Arizona desert. Thanks to Jim Zimmerman's efforts and all of his helpers, everything worked pretty well. Each person that I spoke with said they had a great time and the weather was perfect. We had a few track problems, but that cannot be helped on a railroad of this size. There were quite a few comments about most of the spurs being in great shape, but then some others needed some work. I want to thank



### Vice President's Page

Ray and Charlotte Hughes for all of the spurs they worked on to make the Operations Meet enjoyable for so many. In case you have not met them, they are out here during the week making sure the places you want to switch are GOOD TO GO. They have rehabbed many of the switching leads, and have been helping me with summertime kinks. If you see them out and about at the club, **PLEASE** give them a **BIG THANK YOU** for their efforts.

A special **THANK YOU** to all of the people who came out to help during the Christmas runs and the Sunday runs during this nice weather we are having. The club needs your help, and I appreciate your efforts, especially the ones that told me they were having a hard time getting away from work and could only make it out a few times. It really does make a difference. Thanks so much.

We will be getting another 6000 feet of steel rail soon, which was approved by the members at the January meeting. Some other projects were approved to spend club funds on, and we are hoping to get started on them soon. The steel rail fund will go on, but we are going to start a plastic tie fund for those long sections of track that need rehab. We will be using concrete and plastic in the areas where the public are run all the time and still use buried wood ties in the areas prone to flooding, like the south end of Waylost and parts of the Serpentine. I noticed a few donations to the track fund in with the registrations and dues payments, and I would like to **THANK YOU** for helping to finance our efforts to make the track safer and smoother for our members and visitors. The Track Team is working on a rehab project of the inside balloon loop, trying to get it level and smooth with new concrete ties. Once we get the inside loop done, we will divert traffic to it while we do the middle main track rehab project of concrete ties and steel rail. This is part of the Christmas run track that needs work, and needs to be ready for the busy season to come. There is a large project taken on by a few members to rehab the Fisher tracks. A large donation of plastic ties was brought in and they are working on it every time the group gets out here to play. Larry Kirchner is heading this up and, when he is done, Fisher will be the prime place to do switching with all new track and ties. **THANK YOU**, Larry. This is being privately financed and no club funds are being used for this. Again, **THANK YOU**, Larry. They are taking the existing track up, then grading it smooth and installing plastic ties from RMI to make this a project that lasts 100 years before any work will be needed. All the bridges were in and channels cut before we had the 4.93 inches of rain in a 3-hour period last year – a record rainfall for Phoenix, as recorded at the Adobe dam rain gauge 300 ft. south of Pardee point. I will be working on the approaches to those bridges where there was scouring of the bridge piers. I can't wait until Larry retires and can come out and play every day. People will see even more great work done by volunteers.

We have yet to see a huge runoff of rainwater under the Pinnacle Peak Road bridge, where it fills up the Golf course and then heads to Wiebolts Woods and down to Pardee Point. When this does happen, we will find out where else we need to bury the track and stake it down. So far, the times that we have had water on South Arntchoo, all we had to do was go out with a shovel and take the dirt off the top of the rail. So far, so good. But we have not had the frog stranglers we have experienced in the past years of 2010, 2012 and 2014.

(continued)

**Vice President's Page (cont'd)**

I would like to stress the importance of all vehicles using the road crossings where we have pans under the ties. I saw truck tire marks going across the balloon loop tracks, and if they do this across the new concrete ties, it is not going to help our efforts to make it smooth. Some 1" track was damaged by someone not using the road crossing. The 1" crew spent all day Saturday repairing the damage, and were not at all pleased about having to do it. If you are going to drive a vehicle out in the park, **PLEASE** cross at the designated road crossings – better yet, take a train.

We will be starting a cleanup of the storage area and, if you brought something into the area that you still want to keep, then you need to get it out of there! The old water heaters that were dumped there are going into a metal dumpster, AND we are going to have a trash dumpster there, also. There are old items that were treasures at one time, but are eyesores now to our members. I saw an old wooden speeder, and it is going to be put in the trash dumpster. There are so many items, it would be hard to list them all, but if it is behind the fence over by the tunnel, it won't be there much longer. It will be cleaned up, and the junk will go away.

This is only February, but I must stress the importance of being hydrated while working at the park. This time of the year you might not think you are dry, but it will sneak up on you, so drink fluids while out in the sun. It only takes ONE kidney stone to make a believer out of you to drink fluids all year round. Many dehydration problems are in the winter and spring, before it really gets hot, when you are fooled into thinking that you shouldn't be thirsty. All it takes to convince you is to pass a stone one time, and you will understand what I am speaking about. My first attack came out in the desert west of Gila Bend, and the two guys working with me thought I was dying, and so did I. So the Railroad dispatcher called in a chopper to pick me up and get me to Phoenix's Good Samaritan Hospital. On the flight, the nurse said she believed I was passing a stone, and that I would live through it. She also told me she had two children and one stone and would rather have a child than pass a 3 centimeter stone again. If that does not convince you to stay hydrated, then this Sunday, pray that you never have to experience a stone. Please be safe – we cannot afford to lose any members and volunteers to accidents, injury or illnesses.

You will see the registration form for the Spring Meet on the website. If you plan to attend, there are some changes that have been implemented. The PotLuck dinner and raffle will be Friday night at 6:00 pm. This was done because quite a few have to get loaded up Saturday night to get home on Sunday, so we would like to give them the chance to attend. Also, there will be no Prepaid Dinners on Thursday and Friday – just the PotLuck on Friday night. With the dwindling number of meal attendees, it has become a loss to provide meals for less than 20 people. It will be discontinued until we see a rise in attendance. We will still do lunches, because it is easier to grab a quick bite at the clubhouse, and we are still making a profit from lunch sales. Since the club started losing money on dinner meals, we must call it time to quit. Sorry. This is not the case for the Operations Meet, though, because they have growing attendance for their meet and the meals, so Jim Zimmerman will not change what he has been doing. No Changes For The Operations Meet, only for the open run Spring and Fall Meets. Again, sorry.

V.P. Joe

**Pete Pennarts**  
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Vice President

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Holiday Lights  
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**Perry McCully**  
Facility Administrator

**Donna Hohm**  
Membership  
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**John Draftz**  
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**John Bergt**  
**Timothy Freeman**  
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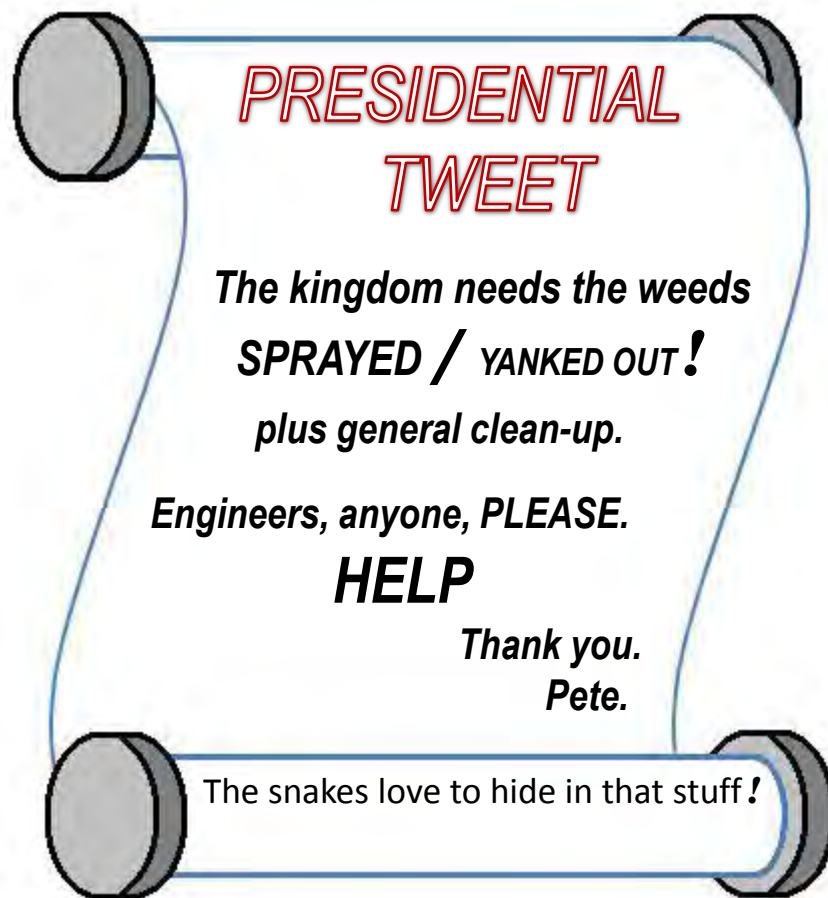
**Al Ford**  
Construction  
Superintendent  
Emeritus

**Ken Giordano**  
Stack Talk Editor

Send emails / photos to:  
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## FEBRUARY CALENDAR

every Saturday	7:00 AM	General Work Day
every Sunday	NOON	<b>Sunday Public Rides</b> – <i>new Public train crews and new Gift Shopkeepers are needed</i>
Sat. 2 / 9	10:30 AM	Holiday Lights Committee ( Joe Kalisak, Team )
	12:00 pm	Closed Board Meeting
	12:30 pm	General Membership Meeting



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|--|--|
| <b>Pete Pennarts</b><br>President                          | <b>Joe Schnyder</b><br>Vice President                        |
| <b>Mick Janzen</b><br>Secretary                            | <b>Bob Douglas</b><br>Treasurer                              |
| <b>Joe Fego</b>  | <b>Mike Grant</b>  |
| Members at Large   |  |
| <b>Cliff Fought</b><br>Superintendent<br>Construction      | <b>Hank Gallo</b><br>Superintendent<br>Operations            |
| <b>Dave Kulman</b><br>Maintenance of Way<br>Superintendent | <b>Greg Gorman</b><br>Tower Signal<br>Superintendent         |
| <b>Terry Liesegang</b><br>Road Signal<br>Superintendent    | <b>Jim Zimmerman</b><br>Engineer Test<br>Administrator       |
| <b>Bill Pardee</b><br>Boiler Inspector                     | <b>Dennis Beatty</b><br>Public Run Crew<br>Coordinator       |
| <b>Joe Schnyder</b><br>Safety                              | <b>Joe Kalisak</b><br>Holiday Lights<br>Committee Chairman   |
| <b>Perry McCully</b><br>Facility Administrator             | <b>Donna Hohm</b><br>Membership<br>Committee Chairman        |
| <b>John Draftz</b><br>Advertising                          | <b>John Bergt</b><br><b>Timothy Freeman</b><br>Web Masters   |
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|  | <b>Ken Giordano</b><br>Stack Talk Editor                     |

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### The Holiday Lights Committee is Calling Out to You!

The Holiday Lights Committee is looking for more members to join us in decorating our train park. If you are a new member, **WELCOME!** We are asking both the old members and the new members to help us out and bring NEW ideas. Each year our Holiday Lights display grows bigger and better, but only with the help of our club members dedicated time and effort.

Here is an opportunity for you and your family to become involved and take part in the fun of decorating. It can be a rewarding experience and great family time spent together for your kids. We have an assortment of lighting decorations available for you to use. It's up to your imagination on what can be done.

If you are interested in helping in any way, or would like more information, please contact me anytime. We meet on the second Saturday of each month at 10:30 am inside Ford Station, unless otherwise noted. Attendance is not required to be a committee member.

Come, join us – make someone happy! make 14,000 someones happy!

Thank you,  
Joe Kalisak  
Holiday Lights Chairman

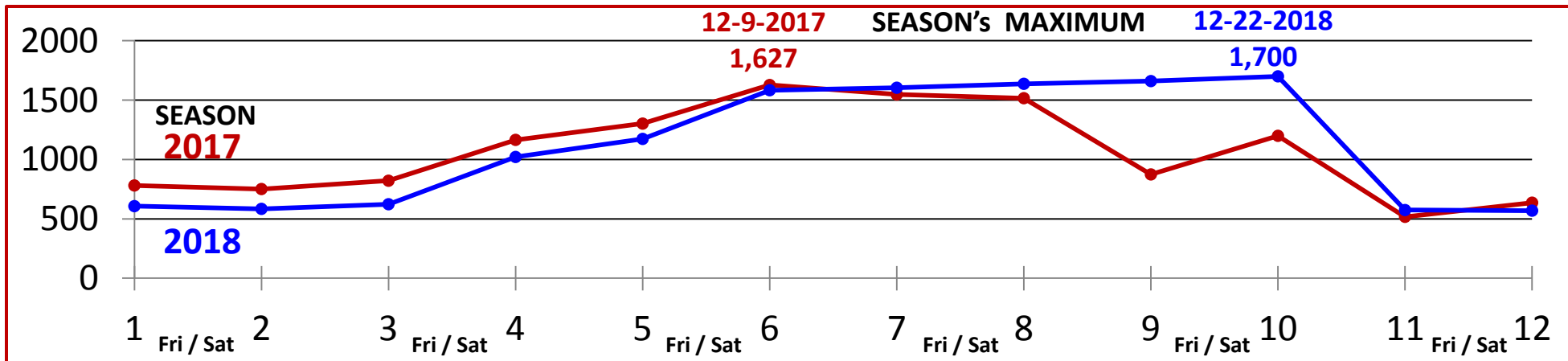
I can be contacted at [MLSlights@cox.net](mailto:MLSlights@cox.net) or 602-573-2828.



**14,000+ very satisfied riders NEED YOU!**  
**The numbers don't lie. They appreciate our efforts.**

(Ed.) I just realized . . . we get more “customers” in less than 60 hours than some small businesses get in their shops in a month of 8-hour days, 7-day weeks. AND between the Train Ride, Gift Shop, Santa and Jr. Engineer School, we average 1/2 hour of personal service time spent with each “customer.” Wow! That’s unprecedented for the volume (average 230+ “customers” per hour, i.e. 9 trains). But it requires 50% of the Phx local members here each night to make it happen. Next question, what is our saturation point, and what factor will force that limit?

### HOLIDAY LIGHTS RIDER VOLUME





# MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS!



Perry has caught the moment when we have temporary permission to be divergent. Enjoy it while you can.

“And **THANK YOU** again to Tim and Brenton Baker for their work on getting the bridge signals functioning. They look great!” Both Pete and Joe sent me emails to make sure this was said with MUCH appreciation.



Plastic knuckles –  
Manufactured by Enterprise Plastics.  
Only one dealer, Bryterails.com  
Photo and Info by Jeremiah Sheward



Mick Janzen’s photo of her new hopper, purchased during the Meet from Ernie Schwenke.

Engineer Ed Houk found this 1.5" scale working Union Pacific 4-8-4 steam locomotive for sale at Barrett-Jackson today. And it just happens to be the same gauge that we use. It was built in 1960 by Davy Crockett IV. Very interesting story behind it. Sure would look nice on our railroad. Going, going, lot number 1308, \$42,000 the final bid. SOLD! . . . Sorry, Ed.





## MLS EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE TEAM (a few of them)

### 2/2 – Typical Saturday Workday

After a hearty 6 am breakfast as a group at the local family restaurant, where that day's work schedule is discussed, prioritized and agreed upon, everyone meets at the park to begin accomplishing their goals for the day. Out here, between the track and equipment issues, and special events, the work never ends.

But, it's all part of the enjoyment (and cost) of the hobby. So, let's have fun!

### Story and Photos by Mick Janzen

(Right) Jim Zimmerman and Hank Gallo performing maintenance on SP 2002.

(Below) Perry McCully removing the second truck from BNSF 2001. It will be rebuilt by Bill Cobb and his wife Judi. They did such a great job remodeling the other truck back in November. We sure appreciate their talents and efforts at the club.





# JUST TURNED 7 YEARS OLD

## Junior Engineer School

by Hank Gallo

(condensed from Stack Talks 2012 Feb and 2017 May)

Here is my son Anthony, 8 years old in 2005. You can see the old 5 hp gas engine, which was replaced with twin electric motors and two deep cycle batteries during mid 2011. I converted my family's "Chessie" switcher to a joystick control and delay circuit, which made it very easy for youngsters to run. Watching my 5 year old daughter Shelby enjoy being an engineer was just great. She invited many friends to the park and let them share the fun with a turn driving the train. Hmm, an idea was brewing. I put together a basic plan on how it would work and presented it to the Board of Directors -- let the visitors' children (of any age) run the train (about 10 minutes) and then they get a postcard stating that they are a *Jr. Engineer Graduate*. In December 2011, they said give it a try.



On New Year's Day, 2012, we opened School. Since it was New Year's Day, we didn't plan on opening the park at all, but 5 of us met at the park to see if any visitors would show up. Good thing we did, since we didn't know the Arizona Republic had printed an article in that Sunday edition declaring us one of the top 10 best family destinations to enjoy on the holiday. We had 700 riders that day! On that first Sunday, we began by selecting one child from the line of people waiting for a train ride, and brought him out to the east yard to run Chessie. As soon as that student engineer got on the train, more "students" started lining up.

Many families return regularly for more "schooling." We average 50 children per Sunday, where I walk about 5 miles in a day, 100 feet at a time. For the past several years, I have been taking photos of the children and posting them on the MLS Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/trainrides](http://www.facebook.com/trainrides)). The only downside is that I am the only one with a train that will bring it out just for the kids to use. But, it has been a great recruiting tool. By getting the children interested, we've had more than a dozen families join the club.



This young man got a perfect score on the Jr. Engineer final exam, then showed us his comfortable style behind the throttle during his road test. Could this alumnus be the school's first Associate Professor, to follow in Hank's many footsteps? We do have two engines available at the School!



# STEAM LOCOMOTIVES BOILERS FIREBOXES

by Dave Griner

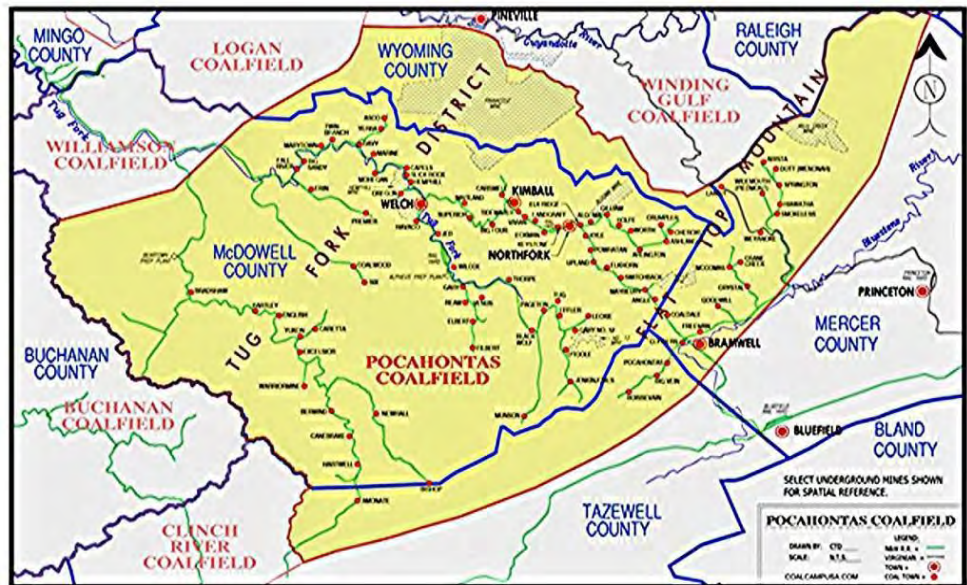
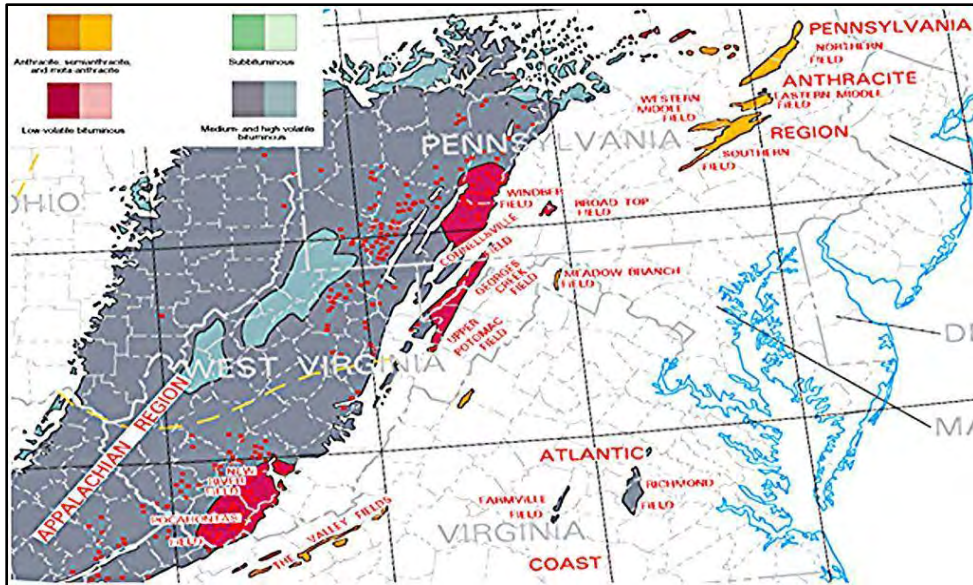


Hello again, guess it's time to begin a new year, best wishes to ALL!!

We started to discuss the aspects of coal and its application for locomotives. From this has come several comments suggesting that a few words about "Pocahontas coal" might be in order. So, first we need to identify exactly what is meant by the term.

"Pocahontas" coal is a term given to a high quality "steam coal," as compared to "welsh steam coal." What exactly is "steam coal?" Its general definition is, "those coals used under steam boilers for the generation of power," a rather nebulous definition we might add! On further examination, steam coals can be defined as: those with high heating value per pound, i.e. British Thermal Units per pound (BTU/lb.), low percentage of ash, high ash fusion temperature (less likely to clinker), minimal smoke when burned, and strong enough to endure handling with minimal breakage (creating fines).

Last time we saw that there are extensive coal fields throughout the U.S., but only a few sections of those fields have coals that meet the criteria just listed. One of those areas is found in Eastern West Virginia, specifically the Tug Fork District, which encompasses parts of McDowell and Wyoming counties. Our "Pocahontas" is considered a low volatile bituminous coal and can be noted on the map below. Yes, there are other fields that have this quality, but lack some of the other points needed to qualify as true "Pocahontas."





## FIREBOXES (cont'd)

Here is an analysis report (right) of true Pocahontas coal from the area noted above. Notice the percentage of ash and the BTU content. It also qualifies as low Sulphur (less than 1%).

Here we have the coal as it's being mined and some fine looking coal it is, too.



(For an understanding of the British scene, peruse this site in the search box – <http://modeleng.proboards.com/board/12/general-chat>.)

While researching this article, we tried to find Pocahontas coal for sale, but to no avail. There were ads for Pocahontas, but none that gave the characteristics needed to assure us of what we were buying. It would take a call to a given mine, asking for a quote on a truckload (typically 15+ tons, minimum). It seems that where there appears to be an offering, it is in the Maryland area. This coal is indeed a low volatile material and will burn quite well in our engines, but suspect further investigation will show it not to be Pocahontas.

One of the points regarding true Pocahontas is that it produces little smoke and very little ash, a similar characteristic of true Welsh steam coal. So it will be interesting to speak with someone who has acquired the “real thing,” just to get some idea of how it performed verses other coals available to us.

Take care,

Dave

Hey, Big Boy! For a great example of a Boiler that's a step above all boilers, check this out by clicking here:

UP #4014 Video — <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Plt6UgVo9x4>

UP #4014 Article — [https://www.up.com/aboutup/community/inside\\_track/steam-update-1-29-2019.htm](https://www.up.com/aboutup/community/inside_track/steam-update-1-29-2019.htm)

From the Pocahontas #3 seam, mined in SE West Virginia, 2008.  
Coal analysis report by Geochemical Testing, Somerset, PA.  
As received specs:

Size:	Pea 1 x 3/8 or Nut 2"
Moisture:	1.48%
Ash:	7.12%
Sulfur:	0.75%
BTU/lb:	14,373
BTU/lb:	15,724 (dry, ash-free)
Volatile Matter:	18.63%
Fixed Carbon:	79.62% (dry ash-free)
Free Swelling Index (Coke Button):	9
Lbs. sulfur per million BTU:	0.52

So, where can we get true Pocahontas coal? It should be understood that purchasers usually order coal to a given specification, listing those items noted in the analytical report shown above. The mines in the fields we have defined have closed or are small workings that have known clients and typically do not sell to the public at large. This situation makes it very difficult to acquire true Pocahontas coal. This same issue has occurred in England where acquiring the Welsh coals are extremely difficult.

Stories by  
Jerry Grundy

# STATIONMASTER'S LOG

Photos by  
Hank Gallo

**JAN. 6, 2019 - SUNDAY** - There were no runs on Sunday due to rainy weather. Mickey Janzen, Jim Zimmerman, Jim Theobald, Chuck Lorum, Ed Houk, Donna Hohm and Hank Gallo were there just in case. Sandy Grundy and I, Jerry Grundy, were also. I made the call due to the weather. We are hoping for a better weekend coming up. Stationmaster Jerry Grundy.

**JAN. 12, 2019 - ARIZONANS FOR CHILDREN DAY** - On Saturday, the AMRS model train club hosted the Phoenix Foster Kids, and MLS gave train rides to the Foster Kids and their adopted families. There were two trains operated by Perry McCully (E) with Jim Thiewes (C), and Jim Theobald (E) with Ed Houk (C). Hank Gallo took over as engineer after Jim Theobald left. On 8 runs, we had 234 riders. Stationmaster Jerry Grundy.



Awesome costumes by the Mandalorian Mercs Costume Club.



During Arizonans for Kids Day, the whole group dresses as Star Wars characters, and these two came to the gate lagging behind all the others. Gatekeeper Donna Hohm





Stories by  
Jerry Grundy

# STATIONMASTER'S LOG

Photos by  
Hank Gallo

**JAN. 13, 2019 - SUNDAY** - The 1st train left the station at 12:20 PM going to the museum with Mickey Janzen (E) and Jim Zimmerman (C). The 2nd outbound train was crewed by Jim Theobald (E) and Chuck Larom (C). They were replaced by Jim Thiewes (E) and Tom Prescott (C) at 2:00 PM, and ran the rest of the day. Gatekeeper Bill Unglaube let the riders into the briefing area and then directed them to a train. Hank Gallo ran Jr. Engineer School. Sandy Grundy was the Gift Shopkeeper. We finished the day with 156 riders on 10 runs. I let Mickey go home early as she wasn't feeling good. That was around 3:00, so I had only 1 train for the rest of the day. Eventually, I called the museum and told them that I would not be running any more trains for the day. Happy Rails. Stationmaster Jerry Grundy.

We had Zavion's first birthday at the park today, so I didn't get school open until late in the day. (Hank)





Stories by  
Jerry Grundy

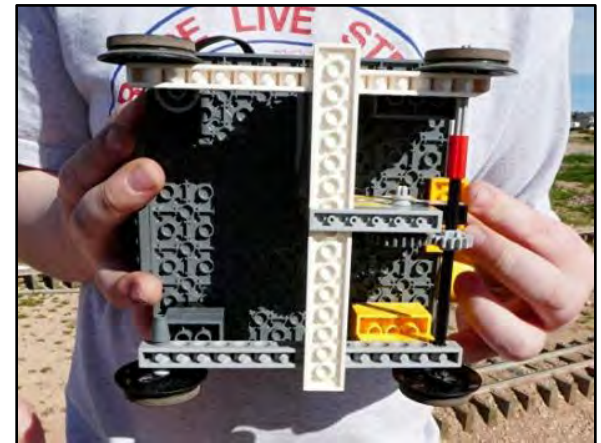
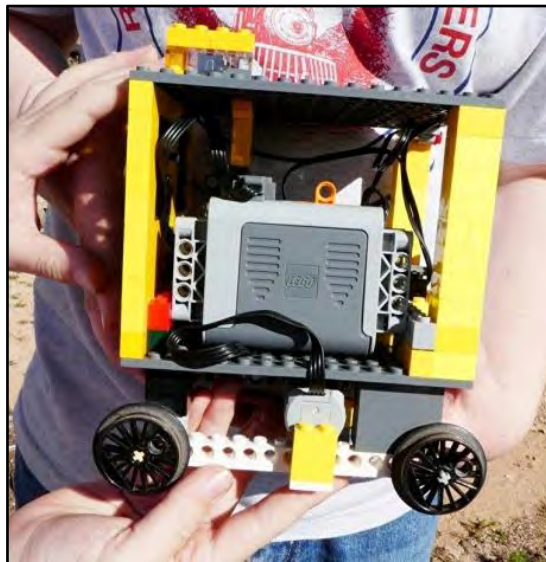
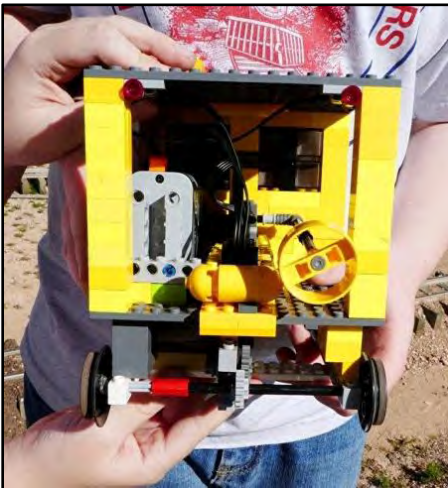
## STATIONMASTER'S LOG

**JAN. 20, 2019 - SUNDAY** - The day started out with my having 3 train crews. The 1st departure was going to the museum with Marty Simmon (E) and Matt Robinson (C). The next crew to depart was Jim Theobald (E) and Ed Houk (C). The past 2 weeks, I was blessed with having Jim Thiewes (E) and Tom Prescott (C) as a backup train crew. On this day, I was in need of their services. They crewed the 3rd train as it got a little busy later in the day. Today's Gift Shopkeepers were Betty Ann and Mary Jo McCully and Sandra Grundy. Bill Unglaube and Tom Prescott were the Gatekeepers for the briefing area before the train ride, and later Tom would be the conductor on the 3rd train crew. Perry McCully and Dakota Clemens were working on the button for track 2 so that the Werner Route could be selected. It now works great. We finished the day with 15 runs and 285 riders. Happy rails. Stationmaster Jerry Grundy.

Sorry, Jerry, no "photos by Hank Gallo" today.

I hope you don't mind if we borrow your page and fill the white space with some of yesterday's "photos by Hank Gallo." Thanks Jerry.

**1/19/2019 Special Guests:** Alex (11) and Shawn (9) were visiting Winterfest with their family from Flagstaff, and brought along a working 1" scale Lego Rail Speeder that they built from scratch with ALL Lego parts. Most visitors don't know that we have a 1" scale railroad hidden inside of our 1 1/2" scale trains. (Hank)



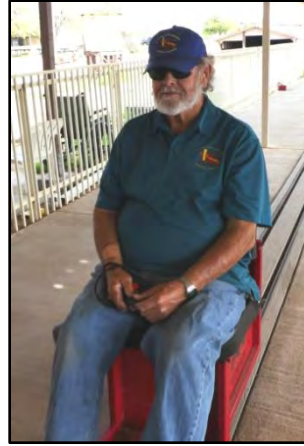


Stories by  
Jerry Grundy

# STATIONMASTER'S LOG

Photos by  
Hank Gallo

**JAN. 27, 2019 - SUNDAY** - Hi, Everyone. The 1st train to depart went to the Museum with Mickey Janzen (E) and Jim Zimmerman (C). The next train to depart went by the Werner route with Marty Simmon (E) and Jim Thiewes (C). Then, the 3rd train to depart was crewed by Jim Theobald (E) and Chuck Rheutan (C). Bill Unglaube was the Gatekeeper and the Gift Shopkeepers were Sandra Grundy and John Brougham. We had 282 riders on 14 trips. I will miss the extra crew that I had, since Tom Prescott and Jim Thiewes went back home, and Marty Simmon is back out on the road driving truck. Maybe I will get them back for the spring meet. Hank Gallo ran Jr. Engineer School. As I reported last week the Werner button was fixed and is working for out-going departures. I again would like to thank the extra crews that were helping these past few weeks, and also the crew from Colorado that came out for the Christmas Lights runs, Dick Maddock and Jay Buchanan. Happy rails. Stationmaster Jerry Grundy.





# HAPPENINGS PAST!

Here is an 8 minute highlight video from our **20-minute HOLIDAY LIGHTS TRAIN RIDE**. Enjoy one mile of lights, decorations and animations as we take you past the North Pole. In the center is our 50' Megatree with 8,000 LED's synchronized to holiday music.

<https://www.facebook.com/TrainRides/videos/2276844095938723/> (Hank)

**1/13/2019 Special Jr. Engineer of the day:** DJ (3) from Phoenix was with his family and wanted to try operating a diesel switcher. "Chessie" wasn't out of the barn yet, so DJ got to bring her out to the West Yard, past the East Yard and into the coach yard. He mentioned he'd like to couple up to the train that was stationed in the yard, so we did that and he got a chance to move a big consist – pretty cool for a 3 year old. He had such a gentle grip on the controls and really did a great job handling the train at low speeds. He backed her into track 4 for Jr. Engineer School, and then stayed to take a couple of more turns after some other Jr. Engineers got their chance. My favorite shot is him polishing the loco, just as my children have done over the years. Great job, Engineer DJ! Great view of the cab, filled with graduation certificates. I swear, the batteries are in there somewhere. (Hank)







**1/27/2019 Special Grand Tour of the Railroad:**

Lilah (4) and Kade (7) were in town with Mom (Laurel), visiting cousins Gracie (8) and Caleb (10), and their families (Kathy, John, Melodie, Ed, Chris and Susan). They visited last year and, after they left, I suggested they arrange a Grand Tour on their next visit, which was today. Laurel agreed to surprising the Junior Engineers with a trip to Far Flung Flats, which is too long a trip to take the public on, but is great for sightseeing. The weather today was perfect for our trip. Kade led off bringing Chessie into the East Yard to re-configure the train for Westbound travel, and gave everyone a spin on the turntable. Each Jr. Engineer got their turn at the controls as we made our way out to Far Flung, at the far North end of the park. It also happens to be next to the "500 Hundred Club" which is Tom Sneva's golf course, opened after he won the Indy 500 in 1983. After rounding the loop at Far Flung, we stopped to collect a bunch of those "dimpled snake eggs," and our Jr. Engineers got a hat full. We all had a great time watching the children marvel at the scenery seen by so few. Great to see you again! Next trip, Serpentine Soup and Sewer Shortline! (Hank)







### DRONE ZONE: BIG BOYS PLAYING WITH BIG MODEL TRAINS IN NORTH PHOENIX

**PHOENIX (FOX 10) – People have seen model trains before, and kids love model trains, especially the big ones. At the Maricopa Live Steamers Railroad Club in North Phoenix, the big boys there get to play with a 7 1/2 inch gauge railway, on 18 miles of track. SkyFOX Drone takes a look, in this week’s version of the Drone Zone.**

Story by Hank Gallo

Photos by Perry McCully



Rod from Fox 10 said the MLS promo video they filmed on Jan. 7th is scheduled to air at 4 pm on Wednesday, Jan. 30th. I used the phrase Emily from the county requested about Maricopa Parks and Recreation, and let interviewer Ty Brennan know it needed to be included. Thanks to the Bill Brothers (Cobb & Pardee) for appearing in the video. Bill Cobb and Bill Pardee were out having fun at the train park, and Fox 10 caught some great drone footage of them. They blanked out my name and Bill Cobb's steam whistle on the video clip, but it was on the live broadcast. Cliff let Ty operate his box cab train with the "big hook" crane car on the back, and he was impressed with the acceleration it had, even with a load on it. They got special permission for the drone. Thanks for the photos, Perry.

To watch the video, click here . . . <http://www.fox10phoenix.com/news/arizona-news/drone-zone-big-model-trains-on-display-in-north-phoenix>





# Winterfest, 2019

## January 16<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019



That look of command and approval, from the honorable  
Jim Zimmerman, Railroad Superintendent.

Thank you, Sir, and also to your associate John Lovely,  
for another fantastic weekend of train operations.

Photo by Mick Janzen



The morning of the Meet – Anticipation is in the air.  
Photo by Perry McCully

## HIGH BALL! by John Lovely

Another Winterfest is On Sheet. Everyone seemed to have a great time. I know I did. At least there were many trains out on the layout. Passenger operations were in full swing, even if it seemed there were many paper passengers waiting in vain for a train ride. I received one completed Conductor's report, besides mine. Jeff and Johnny Moffat reported four runs with a total of 83 passengers, so they win the bragging rights as the most productive crew. In all, there were 38 runs as reported on the sign-up sheets. Many trains were running two and three sections.

I would like your feedback on whether you need prizes to do the paper passenger part of the fun. I am happy to keep setting them up, if you are interested. Drop me a note: [JMLProd@aol.com](mailto:JMLProd@aol.com), subject *Passengers*.

Some glitches, at usual. First, it rained. Not supposed to happen in Phoenix, right? So, on Thursday the computer was fooled into detecting phantom trains in many blocks, so we had to use train-to-train radio blocking, which seemed to work. At least I could tell if there was another train at the next station.

Second, it rained this winter, so we were blessed (cursed) with greenery all over the place. Pardee point was shoulder high in weeds that created slick rails. It also hid the switch stands and even interfered with throwing the points in some places. Not to mention my passenger station boxes. (Too bad some of the valley members didn't heed the call for help to run a weed sprayer train.)

Third problem was the usual computer glitch in the timetables. When I picked my packet up on Wednesday, I noticed blank pages were missing. I then compared with Cynthia's and realized her missing pages were in mine, and mine in hers. So we were not completely lost. At the meeting my first question was if anyone else had blank pages – no response seemed to indicate we were the lucky ones. When I set up the running times, I use Excel formulas, so that changing one time adjusts all other affected times (if I do it right). But we dropped a link between the Far Flung Flats and the Serpentine South table, so it appeared the Sneaky Snake South was running 35 mins late or 25 mins early. But with radio blocking the norm on that branch, it worked out OK. Oh, well, we will try harder next year.

I hope to see you all at Train Mountain Operations this summer. Several new twists are being planned.

June 29 through July 7, go to [TMRR.org](http://TMRR.org) to register.

(continued)



Winterfest, 2019 (cont'd)



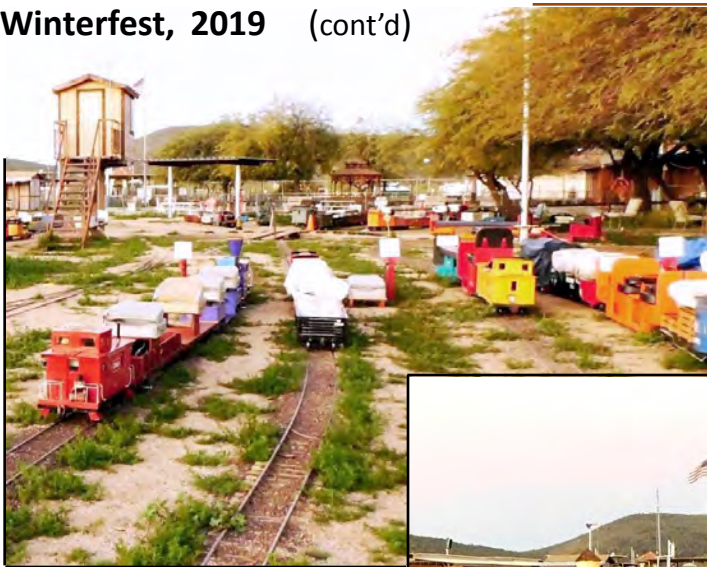
Let's give a BIG ROUND OF APPLAUSE to the Kitchen Crew. They must be somewhere off in the background. Although I don't see them, I know that they are there, because the meals were all served on time with lots of flavor and love. Next time, we'll do the dishes, and you can enjoy some down time chatting with your friends.

Photos by Hank Gallo





Winterfest, 2019 (cont'd)



Photos by Perry McCully

Feeble attempts at humor by the editor



The caption that Perry put on this photo was "Breakfast every morning" without any punctuation, so I'm not sure how he meant to finish that thought.

Could he have meant, "Donuts every morning. I'm in Heaven!"

Wow! Your Arizona Winter lawn is greener than my Illinois Summer lawn. I won't even mention the 13" of snow on top of my Winter lawn right now, or the -15° daytime high temperature preventing its thaw. The wind gusts are giving us a windchill factor of -40° which means frostbite in 5 mins. to exposed skin. During this weather, dogs share the litter box with the cats.



Here's a photo Perry took of the signal bridge looking East at sunrise. I guess the early bird does get his favorite donut. Sorry Perry. No disrespect intended.



Winterfest, 2019  
(cont'd)



Why is everyone standing so far back while the POO tanker is being filled?

Photos by John Draftz



Photo by Mick Janzen



Photos by Hank Gallo





## Winterfest, 2019 (cont'd)

Story by Mick Janzen    Photos by unknown paparazzi

This is me on my locomotive with my crew :  
Earl Bean and Richard Shugel.  
Jim Zimmerman actually went out with us  
for a couple of runs. We had a great time.



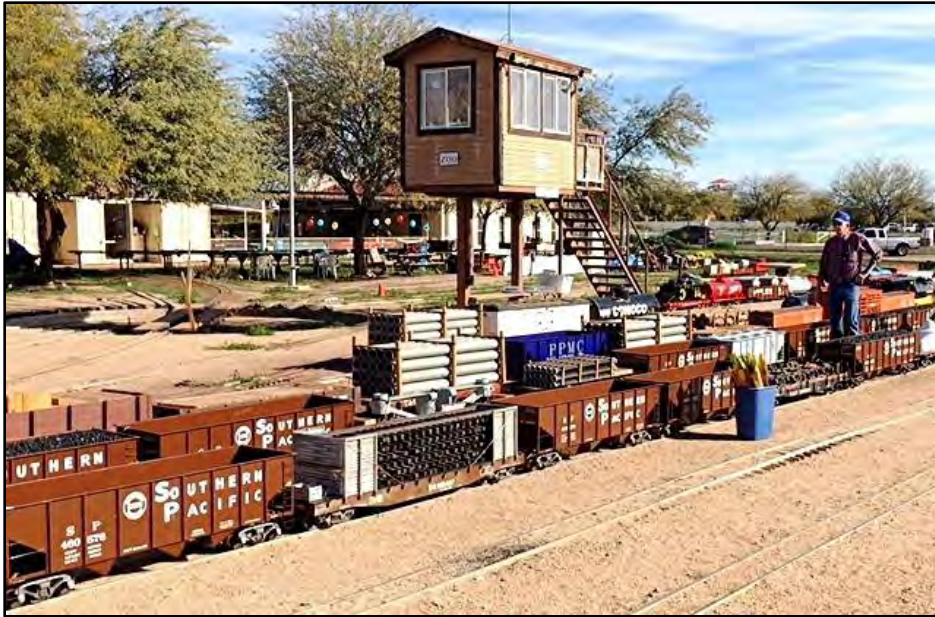
Me and my crew **"WORKING"** for the railroad, with two *"paying"* passengers!





Winterfest, 2019 (cont'd)

Photos by Jim Theobald





Winterfest, 2019 (cont'd)



Photos by Hank Gallo





Winterfest, 2019 (cont'd)



Photos by Hank Gallo





Winterfest, 2019 (cont'd)



Top Photos by Richard Finlayson



Bottom Photos by Diana Stuart





Winterfest, 2019 (cont'd)



Photos by Jeremiah Sheward





Winterfest, 2019 (cont'd)



Photos by Jeremiah Sheward





# Winterfest, 2019 (cont'd) Photos by Dan Benton

Six freight trains working Lizard Lip and Schnyder Yard when a passenger train came upon us. Clear the main line!





Winterfest, 2019  
(cont'd)



Photos by Dan Benton





Winterfest, 2019 (cont'd)



Photos by Dan Benton





# HAPPENING SOON!

## MLS Spring Meet 2019

### Work Week -- March 4<sup>th</sup> thru 10<sup>th</sup>

### Meet Week -- March 11<sup>th</sup> thru 17<sup>th</sup>

You are invited to participate in the Spring Meet, which will be held March 4<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019, at Maricopa Live Steamers in Phoenix, AZ. This is an open invitation meet, but everyone attending must pre-register regardless of their participation.

**A continental breakfast** of coffee and donuts will be available on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday at the nominal cost of \$2.00 per person cash only.

If you are bringing your spouse, girlfriend, children, etc., they must also be pre-registered, even if they DO NOT plan to participate. **During the week of the Meet only**, the following meals will be provided.

**Lunches** will be available Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday at the nominal cost of \$7.00 per person cash only.

**Dinner on Friday** will be potluck. If you choose **not** to bring a dish for the potluck, there will be a \$10 charge per person, which must be **prepaid** with your Registration Form.

**Please note, you must pre-register and pay for the PotLuck Dinner by March 10.**

**Please use the registration form at the end of this newsletter.**

Please RSVP as soon as possible with a check or money order.

We look forward to seeing you in March.

We use FRS radios with assigned channels from 3-10 with privacy code 10. Exact channel assignment will be listed in the operation time table. You will also want to bring a flashlight, warm clothing, rain gear (it does rain in Phoenix occasionally) and anything else you think you may need.

Upon arrival to MLS, please check in at Ford Station to pick up your information packet.

Track plan information can be found on the MLS website, as well as a map to MLS. RV parking and dry camping is available March 4<sup>th</sup> through March 17<sup>th</sup>.

Maricopa Live Steamers is one of Phoenix's natural county parks. There are coyotes, rattlers and other critters living here. We ask that you not bring pets for safety's sake. If you do so, your pet **must** be on a leash at **ALL** times. This rule is a county park rule. If the county sees disregard of the rules, they will tell us to pick up our track and go home. We don't want that to happen, do we? For more information, visit [www.maricopalivesteamers.com](http://www.maricopalivesteamers.com).

Any questions please contact Belinda Kulman at [bkulman09@gmail.com](mailto:bkulman09@gmail.com)

or Donna Hohm at [donnahohm@yahoo.com](mailto:donnahohm@yahoo.com).

Thank you.





## TRAIN MOUNTAIN RAILROAD – Oregon

### 2019 SCHEDULE

**Spring Awakening Work Week**  
**Spring Awakening Train Meet**

Saturday, 4/27 – Thursday, 5/2  
 Friday, 5/3 – Sunday, 5/5  
 (Banquet is 6:00 pm Saturday Evening)

**Narrow Gauge Work Week**  
**Narrow Gauge Train Meet**

Saturday, 5/25 – Thursday, 5/30  
 Friday, 5/31 – Sunday, 6/2  
 (Banquet is 6:00 pm Saturday Evening)

**Operations Set Up & Work Week**  
**Operations Train Meet**

**Saturday, 6/29 – Wednesday, 7/3**  
**Thursday, 7/4 – Sunday, 7/7**  
 (Banquet is 6:00 pm Saturday Evening)

**August Work Week**  
**August Train Meet**

Saturday, 8/3 – Thursday, 8/8  
 Friday, 8/9 – Sunday, 8/11  
 (Banquet is 6:00 pm Saturday Evening)

**Big Build Work Week**  
**Big Build Train Meet**

Saturday, 8/31 – Thursday, 9/5  
 Friday, 9/6 – Sunday, 9/8  
 (Banquet is 6:00 pm Saturday Evening)

**Fall Colors Train Meet**

Friday, 10/11 – Sunday, 10/13  
 (Banquet is 6:00 pm Saturday Evening)

**Note: Schedule changes denoted in BLUE.**



Train Mountain Railroad

PO Box 438 Chiloquin, OR 97624

[541-783-3030](tel:541-783-3030)

<http://trainmtn.org/tmrr/index.shtml>

You do not need to be a member to visit Train Mountain or to attend events, but you must be a member to bring your equipment to Train Mountain. Members may bring equipment at any time. It is not necessary for you to wait for a meet or workweek to run your train or to volunteer your time at Train Mountain. We look forward to seeing you here !







Jerry Grundy  
Stationmaster and Engineer



**2018 AND 2019**  
**CALENDAR OF MEETS**



SPRING MEET 2018	<b>WORK Week</b>	Mon 3/5/18 -- Sun 3/11/18
	<b>MEET Week</b>	Mon 3/12/18 -- Sun 3/18/18
FALL MEET 2018	<b>WORK Week</b>	Mon 10/22/18 -- Sun 10/28/18
	<b>MEET Week</b>	Mon 10/29/18 -- Sun 11/4/18
Operations MEET 2019	<b>Briefing Meeting</b>	Wed 1/16/19 Evening
	<b>OPS MEET</b>	Thu 1/17/19 -- Sat 1/19/19
SPRING MEET 2019	<b>WORK Week</b>	Mon 3/4/19 -- Sun 3/10/19
	<b>MEET Week</b>	Mon 3/11/19 -- Sun 3/17/19
FALL MEET 2019	<b>WORK Week</b>	Mon 10/21/19 -- Sun 10/27/19
	<b>MEET Week</b>	Mon 10/28/19 -- Sun 11/3/19

Registration information for the various events will be published as time grows near.





**Maricopa Live Steamers**  
**2019 Spring Meet**  
**Registration Form**  
**Monday March 11th-Sunday March 17<sup>th</sup>**  
**Work week begins Monday March 4<sup>th</sup>-Sunday March 11<sup>th</sup>**

Pre-register by March 11<sup>th</sup>

Name as you want it to appear on your name tag: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional family members: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

\*All steam engines must have a current boiler inspection and solid fuel engines must have spark arrestors.

\*All steam engines under fire must not be left unattended.

\*All train operators must attend 1 safety meeting.

\*RV's are permitted March 4<sup>th</sup>-March 17<sup>th</sup> Dry Camping only, no water, no electric, and no sewer.

\*No discharge of any water on the ground.

Pot Luck Dinner will be Friday March 15<sup>th</sup> at 5:30

\*I will participate in the pot luck dinner: Yes: \_\_\_\_\_ No: \_\_\_\_\_

Item	# Of people		Cost		Total
No dinner meals will be available					
Pot luck Friday Night Bring a food item or pay \$10.00		X	\$10.00	=	\$ or food item
Registration Administration fee <b>Non refundable</b>		X	\$5.00	=	\$
Each additional family members administrative fee <b>Non refundable</b>		X	\$2.00	=	\$
Total enclosed with RSVP					\$

**\*\*Breakfasts and lunches will be served Wednesday through Saturday 13<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>\*\***

Continental breakfast of coffee and donuts will be served at a cost of \$2.00 per person

Lunch and a drink will be served at a cost of \$7.00 per person cash only at the door 11:30-1:00

**ALL ATTENDEES MUST ATTEND ONE SAFETY BRIEFING.**

Briefings will be held on Monday through Saturday at 8:30am and 1:00pm

**ALL COUNTY RULES IN EFFECT! ALL DOGS MUST BE LEASHED AT ALL TIMES!**

Please mail this form along with a check or money order payable to Maricopa Live Steamers to:

Donna Hohm  
10705 North 109th Way  
Scottsdale AZ, 85259

**Any questions contact:**  
Belinda Kulman: [bkulman09@gmail.com](mailto:bkulman09@gmail.com)  
Donna Hohm: [donnahohm@yahoo.com](mailto:donnahohm@yahoo.com)