

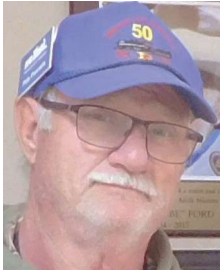


Maricopa Live Steamers

STACK TALK

May 1, 2023

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



Message from the President

The fire ban is in effect. No coal or wood burning locos can be out on the railroad.

Gas fired only in areas that have been cleared of weeds 6 to 8 feet back and no weeds between track at this time. I have no idea of what branches are okay to run at this time.

The last train ride was April 30th and we start up again on October 8th. We still need train crews. If everyone who is local could plan to help out one day a month, it would ease the load on the regular crews.

Dan Benton is the fall meet coordinator. He has some great ideas planned for a fun time. There will be at least one breakfast, at least one lunch, and one dinner with raffles, and some day time games to make the rides more fun. Or just come and run your engines! Hope to see you in the fall.

Christmas runs will be the first three weekends in December, same time as AMRS. We will need volunteers!

More to be announced on the planning and Christmas decorating.

We received some 1.5" and 1" steam locomotive parts from guy in New Mexico that were donated to the club. These items will be available through a silent auction. Photos with descriptions will be coming out soon in a blast with the necessary instructions.

Clean up of weeds around containers needs to be done. Please check your area to the left of

Dan Benton found this western diamondback in the Canada container. Snakes have also been seen around other containers and in Adobe Station, so please be careful.

Pete



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No information from the April 8th meeting.

Information from the March 11th meeting.

1. Create a diagram of track in the yard to add to the new member book
Sandy Rauperstrauch will be working on the diagram of track in the yard area.

2. More rail is available for bidding on. No information

3. Need volunteers to help cut down weeds. On-going.

4. Looking for someone to replace the deck at Canada. No Information

5. Co-coordinator for the Fall Meet is?

Dan Benton is the new Fall Meet Co-ordinator - he already has some great ideas planned.

Meeting Dates:

May 13th, Board meeting 11:00 - General meeting 12:00

June 10th Board meeting 11:00 - General meeting, 12:00

NO MEETING IN JULY

MLS has a new sign!



The old sign came down and has been relocated. Helping with the installation were Pete, Perry, Bob R, and observers/go-fors were Rich Moch, Joe Fego, and Mike Grant, and Sandy R, photographer.



NO, It was'nt a Scavenger Hunt!



On April 30th Larry Messing found an RC plane that crashed from the RC club.
Nice plane - I'm sure the owner will be looking for it!

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Stack Talk

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A Little Background of Railroad Expansion at the Park

The **Sahuaro Central Short Line Railroad and Preservation Society** is the creator of the Adobe Mountain Desert Railroad Park and Museum, and currently leases 150 acres in the Adobe Dam Recreation Area from Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Dept. Sahuaro Central leases some property to Arizona Under Sahuaro Central is MLS, AMRS, Arizona Model Railroad Society and AGRS, Arizona Garden Railroad Society.

If you are a member of MLS and come to the meets, you may not be aware that there is more going on at the park than what you see. Across the drive you see the **AMRS** sign (Arizona model Railroad Society) on the large building, a separate club of model train enthusiasts. You should stop in and see what great train layouts are on display featuring trains in N scale and HO scale. North of the AMRS building is Arizona Garden Railroad Society with a grand outdoor g-scale layout.

But wait, there's more!

Under the **Sahuaro Central Short Line Railroad and Preservation Society** is the Museum which includes an indoor G-scale train layout. MLS train riders on Sundays get to tour the museum that was updated 6 months ago. There are so many trains and train memorabilia on display, and there is something of interest for all ages, including toddlers.

Sahuaro Central Short Line Railroad and Preservation Society is forming another organization.

The Sahuaro Central Shortline Railroad.

The reason for this may surprise you! Under this new organization, a 15" railroad is currently under construction at the north end of the park by the museum. Phase one has been completed with the first oval loop of track, laid by Mike and Bill Grant, and we are in proof on concept.

But where are the engines? There are two engines that have been in the museum.



The first is this green engine, called the Hurlbert, formerly a steam engine that Ken Bain converted to gas.



The signal tower is being constructed now with the help of Perry, Pete and Scotty.



The second engine is the American, a steam locomotive. It is #3 out of four engines built by Ben Hammer in Sun City. The sister engine #2 is owned by Bruno Platzer in Las Vegas. Bruno's engine ran in an amusement park in Wenatchee WA. Ours has never been fired. Here is the problem!

Continued on next page 5.



Scotty is working on passenger cars. More work is needed on this one!

Instagram-friendly flowers are taking over the Phoenix area.

One problem: They're invasive weeds

Alden Woods, The Republic | [azcentral.com](https://www.azcentral.com)

What is globe chamomile and why is it becoming a problem?

When it's spring, the mountains turn yellow. So do fields and front yards, gravel-covered church playgrounds and almost everything in between. And there's no telling when it'll return to normal.

After a wet and windy winter, an invasive weed has blanketed the Valley's mountain outskirts. From New River to the White Tanks to the Estrella Mountains, acres of desert turned into Instagram-friendly seas of yellow that naturalists fear could disrupt local ecosystems and wrap entire communities in thick, flammable flowers.

"It's been alarming for all of us," the Arizona Native Plant Society's Kara Barron said. "Everybody's like, 'What is this? It's everywhere.'" Officially, it's *Oncosiphon piluliferum*. It usually goes by globe chamomile.



But you can call it stinknet.

A distant cousin of the chamomile that goes into tea — same family, different genus — stinknet is relatively new to Arizona. It's native to South Africa, and wasn't spotted in the United States until the early 1980s. It spread to Arizona sometime after the turn of the century. Then, as all desert creatures eventually do, it waited for water.

Then came one of the wettest winters on record. When it finally dried out, stinknet painted the Valley yellow.

"It's just the right conditions," Desert Botanical Garden herbarium curator Andrew Salywon said. "It's becoming a huge problem."

Now, barely two decades into its Arizona residency, the state has decided it's unwelcome. The Department of Agriculture has proposed adding *Oncosiphon piluliferum* to its Noxious Weeds list, labeling it a "high priority pest for quarantine, control or mitigation if a significant threat to a crop, commodity, or habitat is known to exist."

Stinknet is designed to go viral. It's a short, shrubby bush with dozens of branches that rise no more than a couple feet off the ground. In bloom, those branches fill with bright yellow flowers that look like tiny golf balls.

Those are the problem.

Each ball can contain as many as 400 flowers. And a single plant has been found with up to 4,000 balls.

When they're wet, they stick to almost everything — wildlife, shoes, the wind — and drop seeds wherever they go.

When they're dry, they turn into millions of matches.

"It's going to provide a lot of fuel for fires that get started," Barron said. "It'll help carry fire and burn hotter than we're used to."

That's caused concern in communities like New River, an unincorporated place north of Phoenix where the growing population is spread into patches. It's a place where people go to be left alone. Most homes sit at the end of long driveways, blocked from the outside world by locked gates. But fences can't keep out the weeds.

Since stinknet overtook the place, it's intensified seasonal allergies. It smells weird. It's crowded out native species, fighting them for water and living space.

And nobody's exactly sure how to get rid of it.

Photo from last month.

Some experts recommend a weedkiller like Roundup. Others say that won't work. The only surefire method, Barron said, is to spot it early, pull on a glove and rip it out. But some people have refused.

"Some people like it," Barron said. "They think it's cute."

The American Locomotive

by Bob Rauperstrauch, Project Manager

It is a beautiful locomotive, but because Ben Hammer passed away before it was finished, it never operated. It will be a great addition and attraction for rides at the park. But because the engine has never operated, the boiler has to be inspected. The 1,500lb Boiler was removed from the frame, getting ready for inspection.



A visual inspection has revealed some boiler welding issues.

These issues require the Az State Boiler inspector to be involved. This has led to metalurgical testing of the boiler. We are examining various options at this time.

One of the issues as we move forward with this locomotive will be funding. We are seeking grants and public donations to provide a nestegg from which to pay for the boiler inspection and restoration of this locomotive.

Additional funds will be needed to build passenger cars, and fund a second backup locomotive.

Terry L, Gary Gorman, president of Sahuaro Central, and Bob R. testing for leaks with water pressure.

Update on the Chloe

previous photo from 4/1 2023

Finally, some real progress on the locomotive, in that we have the running boards completed and fitted to front cab wall. The cab has been repaired where necessary and the front cab wall rebuilt. I am currently fitting the cab to the frame. Also completed is the delivery line from the crosshead pump to the left side boiler check valve.

The two pilot braces have been repaired and one end bracket brazed back on the rod. A broken bolt removed from the smokebox, where the boiler brace screws into the smokebox. Stack has been installed, as well as the bell and sand dome. Water glass drain and blower piping with disconnect has been installed. This includes a new bracket for holding the disconnect to the frame.

