


Maricopa Live Steamers



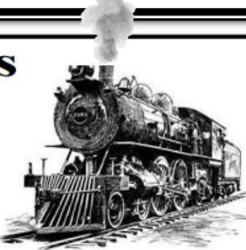
Phoenix, Arizona

Maricopa Live Steamers

STACK TALK

December 2024

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



HOLIDAY LIGHTS RIDES ARE HERE!



PHOTO BY: HANK GALLO

After months of preparation, our first weekend of running the Holiday Lights trains was great fun! Over a thousand riders from all over the valley came out to enjoy the wonder of travelling on the rails out into the desert night. Perfect weather for a hot cocoa, but not too cold. We enjoyed all the colorful lights, but also the dark stillness of the western landscape. Want to join in and take a long ride? Check the MLS Facebook page for more information: [Holiday Lights Reservations:... - Maricopa Live Steamers Public Rides | Facebook](#)



PHOTO BY: HANK GALLO

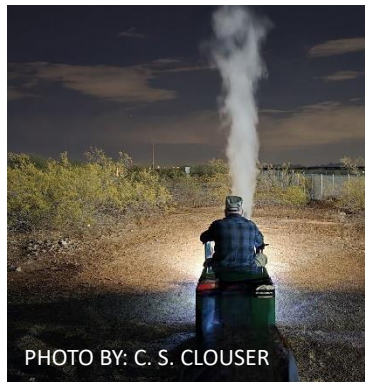


PHOTO BY: C. S. CLOUSER



Thank you, Hank, and all the many volunteers who are making this year's Holiday Lights rides amazing!



2025 MLS BOARD ELECTED

Here is the 2025 club leadership team:

President: Larry Kirchner

Vice President: Joe Kalisak

Secretary: Mick Janzen

Treasurer: Dave Pulver

Members at Large:

Bob Clark, Bill Cobb, Bob Rauperstrauch

We thank these members for their willingness to serve the club,
and we look forward to great things in 2025!



POT LUCK IS THIS WEEK

Join us for our Christmas Pot Luck luncheon on December 14th following the general membership meeting. We are usually heavy on desserts so keep that in mind. Bring your favorite dish to be shared. Let's make it a day of enjoyment and fellowship. Any questions contact Donna. 773-802-0223



HAVE YOU SENT IN YOUR DUES?

If you haven't already done so, please visit the MLS website and update your info, along with sending in your club dues for 2025. Thank you!



MLS OPS MEET IS JUST A MONTH AWAY

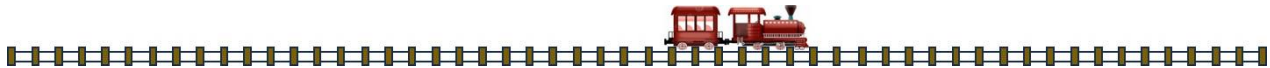


Our annual ops meet is a very unique and popular event that features running the Adobe Western in card order freight and passenger service fashion. Check the MLS website for details and get signed up!

Thursday, January 23 – Sunday January 26

Briefing Meeting on Wednesday January 22

WORK WEEK Mon., Jan 13 – Tue., Jan. 21



JR. ENGINEER SCHOOL – MLS TRADITION



A staple of our weekly public rides has been Hank Gallo's Jr. Engineer School, giving youngsters a chance to operate a train and get excited about the ride-on train hobby.

Hank is moving to a new request system. Interested families can now contact MLS to arrange specific times for the school.

I asked Hank to give some background on his outreach effort. Here's a few excerpts...

"It came about because our 1976 scratch built "Chessie System" switcher was difficult to drive for my children. The 5HP gas engine and centrifugal clutch were too touchy. We converted it to two electric bicycle motors, two 12-volt deep cycle batteries and electronic speed control. We built a custom joystick control with a speed limiter dial in the cab. A twist takes the top speed from 5 MPH to zero or anywhere in between. We began to take friends and their small children to the park and found they really felt special driving a train."

"Guidelines: We had to stay inside the yard limit (to comply with club rules about public runs). Top speed would be about 2.5 MPH. Dead man control (when you let go of the stick, the train stops). Cut-off switch (when I throw the cutoff the train won't move under power-in case of a derail or unruly child). I would walk next to the child at all times. Take time with each child to explain the horn signals and how to start & stop. I ask them to tell their passengers "All aboard" and off we go. "

"The riding car has two seats plus I have a 3-seat gondola. We load the train from youngest to oldest and as each engineer completes the run down and back on track 4, we give them a postcard with a photo of the train that states "Junior Engineer School Graduate". Then the next

oldest moves up to be engineer. You must keep the run time to a minute or two or the crowd can build up. I have an engineer log book next to the bench that I ask children of all ages to write their first name. Next to the book is a Junior Engineer School donation bucket.”

“We get so much joy seeing a child (and parent) bubbling over with excitement that they can drive a train.”



Hank has been creating joyful faces on countless family members since 2012 with the Jr. Engineer program! *Huge thanks* to Hank Gallo for all he is doing for the club!



SIGNALS AHEAD

Looking forward to Stack Talk and Blasts in 2025, I'd appreciate your input. I'm experimenting with larger **font sizes** that make for easier reading on mobile devices. A number of members, as well as the club, have train **items for sale**, so we can inform the membership of what you'd like to sell, or purchase. What are you **building**? Many of you have really interesting projects under way, so let me know if we can share them with the membership. Are you a train **YouTube** creator? Let's get the word out to members who will want to check out and subscribe to your train-friendly YouTube channel! Also, what would you **like to learn** about our fascinating hobby? I'll start keeping a list to present to the board of topics our members are interested in getting some training on. But none of these ideas will happen unless we hear from you, so **talk to me!**

THINGS ARE HAPPENING



You may see changes on the ground at Adobe Western. Some of the concrete ties are setting next to the track where plastic ties have been inserted. In order to run some of the larger locomotives on the tighter curves, a slight bit of widening of the track gauge is needed, and therefore some modification of the bins for pouring concrete ties is necessary.

Please be patient this gets worked out. Also, there is talk of possibly using a larger ballast rock size. Out on Bobberg there's some experimenting with a slip-on type of rail joiner (as used up on Train Mountain), so lots of interesting developments for 2025. We'll keep you informed!



IS IT ALL WORTH IT?

It takes so much time and effort to pull off our Holiday Lights runs each year. But take a moment to look at the faces of our thousands of public riders and listen to what they have to say. You will hear many comments like one mom who thanks us for
“keeping the magic alive!”

HUGE THANKS FOR ALL THE HARD WORK BY OUR 2024 BOARD!



“Hey Bob, you missed a spot...”

Well, that's it for this last issue of MLS Stack Talk for 2024. See you next year!



Thank you for all your MLS support!

Send comments and suggestions to: stanfm@aol.com

Visit our website [Maricopa Live Steamers](#) and our Facebook page [MLS Public Rides](#) to stay informed!