

*The MLS Presidential Train
delivering The 2025 Board of Directors and Santa*



Our Executive Board

President - Larry Kirchner

Larry joined MLS in 2015 and has been actively involved with model railroading since childhood. He has built several live steam locomotives, many railroad cars, and engineered and installed many miles of 7-1/2" gauge track. In his professional life, Larry has been a business owner for 44 years and has experience in CAD design, mathematics, physics, and chemistry.

Vice President - Joe Kalisak

Joe joined MLS in 2015 and has previously served as our Holiday Lights Chairman and the MLS Treasurer. He has over 30 years in law enforcement with the military, civilian, and private sectors. Joe is also an avid classic car collector with experience in auto body, mechanical, and automotive finishing.

Secretary - Mick Janzen

Mick joined MLS in 2009 and has been our club Secretary since 2018. Mick has been a continuous participant providing rides to our public guests since joining MLS. Mick has an A & B locomotive pair, an electric speeder, and an additional 17 freight cars, several of which she has personally built. Mick also has a medical background and is currently a RN in the public school system. Mick also co-hosts our MLS Annual Operations Meet.

Treasurer - Dave Pulver

Dave became a member of MLS in 2015 and took on the role of Interim Treasurer in September. Dave and his son Ethan own a Dash 9 locomotive, an Electric Speeder, and approximately 15 freight cars. Together, as a father and son crew, they enjoy providing rides to our public guests. Dave owns an Information Technology and Cyber Security consulting firm. He also has an extensive background in aviation and holds an Airline Transport Pilot rating.

Our Directors -

Bob Rauperstrauch

Bob first joined Scottsdale Railroad in 1998, and when they split and moved to Adobe Desert Park, he followed and joined MLS. He is an industrial engineer by degree (worked for MK at the Boise Industrial Complex, rebuilding diesel locomotives) and a hobby machinist. His first engine, the L.E. Pacific, took 30 years to complete because of many moves, and was finished in 2015. Bob is also involved with the 15" Sahuaro Central Railroad.



Bill Cobb

Bill joined MLS in 2002. Bill has built three steam locomotives and numerous train cars. He has served on our BOD several times. Prior to retiring, Bill was the President and G.M. of a manufacturing company. On February 23, 2023, Bill was featured with one of his steam locomotives on ABC 15 Arizona (Hidden Gem in the West Valley for train enthusiasts).



Bob Clark



Bob joined MLS in 2008. Bob has an Electrical and Mechanical background. Bob retired from the city of Farmington after 30 years. He is also a member of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary. Bob has been a train enthusiast most of his life and has built a 7-1/2" gauge railway on his property, which consists of 1800 feet of track with 11 switches. Bob's trains are mainly 2.5" scale, and he has just acquired his first steam locomotive, a Little Engines 0-4-0 in 1.5" scale.

And... our very own Santa is – John Broughman

***Your M.L.S. Board of Directors would like to wish everyone a Very Happy,
Prosperous, and safe New Year!***



GET YOUR 2025 CALENDAR UPDATED

Remember that our January general meeting is the 11th at 12 noon. And our Fun Run is the 20th – 26th. Bring trains. Have fun! (No card order ops that week). Members, please be sure that your 2025 dues are paid up.

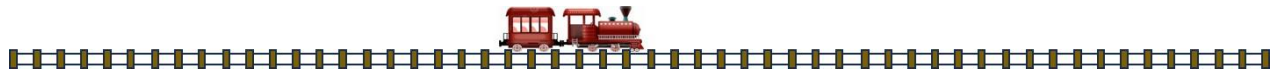


MLS OUTREACH



Our club had a strong presence once again in 2024 at Scottsdale's McCormick-Stillman annual Railfair. Young future railroad hobby enthusiasts got to operate a train, while we shared the excitement of our ride-on club. We had a great time despite the hot weather. Bob

and I were there with my little loco named Rodney, and some portable track, and plenty of info about our club. We also were able to do a school STEM event.



WHAT'S GOING ON?

From Dakota Clemens:

We will be getting some **blue survey flags** and adding blue reflective tape to them for use in conjunction with or in place of blue blocks for bad track areas. These will be more visible along the track during the day and night time, and if properly installed will not get kicked, blown, or washed away. I intend to put a blue PVC pipe with an open top to store them in so you will see them as you drive by the tower.



I am also assembling and installing **new switch machines**. This will be done in stages with eight being put in front of the tower to get the interlock working again. This includes new sensor covers on top of the actuators that are wider to better protect the sensors from derailments as well as sun and rain. They will simply lift off if you need to throw the switch manually and then you will replace the cover when you're finished. The second stage will be five more for a total of 13 new switch motors going in.

The colored flags are getting an upgrade with high visibility reflective markers green and yellow in the yard and potentially red and white if we use them out on the main line anywhere.



BUY / SELL

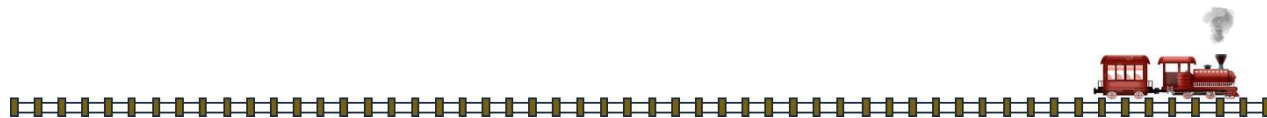
Bruno Platzer and Jerry Grundy are wanting to buy a 20' or 40' container. They will gladly pay a donation for this. Contact: Bruno Platzer 702-371-6397



HOW'S THE FORMAT?

We're simplifying the layout of Stack Talk so that it is more mobile screen friendly. Hopefully this will help you stay informed even when you are on the go.

Welcome aboard! The 2025 excitement is just beginning!



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](https://www.facebook.com/MLS Public Rides) to stay informed!