

MLS Public Runs Finish the Spring Season Strong

AMRS hosted the Foster Children event on April 6, 2025. MLS provided train rides to the kids and everyone had a great time. April 27, 2025 was the last day of the 24-25 running season for MLS. We would like to thank all the members who donated their time and efforts to make this a successful year.



In appreciation for all the hard work everyone has done, **Donna Holm** will be hosting the MLS annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon following the General Membership meeting on Saturday May 10th. Donna works tirelessly for MLS throughout the year and she deserves a ***BIG THANK YOU!***

Larry Kirchner
President, MLS



Watch Out for MLS *Wildlife!*

Recently, there has been snake activity as the temperatures rise. This rattlesnake visited the station during our public runs. After a short time, he moved on and the running got back to normal. Our MOW barn also became a temporary home for packrats making a nest in one of the gondolas. They will chew on anything and everything. It is critical that we do not feed any of the wildlife in the park as this attracts the rodents, and the rodents attract the snakes.



The packrats chewed up inventory in a MOW gondola



This rattlesnake wondered into the station. He moved on without incident.



Maricopa County regional parks have set May 1, 2025 as the start date for the annual fire ban. This will be in effect through September 30th. During this time only propane and fuel oil fired locomotives may be operated at MLS. Please **DO NOT** fire your locomotive on coal or wood. Also, make sure that whenever you run your steam locomotive that you have an ABC or a 2 ½ gal water fire extinguisher on your train available at all times.

Joe Kalisak
Vice President, MLS

Treasurer Dave Pulver Update:


If you have any questions or concerns regarding your membership status, or making online payments, please feel free to contact me by phone or text at 602-321-9702 or by email at treasurer@maricopalivesteamers.com.

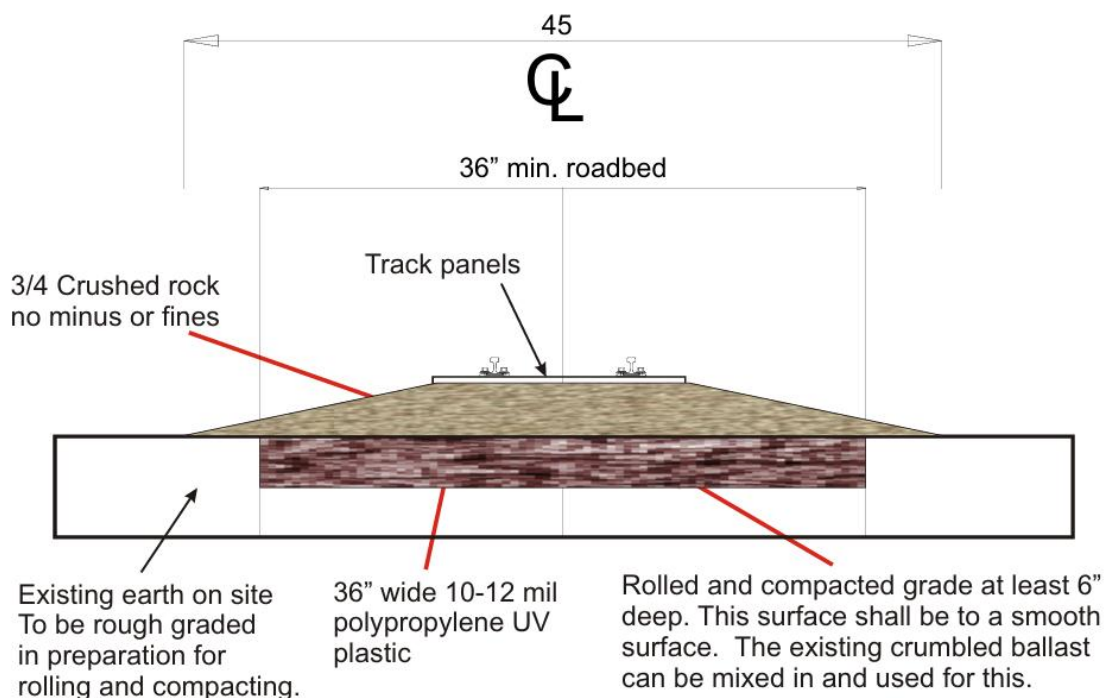


TRACK TALK from Larry

This month, we will be discussing the roadbed preparation. As we continue to replace the old existing wood tie track panels with new plastic tie track panels, there are a few updates that will be incorporated into the track design. After the old track panels are removed, the existing roadbed is cleaned down to the original hard compacted roadbed. Any areas that are low or high will be leveled to make a uniform surface for the new track. Instead of laying the track directly onto the ground, a 10mil polypropylene UV stable woven plastic underlayment is placed between the ground and the track. This will greatly reduce the growth of weeds and other foliage. The track panels can then be laid directly onto the underlayment. The new ballast we are using is then spread on top of the track panels and dressed so it is flush with the top of the ties. In this area of Bobberg, Terry Leisgang informed us of a broken signal wire. Of course it was under the track. So, this is a good time to do some upgrades. A big thank you goes out to everyone that is working on this project. The efforts are noticed by all. The pictures show work that is being done at the first passing siding on Bobberg.



	Component: Cross section of roadbed, single track		File Number: Roadbed single track
	Drawn By: Larry Kirchner	Date: 01/04/2025	Approved:



Lighting Up Arizona

Here is an update about the "Light Up Arizona" meeting we had in the clubhouse on Saturday April 5th, 2025 from 9 till noon.

The Light Up Arizona LED lighting group held their first of 3 meetings at MLS on Saturday April 5th, 2025. Hosted by Hank Gallo, we had 17 lighting enthusiasts attend a training meeting on using xlights software to program LED's. This is used to program the megatree at MLS. Craig and Sean presented programming tips to make everyone's light displays even more special. The next two meetings will be at other locations. We hosted a previous meeting in 2018. Several members of the group have helped with the megatree setup over the years and they have offered to assist when we set it up on November 22, 2025 at 10am. After the training the entire group went for a train ride around

Werner. They also plan to attend holiday Lights on December 6th at 6pm with a dinner before the train ride.

The plan is to replace the LED's on the megatree with double the amount. We'll do half the tree this year and the other half next year. Currently half the tree is 4,000 LED's and we plan on upgrading to 8,000 for half the tree. If we change from 12volt to 24volt lights, the extra LED's will use the same amount of power.

We are always looking for MLS and other volunteers to assist with Holiday Lights setup preceding the event which will run on Friday/Saturdays on the first 3 weekends in December 2025 from 6 till 8pm. Contact Pete Pennarts or Hank Gallo for more info.



Other RR News:

Ute Pass RR Annual Train meet will be held May 31st through June 7th. I hope many of you will stop by on your way to Train Mountain. I do have 2 small rooms in the Stock Car Guest House still



available. There is a Queen size bed and a shared bathroom with the other bedroom. We have room for campers but not plug ins and of course there are many hotels nearby. If you know of a Train enthusiast that is not included in this email, please feel free to extend the invitation to them. Of course, if you can't make the meet, but pass through Durango at another time, you are always welcome. Also, if you can't bring a train, I will be offering plenty of train rides. If you do plan to bring a train, please call me, to make sure my track is suitable for your train. As usual, there is new stuff to see, new tracks, new buildings, etc. If you have any questions, please call me and I hope to see you all soon. Phillip Nilsson 970 759 9833 [Facebook](#) 825 Ute Pass Rd., Durango, CO 81301



The 15" PP&SRR (formerly Sahuaro Central RR) is in need of a licensed electrical contractor to oversee the completion of the interchange tower, so that the city will release the approved permit. Supplies and volunteers are already ready. Please contact Myrna if you can refer a licensed pro. myrnab.akaz@gmail.com

“The” Triennial Just Weeks Away

Saturday, June 14 – Sunday, June 29

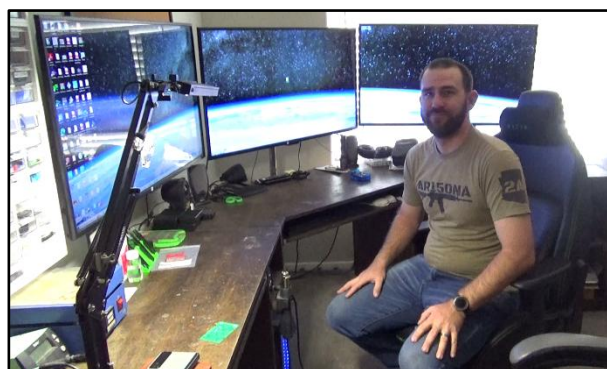
[Home - Train Mountain](#)



Interesting MLS Train Folk:

Dakota Clemens and Timothy Freeman are bound for the Triennial this year. In addition to everything they do for us at MLS, they also find time to not only build trains, but design and fabricate electronic circuitry.

Dakota - Mastermind of
DCCustomElectronics



Tim – Showing the digital sound card
he helped design.



Wow! So much is happening at MLS!
See you soon out at the park!



Thank you for all your MLS support!

Send comments and suggestions to: stanfm@aol.com

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