



Maricopa Live Steamers

STACK TALK

January 2026

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



An Exciting 2026 Ahead!

I want to start out by wishing everyone a very Happy New Year. In the upcoming year, there are going to be a lot of exciting projects and changes coming to improve and move MLS forward in a very positive direction.

Our holiday lights runs for 2025 were a big success. I personally want to thank each and every person that donated their time, money and efforts to make this important event happen, as well as those who came out and helped throughout the year.



This past year has played havoc on our track. Mother nature decided that sections of Arntchoo and Farflung needed to go. The track was already in a deteriorated condition, the monsoons just finished it off.



The section between Joshua Junction and Farflung crossing on Bobberg has been completed. Robbie Diehl gets out early to fire up his steamer and I follow up by 7:00 am on Friday and Saturday. We worked together as a team to get this section complete. Some of our younger members also joined us for a learning session in switch rebuilding and ballasting.

We will continue to work on mainline track to bring it up to the new standard. Replacement will be from the worst to the best. There is a daunting amount to do, so every bit of help is greatly appreciated.

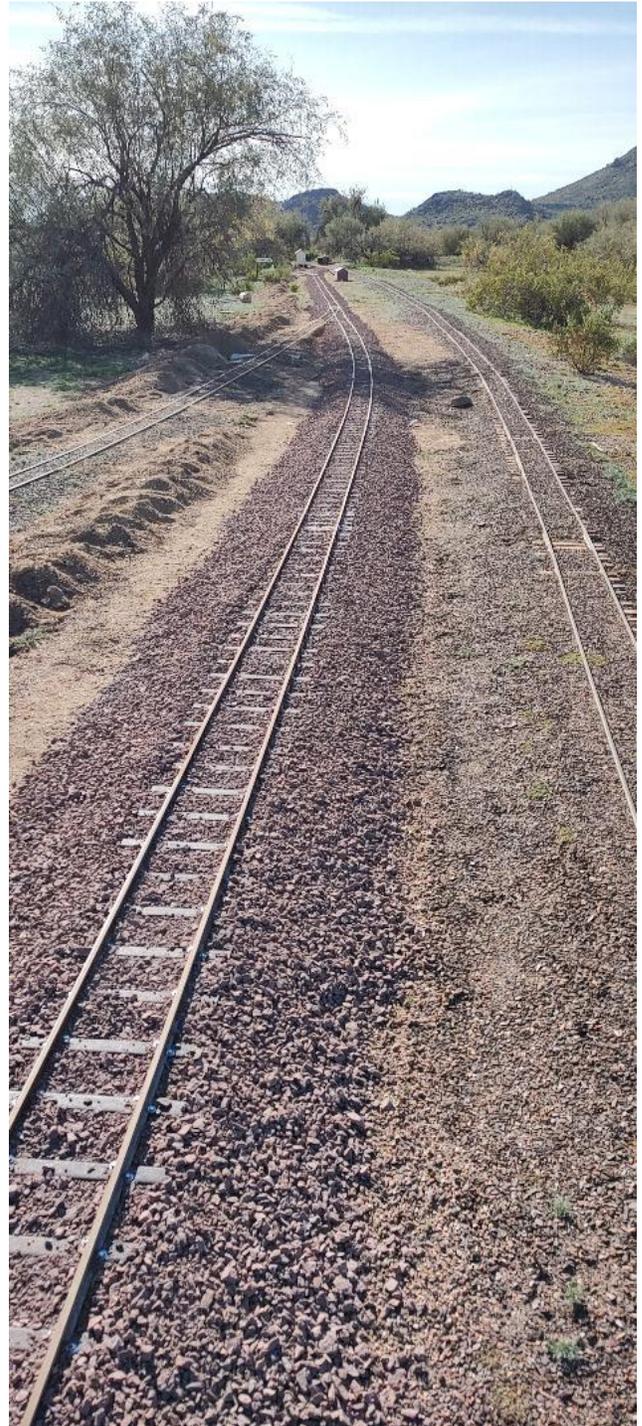
That's it for now, see you out on the railroad.

Larry Kirchner
President, MLS



Enthusiastic track engineers!





This is what progress looks like!







After the January general meeting, we'll be having a Christmas run debriefing to talk about things we did right or what we can improve on. We will continue to have weekend track panel building parties starting this Saturday. Also, we need to work on weed control as well as track work. We'll be very busy so please plan to come out and help. We can't do it without you!

Pete Pennarts
Vice President, MLS



Hank and I would like to extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to everyone who helped make Holiday Lights a big success this year. A special thank you goes to Hank for his hard work and dedication in upgrading



our Mega Tree, which was the centerpiece of the display and, as always, a major attraction. On Saturday, December 27, we had approximately 40 Junior Engineering students, adding a unique experience and extra excitement to their visit to our railroad. We are already looking ahead and planning for an even bigger and better Holiday Lights, along with more special events in 2026.



As a friendly reminder, 2026 membership dues are due by December 31, 2025. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out by email at treasurer@maricopalivesteamers.com or by phone at 602-321-9702.

Wishing everyone a Happy New Year!

Dave Pulver
Treasurer, MLS



The December Christmas Potluck was so yummy!
 Thanks to Donna and all who made the delicious treats!



Thank goodness no one was keeping track of how many times I went through the line!



TEST YOUR ENGINEERING KNOWLEDGE:

13. Two long blasts on the whistle or horn followed by a short blast followed by a long blast - "> > o >" - means: (327) *

- A. Approaching station.
- B. Flagman return to train.
- C. Warning to people and animals on the track. General alarm or emergency.
- D. Approaching public crossing, tunnel, area of restricted visibility, or another train.



"Say hello to my leetle friend!" - Mr. Badger!



Yes, here's actual proof that the Adobe Western Railroad has a new resident. Perry McCully snapped this photo of the critter digging next to and right under our track. According to a U of A article ([Badgers.pdf](#)): "The American badger (*Taxidea taxus*) is a stocky, medium-sized mammal with a broad head, a short, thick neck, short legs, and a short, bushy tail. Its front

legs are stout and muscular with long front claws making it an excellent excavator. Its fur is silver-gray with long guard hairs, a black patch on each cheek, black feet, and a characteristic white stripe extending from its nose over the top of its head. In Arizona, adult badgers usually weigh between 10 and 20 pounds and may be found anywhere in the state where a hole can be dug. Badgers and coyotes are sometimes seen hunting at the same time in a seemingly cooperative manner. Badgers dig and cause small rodents to flee. Coyotes can readily run rodents down, but cannot effectively dig them out of burrows. Coyotes can take advantage of rodents attempting to escape from badgers. Badgers may not benefit as much as the coyotes, but each tolerates the other's presence and they may even engage in play behavior."

Humans and our dogs, however, should keep a safe distance away from badgers.



American badger (*Taxidea taxus*, Terry Spivey, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org).



Be sure to mark your calendar and plan for:

**January 10: MLS BOD Meeting at 11:00 am
General Meeting at 12:00 noon
Holiday Lights Review Meeting**

January 12 – 25: Winterfest Work Weeks



Thank you for all your MLS club support!

Send photos and suggestions to: stanfm@aol.com

Visit our website [Maricopa Live Steamers](http://MaricopaLiveSteamers.com) and our Facebook page [MLS Public Rides](https://www.facebook.com/MLSPublicRides) to ***stay informed!***

*(D. Approaching public crossing, tunnel, area of restricted visibility, or another train.)