

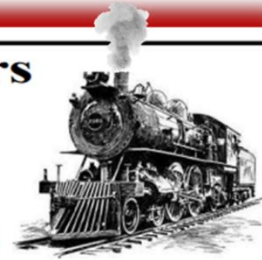


Maricopa Live Steamers

STACK TALK

February 2026

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



Track Improvements!

MLS had the 2026 OPS work weeks over the past several weeks. I want to personally thank everyone that came out to help. Whether it is cutting ties, track panel fabrication, clearing and installing new track and ballasting or putting endless washers on screws, every job is important and no one's efforts go unnoticed. As a result of these efforts, quite a bit of new track has been installed.

The following areas have new track or repairs to existing track:
New panels New Diehl City
New Panels from Joshua Junction to past Harrington crossing
New panels at Pardee Point
Additional work on Arntchoo to open up the jungle in the back
New Panels on the bridge at Martins Ferry
Repairs and new panels on Pottsville
New Panels from Arntchoo to Geronimo on East Werner
New Panels and bridges at Theobold on Far Flung
Rebuilding of switches as necessary in those respective areas

Take a look at all the pictures to see the progress.



For those running, you'll notice our new track runs very smoothly, so it's important to keep the speed of your train in check. It may be tempting to put the pedal to the metal on new sections, but keeping it safe is very important. 5 MPH is the current mainline speed.

We will continue to install new track and repair existing track to keep the railroad running as smoothly as possible. Please keep in mind this is a very long-term effort, and MLS will need countless hours of labor and continued income for ongoing material purchases. Your donations of time and/or money are greatly appreciated.

Once again, a big thank you to all that come out and help make MLS a better place.

Larry Kirchner
President, MLS



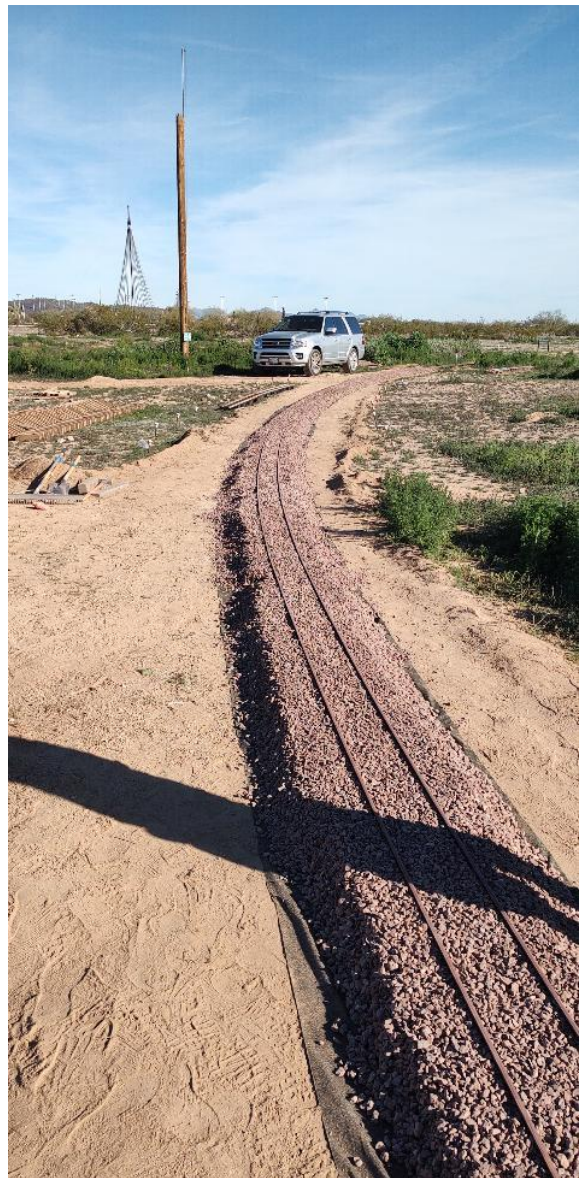
See What Amazing Progress Was Made!















A lot of new track work has been done this past month, and that means a lot of panels have been made. Thanks to all of you that have helped.

Just to remind all members, we still need help making more track panels along with track work itself. Three branch lines are now open, but we still have a long way to go.

We're planning on a March train meet, so there will be more information on that at the February general meeting.

A couple safety items: As per our rules, all who run their trains on the railroad must have a current engineer card. Please make sure you have taken the test. You should always have the required safety equipment when running on the railroad.

Again, to all that have been working on the railroad, thank you. We can't do it without you.

Pete Pennarts

Vice President, MLS



I'm excited to share that we welcomed eight new members so far for 2026, three of which are junior members.

Hank and I would like to extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to everyone who supported Public Runs over the past month. Our peak Sunday in January welcomed nearly 300 guests. This is about three times our usual attendance which has also led to an increase in

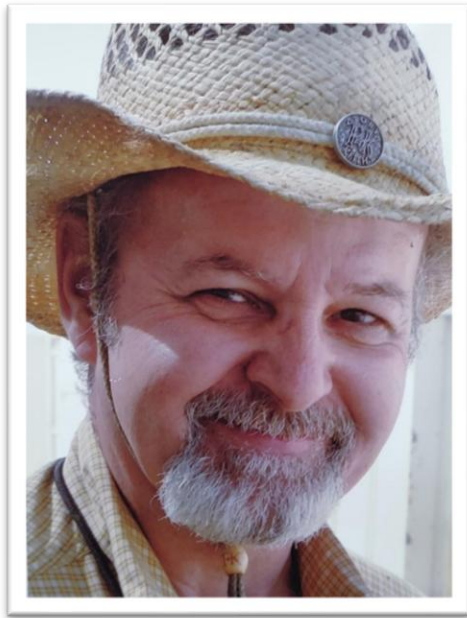
donations. Junior Engineering School continues to attract new and returning guests as well.

Our Google search rankings, website traffic, and public inquiries continue to increase. We continue to receive five-star reviews on Google so thank you to everyone who helps make great and memorable experiences for our visitors.

Volunteers are always needed for train crews, the gift shop, and station assistance. If you are interested in volunteering or have questions, please contact Hank at ops.super@maricopalivesteamers.com or 602-300-3396.

Membership renewals are still coming in. As a friendly reminder, 2026 membership dues were due by December 31, 2025. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to me at treasurer@maricopalivesteamers.com or 602-321-9702.

Dave Pulver
Treasurer, MLS



BRUNO PLATZER

It is with great sadness that long time MLS member, Bruno Platzer, passed away on Sunday, January 25, 2026. Bruno was a professional live steam model builder and machinist whose skills were second to none, and he will be greatly missed. May he rest in eternal peace.



TEST YOUR ENGINEERING KNOWLEDGE:

22. Locomotives and other moving, powered equipment shall be equipped with _ (220.2) *

- A. A fire extinguisher.
- B. An audible warning device loud enough to permit safe operation.
- C. A first aid kit.
- D. All of the above.



My Opinion – *What Do You Think?*

Stan F.

Bob R. and I have represented MLS at many public events over the last few years, letting kids drive a small 5" gauge train. We often hear, **"There are no young people in the hobby anymore because they're too busy playing with their phones and video games."** Well, here are some of my thoughts on that. I don't think we can lay all of the blame on video games and TicTok if we're lacking



new young participants. Although many of us older folks did not have such technical toys as kids do today, we did have many potential 'distractions.' We had homework, TV, movies, board games, getting into mischief with friends, BB guns, go-carts, plastic models, bicycles, Boy and Girl Scouts, sports, music, tree forts, paper routes, chores at home, church and family activities, etc. Now I think today's kids can still enjoy trains. But we must plant the seeds with young people who may at some point down the road enjoy some level of participation in our ride-on train hobby. First, let young people see you being happy and enjoying trains. Grumpy grown-ups are not good ambassadors for our hobby. Share happiness and enthusiasm. Get that train set out more than just at the holidays. I have such fond memories of my dad coming home from work with a roll of blueprints under one arm, and an orange Lionel box in the other! Where possible, take a train ride somewhere, even if it is a bit less convenient than flying or driving. Show younger folks how trains are still a valuable part of the transportation matrix. If we're stuck in traffic at a RR crossing, don't grumble and complain. Rather, let's enjoy the moment watching trains do their essential work. Visit model train shows of any size and scale. And guess what-- there are train simulation games for the PC or PlayStation. Introduce young folks to railfanning and photographing trains. To wrap this up, Bob and I have found that although young kids can have fun riding on trains, most of them really get excited by operating one. Let's let young people touch our trains (not the hot parts). Hank's Junior Engineering program is genius. Today's youth are tomorrow's MLS members!



Be sure to mark your calendar and plan for:

**February 14: MLS BOD Meeting at 11:00 am
General Meeting at 12:00 noon**

March 9 – 22: Spring Meet



Thank you for all your MLS club support!
Send photos 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!***

*(B. An audible warning device loud enough to permit safe operation.)