

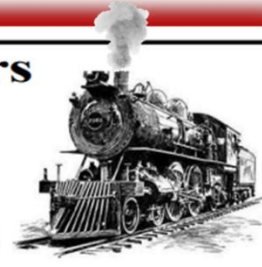


Maricopa Live Steamers

STACK TALK

August 2026

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



I hope all of you are having a great summer with vacations and leisure time. We continue to work on the track in spite of the heat.

The track in front of the tower has been removed for replacement. As many of you know, this area has been plagued with derailments. Every switch has been fully rebuilt to exact standards. I will also be producing CAD drawings for our switches so there will be a reference for maintenance and rebuilding going forward.

We should be commencing installation sometime next week in this area. It's hot, so we'll be careful not to overheat.

I also want to thank all members that come out and help. We need as much help as possible, so if you can come out and assist, we greatly appreciate the efforts. Please let me or Pete know if you can help out so we can schedule work to be done at that time.

Don't forget that you must take the engineers test in order to run on MLS track. Also, the fire ban is still in effect. No wood or coal burning until the ban is lifted.



Take a look at the progress made in the past few weeks.

Larry Kirchner

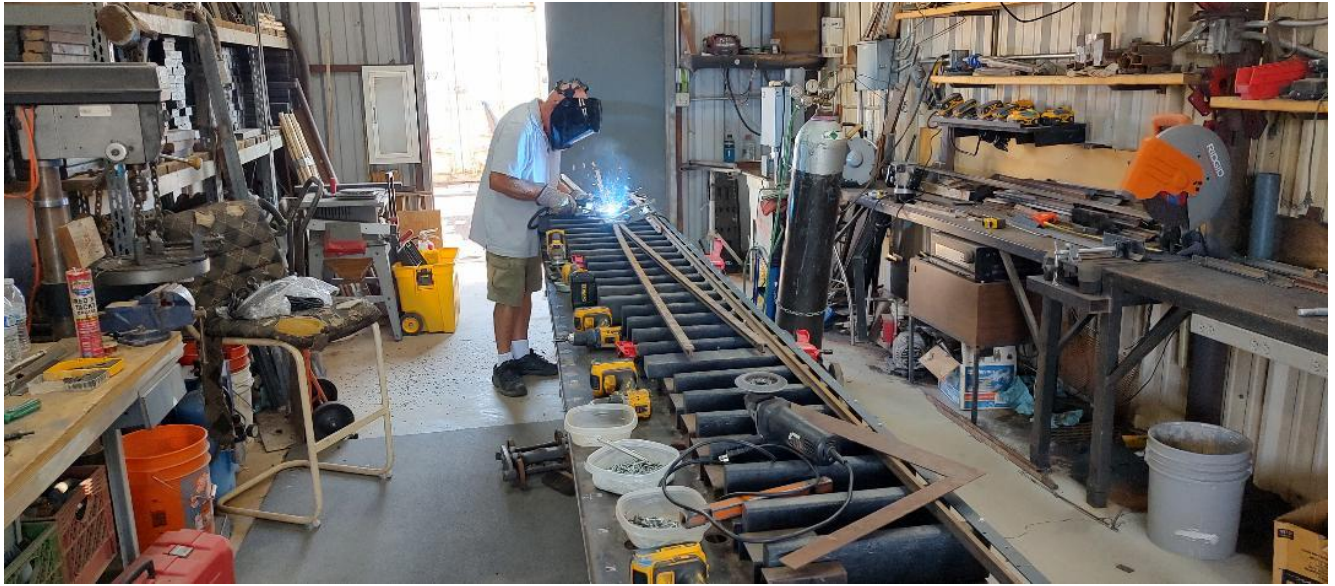
President, MLS













I hope everyone is staying cool and hydrated as the summer gets hotter. I would like to thank everyone who has put time into working on the track this month in the heat.

If you are waiting on anything from me, such as a donation acknowledgment letter or a reimbursement, it is possible I am not aware of it.

Please do not hesitate to reach out so I can follow up promptly. I can be contacted at treasurer@maricopalivesteamers.com or on my mobile at 602-321-9702.

Dave Pulver, Treasurer



Blast from the Past

By Craig Danielson



The explosion occurred October 20 , 1948 near Upland, Kansas. Union 9018 was a Class 9000 (4-12-2 "Union Pacific Type"). The disaster stemmed from critically low water inside the boiler. The drop in water exposed the firebox crown sheet directly to extreme heat, causing the steel to weaken, collapse under operating pressure, and trigger a massive steam release. The Engineer and Fireman were killed immediately from the explosion. The Head Brakeman died the day after the explosion. He had been checking the tender as he was concerned about a possible low water issue. I have included



an attachment explaining the danger of this occurring with one of our steam locomotives.

AI Summary: “The risk of a catastrophic, missile-like boiler explosion in 1/8th scale live steam locomotives is **very low**, provided the boiler is built to recognized engineering codes, tested via high-pressure hydrostatic checks, and equipped with functioning safety pop-off valves. While miniature boilers hold much less stored energy than full-sized engines, failure can still occur due to specific operational or material hazards. “



[Boiler Failure - IBLS](#)

Also, I wish to reassure the membership that the Board is aware of your concerns about the closing of areas of the railroad. In particular, the closing of the west bound tracks out of the station. We understand your desire to get out and run your trains.

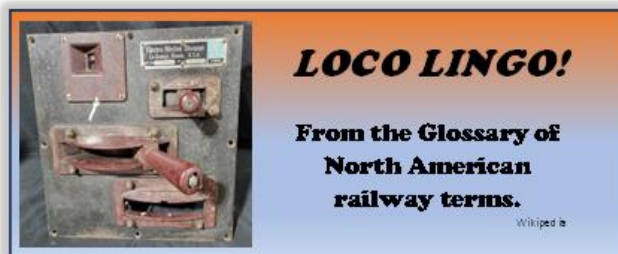
The rebuilding of the railroad is the result of the track reaching the end of its serviceable life. Wooden ties have deteriorated to the point they will not hold the screws. This results in track and switches being out of gauge. Switches are being rebuilt to improve the performance. The track crew spends half their time dismantling and removing bad track.

I am pleased to report that there have been no heat kinks reported in the areas that have been rebuilt.

Be assured that the track crew is working hard to make the railroad a place where we can enjoy running trains.

Craig





What is:

A Dinky **

TEST YOUR ENGINEERING KNOWLEDGE:

32. Engineers may allow anyone to ride between themselves and the controls of their engine if their ability to control the train is restricted. (513)*

- ☐ A. True
- ☐ B. False



DON'T FORGET our annual MLS **Ice Cream Social** on August 8th after the general meeting!



Also, there will be a Christmas meeting at 10 am, followed by the Board meeting at 11 am, then the general meeting at 12 noon, followed by the Ice Cream Social.

AND MORE DATES FOR...

THE FUTURE

Passenger Car inspections: **Sept 12th at 8am**. Can use all the help we can get. No experience needed. Bolt checker, seat inspector, grease gun operator, hostler and paper work wrangler.

Halloween:

October 23 & 24 6pm till 8pm Volunteers needed for crews and decorating. Mr. & Mrs. Halloween will bring several of their personal collection of Halloween Scenes to set up on Pottsville.

Holiday Lights: Our biggest fund raiser of the year!

Next Holiday Lights meeting **August 8th at 10am**.

MegaTree:

Setup: **November 14th at 9am**

Tear down: **January 9th at 9am**

Holiday Trains:

Nov 27 & 28th

**Dec 4 & 5, 11 & 12, 18, 19 & 20
6 till 9pm**



Note: Dec 20, 2026 is a Sunday. We will not run public rides 11-2pm that Sunday, but will run 6 till 9pm Sunday evening before Christmas.

Thanks, Hank

Bill Cobb's beautiful train is for sale:



This is from Kimberly Cobb, Bill's daughter:

For Sale due to health issues – 1.6 Scale Nickel Plate Road PA Diesel Locomotive (7.5" Gauge)

Handcrafted by **Bill Cobb**, this one-of-a-kind **1.6 scale Nickel Plate Road PA** diesel locomotive was designed and built entirely from the ground up. Bill fabricated the complete locomotive, including the hand-laid and custom-shaped fiberglass body, all metal fabrication, machining, and welding. The locomotive has been a reliable performer for several years at **Maricopa Live Steamers** in Arizona.

Powered by an **18 HP Briggs & Stratton twin-cylinder engine** driving a **hydrostatic transmission**, the locomotive is controlled from the first riding car. Features onboard **air compressor and air cylinders**, **45-amp alternator** for continuous battery charging, and a **Phoenix sound system**. Included are **six all-metal swing-link riding cars** riding on **ball-bearing trucks**, with seating for **17 passengers plus the engineer**.

\$16,000

Wmgcobb@aol.com





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

Thanks to MLS member, Dan Benton for some great extra photos!



*(B.) False.

** "A nickname given to small locomotives, particularly one running in industrial service or on narrow gauge tracks. Also, a small old-fashioned trolley.