

SEPTEMBER 2018

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



President's Page

Happy September!

This summer seems to have flown right by and now it is September. Here in Arizona, we are anxiously awaiting the cooler weather to start. Just a reminder to all that come out to the MLS Club to visit or to help – please stay hydrated and continue to watch out for all of the wildlife that is in our park.

We are still a work in-progress on some projects. Johnson Way project is almost finished.

We have completed the concrete walkway and shade area. We still have some extra work to complete the fencing area. I want to say **Thank You** to all who came out and helped with the Saturday Workday. We were able to get a lot accomplished around the park, including ballasting done on Bobberg. Work still continues on the Pottsville Branch. This isn't expected to be complete until October.

There is constant work that continually takes place behind the scenes. We have members that come out regularly to help with the ongoing maintenance: rail kinks, ballasting, painting, tree trimming, garbage removal, and ongoing maintenance of our small buildings along the tracks. A huge **Thank You** to these members.

Our busy time of the year is coming soon, Sunday Runs, October Meet, and our Christmas Runs.

If you can help with one, some or all of these events, please sign up. Our signup sheets are in the Club House. One last reminder: Please make sure you have completed your Engineer's Exam.

Thank you and see you at the Tracks! **Pete**



Vice President's Page

Hello and greetings from Wasilla, Alaska. I was visiting the club here in Wasilla and looking around and saw an interesting cut they have on the ties here. Because of the moisture and the lack of heat, the ties here seem to get a bad case of wood rot. They do not have a place here to treat their ties like we have. It is a completely different set of circumstances than we have in the Phoenix desert. This takes me to the subject for the month of September – Sunday runs are starting soon! Stay safe and watch out for the other guy, also.

Joe

Have you seen this rare bird around the park?
It's the Blue-Breasted Rake-n-Spade.
I hope it eats rattlesnake and ground squirrel!



SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

Sat. 9/1 10:30 Am Holiday Lights Committee (Joe Kalisak, Team)
11:00 Am Closed Board Meeting
12:00 pm General Membership Meeting

Beginning 9/9

every Sunday NOON **Sunday Public Rides — Yes, they're back!**


**Engineers – Reserve your front-seat views NOW
before the best seats are taken!**

Signup sheets on the clubhouse white board for Sunday runs & Christmas runs



**ENGINEER
CERTIFICATION**
This certifies that

IT'S EASY TO GET YOUR NAME HERE
is a certified engineer at the Maricopa Live Steamers



This certification expired on
May 31, 2018

**PLEASE
CLICK**

[MLS Safety and Operating Rules](#) (printable PDF format)

[MLS Online Engineer's Test](#) (online entry, auto-submission)

From the Desk of: Terry Liesegang Road Signal Superintendent

Subject: Signals are OUT!

Work on Pottsville will not be finished prior to the start of public runs on Sept 9. Museum runs will go out on Bobberg, changing over at Dirtwater. The signals on Bobberg are directional and there are no signals on Pottsville, so it will be necessary to use the radio before leaving Russell Creek, at New Diehl City, and when leaving the museum. Only **ONE** public train will go to the museum at a time. Anyone else on either branch is responsible to use the radio and call out their locations. Inbound trains have priority. Everything will be back in service prior to the Fall meet in October. A white board will be placed at the tower to provide information.

One train on Pottsville at a time.

Use radios and the Stationmaster to control movement.



Pete Pennarts
President

Joe Schnyder
Vice President

Mick Janzen
Secretary

Bob Douglas
Treasurer

Joe Fego

Mike Grant

Dave Griner
Members at Large

Cliff Fought
Construction
Superintendent

Hank Gallo
Operations
Superintendent

Dave Kulman
Maintenance of Way
Superintendent

Greg Gorman
Tower Signal
Superintendent

Terry Liesegang
Road Signal
Superintendent

Bill Pardee
Boiler Inspector

Joe Schnyder
Safety

Perry McCully
Facility Administrator

Al Ford
Construction
Superintendent
Emeritus

Jim Zimmerman
Engineer Test
Administrator

Dennis Beatty
Public Run Crew
Coordinator

Joe Kalisak
Holiday Lights
Committee Chairman

John Bergt
Timothy Freeman
Web Masters

John Draftz
Advertising

Donna Hohm
Membership

Ken Giordano
Stack Talk Editor
Send articles / photos to:

[MLSnewsroom
@gmail.com](mailto:MLSnewsroom@gmail.com)

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

August 11, 2018

(see note below)

- Condolences to Frank Behrle whose wife passed away this week. Frank wants to sell his speeder and trailer car.
- Out of 19 projects on the 2018 list, 12 have been completed. This does not include track work.
- AMRS and SC were not informed that the dates of our Fall Meet were changed. Consequently, **the Swap meet will be 1 week before the Fall Meet. Train crews are needed for passengers attending the Swap Meet.**
- Johnson Way project is coming along – shade structure will be finished by start of public runs.
- Cliff Fought is building 4 new riding cars. The Board is asking for approval to build a 5th riding car and an engineer’s car. A motion was made and approved to fund building these cars.
- The 1” track loop is finished.
- John Bergt talked about Tom Bee’s new website for online ordering. Tom is focusing on building locomotives, while Marcel is taking over the trucks and couplers. There are brochures and preordering sheets available. Tom is coming to the Fall Meet and will bring all items that are preordered. Orders can be placed on the website, by mail or by phone. John will contact other vendors to provide pre-ordering options.
- Joe Schnyder explained that the Board recommends an increase in dues by \$5.00 for resident and non-resident members. We will come up short of money for the county fees towards the end of our contract. These fees are shared by Sahuaro Central, AMRS and MLS. He noted that we are the only county park that does not charge a gate fee. The money will also be used for operating expenses. A motion was made and approved to increase resident and non-resident membership dues by \$5.00. This will take effect October 1st.
- 50th Anniversary hats are available.

(Note: Due to privacy issues, since the Meeting Minutes are for members only and the Stack Talk is a public document, these Minutes are intentionally just a general overview. Once approved at the next Board Meeting, they are posted on the Members-only webpage.)

Four locos under construction. The hobby can be as expensive or inexpensive as you want. You can buy a ready built loco, scratch build your own or anything in between. Hank Gallo



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SOMEONE YOU SHOULD KNOW!

Photo by Donna Hohm

This month's toastmasters:
Joe Schnyder and Bill Myers

Bob Alkire



"The day I met Bob Alkire was the beginning of my love for our club. I would like to say that Jeff Hickman was also very instrumental in both Joe and I becoming involved with MLS. It was back in November of 2005. On that fateful day, I was driving down 43rd Avenue, trying to find one of my trucking customers, but I was on the wrong side of the freeway. Suddenly, to my surprise, I caught a glimpse of train tracks in the field. I turned my truck around and entered the park. There I came upon a large gentleman just putting his locomotive away for the night. I was overwhelmed by the size of the equipment, and how this person was running it on 'those rails' that I had seen while driving by. I asked the gentleman many questions about 'this' and 'that,' as I was now awestruck. My one all-important question to him, as Joe has heard me tell over and over again, was as follows. I asked Jeff, 'Sir, how much do these engines cost?' Then, without any emotion, he responded with . . . ready for this? . . . 'a lot.'

"The next day was a Friday, and I was up early, unable to sleep that night, thinking about how I was going to go back and take another look at those marvelous trains. Bob Alkire greeted me almost as soon as I got out of my truck. He took his time talking to me, and answered every one of my questions. Then Bob said, "Well, Mr. Myers. Why not go for a ride?" Bob let me operate his train right off the bat. He did not even flinch when offering up his pride and joy to a total stranger to share in the fun. I engineered that train all around the park. I was in heaven, blowing the horn, feeling the power of his engine and hearing the song of the steel rails as it lulled me deeper and deeper into the experience. Like a fish in a mighty river that just got hooked, I was destined to become a member. Yes, Bob Alkire hooked me good. I now have the 'TANKS A LOT' container yard out past west Werner, and 2 trains of my own." — Bill Myers

"Bill Myers called me on a Friday afternoon and said, 'Guess what I am doing.' Well, Bill had run into Bob Alkire at the patio, and Bob put Bill on his train and said to 'take it for a ride.' After that afternoon, Bill, being a train nut to begin with, was hooked, and kept calling me to come out and see this place and meet this guy, Bob Alkire. So a couple of weeks later, Bill and I met and went to the club to meet Bob. There, we spent the day cutting ties for the Pottsville branch, which was being redone from the original time it was put down in 1998. I got to spend time with Bob and Bill, and spent the afternoon stacking ties on a pallet that Bob was going to take for tie treatment in Eloy. This was one of the many trips Bob would make in his green Chevy truck, hauling Cliff Fought's trailer to the treatment plant in Eloy. Bob still cannot tell me how many roundtrips he has actually made to Eloy hauling ties for the club. But I do know that he wore out that truck hauling that trailer to Eloy, with sometimes two pallets of ties of about 1750 ties per pallet, unless they were switch ties, in which case there were a few less."

(continued)

(cont'd)

Bob Alkire

"For the past twenty years . . . Bob has been at the saw mill cutting ties and stacking, banding and loading ties for the track crew to install . . . everyday, and during the hottest part of the summer, too. Sometimes people do things unnoticed for a long time, and we just seem to take it for granted. I have gone to Bob and told him of pending work, and how many ties we would need for each project, and, poof, there they were when the panel assembly crew was ready to start their work.

"Although Bob has been handling a saw for 30 plus years, he still has all of his fingers. Now that is an accomplishment – working safely with saws for that long. Thank You, Bob, because I still do not like the sight of blood splattered everywhere. Although he still comes to the sawmill to cut switch ties, as per my request, Bob now wears another hat. He is a teacher to the members who have recently joined the workforce at the sawmill.

Now he is teaching others to safely do the same thing he has been doing for over 20 years. Now that we have some extra hands to predrill each tie, it has made installation easier, and has eliminated the problems caused because some of the wood that we have been getting is very hard. Without the predrilled holes, the screws have been snapping off before they are all the way into the tie.

"One of the other things Bob has done through the years is make things, like the water tanks that we use today. One of those that Bob made, that used to be at Perryview, reminded me of the show Petticoat Junction. Unfortunately, some trespassers to the property seemed to think it was something to destroy, and they did. I really miss that water tank, as it was a work of art, made by Bob Alkire. Fortunately, the others are still standing to enjoy and give a thirsty steam engine a couple of gallons of water. Speaking of water, Bob has installed a large amount of the water lines used to water trees, water the steam engines and water everything in the park. He has also been here to fix these water lines when certain persons were digging where they should not have been digging.

"Another thing Bob has done for the club was to negotiate with lumber companies, like Shuck truss company and Alliance lumber company, for material to use for our ties. Over the years, a lot of the material was given to the club free of charge, and we thank Bob for meeting with these people and telling them who we are and what we are doing. Now we are at the mercy of the people who go out to building sites and talk to the foremen about raiding their dumpsters for anything over 14 inches that we can use for ties.

"I guess what I am trying to get to is, **Thanks, Bob**, for doing the thankless job that is keeping track under everyone's train. This is just a good example of a person in the background, doing whatever he is able to do in the club's best interest and for the benefit of all. When you see Mr. Alkire, please give him a big thank you for all the years he has been working safely, and for all of his cheerful service to the club.

Thank You, Mr. Alkire." — Joe Schnyder



MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS!

In the Spirit of the 50th Anniversary :

This is a 4-part interview with Roger Netz, a founding member of MLS.

| | |
|---|---------|
| https://youtu.be/20Z2Y-VzY1U | Part 1a |
| https://youtu.be/QgNa6XHJnTc | Part 1b |
| https://youtu.be/AXk7q8vNs M | Part 2a |
| https://youtu.be/6_SKGdoxQUw | Part 2b |

This website lists web cam links in other RR environments around the world.

<https://www.railserve.com/RailCams/>

Provided by John Draftz

CLIFF FOUGHT's new car

Photo by Mick Janzen

Cliff has been busy just building away. Easy to do when the shop has solar powered A/C.

By the way, the abbreviation stands for Petroleum Oxygen Oxide.

Cliff has pressurized it to 110 lbs and sprayed water (no PU) with it.



"Summer Fun in the Dusk"

Photos by Hank Gallo

Riding off into the sunset are members Roger Penton (E) and his son Logan (Conductor), a graduate of Jr. Engineer School.

Passengers include Gabe Zorbas and his family, Dennis Beatty and his family, and Tim Freeman.

We hope to see Roger and Logan again later this year in the Stationmaster's Log, *hint, hint, wink and nod.*



WESTWARD HO!

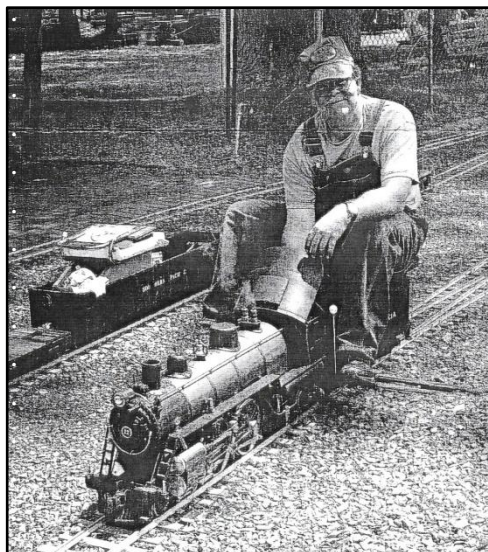
email from Arizona
by Bob Thomas

An email recently received from Bob Blackson had the subject line: "Joe Fego carries the 1-inch flag west." It included an attachment with the May edition of Sahuaro Central Newsletter with an illustrated article, "1-inch scale comes to Adobe Mountain," describing a new 4¾ gauge track being constructed by Joe Fego. Joe is a former member of PLS and was employed by the Strasburg Railroad when he lived in nearby Quarryville. When time permitted, Joe ran his handsome 1" scale Atlantic (built by Ed Woodings) at Rahns. He moved to Phoenix a few years ago and joined the Maricopa Live Steamers, who operate an elaborate 7½" gauge railroad in a public park. The club is exclusively 1½" scale, so Joe, with nowhere to run his Atlantic, obtained permission from his new club to construct a 4¾" track at his own expense. His emails below tell how he is expending enormous effort (and no little money) in going about that monumental task.

June 11, 2018:

Hi Bob, It is great to hear from you. It is nice to hear from old friends from back east. I miss the great conversations we used to have. I began constructing the one-inch track last year. The club really

Joe Fego with his Atlantic at PLS, June 2012



did not want it. I told them that I would put up the money and construct and maintain it myself. Finally, they agreed with the plan of the railroad which I had drawn up. After struggling for about six months making track panels and grading I began to put down track. I met a guy who became a member who was also into one-inch trains; he is from upstate New York. He began helping build track and put it down, and things began to move along at a good pace.

When we get the first stage completed, we will have about 1500 feet of main line to run on. I have already buried conduits for water, air and electric to the location of the steaming bays. The steaming bays are being welded up during break time from laying track, giving my back a rest. I am planning to have the main line connected and steaming bays in by October. I have to form up the transfer table pad for concrete, 10' by 38' area for unloading. Construction now at this time of the year will slow down due to the hot weather. I get to the club about 6 am and work until about 11 am when the temps begin to reach 103 plus. It is the best time to lay track in the hot sun, the track has expanded, and leaves a small joint the rail has room to grow in.

The club has jigs to place the ties in for building the panels. I am constructing the one-inch the same as I build the panels for the inch and a half, except the gauge is moved in to 4¾". I use two by fours on end and inch-high rail, same as the inch and a half. The rail is screwed down with #10 by 1" screws, two hundred screws per panel. All the screw holes are drilled before the ties are sent out to be pressure treated. The panels are 20 feet long, making them a little heavy. All my curves were rolled to the radius I needed on the railroad, starting at 50 feet up to 100 feet. I pull up the outside rail a half a bubble on the level making a smooth ride. I built the rail bender in my shop – the club does not have one. They have a jig which is adjustable, so when placing the rail down, you bend it as you tie it down. It is ok, but when you take it out of the jig, it tries to straighten out the

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rail. We have to cover up the ties with ballast to protect them from the sun. If you don't, they will dry up and crack apart in three years. What they call ballast out here, looks like brown dirt with fine stone in it. The ballast is shoveled onto the track, then it is smoothed out and the track is leveled and tamped, more ballast placed, smoothed out and watered down. The water soaks in and hardens the ballast like concrete, making it a great hold down for the track. After tamping for four hours a day and four days a week, my arms were getting sore. Well here goes another project! I designed and built a ballast tamper to help out, it works great and my arms feel better.

Take care,
Joe Fego

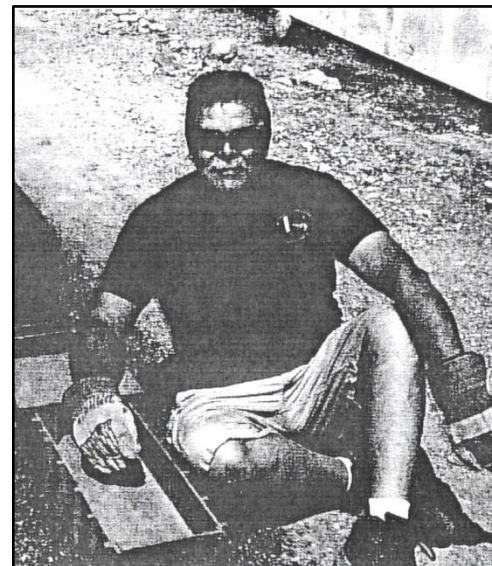
August 9, 2018:

Hi Bob, I have six more twenty-foot panels to install and the loop will be connected. I am hoping to get some of them installed this week, it is going to be cooler, 104 degrees instead of 115 degrees. I am beginning to get a little help on laying out the transfer pad. When it comes time to pour the pad, we have the truck pour the concrete, then we have a Mexican guy who comes to do all the finish work and he does not charge much. Have to go, I will be in touch.

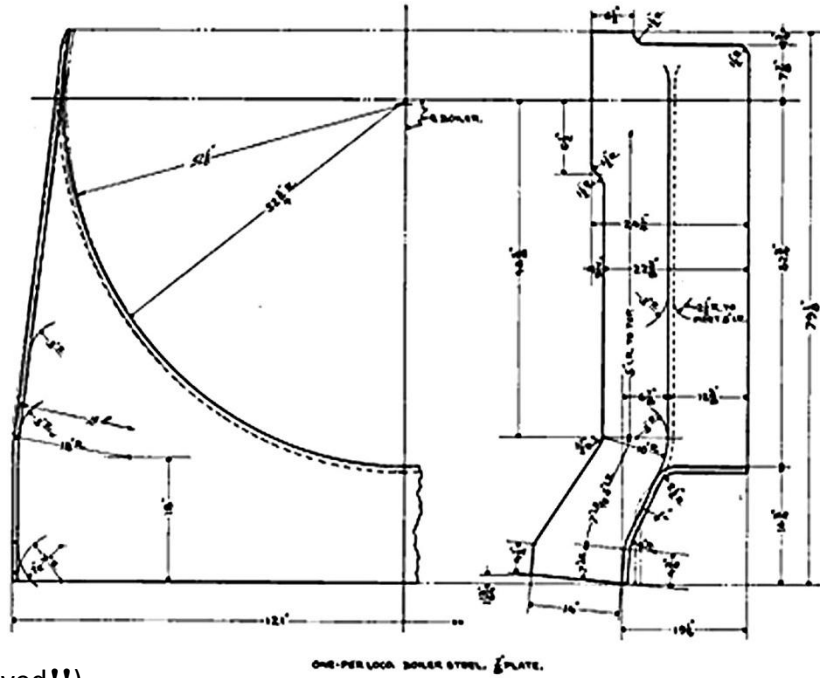
Take care,
Joe Fego

Joe sporting an Arizona Tan

Courtesy of Sahuaro Central Newsletter
June 2018 Don Bauer, Editor

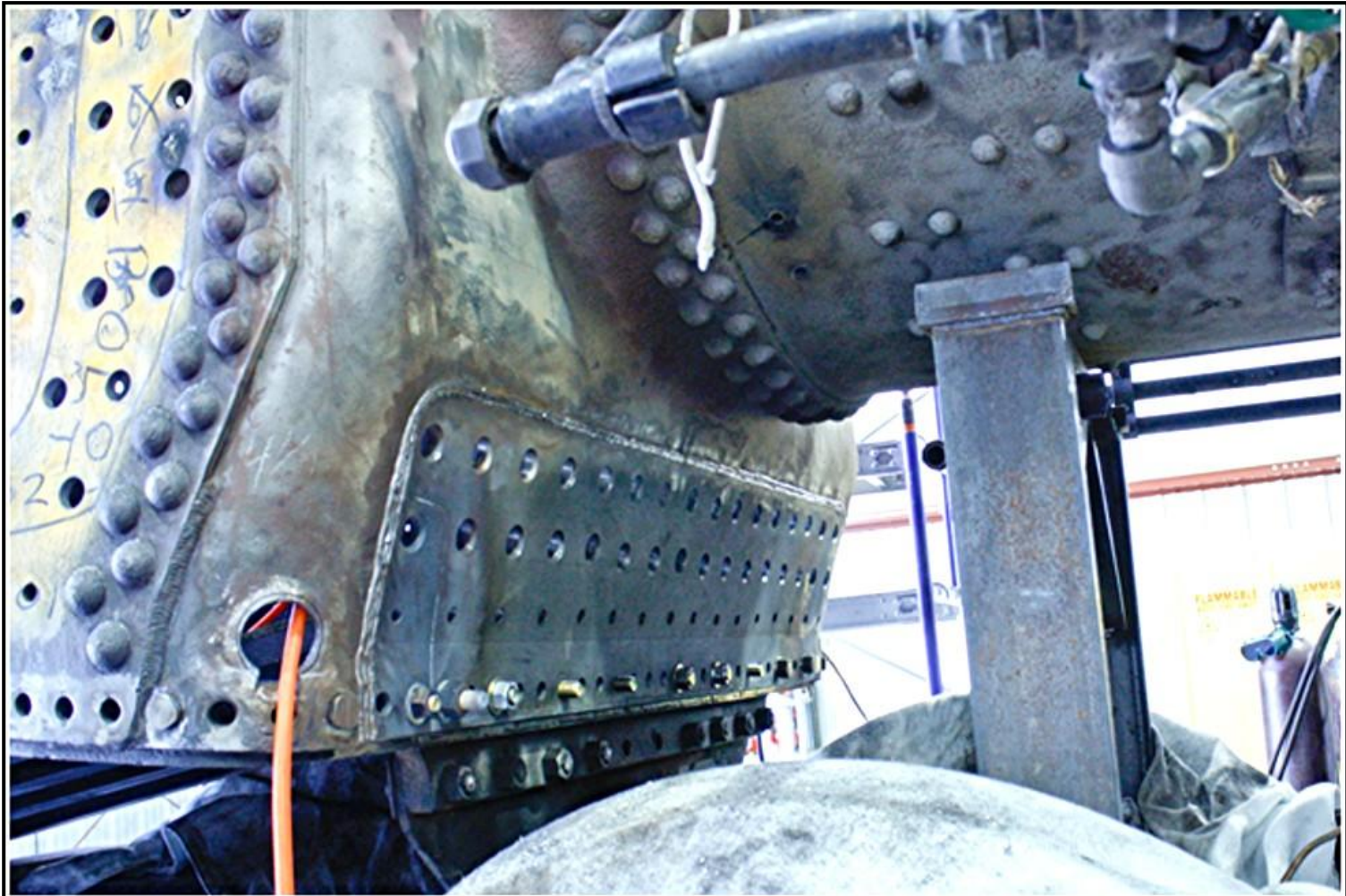


BOILERS (cont'd)



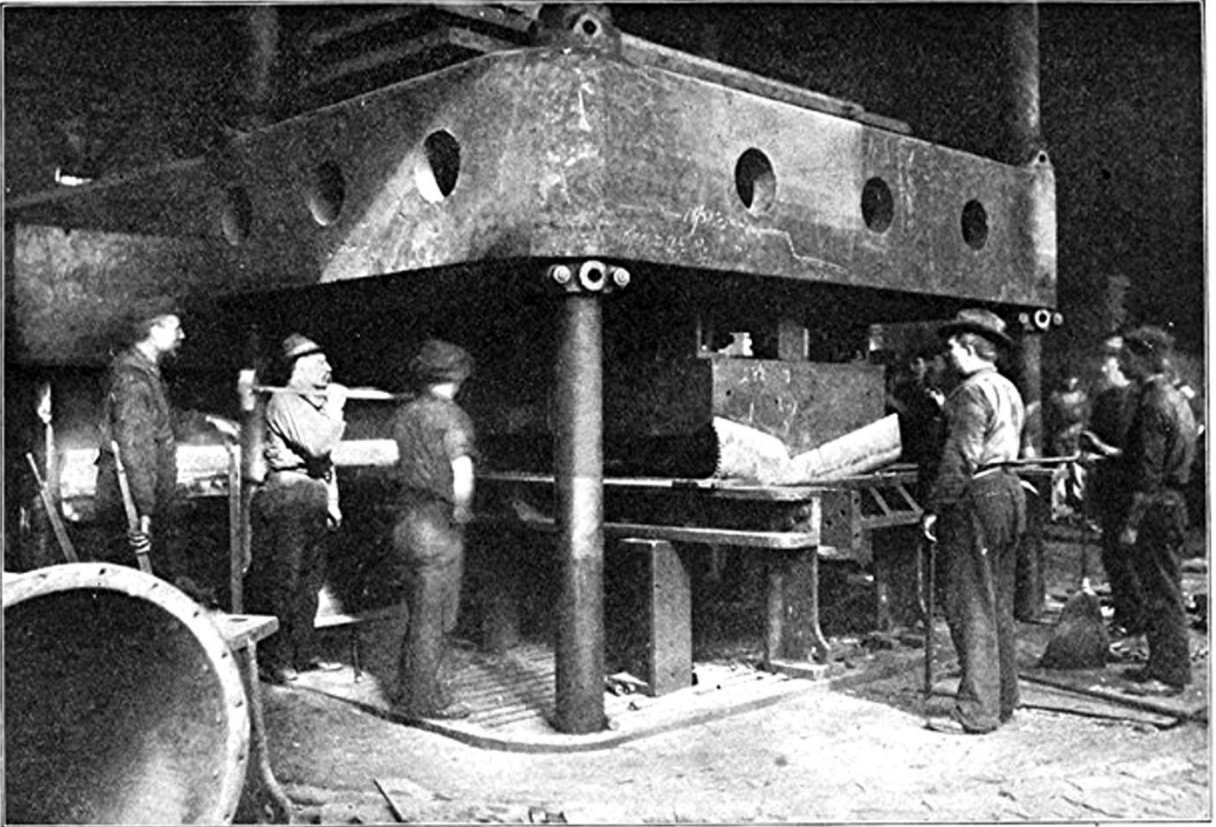
This drawing shows the throat sheet for a N&W 2-6-6-4, a most intricate piece of plate work. However, this one was made using a die and hydraulic press, replacing the hand work (much to the relief of all involved!!)

Here's a close up of the plate in question, along with it having had a repair patch applied.



BOILERS

(cont'd)



THE FLANGING PRESS

GREAT STEEL PLATES ARE HEATED AND PRESSED INTO VARIOUS SHAPES TO MEET DIFFERING REQUIREMENTS. THE HYDRAULIC PRESSURE REACHES 500 TONS

The picture above is the four post hydraulic press, with a throat sheet in the die, having just been finished pressed.

The picture below provides an example of having a given die form a series of throats for the same class of engine. Still a lot of work, but significantly less than the old way . . . !!!

Well, that covers these sheets. Take care, and I look forward to seeing you next month.

Dave





HAPPENINGS PAST!

Ice Cream Social

8-11-18

story by Donna Hohm

The turnout was extremely good. No doubt the time was much better than the late afternoon would have been.

And the meeting that preceded the ice cream was well attended.

Work was accomplished . . . 14 quarts of ice cream were devoured . . . everyone left happy.

Thank you, Donna and helpers, for handling the event.

HAPPENING NOW!

Note from John Draftz —

LALS Fall Meet will be held in September this year, but they will NOT allow any camping tents or Motorhomes, etc. during the meet. Please advise any members who may be planning to go to the meet, so they don't get a big surprise upon arrival. Thanks.

LALSRM FALL MEET

SEPTEMBER 14, 15, & 16

— PRIVATE EVENT —

No Public Trains will run on Sunday.

Railroaders & Members from other Clubs welcome. Camping available in East End only. Vendor spaces available. Alex O'Donnell, Meet Chairman



HAPPENING SOON!



50th Anniversary

Fall Meet 2018

Work Week – Oct 22nd thru 28th

Meet Week – Oct 29th thru Nov 4th



You are invited to participate in the Fall Meet, held October 22nd – November 4th, 2018, at Maricopa Live Steamers in Phoenix, AZ. This is an open invitation meet, but all attending people must pre-register regardless of their participation. If you are bringing your spouse, girlfriend, children, etc., they must also be pre-registered, even if they DO NOT plan to participate.

During the week of the Meet only, the following meals will be provided.

A continental breakfast of coffee and donuts will be available on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday at the nominal cost of only \$2.00 per person.

Lunches will be available Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday at the nominal cost of only \$7.00 per person.

Dinners will be prepaid per the Registration Form. Dinner on Saturday will be potluck. If you choose not to bring in a dish for the potluck, there will be a \$10 charge per person. Money for the meals must be sent in with your registration.

Please note, you must pre-register and pay for the dinner meals by October 15.

Please use the registration form at the end of this newsletter.

Please RSVP as soon as possible with a check or money order.

We look forward to seeing you in October.

We use FRS radios with assigned channels from 3-10 with privacy code 10. Exact channel assignment will be listed in the operation time table. You will also want to bring a flashlight, warm clothing, rain gear (it does rain in Phoenix occasionally) and anything else you think you may need.

Track plan information can be found on the MLS website, as well as a map to MLS.

RV parking and dry camping is available October 22nd through November 4th.

Upon arrival to MLS, please check in at Ford Station to pick up your information packet.

Maricopa Live Steamers is one of Phoenix's natural county parks.

There are coyotes, rattlers and other critters living here. We ask that you not bring pets for safety's sake. If you do so, your pet must be on a leash at all times. This rule is a county park rule. For more information you can visit www.maricopalivesteamers.com.

Any questions please contact Belinda Kulman at bkulman09@gmail.com

or Donna Hohm at donnahohm@yahoo.com.

Thank you.

**Maricopa Live Steamers
50 Anniversary Fall Meet
Registration Form
October 29th-November 4th
Work week begins October 22nd**

Pre-register by October 15th.

Name as you want it to appear on your name tag: _____

Additional family members: _____

Address: _____

Cell number: _____

Email address: _____

*Due to dry conditions, solid fuel engines require spark arrestors.

*RV's are permitted from October 22nd through November 3rd

*Dry Camping only, no water, no electric, and no sewer

*I will participate in the pot luck dinner: Yes: _____ No: _____

| Item | # Of people | | Cost | | Total |
|---|-------------|---|---------|---|--------------------|
| Pizza Pre-pay only | | X | \$9.00 | = | \$ |
| Chicken Pre-pay only | | X | \$12.00 | = | \$ |
| Pot luck Bring a food item or pay \$10.00 | | X | \$10.00 | = | \$ or food item |
| Registration Administration fee Non refundable | | X | \$5.00 | = | \$ |
| Each additional family members administrative fee Non refundable | | X | \$2.00 | = | \$ |
| Total enclosed with RSVP | | | | | \$ |

****Breakfasts and lunches will be served Wednesday through Saturday 10/31-11/03****

Continental breakfast of coffee and donuts will be served at a cost of \$2.00 per person

Lunch and a drink will be served at a cost of \$7.00 per person.

ALL ATTENDEES MUST ATTEND ONE SAFETY BRIEFING.

Briefings will be held on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 8:30 and 1:00.

Please mail this form along with a check or money order payable to Maricopa Live Steamers to:

Donna Hohm
10705 North 109th Way
Scottsdale AZ, 85259

Any questions contact:
Belinda Kulman: bkulman09@gmail.com
Donna Hohm: donnahohm@yahoo.com

