



STACK TALK

April 2007

The official newsletter of the Adobe Western Railroad,
Phoenix, Arizona, operated by the Maricopa Live Steamers
Railroad Heritage Preservation Society.

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News from the President



Jim Manley

Well, I had a great time at the Spring Meet. I hope you did too. I saw a lot familiar faces that I only get to see a couple of times a year. A few people I expected to see weren't present and a few people showed up that I was surprised to see. To all of the individuals and vendors that contributed to Saturday night's raffle, I offer a very big thank you. Alex Sekora won the Grand Prize, RMI's three-chime whistle.

Recently, I put up a link to articles written by MLS members on the website. The link can be found on the home page in the menu on the left side bar. If you haven't read the articles before, be sure to take a look at them, especially Bill Lowe's article on switch building. He put a lot of effort into it and it shows. Having said that, we need more articles to post on the website. If you would like to write an article, I would like to post it. It can be about something you built or are building, another club you visited, how to make or machine something, or whatever you would like to write about. Send it in to me. We can help cross t's and dot i's if you need help with that sort of



The Mt. Ranier Scenic Railroad near Mineral, Wash., has restored three locomotives from the '20s.. From left, Hammond Lumber Company No. 17, an Alco 2-8-2T built in 1928; Hillcrest Lumber Company No. 10, a 3-truck Climax built in 1928; and Pickering Lumber's 3-truck Pacific Coast Shay vintage 1929. The locomotives pull passengers through the foothills of Mt. Ranier. To learn more, visit www.mrsr.com.

thing.

You hear me say time and again that this is your club and it is as successful as you make it. Jim Ashcraft has taken that to heart, maybe unknowingly. We are down to one club engine as repairs are being made on the other two. Jim has pulled the public with his brand new engine without hesitation and even once while not feeling 100 percent. Thanks, Jim, for your efforts.

The April *Friends Event* will be held on the night of April 14th. I'm not sure how many more we will have as the mercury climbs toward triple digits. Come participate with us before it gets too hot. If you don't have a train to run, a seat can usu-

ally be found anyway. If you don't like trains, the camaraderie alone is worth the trip.

Speaking of the heat, be sure to drink lots of water when you are out at the park. The temperatures are beginning to rise rapidly and we don't need anyone suffering from heat stress or heat stroke. It's never fun to have to have your wife ask how your day went and have to tell her it was fine till George had a heat stroke. Then it was "derail, re-rail the car, put George back in the gondola, derail, re-rail the car, put George back in the gondola . . ."

Thanks folks! I'm here all week. Try the meat loaf.

Jim Manley

The Vice President's Corner



Bill Myers

The topic for this segment is fire extinguishers. Having one is kinda like having a drill. You really only want a hole, but unfortunately, you need the drill to produce the end result being the hole. Well a fire extinguisher is somewhat the same thing. You really only need the stuff inside of it to put out the flames. I suppose ballast would work, and then we could forget about the red cylinder containing the fire suppressant and having that cumbersome piece of metal taking up space.

I bet ya, and I wish I had the statistics, I bet ya most of you will never have to use one of these messy red things in your lifetime. BUT WAIT!, What if you take that attitude and don't carry a fire-puttouter on board your train. I know, I have heard all the excuses over the years for not having one:

1. It only happens to the other guy
2. My train is safe, and I never tip over
3. The other guy is more accident prone
4. Why should I spend all that money on something just to sit there
5. I will be close to a fire hose, (yea, right)
6. I can put it out with dirt, (sounds like the ballast theory)
7. It will corrode my electrical equipment, (Oh!, You think the fire won't screw it up?)
8. This is the best one. It looks ugly and detracts from my paint scheme. (Maybe something in an earth tone would work.)

Now, for some of you, your first shiny red fire extinguisher will present a major decision on just where to mount it. Well, rule of thumb states, it needs to be within reach of the engineer in case of emer-

gency. Sounds simple, but lets look a little further before screwing that to your new locomotives floor pan.

Common sense comes into play now. Lets assume you leave the tracks for whatever reason, and find yourself in slow motion, watching your pride and joy gently starting to list at an angle you already know isn't going to be pretty. Gravity takes over and, OUCH!, you are on the ground. Now, if you have the extinguisher mounted on your locomotive, and it just happens the flammable oils and gas are pouring all over the engine, it may be too late to grab it and extinguish the flames that have started since you stood up and brushed yourself off. Maybe your riding car would be a place it could live, and not be in the way. This is a half-way safe place to secure it, but, again, usually when the locomotive goes over, so does the riding car, with you on it. So, with that in mind, maybe your next car, or one hopefully closer than the caboose, would be a prudent option to mount it.

One more important thing to think about, in your spare time riding the rails to Pardee Point. What if there is a grass fire, not your fault, of course, but you just happen to be in the wrong place at the right time? Fire season is upon us, and we all know how quick it can start. Your personal fire apparatus just might save some buildings and some rail. (Yep, Aluminum melts.)

It may start from hot embers emitting from a passing steam locomotive, a careless smoker who wasn't careful putting his butts out, (no, not his butt.) Did you know a broken piece of glass or shinny metal can act as a magnifying glass and start a blaze in minutes? How about maybe a disgruntled jackrabbit playing with matches caused the destruction. Anyway, you got the idea! Carrying a fire extinguisher can make a big difference for us all, including the animals in the park. There are a lot of them out there.

Also, be aware that fire extinguishers need to be checked on a regular basis for defects or low pressure. You will feel pretty helpless pulling the trigger, and nothing emerges from the tip!

We here at Adobe Western have the honor of our membership being comprised of several of the Phoenix Fire

Greetings from the Greeter

by Margaret Ann Bain

This greetings comes from your greeter who was sadly absent from the Spring Meet. An intestinal virus attacked our family right at the time of the meet. It seems our flu virus shots don't work below the waist!

Thanks to Betty Jane Moore's efforts the welcome table was occupied and things went smoothly. Everyone tells me it was another outstanding meet with fun for all, no rain and lots of sunshine. I'm sure our out of state visitors can understand why this area is called the "Valley Of The Sun."

We had 72 out-of-state visitors for this meet which compares favorably with 75 visitors for the Spring 2006 Meet and 72 for our Fall 2006 Meet. Our guests came from 15 states plus Edmonton, Canada.

The attendance break down was:

Edmonton, Canada . . .	1
Missouri.	1
California.	27
Nebraska.	1
Colorado	6
Nevada.	8
Connecticut.	1
New Mexico	5
Illinois	4
New York.	3
Indiana	2
Oregon.	3
Kentucky.	1
Pennsylvania.	2
Minnesota	2
Texas	5

We hope everyone had such a good time that they will be back for future meets. It was our pleasure that they decided to visit us.

Department's firefighters. I would like to thank them for being here for all of us in time of need. "THANKS!" I think they would be honored to take some time to answer questions, and offer their input on this subject to help all of us.

Remember, we're all in this together. We're pullin' for ya,

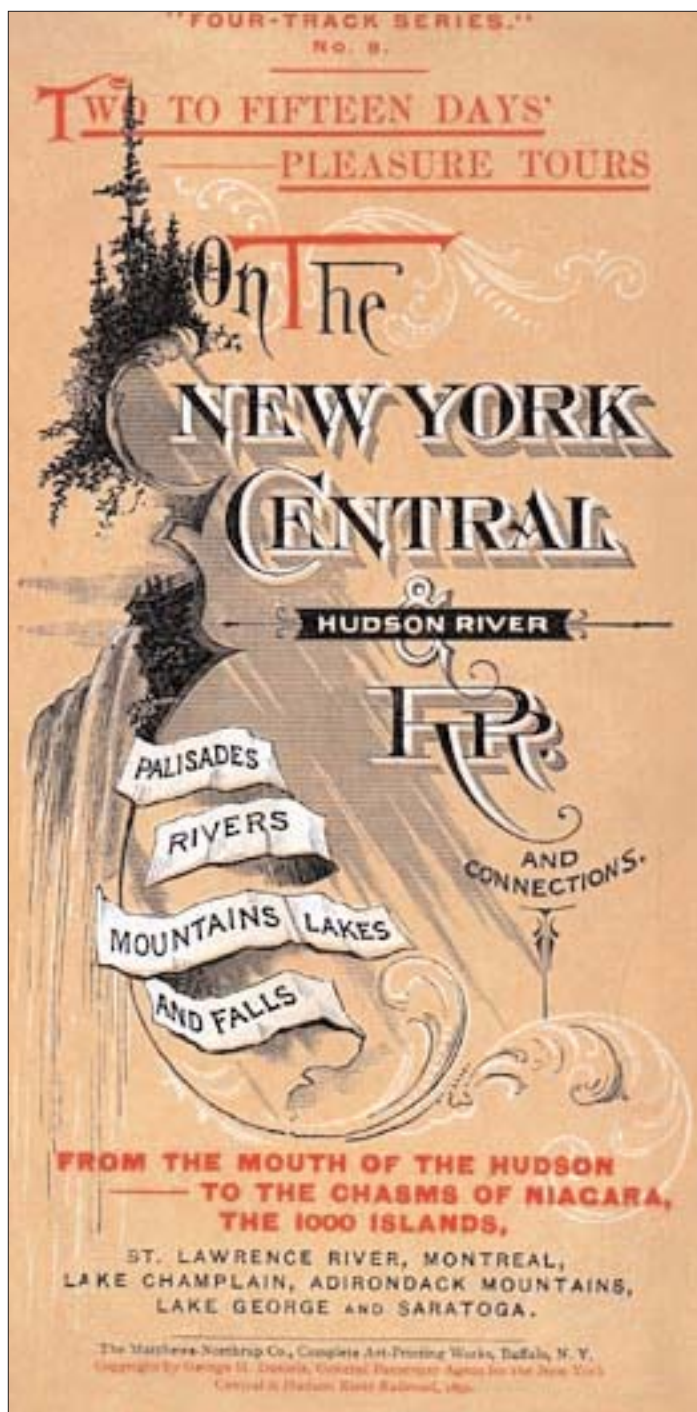
Bill Myers

Treasurer's Notes



Bob Douglas

Treasurer Bob Douglas was in the process of moving as this issue of Stack Talk went to press, and his means of processing words was hiding out-of-sight somewhere in a box. We look forward to his column next month. Ed.



Thanks from Sahuaro Central



Ken Bain

On behalf of Sahuaro Central I want to thank Maricopa Live Steamers for their support of the Spring Swap Meet on Saturday, March 24. The volunteer crew consisted of Stephanie Marks, Michelle Winkler, Ken Bain, Jerry Grundy, John Lovely, Larry Messing and Bud

Waterworth. With that many qualified people we were able to run two trains and provide rides for 140 passengers. For this Swap Meet we had one train dedicated to the Pottsville Run with a ten minute lay-over at the Sahuaro Central Museum.

Jerry Oyler and Terry Barrett gave the passengers a brief overview and a short tour of the museum and the operating G-gauge layout. Several passengers told me how much they enjoyed the train ride combined with the museum visit. The passengers must have enjoyed their train rides because they were quite generous with their their donations which will go toward the operation of Sahuaro Central. Thanks MLS!

Would you like to experience Stack Talk in glorious Technicolor? You can, you know, by visiting our web site and clicking on "Stack Talk Library" on the left side of the home page. It's quick and easy, and you'll save the club the expense of printing and mailing you a paper copy. Then, send an email to mls@wellhealedmac.com and ask to be removed from the Stack Talk mailing list.

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We welcome your comments,
suggestions and submissions.

MLS CALENDAR

Saturday, April 14
• 9 a.m. board meeting
• 10 a.m. membership meeting