



# STACK TALK

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

[www.maricopalivesteamers.com](http://www.maricopalivesteamers.com)

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May 2006

## News from the President



*Perry McCully*

There is so much to report to you. I think I could fill up the newsletter with what is going on. John Luther Jones (Casey Jones) died the last weekend of April 1900. It's the 102 anniversary of the train wreck How's that for train trivia?

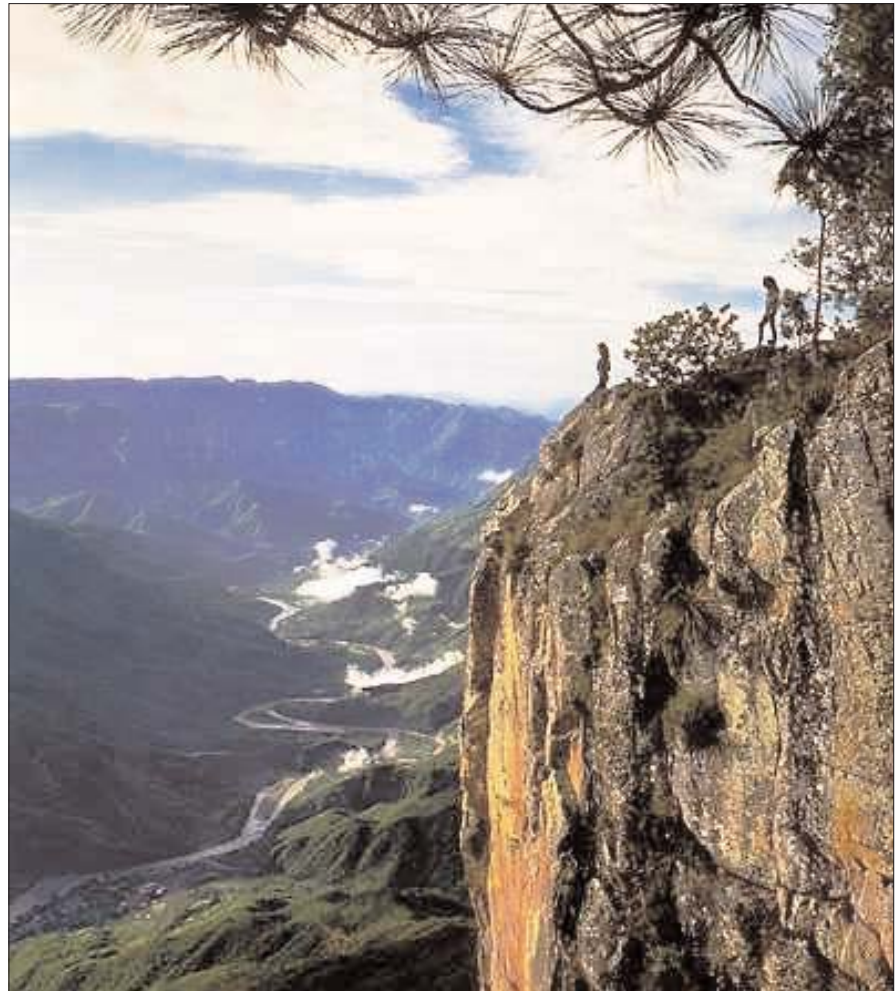
The forklift is up and running again thanks to Paul Gamble.



*Bob Alkire uses our monster forklift to place a pallet of scrap lumber in Kevin Rowell's pickup truck.*

If you have keys to the forklift, please call Bob Alkire or me to find out how to operate it. Paul will help us get the front-loader on the tractor very soon. Thank you Paul. Now we can finish moving the engine houses back onto the steaming bays.

Charlie Downs has resigned as Webmaster. Jim Manley is taking the job. Thank you Jim. Charles has done a great job of keeping the website going for several years.



MLS Member Ken Karrels has a deal for you! Visit Mexico's Copper Canyon by private rail car on the Sierra Madre Express, five refurbished '40s and '50s rail cars, including sleeping cars, a dome car and lounge. The seven-day trip, which begins September 7 and ends September 14, originates in Tucson where you'll board a motorcoach and tour Tucson's Santa Cruz Valley including historic San Xavier Mission.

The train departs Nogales, Mexico at mid-afternoon. On successive days you'll visit the Copper Canyon region and historical parts of Mexico including Posada Mirador, Creel, Cerocahui, and Urique Canyon. The special fare is \$2,595 per person, a savings of \$700 each. You may save another \$100 per person by omitting pre- and post-tour hotel accommodations.

For more information call Ken Karrels at 520-749-5345. To see photos of the Sierra Madre Express, visit [www.sierramadreepress.com](http://www.sierramadreepress.com).

By the way, Ken and his wife operate Karrels Double K Ranch in Tucson, a bed-and-breakfast where you can spend the night in a converted Southern Pacific caboos, relax in a pool and spa, and enjoy a cozy western hideaway on four acres of stately sugauros. Take a look at [www.doublekranch.com](http://www.doublekranch.com).

## News from the President

*Continued from page 1*

Thank you Charlie.

Betty Moore has volunteered to run the Fall Meet again. Boy, are you a glutton for punishment Betty, but thank you very much for taking on the job. By the way, Betty has a healthy new grandchild to take care of. When you are ready to volunteer for the fall meet call Betty.

The board of directors is looking at containers whose owners have not constructed or started to construct false fronts. You all know that you have one year to complete the false fronts once the container has been put in place. Please get started very soon. I really don't want to ask you to come before the board and explain yourself why your project is not completed. I'm one of the guilty parties.

The County Parks & Recreation Department has put a "no open fires" ban into effect at all of its parks, and that includes our railroad. Therefore, any solid fueled steam engine will be required to have a spark arrester on its stack. Which brings up another problem with solid fueled engines—ashes. Please do not dump your ash just anywhere. We have two ash pans in Adobe City. PLEASE USE THEM!

An Operational Meet is being planned for January 19, 20 and 21, 2007. This is our first so it should be fun. Watch the website for more information in the coming months.

Safety tip— this month is FIRE DANGER ALERT! Lets try to not burn down our park please.

Perry McCully

## News from the Vice President



*Betty Jane Moore*

Well, April hardly cried but it has stepped aside and here is May. We are down to the last three Sundays of public runs and it is already hot. Please come out and give us a hand if you can. Our next regular meeting is May 13. I will have the 2006-2007 Schedule for Sunday runs available. There are two shifts, 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and/or 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. There are four Sundays every month, except in October and April. Please sign up for one three-hour shift. We need your help to continue with this public service.

We will be serving lunch on the patio after the meeting on May 13 including hamburgers, hot dogs and fixings, for a donation. Please bring a desert if you can. After lunch Jim Zimmerman will be conducting an Operations Session for all who wish to participate. Come on out and enjoy the food, fun and fellowship.

Big kids, having fun and helping each other. That's us.

Happy rails to you, until we meet again.

*Betty Moore*

## Treasurer's Notes



*Bob Douglas*

Did anyone realize that the report. In last month's Stack talk was an April Fool's story? The conclusion of the story is that Union Pacific turned down the Adobe Western Railroad offer because of the anticipated extremely heavy operation traffic in Fisher and the surrounding area.

MLS members are a wonderful, helpful bunch of people. A few days ago, a bunch of worker bees swarmed around UP5969. They poked, prodded, pushed, adjusted and serviced it to get the locomotive running again. Thanks guys for another job well done.

During the month of April, MLS train crews made 75 trips carrying 1074 passengers. The Sahuaro Swap Meet attendees and rail fans appreciate the effort of the dedicated station and train crews.

MLS welcomes the following new members:

Jack Gerstner  
jackstoys@verizon.net  
P.O. Box 86  
Rome IL 61562  
309-274-4185

*Bob Douglas*



## Have you visited the Sahuaro Central Museum and Library?

Donald Bauer, editor of the Sahuaro Central newsletter, reminds us of an unusual resource available to MLS members:

A reminder, Sahuaro Central has a Railroad History Museum and Library. Jerry Oyler, Museum Curator is doing a wonderful job of maintaining the many artifacts and books in the museum building. This is a two hundred and fifty hard-back collection of railroad history. Numerous magazines are also available.

Your editor recently had an opportunity to do some research at the museum and was duly impressed. Not only are the books and periodicals well organized and displayed, there is a fascinating collection of railroad memorabilia in cases and on the walls.

Sahuaro Central has a fine facility; one to be truly proud of. Thank you, Jerry. Books can be checked out by signing the card located on the inside cover of the book and placing the card in the box next to the book rack. Magazines and periodicals are on the honor system; look, read, copy and return.

The museum and library are located in the building at Pottsville. You're encouraged to visit soon.

## And what in the world is Sahuaro Central you may ask.

The Sahuaro Central Railroad Heritage Preservation Society, Inc. is the creator and promoter of the Adobe Mountain Desert Railroad Park and Museum, originally known as Railplex.

Sahuaro Central leased an 80-acre parcel of Land, which is now a portion of the approximate 160-acre railroad park, from the Maricopa County Parks & Recreation Department in an agreement signed February 21st, 1989. The term of the no-fee lease is for 25 years with an option to extend the lease for 25 more years.

The original plan to build a substantial museum, conference and convention facility did not materialize because of financing problems caused by an economic slump in the late 1980's. For a number of years Sahuaro Central revised plans and continued to plan for the develop-

ment of the Railroad Park. In 1990 the Maricopa County Recreation Services proposed that the Railplex property be exchanged for a larger parcel of property on the east Side of 43rd Avenue, just South of what is now the Sports Field Complex. Sahuaro Central agreed and began to encourage large and small scale model railroad groups to become involved in the Railroad Park.

Early in 1992 the Arizona Model Railroading Society/Arizona Garden Railway Society (AMRS) was forced out of its location on the second floor of a shop located at 26th Avenue and McDowell Road. Before vacating the facility they petitioned Sahuaro Central for approval to move to the Adobe Mountain Desert Railroad Park. AMRS and Sahuaro Central entered into an agreement in February of 1992.

Meanwhile, AMRS relocated to a vacant store in the Valley West Mall Shopping Center (Manistee Town Center), at 59th Avenue and Northern Avenue, now the location of a Wal-Mart Supercenter. During its stay at the mall, AMRS began planning for the move to Adobe Mountain Desert Railroad Park. The Maricopa Live Steamers (MLS), which was located in the McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park in Scottsdale, also entered into an agreement with Sahuaro Central in 1992.

AMRS began efforts to procure a building permit for the first of several buildings, which they proposed to construct. After overcoming many obstacles in dealing with the City of Phoenix Development Services Department, a building permit was in place. The foundation and rough plumbing were installed and inspected, then, the Maricopa County Flood Control District informed AMRS that it would have to construct the finished floor one foot above the 100 year flood plane. This would have put the finished floor approximately five feet above the existing grade. Construction halted and the improvements were removed.

After much discussion with the City of Phoenix Development Services Department, Maricopa County Flood Control, Maricopa County Recreation Services and Sahuaro Central the Maricopa

County Recreation Services suggested a change back to the land on the West side of 43rd Avenue, which has buildable land at one foot above existing grade, plus an additional 80 acres of land. Approximately 35 of the 160 acres are buildable at grade plus one foot to finished floor. Sahuaro Central began a new plan for development.

In 1994, during a period when the County was having financial problems, the Maricopa County Recreation Services vacated the Park Ranger station at Adobe Mountain Park. Sahuaro Central was contacted to see if they would be interested in adding the 2.9 acres to the existing agreement. Sahuaro Central agreed because it is adjacent to and connected to the section already under lease. With the existence of a habitable structure on the site this gave Sahuaro Central a place for a base of operations at the Park.

The former Ranger Station currently houses the Sahuaro Central headquarters, the museum and other properties owned by Sahuaro Central.

In January of 1996 Sahuaro Central invited AMRS and MLS to use the facilities until such time as the model railroad groups could undertake the erection of their own buildings.

Sahuaro Central, with County Recreation Services approval, remodeled the Ranger Station building to make it more user friendly for meetings and museum operations.

MLS began its progress at the Park in March, 1996 and completed the loop of 7-1/2" gauge track around the museum building the following November. MLS installed five steaming bays and transfer table at the Sahuaro Central Museum compound, now known as Pottsville.

In the years 1996 through 1999, nearly three miles of track were placed outside the Sahuaro Central area into the large tract of Railroad Park land to the west and south. Today, signal systems, grade crossings, station platforms, picnic areas and towns are being developed along the routes. When the four-track terminal, dispatch building and the first sea containers

started to arrive, the MLS base of operations moved to Adobe City south of Pottsville. As of the spring of 2004 the live steamers had placed more than eight miles of track in the Railroad Park.

Sahuaro Central is the promoter of the Railroad Park. The development of the land designated for Sahuaro Central use and the com-

mon areas of the Park, road easements, parking areas, utility easements, etc., is controlled by the Sahuaro Central board of directors. The board of directors comprises two members from Sahuaro Central and two members from each of the tenant railroad groups in the Railroad Park.

Each model railroad group leas-

ing from Sahuaro Central is responsible for the development of its area. All site plans, permanent improvements and the utility installations for those structures must be approved by Sahuaro Central, Maricopa County Recreation Services, Maricopa County Flood Control and the permitting agencies of the City of Phoenix.



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is the official newsletter of the  
 Maricopa Live Steamers  
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 We welcome your comments,  
 suggestions and submissions.



## MLS CALENDAR

Saturday, May 13  
 Board Meeting, 9 a.m.  
 Membership Meeting, 10 a.m.

