



STACK TALK

September 2007

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

www.maricopalivesteamers.com

© 2007 Maricopa Live Steamers Railroad Heritage Preservation Society

News from the President



Jim Manley

It's back to school time for kids. We all know what that means; sweaty gym clothes and nasty school lunches? No! Tests! Even we're not exempt from them. If you've been on our website recently you've noticed that our yearly engineer's exam is available. According to our safety rules (512 & 513) all members who operate equipment are required to pass the exam. You are allowed to miss five questions and still receive a passing grade. If you don't have access to the internet to take the exam, paper copies will be available in the clubhouse. If they're not, let me know.

As the cooler weather creeps back in, there will be quite a few activities going on at the park. September brings the return of the public run season. We still have positions open if you can help. See John Draftz and let him know where you can help out.

Our Fall Meet is October 18 – 21. We need yard and station masters. Please contact Joe Schnyder to sign up. If you plan on attending the meet please register on the website or let Joe know you will be coming.

December will be our annual toy drive. This year we want to do a night run (or runs to coincide with the toy drive) as well. Several of the members have purchased lights and inflatables to display. We will need help putting the lights up, running the public and tearing everything down. A committee will be started in the near future if you'd like to help with the planning. If you would like to be involved please contact Bill Myers or myself. If you can loan us your generators, extension cords, etc please let me know that as well.

And then comes January with the Operations Meet. This coming year's meet, known as "Winterfest 2008", has been steadily worked on by Jim Zimmerman and his band of merry assistants. This meet looks to outdo last year's meet. If you are even mildly interested in operations sign up and you'll have fun. That gets us through January. We have a month off and then the Spring Meet will be upon us. Time flies when

you're having fun. If you can't get a hold of any of the folks mentioned above contact me and I'll get the information to them.

In other news, the county has lifted the fire ban. Still, there is a lot of dry brush so caution is requested. Also, the proposed bylaws were passed unanimously by those in attendance last month.

Next year will be the club's 40th anniversary. Since the Spring Meet is historically the larger meet, I would like to propose that we also make it our 40th anniversary celebration. Things we can consider is having Saturday night's dinner catered, having special t-shirts made, etc. I have discussed this with only a handful of people in the last week but the response has been positive. If you think we should or should not do this let me know.

It's going to be a busy six months and this train is departing shortly. All aboard...

Jim Manley

The Vice President's Corner



Bill Myers

I want to start out this month with a welcome for all our winter visitors planning to enjoy our railroad in the next few winter months.

Anything we can help with for information, or assistance with your equipment, please feel free to ask. We here at Maricopa Live Steamers welcome anyone interested in this hobby, and will do whatever it takes for your pleasure. You folks are what drive our local members that are out here every weekend offering free labor to assist and to maintain our park. Our reward is seeing you folks riding on our rails, knowing so many club members have toiled long days to have you enjoy a safe ride and experience the landscape here in Arizona. Remember, bring a jacket with you, as it gets chilly here in the

The Vice President's Corner

Continued from page 1

evenings. Any safety issues, general information you may need on track condition, requirements of you as a visitor, or directions to where the 4-foot-tall wild cannibalistic rabbits may be feeding that night, contact any Maricopa Live Steamer club member, and he or she will assist you.

When you have a chance, thank our members for working so hard on our club track. It has been a challenge for everyone, and we hope you enjoy your stay with us in the Arizona desert. Who knows, we may be done in time to enjoy our trains along with you.

We have experienced some major rail damage this last month with torrential rains here at the park. We have several of the routes safe and working. If at any time you see, feel, heard, or think you had a vision somewhere along the track something wasn't quite right, Please, tell someone so we can address it promptly. If you had too much cactus jelly and it caused hallucinations, let us in on what you experienced, as we may want to market the stuff!

It is still dry out here, even though we had a "micro-burst" (a yuppie term for a lot of rain in a short time). Please do not smoke where there is grass or a chance of

catching something on fire. We have added a lot of new switches and some more track, of which may be alongside a remote area. Along those same lines, take water with you at all times. We do not have roving ladies in golf carts with refreshments at every cross-over. If you don't drink it use it for fire suppression, or water for the vultures circling overhead.

The team at the park has another branch ready to run. Werner and the return into the station has new bridges, culverts, and ballast. About six of us worked in the 112-degree heat to finish that loop. We have a lot more to go, but at least it's a good start. Thanks to all who have endlessly worked every weekend in this heat to get us up and running after the rains. We also put down 26 tons of chip gravel in front of all the containers, straightened out the railroad ties and removed the broken ones. Take a look at how clean it is. We have a lot more cleaning up to do before the meet, so try to encourage folks to come out and exercise a little and experience the pride we feel having done the impossible in the last month. We need rakers to go along the track and dress it up and check for anything that may need fixing. I am sure Bob Douglas and Joe Schnyder will appreciate it.

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

Bill

Treasurer's Notes



Bob Douglas

Who needs bridges in the desert? Well, the summer monsoon taught us that the Adobe Western Railroad does. The track team has installed six 16-inch box culverts and two eight-foot long deck bridges between Geromino and Racewatch on the Werner subdivision. The track and bridge crew consisting of Joe Schnyder, Bill Myers, Cliff Fought, Perry McCully, Bob Alkire, Jeff Hickman, Jim Zimmerman, Bob Douglas and several others just completed the dredging of the Harnish Valley dry wash and the installation of four bridges in an attempt to protect the track from flash flood waters.

The Sunday Train Ride season is here again. Please sign-up with John Draftz if you can help. Last season we made 409 runs and carried 6,197 very happy passengers.

MLS is pleased to welcome Keith Fell as its newest member. Keith is Al and Arlene Ford's son. He eagerly got his hands dirty by making major repairs on MLS heavy equipment.

Bob

STACK TALK

is the official newsletter of the
Maricopa Live Steamers
Railroad Heritage
Preservation Society
Editor: Charles Downs
3142 N 62nd Street
Scottsdale AZ 85251
602-326-4867
cmdowns@cox.net

We welcome your comments,
suggestions and submissions.

MLS CALENDAR

Saturday, September 8

- 9 a.m.: Board Meeting
- 10 a.m.: Membership Meeting

Sunday, September 9

- 12 noon: first public rides of the new season