



MARCH / APRIL 2011

## SPRING IS COMING:

Ah, yes. Spring is just around the corner and it is the time when a young man's fancy turns to thoughts of *train rides and swap meets*.

Well, if you're a member of Sahuaro Central, March is the month of the Maricopa Live Steamers Spring Meet and the Adobe Mountain Model Railroading Adventures Swap Meet. Coming March 17-20, the MLS Spring meet is the big event for the ride-on railroad crowd, with plenty of visiting locomotives and local ones as well. Always a well run and well attended meet, the MLS will please all who venture out to the park for that weekend.

Not to be outdone, AMRS/SC/MLS will host another huge swap meet on March 19, starting at 9:00 am. Do you need a G-scale passenger car or a new smoke stack for that HO brass decapods. Odds are that you will find it and much more at the "Everything Railroad" swap meet. Don't miss out!

## A TRAIN FOR SC:

Part 35, by Ken Bain

The big accomplishment this time is that the boiler has been installed on the chassis. Cliff Fought used MLS's monster fork lift to reach over the fence and lift the boiler over the track. The chassis was then rolled under the boiler and it was lowered in place. There should not have been any problem because all the holes were still where Hurlbut had

drilled them. But with the frame having been straightened and reinforced the front holes on the boiler no longer lined up with the cylinder saddle holes.

After a lot of grinding with a die grinder, Perry McCully was able to open up the holes to take the four bolts. Then, the problem became installing the nuts on the bolts. When the 1027 was built, the saddle bolts would have been installed before the rail weights were welded inside the boiler. With the rails installed there was not enough room to use a standard wrench on the nuts. Cliff cut an opening to fit the nuts in a piece of flat steel bar stock. With a lot of "fiddling" the nuts were installed. What should have been a simple job wound up taking several hours. But the installation is done and 1027 is looking more and more like a locomotive.



In my last write up, one of my problems was that the two transmission belts turned out to be different lengths. None of the local auto parts stores in Chandler had the belt length that I needed. The best offer I could get was that they could have one brought in

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from California. I called NAPA in Gilbert. They had one belt that I wanted in the Phoenix area and they would have it brought to their store. If it didn't match one of my belts I didn't have to buy it.

**Surprise !** It matched one of my belts. I finally noticed the difference in my two belts. Both were made by Gates and had the same part number. One was made in the USA and the other in Mexico. Problem solved.

I have decided to change the design of the control panel that I made so it's back to the drawing board on that project. The next major undertaking is to install an exhaust system for the gasoline engine.

**Progress** is being made.

### **AT THE MUSEUM:**

Museum Curator, Jerry Oyler has received a donation of railroad lanterns from Bill Meyers. The cement slab at the museum has been completed and looks really good. Mike Russell has purchased some commercial over the counter weed eating supplies for use at the park. Jerry and Betty Moore have volunteered to help with the museum on weekends. Overall, the museum is looking very good, and if members and guests have not had the opportunity to visit lately, they will be treated to a first class facility. We should all be proud of our museum and the fine collections that Jerry has been able to put together.

### **SAHUARO CENTRAL WEBSITE:**

Sahuaro Central's web site is <http://www.adobemtn-desert-rr-park.com/>  
Readers can find current news, this newsletter as well as the Maricopa Live Steamers and Arizona Model Railroading Society news-letters.

## **Train Schedule – Arrivals -2011-**

Adobe Mountain Desert Railroad Park is located on 43<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, just south of Pinnacle Peak Road, Phoenix, Arizona

**Mar 12, AMRS Annual Meeting, 9 am**  
Adobe Mountain Desert RR Park

**Mar 12, MLS Business Meeting, 1 pm**  
Adobe Mountain Desert RR Park

**Mar 17-20, MLS Spring Meet**  
Adobe Mountain Desert RR Park

**Mar 19, Adobe Mountain Model  
Railroading Adventures Swap  
Meet, 9 am – 3 pm**  
Adobe Mountain Desert RR Park

**Apr 9, AMRS Annual Meeting, 9 am**  
Adobe Mountain Desert RR Park

**Apr 9, MLS Business Meeting, 1 pm**  
Adobe Mountain Desert RR Park

**May 14, AMRS Annual Meeting, 9 am**  
Adobe Mountain Desert RR Park

**May 14, MLS Business Meeting, 1 pm**  
Adobe Mountain Desert RR Park

The Sahuaro Central newsletter is distributed electronically via e-mail to members and friends who have notified the editor of their e-mail address. Just send an e-mail requesting e-mail distribution to: [DBauer2250@aol.com](mailto:DBauer2250@aol.com).

## **MLS WINTERFEST 2011:**

January 12-15 were the dates for the fifth annual Maricopa Live Steamers operations meet, "Winterfest 2011". Operation type meets have been popular for many years in the smaller scale model railroad clubs, but have been relatively new to live steam, even being rare, five years ago. Your editor asked Jim Zimmerman, meet coordinator how this year compared to previous years. Jim's reply:

"We had 157 people register for the meet which is far more than any other operation meet. At one time we had 18 way freights, 5 scheduled passenger trains with 3 of them running 2nd sections. There were also 2 yard crews working at the time, which brings a total of 28 trains on the railroad at that one time.

I was able to confirm on Thursday morning that we had 230 freight cars on the railroad. Cliff Fought walked the railroad early on Friday morning and counted motive power, but I can't recall the total he had. I never was able to get a good count on actual prototype style passenger cars, but off hand I can think of about 24 that I saw. I was very pleased at the large amount of very nice passenger cars from both visitors and our local members.

For any one that might be hesitant to participate in our operation meet thinking they don't know anything about it, here is an interesting fact. This year all 3 Yard Masters were new to that position for the first time and they all did a fantastic job. One of them had never attended a live steam operation meet before this one."

And to illustrate the activity and the beautiful weather of this year's meet, from Rick White a few of his photos of the meet taken on the Farflung Branch.



**Mills Wells**



**Rick White and Bill Howe at Gamble**



**Extra 53 west meets Extra 201 east at Smolyk. Engineer Tom Herrington and conductor Doug De Berg.**