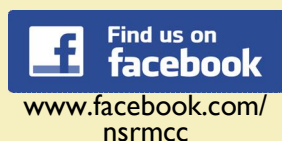




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carsonrailroadmuseum.org



SPRING 2018
135th Edition

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**THE NEVADA STATE
RAILROAD MUSEUM**
An Agency of the Nevada
Department of Tourism
and Cultural Affairs

SAGEBRUSH HEADLIGHT

NEWSLETTER OF THE NEVADA STATE RAILROAD MUSEUM

Hand Over the Chocolate and Nobody Gets Hurt: First Annual Egg-tra Special Express Popular with Families

By Cristol Digangi

Imagine being surrounded by candy loving kids in the middle of a grassy park that has over 500 candy filled eggs. Volunteer Amanda Thompson, Curator of Education Adam Michalski, and I all agreed that after the countdown we either run, or hold very still and hope for the best!

The hunt was on at the NSRM as the museum hosted its first annual Egg-tra Special Express. It was a two-day event during Easter weekend. Our first
(Continued on page 6)



Children rush into Gibson Park to collect Easter eggs during the museum's first annual Egg-tra Special Express weekend.

Railroad Equipment Changes Places

By Adam Michalski

Spring time is the perfect opportunity to make some changes at the museum. In March and April museum staff and volunteers moved three pieces of railroad equipment to new homes.

The Nevada County Narrow Gauge Railroad Museum acquired former Nevada-California-Oregon Railroad Coach No. 52 (ex-Florence & Cripple Creek No. 52) from the museum. The car
(Continued on page 4)



Museum staff and volunteers load V&T No. 18, the Dayton, onto a trailer in Virginia City.

VISIT THE MUSEUM

**Open 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Thursday through Monday
(closed Tuesday & Wednesday)**

Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day

Museum Admission:

Adults 18 & Over - \$6.00
Children (Under 18) - FREE
Museum Members - FREE

STEAM TRAIN & MOTORCAR RIDES

Rides run every weekend May through September with select dates in October, November, and December.

The complete 2018 operating schedule is available at:
carsonrailroadmuseum.org

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Brian Sandoval, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

David C. Peterson, Interim Director

DIVISION OF MUSEUMS AND HISTORY

Peter Barton, Administrator

NEVADA STATE RAILROAD MUSEUM, CARSON CITY

Daniel Thielen, Director

SAGEBRUSH HEADLIGHT NEWSLETTER

Adam Michalski, Curator of Education: Editor
Lara Brown, Museum Store Manager: Designer

BOARD OF TRUSTEES, FRIENDS OF THE NEVADA STATE RAILROAD MUSEUM

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Address correspondence for the *Friends* to:
Friends of NSRM
PO Box 1330
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**NEVADA STATE
RAILROAD MUSEUM**
2180 South Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701
775.687.6953

Message from the President of the Friends of the NSRM, Barry Simcoe

Email: barrysimcoe@sbcglobal.net
Phone: (775) 379-1353

The summer operating season is upon us. We have had several successful weekends so far. We had a successful Arts and Culture Day and Father's Day weekend on June 16th and June 17th. We operated the Inyo, Glenbrook, #25, and the Mckeen Car during our Fourth of July steam up, too. If you are not involved in operations come out and see us. We can use your help in many areas and I think you will have a good time.

You will receive an invitation to run for the Board of Directors of the Friends sometime soon from our Registrar Dave Brambley. I urge you to give it serious consideration. The Friends organization is integral to the operation of the museum and you can be a part it. We can use new ideas on the Board of Directors and I think you might really enjoy it. If you have any questions please contact any of the current Board members and they can answer them.

Once again I thank you for all the time and effort you put into supporting the museum. Please feel free to contact me anytime with your ideas, questions, or concerns.

Have a Great summer.

*Thanks,
Barry*

Note: Upcoming FNSRM Board Meetings are scheduled for August 6 & October 1, 2018. All members of the Friends organization are encouraged to attend.

"RAT Pack" Graduation Ceremony Conducted at the Museum

By Rich Gent and Adam Michalski

On April 28 the Washoe County Rail Auxiliary Team hosted a graduation ceremony at the Nevada State Railroad Museum. The latest class included 25 new graduates. The ceremony featured Virginia & Truckee locomotive No. 18, the Dayton, as the backdrop. During the graduation ceremony the graduates were presented with their certificates and badges.

The Rail Auxiliary Team, also known as the "Rat Pack," is a group of trained volunteers under the local sheriff or Law Enforcement agency. They receive eight hours of rail specific training on everything from how to correctly, accurately and efficiently report trespassers on rail property, terrorism on the rail infrastructure, and suicide awareness training provided by the Nevada State Suicide Prevention Office. There are currently two "Rat Packs" in the region: one in Washoe County and one in Storey County. There is a grand total of approximately 95 trained eyes and



Students of the Washoe County Rail Auxiliary Team receive their certificates and badges during a graduation ceremony at the museum on April 28, 2018.

ears to protect the vital rail system running through our state. For more information

about the Rail Auxiliary Team please contact Rich Gent at rich@hotrailgroup.com. 🚂

2018 Friends of the Nevada State Railroad Museum Board of Trustees Election

Applications are being accepted for the 2018 Friends of the Nevada State Railroad Museum Board of Trustees election. Trustee terms are three years in length with meetings held in Carson City bi-monthly. To be considered please submit a concise biography including name, address, phone number, and e-mail address, any railroading or applicable experience, and any other personal information that you feel may be valuable to the Nevada State Railroad Museum and/or the Friends. Submissions may be sent to the Registrar, David Brambley, by email at: vtrrloco18@aol.com. Also, you may mail your submission to: David Brambley, Registrar, Friends of the NSRM, 2016 State Ln., Big Bear City, CA 92314. Deadline for submissions is Friday, August 17, 2018. 🚂

Changing Places *(continued from page 1)*



V&T No. 18, *The Dayton*, arrives at NSRM after its journey from Carson City (above). A crew from the Nevada County Narrow Gauge Museum loads former N-C-O Coach No. 52 on March 31 (below).

was built originally as a second class coach in 1897 by the St. Charles Car Company of St. Louis. In 1915 the N-C-O purchased No. 52 along with several other railroad cars from the defunct F&CC. The car operated on the N-C-O until 1928 when the new owner, the Southern Pacific, standard gauged the railroad. The museum acquired No. 52 in 1984.

It was determined that the artifact was more appropriate for a collection in Northern California and NSRM was pleased to find a new home for No. 52 with the Nevada County Narrow Gauge Railroad Museum. After the conclusion of the long winter season it was time to move No. 52 to Nevada

City, California.

On March 31, a crew of volunteers with a low boy trailer and truck arrived from Nevada City to pick up No. 52. The group, headed by NCNG Railroad Museum Director John Christiansen, worked with Chris de Witt, Kevin Owens, and Wendell Huffman to move the car onto the trailer. Using the museum's forklift to push the car onto the trailer, complete with temporary track, the task was completed within 45 minutes. From there the NCNG crew tied down the car to the trailer. By noon No. 52 was on its journey to its new home.

In preparation for an upcoming exhibit to commemorate the 150th

anniversary of the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad and breaking ground for the Virginia & Truckee, staff swapped V&T locomotive No. 27 for V&T No. 18, the *Dayton*, which was located at the Comstock History Center in Virginia City.

On April 16 during snowy conditions, NSRM's Restoration Shop, under the supervision of Chief Mechanical Officer Chris de Witt, began the task of swapping the locomotives. De Witt and his restoration shop crew started the swap in Virginia City loading No. 18. A semi-truck with a winch was used to pull the locomotive onto a lowboy trailer. After the crew tied down and secured the locomotive to the lowboy a semi-truck pulled it off to the side to allow another truck to position itself to load the tender. Being easier to load, the shop crew pushed the tender by hand from the History Center out to the waiting lowboy. Again, a



winch was used to haul the tender up the temporary track onto the trailer. When the two loads were ready, the two semis made their way through Virginia City to the Nevada State Railroad Museum.

At the museum the shop crew offloaded No. 18 and placed it inside the Annex. Then, the shop crew loaded No. 27 and its tender onto the semi trucks that brought the *Dayton* to the museum following a similar process used in Virginia City. De Witt and the truckers tied down No. 27 on the trailers and stored them in the NSRM parking lot overnight.

On the morning of April 17 No. 27 made the journey up to Virginia City to be placed on exhibit inside the Comstock History Center. No. 27's tender was offloaded first. The crew used a large forklift to slowly pull off the tender from the lowboy trailer and onto the track leading into the Comstock History Center. Then, the trailer was removed and the forklift pushed the tender into the museum. Next, the truckers moved No. 27 into place to be unloaded. Both the forklift and



the winch were necessary to move No. 27 onto the track. The forklift was used to pull No. 27 off the trailer and the winch was used to help control the descent off the lowboy trailer. After No. 27 was off the trailer the crew used the forklift to push the locomotive into the museum with the tender. Restoration

Specialist Kevin Owens performed the final tasks of reinstalling the whistle and removing the duct tape from the glass on the headlamp. No. 27 was ready for the exhibit and the move was complete

No. 18 had been on display at the Comstock

History Center since its opening in 2005. No. 27 was displayed in Virginia City for several years until 1993 when NSRM brought it to the museum to undergo a cosmetic restoration. The swap allows both institutions to freshen up exhibits and

gives NSRM an opportunity to make some minor repairs to No. 18. Additionally, returning No. 27 to the Comstock History Center keeps NSRM's promise to display the locomotive in Virginia City again. 🚂

(above and below) Museum staff and volunteers unload V&T No. 27 into the Comstock History Center in Virginia City.



Egg-stra Special Express *(continued from Page 1)*



Long lines of riders wait to board the Tucson, Cornelia & Gila Bend Railroad Edwards Motor Car during the Egg-stra Special Express weekend at NSRM.

hunt was on Saturday at 11am for children ages 0-3. As I left my office and headed towards Gibson Park with the eggs I started to wonder if I had enough! The park was surrounded with families and dressed up little ones with their baskets in tow. We blocked off half of the park and as we begun to fill it with eggs you could see the excitement in the children and the parents. We walked around the crowd and explained that this was the museum's first egg hunt and that we were hoping to re-use the eggs for the following year. Turns out we needed to re-use them for the very next day! We did the countdown and within moments the 500 eggs that a few outstanding volunteers and I had stuffed were gone. There were many happy families sitting in the grass and opening their eggs. We had filled approximately 500 eggs for each hunt and we estimate that the museum got over half of them back to re-use. When the countdown got to zero for the second group, ages 4 and

over, the children moved so fast that the park was cleared of eggs in less than one minute. We made three additional trips to the store and continued to stuff eggs throughout the day to make sure we were fully prepared for the next day's festivities. Although the Sunday Easter egg hunts were a little slower than Saturday's, they were still a huge success!

The Easter egg hunts were not the only activities to do at the

NSRM. We had different activities in the museum in hopes of allowing our visitors to have a full and exciting day for the whole family. In the Jacobsen Interpretive Center we had our traditional Egg Search, where all the kids could find one egg in the museum and bring it to the Museum Store in exchange for a "goodie bag". There were also craft, coloring and story time events in the museum throughout the day. The Edwards Motor Car operated too, and had a line of riders waiting all day long. After speaking with many visitors, it sounds like a lot of families spent most of their day here and enjoyed every moment.

The Egg-stra Special Express at the Nevada State Railroad Museum proved very popular. We hope for next year's event to be just as well-received. Thank you to all the volunteers and staff who helped to make this happen. It is because of you that many families leave the Nevada State Railroad Museum with a smile on their face. If you think museums are boring, then you're doing it wrong! 🚂



Children scope out which eggs they will grab while they wait for the countdown to begin during one of the Easter egg hunts in Gibson Park at the Egg-stra Special Express weekend.

Message From the Director *By Daniel Thielen*

Hi! The museum has a wonderful spring and is ready for the events of the season. Boilers have been washed, squeezed and inspected. Brass is polished and we are ready for summer.

The California Division of Forestry (CDF) Tree Mortality Project (TMP) donated rough sawn, full dimensional lumber for several projects. The CDF-TMP was created to reduce fuel loads in Northern California tree stands. Working with a state-of-the-art saw mill, the team cut Sugar Pine to our specifications so the museum can complete three projects. The first is the Sierra Nevada Wood and Lumber Company flat car which Kyle Ketten has been diligently burning away his youth. This lumber will also be used for the restoration of the V&T narrow gauge loco-

motive transfer flat car No. 1, and finally, the museum will put a deck on the turntable. This donation is a tremendous boost to our restoration program and will advance the mission of the museum tremendously. We are grateful to the State of California and the Tree Mortality Project at Angel's Camp.

We are nearly complete on a new exhibit for the Gibson Models. Mort Dolan, Wendell Huffman, Jason Stultz and Rick Stiver have created a wonderful study in industrial art. It is a great home for these fine models.



We are always looking for good help in our programs at the museum. We have opportunities in the motorcar program, tours, steam operations and other areas. Simply stated, we cannot open our doors without volunteers. Please contact Cristol Diggangi and bring a friend! Thank you for your hard work. 🚂

New for 2018: The Ironhorse Rail Camp

The Ironhorse Rail Camp is a new and unique opportunity to personally experience living history by learning to operate period railroad equipment in an environment that focuses on crew integration, interpretation of railroad activities, and safety.

The camp lasts four days, from August 2-5, 2018, at NSRM. Participants will operate original Virginia & Truckee railroad equipment, such as steam locomotive No. 25 and the McKen Motor

Car. Hands on experience with No. 401, the Edwards Car, will be provided, as well.

Participants will learn all the crew duties aboard the train and will help prepare the trains for daily activities. Individuals need to be able to climb, work in confined areas, be able to lift and carry at least 25 lbs. over uneven ground, and be at least 17 years of age.

Tuition is \$995. A one-year membership to the Friends of NSRM, gloves, engineer's cap,

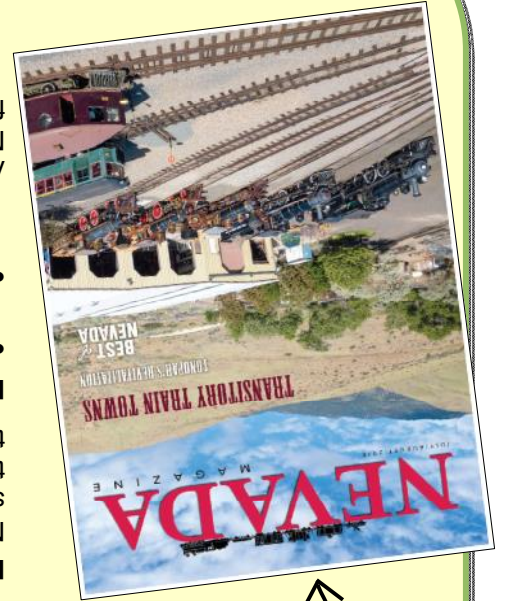


materials, handouts, and select meals are included in the tuition.

For information contact: amichalski@nevadaculture.org. To register for the Ironhorse Rail Camp visit nsrm-friends.org. 🚂

NOW AVAILABLE IN THE MUSEUM STORE!

The July/August edition of Nevada Magazine, featuring a fantastic shot of the Nevada State Railroad Museum on the cover!



DID YOU KNOW?

Nevada Magazine is featuring railroad history stories in every issue in 2018! In preparation to the 150th anniversary of the completion of the Transcontinental RR next year.

FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE:

- Historic rail line between Henderson, Boulder City reconnected
- Transitory Train Towns - SparksqRailroad History: Optimized rail routes often left towns they once nursed out to dry

Also available - May/June issue of Nevada Magazine featuring an article on NSRM Caring for its Collections

\$4.95 each



Friends of the NSRM
 Members receive 15%
 off of every purchase!
 (Excludes clearance and used
 items)

Proceeds from sales at the Museum Store are used to fund museum projects and programs.
 Thank you for supporting the Nevada State Railroad Museum!