

SAGEBRUSH HEADLIGHT

NEVADA STATE RAILROAD MUSEUM

Summer 2026



Motor Car Rally

by Adam Michalski

The Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City, is excited to announce a unique motor car-themed event for Labor Day weekend called the Motor Car Rally. To celebrate the 100th “birthday” of the museum’s Tucson, Cornelia & Gila Bend No. 401 Edwards Car, the museum invited some motor cars to celebrate the occasion. The lineup will include:

- Rio Grande Southern Galloping Goose No. 7 from the Colorado Railroad Museum
- Death Valley Railroad Brill Motor Car No. 5 from the Laws Railroad Museum & Historic Site

In this newsletter you can expect:

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President

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Motor Car Rally cont.

- Motor Car Sarah Kidder from the Nevada County Narrow Gauge Museum
- Ryan Blake's replica of Virginia & Truckee Motor Car No. 24
- A replica of Nevada Central Motor Car 107-C

Rides will be available on the Galloping Goose, Death Valley Railroad No. 5, the Sarah Kidder, No. 401, and the museum's Virginia & Truckee McKeen Motor Car No. 22. The Motor Car Rally will feature food trucks, live music, and other surprises. More details will be forthcoming as the event approaches.

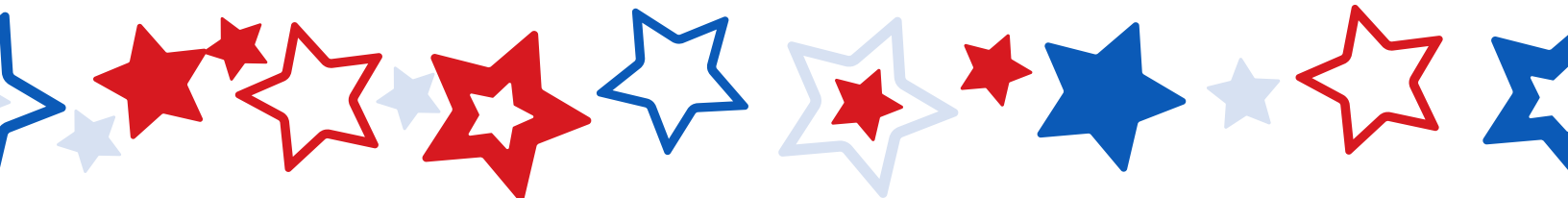
The Motor Car Rally is scheduled for Labor Day weekend, September 5-7, from 9:00am to 4:30pm each day. For more details check out the website, the Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City, Facebook page, or contact Adam Michalski at amichalski@nevadaculture.org. We hope to see you at the Motor Car Rally!



Star Spangled Steam Up Recap

Museum staff would like to thank all museum volunteers for their hard work over 4th of July weekend! Without you, Star Spangled Steam Up wouldn't have been a success. Over the three day event, 987 tickets were sold, marking an increase in attendance by 6% compared to last year.

This year's event featured rides behind the V&T No. 25, the McKeen, and cab rides in the Glenbrook on the A Line. In addition, behind-the-scenes tours with the History Curator, Adam Michalski, were offered, as well as LEGO train building with Brick Reboot, live music, hand car rides, access to Jacobsen Interpretive Center and Annex, and food trucks!



Message from the Friends of the NSRM President, Bill Barbe

Hello everyone;

My focus this issue was going to be on volunteering, but we have had a tragic loss recently and I want to mention that.

We have lost a vital member of our team. On June 26, we were notified that our friend, Bill Kohler had passed away after having heart surgery.



Bill contributed so much to the friends and the museum. He was a senior locomotive engineer, past president, and constant volunteer. Bill was the heart and soul of our annual Railcamp, organizing the event, wrangling volunteers and just being there to encourage the students.

For me, personally, this is a great loss. Bill was a friend, mentor, and all-around great guy. He always had a smile and a kind word. He was a patient instructor and a wealth of knowledge about trains. This loss will affect us for a very long time. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the entire Kohler family.

If you knew Bill, you know he was always there to help when needed. I encourage you to find some time to come out and help at the museum. Even a few hours can make a big difference and there are many things you can do. Let us all honor Bill's memory by giving some time to the place he loved and supported so much.

Until next time, stay healthy and safe and I will see you on the railroad.

Bill Barbe

President, Friends of the Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City

STAFF & VOLUNTEER PROFILE HIGHLIGHTS

Charlie Cross **Chief Mechanical Officer**



How long have you worked at the museum?

I started at the Railroad Museum on May 11, 2026 transferring from the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada with 20 years of experience in the preservation and modern railroad industry.

What do you do at the museum?

I am the "new" Restoration Shop Supervisor, or Chief Mechanical Officer. I am responsible for the safe operation of the restored rolling stock and lead a dedicated group comprised of Staff and Volunteers maintaining and restoring Nevada's rich railroad history.

What is your favorite thing about working here?

I enjoy the challenge of refurbishing and fabricating new components as needed. Very few parts are available at NAPA and they must be made here in the shop. It is important to teach and utilize the proven methods in repairing and maintaining old railroad equipment. The Nevada State Railroad Museum is not just another museum with a static display of cold iron. By doing so, we are able to then engage and educate the public by providing firsthand experiences with historic steam locomotive, freight cars, and passenger cars.

One fun fact about you:

I am a local product, born and raised in Minden, Nevada and I have been skiing since I was 2 ½ years old.

STAFF & VOLUNTEER PROFILE HIGHLIGHTS

Darlene Berry
Volunteer

**How long have you
volunteered at the museum?**
Since the mid-1980s.



What do you do when you volunteer at the museum?

I used to be a motorman on the Edwards, and I have also worked in the Annex, the Store, the Depot, and worked Santa Train with my husband.

What's your favorite thing about volunteering at the museum?

The history of the cars. My dad worked for the Union Pacific and told my mom about the antique trains being stored in the Union Pacific yard. Little did I know I'd be volunteering at the Nevada State Railroad Museum years later.

One fun fact about you:

I love visiting with my great-granddaughters here in Carson. We go out to dinner and just visit.

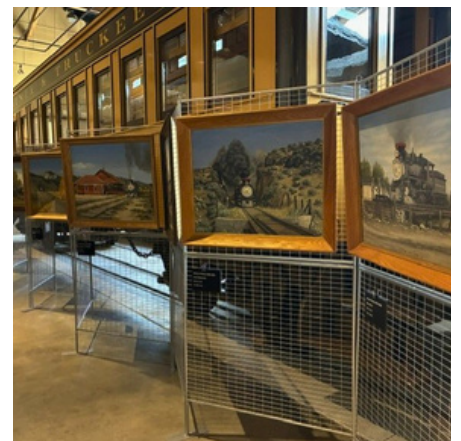
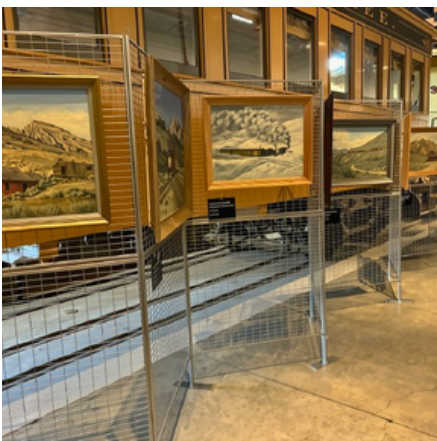
NEW & NOTABLE

Painting a Legacy: The Virginia & Truckee Paintings by Hortense Keller Tinkham (1903-2002)

The museum's newest exhibit is a collection of paintings by Hortense Tinkham, a woman born of German Immigrant parents, who was born in Nevada and raised both in Nevada and San Diego.

Tinkham grew up in an artistic household and developed her painting skills in the 1930s. She became interested in painting trains of the Virginia and Truckee Railroad when she, her husband, and sons moved to Reno in the 1940s. Her son, Calvin, became a steam railroader and Hortense's biggest critic when it came to painting the trains mechanically accurate.

Come to the museum and see these beautiful works of art for yourself!



UPCOMING EVENTS

Motor Car Rally

October 17th & 18th

All Aboard for Motor Car Rally!

The Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City, is excited to host a unique motor car-themed event for Labor Day weekend to celebrate the 100th “birthday” of the museum’s Tucson, Cornelia & Gila Bend (TC&GB) No. 401 Edwards Car.



The event will include:

- Motor car rides
- Behind the scenes Annex tours
- Turntable talks highlighting the history of each motor car
- Access to food trucks
- Live music in the park
- Games in the park
- And more!

Ticket Info

One wristband covers everything for a full day of fun! Tickets available now!

Adults: \$25

Children (4–17): \$15

Children (3 and under): FREE

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Harvest Train

October 17th & 18th

Celebrate all things fall at the Nevada State Railroad Museum! Join us for train rides as we steam up the V&T No. 25 and the Glenbrook, take part in the education program, enjoy live music, play some lawn games and sample the offerings from the food trucks! Your ticket includes unlimited train rides and museum admission as well as access to all of the aforementioned amenities. Please note that single ride tickets for the trains will not be available for this event. Also, the admissions desk will only sell the all-inclusive event tickets, and not regular admission to the museum on the event days. During special events there are no museum member discounts.

Tickets:

Adults (18 and up): \$25

Children (4-17): \$15

Children (age 0-3): FREE



UPCOMING EVENTS

Behind the Rails

Please join us every second Thursday of the month and hear interesting and educational presentations by railroading experts! The next presentations are scheduled as follows and are subject to change:

August: Jean-Guy Dubé, TBD

September: John Stettler: The Edwards Motor Car

October: Kim Harris: The Stagecoach, A Chautauqua

November: Adam Michalski: Canada via the Rails

December: No lecture

The presentations start at 6:30pm and end at 7:30pm. The cost for the Behind the Rails lectures is \$10 for adults aged 18 and up and free for children 17 and under and members.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Whistle Stop Stories and Family STEAM Sunday

We apologize, but Whistle Stop Stories and Family STEAM Sunday will be put on pause starting the week of July 20th. We will announce when the programs will be back on via social media and this newsletter.



POSITION OPENING SOON

Curator of Education

Chenay Pointer will be leaving her position as Curator of Education on July 19th and will be starting as the Curator of Education at the Nevada State Museum on July 20th. Therefore, the Curator of Education position will be opening soon!

This position is classified as a Curator II, and the specs for the job can be found here:

<https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/nv/jobs/5369769/curator-2>

Be sure to look for the position here:

<https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/nv>





VOLUNTEER NEEDS

The Nevada State Railroad Museum in Carson City is currently seeking new volunteers for the museum's Annex building. This is a great opportunity to support the museum's operation and mission while gaining valuable experience. Annex volunteers are responsible for opening and closing procedures (depending on the shift covered), providing the public with information about equipment, and performing walk arounds to ensure guest and artifact safety. Anyone interested in volunteering is encouraged to apply by calling 775-687-6953 ext. 233 or emailing Museum Attendant II, Ryan Korson, at rkorson@nevadaculture.org.



VISIT THE MUSEUM

Open 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Thursday through Monday

Closed Tuesdays, Wednesdays,
Thanksgiving, Christmas and
New Year's Day

Museum Admission:

Adults 18 & Over - \$10.00
Children (Under 18) - FREE
Museum Members - FREE

STEAM TRAIN & MOTORCAR RIDES

Rides run select weekends April
through December.

The complete operating
schedule is available at:
carsonrailroadmuseum.org

STATE OF NEVADA

Joe Lombardo, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

Brenda Scolari, Director

DIVISION OF MUSEUMS AND HISTORY

Daniel Thielen, Administrator

NEVADA STATE RAILROAD MUSEUM, CARSON CITY

Daphne DeLeon, Director

SAGEBRUSH HEADLIGHT NEWSLETTER

Chenay Pointer, Curator of
Education

Correspondence:
cpointer@nevadaculture.org

BOARD OF TRUSTEES, FRIENDS OF THE NEVADA STATE RAILROAD MUSEUM

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Sponsor the Restoration of the Inyo!

- ☒ **Who:** The Nevada State Railroad Museum Restoration Department
- ☒ **What:** Funding needed for the restoration of the historic Inyo locomotive
- ☒ **Why:** The Inyo is a beloved piece of equipment at the Nevada State Railroad Museum, and to get her back in working order, extensive restorations, completed by restoration staff and volunteers, need to be done

Contact Daphne DeLeon, Director,
for more info:
d.deleon@nevadaculture.org



2180 S. Carson St.
 Carson City, NV 89701



www.carsonrailroadmuseum.org

Available Now in the Museum Store



775-687-6953

WWW.CARSONRAILROADMUSEUM.ORG
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/NSRMCC

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