

The Track Car

The Official Newsletter of West Coast Railroaders Group



WCRG Fire Patrol Runs Ahead of a Summer Storm on the V & T Railroad



President's Message

Welcome to our newsletter! With 2025 behind us, our newsletter highlights many of our events and excursions over the past year. WCRG had a safe and successful 2025, operating thousands of miles over railroads in several western states. Our fire patrol operations and crews worked throughout the summer protecting our host railroad's right-of-ways. Our excursion fundraisers raised funds for railroaders in need, Honor Flight Nevada, and other charities. Our rides for the public events grew larger then ever in 2025. WCRG also attended two train shows in late 2025, bringing in motorcars to Cal Expo in Sacramento, CA and the Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton, CA.

For 2026, our new Track Car Excursion Operating Rules & Standards rulebook is in effect for excursion participants that operate on WCRG excursions. The new rulebook will ensure WCRG remains accident and injury free, while giving our excursion participants the tools resources for continued safe operations. Rule changes include updated turntable positive locking mechanism requirements for all turntables, as well as outward facing camera requirements for all excursion participants' track cars. Recording the right-of-way protects the operator, the host railroad, as well as WCRG. Lastly, we look forward to our excursion participants joining us as we celebrate America 250. WCRG will be highlighting the celebrations all year long during our excursions and other events.

Stay safe and see you on the rails,

Ken Marty

2026 Scheduled Track Car Excursions:

Mar: Niles Canyon RY.
Apr: Roaring Camp RR.
Jun: Goose Lake RY.
July: Virginia & Truckee RR.
Oct: Nev. Southern RY.
Nov: Roaring Camp RR.
Niles Canyon RY.

More track car excursions
coming in 2026! Visit our website
for regular updates!



WCRG's Latest Excursion Participant Safety Advisory 2025-02

"Crossings at Grade"

WCRG's latest Excursion Participant Safety Advisory highlights the importance of approaching and passing over grade crossings safely. Operators must always proceed prepared to stop at every crossing, every time. Additionally, shunting the track for automatic crossing warning device activation is a safety overlay and does not relieve the track car operator from operating prepared to stop before occupying any crossing, yielding the right of way to traffic.



WCRG EXCURSION PARTICIPANT SAFETY ADVISORY 2025-02

"Crossings at Grade"



WCRG excursions operate over numerous roadway crossings at grade during excursion operations. Track cars must approach every crossing prepared to stop. Additionally, track cars must yield the right of way to traffic, stopping short of motor vehicles, pedestrians or other traffic that could drive, walk, or otherwise obstruct safe passage of the track car.

Refer to WCRG Rule "Grade Crossings Equipped with Automatic Warning Devices" and "Grade Crossings Not Equipped with Automatic Warning Devices" for further clarification

Excursion participants MUST operate prepared to STOP at EVERY crossing EVERY time.



PEDESTRIAN FOULING THE CROSSING
(Image from outward facing camera)



BICYCLIST FOULING THE CROSSING
(Image from outward facing camera)



VEHICLE FOULING THE CROSSING
(Image from outward facing camera)



FAILURE TO PROTECT CROSSING
(Non-WCRG Excursion)

When in doubt, STOP the movement, PROTECT following movements, NOTIFY the Employee in Charge

WCRG Excursion Participant Safety Advisory 2025-02 06/2025
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Les King Electric Turntable Failures



Turntable Dropped To Ties



Baseplate Chained Up

On a recent WCRG excursion, a host railroad's Fairmont MT14 track car was utilized as an additional pilot car, operated by a railroad representative. This track car was equipped with a Les King electric turntable. However, it was not equipped with the required WCRG safety appliances required to operate on WCRG excursions, and was not operating in the excursion group, rather following behind the WCRG rear pilot car. Upon reaching the turn around point for the excursion, the railroad representative attempted to turn the track car. As the turntable was lowered, the turntable experienced an internal mechanical failure, causing the base plate and shaft to slam to the ground.

Upon inspection, the baseplate and ram were found to be "floating," completely disconnected from the gearbox. Fortunately, the failure occurred during the turning process, and not when the track car was in motion. Had it occurred when the track car was in motion, the outcome would likely have been very different. This failure exposes a dangerous design flaw believed to exist in all Les King turntables. Should this type of turntable failure occur as a track car is operating down the track, the result could be a catastrophic accident leading to serious personal injury, as well as property damage.

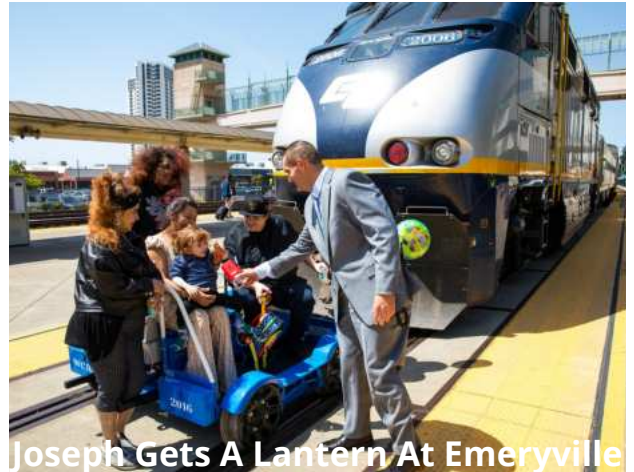
Unfortunately, there is no way to inspect the turntable for this failure during a daily or routine inspection. This type of failure occurs internally, and without warning. WCRG's management team understands the serious nature of a catastrophic turntable failure of any kind, including this type of failure. Due to this failure, WCRG now requires a positive locking mechanism on all turntables that will retain the turntable in the fully retracted position when not in use. WCRG reminds operators of the reporting requirements of defective/non-complying turntables and the protections required that reads in part:

"Track cars with defective/non-complying turntables must not be operated, towed or moved until the defective/non-complying condition is corrected and the Employee in Charge authorizes further movement. If the turntable defect/non-complying condition cannot be corrected, the Employee in Charge will not authorize further movement of track car until the turntable is chained and locked to the frame with a WCRG keyed effective locking device that prevents the turntable from dropping below the minimum required 2.5 inches of clearance above the top of the rail."

WCRG, Richmond Pacific & Amtrak Host Joseph's Train Wish



Joseph & Family At Richmond



Joseph Gets A Lantern At Emeryville

WCRG has worked with the Make-a-Wish Foundation and its various chapters for many years hosting everything from wish kids to fundraisers. When we got the call in mid April 2025 about Joseph, a 3 year old boy from the San Francisco Bay Area that was on hospice, time was of the essence in planning a special train related wish day for him and his family. Joseph was in heart failure, and given his condition, he couldn't travel more than 30 miles from the area due to medical needs. The wish needed to be as soon as possible, so we got right to work contacting railroads in the San Francisco Bay Area. On May 1st, 2025, with just two weeks of planning, we had a special "railroad day" planned for Joseph. This included a caboose train ride on the Richmond Pacific Railroad with a special photo session that was also provided with WCRG 2016, the Make-a-Wish motorcar next to Richmond Pacific locomotive 2016.

After the Richmond Pacific visit, Joseph was off to Emeryville to ride Amtrak's San Joaquin train 716 from Emeryville, to Richmond. WCRG 2016 was staged inside the station for Make-a-Wish staff, volunteers, and Joseph's family to take pictures with before Train 716 arrived. With Train 716 arriving right on time, Joseph and family boarded the train for the 20 minute trip to Richmond. With two toots, the train was on its way, with Joseph smiling ear to ear. Arriving at Richmond, Train 713 was arriving into the depot. It was a step off, step on meet. Perfect timing as not to keep the family waiting on the platform. Arriving back at Emeryville, the train was routed into the station track. Upon stopping, and after a thorough job briefing with the train crew and management, WCRG 2016 was set-on the track directly ahead of the locomotive. The family then got a special photo shoot with the motorcar and train.

With the photos complete, it was onto the next stop, Amtrak's Oakland Mechanical Facility, where another surprise was waiting for Joseph, Amtrak's President, Roger Harris. Roger personally met with the family and presented them with gifts from Amtrak. The day wasn't quite over yet, as Amtrak had its state of the art locomotive simulator set up for Joseph to operate! Joseph was fascinated with the simulator, smiling every time the horn sounded. He did get a Positive Train Control penalty overspeed, but management let it slide with a warning! With the simulator trip complete, a limousine was waiting to take the family home after an unforgettable train wish. Lots of smiles, tears, and hugs of joy from the family were on hand as the family loaded up for departure. An unforgettable day for a very deserving child.

Make-A-Wish®
 GREATER BAY AREA
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WCRG Helps A Roaring Camp Railroader In Need



Ian And Family



Excursion Group At HWY 9

Roaring Camp Railroads has been a longtime supporter and host of WCRG motorcar excursions. When we heard that Roaring Camp employee Ian Applegate had suffered a serious stroke, we knew we had to help him and his family. In February 2025, Ian was sitting in his car with his wife Jennifer and their four-year-old son Jon when he sneezed explosively. On the third sneeze, something went wrong. He suddenly had a blinding headache and dizziness, along with pins and needles on his left side. Ian didn't know that the violent sneeze had torn the inner lining of an artery in his neck. This is called a vertebral artery dissection (VAD). The tear caused a blood clot that blocked blood flow to his brain, causing the stroke. Ian spent two months in the hospital and rehab before he went home to recover. This was just days before the birth of his new daughter.

At set-on, Ian, still recovering, and Jennifer stopped by to show off Jasmine, a healthy four-day-old baby. Ian, who was a pilot for our excursions for many years, couldn't join the ride. He hopes to rejoin us on future excursions. With Ian and family waving on the group, the excursion departed Felton under grey skies. The weather forecast predicted rain and thunderstorms all day. The day felt more like a fall excursion than a spring one. The excursion followed the beach train from Felton to Santa Cruz and back. The afternoon trip was a mix of rain, sun, and everything in between. When the excursion group arrived back in Felton and prepared to set-off, Ian stopped by again to thank everyone. Helping Ian and his family was summed up best by Matt Parker, Manager of Operating Practices, Northern Region. He said, "It's what we do!" We agree and were proud to once again help a fellow railroader in need.



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WCRG At The International Railfair & Great Train Show November & December 2025



Motorcars On Display In Sacramento



WCRG 1993 In Sacramento

WCRG participated in two train shows in November and December of 2025. While most people are familiar with our motorcars operating on the rails, this was an opportunity for the general public to get up close with our motorcars, as well as meet our leadership team in person. The first show, the International Railfair was in Sacramento, California at Cal Expo. Held on November 8th and 9th, the show included model railroad layouts, model trains and collectibles for sale, and included a food court. On display was WCRG 1993, as well as SHX 4033. Along with the motorcars, a display table was set up with computers displaying a photo slide show of WCRG's operations, as well as videos of past excursions. Printed literature was also available for attendees that were interested in learning more about WCRG and motorcar excursions. Throughout the two day event, kids young and old (including many adults) climbed into the motorcars to pose for pictures, along with pushing every button and switch on the control panel of each motorcar! By the end of the show on Sunday, several hundred business cards and flyers had been handed out to attendees. The motorcars were a huge hit with everyone at the show.

On December 13th-14th, WCRG participated in the Great Train Show in Pleasanton, California. This show was held at the Alameda County Fairgrounds. Like the Sacramento show, this event also had several model railroad layouts, model trains, and collectibles for sale. On display for this show was WCRG 1993 and SHX 4033. A table was set up in front of the motorcars with computers running a photo slideshow, as well as videos of our Virginia & Truckee Railroad excursion from July of 2025. Printed literature, including business cards were available for event attendees. The show experienced a steady flow of attendees throughout both days. Kids and adults alike climbed into the motorcars for pictures, many kids waiting patiently for their turn to climb in as the steady flow of kids continued throughout the event. By the end of show Sunday, the WCRG Crew handed out over 500 business cards and flyers, and only lost one safety vest to a toddler who decided he needed it to safely navigate the show!



Motorcars On Display In Pleasanton



WCRG 1993 In Pleasanton

Goose Lake Railway Christmas For kids/Toys For Tots Excursion Fundraiser June 13th-14th, 2025



WCRG returned to the Goose Lake Railway for another Christmas for Kids/Toys for Tots excursion fundraiser June 13th-14th, 2025. Located in southeastern Oregon, the small community of Lakeview always welcomes our motorcar excursions. Friday, the excursion group operated from Lakeview to Goose Lake State Park and return. Always the warm up for the main event the next day, the 30 mile trip gives excursion participants a chance to tune their motorcar for the 100 mile trip the next day to Alturas and return. Saturday started out with several excursion participants meeting for breakfast at the local dinner, giving excursion participants a chance to catch up with each other since the last motorcar excursion. With everyone at the railroad, motorcars were warming up for the trip out of Lakeview. At the job briefing, the day's operations and operating practices were outlined for the day. With the job briefing complete, the excursion group prepared to depart Lakeview for Goose Lake State Park.

Out of Lakeview, the group rolls through the green pastures of the area. Livestock roam much of the area, with cattle guards in several places along the line. At the first stop, Goose Lake State Park, the excursion participants had a chance to check out the local wildlife. Several "birders" were at the park birdwatching a very active morning for flying fowl. Underway again, the excursion group proceeds through the valley and begins to climb Sugar Hill. The roadbed climbs high out of the valley for several miles before dropping back to the valley floor. Running across the valley, the group arrives at Davis Creek, another planned stop. A motorcar shed still survives here, although in poor condition, a reminder that time waits for no man or machine. Out of Davis Creek, the group enters the Pit River Canyon. New welded rail has been laid recently, making for a smooth ride, no clickety-clack of rail joints, just a smooth hum of the wheels rolling along.

Exiting the canyon, the railroad enters the Alturas valley. Arriving at the California Agricultural Inspection Station, the group is turned and staged at the Chimney Rock Travel center for lunch. With lunch over, the excursion is ready to head back to Lakeview. Out of Alturas, a quick stop is made to check out the Chimney Rock Historical Monument, always a favorite for excursion participants. The group then gets underway for the climb out of the Pit River Canyon, and into Davis Creek. Another brief stop at Davis Creek, and the excursion group heads for Goose Lake State Park. Arriving at Goose Lake State Park, the group stops again for its last break before heading into Lakeview. Underway again, the group rolls through the green pastures again and into Lakeview. Arriving at Lakeview, excursion participants set-off and load up, completing another safe and enjoyable excursion on the Goose Lake Railway!

Virginia & Truckee Railroad Honor Flight Nevada/Stephanie Parker Memorial Excursion Fundraiser July 18th-20th, 2025



Excursion Group At Tunnel Two



Excursion Participants At Virginia City

WCRG returned to the Virginia & Truckee Railroad for our annual Honor Flight Nevada/Stephanie Parker Memorial motorcar excursion July 18th-20th, 2025. Always our "signature" excursion, the three day excursion raises funds for one of our favorite charities, Honor Flight Nevada, as well as honors our late friend Stephanie Parker. Stephanie was the wife of WCRG's Manager of Operating Practices Matt Parker. We lost Stephanie to Covid-19 in October of 2021. WCRG honors her legacy every July with this excursion, that it dedicated to Stephanie and family. In past years, the excursion has endured hot conditions throughout the excursion weekend. This excursion was a welcome relief to the prior hot weather, as an unusually cool and quite wet summer had set in over the Northern Nevada region. The excursion always offers an optional Friday evening trip to Tunnel Two and return, with nearly all excursion participants participating, the Friday evening trip has become one of the favorite parts of the excursion.

With motorcars arriving from five western states, the excursion participants were set-on, inspected, and after a thorough job briefing, the excursion got underway, just after 6:00 pm. Underway, the excursion group proceeds out of Virginia City. As the shunted excursion group rolls onto the F Street crossing circuit, the automatic crossing warning devices activate, adding an additional safety overlay to allow the group to safely proceed through the crossing. Between Virginia City and Gold Hill, the group proceeds through Tunnel Four. Exiting the tunnel, the small community of Gold Hill comes into view. Once a booming mining town, Gold Hill is now a small community on the "Comstock" that traces its roots to the 1850's gold and silver boom. Arriving at the "shoefly" the excursion group bunches up for State Highway 342.

The shoefly bypasses the original Tunnel Three. This tunnel was deemed too dangerous to reopen when the railroad was rebuilt in the 1970's. The shoefly solved the tunnel danger, while providing stunning views of the mountain ranges to the south of Gold Hill. Underway again, the excursion passes the historic Gold Hill Depot. Built in 1872, it is a significant historical landmark of Northern Nevada. The depot was featured in the Army-Navy Game opening "The More Things Change" video in 2017. Out of Gold Hill, the excursion proceeds through Scales. Once a stop with a water tower and outbuildings, all that remains are concrete footings of the water tower that once filled the tenders of 30-45 trains a day. Around a few more curves, Tunnel Two comes into view. The sun is starting to fade behind the mountains, just leaving enough light for stunning photos of the American Flats valley. Inside the tunnel, the excursion participants enjoy food and drinks off the push-car, always a favorite with excursion participants. After a 30 minute break, the excursion group was back underway for Virginia City.

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Virginia & Truckee Railroad Honor Flight Nevada/Stephanie Parker Memorial Excursion Fundraiser July 18th-20th, 2025 (Continued)



Flowers Laid At Stephanie's Plaque



Memorial Flag For Stephanie At Scales

Proceeding up the 2.2 percent grade to Virginia City, two stroke motorcars and Onan Powered Motorcars test man and machine. The real challenge lie ahead-the 3.6 percent grade out of Gold Hill. With the last car over the steepest section of the railroad, it was easy going the rest of the way to Virginia City where the excursion group was secured for the evening. Saturday morning started out with excursion participants arriving early to fuel and inspect their motorcars for the day's operations. Like all of our Honor Flight fundraisers, local Veterans were invited to ride along with the excursion group. Several Veterans were already at the depot ready to ride the morning trip to Eastgate and return. As the job briefing got underway, the whistle of the steam train echoed throughout the town as the train departed Virginia City. With the job briefing complete, the excursion group departed, following the train to Eastgate. Departing Virginia City the excursion group was lead by Manager of Operating Practices, Matt Parker.

First stop was a special memorial stop to honor Stephanie Parker at Scales. It was more than fitting for Matt to lead the group to "the springs" at Scales. The springs has a special plaque honoring Stephanie, that was placed during our July 2023 excursion. At the stop, the group gathered around as a few words were spoken in Stephanie's memory. Matt and family also spoke about how wonderful Stephanie was and how she touched so many lives. Flowers were then laid at the plaque, and a moment of silence was observed before the group got underway to Eastgate. Arriving at Eastgate, the engine was taking on water on the main track, requiring the excursion group to hold at the east end of the siding, as the engine needed the east switch to back against their train. As the engine proceeded up to the group, the excursion participants got quite the show as steam, smoke, and everything else steam engine related was on full display.

With the engine in the siding, the excursion group proceeded down the main and turned for the trip back to Virginia City. Right at 10:00 am, the whistle blew, and after a few minutes for the train to get ahead, it was time for the excursion group to battle the heavy grade to Virginia City. Climbing the grade, the excursion group passes Milepost 11. The old Silver City branch diverged at this location. The roadbed is still quite visible, even after decades of abandonment. Arriving at Scales, the steam train is stopped on the main. This regular stop allows lubrication of the locomotive, as well as the Conductor's narration of the area. Underway again, the excursion group arrives at Virginia City and proceeds into the engine servicing facility for lunch. After lunch, the excursion group prepares to depart for Eureka, the current end of track. The group has a narrow window to depart Virginia City, between the diesel train and the steam engine. Coordinated perfectly, the excursion group departs without delays to any other movements.

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Virginia & Truckee Railroad Honor Flight Nevada/Stephanie Parker Memorial Excursion Fundraiser July 18th-20th, 2025 (Continued)



Arriving at Eureka, the excursion group takes a 20 minute break to enjoy the scenery of the Carson Canyon. Just below the railroad grade, the Carson River is still gently flowing from the melting of the Sierra Nevada snowpack. Under way again, the excursion group proceeds up to Eastgate to meet the steam train. Holding the main, the excursion group hears the whistle of the train come over the U.S. Highway 50 bridge. A few minutes later the train comes around the corner and into the Siding at Eastgate. Shortly after that, the fire patrol arrives into the siding as well. After a job briefing with the train crew, and fire patrol, the excursion group has authority to proceed from Eastgate to Gold Hill. Underway, the excursion group heads for Gold Hill. Arriving into Gold Hill, the lead Employee in Charge copies the final authority needed to proceed into Virginia City. Underway again, the excursion group proceeds into Virginia City and is secured for the night. Excursion participants then got together for a BBQ dinner that lasted well into the late evening hours.

Sunday morning started off with sunny skies and smiling faces. Another fantastic day on the rails was ahead for the group. More Veterans were waiting at the depot for a ride, Including one that enjoyed the ride Saturday so much he came back for another one! After the job briefing, everyone loaded up and the excursion group departed for Eureka. Arriving into Mound House, a special "flag stop" was made to pick up Jaxon and his mom for a special ride with the excursion group. With Jaxon and mom aboard, the group was back underway. Arriving at Eastgate, the train crew was busy servicing the train for the morning departure. The excursion group slowly passed the train and crew before proceeding the final two miles to Eureka. At Eureka, the group enjoyed the morning views of the Carson Canyon, with the sun illuminating the canyon walls in spectacular fashion. Proceeding out of Eureka, the group pulls the heavy grade with ease, arriving back into Eastgate with enough time to check out the steam train before departure.

With the train ready to depart, excursion participants loaded up and prepared to again follow the train to Virginia City. Underway, a quick stop was made at Mound House to drop off Jaxon and his mom. As the group got back underway, Jaxon gave the excursion participants a wave and big smile. Arriving at Scales, the excursion group stops behind the train. Underway again, the excursion group proceeds though Gold Hill and into Virginia City. Once again the group pulls into the engine servicing facility for the lunch time layover. With lunch over, the excursion group proceeds out of town one more time enroute to Eastgate. With time to spare, the excursion stops inside of Tunnel Two, giving the group one last look inside the historic tunnel built in 1869. Underway again, the excursion group proceeds down the mountain to Eastgate. Arriving at Eastgate, the group holds the main track. The excursion group now waits for the steam train to arrive.

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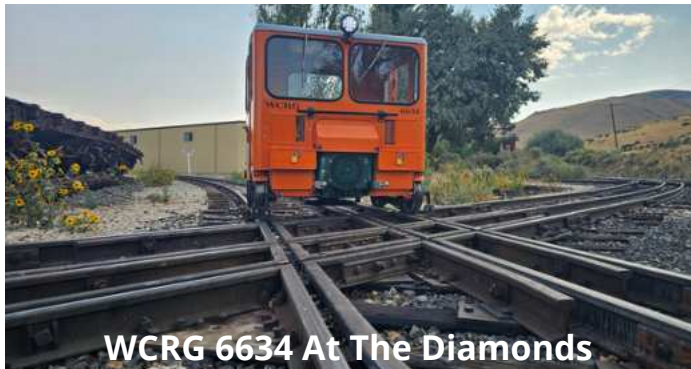
Virginia & Truckee Railroad Honor Flight Nevada/Stephanie Parker Memorial Excursion Fundraiser July 18th-20th, 2025 **(Continued)**



This break gives the excursion participants a few more minutes to catch up with each other before the excursion ends. With the train arriving, the excursion group prepares to depart Eastgate. Departing Eastgate, the fire patrol crew "rolls by" the excursion group, with no defects found, the excursion rolls on, next stop Gold Hill. At Gold Hill, the Employee in Charge receives authority to proceed into Virginia City. Underway, the excursion participants are nearing the end of an unforgettable weekend. Arriving at Virginia City, excursion participants set-off, and with the last car set-off, the excursion came to a close, marking another memorable Virginia & Truckee Railroad excursion!



Nevada State Railroad Museum Excursion August 30th-31st, 2025



WCRG 6634 At The Diamonds



Excursion Group On The Shop Lead

WCRG returned to the Nevada State Railroad Museum Carson City August 30th-31st 2025 for another action-packed excursion. Taking place over Labor Day weekend, the museum is always a busy place for railfans and families alike looking for outdoor activities in the Northern Nevada area. The excursion started out Saturday morning with set-on at the museum's shop area. The area was bustling with people gearing up for the day's activities. With all motorcars set-on, it was time for the morning job briefing with the staff and volunteers of the museum. WCRG's Manager of Operating Practices, Northern Region Matt Parker lead the job briefing with the museum and excursion participants, discussing the day's operations and schedules.

With the job briefing complete, the excursion group rolled onto the turntable, and out the "A" lead to the loop track. On the loop track, the excursion group operated ahead of the passenger train, pulled by Virginia & Truckee engine 25. With the train loading up at the historic Webuska Depot, the excursion group cleared up on the spur track next to the depot to allow the train to access the loop track. Several trips around the loop were made throughout the day. At the end of the day, the motorcars were pulled into the shop building for the night. Sunday's operations began with the morning job briefing. After the job briefing, the motorcars were pulled out of the shop and put on display for the public to look at up close.

Several children got a close up look at the motorcars, with parents taking plenty of pictures. With the motorcars warmed up and ready to operate, the excursion group once again pulled onto the turntable and proceeded down the "A" lead. On the loop track, the excursion made several trips around the loop. The loop track incorporates two railroad crossings at grade, also known as "diamonds." These diamonds are unique as both have standard and narrow gauge rails. After several trips around the loop, the excursion then cleared up on the spur track to allow the train to access the loop. The excursion operated between trains the rest of the day, setting-off late afternoon. It was another unforgettable weekend at the Nevada State Railroad Museum!



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Oregon Coast Scenic Railroad Excursion September 20th-21st, 2025



Excursion Group At Garibaldi



Excursion Group At Wheeler

WCRG held a motorcar excursion on the Oregon Coast Scenic Railroad (OCSR) September 20th-21st, 2025. This excursion was a hybrid rides for the public excursion, offering rides over the two day event from the small coastal community of Garibaldi, Oregon. The OCSR was celebrating the 100th birthday of the McCloud River Railroad engine 25, one of the OCSR's locomotives. Motorcars from California and Nevada made the trek to the Oregon Coast to operate on this spectacular railroad. The OCSR operates over the former Southern Pacific Tillamook branch, now owned by the Port of Tillamook Bay. The railroad leases 46 miles of track from the Port Authority. The railroad currently has no connection to the general system of railroad transportation, as storm damage in 2007 has isolated the railroad from the outside world.

Saturday's operations had several short trips from Garibaldi to HWY 101, and return, about a three mile round trip. This was the first time the OCSR had offered a motorcar rides for the public event. With the motorcars staged on the main line at 10:00 am, riders were already lining up to purchase tickets. With the first group loaded up, the excursion group departed for HWY 101. Heavy fog was beginning to lift, giving unforgettable views of the coastal bay. Departing town, people at the local RV park were opening their trailer doors to have a look at the motorcars going by. As the tracks follow the water, fishing boats bobbed up and down in the water as the excursion winds around the bay and approaches HWY 101, the excursions turn-around point. Returning back to Garibaldi, the riders unload and another group loaded up. All riders were given a safety vest, safety glasses, and offered ear protection as well as a safety briefing, including instructions on not using electronic devices while underway. With the riders loaded, the next trip departed.

Several more trips were made throughout the day, running until 4:00 pm. After the rides were over, the excursion group was scheduled to follow the special 100th anniversary train trip from Garibaldi to Wheeler and return. The train was scheduled to depart at 4:00 pm, with the excursion group following 15 minutes later. As the excursion group departed Garibaldi, the local residents waved with excitement seeing the different types and colors of motorcars rolling by. Approaching one of the main streets in town, the shunted excursion group rolled onto the crossing circuit, activating the automatic crossing warning devices, protecting the group as they crossed. Out of town, the tracks follow the water, then swing slightly inland to Rockaway Beach. As the excursion group arrives in Rockaway Beach, the train is stopped at the depot loading up more passengers for Wheeler. Departing Rockaway Beach, residents and tourists alike wave to the group.

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Oregon Coast Scenic Railroad Excursion September 20th-21st, 2025 (Continued)



Arriving at Wheeler, the excursion stops to line the siding switch at Wheeler. The group then pulls into the siding. With everyone in the clear of the main track, the Employee in Charge job briefs with the train crew, and reports that all men and equipment are clear of the main track, and all switches used are restored to the normal position. Waiting on the train to return, the excursion group enjoyed the spectacular view of the Nehalem River, gently bending around the small town of Wheeler. As the train approached the siding, the whistle alerted the excursion group the train was approaching on the main track. Departing Wheeler, skies were getting dark, both from the setting sun, and an approaching storm system. As the excursion arrived back at Rockaway Beach, the train was working the platform to unload passengers. Underway again, the excursion group follows the train back to Garibaldi.

Arriving back at Garibaldi, the excursion group pulls into the engine house for the evening, just as the storm is about to make landfall. Sunday, the excursion group returned early to prepare for another day of rides between Garibaldi and HWY 101. Over a half of an inch of rain had fallen overnight, ending just as the motorcars were ready to pull out of the engine house. With the sun starting to break through the clouds, it was shaping up to be a perfect day! Riders once again lined up to ride the motorcars throughout the day. One couple who saw the excursion come through Rockaway Beach the night before came down to check out the motorcars and take a ride. Other riders traveled several hours just to ride the motorcars. With the last ride arriving back at Garibaldi, it was time to set-off for the weekend. A big thank you to all the staff of the OCSR for hosting our excursion!



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Nevada Southern Railway Rebecca Wellet Memorial Excursion October 24th-26th, 2025



Laying Flowers At Henderson



Memorial Dinner At Railroad Pass

WCRG's annual Nevada Southern Railway/Rebecca Wellet Memorial motorcar excursion was held October 24th-26th 2025. Excursion participants from four states took part in the three day event, including as far way as Colorado. Rebecca's friends Belva Kolodziejczyk, Jinny Johnson, and Ruth Ann Crawford also attended the excursion, honoring Rebecca and her railroad legacy. Friday's operations included an evening trip from Boulder City to Henderson and return. The late afternoon/early evening trip is always a highlight of the excursion. With the group ready to depart, the lead Employee in Charge radios the rear Employee in Charge that the group is ready to proceed. The group then slowly proceeds out of Boulder City for Henderson. Out of Boulder City, the railroad gently drifts downhill, then climbs the grade over Railroad Pass, cresting the grade at the Interstate 11 bridge. Over the bridge, the tracks drop sharply downhill into Henderson.

The excursion stops just short of the derail separating the Nevada Southern Railway's operations from Union Pacific Railroad's operations. With the excursion group at the derail, it was time to remember and honor Rebecca with a remembrance speech, followed by the laying of three roses on Rebecca's special train blanket by Belva, Ruth Ann, and Kate Marty, followed by a bouquet of flowers against the railhead, signifying the "end of the line" in more ways than one. A moment of silence was then held in Rebecca's memory before the excursion group headed up the Dawson Ave. crossing to watch the sun set behind the Las Vegas skyline and see the lights of the Las Vegas Strip come alive. Excursion participants also had a perfect view of the Sphere, the newest Las Vegas entertainment venue that includes an entire LED screen covering the outside of its sphere shape. After enjoying the view, the excursion group prepared to depart for Boulder City.

With the lead motorcar ready to proceed, the excursion group rolls past the insulated joint of the Dawson Ave. crossing and through the crossing with the protection of the automatic crossing warning devices activated by the shunted motorcars. Arriving at Boulder City, the excursion group is secured for the evening. The group then headed over to Railroad Pass Casino for a special memorial dinner party honoring Rebecca and friends Belva, Ruth Ann, and Jinny. With the dinner party concluding, the group said goodbye to Belva, Ruth Ann, and Jinny as they had a plane to catch the next morning. Lots of hugs and tears were exchanged as we said goodbye to these wonderful ladies. Saturday's operations started with a thorough job briefing with the railway's staff and WCRG personnel. The excursion group would be running on the same track as the railway's trains, requiring precise coordination of all moves and locations for the safety of the excursion group. Several trips from Boulder City to Henderson were planned for the day, all departing ahead of the train by 30 minutes.

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Nevada Southern Railway Rebecca Wellet Memorial Excursion October 24th-26th, 2025 (Continued)



Excursion Group At Henderson



Excursion Group At Boulder City

As the first trip departed Boulder City, the group slowly proceeded past the depot platform. The depot was already busy with families arriving to ride the train, many dressed up in Halloween costumes. Arriving at Henderson, the Employee in Charge radios the train to brief on the excursion group's location and that the group was stopped and will remain stopped until arrival of the train. After about 30 minutes, the headlights of the train come into view, stopping short of the excursion group. With three toots of the whistle, the train begins its trip back to Boulder City. The excursion then follows the train back to Boulder City. Several more trips are made from Boulder City to Henderson and return before the group breaks for lunch. After lunch, the excursion group meets on the depot platform to pickup special "Halloween Express" train tickets. The excursion group then boards the train for a Halloween themed train trip from Boulder City to Railroad Pass and return.

Excursion participants had a blast riding the train and enjoying the railroad from the train, a different experience than on a motorcar. Back at Boulder City, the day wasn't quite over. The excursion group had a special evening trip from Boulder City to Henderson planned ahead of the next Halloween Express train. The excursion group immediately loaded up and departed ahead of the train's next departure. Arriving at Dawson Ave. again, the excursion group participants got another fantastic view of the Las Vegas skyline. The view never gets old, always changing and dazzling onlookers. With the train arriving at Railroad Pass, the excursion was ready to depart Henderson and follow the train back to Boulder City. The excursion group safely arrives back at Boulder City just in time for another dinner get together before Boulder City "rolls up the sidewalks." Unlike Las Vegas, Boulder City is not a 24/7 venue, rather a quiet suburb of Clark County.

Sunday's operations were similar to Saturday's, with the excursion group making several trips from Boulder City to Henderson and return. The excursion ended mid-afternoon with the last motorcar set-off in the yard. The excursion group enjoyed every minute this action-packed excursion, but the fun wasn't over quite yet! Several excursion participants had a "night on the town" planned for the evening that included a special dinner party at Il Toro E La Capra, Las Vegas's premiere Italian & Mexican Fusion restaurant. After dinner, it was off to see the Wizard, the Wonderful Wizard of Oz at the Sphere. The Sphere put on a surreal Wizard of Oz show, including tornado winds inside the auditorium, flying leaves, falling apples, as well as the feeling of being part of cast instead of just watching it on a television screen. With the show ending, that brought to a close another unforgettable weekend and experience in Las Vegas. Planning for 2026 started the next day!

Niles Canyon Railway Excursion November 2nd, 2025



WCRG returned to the Niles Canyon Railway November 2nd, 2025 for our popular rides for the public excursion. This end of the year excursion is generally scheduled the day after our Roaring Camp Railroads excursion, allowing excursion participants to enjoy two days of operating in the San Francisco Bay Area before the winter weather sets into the region. The excursion started out at Niles, providing three rides for the public trips from Niles to Brightside and return. After the rides for the public trips, the excursion group enjoyed a trip from Niles to Verona and return. With set-on and the job briefing complete, it was time to pull down to the depot to load passengers. After ensuring the riders had safety vests, safety glasses, and were offered ear protection, the riders were then instructed on basic safety practices, including no electronic device use while underway. As the first trip prepared to depart Niles, the UP 7085, the "MOAOA" passes the excursion on the adjacent Union Pacific's Niles Subdivision. Underway, the excursion departs the Niles yard and proceeds up the canyon to Brightside.

Arriving at Brightside, the group is turned and after a few minutes for the riders to look over the different models of motorcars, the excursion prepares to depart for Niles. Arriving back at Niles, the next group is loaded up for the second trip to Brightside. Kids and adults alike are all smiles as they prepared for departure. Underway, the excursion crosses the Farwell Bridge. On the other side, several railfans take pictures and video's of the excursion, tipped off by social media of our excursion taking place over the railroad. Arriving at Brightside, the riders unload and enjoy food and drinks off the push-car, provided by WCRG. Back underway, the group proceeds though the canyon and into Niles, unloading the riders and loading up the next group for the third trip. Underway again, the excursion proceeds to Brightside. Arriving at Brightside, the riders unload as the motorcars are turned for the trip back to Niles. As the motorcars are turned, the group gets an up close look at the vintage Magnetic Flagman or "Wig Wags" as they are often referred to as they swing back and forth, activated by the shunted excursion group.

Back underway to Niles, the excursion group passes several more railfans as they take more pictures and videos of the excursion group. Arriving back at Niles, the riders unload, as smiles continue for several minutes as they express how enjoyable the trip was with the individual operators. After a quick lunch break, it was time for the trip to Verona and return. Joining us for this trip was Chris and Heather Rizzoli, from Rizzoli Locomotive Works. Rizzoli Locomotive Works makes custom steam whistles that sound incredible. Departing Niles, the group winds through the canyon and into the Brightside yard. Out of Brightside, the group stops briefly at Sunol. Out of Sunol, the excursion proceeds to Verona and takes a 30 minute break. This allows time for excursion participants to catch up with each other before the long winter break. With the sun quickly setting behind the hills, the excursion group departs for Niles. Arriving back at Niles, the group begins set-off, just as Amtrak Capitol Corridor Train 743 passes the group. With the last motorcar set-off, the excursion was officially over. Another wonderful day on the Niles Canyon Railway!

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Quincy Railroad Helping Hands Excursion Fundraiser December 9th, 2025



Excursion Group At The SPI Mill



Excursion Group Outside Of Quincy

WCRG returned to the Quincy Railroad December 6th, 2025 for the Plumas County Sheriff's Department Helping Hands Program excursion fundraiser. Excursion participants came from Nevada and California to participate in this special holiday fundraiser to raise money, as well as toys for local children in Plumas County. The weather was fantastic for the season, reaching the high 50's after a chilly start. Set-on was once again at the SPI Mill in Quincy. With the group set-on and after a job briefing, the excursion got underway for the first trip to Quincy Junction. After departing Quincy, the excursion stops for a photo shoot in the valley between Quincy and Quincy Junction. Snow generally caps the surrounding mountains of Quincy this time of year, but a lack of precipitation over the proceeding weeks has left the mountains clear of any snow.

Proceeding through the valley, the excursion climbs up the steep grade to Quincy Junction, the interchange point with Union Pacific Railroad. At Quincy Junction, the group pauses for a few minutes before departing for Quincy. Arriving back at Quincy, the excursion turns and prepares to depart for the second trip. This trip includes a stop on the Chandler Creek bridge, for a photo and drone shoot. Water is flowing calmly under the bridge, awaiting the spring snow melt where the water will be running cold and fast. Underway again, the group again climbs the grade to Quincy Junction. Arriving at Quincy Junction, the group turns and heads back to Quincy for a lunch break. After lunch, the group gets Underway again for Quincy Junction.

At Quincy Junction, the excursion group is preparing for the arrival of the UP 8440, expected to arrive in just a few minutes. Around the corner, the headlights come into view, along with the sound of dynamics working to keep the train held back on the descending grade. A friendly wave out of the cab window from the crew to the excursion participants as the head end passes the group was welcomed by all. With the train clear of Quincy Junction, the group loaded back up and departed for Quincy. Arriving at Quincy, one last round trip to Quincy Junction and return was made. Arriving back at Quincy, the group presented the monetary donations and toys to the Plumas County Sheriff's Department. With the toys delivered, it was time to set-off, concluding another fantastic excursion on the Quincy Railroad!



Photo Highlights 2025



Photo Highlights 2025 (Continued)



Photo Highlights 2025 (Continued)



Photo Highlights 2025 (Continued)



Photo Highlights 2025 (Continued)



Photo Highlights 2025 (Continued)

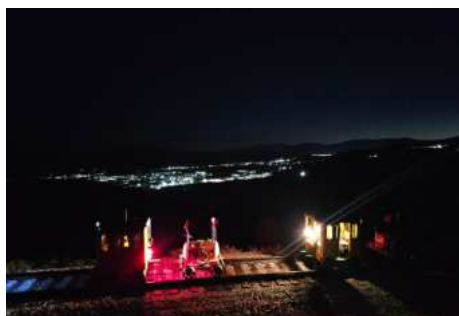


Photo Highlights 2025 (Continued)



Photo Highlights 2025 (Continued)





WCRG is the only organization providing trained, professional railroaders on every excursion we host, because there is nothing better than a qualified railroader on the job.

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