

THE TRACK CAR

The Official Newsletter of West Coast Railroaders Group

Upcoming WCRG Events

Vintage Track Car Rides:

Roaring Camp Railroad
Felton, California.
Track Car Rides fundraiser
benefiting Make-A-Wish
Greater Bay Area,
May 18-19, 2019.

Track Car Excursion:

Virginia & Truckee Railroad
Virginia City, Nevada
Make-A-Wish Fundraiser,
June 15 -16, 2019.

Track Car Excursion:

Nevada State Railroad Museum
Carson City, Nevada
July 2019
(exact dates to be announced)

Track Car Excursion:

Virginia & Truckee Railroad,
Virginia City, Nevada
September 2019
(exact dates to be announced)

Track Car Excursion

Nevada Southern Railway
(Nevada State Railroad Museum)
Boulder City, Nevada
October 26-27, 2019



President's Message

Welcome to our newsletter! We hope you find it informative with not only excursion highlights, but with exciting information on what West Coast Railroaders Group (WCRG) provides to our host railroads throughout the West, including our work with Charitable organizations such as the Make-A-Wish Foundation. With an exciting 2019 ahead for WCRG, I look forward to seeing you on future WCRG excursions. Myself, as well as Tim Broughton and Matt Parker, will continue to operate the safest, most efficient (and fun) track car organization in the West.

See you all on the rails,

Ken Marty



Spotlight on WCRG Services: Fire Patrol



WCRG Fire patrol is one of our signature services. WCRG provides fire patrol for the Virginia & Truckee Railroad every weekend from May to October, running thousands of track miles up and down the Comstock Division since 2012. Protecting the right of way from fires that could start from steam train operations, WCRG owns four custom fire patrol push-cars that travel behind Vintage Fairmont Two-Cycle period correct Track Cars. These push-cars are outfitted with pressurized tanks of water, each equipped with 100 feet of fire hose, as well as shovels and picks to assist in fire suppression along the right of way.



The History of West Coast Railroaders Group

West Coast Railroaders Group was founded in 2011 with the goal of providing qualified Track Car operators and equipment to railroads throughout the West. We work with the smallest railroad and museum all the way up to class ones. Track Car excursions were added to the list of services in 2018. Founded by Ken Marty, a professional railroader, Ken continues to serve as President. Operating Track Cars is the icing on the cake. The real work is behind the scenes. Writing rulebooks, working with railroads on contracts, agreements, etc. is the real work with any organization, not to mention the regulations and compliance issues required when operating in a railroad environment. Everyday is a learning experience and an opportunity to learn and become more successful with this organization. Ken, along with Tim Broughton and Matt Parker (both veteran Locomotive Engineers), lead the organization.



WCRG Website

Interested in discovering more about West Coast Railroaders Group? Please visit our website for the latest schedule and updates, downloadable excursion documents and rulebooks, and many photos/stories of our past excursions, fundraisers, and activities.

www.WestCoastRailroadersGroup.com

Facebook:

EXCURSION HIGHLIGHTS 2018

Virginia & Truckee Railroad Make-A-Wish Fundraiser Excursion June 16th and 17th, 2018

WCRG and the Virginia & Truckee railroad have had a longtime partnership with the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Make-A-Wish provides wishes to children with life threatening illnesses. When the opportunity came up to host a Track Car Excursion, it was only natural the proceeds benefit the local Make-A-Wish chapter.



Friday June 15th a test and tune run with several cars taking part on the test run from Virginia City, down to Overman Pitt and returning to Virginia City

Saturday June 16th the group met in the morning for the job briefing at the historic Virginia City Depot. After the job briefing, Track Cars fired up and prepared to follow the V&T engine #29 down the mountain. It was a beautiful morning, with excursion participants taking in spectacular views of the valleys below, with wild horses running along the right of way near Eastgate.

Upon arriving at Eastgate, the Track Cars were turned and shortly after the group departed for the 12 mile long journey up the heavy grade of the Comstock Division. With grades ranging from 2.2 to 3.6, the grades challenge both machine and Track car operator. The group traveled to Scales, where the group caught up to the train. The train stops at Scales to service the Locomotive each trip. The excursion participants experienced the train start on the heavy grade, with the engineer gently easing the

throttle to apply the maximum traction without wheel slip. The sound of the locomotive echo through the canyon had everyone's attention.



The excursion then reached Virginia City again, with the group pulling into the service track for lunch. After lunch the group repeated the trip down the hill and returned to Virginia City, securing the excursion group at the Depot for the night. The excursion participants enjoyed a BBQ and socializing with each other in Virginia City Saturday evening after the excursion.



Sundays excursion was a repeat of Saturday, with a few more wild horses along the tracks. The excursion ended safely Sunday evening with participants shaking hands with new friends, along with old ones. We even had a couple come out from Pennsylvania to operate with us. Another excursion in the books!

EXCURSION HIGHLIGHTS 2018 (Cont)

Nevada State Railroad Museum Excursion June 30th and July 1st, 2018



The sound of historic steam engines firing up met the excursion participants at the Nevada State Railroad Museum's Forth of July weekend steam up. Track Cars ran the museums tracks, got to turn on the historic turntable, and pound two separate diamonds all while the museums guests watched our group operate. Cars from several eras of railroading where preset, from a rare Sheffield car to a Fairmont MT19 fully painted in the Southern Pacific black widow paint scheme, and equipped with a Nathan P3 Locomotive horn. The excursion participants also enjoyed admission to the museum as well as cab rides on the museums equipment. Two exciting and hot (90+) days at the museum enjoyed by excursion participants as well as museum guests. It was hot, but fun!

Virginia and Truckee Rhrettstrong Fundraiser Excursion September 15th and 16th, 2018

The Virginia & Truckee railroad is always involved in community events around the Comstock. When the railroad heard about a Storey County firefighters child that was seriously injured when struck by a car earlier in the year, the railroad offered to donate excursion proceeds from this excursion to the family during their time of need.

The excursion operated on the same schedule as June's, with the exception of a train ride on the Murder Mystery train where excursion participants got to ride and enjoy the Melodrama train with live actors at the Eastgate depot and a catered dinner provided for all excursion participants. After the dinner, the excursion proceeded back to Virginia City on a rare evening run to Virginia City. Upon arriving at the Depot at Virginia City around 9:00 PM, the cars were secured for the evening. Sundays excursion was a repeat of Saturday's with all cars set off and safely on there way home before dark. Another great V & T excursion in the books.

Nevada Southern Railway Excursion October 27th and 28th, 2018



The weather was warm for this late October excursion at Boulder City, NV. on the Nevada Southern Railway. A Friday evening run was offered for excursion participants who wanted to run from Boulder City to Railroad Pass (Railroad pass is the end of in service track at Hwy 93) and return. Saturdays excursion started out with a job briefing with the crew of UP 844, as well as the railway management. The excursion was to run ahead of the UP 844 to Railroad Pass, wait for the train, and then follow the UP 844 back to Boulder City. The excursion group made three trips with a special evening trip to Railroad Pass and return. Sunday the excursion again ran ahead of the train to Railroad Pass and Return following the trains schedules, departing 20 minutes earlier than the train. The excursion setoff in the afternoon, with many participants traveling from many hundreds of miles away. Another successful excursion in the books.

Photo Highlights 2018

