

In The Trench

For Railfans, Model Railroaders, (Video) Camera Nuts and Historians
August-September 2007 Please join the mailing list: info@renorailfans.com The Newsletter of Reno Railfans

Reno Railfans Promotes History, Lectures and Trackside Events

While there are several model railroading organizations in the Reno-Sparks area, and of course Carson City has the State Railroad Museum, there is no organized group of railfans in Northern Nevada. Reno Railfans is not intended to compete with any existing group – instead we want to join all local groups in the pursuit of common goals.

Railfans run the gamut from people like me, a trackside video nut, to the other end of the spec-

trum, an equipment specialist. Reno Railfans includes anyone interested in railroad operations, technical specs, history, beautiful scenery, model railroading, food, bbq, picnics, fun and camaraderie.

The group was founded by Kive Weinstein and Jim Lohse in July, 2007. As we build membership, we will encourage members to help us evolve the group in several directions. My biggest

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History Museum Railroad Lecture Series at UNR September 25

You may be aware that the history museum at University of Nevada – Reno has an exhibit about Central Pacific and the Comstock Lode running through December, 2007.

“A lot of people don't realize” that section of track was laid before the track over Donner Pass was completed, says Huffman

We railfans need to get the word out about the lectures -- I have met several railfans who were unaware of the presentation planned by Wendell Huffman of the Nevada State Railroad Museum in Carson City.

The title of the lecture is *The Iron Horse Reaches Nevada*, beginning at 7pm at the Nevada Historical Society.

Reno Railfans Meeting at 6:30pm, Sept. 25 at UNR

The Nevada Historical Society is located on the UNR campus at 1650 N. Virginia Street, past the planetarium, across from the Little Waldorf Saloon. To get there, head north on Virginia from downtown.

The Iron Horse Reaches Nevada

Mr. Huffman says, “A lot of people don't know the railroad between Truckee and Reno was built before Donner Pass was completed. The Central Pacific had to haul 40 miles of track, various cars and locomotives over Donner Pass.”

“Along the Truckee Canyon, west of

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See Trains Unlimited Dome Cars Pulled By Amtrak's California Zephyr

Our local tour operator, Trains Unlimited, is known for their ads in railroad magazines promoting rail tours around the world. Trains Unlimited has a special train planned to take people from the Bay Area to Sparks, where they will stay at the Nugget. Historic dome cars will be pulled by the Friday, September 24 Amtrak California Zephyr eastbound #6 over Donner Pass, scheduled to arrive in Sparks after 2pm.

On Sunday, September 25, the Trains Unlimited rail riders will take a bus to

the Feather River Railroad Festival in Portola, California,

The TU ticketholders will return to the Bay Area behind the westbound Sunday Zephyr #5, leaving Sparks (in theory) at 11:30am. Although Amtrak has been running on-time more often due to their revised schedule, it's still possible to see these trains arrive and leave late.

The plan is to have the Silver Lariat and the Silver Solarium cars. The Lariat

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Reno Railfans Get Trackside

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dream would be to produce and publicize Reno Railroad Days. Instead of the wide-ranging off-topic activities seen at other railfests, Reno Railroad Days would focus on bringing classic railcars into Reno-Sparks to create a media buzz and spread our interest in the backbone of our economy, the railroad.

Be sure to read the article about Trains Unlimited running historic California Zephyr cars into Reno-Spark, if anyone wants to get together a trackside picnic call Jim Lohse at 229-1818, or email info@renorailfans.com

– JL

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Trains Unlimited

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is a pre-Amtrak California Zephyr Vista Dome Coach, while the Silver Lariat is a Vista Dome, Lounge and Observation car.

These cars are operated by California Zephyr Railcar Charters: for more info see www.calzephyrrailcar.com. On this site are pdf documents about the cars and their owners. There is a third car, the Silver Rapids, which is not listed as part of the Trains Unlimited Domes to Feather River Railroad Festival tour.

If you'd like to join a trackside picnic, call 229-1818 or email us at info@renorailfans.com.

HUFFMAN – con't from page 1

Coldstream canyon, is Mystic, the former stateline between California and Nevada. It was moved east, but that's another story..." Maybe if we're lucky Mr. Huffman will get into this subject at his September 25 talk at UNR.

Myrick Book reference

During our conversation, Huffman mentioned the definitive Nevada railroad history book, *Railroads of Nevada and Eastern California*. Volumes I and II are already available, and at least one of the volumes can be perused at the Sparks Heritage Museum at Victorian Square.

Volume III is coming out for October, 2007, at a price of \$65. You can see more information at the University of Nevada Press website:

<http://www.nvbooks.nevada.edu/books.asp?ID=2473>

Myrick's books also talk about the Nevada – California – Oregon railroad. To see a local remnant of the NCO, go to 325 E. 4th street, the location of the fenced-off NCO

depot in Reno. This historic building will be the subject of a future article in the October-November issue of *In The Trench*.

I'm so glad I was able to speak with Mr. Huffman, he sparked a lot of ideas and showed me some new things about my favorite section of track for videos, along the Truckee River between Truckee and Reno. The areas around Boca and Hirschdale road have many access points where railfans can get to safely.

See you at UNR on Sep. 25!

CALENDAR – Aug/Sep 07

Ongoing Historical Exhibits Railroad / Sparks / Truckee Meadows
at the Sparks Heritage Museum, Victorian Square, Sparks

Aug 24/26 – Trains Unlimited Tours – view Silver Lariat / Solarium
at your favorite trackside spot on the back of Amtrak's #6 and #5

Aug 23-26 – Portola Railroad Days / Feather River Train Festival
in Portola, CA, PortolaRailroadDays.com/home.html

7pm, 9/8 – SP Mail Trains 21/22: Oakland to Odgen by Randall
Cape
at the Carson City Nevada State Railroad Museum

7pm 9/25 – Central Pacific RR and Comstock by Wendell Huffman
at the UNR Campus / Nevada Historical Society

ongoing -- Special Exhibit: Central Pacific RR and the Comstock
UNR Campus / Nevada Historical Society through Dec. 14, 2007

