

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Free Handcar and Motorcar Rides, Gold Panning, Live Music, and Much More at Dayton Railroad Days

Dayton, Lyon County, Nevada; Sept. 19-20, 2015

On Saturday and Sunday, September 19 and 20 the Historical Society of Dayton Valley will once again hold our annual Dayton Railroad Days joint with Dayton Valley Days. The fun of Railroad Days is focused around our 1881 Dayton Carson & Colorado Railroad Depot at US 50 & Main Street in Old Town. Visitors of all ages will be able to enjoy free handcar and motorcar rides, gold panning, live music, our family-friendly old time saloon, a shady spot to rest, railroad demonstrations, operating models, train simulator video games, tours of the depot, living history, and more. There will also be great gift and toy items for sale in the depot.

Dayton Railroad Days celebrates the Carson & Colorado Railroad and the shortline Dayton, Sutro & Carson Valley Railroad and, in particular, their narrow-gauge operations in the 1880s and 1890s. Both local railroads were once significant contributors to Dayton's economy. We are now in the first stages of restoring our 1881 Depot to the era of the 1880s, after which it will serve as a Museum, Welcome Center, and cultural site. Railroad Days will continue our goal to raise money to continue the restoration. We also have track laid on the depot property and you can ride on real railway equipment in operation.

In addition, as a very special kick-off of our tie-plate fundraiser we will also be spiking three commemorative tie plates on Saturday at noon. These historic tie plates were produced in the 1890s for the Carson & Colorado Railroad in the V&T shops in Carson City. The three commemorative tie plates are engraved with information that honors individuals and families who were very important in the early days of the effort to save the depot. These were Del Minor and her son Tom—who had the first vision of what the depot could become and its importance to Old Town Dayton—JohnD and Kay Winters, who were the first major donors to support the depot project—and former Lyon County Commissioner Bob Milz—who insured that the depot was saved at its current location and destined for preservation and restoration.

Come have fun with us, learn about our project and gather some railroad history in the process! Try your hand(s) at pumping the handcar. (Those over 2 and under 100 only!) Donate to have your message engraved on a tie plate to be placed on the railroad property. Or just sit down in the shade, have a drink or hamburger or hot dog, listen to the live music, and relax.

Times are from 11 am (after the Dayton Valley Days parade) to 5 pm on Saturday and from 10 am to 3 pm on Sunday. We welcome the whole family to this free event.

Lyon County owns the former Carson & Colorado Railroad Depot and has a stewardship agreement with the Historical Society of Dayton Valley. Under this agreement the Railroad Group of the historical society operates the depot. Restoration has begun on the depot, with funding in part coming from the Nevada Commission on Cultural Affairs.

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