



# TRAIL CONNECTIONS

Winter 2024

Connecting people to the outdoors through a system of trails

## CVTA wins a Nevada RTP Grant to Fund “Slow and Say Hello” Program

We're excited to announce that Carson Valley Trails Association has been awarded a grant from Nevada's 2024 Recreational Trails Program (RTP). There were a total of 27 applications requesting \$1.9 million in project funding, with an estimated \$1.3 million available. It was an extremely competitive grant round, and we appreciate everyone's interest in the program and the time commitment required for the application process.

The Recreational Trails Program is a Federal Highway Administration assistance program. The program provides assistance to states to maintain recreational trails for both motorized and non-motorized recreational trail use. The program also provides funding for all types of recreational trail uses, such as pedestrian uses (hiking, running, wheelchair use), bicycling, in-line skating, equestrian use, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, off-highway vehicle riding, or use of other off-road motorized vehicles. Since 1993 the Recreational Trails Program has funded hiking and equestrian trails, mountain bike trails, trail brochures, trailheads, interpretive signage, OHV trails, urban pedestrian/bicycle paths and trail education.

CVTA Board members wrote a proposal for the campaign and submitted it to the Nevada Division of State Parks. Then, Board Members Laura Ammons and Juan Guzman presented the plan to the RTP Advisory Committee and State Parks Administration in December. In January it was announced that the proposal was accepted.



In 2024 CVTA is adopting a new trail safety and courtesy campaign called Slow and Say Hello. It was developed collaboratively in a partnership with several outdoor recreation organizations in Marin County, California over the course of several years. You can have a look at their program here: [www.safetrailsmarin.org](http://www.safetrailsmarin.org)

Once developed, you'll begin to see some new brochures and information at our kiosks, a new landing page on our website, and a series of social media posts. You might also catch our volunteers at a trailhead or community event this summer, educating trail users about how to minimize conflicts and ensure a safe, enjoyable experience for everyone.

Whether you are on foot, hooves or wheels, slowing down and communicating when you pass a fellow trail user is key to keeping everyone safe. Slow and Say Hello is our way of reminding folks to be aware of their surroundings and other users. This campaign is made possible by a grant from the Nevada Division of State Parks.

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# History Expeditions to Retrace the Steps of Snowshoe Thompson into Carson Valley

By Bill Rogers, VP Marketing CVTA

A few months ago, our organization received a call from Bob Crowley inquiring if his expedition could camp at one of our trailheads. I thought the name sounded familiar and after I spoke to Bob, it became clear just why. I had worked as an extra on an episode of the Discovery Channel's series "Expedition Unknown", titled "Donner Party Horror and Heroes". Bob's organization, History Expeditions, had played a big role in the show by re-enacting the Donner relief party's trek. Now, his group of athletes, including ultramarathoners, are retracing the steps of Snowshoe Thompson's historic 1856 mail route.

If you live in Carson Valley, it's hard not to run into the many traces of Thompson's life and legend. From his homestead in Diamond Valley to his gravesite and grand statue in Genoa, he is well-known as the Viking of the Sierra. At the age of 10, Jon Torsteinson-Rue (later changed to John A. Thompson) came to America with his family from the Telemark region of Norway and eventually landed a job as mail carrier for a route like no other. Multiple times per month for 20 winters, Thompson carried the mail across the Sierras from Placerville to Mormon Station/Genoa in just 3 days, carrying a 100-lb sack of mail and meager provisions.



According to Bob Crowley of History Expeditions, although there are no maps of Thompson's exact route, it is believed that he generally followed a route used by emigrants and stagecoaches called the Johnson Cutoff. Today, much of that trail has been replaced by Routes 50, 89 and 88. However, there are

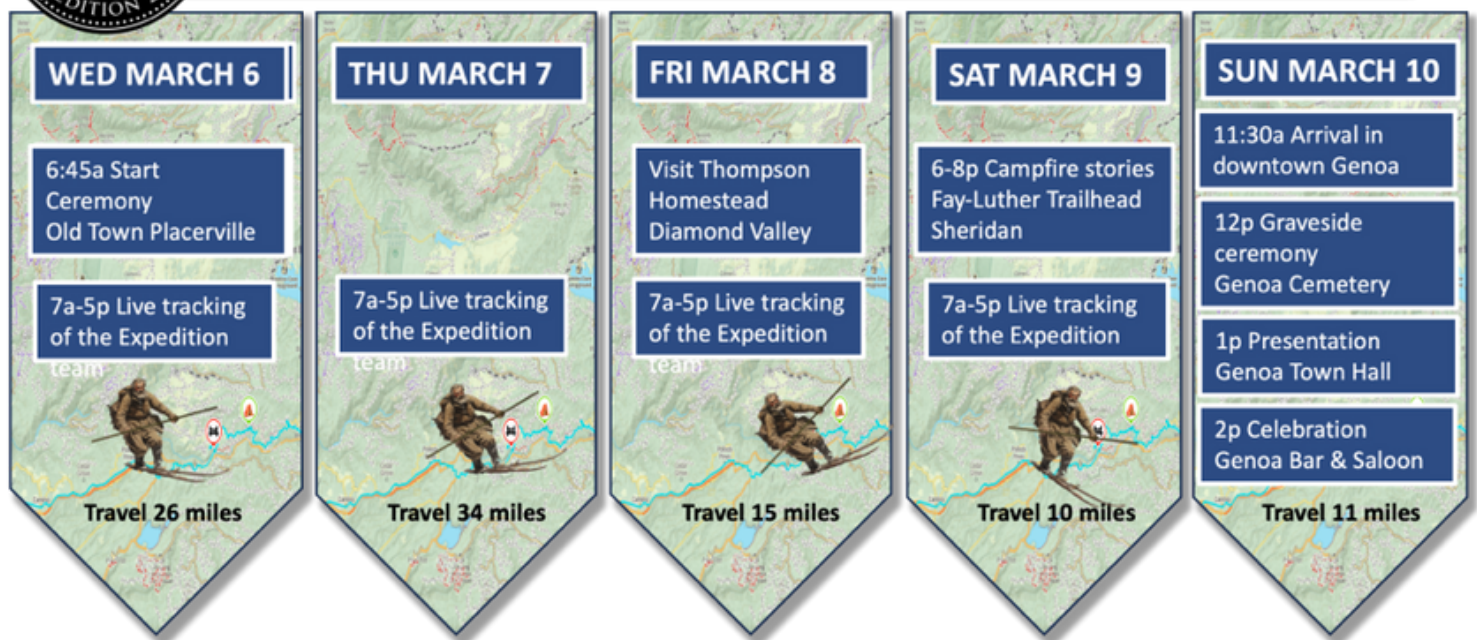


traces of the Old Emigrant Trail, El Dorado Trail and Pony Express Trail which provide clues to the most likely path Snowshoe followed – at least initially. He would have been seeking the path of least resistance for speed and safety.

History Expeditions was founded to discover trails and tales lost to time and to honor inspiring historic heroes. Five members will trek the 100 miles from Placerville to Genoa over 5 days, on foot, snowshoes and skis, retracing Thompson's steps and staying true to what we have researched to believe was his actual route. Their adventure begins with a Ceremony at the start in Old Town Placerville on March 6th, and concludes on Sunday March 10th with a ceremony at Thompson's gravesite in the Genoa cemetery, a presentation at the Genoa Town Hall, and celebration at Genoa Bar & Saloon!



## EXPEDITION ACTIVITIES



**CVTA members are invited to join the campfire stories Saturday March 9th from 6-8pm at their final campsite, the Fay-Luther trailhead parking area.**

I will be joining in on the stories and camping with the team on Saturday night. On Sunday, March 10th, I will join them for the final leg of their journey to Genoa and participating in planned activities there — all of which are open to the public. Hopefully we'll get to snowshoe part of the route!

If you'd like to follow their adventure including live tracking and real-time updates as they progress over the 100 mile trek, please join the History Expeditions Facebook group. (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/371977447411728>) You can also visit the History Expeditions website (<https://historyexp.org>) for more details about the Snowshoe Thompson Expedition and to view videos of their past Expeditions

Source: <https://historyexp.org/snowshoe-thompson-story/>

# Genoa Courthouse Museum

## Spring Opening to Include CVTA display

Our friends at the Douglas County Historical Society have invited us to provide a display about Carson Valley Trails. According to curator Brenda Cullen, "Lots of visitors come to our museum asking where to find trailheads." Now, we will have maps for those visitors along with background on how our organization developed the trail system in Genoa. Below is an update from Brenda on the exciting things happening this spring at the Courthouse Museum in Genoa.



Opening Wednesday, April 24th, hours will be 10:00 am to 4:00 pm seven days a week. Friday, April 26 at 3:00 we will unveil our new E Clampus Vitus exhibit. The exhibit will showcase the history of the Snowshoe Thompson Chapter 1827 of the Ancient and Honorable Order of E Clampus Vitus, which is the oldest existing chapter of ECV in the state of Nevada. The chapter's namesake is a historic icon of our local area known for his selfless dedication to the community as well as being credited as the 'father' of cross-country skiing.

ECV was founded in the eastern United States and made its way west with the 1850s Gold Rush. In that era, it was the ordinary man's organization — a humorous rebuttal to the fraternal orders that catered only to the wealthy and powerful. The organization provided an important brotherhood and structure amidst the mayhem of the mining towns. A miner who joined ECV knew his family would be provided for, in the event he was seriously injured or killed.

With ECV's dedication to the preservation of history, we are pleased to have them share their history with our community.

**After the opening of the exhibit please join us for a beer and a hot dog on the front lawn.**

Saturday, April 27 at 11:00 we will unveil our Dat So La Lee Basket. The Wašišiw, Washoe Tribe of Nevada, will provide a basket weaving demonstration on the front porch of the Courthouse Museum along with singers, dancers, and traditional prayers. Dat So La Lee, also known as Louisa Keyser, was a celebrated Native American basket weaver and a member of the Washoe people in northwestern Nevada.

We have fully renovated our upstairs Hans Meyer-Kassel gallery. Hans Meyer-Kassel was a world renown artist who began his career in Germany and spent his final years painting in Genoa. This is a one-of-a-kind collection.



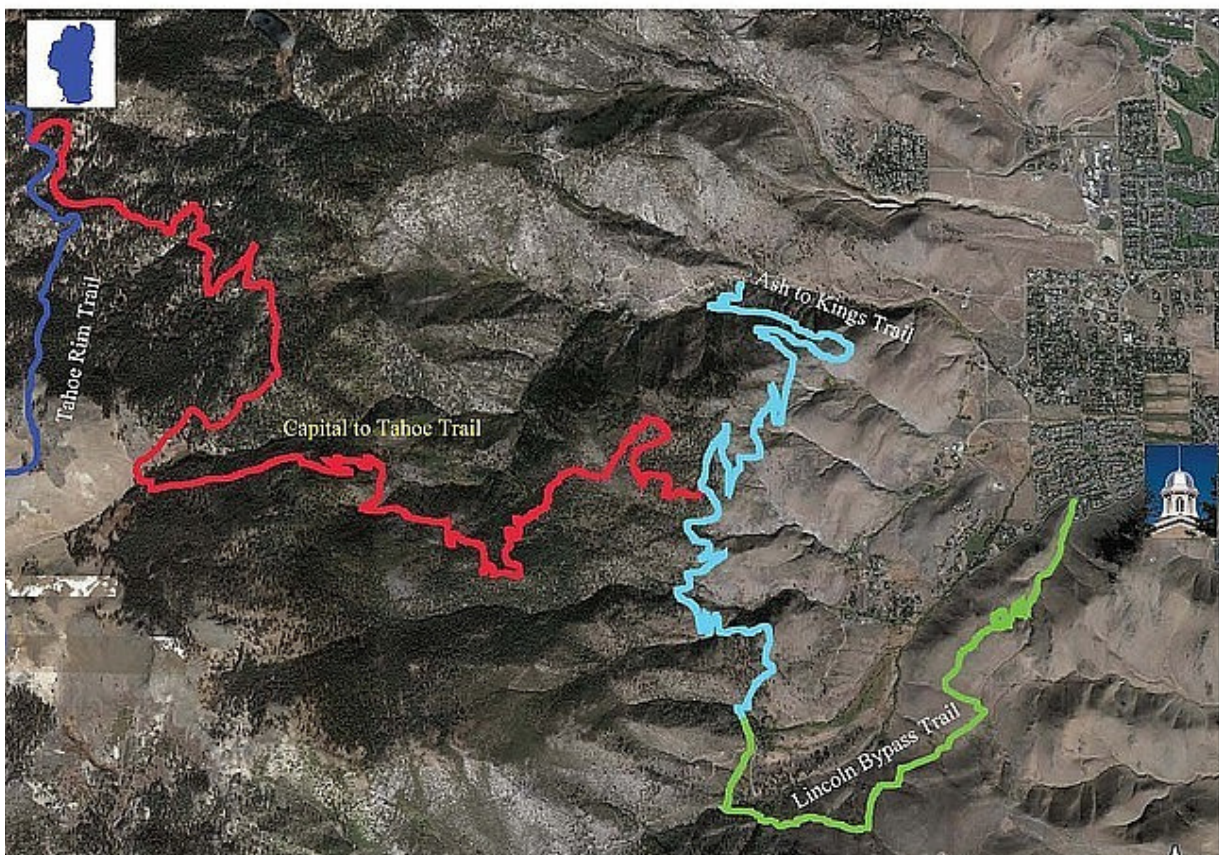


# Muscle Powered Receives National Award for Capitol to Tahoe Trail

By Peter Doenges

For the second time, Muscle Powered has received a national award from the Coalition of Recreational Trails. The first award was in 2014 for the Ash to Kings trail for Regional Connectivity and now, the Capitol to Tahoe Trail has been recognized in the Community Linkage category!

This genesis of these trails can be traced back to the late 1990s when a rogue trail builder (and father of Muscle Powered), Jeff Porter, moved to Carson City and started stirring up the trails scene. He mulled over why Carson City didn't have a trail connection to Spooner Lake State Park, the Tahoe Rim Trail, and onward to the Pacific Crest Trail, Canada and Mexico, and started building illegal trails with biker friends in Carson City. Ironically this led to the City's collaboration with Muscle Powered to incorporate a huge trails vision for the mountains around Carson City in what became the Eagle Valley Trail Committee report which was absorbed into the Carson City Unified Pathways Master Plan. With public approval, trails bloomed all over and now, the Capitol to Tahoe Trail is complete!



Now the Coalition for Recreational Trails, an alliance of national and regional trail-related organizations, has conferred their Annual Achievement Award on the Capitol to Tahoe Trail (C2T), completed in October 2023, for outstanding use of Recreational Trails Program funds in the Community Linkage category. An award ceremony is planned for March 6 in Washington, D.C.

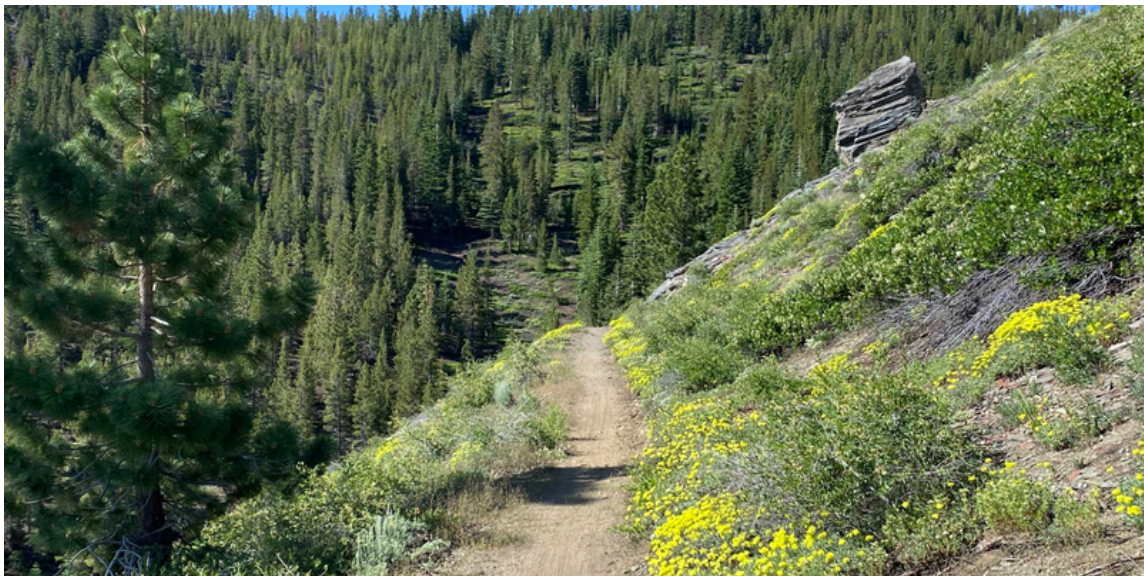


## **What does it mean to birth such an ambitious trail, what makes it work, and how did we get here?**

Recent years (2020-2023) account for the physical trail building by hand crews and professional mechanized means. The fuller picture is that the C2T needed anchor trails nearer Carson City to make full connections from Kings Canyon Road in Carson all the way up to the TRT on the Carson Range ridge at Laxalt Junction and Marlette Lake Rd.

The C2T is 9.7 miles winding from the top of Ash to Kings Trail through wild, beautiful, mountain scenery and forests to the TRT. The south end of Ash to Kings trail links C2T with the Kings Canyon dirt road below. The 4.3-mile Lincoln Bypass Trail finally jumps down around a section of the Kings Canyon dirt and asphalt roadways to land trail users in Carson City across from Longview Park.

A bike or hike up this trail network nudging 17 miles one-way is not for the faint of heart. Yet its rewards include euphoria in contact with nature and wildlife, splendid views back into the City and across canyons. Travelers will experience wonderful trail flows, easy trail grades, rock walls and wooden bridges, ghosts of past logging and mining history, and deep humility that one can even be there.



At the junction of the C2T and TRT, a short hop takes the user to roadside benches overlooking Marlette Lake and Lake Tahoe at once, or onto the TRT and around Lake Tahoe. The C2T also forms “stacked loops” with area roads and trails including Waterfall Rd, Ash to Kings Trail, Ash Canyon Rd, Snow Valley Peak Rd, TRT, Sunflower Hill Trail, Hobart-Franktown Rd., and others linked to Incline Village — route possibilities seem endless!

Trail builders know the 5- to 10-year crawl that's afoot when it's really time to birth a trail on public and private lands from scratch, C2T being no exception. Among the list of planning and building tasks involved were...

- honoring many stakeholders' concerns
- endless bushwhacking explorations of raw terrain and field surveying
- acquiring landowner permissions and easements
- NEPA survey inventories for sensitive flora-fauna and cultural artifacts that might prompt trail rerouting

- donor funding campaigns, dollar and volunteer hour matches, and RTP grant applications
- building by volunteers and professional means

...the list goes on and on. Almost \$210,000 and thousands of volunteer and professional crew hours later, the Capitol to Tahoe and Lincoln Bypass Trails were born.

The volunteer and community outpouring to fund and construct C2T includes a remarkable list of contributors. Trail users, design visionaries, and volunteer-professional implementers worked hand-in-hand with a caring community.

Carson Valley Trails Association and Muscle Powered along with Tahoe Rim Trail Association, Historic Virginia & Truckee Trail group, and many others continue to strive for more ways to collaborate with a growing trail network along the eastern Sierra front while fulfilling the vision of the Eastern Sierra Trails Coalition. That is to link Pyramid Lake to Markleeville, the PCT and Lake Tahoe to Virginia City, and more. Capitol to Tahoe Trail is a piece of that.



# Trails Report

Jeremy and his loyal crew of volunteers have been hard at work all summer and fall to keep our trails in top-notch shape.

- The 4.1-mile James Lee Loops was completed in April. As part of the 30-mile Clear Creek Trail System, the James Lee Loops provide multiple, easy loop options that can be combined with the Jacks Valley Loop and Clear Creek Trail.
- New trailhead kiosks were installed at the Jacks Valley School Trailhead, Jacks Valley Road Trailhead and Spooner Summit Trailhead.
- 28 fallen trees have been removed on all trail systems this winter and spring.





- Routine brushing, rock clearing and drainage work maintenance was completed on all trail systems this past spring.
- Several trail realignments have been completed on the Fay-Luther/JPR Trail System adding another mile of trail while keeping most of the former old road routes open for use. These realignments eliminate worsening entrenchment from storms and the need to continuously maintain waterbars. Trail users can now enjoy a trail that is less steep, avoids rocky and slippery slickrock sections, and provides an all-around more enjoyable and scenic route.

Looking ahead to 2024, we continue to await approval on the construction of the Juniper Trail System planned for the east side of the valley.



You can read our [2023 Trails Report and 2024 Work Plan](#) online under "About/Accomplishments / Trail Reports"

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# Recent Events

## CVTA Board Welcomes Two New Members

### Marlo Doll

Marlo has been visiting Northern Nevada recreationally for 30+ years. She and her husband moved to Minden 10 years ago to be closer to her parents as they age. She has been passionate about the outdoors and animals since birth. After getting her first horse in Saudi Arabia at the age of 10, she has always enjoyed competing, distance riding and backcountry adventures. You can see her riding on the equine trails in Carson Valley on her Heirloom Arabian Cent'Anni or hiking with her husband and 3 dogs. Marlo is committed to preserving the natural beauty and the world class trail system in Carson Valley. As an avid trail rider, she is excited to represent the horse community and support the safety needs and positive equestrian experiences in our lovely valley.







### Terri Willoughby

Terri moved to the Carson Valley in 2018 from Riverside, CA. She served as the Chief Financial Officer for Douglas County from 2018-2024, retiring in January 2024. She is passionate about spending time outdoors and can often be found out on the trails with her husband Lyn and their three dogs (Zeus, Sadie and Draymond). She enjoys a variety of sports and is currently training for a half-Ironman. She is a member of Kaia Fitness and is excited to be able to give back to the community.

## Thank You for Your Outstanding Support!

As a non-profit, volunteer based organization, CVTA could not exist without the support of our community's individuals and businesses. Your donations, memberships and voluntarism, are what enable us to continue our mission of planning, building and maintaining the trails that connect Carson Valley to the outdoors!

We are humbled by our strong membership numbers and proud of our financial strength going into 2024. Below is a summary our organization's 2023 finances.

2024 SOURCES & USE OF FUNDS SUMMARY			
Source of Funds		Use of Funds	
Donations	\$57,020.22	Operating Expenses	\$16,625.00
Memberships	\$13,390.00	Trail Building	\$7,264.66
Net Sales Revenue	\$ (107.56)	Trail Fund Reserve	\$57,458.45
Interest Income	\$11,045.45		
TOTAL: \$81,348.11		TOTAL: \$81,348.11	

You'll note that we were able to reserve a substantial amount of funds for future trail building. This is important as we are still awaiting final approval on the 10-mile Juniper Trail system planned for the east side of the valley. While we did construct new trails, in 2023 (4.1 mile James Lee Loops and 1.1 mile Appaloosa Trail) most of our trail building expenses were related to new signage, maps and new kiosks which you may have noticed throughout our trail systems in 2023.



# Upcoming Events

## **Carson Valley Trails Mixer (fully booked)**

Reservations for our first-ever mixer at Minden Mills & Distillery this month filled up quickly! If you missed out, don't worry! We plan to have some repeats, possibly with expanded capacity knowing how popular this was.

## **Annual Meeting and Social, coming this spring**

Watch your email for updates on the exact date. We look forward to seeing you there. Remember, you can bring a friend as this event is open to the public.

### **2023 CVTA OFFICERS AND BOARD**

**President:** Neal Falk

**Secretary:** Marlo Doll

**Treasurer:** Dianne Jennings

**VP/Membership:** Lee Elson

**VP/Chief Information Officer:** Michael Hartstein

**VP/Trail Operations:** Jeremy Vican

**VP/Outreach and Publicity:** Judy Larquier

**VP/Marketing:** Bill Rogers

**VP:** Erica Roselius

#### **Directors-at-Large:**

Laura Ammons

Juan Guzman

Vickie Kieffer

Terri Willouby

#### **Emeriti:**

Lori Chitwood

Mary Bennigton

Barbara Slade

Your annual membership dues and donations to the Carson Valley Trails Association, a Nevada 501(c)(3) organization, may be tax deductible pursuant to the provisions of section 170.c. of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, 26 U.S.C. 170.c. All proceeds support trail construction and maintenance, project planning, community events and trail access in the Carson Valley.