

# News Release

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## All Aboard! Railroad Museum Gears Up For Major Celebratory Weekend May 9-10

*Museum Hosts National Train Day Event, Opens Special "Lincoln's California Legacy" Exhibit and Commemorates Anniversary of the Completion of the Transcontinental Railroad*

**SACRAMENTO, Calif. (April 29, 2009)** – Rail fans, history buffs and the community at large should mark their calendars for the action-packed weekend of May 9-10, 2009, when the California State Railroad Museum is set to host a series of exciting rail-related events and activities sure to delight guests from near and far. On Saturday, May 9, the California State Railroad Museum will celebrate the second annual National Train Day in conjunction with Caltrans, Amtrak and the Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Authority. Also on Saturday, the Museum is set to debut an historically significant new exhibit that is part of a major "Lincoln's California Legacy" focus showcasing President Abraham Lincoln's far-reaching impacts on the Golden State. Then on Sunday, May 10, the Museum—along with the rest of the nation—will celebrate the 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad with special activities, lectures and demonstrations.

On Saturday, May 9, Sacramento is one of many cities throughout the nation celebrating **National Train Day**. Visitors to the California State Railroad Museum will have an abundance of visually-enticing and hands-on options inside and outside the Museum. Guests can tour a modern-day Amtrak California Coach, and learn more about train travel options in California by watching short films and talking with rail transportation providers. Outside the Museum, visitors can view railroad equipment from the Museum's collection including a 1954 Southern Pacific "Daylight" streamlined diesel locomotive and a 1949 Union Pacific "Route of the Streamliners" bus, and ride aboard the Museum's Interpretive Handcar. To add to the festivities, a special award presentation will be held at 1 p.m. to honor Art Lloyd, a longtime champion of rail in California, with a prestigious Golden STAR award.

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Also on Saturday, the California State Railroad Museum debuts **“The Rail Splitter and the Railroads: Lincoln, the Union and the Golden State.”** This exhibit has been created specifically for the California State Railroad Museum by Guest Curator Peter A. Hansen with support from the California State Railroad Museum Foundation. It highlights how Lincoln was instrumental in determining the role of American railroads in the transportation and early movement of crops and, eventually, even California’s gold. Additionally, the exhibit follows Lincoln’s law career as it related to key issues concerning the railroad. As a special treat, Hansen will deliver an illustrated lecture on President Lincoln and the Transcontinental Railroad in the Museum Theater at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday. “The Rail Splitter and the Railroads” exhibit will be showcased in the Museum’s Theater Mezzanine Gallery through February 15, 2010. This exhibit is the second in a series of three “Lincoln’s California Legacy” exhibits rolling out at various downtown Sacramento locations. Coordinated by California State Parks and the Capital District State Museums and Historic Parks, this special focus underscores the important role President Abraham Lincoln played in shaping the American railroad and thereby forever impacting the Golden State, a topic made especially interesting given that Lincoln never actually visited California—but expressed a desire to do so.

Then on Sunday, May 10, the California State Railroad Museum celebrates one of the most significant achievements in U.S. history: **the completion of the world’s first Transcontinental Railroad in 1869.** Guests can watch while re-enactors take us back to 1869, as news of the Transcontinental Railroad’s completion reached Sacramento. Visitors will be encouraged to explore the new Lincoln exhibit, meet Guest Curator Peter A. Hansen and enjoy illustrated lectures on President Lincoln and the Transcontinental Railroad in the Museum Theater at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. At 1 p.m., guests are invited to watch a special Huell Howser program about the Museum’s Lost Golden Spike. Then at 2 p.m., visitors can view the KVIE documentary about the Downtown Sacramento Railyards. Lastly, any and all visitors on Sunday should take a moment—140 years later to the day—to re-visit the Museum’s priceless Lost Golden Spike (a twin of the actual spike driven at Promontory Summit, Utah, in 1869) and American artist Thomas Hill’s monumental oil painting “The Last Spike,” both on permanent display.

Regular Museum admission prices apply both days--there are no increased costs for visitors to participate in these exciting May 9-10 activities! The California State Railroad Museum is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. with admission prices of \$8 for adults, \$3 for youths (ages 6-17) and free for children five and under. On Saturday, May 9 only, visitors with an Amtrak ticket or an Amtrak monthly pass will be admitted to the Museum free of charge. All Aboard!

More information about National Train Day is available at [www.nationaltrainday.org](http://www.nationaltrainday.org), “Lincoln’s California Legacy” at [www.parks.ca.gov/lincoln](http://www.parks.ca.gov/lincoln) and the California State Railroad Museum in general at [www.californiastaterailroadmuseum.org](http://www.californiastaterailroadmuseum.org).

***About the Capital District State Museums and Historic Parks***

*The Capital District State Museums and Historic Parks encompasses seven State Historic Parks and Museums located within the Downtown and Midtown areas of California’s Capital City: California State Capitol Museum, California State Indian Museum, California State Railroad Museum, Governor’s Mansion State Historic Park, Leland Stanford Mansion State Historic Park, Old Sacramento State Historic Park and Sutter’s Fort State Historic Park. Additionally, two units are in outlying areas: the Woodland Opera House in Woodland, California; and Railtown 1897 State Historic Park located in Jamestown, in the heart of California’s Gold Country about 100 miles southeast of Sacramento. Collectively these facilities preserve and interpret the heritage of California’s Capital City, and illuminate the many forces that have shaped Sacramento and the Golden State.*