

# RTA Readies For Conference On The Shores Of Lake Tahoe

*Engaging, Enlightening, Entertaining...*  
Prepare To Strike **Gold** At This Year's Conference!

Registration is now open for the Railway Tie Associations (RTA) 95<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium and Technical Conference, scheduled for Oct. 9-11, in Incline Village, Nev.

To confirm your spot, go to [www.rta.org](http://www.rta.org) and click on the information link at the top of the page. You may also complete the registration form that follows and e-mail to [ties@rta.org](mailto:ties@rta.org) or fax to (770) 460-5553. The host hotel for this conference is the Hyatt Regency Lake Tahoe Resort, Spa & Casino, with a negotiated room rate starting at \$179 per night.

The conference will kick off on Wednesday, Oct. 9 with the annual RTA Golf Tournament at the Championship Golf Course designed by Robert Trent Jones.

The Championship Course offers tightly cut fairways, bordered by towering pines, demanding accuracy as well as distance. Golfers are faced with bunkered greens and lateral water hazards on almost every hole. Challenging, to say the least.

Considered by many to be one the top golf courses in the West, the Championship Course was listed by *Golfweek* Magazine as the #8 Best Course You Can Play in Nevada in 2013.

Should weather not cooperate, golfers are invited to enjoy a blackjack clinic at The Casino Royale followed by an actual tournament with chips. A slot tournament will also be part of the event for all those interested.

Later, the annual President's Cocktail Reception will be held at the home of railroad

executive and real estate developer Kern Schumacher on Lake Tahoe. The reception is sponsored by A&K Railroad Materials. Shuttles will be available at 5:15 p.m., in front of the hotel to take you to his home.

Schumacher started coming to Lake Tahoe in the 1950s and bought a property in the then-sleepy town of Incline Village in 1971, attracted to "the combination of beauty and low taxes," according to an article in the *Wall Street Journal*.

The article continued, "On what's now considered a prime lakefront spot on prestigious Lakeshore Boulevard, Mr. Schumacher built a 12,900-square-foot contemporary-style house, restored an existing 1952 guesthouse and added another guesthouse. His



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Follow **@RTAHQ** for all RTA tweets and  
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(If you need help learning how to use Twitter, you can watch a video here: <http://youtu.be/VWV74mndNaY>)

Members will find more info and a conference game (coming soon) in the Events Circle in My Features after login



property has a pier with eight boat lifts, a tennis court, a beach volleyball court, a creek and two ponds stocked with trout.”

On Thursday, Oct. 10, the day will begin early with the RTA General Business Session and Welcome. This will be followed by a variety of forums and presentations from notable experts in the industry.

“All of the most timely issues related to the wood tie industry will be presented in an engaging and informative way,” said RTA President Jeff Parrett. “The latest research on wood preservatives; global procurement issues; and environmental issues will be highlights. Other sessions will focus on short lines, legislative developments, and Class 1 engineering and purchasing plans.”



Jones

Railroad Forum and the Railroad Contractor Forum.

Lunch will be served in the exhibit hall followed by a keynote address from Terry Jones, chairman of Kayak.com. Jones founded Travelocity.com and led the company as president and CEO from its founding until May 2002. Previously, Jones served as chief information officer at Sabre Inc. In his 24 years at Sabre, Jones held various executive positions including president of computer services, vice president of applications development and vice president of product development.

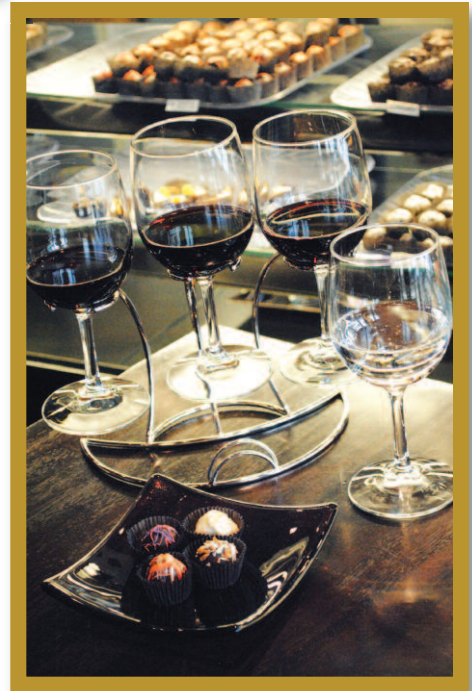
Jones is managing principal of Essential Ideas, a consultancy he co-founded to help companies in their transition to the digital economy. He serves as chairman of the board of Kayak.com, and is on the boards of LuxuryLink, Smart Destinations and Rear-den Commerce. He is a venture capitalist with General Catalyst Partners and the Sierra Angels. Jones is also chairman of the Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival and serves on the National Information Technology Committee of the Boy Scouts of America. ➤

### Presentations & Panel Discussions

Enlightening presentations and panel discussions will be featured on Thursday and Friday, beginning with a forum focused on the economy and its effect on the industry.

This will be followed by a session on the new RTA website and online social community. Attendees will also learn how to make the most of their networking time at the conference.

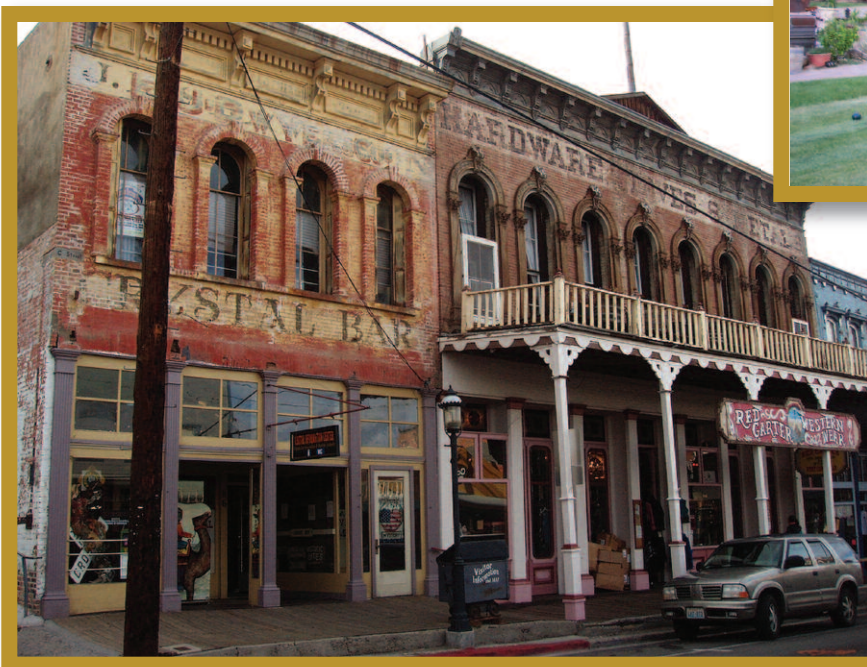
Next up will be the Short Line & Regional



One of the optional activities at this year's conference includes a chocolate and wine-pairing lesson at the resort, where attendees will be shown the basic techniques for creating world-class truffles.

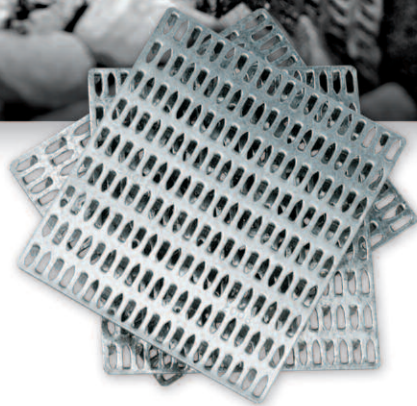


ABOVE: Attendees can enjoy a trip to Truckee River Winery, where they'll be treated to a private wine tasting and be able to sample a variety of unique and delicious wines. A visit to the historic railroad town of Truckee, California, just minutes away from the winery, offers quaint shops and restaurants to browse and enjoy.



LEFT: A Virginia City historical walking tour is another optional activity, where colorful stories will be shared with attendees about the gold and silver mining in the area long ago and will be enhanced by a ride on the Silverline Express Steam Train or a heart-stopping stagecoach ride.

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Following Jones' presentation, sessions will continue and address legislative issues, provide an update on AREMA and give details of major engineering projects Class 1 railroads have undertaken recently or will in the future.

The evening will end with the Annual RTA Banquet and Awards Ceremony. Themed, "The All Black (and a Little Gold) Nevada Party," this event encourages attendees to deck out in their most elegant black and gold eveningwear.

Friday will kick off with the Research Forum, where attendees will learn more about the effects of borate and creosote treatments on electrical resistance properties of wood crossties. This will be followed by a variety of presentations addressing creosote absorption through the skin; European manufacturing capabilities for custom creosotes; a report on EPA submittal and an update on Boiler MACT Rules for creosote ties; an update on ACZA testing and usage; ongoing work at TTCI in FAST heavy haul applications; and how to grow a cleaner tomorrow by turning cellulose into hydrogen power.

Judd Johnson, president of *Hardwood Market Report*, will provide an update on hardwood markets.

The conference will close with the highly anticipated Railroad Purchasing Forum, during which Class 1 railroad representatives share with attendees their expected purchases for the coming year.

## Even More Excitement

During the evening hours, attendees will be able to continue networking with colleagues at sponsored hospitality suites.

Other fun optional activities will be available, including a tour of the Truckee River Winery (tasting included); a chocolate and wine-pairing lesson at the resort; and a Virginia City historical walking tour, lunch and Wild West show. These activities require payment of an additional fee (see registration form that follows).

On Thursday morning, spouses and guests are invited to enjoy a hospitality breakfast at Lone Eagle Grill at no additional charge.

"This year's conference promises great golf, fun guest programs, and enlightening sessions for all in attendance," Parrett said. "I encourage all members to register today at [www.rta.org](http://www.rta.org)." ■