



A New Carson Valley Tradition Takes Off with the Ferris 50 *Inaugural Endurance Run Debuts with Strong Participation, Scenic Routes, and Community Pride*

CARSON VALLEY, Nev. (Dec. 2, 2025) – The foothills of the eastern Carson Valley were awakened as 130 runners participating in the inaugural Ferris 50 Endurance Run took off and became part of a bold new tradition for the region. The inaugural run included 50-mile, 50k, and 15k routes over a mixed terrain course leading racers through the high-desert beauty of the Carson Range and Minden and Gardnerville, Nevada.

From the challenging sand of Hot Springs Mountain on the 50-mile to the relatively flat OHV trails of the 50k and the gradual downhill pavement of the 15k, participants exhibited grit, determination, and, most importantly, speed as they set the times to beat at each distance. "We expected fast times," remarked Race Directors March Walling and Kelly Winter-Walling. "These are PR courses."

The event name, Ferris 50, pays homage to a Valley pioneer, George Washington Gale Ferris, the inventor of the Ferris Wheel and one of Carson Valley's legendary former residents. It celebrates the rich history and landscape of the area with a course to match—challenging seasoned athletes while remaining accessible to newer trail runners—and tests endurance while honoring the pioneering spirit of the valley.

Local trail advocates and volunteers from the Carson Valley Trails Association, Pine Nut Mountains Trail Association, and the Nevada Off-Road Association played key roles in creating and managing the course.



Runners during the Nov. 8, 2025, Ferris 50 Endurance Run held in Carson Valley, Nevada hosted by Visit Carson Valley. Photo credit: Comet Creations LLC

Racer Feedback – From top finishers

"Growing up, I'd visit Northern Nevada with my dad, riding ATVs through the hills of Carson Valley, and that's where I first fell in love with this beautiful region," said Michael Brondello, 1st place male winner of the 50k race from Reno, Nevada. "Running the Ferris 50 brought me back to those same trails I experienced decades ago, bringing the whole experience full circle. As a lifelong runner, I can honestly say the Ferris 50 was one of the most hospitable events I've ever experienced. Every volunteer was warm and welcoming, the aid stations were first-class, and the finish-line celebration was incredible. You'd never guess this was their inaugural year. They absolutely nailed it, and I can't wait to come back."

"I picked the Ferris 50 because I like to support local races," said Amber Weibel, 1st place female winner in the 50-mile race from South Lake Tahoe, California. "It's great to see new events that showcase the beauty of our area. One of the reasons I race is to show my kids how to work hard toward a goal. They see me training and the process it takes to achieve hard things."

"The Ferris 50 was an excellent tribute to the wild beauty of the Carson Valley and a way for me to test my limits in a race close to home," said Eric Paige, 2nd place male finisher in the men's division for the 50-mile run from Reno, Nevada. "This was my first 50 miler, and I was quite nervous coming into it. Thanks to my amazing crew and a well-administered race, I found the Ferris to be a memorable desert adventure, and a perfect way to get into longer-distance ultrarunning. This race was put on with lots of love for the Carson Valley, and it shows! Hope to be back again next year."

"The Ferris 50 was memorable for me because of the picturesque course," said Katie Somers, 1st place female finisher in the 15k from Gardnerville, Nevada. "Running down into the valley provides a particularly good view of the snow-capped eastern Sierra peaks. It's the perfect fall course."

Community, Trails, and Outdoor Beauty

"The Ferris 50 is more than a race—it's a tribute to the trails, the valley, and the people who make it all possible," said Keith Lewis, executive director of Visit Carson Valley. "Since this is our inaugural race, we were thrilled to see runners from across the region pushing their limits while also taking in one of Nevada's most scenic foothill landscapes. We couldn't have done any of it without the tremendous support of our sponsors and the community. Plans are underway for 2026, and we can't wait."

Race Results – The following are results for the 50-mile, 50k, and 15k races.

- 50-mile run started at 6 a.m. with 27 runners taking on the full distance; 27 completed the race.
 - 50-mile female finishers – 1st place Amber Weible, South Lake Tahoe, California (8:13:47) and 2nd place Leslie Cross, Reno, Nevada (12:31:04)
 - 50-mile male finishers – 1st place Isaac Anguiano, Sparks, Nevada (8:10:20), 2nd place Eric Paige, Reno, Nevada (8:15:54), 3rd place Dylan Torgerson, Carson City, Nevada (8:23:45)
- 50k run started at 7 a.m. with 32 competitors; 32 completed the race.
 - 50k female finishers – 1st place Tara Purinton, Minden, Nevada (5:23:42), 2nd place Kate Kennedy, Minden, Nevada (5:31:30), and 3rd place Morgan Humble, Wellington, Nevada (6:03:33)
 - 50k male finishers – 1st place Michael Brondello, Reno, Nevada (4:15:02), 2nd place Rob Harper, Sparks, Nevada (4:35:13), and 3rd place John Hatcher, Wellington, Nevada (5:10:15)
- 15k started at 9 a.m. with 71 competitors; 71 completed the race.
 - 15k female finishers – 1st place Katherine Somers, Gardnerville, Nevada (1:04:25), 2nd place Ashlee Zoch, Minden, Nevada (1:16:24), and 3rd place Richelle Pegram, Minden, Nevada (1:20:10)

- 15k male finishers – 1st place Ryan Stoffer, Gardnerville, Nevada (1:05:48), 2nd place Doc Bodensteiner, Reno, Nevada (1:11:37), and 3rd place Gennady Stolyarov, Carson City, Nevada (1:14:59)

Planning for 2026

Visit Carson Valley is carrying the momentum from 2025 as plans are underway for the 2026 edition of the Ferris 50, targeted for Nov. 7, 2026. Registration is now open online at <https://visitcarsonvalley.org/ferris-fifty-endurance-run/>. Discounts are available for early-bird registration for the 50-mile and 50k prior to June 1, 2026.

“November is a great time for our race as it draws visitors to the area and gives runners one last race before the holidays. There is enormous potential, and the Ferris 50 is poised to bring in more runners and visitors to discover Carson Valley in a whole new way,” said Lewis.

2025 Sponsor Recognition

The event was made possible through the generous support of the following sponsors and supporters: Carson Valley Health, Travel Nevada, Carson Valley Inn, Comet Creation, Carson Valley Trails Association, Nevada Offroad Association, Douglas County, Sierra Rec Magazine, Datafy, Carson Valley Golf Course, Healing Hands Physical Therapy, Raley’s - Gardnerville, J.T. Basque Bar & Dining Room, Visit Lake Tahoe, Unnhibited, Reno Running Co., Local Food Group, David Walley’s Hot Springs Resort, 1862 Restaurant & Saloon, All Star Rents, and Shoe Tree Brewing Co. Minden.

2025 Aid Station Hosts

Aid stations are vital and were supported by the following community organizations: Pine Nut Mountains Trail Association, Todd & Carola Leigh, Knights of Columbus, Carson Valley Health, Douglas High School JROTC, Carson Valley Trails Association, Douglas County Youth Suicide Prevention Group, Douglas County Parks & Recreation, and Rotary Club of Minden.

About the Ferris 50 Endurance Run

Led by Visit Carson Valley, in partnership with local nonprofits Carson Valley Trails Association and the Nevada Offroad Association, the race covers three distances – 50-mile, 50k, and 15k – on the rugged trails and foothills of the eastern Carson Valley. All net proceeds benefit the participating non-profit trail organizations. For more information and future registration, visit <https://visitcarsonvalley.org/ferris-fifty-endurance-run/>.

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