

Placer-Sierra Railroad Heritage Society

P.O. Box 1776

Colfax, CA 95713

Apply
U.S. Postage
Here



To:

PSRHS Activities & Events...

Editor's Comments

We have had an interesting field trip to Rockland and a presentation on Cisco Grove for our recent meetings.

For the July Meeting Sheldon Campbell will make a presentation on a recent excursion trip behind the Portola Railroad Museums F-7 units. This ran from Truckee to Colfax and he has some photos of the event.

Please forward any comments, suggestions or ideas for trips or other activities to me for consideration and information.

Editor: Lyle Brown, (530) 885-6997
<2lebrown@infostations.com>

In this Issue...

Monthly Meeting...

PSRHS will meet on Thursday, July 22, 2004, at 7:00 P.M., at the Pilgrim Hall of the First Congregational Church, 710 Auburn Ravine Road, Auburn.

The scheduled speaker is Sheldon Campbell about an excursion trip behind Portola's F-7 units.

Membership Information

Individual Members = \$20.00

Family Membership = \$25.00

- Monthly Newsletter
- Member Activities, Presentations and Field Trips
- Display & Restoration Projects
PSRHS, P.O. Box 1776
Colfax, CA 95713

Placer-Sierra Railroad Heritage Society

Monthly Newsletter

President's Corner – July 04

In addition to our regular monthly meetings, we are planning two special events this fall.

Fall Field Trip: In September, we will be hosting another PSRHS field trip, with date and location to be determined. We will pass on details to members as soon as plans are firm.

Joint Meeting with Colfax Area Historical Society: For our October meeting, we plan to join the Colfax Area Historical Society for a presentation on the Chinese and the Railroad. William Chew will be discussing his new book and talking about the workers who were so instrumental in constructing the transcontinental railroad over Donner summit. The joint meeting is tentatively set for October 21 in Colfax (note this is not our usual 4th Thursday). More details will be provided in future newsletters.

Colfax Update – The 4th of July saw the grand opening of new shops in the restored Colfax Freight depot on Main St., next to the NWP caboose. Building owner Gary Todd is accumulating an impressive collection of photos and artifacts, and has established a mini-museum in the center portion of the building. Around the outside of the building, he is beginning to display some of the large railroad artifacts he has collected, including an SP concrete phone booth, crossing arms/wig-wags, and some surprises to come. Stop by downtown Colfax and check out this evolving display.

Roger Staab, (530) 346-6722 rsrr@ncws.com

Special Meeting P.S.R.H.S. Board of Directors

June 24, 2004

A special meeting of the Board was called by President Roger Staab, after the regular

membership meeting adjourned at the First Congregational Church in Auburn. In attendance were: President Roger Staab, Vice-President Jim Wood, Secretary-Treasurer Ron Petersen and Board members Bob Baker, Tony Hesch, Ken Yeo and Dave McClain. Items discussed were:

Golden Gate Railroad Museum -

Jim reviewed discussions with the G.G.R.M. relative to the acquisition or loan of rolling stock for display in downtown Colfax. The Society is still interested in an F-7 diesel unit which, if acquired, would ideally be painted in S.P.'s Black Widow paint scheme. The Pullman coach, earlier thought to be a desirable item, is in need of considerable metal work, and is no longer considered a feasible addition. Jim pointed out that, due to the size of our organization, the group needs to focus on a specific project.

Letter of Agreement with City of Colfax –

All members were in agreement that the Society should prepare a letter of agreement with the city to seek rolling stock for display in Colfax and a commitment from the City for a track panel to display said rolling stock.

Proposal to G.G.R.M. –

The Board was also in agreement that, upon receiving the City's blessings, the Society should proceed with a proposal to the G.G.R.M. for rolling stock to display somewhere along the Donner route. Colfax would be the most appropriate location for a display, but other localities along the route could also be considered. Discussions with the G.G.R.M. should include the feasibility of a loan or share program which could be beneficial to all parties. Dave McClain volunteered to head a committee to begin addressing issues to put together the proposal.

Placer-Sierra Railroad Heritage Society

Monthly Newsletter

Trip to Portola –

Jim suggested that the Society consider the Feather River Rail Society's museum in Portola as a future 1-day field trip. The Board unanimously agreed that it would make an interesting outing and should be scheduled for a date to be determined. It was also agreed upon that a field trip of some nature should take place as the September or October monthly meeting.

Caboose -

Tony Hesch agreed to head the caboose restoration group, whose first task will be to draw up a schedule. First item to receive attention will be the leaking roof.

Website -

Brendan Compton has been making great improvements to the Society's web site. Any suggestions or additions should be sent to his attention at
< email@donnerrails.com >

Financial Report –

Ron Petersen distributed a financial report covering the period January 22, 2004 to June 22, 2004.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:30PM

Meeting Minutes

June 24, 2004

Meeting commenced at 7:10PM at the First Congregational Church in Auburn. Due to a scheduling conflict, the meeting was held in the small chapel on the church grounds.

Announcements –

- President Roger Staab commented on articles featuring the Colfax freight depot and California Zephyr Excursion Train, which appeared in a recent issue of the Pacific Coast Chapter of the Railway Locomotive Society. He also briefed members on his Memorial Day weekend trip to McCloud and the steam excursion to Burney aboard the McCloud River RR. While in the area, he met up with member Dave McClain and his railroad speeder club on one of their rides. Roger handed out copies of Colfax's latest tourist brochure entitled "Colfax - All Aboard for Walking Path of History", a self-guided historical tour of town. Next, he acknowledged Newsletter Editor Lyle Brown for an outstanding job on the June issue, which included bio sketches of members Vi White and Dave Ballenger. Lyle took the opportunity to announce that he had brought to the meeting the photo scrapbook he had put together on the May field trip to Rocklin, and welcomed anyone interested, to view at it after the meeting.

Old Business -

- Vice-President Jim Wood reviewed the situation with the Golden Gate

Placer-Sierra Railroad Heritage Society

Monthly Newsletter

Railroad Club, relative to the possible acquisition of rolling stock for display in Colfax. Still under consideration are one of two F-7 diesel units. The Pullman car (No. 9053), originally thought to be a coach on the "City of S.F.", needs major metal work and has been dropped from the "wish list". Jim pointed out that the Society's Board is in the process of preparing its vision of what should be included in the downtown railroad heritage displays and will seek a letter of agreement with the City before proceeding any further with possible acquisitions.

- Member Ken Yeo and Scott Foote of the Nevada County Narrow Gauge Historical Museum, gave an update on the status of the former Westside Lumber Co. flatcar now in their inventory. It is being considered for display to commemorate the NCNGRR's presence in Colfax by being placed on trackage behind the recently renovated freight depot. It is scheduled to be restored in the foreseeable future, and the thinking is that old mining equipment, such as that once carried by NCNG, could be displayed on the car as well.

Program –

- Phil Sexton, Director of the U.S. Forest Service's Big Bend Visitor Center in the Tahoe National Forest, presented a program entitled "In Search of Cisco". The town of Cisco was founded in 1865 during the construction of the Transcontinental Railroad. Its life, however, was

short-lived, as by 1873, it had all but disappeared. Phil showed some rare images of Cisco in its prime, including railroad structures and equipment. He also presented an interesting comparison of 1936 and 2000 aerial photographs and with the aid of an overlay map from an 1865 survey, one could see where section corners and other distinguishing landmarks were located.

Unfortunately, the area has suffered archaeologically in the recent past, due to looting by treasure seekers. Phil also discussed the railroad's fire lookout on Red Mountain, where the state's first telephone (1879) was installed between the lookout and Cisco. He also covered some of the ski resort activities which took place in the 30's and 40's when S.P. ran ski trains from the Bay Area to Truckee. It is hoped that the Society will someday be able to make a field trip to the area covered in Phil's interesting and informative program.

Adjournment –

- The regular meeting concluded at 8:30PM after which the Board of Directors met to discuss Society business. Attendance was 18 members and 2 guests. The next meeting is scheduled for July 22, 2004 at the same location, with Sheldon Campbell sharing his photographs of the California Zephyr Excursion train to Sparks, which took place in April.