

# Placer-Sierra Railroad Heritage Society

P.O. Box 1776

Colfax, CA 95713

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## PSRHS Activities & Events...

Editor's Comments

***NOTICE:***

**There will be no regular September meeting of the PSRHS.**

**October 2, 2004 Fall Field Trip.**

**October 21, 2004 – Joint meeting with the Colfax Area Historical Society in Colfax.**

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

Editor: Lyle Brown, (530) 885-6997  
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## In this Issue...

### ***Monthly Meeting...***

**PSRHS will not have a regular meeting in September.**

The next meeting will be a joint meeting with Colfax Area Historical Society on Oct. 21<sup>st</sup>. In Colfax.

### **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

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## Monthly Newsletter

### ***President's Corner-September 04***

**Election of Officers** – It is time to think about officers for the coming year. I will be asking one or two board members to solicit names of those interested in serving/continuing to serve as officers and board members for 2005. If you are interested in helping guide the direction of PSRHS, please contact Jim Wood, Ron Petersen or me.

**Other Ways to Get Involved** – In addition to monthly meetings and field trips, PSRHS is committed to several other projects. These include the Colfax Caboose restoration; rebuilding a NCNG flatcar to display in Colfax where the NCNG connected to the mainline; displays of historic photos; and displays of rolling stock and other historic artifacts along the Donner Pass route. Each of these efforts could benefit from your assistance. Please consider helping on projects that most interest you. Contact any PSRHS officer if you are willing to lend a hand.

**Truckee Railroad Days** – PSRHS had a booth at this year's Railroad Days in Truckee, Sept. 11. Thanks to Jim Wood, Tony Hesch and Ron Petersen for assisting. In addition to showing part of our collection of historical scenes along the Donner Pass route and swapping stories with retired SP employees, we enjoyed viewing the display of rolling stock brought to Truckee for Railroad Days. Western Pacific F-7 805A looked especially smashing, and it was pure enjoyment to feel the rumble of her idling engine as we toured the cab. Kudos to Dave McClain and his Portola Museum co-workers for the job they did on restoration of the 805A. Incidentally, when purchased, this engine was in basically the same condition as the two SP F-7's now at Golden Gate Railroad Museum. These latter

engines are the ones PSRHS would like to see restored and displayed in Colfax or other locations along the Donner route, where they saw service in Black Widow colors.

*Roger Staab* [rsrr@ncws.com](mailto:rsrr@ncws.com)

### **Meeting Minutes August 26, 2004:**

Meeting Commenced at 7:10 P.M. at the First Congregational Church in Auburn.

#### **Announcements-**

- President Roger Staab announced 2 dates of possible interest.
- (1) Truckee Railroad Days on September 11-12, where the P.S.R.H.S. will share an information booth with another group.
- (2) Colfax Founders Day on September 18<sup>th</sup>, where the main focuses will be the dedication of a plaque on the old freight depot. Also planned are historical walking tours and the caboose will be manned by P.S.R.H.S.
- Member Frank Thomy announced that he is exhibiting his railroad models in the Auburn Art Walk Program. If interested, call Frank at (530) 887-8973 for more information.
- Vice-President Jim Wood announced that the next field trip would begin where the July 2003 left off. (In the vicinity of Lake Rollins where the Nevada Narrow Gauge crossed the Bear River.) From there, the group will travel the service road to Cape Horn with the assistance of Brendan Compton. Next on the agenda will be the site of the famous Secret Ravine trestle and the American Canyon viewpoint to the American River. After a discussion of possible

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## Monthly Newsletter

dates, it was agreed to schedule the outing for Saturday, October 2.

Details following in this newsletter.

- The regular October meeting will be a joint session with the Colfax Area Historical Society on October 21<sup>st</sup>.

### Old Business-

- Jim Wood reported that the Colfax City Council has officially endorsed the acquisition of rolling stock for historical display and is currently negotiating a lease with U.P. for a spur line for that purpose.
- Roger issued a reminder that the P.S.R.H.S.'s area of interest is not restricted to Colfax, but the entire mainline route from Roseville to Truckee. Accordingly, we should always be on the lookout for opportunities to develop other sites of historic interest along that portion of the mainline. He also encouraged donations by members for specific projects of personal interest.

### New Business-

- Member Shelton Campbell raised the question of how the P.S.R.H.S. might interface its activities with the Auburn Chamber of Commerce and its rolling stock display adjacent to its offices at the old train depot. Shelton had taken part in refurbishing the caboose at an earlier date and questions the fact that the 2 box cars there are still lettered with Northwest markings. Roger indicated he would look into the matter.
- Roger pointed out that members should begin thinking about the election of officers in November and what type of meeting (dinner and/or program) should be considered for

the annual meeting in December. A location also has to be determined.

### Program-

- P.S.R.H.S. member Shelton Campbell, a life-long railroad buff and modeler, historian and excursion taker, first commented on the history and operation of the California Zephyr, the W.P. streamliner that ran in the 1950's and 60's. He then showed the video he made while taking part in the excursion which took place on the weekend of April 15-18. The consist, originating in Emeryville on Friday, included W.P. 806 and 5 original CZ cars, and made its first run to Sparks. Shelton boarded the train in Sparks at 8 A.M. on Saturday for its second leg, a run to Colfax and back, with lunch served aboard. After arriving back in Sparks around 5:30P.M. it next began its dinner run to Truckee and back, and returned to Emeryville on its final leg on Sunday. Shelton's video successfully captured the sights and sounds of travel in that by-gone era and included crew activities as well. He also brought along his HO scale model of the California Zephyr as well as promotional and reference material.

Meeting concluded at approximately 8:30 P.M. Attendance consisted of 19 members and 2 guests.

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

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## Monthly Newsletter

### *Meet James Bennett:*



James was born in Oakland but grew up near L. A. He moved to the Auburn area after retiring in 1995. From 1955 to 1988 he was a computer designer. Left that field and became a professional photographer doing weddings and etc. James trained as a hypotherapist, an activity he still pursues.

He has always been interested in steam trains. His first trip was with his family from Pasadena to Illinois when he was 6 years old. When he was 12, he took another train trip, which was memorable, as Gary Cooper was aboard. He had a HO model railroad layout while his three boys were growing up.

James became interested in railroad history after moving to Auburn. Enjoys visiting scenic or historic railroads.

### **Fall Field Trip, October 2, 2004**

#### **PSRHS FALL FIELD TRIP**

**Saturday, October 2, 2004** (rain makeup day, 10/9)

Meet at the parking behind the Colfax Freight Depot at 9AM.

Duration 3 to 4 hours.

Bring water, hat, sunscreen, coat, and camera.

This trip is primarily for members, but guests are acceptable

No outside advertising will be done

Call Jim Wood if you have questions 530-346-9607.

Our Fall fieldtrip is in lieu of our September meeting. We will continue where we left off on a previous trip in this vicinity by beginning the trip at the famous Cape Horn cut. We'll drive to a parking area and shuttle up to the site in a couple of cars to minimize our presence there. Our next stop will be the area of Cape Horn Mills to see some of the abandoned original CPRR grades. Other places to see are the sites of the Secret Town Trestle and the remnants of the railroad activities at Gold Run. Should be a good time for a fall outing. Could be cool...bring a coat.