

Placer-Sierra Railroad Heritage Society

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PSRHS Activities & Events...

Editor's Comments

The April meeting presentation will be about the
"Southern Pacific Fire Trains".

A collection of historic photos of the Southern Pacific Fire Trains that operated over the Donner Pass Route will be the presentation topic for the monthly meeting. The photo collection includes some very early fire train locomotives used by Southern Pacific as well as recent fire train operations by Union Pacific to fight the Cape Horn Fire near Colfax in 2004.

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In this Issue...

Monthly Meeting...

PSRHS will meet on April 28, 2005 at 7:00P.M. at the **Pilgrim Hall of the First Congregational Church**, 710 Auburn Ravine Road, Auburn.

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 – April 2005

Web Site – Our web site can use items of interest that you wish to share with other railroad buffs. We also need links of interest for the links page, and listings of upcoming events for the calendar page. Please do your part to help make the PSRHS web site a useful source of information on the Donner route and on railroading in general. Contact Brendan Compton or me if you have something to contribute.

Sacramento Shops – Tony Hesch and I recently had the pleasure of touring some of the old shops of the former Sacramento Locomotive Works. The California State Railroad Museum is pursuing ownership and control of two of the large buildings plus the linear transfer table. A portion of one of the large buildings dates back to the original CPRR operations in the 1800's. The museum has some impressive machine shop equipment and rolling stock housed in the two buildings, and the linear transfer table is operational. The buildings and area immediately surrounding them are not open to the public, but tours are occasionally offered.

Both the Sacramento Shops buildings and the California State Railroad Museum are located within easy walking distance of the Sacramento AMTRAK station. These Sacramento sites that mark the beginnings of the CPRR and the Donner route are an easy day trip by car, or you could include a ride on Capitol Corridor trains or AMTRAK bus service from Colfax, Auburn or Roseville. Perhaps we will sponsor a group trip to the Sacramento area sometime in the future.

Roger Staab, PSRHS President rsrr@news.com

March Meeting Minutes

Announcements-

Roger Staab announced that he was in the process of preparing a brief history of the Donner Route in booklet form and circulated a sample of the format being considered. This publication is intended as a handout to Society members, but will also be available for sale as a fundraiser.

The final draft will be reproduced by member Joe Helton at his print shop in Colfax.

Vice-President Jim Wood announced that he will be coordinating a field trip with member and forest ranger Phil Sexton to explore the Texas Hill Area, where some of the early Towle Bros. logging operations took place. This will likely take place in May or June.

Roger mentioned that our regular meeting room will not be available for June, so we will reschedule, find a different location or possibly take our field trip in it's place.

Old Business-

Member Frank Thomy updated the group on the purchase of T-shirts and showed a sample with the Society's logo. Price will be \$14.00 each, regardless of quantity ordered. An order form will be distributed at the April meeting for those interested

Jim Wood reported that the location for the flat car being restored by the N.C.N.G. group has been determined. It will be placed on a track in the park area adjacent to the passenger depot, and will be surrounded by a fence for security. The N.C.N.G. project team, under the supervision of Ken Yeo, is still waiting for a local sawmill to fashion the 40' beams necessary to complete the restoration. A completion date has yet to be established.

Program-Member Ken Yeo presented a slide program covering all of the railroads that have operated in Placer County over the years, beginning with the California Central, which ran from Folsom to Junction where the Central Pacific eventually connected with it. Early photos taken of communities and prominent landmarks along the right-of-way, during the construction years of the various railroads, were compared to present day views of the same location. Railroads covered in the program, in addition to the C.C., were: Central Pacific, Gladding McBean, Towle Bros Logging, Nevada County Narrow Gauge, Mountain Quarry R.R., P.G.& E. (Forebay & powerhouse construction) and Pearson & Smart (construction of Fordyce Dam)