

Placer-Sierra Railroad Heritage Society

P.O. Box 1776

Colfax, CA 95713

Apply
U.S. Postage
Here



www.psrhs.org

To:

PSRHS Activities & Events...

Editor's Comments

May field trip cancelled!!!

Due to snow the proposed field trip to the Towle Brothers RR site must be delayed until another date.

Rebuilding a portion of original Virginia and Truckee RR will be the program topic.

A regular meeting of the PSRHS will be held as usual.

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

In this Issue...

Monthly Meeting...

PSRHS will meet on May 26, 2005 at 7:00P.M. at the **Pilgrim Hall of the First Congregational Church**, 710 Auburn Ravine Road, Auburn.

A presentation will be given by David Bieber, regarding Virginia and Truckee Railroad.

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

The Society's normal meeting will be held on the 26th. Following the members meeting the PSRHS Board will have a brief meeting.

May presentation topic:

David Bieber, a consulting geologist for Geocon Inc., will talk about his work as a geological consultant for the project to rebuild the original grade of the Virginia and Truckee Railroad between Virginia City and Carson City. The original railroad grade crosses a network of abandoned silver mine lands as it makes its way toward Carson City. David has been consulting on the geological engineering and environmental issues for this V&T project for several years. The V&T was constructed to support the silver mining industry in the Virginia City area. Ironically, it is the environmental legacy left behind that era of mining that presents great challenges and difficulties for the restoration of the railroad line. His presentation should give us an expert's perspective to overcoming the engineering challenges to rebuild what is perhaps the most famous short line railroad in the entire world.

April 28, 2005 Meeting Minutes

Announcements-

- President Roger Staab, said the Society is considering membership in other national railroad societies as an opportunity to find existing grants and to be apprised of up-coming events and activities. He asked the membership to advise the Societies Secretary if any were currently members of such organizations.
- The Colfax Passenger Depot project is currently on track, and it is hoped that it will be ready for Colfax's "Founders Day Celebration" in September. The renovation crew continues to work on Mondays and Tuesdays. The interior framing is complete and an outside contractor will be used to install the heating and air-conditioning.
- Forest Range/member Phil Sexton, in the absence of V.P. Jim Wood,

announced that the field trip to the "Texas Hill" area, to explore sites of the old Towle Bros. railroad logging operations, will take place on Saturday, May 21. (**CANCELLED**) All participants will be asked to contribute \$5.00 towards the acquisition of a publication being sought by the Forest Service for research purposes.

- If our regular meeting is held in June, it will have to take place at a location other than the church, which will not be available on our regular meeting night.
- Member Tony Hesch announced that he has scrapped his plans to produce an in-house flyer on tourist trains and other misc. railroad activities, as he has found existing publications that can provide more information. He is going to copy of a "pull out" section from one of these publications to distribute at the next regular meeting. Tony also covered the highlights of a an Amtrack report on it's California Corridor services for March, 2005, which indicated a substantial increase in both ridership and revenues over the same period in 2004.

Program-

- Roger Staab gave a presentation on the "Sierra Fire Trains" using photos and illustrations borrowed from John Signor's book "Donner Pass", Mike Kirby (photographer for Auburn Journal) and the collection of member Ken Yeo. Snowshed fires, which were a common occurrence, particularly in the 1870's, were the main reason for the existence of fire trains. Featured in Roger's program was Engine 2252, which is now on display at the Vernon St. entrance to Roseville, after having sat at the Placer County Fairgrounds since the mid 1950's. Roger also provided the audience with an information sheet showing facts and figures during the history of the fire trains.

Roger Staab, PSRHS President rsrr@ncws.com