

Placer-Sierra Railroad Heritage Society

P.O. Box 1776

Colfax, CA 95713

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February 2009



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To:

PSRHS Activities & Events...

Editor's Comments

NOTE:

Due to a bogus e-mail I received my computer was infected with a virus. I am unable to send e-mail. Unless quickly corrected, all February newsletters will be sent by postal service.

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

Monthly Meeting...

The next PSRHS meeting will be held at 7:00PM Thursday, February 26th. in the Multi-purpose Senior Citizen Center on D Ave. at the Dewitt Complex in Auburn. Call (530) 346-9607 for more info.

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

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Monthly Newsletter – February 2009

New Business: Colfax Depot Restoration.

In order to satisfy requirements for the grant from National Parks Service that was used to help in restoration of the historic Colfax Depot, a historic easement was established to maintain historic integrity. PSHRS member Tony Hesch will be our representative to oversee the easement.

Updates:

Historic Caboose restoration in Colfax – volunteers gather on the 2nd Saturday of the month at 9 am to work on the caboose. Contact Jim wood for more information.

Historic photos of Donner Route history have been purchased on eBay. Reprints will be available for purchase. More information to follow.

Colfax Rolling Stock Museum update – President Jim Wood and Dave McClain met with UP officials to discuss the use of a suburban spur on the east side of town center for a Museum for restored rail equipment. UP was encouraging, but before anything can happen, the Colfax City Council will need to approve the closing of an uncontrolled road crossing on the property. PSHRS feels the establishment of a Rail Museum in Colfax would be an economic draw for tourists, and provide much needed economic input into the community. Further discussion with the City Council is anticipated.

Potential locations for our spring fieldtrip were discussed. Possibilities include the Bowman and Colfax areas.

Newsletter delivery via email saves the cost of printing and postage. Members are encouraged to sign up for email delivery, if possible.

January Meeting Program:

Member Peter Hills presented a

slide show of his many visits to British Railroad Museums and Historic Railway Preservation Societies. Being originally from Britain, Peter has visited many preservation organizations over the years.

British and European Railway Preservation efforts differ in many ways from our American counterparts. One, there are more of them, and two, British preservation efforts more often involve operating historic railway equipment on restored sections of abandoned railroad lines. Peter's photos of the British railroad preservation efforts showed this contrast to the American RR museum style that was shown in Jay Hansel's presentation at one of our 2008 meetings.

Facts that Peter presented included that steam was used in GB until the 1960's. Many steam engines sent to the scrap yards were obtained by interested groups who are restoring these intact engines for museum use.

When the branch lines were closed down, many rail beds were left intact and local groups have been active in restoring these lines and in providing steam train rides.

February Meeting Presentation:

Retired SP Conductor Walt Wilson will present the story of the April 1973 Southern Pacific ammo train explosion that destroyed much of the Roseville yard and sent flying debris for miles into surrounding Roseville neighborhoods.

Walt will present photos of the event and will share the first hand accounts of the SP employees that were at the scene trying to deal with the disaster including the train engineers, brakemen, and yard switchmen.

