

Placer-Sierra Railroad Heritage Society

P.O. Box 1776

Colfax, CA 95713

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May 2009



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To:

PSRHS Activities & Events...

Editor's Comments:

NOTE:

Spring Field Trip: Saturday, May 23, 2009.
Colfax. Members should meet in Colfax at 9:00 AM. Directions included in this newsletter.

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...

The next PSRHS meeting will be in June due to May field trip. 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

Placer-Sierra Railroad Heritage Society

Monthly Newsletter – May 2009

April 2009 Meeting Minutes

April Program:

Club members shared their photos and videos taken of the historic UP steam locomotive No. 844. The heritage engine was in Roseville to celebrate the city's Centennial. Videographer Brendan Compton also shared his footage of the 844's travel down from Donner summit.

The 844 is the last steam locomotive built for the Union Pacific Railroad to pull high speed passenger trains. Capable of speeds up to 100 mph, it currently travels at 80 mph. Delivered in 1944, it pulled such well known trains as the Overland Limited, Los Angeles Limited, Portland Rose, and Challenger trains.

When diesel locomotives took over pulling passenger trains, the No. 844 was placed into freight service in Nebraska between 1957 and 1959. Hailed as Union Pacific's "Living Legend", the engine is widely known among railroad enthusiasts for its excursion runs.

The 844 (4-8-4) is oil fired, with 80 inch driving wheels powered by cylinders with a 25 inch diameter and 32 inch stroke. The inside boiler diameter is 86 inches and carries 300 pounds of pressure. The firebox is 150 inches long by 96 inches wide. (UP Brochure).

The PSRHS publication, Donner Crossings, Issue No. 4, was given to the members present at the meeting.

(Shirley Belleville, Secretary)

New Business:

Spring Field Trip: Saturday, May 23, 2009 – Historical exploration of Colfax and possibly Cape Horn.

Announcements/Updates:

Field Trip Saturday May 23, 2009:

The Spring field trip will be a visit to Colfax to see abandoned Central Pacific Railroad grades, the remnants of the Colfax yard engine shed, the restored SP passenger and freight depots, as well as the progress on the caboose by members of our PSRHS crew.

Meet at the parking lot at the west end of the fruit exchange sheds on Railroad Ave. next to the tracks in the UP yard at 9:00 AM. Exit I-80 at the main Colfax/Grass Valley exit; go back over the freeway; turn right on South Auburn St; straight through the next stop; turn left on Oak Street at the Catholic Church; left on Railroad Ave.

The outing should last from about 9am-2pm; there are a couple of local sources of sandwiches that people can grab a bite to eat at lunch if they wish.

We'll be doing some walking on the old grades as on past trips so you know the routine...walking shoes, sunscreen, water bottle, HAT, camera, etc

Call Jim Wood if you need more details at 346-9607.

Separate mailing of "Donner Crossings".

Members should have received a copy of the 4th edition of the PSRHS publication "Donner Crossings". This edition examines the publicizing of the early travel over the first Transcontinental Railroad from the East Coast to the West Coast. Thanks go to our editor of that publication Roger Staab for his dedication to producing that informative series.

