

Placer-Sierra Railroad Heritage Society

P.O. Box 1776

Colfax, CA 95713

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November 2009



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To:

PSRHS Activities & Events...

Editor's Comments:

NOTE:

Changed Meeting Date & Time

November Meeting will be on Thursday, Nov. 19, 2009 at 6:30 PM

This will be the annual **end-of-year Pot-Luck.**

Goodies welcome!!!

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, November 19th, 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

Placer-Sierra Railroad Heritage Society

Monthly Newsletter – November 2009

Announcements/Updates:

Jim Wood continues to communicate with UP regarding track availability for our Colfax Museum. (Ed note: UP and Feds have ordered the crossing to be closed. This crossing has been holding up an agreement with the UP to dedicate the spur to the Societys' railroad museum!)

Negotiations continue in regards to getting the historical crane moved from Truckee to Colfax.

T-shirts with the PSHRS Logo will be available for sale at meetings

Meeting Date Change for November:

Change in date and time for November Meeting to Thursday, November 19, at 6:30 pm.

Come join us for our annual **Holiday Potluck** at our November meeting. The Club will supply a ham, beverages, and utensils; members may bring a side dish or dessert to share with the group. All members and guests are invited to come one half hour early at 6:30 pm to allow time to socialize and enjoy the food, before the start of the program. Questions? Call Shirley Belleville at 530-401-0467.

September Program:

Members provided a variety of current and historical photos of the various tunnels and snowsheds over Donner Summit.

The original snowsheds were constructed of wood, and were in constant danger of burning down from fires ignited by hot exhaust coming from the steam locomotive smokestack. The tunnels were eventually all converted to concrete, to reduce this hazard.

Currently, there is ongoing tunnel construction to provide for double track over the entire Donner Summit route. The tunnels have to be made higher in order to accommodate the double stack freight cars.

Thank you to all members who provided the photos. Shirley Belleville, Secretary

October Field Trips

Cape Horn Mills:

The October fieldtrip was attended by about 18 of our members with a couple of guests as well. It was a perfectly cool Fall day for a walk along abandoned Central Pacific RR track grades up beyond the Cape Horn area that diverges from the current mainline route. As we walked over and through enormous fills and cuts we could imagine the scene 140 years ago as the early wood burning American locomotives were chugging up these old grades as they wound in and out of the hills toward Donner Pass.

Nearby, we compared historical photographs of the setting at Cape Horn Mills and identified its location fairly well. The current scene hasn't changed too much from the images taken in 1869. Cape Horn Mills was one of several sawmills that supplied the enormous volume of cord wood for the locomotives laboring up to Donner Pass.

We finished the trip by driving over to Secret Town to look at the location of both the town and the historic trestle, which was later filled in by the Chinese in about 1875. Absolutely no trace of the town's location exists today except for old square nails scattered in the soil marking the location of old buildings and cabins.

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Colfax Historical Society:

Mining Museum

We had as good showing of our RR Society members for the visit to the home of Mike Nevius in Nevada City. Mike and his wife LaVita had coffee and donuts waiting for us when we arrived. It took about two hours to see all of Mike's collection.

We had the opportunity to see some of the equipment in operation such as a hydraulic monitor (water canon) as well as a complete gold processing mill consisting of an ore bin, ore crusher, and stamp mill all powered by an authentic antique gas engine typical of the gold mining era.

Mike has restored countless pieces of historic mining equipment such as stamp mills that are displayed in several public parks all over both Nevada and Placer Counties. A fascinating trip and one of our best yet!

Have

A Happy

November Program:

The November program will be a photo show by Roger Staab, presenting photos of two 2009 AMTRAK trips, the Empire Builder to Montana, and the Coast Starlight to Seattle, with bus and Ferry segments to Vancouver and Victoria BC. Included are views of train depots and operations in Portland, Seattle and Vancouver, BC, with a few other goodies found along the way.

Thanksgiving!

