

# Placer-Sierra Railroad Heritage Society

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Colfax, CA 95713

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March 2010



[www.psrhs.org](http://www.psrhs.org)

To:

## *PSRHS Activities & Events...*

### Editor's Comments

Last call for dues.

New Members: Ted Hussey, William Oliver, Donald Q. Miller, and Roger Lokey.

In April, Roger Staab will present the latest installment of Donner Crossings. This will include photographs of the changing scenes of Colfax through the years.

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, March 25<sup>th</sup>, 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 – March 2010

### February Announcements:

Membership renewal dues for 2010 are now being accepted. \$20 individual member; \$25 family membership

Colfax caboose – work continues on updating the electrical system.

Talks are ongoing with UP officials regarding use of the spur line in Colfax for our PSRHS Museum.

Member Johnny Rosser has opened his new train store “Nor Cal Trains” at 11899 Edgewood Road, Suite F.

Member Lonnie Dixon had donated a large Railroad History picture that used to hang in the Sacramento Passenger Station. It is now mounted on the wall in the Colfax Depot.

Welcome aboard to our new PSRHS members

### Field Trip Plans for 2010

**Spring:** We are planning a trip in July to Virginia City, Nevada for a private tour of the Virginia & Truckee Railroad. Included will be a ride on the V&TRR. The finalized date and plans will be reported in future news.

The Virginia and Truckee Railroad, known as the "Queen of the Short Lines", first rolled in 1870. Its legendary engines and engineers opened the silver hills of Nevada's Comstock Lode through some of the steepest and curviest rail lines in America.

The V&T is now a tourism line, providing visitors with an entertaining ride with both steam and diesel locomotive power. Additional restoration work is ongoing.

**Fall Fieldtrip:** Exploration of the history of the Towle Brothers Railroad. The Towle Brothers built their first sawmill near Blue

Canyon in 1859 to serve the mining trade.

By the late 1860s, their major customer was the Central Pacific railroad, beginning a relationship that continued for many years.

In the 1880s, the Towle Bros. began building narrow (three foot) gauge rail lines to haul logs from the forest to mills, and evidence of roadbeds from this era can be found in many locations.

### February Program:

Gary Symington from Meadow Vista entertained us with a collection of his oil paintings representing historical locomotives and railroad scenes. He explained how he produces a painting, from his first ideas, to sketches, through the finished painting. He has worked as a graphic designer and illustrator for years, but reports he really enjoys painting trains. Originally, he painted landscapes; but after a visit to the Sacramento State Railroad Museum he became enthralled with the history of railroading, and has been painting trains ever since.

We look forward to seeing more of Gary's work and hope he will paint some local Colfax scenes, including our restored Depot. Thank you for sharing your talent with us, Gary. (Shirley Belleville, Secretary)

### March Program:

It's been some time since we've had any programs on the Nevada County Narrow Gauge RR. So for our narrow gauge enthusiasts, local NCNG rail fan and historian, Tom Towner, will show us his collection of NCNG photos and other visuals. Tom is a modeler too, so we'll get some perspective on modeling the NCNG in his talk.

