

# Placer-Sierra Railroad Heritage Society

P.O. Box 1776

Colfax, CA 95713

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June 2010



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

To:

## *PSRHS Activities & Events...*

Editor's Comments

### **Field Trips:**

**June 19:** A tour of the Roseville rail yard.

**July 11:** A trip to the Virginia & Truckee railroad...

**Fall Field trip:** another look at the Towle Brothers railroad is proposed. The date has not been determined.

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, June 24<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

# Placer-Sierra Railroad Heritage Society

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## Monthly Newsletter – June 2010

### June Announcements:

**Colfax caboose:** Final work was completed on updating the electrical system. The panel is now rewired and up to code. Next on the project list is to replace the wood siding

Work sessions at the caboose are on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month, around 9:30 am. Contact Jim Wood for details 530-320-1276

### Dates to put on your calendar:

**June 19** – Roseville Yard Tour

**July 3** – Colfax Independence Day Celebration.

**July 11-** Field Trip Virginia City, Nevada for a private tour of the Virginia & Truckee Railroad. Included will be a ride on the V&TRR. Cost is \$60. Carpools will be arranged. Bring a sack lunch.

**September 25, 26** – Colfax Railroad Days.

**Fall Field Trip** - Exploration of the history of the Towle Brothers Railroad.

### Field Trip Details:

**June 19 - Roseville Yard tour:**  
As requested by members we have arranged a tour of the Roseville yard. The tour will be led by Lonnie Dickson, Manager of Operating Practices for the UP. We will meet at 9AM at the main UP RV yard office off of Foothills Blvd. There is a 30 person limit to keep the number of cars to a minimum. (Call Jim Wood (530) 320-1276 if you want to join the tour.)

### V&T RR Field Trip in July:

Our trip will take place on **Sunday, July 11**. Trip attendees will meet and depart from Virginia City at 10:30 am in 4x4 vehicles or high clearance vehicles for a guided tour along the reconstructed railroad grade by way of the historic wagon road that parallels the old railroad grade. We will stop at various spots to inspect the engineering of the railroad line. Along the way we'll have a run by of the V&T train. At the Carson City end of the line, we'll board the train and have another personally narrated trip back to Virginia City.

Cost for the trip will be \$60 and will include a special guidebook prepared for us and the V&T train ride ticket. This will be a long day but worth it. Water and soft drinks will be provided. Bring your own lunch and snacks.

Because the V&T operators need some amount of guaranteed attendance, we'll need to have your reservation and payment by mid-June. Guests can be accommodated. Car-pooling will be encouraged.

### May Minutes:

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

**Colfax caboose** report on progress. Finishing electrical panel.

### Dates of interest:

**June 19** – Roseville Yard Tour.  
**July 3** - Colfax Independence Day.  
**July 11** - Field Trip Virginia City, Nevada.

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## Monthly Newsletter – June 2010

### September 25, 26 - Colfax Railroad Days.

**Fall Field Trip**, Exploration of the history of the Towle Brothers Railroad.

**Program:**

Member Bill Rhoades shared a computer program for a virtual model train layout.

Member Dave Wiltsee introduced us to a chance to nominate our favorite railroad attractions to the National Geographic Society's Geotourism program. Go to [www.SierraNevadaGeotourism.org](http://www.SierraNevadaGeotourism.org) for more information.

**Video Program: Sierra Shortlines Vol. 2.**

A thoroughly enjoyable presentation was shared by all as we viewed a video of historical films collected by Don Olson from 4 old California Shortlines: The Yosemite Valley Railroad Incline Railroad, the Amador Central, the Hetch Hetchy RR, and the Nevada County Narrow Gauge.

Our own Ken Yeo was featured in the NCNG story as he narrated first hand stories and historical events. The line from Grass Valley/Nevada City to Colfax brought out over \$250 million of gold during its early years. It ran freight and passengers from 1876 until it was abandoned in 1942, and was a source of local pride and community concern during its years of operation.

The Yosemite Valley Railroad (1905 – 1945) ran from Merced to El Portal and played an important part in the lumber history of the area. It delivered logs gathered from the old Sugar Pine Incline which was noteworthy for its 67% gradient.

The Amador Central line was only 12 miles long, but had 100+ curves. It carried gold and forest products from Martell near Jackson to Ione during the years (1909 - 2004).

The Hetch Hetchy Railroad (1917 – 1949) was commissioned by the City of San Francisco for the express purpose of construction and expansion of the O'Shaughnessy Dam across the Hetch Hetchy valley. The 68-mile railroad was based in Groveland. (Shirley Belleville, Secretary)



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## Monthly Newsletter – June 2010-Addendum

### **June 26<sup>th</sup>. – Ken Yeo Colfax Program:**

Ken Yeo will be presenting a slide show at the Old Pharmacy, 30 N. Main Street in Colfax, at 3:30 PM. The subject is still undecided, but will be from his many photos and knowledge of various subjects of interest of the earlier years of railroading around Colfax and Sierras. For more details contact Ken at (530) 887-1430.

### **June 24<sup>th</sup>. Meeting – Program:**

Gary Luce, the chief engineer for the V&T rebuilding project will give a slide show of the highlights and behind the scenes engineering details of rebuilding the railroad grade from Virginia City to Carson City. This will include a preview of the July field trip to the V&T.

### **July 3<sup>rd</sup>. Colfax Independence Day Celebration:**

Our group will participate in this celebration by having the caboos open as well as running motor cars on the UP spur line as we did on Railroad Days last September.

There should be several thousand visitors in town for these events as the Fireworks show is a go this year. Any members that can help staff our activities for a couple of hours that day please call Jim Wood (530) 320-1276.

### **July 11<sup>th</sup>., Sunday V&T fieldtrip:**

The arranged personalized tour of the V&T Railroad Rebuilding project will be led by Gary Luce of Geocon Inc., the engineering company in charge of the earthwork efforts to rebuild the Line. We'll begin in Virginia City about 9:30 AM in cars and drive the old wagon roads next to the railroad grade to inspect all the major engineering efforts in the reconstruction. At the Carson City end, we'll board the train for the return to Virginia City.

Cost for the trip is \$60 which includes the train ticket and a special guidebook prepared for this trip. Water and sodas will be provided. Everyone should bring a sack lunch and any other snacks.

Carpooling from Auburn/Colfax is encouraged. Call Jim Wood if interested in carpooling and we we'll match people together. No later than 7 AM departure from Colfax is recommended to arrive on time. Some people may choose to arrange overnight accommodations in Reno or Virginia City for Saturday night.

