

# Placer-Sierra Railroad Heritage Society

P.O. Box 1776

Colfax, CA 95713

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## January 2011 Newsletter



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

To:

### *PSRHS Activities & Events...*

Editor's Comments

#### **Welcome to 2011.**

We are looking forward to another interesting year of field trips and informational programs.

Please forward your dues payments as soon as possible to keep your membership active.

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 7:00 PM Thursday, Jan. 27<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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**November Meeting:** As usual, our year-end meeting and potluck dinner was well attended with approximately 25 of our members and guests joining us. Special thanks go to Shirley Belleville for her normal well organized dinner preparations.

**Meeting business:** At the recommendation of the Society Board, the members present unanimously voted to increase the number of Board positions from 8 to 9 people to allow a potential tie breaking capability for voting contingencies as well as accommodating the service of other interested members to serve on the Board. Following that, the members voted to re-elect Ken Yeo and Tony Hesch to another 3 year term on the Board as well as Malcolm Frost to fill the newly created Board position. Welcome all.

**Presentation:** Peter Hills brought a fascinating film called “Working on the Southern Pacific” by Pentrex that contained various historical segments of official Southern Pacific film footage. Of particular interest were segments showing the operation of the Sacramento Shops and freight car maintenance activities at the Roseville yard. We were privileged to have some of the footage narration augmented by Walt Wilson and Ken Yeo who both had first hand knowledge of some of those railroad activities in their past careers. This would be a good film to add to your video collection.

**January Meeting Presentation:** Brendan Compton will debut the final draft of the Spreader Rebuild Project, his latest film in the Donner Rails video series. This film really conveys the excitement and drama during construction events to get these newly renovated spreaders completed and

into operation up on the “Hill” for the onset of the winter snows. Brendan will be seeking members’ input to choose a new title for the completed film. This video will soon be available for purchase at our members’ special discounted price.

**Presidents Message:** We had another year full of interesting activities in 2010. Last year we had enthusiastic attendance for 3 fieldtrips—the Roseville UP yard tour, the special tour and train ride on the V&T and lastly, the visit to the now vanished town of Towle and the Towle Bros Railroad.

**Looking ahead for 2011:** we are now asking for members’ choices for upcoming fieldtrips in the spring and fall. Very importantly, 2011 could prove to be a pivotal time for our Society’s activities in the area of equipment restoration.

Tony Hesch and Ken Yeo and the rest of the caboose restoration team have plunged headfirst into ambitious construction work on the Colfax caboose. The work crew has completely removed the rotten siding along the entire length of the southeast side of the car and is currently working on repair and replacement of damaged boards and timbers. They will systematically work their way around the entire car. Other interested volunteers are welcome. Tony’s number is 530-346-9179.

Union Pacific Railroad is now seriously considering our Society’s proposal to establish an outdoor museum display on the spur line in Colfax to accommodate both equipment restoration and display, as well as to continue our rail activities in support of the Colfax Railroad Days event. We’ll provide further details as our discussions progress.

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**Webpage Improvement:** At the recommendation of more than one of our members, a new page may appear on our website to keep railroad history fans and aficionados informed about upcoming railroad oriented activities in our region including events sponsored by other historical organizations. This new effort will require monthly calendar events to be contributed by members as they become known to keep this Calendar Page current and useful.

**Member Support:** I think we all agree that we have a very unique organization with several ways that members can directly participate in activities to fulfill our group's mission, whether it is by attending fieldtrips and meeting presentations or assisting with the various restoration efforts or community events such as Colfax Railroad Days. Therefore, member participation is an important way to support the organization.

The other way to help the organization is through your continued financial support. Although, we welcome occasional donations that are often earmarked for a special project, the principle source of money to continue our routine activities is through membership dues. Remember, your membership contribution helps to support all our activities such as restoration efforts, our monthly meeting hall rent, the printing of newsletters and our field trip guide information as well as acquisition of relevant photographs and/or historical published information for our archives as they become available. Therefore, please promptly renew your 2011 membership in the PSRHS organization.

The membership renewal form is included with this month's newsletter. Make sure your email contact is current. Also, tell interested friends and acquaintances about our organization. There are a lot of folks out there missing out on some fun stuff!

**Further Items of Interest:** Channel 6, "An Evening with Huell Howser", 8:30 PM, Jan. 20<sup>th</sup>. Showing the ice harvesting around Truckee in the late 1800 to the 1930's. I believe this is the same segment I saw recently which also includes significant footage of old and new railroad activities and facilities.

The Winter issue of the "S.P Trainline" from the Southern Pacific Historical & Technical Society has a very comprehensive story on the Roseville bomb explosion event. Issues should be available at RR hobby stores.

