

Placer-Sierra Railroad Heritage Society

P.O. Box 1776

Colfax, CA 95713

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February 2011 Newsletter



www.psrhs.org

To:

PSRHS Activities & Events...

Editor's Comments

If you have not sent in your dues yet you will soon be removed from our roster. Please forward your dues payments as soon as possible to keep your membership active.

Due to health issues I must soon resign from the post of Editor of this newsletter. I have enjoyed my time as editor and will remain a member of the Society. Anyone interested in this position contact Jim Wood or me. I will help the new editor learn the ropes for preparing 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 held at 7:00 PM Thursday, Feb. 24th. 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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January Program

Lyle Brown brought the “California’s Gold” video on ice harvesting at the Boca Reservoir and some Donner Pass history. The harvesting of ice from the lake made possible the shipping ice to Sacramento and San Francisco, and later for shipping of refrigerated California produce by railroad cars throughout the United States.

Depending on the thickness of ice available, from 50 -200 men were employed during the cold winter months to harvest and store up to 300,000 tons of ice. Lake ice was anywhere from 12 – 22 inches thick, depending on the weather and winter temperature. Without this ice, the development of California produce farms, along with the Pacific Fruit Express refrigerated cars, shipping fruit to east to Chicago, New York, etc would not have been possible.

The video also featured the history of the Sierra snow sheds, which were built to protect the tracks during winter months.

The second feature of the evening was a photographic railroad history of Applegate presented by Peter Hills. Included were some never before seen photos of east and west Applegate stations provided by some of the local longtime Applegate residents’ collections.

February Program

Due to last minute job duties on the day of our January meeting, Brendan Compton’s plans for presenting his newest film about the Spreader Rebuild was postponed to our February 24 meeting. A timely topic with the latest snow storms blowing through the Summit this month.

Board Member Meeting

The Board members convened after the meeting to discuss some of the board members’ concerns. These included topics about Caboose work, new directions of the Society’s activities such as a prospective museum, and others. The need to upgrade and expand our website was agreed by all to be an important new program. Several areas for improvement were suggested.

Malcolm Frost proposed inviting interested Society members to take charge and update specific web pages. Our vision is to have the website be a “gateway” to the history of the railroads over the Sierra. We could use interested members to maintain a historic time table, organize photos, maintain related links to other museums and provide their ideas to make improvements. Please contact Malcolm via email at rv129.3@gmail.com . We need your help & input!

Membership Renewals: Thanks to those who have been prompt to renew their membership to continue supporting the organization and its mission. Thanks in advance to those who will be doing so soon.

Passings

We sad to report that two of our Society members have recently died—John Fulton of Colfax and Maurice Wharton of Weimar. Both were avid supporters of our group and its mission. Maurice’s generous financial support for the caboose project is responsible for the current major rehab work to move forward.

