

# Placer-Sierra Railroad Heritage Society

## August 2011 Newsletter



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

### In this issue:



**Colfax RR Days Update.** Colfax Railroad Days is really beginning to take shape. We'll look at the displays and events that have committed to participating in the Colfax celebration, scheduled for Sept. 30-Oct. 2, our club's involvement, and how you can help by volunteering your time or donating toward the costs of this event that is sure to please everyone in the family.



At our July meeting, member **Peter Hills** presented an excellent overview of his recent trip to England and Scotland to ride the heritage trains. A brief recap of Peter's trip and a few selected photo views are included in this month's newsletter.

### Scheduled Events



Aug 18-21 Portola Railroad Days

Aug 20 Caboose Work Party 9am at the Colfax caboose (weather permitting)

Aug 25 Monthly Meeting – Colfax Caboose Status, Colfax RR Days Update and video on Operating a Steam Engine in England

Sep 7 & 10 Caboose Work Party  
Sep 21 & 24 Caboose Work Party

Sep 22 Monthly Meeting

Sept 30 Colfax Railroad Days (for schools)

Oct 1-2 Colfax Railroad Days

Check out our updated web site

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

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### August 25 Meeting Presentation:

**Colfax Caboose Update** – **Tony Hesch** will show photos and discuss status of the Colfax caboose reconstruction project - what has been accomplished to date and plans for the future.

**Colfax Railroad Days – Sept 30-Oct 2** – **Peter Hills and Malcolm Frost** will outline the marketing plan that has been put together, and discuss the events that have been lined up. Flyers will be provided for individuals to distribute to various venues.

“**How to Drive a Locomotive**” video provided by **Peter Hills**. Footplate experience on a British Western Region steam engine 0-6-2T on the North Norfolk Railway, plus video on diesel operation if time permits.

### Colfax Railroad Days August Update

Through the efforts of club president Jim Wood and several of our members, Colfax Railroad Days is promising to be a major event with something for everyone. Visit our web site, [www.psrhs.org](http://www.psrhs.org), for current information on the event and participants.

Here is a partial list of the commitments to date:

- The Western Pacific Railroad Museum in Portola will bring a train of vintage engines and rolling stock to display on the Suburban siding. The equipment will be available for viewing by school children attending the Operation Lifesaver program



on Friday, Sept. 30, and for public viewing Oct. 1-2. Several volunteers travel with the Portola train and staff its cars during public display. PSRHS is raising funds to cover the per-diem costs for these Portola volunteers. If you can help with fund-raising, please contact Jim Wood at 320-1276.

- Motorcars courtesy of Motorcar Operators West will be providing free rides for the school kids on Friday, and for the public on Saturday and Sunday. This year we have UP's permission to run the motor cars on the Wye track.
- All three days Operation Lifesaver will be educating school kids and the public on safety at railroad crossings and near the tracks.
- Sacramento Valley Live Steamers will be operating their ride-on steamers at the ball field behind Sierra Vista Center
- Model railroad layouts, railroad art, and the Trans-continental Chautauqua will take place at Sierra Vista Center.
- Always popular antique gas engines will be on display and operating.
- On Saturday, vendor booths will be set up in the parking lot behind the freight depot, and on Sunday, a car show will occupy that space.
- The NWP caboose will be open for tours and information (hopefully displaying partially completed new siding).
- Donner railroading films by Brendan Compton will be featured in the Colfax Theater.
- The Colfax Passenger Depot and museum will have special displays.

Our club is responsible for safety and security at the motor car rides, staffing the caboose and theater, and providing general assistance for the Portola train displays. If you would like to volunteer for part of one day, or for all three days, please contact Jim Wood who will give you your assignment(s). Jim can be reached at 320-1276, or by email at [greenstonemaker@gmail.com](mailto:greenstonemaker@gmail.com)

This promises to be a fun and informative event for the entire family. Please consider donating some of your time to help make it all possible.



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Portola train on the move  
to Dunsmuir RR Days  
— Paul Lanyi photos



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### July Meeting Presentation – “Scotland and Northern England - 2011” – Peter Hills

Slide presentation from a recent trip to Scotland and Northern England, including mainline running on the East and West Coast mainlines to London on Virgin Voyager (125 mph) and Virgin Pendolino's (140 mph) trains, plus an HST125 run from Edinburgh to Inverness Scotland. Mainline running also included DMU's through the Lake District and on the Highland West Coast line from Inverness to Kyle of Lochalsh, and Mallaig to Glasgow. Also visited were numerous heritage railway lines including the Weardale and Wensleydale Railways, the North Yorkshire Moors Railway (celebrating its 175th Anniversary) and the 15 inch narrow gauge Ravenglass and Eskdale (celebrating it's 50th Anniversary). Trip also included a visit to the National Railway Museum sites in York and Shildon, and a mainline steam train ride from London to York and return behind LMS Stanier 'Pacific' "Princess Elizabeth" 6201.



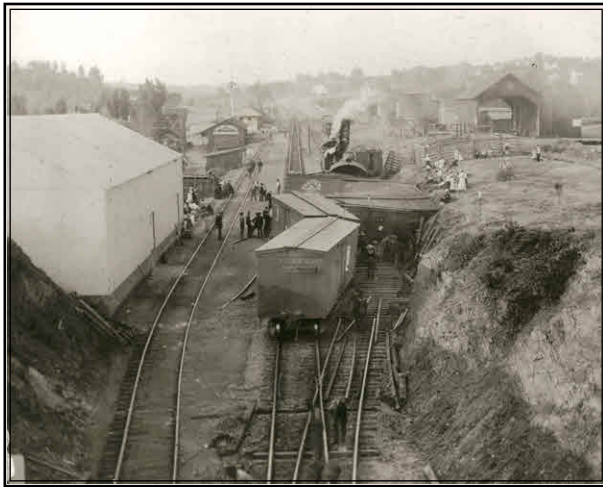


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### FROM THE ARCHIVES



**Last Month's Mystery Photo:** The photo at upper left shows a derailment near the downtown Auburn Depot looking eastbound from the Cherry St. Bridge. At upper right is the same scene in 2003.

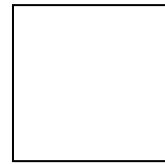
For August, Art Sommers offers up a mystery photo taken at that same location. The scene at right appeared on a postcard that was postmarked July 1908. The similar buildings suggest that this photo and the above derailment photo date to the same general era. The mystery, though, is the row of white poles to the right of the train. At far right are two regular poles with cross arms, so the white poles may be telephone or power poles, but why are some of the poles either covered in something white or painted white? Email your thoughts to me and I'll publish them next month – [rsrr@exwire.com](mailto:rsrr@exwire.com)



**CPRR/SP Donner Route Timeline:** April 16, 1864 – *Placer Herald* report on *Bloomer Cut Accident*: "Yesterday on the deep cut of the of the Pacific Railroad, near town, some of the workmen under the superintendence of Mr. Trowbridge [sic] attempted to set off a blast containing about 50 pounds of powder. From some cause it failed, when Mr. T. [sic], and two of the hands, – a Portugese and a Frenchman – commenced using a crowbar or drill upon the hole, when the blast went off suddenly, mutilating them in a horrible manner, especially the Portugese who is not expected to recover; but Mr. Trobridge [sic] will, with probably the loss of his left eye."

Please forward any comments, suggestions or information for inclusion in future issues of the newsletter. Next Issue Deadline – September 12  
Editor: Roger Staab,  
(530) 346-6722  
[rsrr@exwire.com](mailto:rsrr@exwire.com)

Placer-Sierra RR Heritage Society  
P.O. Box 1776  
Colfax, Ca 95713



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To:



***Monthly Meeting...***

The next PSRHS meeting will be held at 7:00 PM on **Thursday, August 25th** in the Multi-purpose Senior Citizen Center at the Dewitt Complex in Auburn (enter on D Ave.). See Extra Board section on web site for map and directions.

**Membership Information**

Individual Members = \$20.00/yr  
Family Membership = \$25.00/yr

- Monthly Meetings (4th Thursday) and Newsletter
- Member Activities, Presentations and Field Trips
- Display and Restoration Projects

PSRHS, P.O. Box 1776, Colfax, CA 95713  
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