

Placer-Sierra Railroad Heritage Society



www.psrhs.org

October 2011 Newsletter

In this issue:

Fall Field Trip – Newcastle/Penryn (note change of location due to weather). Instead of a meeting in October, PSRHS will host a fall field trip to the Newcastle and Penryn areas. See page 2 for details.

SPECIAL COLFAX RAILROAD DAYS ISSUE:

Colfax Railroad Days in words and photos. A very successful Colfax Railroad Days was held the weekend of Oct. 1-2. Thanks to all who contributed volunteer time, raffle prizes, financial support and information booths, rides or displays. This issue of the newsletter contains a summary of our club's involvement, along with a photo review of the many activities enjoyed by 500 school children and over 2000 visitors to the Colfax event.



Scheduled Events



Oct 15 Field Trip - Newcastle/Penryn (Note change of location) - Further details on page 2.

NOTE: No monthly meeting in October

Oct 19 & 22 Caboose Work Party

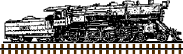
Nov 2 & 5 Caboose Work Party

Nov 16 & 19 Caboose Work Party

Nov 17 Potluck Dinner Meeting

Check out our updated web site
www.psrhs.org

Placer-Sierra Railroad Heritage Society



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October Field Trip – Penryn/Newcastle: Saturday, Oct. 15 (Rain defers to Sunday, Oct 16)

The early snow fall on Donner Summit has thwarted our plans for an outing to Coldstream Canyon planned for Oct 15. With at least one foot of snow on the ground there, we will defer this location to the Spring or when the ground dries out up there.

An alternative trip was suggested by a number of members who have not seen the historical railroad remnants at Penryn and Newcastle. We will meet in the parking lot at the Griffith Quarry at 9AM in Penryn and start the trip by viewing then and now scenes at Penryn. We will then travel up to Newcastle crossing and walk the historical CPRR grades both to the west and east of the crossing. There are a lot of changes to see in the railroad grades in Newcastle and we should be occupied at that location until about 2pm.

Expect a good bit of walking; however it's all on flat abandoned RR grades so there are few up and down traverses. The usual preparations for our outings are suggested ... water, hats, snacks, camera, shoes, etc.

Griffith Quarry Location: Corner of Taylor Rd & Rock Springs Rd., Penryn, CA Call Jim Wood for more info: 530 320-1276.

Colfax Railroad Days a Big Success!

More than 500 school children on Friday, and over 2000 visitors on Saturday and Sunday enjoyed Colfax Railroad Days Sep 30-Oct 2. Downtown Colfax was alive with many activities at several venues. PSRHS was directly responsible for several of the railroad-related activities:

- bringing Portola's Western Pacific historic train to town and controlling the flow of visitors to view the train's engines and cars
- assisting operation lifesaver in providing their rail-crossing safety message to local school children,
- operating free motor car rides
- giving tours of the Colfax caboose
- showing a festival of Brendan's films at the theater
- participating in the first annual Transcontinental Chautauqua discussions on the history of the route.

The Portola museum's WP historic train was a big hit with visitors. To bring the train here, PSRHS raised money through donations, ticket sales and a raffle.

Costs included per-diem and lodging for the team of volunteers who traveled with and staffed the train, and liability insurance for activities on UP property.

Below is a summary of the PSRHS costs and revenues for the Railroad Days event as of October 5:

EXPENSES	\$6174
REVENUES	\$5009
	■■■■■■■■■■
BALANCE	(\$1165) SHORTFALL

IN-KIND DONATIONS \$2570
**(LUNCHES FOR VOLUNTEERS, SKIP LOADER FOR SETUP,
AND EXPENSES OF UP TRAIN CREW MEMBERS)**

In addition to corporate donors, these individuals came through with contributions of some amount: Lyle Brown, Peter Hills, Shirley Belleville, Helen Wayland, and Roger Staab.

PSRHS officers feel bringing the historic train to Colfax was well worth it, even though we had to dip deeply into our bank balance to cover the shortfall. One of the many lessons learned is the need to start earlier with planning and fundraising for major events.

.As we approach the end of the year and you prepare to send in your payment for 2012 dues, please consider making a tax-deductible donation to the club to help cover costs of the 2011 event and next year's club activities. Known expenses for 2012 include caboose reconstruction, 2012 Railroad Days, liability insurance for field trips, and newsletter and Donner Crossings printing and mailing.

Jim Wood and Ken Yeo delivered the switchstand to a very happy raffle winner Doug Peterson. Jim donated the switch stand, and Ken cleaned it and gave it a fresh coat of paint. (Jim Wood photo)



The next four pages offer a brief look at 2011 Railroad Days in Colfax. (Photos by Roger Staab except where noted)

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Colfax RR Days – Volunteer Crews



PSRHS president Jim Wood sends a big “thank you” to all the club members and others who donated their time to make this year’s event such a success. The many activities would not have come together so well without your support.

Mixed in with the photos of Railroad Days on these pages you will find lists of names of those who donated their time to help with the many tasks. Some helped in several areas, but are listed in only one category of contribution.

At left, Jim and Peter string fencing to contain the WP train visitors.

The Train! — The Train!



The WP train in Feather River Canyon on its way to Colfax (*apologies to Paul Lanyi for “splicing” his photos*)



Arriving in Colfax at O-dark thirty



WP Museum Train Support

Shirley Belleville	Ron Wong
Claudia Fulton	Paul Lanyi
Jim Rutherford	Walt Wilson
Dave McClain	Roger Staab
	Jim Wood



Jim and his train



Setting up (*Shirley Belleville*)

Friday – Operation Lifesaver and the Schools

Getting the OL message (*Shirley Belleville photo*)



Checking out the OL simulator

Ron & the kids



Off to see the train

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Colfax RR Days – The Event

OL School Education Day

Peter & Lydia Norgaard
Shelton Campbell

Caboose Tours

Tony Hesch
Barry Duck

SVLiveSteamers Liaison

Bill Yoder



Above – Some of the raffle donations
(Shirley Belleville photo)



Colfax caboose and
people-mover shuttle



Walking tour of Colfax RR history for
Chautauqua attendees



Brendan's film festival



Operation Lifesaver booth
and PSRHS-sponsored
free motorcar rides

Marketing/Publicity

Emily Frost - Media
Tim O'Brien - Media
Malcolm Frost - Web



Colfax RR Days – Sierra Vista Center



Antique single-piston engines

Sacramento Valley Live Steamers



Motor Car Operations

Peter Hills
Malcolm Frost
Mike Mitchel
Ken Young
Jay Hansell
Tim Fagan
Matthew Broussard
Gerry Nelson

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Colfax RR Days – Sierra Vista Center & Downtown



Railroad Art and Modular Layout



Steam Powered Logging Model



Business fair and vendors

Saturday Evening Barbeque



Cooks Vance and his Mom



Thanks to the volunteers



Steve Lee, Rod McClure, Jim Wood

Showtime (The Train)



The Boarding Pass for The WP train is a replica of an 1882 CPRR pass.



Chautauqua Support

Jack Duncan
Larry Hersh

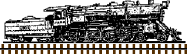
Film Festival

Brendan Compton
Dave Ferreira
David Wilson
Bonnie Wilson



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Colfax RR Days – Family Fun



Kids of all ages enjoyed the trains, old cars, and other exhibits.
*Upper three photos by Paul Lanyi.
Photo at right by Shirley Belleville.*



The Train Heads Home



WP2001 switched the train Tuesday morning near the Colfax depot for a late morning departure to Roseville and Portola behind UP power.



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FROM THE ARCHIVES

Last Month's Mystery Photo: The steam shovel and other equipment are being moved on temporary tracks on Sacramento St. in old Auburn circa 1910. Destination is Nevada St. beyond Auburn Ravine, and construction of the new east-bound track. At near right is the same scene in 2003. Note fire-house tower in both photos.

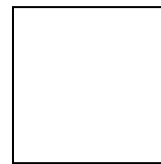


October Photo – What is this building, where was it located, and what became of it? What railroad facility is located near it today? Answers in the November newsletter. *PSRHS collection.*

CPRR/SP Donner Route Timeline: Summer 1864 – Charley Crocker had the contract to build the rails to Junction (Roseville), but public criticism of the arrangement led to awarding the construction from Roseville to Newcastle to competing firms. This resulted in many problems – one firm went bankrupt, work further up the line was completed before lower work, and firms competed for laborers. Charley Crocker's firm was back in control for the construction work above Newcastle.

Please forward any comments, suggestions or information for inclusion in future issues of the newsletter. Next Issue Deadline – November 8
Editor: Roger Staab,
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Placer-Sierra RR Heritage Society
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To:

WP 2001 assembled the WP historic train on the siding in the Colfax yard for the return trip to Portola via Roseville. The two WP engines and the UP engines at right then backed in from the far end of the siding to couple to the head of the train.



Monthly Meeting...

There will be **no** PSRHS meeting in October. The fall field trip will be **Saturday, October 15**. Our potluck dinner meeting will be on **Thursday, November 17th** in the Multi-purpose Senior Citizen Center at the Dewitt Complex in Auburn.

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

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