

Placer-Sierra Railroad Heritage Society



www.psrhs.org

November 2011 Newsletter

In this issue:

November Meeting Presentation – Stan Kistler will present a slideshow of some of his railroad photography over the years. Don't miss this one. Further details on page 2.

Fall Field Trip – to Newcastle & Penryn. PSRHS hosted a fall field trip to the Newcastle and Penryn areas in October. A summary of the field trip is provided on page 2.

PSRHS – Year-end Review and What's Ahead. We will look at a final tally of expenses and revenue for Colfax Railroad Days, along with status of the caboose reconstruction. We'll summarize the past year's activities, and look ahead to election of board and officer positions, membership renewals, and other fund-raising to cover costs of club activities in the coming year.



Scheduled Events



Nov 17 Annual Potluck Dinner Meeting and Presentation – Dinner at 6:30PM, business meeting at 7 and slideshow of railroad photos by Stan Kistler

Nov 12 & 13 35th Annual International Railfair Model Railroad Show
Placer County Fairgrounds, Roseville
www.internationalrailfair.com

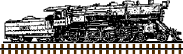
Nov 16 & 19 Caboose Work Party

Dec 7 & 10 Caboose Work Party

Happy Holidays – No monthly meeting in December
See you on Jan. 26

Check out our updated web site
www.psrhs.org

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November Potluck Dinner Meeting – Thursday, 17 November, 6:30PM

We will hold our annual Potluck holiday gathering on November 17 at 6:30PM at the DeWitt Center for a combined November/December meeting. A baked ham and beverages will be provided. Bring your favorite potluck offering. We always have a good turnout and a great variety of food for this event!

November Program: Railroad photographer **Stan Kistler** will narrate his slideshow "**Fifty Years of Chasing Trains (With a Camera).**" His presentation will cover his personal railroad photography chronologically from 1945 to 1995 all over the west as well as Canada and Mexico. This promises to be an excellent and informative program to cap off an eventful year.

Recap of Fall Fieldtrip to Penryn/Newcastle: Saturday, Oct. 15

The railroad history of Penryn and Newcastle became the backup venue of our Fall fieldtrip on October 15 when early snow on the summit and uncertain access conditions caused us to postpone Coldstream Canyon for another day.

A group of members who weren't on the 2007 visit to Penryn met with guest historian Cliff Kennedy at the Griffith Quarry to learn the history of close relationship of the early CPRR construction with the local quarryman, Griffith Griffith. With the aid of a lot of "arm waving" and Google Earth photos, the group decided on the precise location of some early photographs that captured an official visit of an entourage of CPRR officials to Penryn in 1864 when Newcastle was "end of track".

Later, the group moved up the hill to Newcastle where similar early photos showed the same entourage of officials at the end of track watching the road engine Conness being turned for its return to Sacramento. Our group trudged through the brambles to look for clues to the location of the original Newcastle trestle and roadbed alignments prior to double tracking in 1908. As usual, the group always finds evidence of the original roadbed when early CPRR spikes are kicked up.

2011 – A Look Back

This has been a very active year for PSRHS. Here are some of the events/activities that club members have enjoyed during this past year.

- Monthly meetings and presentations on Boca ice harvesting, Applegate railroad history, spreader rebuild program, 1994 Keddie and Highline streamliner excursions, rotary plows in action, Dunsmuir Railroad Days and Black Butte excursion, Scotland and England rail travel and heritage trains, and rail safety from Operation Lifesaver.
- Field trips to Siemens Rail Car manufacturing facility in South Sacramento, & Penryn/Newcastle area.
- Colfax Railroad Days historic train, speeder rides, film fest & first annual transcontinental chautauqua
- Major upgrades to PSRHS web site
- Caboose reconstruction project underway
- Report on double-tracking rumors above Colfax from 1913-15 and walking a portion of the original transcontinental roadbed
- Interactive listing of historic and current station names along the route from Roseville to Sparks
- Acquisition of numerous photos and documents related to the history of the Donner route.
- Expanded monthly newsletter

Colfax Railroad Days Update

PSRHS Treasurer Peter Hills reports the following final accounting of costs and revenues for the Colfax Railroad Days event.

EXPENSES	\$6191
REVENUES	\$5054
BALANCE	(\$1137) SHORTFALL

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

The bulk of the expenses were the per-diem and lodging for the team of volunteers who traveled with and staffed the Portola museum's WP historic train, liability insurance for activities on UP property, and advertising and printing.

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Colfax Railroad Days (continued) The Portola museum's historic train was a big hit with visitors, but the expenses for such an event are significant. To bring the train here, PSRHS raised money through donations, ticket sales and a raffle, but our fund-raising efforts fell short of meeting expenses by \$1137. Further fund-raising needs to be done to cover this past-year's costs and for events and activities to be held in 2012.

Caboose Reconstruction Status and Funding

In addition to Railroad Days expenses, the caboose reconstruction project is experiencing funding shortfalls, caused in large part by expenses for changing out the electrical service before caboose work could begin. Donations totaling \$268 were collected at the caboose during Railroad Days. Project manager Tony Hesch reports the remaining caboose fund balance of \$2618 is being used to purchase custom siding for the half of the caboose currently being worked on. The siding and newly fabricated windows will be installed, and some interior and metal work will

Caboose work has continued on the interior during inclement weather.



be completed. The project will then go into winter break, subject to weather conditions and raising funds needed to purchase additional materials.

Renew your PSRHS annual membership.

Which brings us to a reminder that it is time to renew your PSRHS membership. Club dues and fund-raising efforts provide our only regular source of revenue to cover costs of room rental for monthly meetings, liability insurance for field trips, printing and mailing of monthly newsletter and Donner Crossings, purchase of historic photos and artifacts, restoration projects, and hosting or participating in other events of interest.

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 Railroad Days event and next year's club activities. If you wish, you can specify a

particular area for which you wish to apply your donation. Donations may be made by cash or check, or on-line using pay-pal at our website, www.psrhs.org. Thanks for continuing to support PSRHS.

Club By-Laws and Elections

At the November 2010 meeting, by a vote of the members present we agreed to add one additional board member, making a total of 9, and to set the terms of board members and officers at 3 years with 3 positions elected each year.

At that same meeting, board members Tony Hesch and Ken Yeo were reelected to 3 year terms, and Malcolm Frost was elected to the new 3 year board position.

Current officers and board members are:

Jim Wood - President	Malcolm Frost - Board
Brendan Compton - VP	Tony Hesch - Board
Shirley Belleville - Secy	Ken Yeo - Board
Peter Hills - Treasurer	Bill Yoder - Board
	Walt Wilson - Board

The PSRHS board will soon meet and discuss possible revisions to the PSRHS by-laws affecting selection of officers and board members. The results of the board meeting will be presented at the November or January meeting of the membership. An election will be scheduled for the January 2012 meeting. Nominations from the floor will be solicited prior to the election.

Please be thinking about how you might contribute to the operations of your organization by serving as an officer, board member or volunteer in the many club activities in the coming year.

Departed Member

Word has reached us that Lyle Brown recently passed away. Lyle was a charter member of PSRHS, joining the club in July 2002. He was an active participant in club meetings and field trips. Lyle served as editor of the monthly newsletter from January 2004 until poor health forced him to resign that position in February 2011. Lyle was unable to attend Colfax Railroad Days, but his generous donations of cash and a RR crossbuck for the raffle helped defray the costs of the event.

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FROM THE ARCHIVES

Last Month's Mystery Photo: This view of Auburn's Nevada Street station shows its distinct hip-roof style. The building went into service after double-tracking in 1911 resulted in the new eastbound track bypassing the downtown Auburn depot.



The photo at left shows this same roof style on the building now being used to store hay at Echo Valley Ranch feed store on Nevada St. in Auburn. It is located about a mile west of the present-day Blocker Drive AMTRAK Capital Corridor station.



November Photo – Our photo this month looks at some impressive wooden trestle construction on the original CPRR grade. Where was this trestle located? Like other trestles, this one was filled in during the early years of operation. What well-known structure still exists in modified form near this location?

Answers in the January newsletter. *Photo courtesy of Jack Duncan.*



CPRR/SP Donner Route Timeline: June 1864: Tracks reached Newcastle in May, 1864, and the first revenue train between Sacramento and Newcastle operated on June 3, 1864. Central Pacific RR Time Card No. 1 took effect June 6, 1864 at 5AM. Three trains each way were listed, with two of them operating daily except Sunday, and one operating daily. Work was underway on the next major obstacles, the Newcastle trestle and Bloomer Cut.

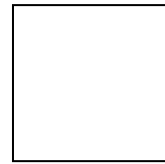
Please forward any comments, suggestions or information for inclusion in future issues of the newsletter. Next Issue Deadline – January 16

Editor: Roger Staab,

(530) 346-6722

roger.staab@psrhs.org

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



To:

Kids of all ages enjoy a steam train ride courtesy of Sacramento Valley Live Steamers at 2011 Colfax Railroad Days. Turnout was excellent for both days of this year's event.

Paul Lanyi photo



Monthly Meeting...

Our potluck dinner meeting will be on **Thursday, November 17th** at 6:30PM in the Multi-purpose Senior Citizen Center at the DeWitt Complex in Auburn (enter on D Avenue). 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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