

Placer-Sierra Railroad Heritage Society



www.psrhs.org

**April 2012
Newsletter**

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Scheduled Events & Notices



- Apr 26 Monthly Meeting and Presentation – Lonnie Dickson and Dave Bowler will review their experiences managing snow removal operations over Donner
- May 12 AMTRAK's 5th annual National Train Day www.nationaltrainday.com
- May Spring field trip in lieu of monthly meeting – Date & details to follow
- Jun 10 Skunk train photo excursion – see p. 2 or www.skunktrain.com for details

PSRHS Logo Apparel: Members who are interested in ordering custom embroidered Polo Shirts, Nylon Windbreakers or sport bags as displayed at the last two meetings may leave their name, email, phone number along with size and color of the item with **Ron Wong, email goldnuggets1849@yahoo.com, phone (916) 716-3847**. The price of the Club Polo ranges from \$13 to \$29; the jacket between \$18 to \$36. The embroidery company runs 1 day specials from time to time. When there is an exceptional deal Ron will go over the list and notify the members with details and seek their approval. The goal is to be patient and wait for a deal in the lower price range. The minimum order is 4 items as compared to other companies requiring at least a quantity of 25 of the same item before accepting an order. For more information see Ron for details.

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April Meeting – Thursday, 26 April, 7:00PM - DeWitt Senior Center

April Program: UP employees Lonnie Dickson and Dave Bowler will review their experiences managing snow removal operations over Donner Pass. This promises to be an excellent and entertaining first-hand account. Lonnie retired this month with over 40 years combined service with SP and UP.

Summary of March Meeting

Presiding over the meeting was President Jim Wood.

Announcements/Updates:

- Field Trips
 - A fall field trip is being planned for the east side of the summit, in the area of Cold Stream Canyon.
 - Suggestions for a May field trip are the Summit area or the UP Diesel Shop in Roseville
- 2012 Railroad Days in Colfax will be October 6 and 7. Planning sessions will be announced.
- Upcoming Event: June 10, Sunday. The Skunk Train at Fort Bragg is running an excursion geared for photographers. There will be several stops for photo run-bys. The \$50 fee includes 2 meals. Go to the following on line link for more info, or call 707-964-6371. <http://www.skunktrain.com>
- Member Ron Wong announced embroidered polo shirts, zip jacket, and carry bags with the PSRHS logo will be available for purchase.
- Mike Haire announced he has a Photo Book for sale documenting the modern iron horse. Title is “2011 - A Year in Review”
- Conversation was noted regarding the operation of the work train replacing ties in Auburn area.
- Ken Yeo shared a photo of a train off the wye near Colfax [see page 4 of this newsletter – ed].
- A dedication was held at Auburn City Hall for a commemorative plaque to be placed on the Mountain Quarries Bridge.
- PSRHS sponsored a table at this year’s Winter Rail. Brochures for club membership and for 2012 Colfax Railroad Days were available.

- UP will have a steam train in the Colfax area around Sept. 27. More info to follow.
- Members are encouraged to visit our website at PSRHS.org to view new updates to the site.

March Program

Jim Rutherford provided photos showing equipment used for track renewal and tie replacement.

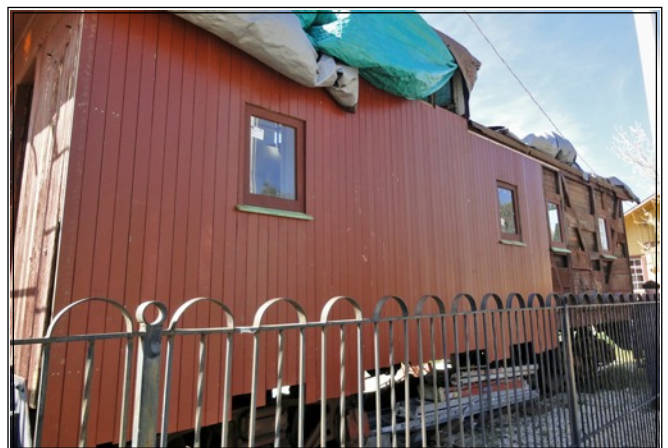
Bill George, a railroad historian, provided an interesting film documenting the history of the Donner Route. His goal is to document on digital record the history of the route, the sites of the original track right of way and tunnels, and to record first hand stories from people who were there. His video, titled “Hidden Wonder of the World” is available for purchase for \$15. He also has prints for sale of the beautiful historical mural in the Sacramento Union Station.

For more information on the film, visit Bill George’s web site <http://www.transcoshow.com/>

Shirley Belleville, Secretary

Colfax Caboose Update

Work on the Colfax Caboose has resumed. Tony Hesch and his volunteer work teams started installing new siding on the track side on April 17, with plans to complete that side by the end of the week. Next up – evaluate effectiveness of the 5-days-a-week work plan, review the project budget, and determine whether or not to proceed on the street side repairs. Meanwhile, work will continue on the interior of the caboose.



Progress – Apr 19

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FROM THE ARCHIVES

March Mystery Photo: The photo at right from the Ken Yeo collection shows a rotary at the road crossing in Gold Run, with the Gold Run depot in the background. At lower right is another view of the Gold Run Depot without the piles of snow. Below is the same scene today, where Lincoln Road crosses the tracks to join what was the old Lincoln Highway. Photo lower right courtesy of Jim Wood. 2012 photo below by Roger Staab.



April Photo – Family and friends have gathered at the depot to welcome a train traveler or send someone on a journey. Note baggage cart at left. Where was this depot located, and what is near there today?

Answers in May newsletter.

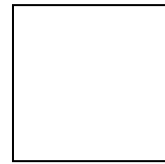
Photo courtesy of Peter Hills.



CPRR/SP Donner Route Timeline: In July 1865, the new town of Colfax was laid out on land purchased by CPRR, and tracks were soon being laid on the newly completed grade to the townsite. In September 1865, Central Pacific opened 54 miles of track from Sacramento to Colfax, with the first trains operating to and from the town on Sept. 4. The long CPRR freight shed in Colfax quickly replaced nearby Illinoistown as the loading point for wagons carrying supplies to nearby mines and communities.

Please forward any comments, suggestions or information for inclusion in future issues of the newsletter. Next Issue Deadline – May 14:
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Placer-Sierra RR Heritage Society
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To:

The July 2011 newsletter featured photos of a cab-forward steam engine and a diesel engine over the end of the Colfax wye. Ken Yeo provided a newspaper article with the photo at right showing a more complete view of the diesel engine off the wye. Apparently after being left idling by the depot without brakes set, two engines rolled nearly a mile to the end of the wye. The first engine dug into the hillside and stopped the motion. Cranes were not large enough to directly lift the engine, so over two days the grade was lowered and the engine then pulled back onto the grade using four dozers and another engine.

Tom Homer photo-Auburn Journal



Journal photo by A. Thomas Homer
An errant Southern Pacific locomotive almost ran onto the top of the Bunch Creek Shopping Center.

Monthly Meeting...

The next PSRHS meeting will be held at 7:00 PM on **Thursday, April 26th** 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 = \$25.00/yr
Each Additional Member Card = \$5.00/yr

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

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