

Placer-Sierra Railroad Heritage Society



www.psrhs.org

May 2012 Newsletter

In this issue:

May Meeting Presentation. Page 2.

Spring Field Trip rescheduled to June. Page 2

Summary of April Meeting and Program. Page 2

Colfax caboose update. Page 2

From the Archives. Page 3

Passing Scene. Photo and story on Page 4



Scheduled Events & Notices



May 24 Monthly Meeting and Presentation

- NOTE CHANGE due to spring field trip rescheduled to June
- Peter Hills will present a slide show of photos from his trip on the Sante Fe 3751 Special from LA Station to the Grand Canyon and back in May 2012

June 9 or 10 – Tentative dates

- Spring field trip in lieu of monthly meeting – Roseville UP Diesel Shops
- Date and details will be discussed at May meeting
- Note: Members only on this field trip due to restrictions on group size

Jun 10 Skunk train photo excursion – see p. 2 or www.skunktrain.com for details

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May Meeting – Thursday, 24 May, 7:00PM - DeWitt Senior Center

May Program: Peter Hills will present a slide show of photos fresh from his trip on the Sante Fe 3751 Special from LA Station to the Grand Canyon and back in May 2012. Peter is one of the staff on board the train and will have some unique photos to share from this rare train trip.

June Field trip: PSRHS Members will get to have an inside look at the UP Roseville locomotive shops on the weekend of June 9/10. The precise date will be determined by the consensus of members attending the May meeting. Stiff toed shoes such as hiking/trail shoes or other similar boots are required to be admitted into the shop area. The precise date and time will be announced to members by email or newsletter. Sorry, members only for this trip due to restrictions on numbers (good reason to have a family membership).

Summary of April Meeting

Presiding over the meeting was President Jim Wood.

Announcements/Updates:

- 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 fee is \$100 and includes 2 meals. Go to the following link for more info, or call 707-964-6371. <http://www.skunktrain.com>
- On May 5, a talk was given by a Ranger in Dutch Flat to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Mountain Quarries Bridge
- Slide projector carousels were donated to the club by member Jin Rutherford
- Donner Crossings – the latest edition was distributed to members.
- New member John Perry was welcomed
- Rotary Snowplow Video – Brendan Compton has updated and revised his video documenting the mechanics of the big rotaries on Donner Summit. KQED Educational Television station has shown an interest in broadcasting it. In order to do so, it has been proposed that PSRHS produce the video.

Grant money would need to be raised to cover production expenses. The Board of Directors will look into the pros/cons for the club to do so. Our organization's name would be listed in the credits.

April Program – Mountain Snow Service

Guest speakers Lonnie Dickson and Dave Bowler treated members to an inside look at the history of snow removal over Donner Summit. Lonnie, Manager of Operating Practices with a combined 40 years of service with S.P. and U.P. recently retired, and had been responsible for one of the most demanding stretches of main line track, the 70 mile climb up the western slope of the Sierras from Roseville to Truckee. Lonnie and Dave shared many stories of the challenge of snow removal on the Hill. Also present was retired UP Supervisor Bill Lynch who added interesting anecdotes from his years of dealing with heavy Sierra snowpack.

Shirley Belleville, Secretary

Colfax Caboose Update

Progress continues on the Colfax Caboose. Three sides of the caboose now have new siding installed and nailed down. Still a fair amount of work required on each of the three sides including hardware installation, work around the cupola, patch the nail sets and then sanding, painting and installation of the hardware. This is the more difficult part of the siding installation. The metal handrails and hardware is all in the shop being sand blasted and powder coated. Our plan, when we have enough money, is to order the cupola windows and get them installed, finish the interior and start on the last side of the caboose. Progress is fun! Contact Tony if you want to help with work or fund-raising. Tonyhesch@colfaxnet.com



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FROM THE ARCHIVES

April Mystery Photo: The photo at right (*courtesy of Peter Hills*) shows people waiting outside the old Applegate Station (West Applegate after double-tracking). The station was located along the curved track that is near today's eastbound I-80 Applegate off-ramp (see photo lower right). In the photo below showing the same curved track, the depot is at left. *Photo below from PSRHS collection. 2003 photo lower right by Roger Staab.*



May Photo – Where was this depot located, and what is found there today? Answers in June newsletter. Note – for those who might try to locate a scene by the topography in the background, what appears to be a distant hill beyond the depot is actually a spot on the photo.

Photo from the Todd collection

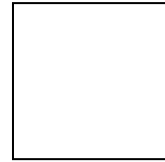


CPRR/SP Donner Route Timeline: In August 1865, grading began above Colfax, and work also began on Summit Tunnel 6. Judah's original survey had located the grade on the Bear River side of the ridge from Illinoistown to Long Ravine, but later surveys showed the present route to be better. The grade above Colfax required building a curved trestle and bridge at Long Ravine, and carving a roadbed out of rock around Cape Horn. The assault on the high Sierra had begun in earnest.

Please forward comments, suggestions or information for inclusion in future issues of the newsletter.

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To:

Passing Scene – Beginning with this issue, photos of contemporary cars and equipment of interest will be featured on this page. This month's photo shows UPP 140, the Stanford business car, as it passed through Colfax at the rear of the westbound California Zephyr in March 2012. This car is ex-SP 140, built by Pullman in 1927. It was first named Sunset, and assigned to the president as the premier car in the fleet. The car was renamed Stanford in 1955, and the Sunset name was assigned to SP 150. Both cars were acquired by UP in the 1996 merger. *Roger Staab photo*



Monthly Meeting...

The next PSRHS meeting will be held at 7:00 PM on **Thursday, May 24th** 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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