

# Placer-Sierra Railroad Heritage Society

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## July 2012 Newsletter

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*Locomotive Shop Photo by Dave Ferreira*



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### Scheduled Events & Notices



July 23 Colfax Railroad Days Planning Meeting

July 26 Monthly Meeting and Presentation  
– Slide Show and discussion of the June field trip to Roseville Locomotive Shops

Aug 11-12 Donner Summit Historical Society Museum at Soda Springs  
– New Exhibits on Tunnel 6 Construction, Drill Samples and 20 Mile Museum  
– [www.donnersummithistoricalsociety.org](http://www.donnersummithistoricalsociety.org)

Aug 18 Bay Area Garden Railway Society 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Garden Railway Tour  
– 10 garden railways in Morgan Hill, Gilroy, Hollister and Salinas  
– [dalemcanally@verizon.net](mailto:dalemcanally@verizon.net) or (408) 848-1440 for more information

Aug 23 Monthly Meeting and Presentation – topic TBD

# Placer-Sierra Railroad Heritage Society



## July 2012 Newsletter

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

**July Program:** A slide show and discussion of the June field trip to the Roseville locomotive shops will be presented by members who attended the event.

### Colfax Railroad Days Planning Meeting

Club president Jim Wood convened a meeting at Peter Hills' home on July 9 to discuss our club's plans for the 2012 Colfax Railroad Days, Oct. 6-7. Jim reported that UP wants insurance in place by Sept. 1 for our activities that will take place on UP property. In particular, insurance for the motor car rides is being priced from several sources, along with the feasibility of getting an umbrella policy to supplement the motor car insurance.

Cost figures for bringing the Porter locomotive to Railroad Days were discussed, with the conclusion that our club does not have the funds to bring the Porter locomotive this year. The information will be forwarded to the Colfax Area Chamber of Commerce to see if they want to raise the funds to bring it here this year.

The major activities we will be involved with for this year's event include:

1. UP equipment in the main yard (by the fruit sheds). We will sell tickets to this display, and control the flow of people to see the equipment. The Operation Lifesaver booth will likely be located near the UP displays. POC's - Lonnie Dickson and Jim Wood.
2. Motor Car Rides on the spur near the freight depot. POC's - Peter Hills and Malcolm Frost
3. The caboose will be open for tours and information about the club and our activities. POC Tony Hesch
4. Brendan Compton will show railroad films at Sierra Vista Center (the Colfax Theater will not be available).
5. Sacramento Valley Live Steamers, will again bring their ride-on steam-powered trains to the ball field near Sierra Vista Center. POC Bill Yoder

To raise funds to cover insurance and other expenses, we discussed ticket sales and decided to sell a single pass for all events, including the live steamers. The pass will have a map on it of all the major activities, and boxes to get checked at each venue. A completed

pass can be exchanged for a raffle ticket. Walt Wilson agreed to prepare a mock-up of the pass.

A raffle will be held to raise additional funds. Donations of railroad-related items or artwork are being sought. Malcolm Frost will set up a raffle page on our web site to increase interest and participation.

We will need volunteers to sell passes and raffle tickets, control flow of visitors to the UP displays, and to staff the motor car rides, movie showings, and caboose. The live steamers group will provide their own staffing. Roger Staab will coordinate volunteer recruitment and assignments to ensure that all venues are covered, and to give volunteers breaks and a chance to enjoy the activities.

Malcolm Frost will host the next planning meeting on Monday, July 23, 7PM. Call Jim, 320-1276 for info.

### June Field Trip - Roseville Locomotive Shops

On June 9 we were given a tour of the Roseville Diesel shop and part of the area around it by the UP shop foreman. The tour started in the conference room with a discussion of the rotary rebuild and several war stories. We then proceeded to the shop area, toured 7113 (in for repair). Then the rotaries, and toured inside a rebuilt flanger. We then walked past a large group of repair parts stocked there and thru the old shop where a flanger was being rebuilt. Then back to the conference room to return the safety gear we had been loaned. Overall a VERY informative tour with views and stories that few are able to enjoy. *Dave Ferreira*

### Colfax Caboose Update

Work continues on the interior and on cupola repairs. Exterior caboose hardware is back from painting and powder coating. Pieces are being fit-checked and mounting holes drilled in the new siding. Still a fair amount of work is required on each of the three sides where new siding has been installed, including hardware installation, patching the nail sets and then sanding, painting and installation of the hardware. Progress is fun! Contact Tony if you want to help with work or fund-raising. [Tonyhesch@colfaxnet.com](mailto:Tonyhesch@colfaxnet.com)

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### FROM THE ARCHIVES

**May Mystery Photo:** The photo at right shows a westbound cab-forward passing the Clipper Gap depot. The road crossing is just beyond the depot. The photo below left shows this same station looking west (toward today's I-80). Note the house at the far left, and compare it with the photo at lower right showing the same house and roof line at the left edge of the photo, and Clipper Gap road crossing the tracks at the right edge of the photo. The photo at right shows the view today looking eastbound at the approximate former location of the depot. *Photo above right and below left from PSRHS collection. 2012 photos at right and lower right by Roger Staab.*



**July Photo** – What is happening in this photo, where was it taken, and what year?

Answers in August newsletter.

*Photo courtesy of Art Sommers*

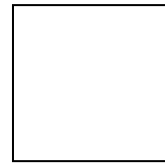


**CPRR/SP Donner Route Timeline:** Two miles from Colfax, the route rapidly gained elevation. At Cape Horn, the roadbed was carved out of a cliff. Reports indicating that Chinese workers were dangled over the cliffs in baskets have largely been disproved by analysis of the slopes. This conclusion does not diminish the accomplishment, however. Cape Horn was an engineering feat that cemented Strobbridge's faith in the Chinese workers. No lives were lost in constructing this section of the CPRR.

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

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To:

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**Passing Scene** – SIERRA HOTEL, east-bound in Colfax in 2010 on the rear of AMTRAK #6. Built in 1948 by the Budd Company for the California Zephyr and named Silver Lounge. Originally configured as a dome-dormitory-coffee shop car that provided overnight accommodations for the train service staff. The car operated in Amtrak service until 1980. It has been totally rebuilt by its current owners. The dormitory was replaced with bedrooms, the coffee shop became a luxurious observation lounge, and an open platform was added. The dome now seats 16 for lounge/dining service. *Photo by Roger Staab*



***Monthly Meeting...***

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