

Placer-Sierra Railroad Heritage Society



www.psrhs.org

August 2012 Newsletter

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UP CARES train photo provided by Jim Wood



Scheduled Events & Notices



- Aug 18 Bay Area Garden Railway Society 18th Annual Garden Railway Tour
– 10 garden railways in Morgan Hill, Gilroy, Hollister and Salinas
– dalemcanally@verizon.net or (408) 848-1440 for more information
- Aug 21 UP CARES train will be in Colfax area around 10AM. See page 2 for details.
- Aug 23 Monthly Meeting and Presentation – UP/Operation Lifesaver CARES program
- Sep 15 Field Trip to Coldstream Canyon – details being worked out with UP
- Sep 27 UP 844 Westbound over Donner with Brief Stop in Colfax
Track Train Status at www.psrhs.org
- Sep 27 Monthly Meeting and Presentation – Program TBA
- Oct 6-7 **Colfax Railroad Days, 9AM-4PM, downtown Colfax**

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August Meeting – Thursday, 23 August, 7:00PM - DeWitt Senior Center

August Program: A slide show and discussion of the **UP CARES** (Crossing Accident Reduction Education and Safety) public safety initiative created as a joint effort between UP and Operation Lifesaver. The program promotes railroad grade crossing and pedestrian safety in collaboration with local communities.

PSRHS will again team with Operation Lifesaver at Colfax Railroad Days to promote railroad crossing safety.

Special UP CARES Train in the Area

A special Union Pacific train will be in Colfax on **Tues, Aug 21 beginning at about 10am to 11am**. It is UP's CARES (Crossing Accident Reduction Education and Safety) train that is used by UP to promote railroad safety issues. It travels around the country throughout the year and it will be visiting Colfax August 21. A link to the UP website about this program is <http://www.uprr.com/she/safety/upcares.shtml>

As part of its program in the Colfax area, it will be seen moving up and down the main line between Colfax and Gold Run. The train consists of some of UP's bright yellow heritage passenger cars and it may be pulled by some of its special heritage locomotives that are painted in the color schemes of the railroads that have become part of the UP system over the years.

The train should attract a lot of attention and will provide a rare photo opportunity for railroad fans.

Colfax Railroad Days Planning

Colfax Railroad Days Oct. 6-7 is nearly upon us. President Jim Wood convened another planning meeting Aug. 7 and reported that the Portola WP museum would still like to bring equipment to this year's Colfax event, and believe they are working out issues with UP for transporting their equipment here.

Thus, we anticipate having some UP equipment and perhaps some Portola equipment available for public viewing on the spur track next to the fruit sheds.

Operation Lifesaver will have their booth set up next to the Colfax Passenger Depot as part of the display.

Under preparation are a map that will show the major venues for this year's event, and a pass that with a single donation of \$2/person or \$5/family will admit visitors to all five venues. The passes will be stamped at each venue, and a pass with all five stamps will entitle the bearer to a free raffle ticket.

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

1. UP/WP equipment in the main yard (by the fruit sheds). We will control the flow of people to see the equipment. 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. Caboose tours and information about the club and our activities. POC Tony Hesch
4. Railroad films (rotaries and steam) shown by Brendan Compton at Sierra Vista Center.
5. Sacramento Valley Live Steamers, ride-on steam-powered trains on the ball field behind Sierra Vista Center. POC Bill Yoder

The sale of passes will help raise funds to cover insurance and other expenses, including costs of bringing Portola equipment to Colfax. A raffle and silent auction will be held to raise additional funds. Donations of railroad-related items or artwork are being sought. Malcolm Frost is setting up a raffle page on our web site to increase interest and participation.

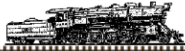
We will need volunteers to sell passes and raffle tickets, control flow of visitors to the UP/WP displays, and to staff the motor car rides, movie showings, and caboose. The live steamers group will provide their own staffing. Roger Staab will coordinate volunteer assignments to ensure that all venues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

UP Steam Returns to Donner

UP 844 will visit the Donner route September 27th, with a probable brief stop in Colfax. You can track the train's progress on our web site, www.psrhs.org.

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FROM THE ARCHIVES

July Mystery Photo: The photo at right shows a steam shovel at work cutting away the hillside NE of Grass Valley Street in Colfax circa 1913. The hillside was removed to make room for realigned mainline and NCNG tracks through Colfax as part of the 1909-1915 double-tracking of the Donner route. Photo below shows same hillside cut away for new tracks, while 2012 view at lower right from fence behind freight depot is at roughly the same location as photo above it. *Photo above right courtesy of Art Sommers. Photo at lower left from Signor – Donner Pass. 2012 photo at lower right by Roger Staab.*



August Photo – What depot is this, where was it located, and what can be found there today? What about that interesting looking railcar at the left? Answers and more info in September newsletter.

Photo from Signor: Donner Pass

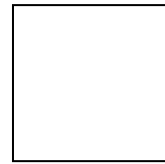


CPRR/SP Donner Route Timeline: CPRR started 1866 with 54 miles of track, reaching from Sacramento to Colfax. By early spring 1866, there were over 10,000 men at work on the route. That spring major construction projects were completed at Long Ravine bridge and trestle, Cape Horn, SecretTown trestle, and the excavation at Dixie Cut. Tracks reached SecretTown in May 1866, Dutch Flat in June, and Alta on July 15, 1866

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

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To:

Passing Scene – UP's EC-5 track geometry inspection vehicle was built in Austria for UP in 2005. It is designed to perform a variety of electronic track inspections at speeds of up to 70 mph. A three-person crew operates the EC-5. Ninety feet long, the vehicle has 11 computer systems that gather data from various types of lasers measuring track surface or level, rail wear and tunnel measurements. The ultrasonic vehicles are designed to "look" inside rail to detect flaws unseen by the human eye. The on-board computers also use Global Positioning Satellite systems to accurately record and report the location of variances for accurate repairs.

2006 Photo at Colfax by Roger Staab



Monthly Meeting...

The next PSRHS meeting will be held at 7:00 PM on **Thursday, August 23rd** 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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