

# Placer-Sierra Railroad Heritage Society

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## September 2012 Newsletter

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*Westbound AMTRAK near Andover.  
2012 photo by Roger Staab*



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### Scheduled Events & Notices



- Sep 15    Field Trip to Coldstream Canyon – details on Page 2
- Sep 27    UP 844 Westbound over Donner with Brief Stop in Colfax  
Monitor Train Status at [www.psrhs.org](http://www.psrhs.org)
- Sep 27    Monthly Meeting  
– Colfax Railroad Days Final Plans  
– Report on Coldstream Field Trip
- Oct 6-7    **Colfax Railroad Days, 9AM-4PM,  
downtown Colfax**
- Oct 25    Monthly Meeting & Presentation  
– Program TBD



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### Fall Field Trip – Coldstream Canyon – Saturday September 15

The fall field trip will be a visit to Coldstream Canyon, Horseshoe Curve, and the sites of Stanford and Andover on the East slope of the Sierra. **Note: High Clearance 4WD is needed for portions of this trip.**

Carpooling will be arranged at Colfax and Truckee. Those wishing to carpool to Truckee meet at **8:30 am** in the parking lot behind the Colfax Freight Depot. The group will assemble at **9:30 am** in the Chevron parking lot near the I-80 Donner Pass Road/Donner State Park exit at the west edge of Truckee. The tour will take much of the morning, with return to Truckee by around noon. **Wear sturdy shoes, bring water, snacks, hats, sunscreen, etc.**

Call **Jim Wood at 530 320-1276** for any other questions now or on the day of the fieldtrip.

### September Meeting – Thursday, 27 September, 7:00PM - DeWitt Senior Center

**September Program:** Discussion of final preparations and commitments for Colfax Railroad Days, and report on the field trip to Coldstream.

### UP Steam Returns to Donner

UP 844 will travel over the Donner route from Reno to Sacramento, probably on September 27th, with a brief stop in Colfax. Updates on its movement can be found on our web site, [www.psrhs.org](http://www.psrhs.org).

### August Program: UP CARES Train

UP's CARES (Crossing Accident Reduction Education and Safety) train visited Colfax on August 21. PSRHS board members joined local officials on an enjoyable train ride while hearing a presentation about railroad crossing safety.

The train consisted of an engine at each end and three UP heritage cars, a coach, dome coach, and business car. The train left Colfax westbound on the yard spur, waited for westbound AMTRAK to clear, then crossed over to the No. 1 track and followed it through Auburn

and Bloomer Cut. At Newcastle, the train crossed over to the No. 2 track and proceeded eastbound, stopping for several minutes on the trestle above I-80 in Auburn.

The excursion continued up the No. 2 track to Colfax, where a very satisfied contingent of passengers got off. The train then departed for Truckee and its next scheduled appearance.

At our August 24 meeting, members shared their photos of the train and excursion. *Photo below by Paul Lanyi.*



### Colfax Railroad Days Oct. 6-7

Plans are being finalized for Colfax Railroad Days. A coordination meeting was held August 27 with representatives from PSRHS, Colfax Area Chamber, and Sierra Vista Community Center. Locations for various venues were discussed, along with details for the map that will be handed out and passes that will be sold.

The map and accompanying passes are intended to serve two purposes. Sale of the passes will raise funds to help pay for insurance and other costs associated with the event. The passes and map will also direct visitors to all areas of town where activities are taking place. This should ensure that all parts of the event will achieve good public attendance.

While UP has assured us that railroad equipment will be provided for display, we do not yet have a firm commitment on what that equipment will be. We have been informed that the Mountain Quarries Railroad locomotive that is being displayed near the American River in Auburn will be brought to Colfax on a flatbed truck and displayed both days near the Passenger Depot.

At our regular club meeting on September 27, final details for the two-day event will be discussed.

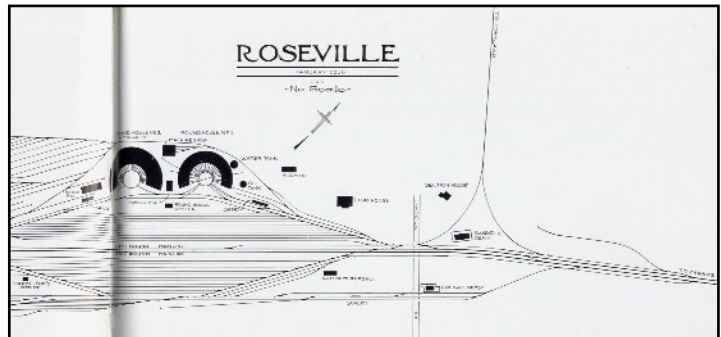
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## FROM THE ARCHIVES

**August Mystery Photo:** The photo at right shows the Roseville Depot circa 1909, with a McKean motor car bound for Colfax. McKean cars were used for local runs from 1909 until the early 1930's. The Roseville Depot was located in the center of the Wye connecting to the tracks north to Portland. The new Roseville Depot is to the west of Lincoln St., near the clubhouse on the map below. *Photo above right and map from Signor - Donner Pass. 2003 photo at lower left by Roger Staab.*



**September Photo** – This month's photo is intended to whet the appetite of those going on the September field trip to the high Sierra. Where was this photo taken, what was located there besides snowsheds, and what is found there today?

*Photo from Donald Duke collection.*

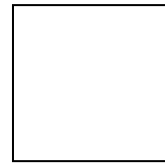


**CPRR/SP Donner Route Timeline:** CPRR tracks reached Cisco, 94 miles from Sacramento, in November 1866. Through cars were operating to Cisco by early December. On December 19, 1866, the vertical shaft at Summit tunnel was completed. Tunnel boring could now proceed at four locations. Workers built snow tunnels so that construction could continue on the Summit tunnel through the harsh winter of 1866-67.

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** – UP’s Challenger Dome Coach was a featured car on the visit of the UP/Operation Lifesaver CARES train to Colfax and the Donner route in August 2012. Challenger Dome Coach No. 7015 was built by Pullman Standard in 1958, the last dome coach built for UP. The car has coach seating for 16 in the short end of the car, 20 in the long end, and dome seating for 24, making its total capacity 60 passengers. This car was part of the Los Angeles and San Francisco Challenger Domeliner trains that ran until 1971. *2012 Photo at Colfax by Roger Staab*



***Monthly Meeting...***

The next PSRHS meeting will be held at 7:00 PM on **Thursday, September 27th** 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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