

# Placer-Sierra Railroad Heritage Society

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October 2008



[www.psrhs.org](http://www.psrhs.org)

To:

## *PSRHS Activities & Events...*

Editor's Comments

### **Scheduled Events:**

### **Fall Field Trip:**

**October 11, 2008** will be the fall field trip to the Clipper Gap and Applegate areas. Details herein.

**There will be no regular meeting in October.**

Please forward any comments, suggestions or ideas for trips or other activities to me for consideration and information.

Editor: Lyle Brown, (530) 885-6997

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## *In this Issue...*

### ***Monthly Meeting...***

There will not be an October monthly meeting. Instead we will have the fall field trip on October 11, 2008.

Call (530) 346-9607 for more info.

### **Membership Information**

Individual Members = \$20.00

Family Membership = \$25.00

- Monthly Newsletter
  - Member Activities, Presentations and Field Trips
  - Display & Restoration Projects
- PSRHS, P.O. Box 1776  
Colfax, CA 95713

# Placer-Sierra Railroad Heritage Society

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## Monthly Newsletter – October 2008

### Announcements and Schedules

#### Fall Field Trip-October 11, 2008

Our Fall 2008 outing will focus on the history of the railroad and local history of Clipper Gap and Applegate east of Auburn. **We'll meet at the Clipper Gap Park and Ride lot at 9AM.** Travel east on Interstate 80 and exit at the Clipper Gap/Meadow Vista freeway exit. Turn right and you are there.

Local historian George Lay will tell us about some of the local Clipper Gap history with photos. We'll start at the old US 40 road house called Oliver's which is just on the other side of the Freeway from our meeting spot. Later we'll find the location of the Clipper Gap train station and stroll up to Tunnel Zero following some of the abandoned Central Pacific railroad grades.

We will make our way up to Applegate to look at Tunnel 27—the tunnel with three portals—and the East Applegate station.

Our fieldtrips usually finish about 2PM. Bring water and a snack while we walk.

#### BBQ

Wait but that's not all...This time, we will conclude the day by driving a short distance for a BBQ of hamburgers and hotdogs at the home of member Peter Hills. His back yard backs up to the mainline tracks near Tunnel 28, the perfect vantage point to watch train traffic. Peter will also

show off his new HO scale layout under construction.

To attend the BBQ, Please RSVP Peter at 530 878-4548 to allow us to plan on food.

Folks, don't hesitate to come to the BBQ even if you can't make the fieldtrip.  
(Jim Wood, Pres.)

#### Colfax Railroad Days - Sept. 27-28:

The Railroad Days was better attended this year than last. Hopefully it will grow and become a popular Sacramento area event.

PSRHS hosted an open house of the Northwestern caboose that the Society is restoring, with many visitors coming through, most never having been in a caboose before. Walt Wilson was the caboose guide and provided first hand knowledge from when he was a crew member on a similar caboose many years earlier.

We also co-hosted the Railroad Film Fest in the Colfax Theater with Brendan Compton of BA Productions. Brendan showed a series of his fine commercial films about the Donner Pass Route snow clearing operations. These videos included “Day of the Spreader”, “Night of the Flanger” and his recent “Rotary Snowplow” training video. Brendan also presented some footage of a double header steam engines trip over Donner Summit which occurred several years ago.

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The audience seemed to really enjoy seeing how the railroad keeps the tracks over the summit clear during the winter.

Special thanks to the generosity of the Colfax Theater folks for its use for this Colfax Railroad Days event. Thanks also to the PSRHS members who came out to help this year including Brendan Compton, Shirley Belleville, Peter Hills, Ken Yeo, Shelton Campbell, Roger Staab and new members Walt Wilson and Olin Anderson.

### **September Meeting Notes:**

Members were encouraged to sign up to help at the Railroad Days in Colfax September 27 & 28

Volunteers were needed to help with various projects including the movie show, tours of the historical caboose, memorabilia, a model train set up, and a speeder car.

### **Caboose Report:**

Volunteers have been stripping multiple layers of paint from the back of the caboose. So far they had uncovered yellow, red, orange and freight car brown. They are debating what color and railroad name should be eventually placed on the caboose.

### **September Program:**

Jay Hansell shared slides of some of his vacation travels at various railroads and rail museums around the country. He showed some pictures of the Sierra Railroad, Nevada Northern, Denver & Rio Grand, Durango & Silverton, Steamtown, plus several others. Thank You Jay for some

very nicely presented photos of trains in Pennsylvania, Colorado, and Nevada.  
(Shirley Bellview, Sectl)

### **Member Vi White:**

Long time member Vi White moved to an elderly living facility in Reno last fall. I have received word from her son, Charlie, that she had fallen and broken her hip. She is now recuperating at the Regent Care Center, 555 Hammill Lane, Reno NV, 89511. She will be there for 8-10 weeks. If you would like to send her a card it would be appreciated.

She has a cell phone, (530-518-7375) and the best time to call is between 2:00PM and 4:30PM. Please do not leave a message if she doesn't answer her phone. She cannot retrieve messages.  
(Lyle Brown, Editor)

