

# Placer-Sierra Railroad Heritage Society



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

## February 2014 Newsletter

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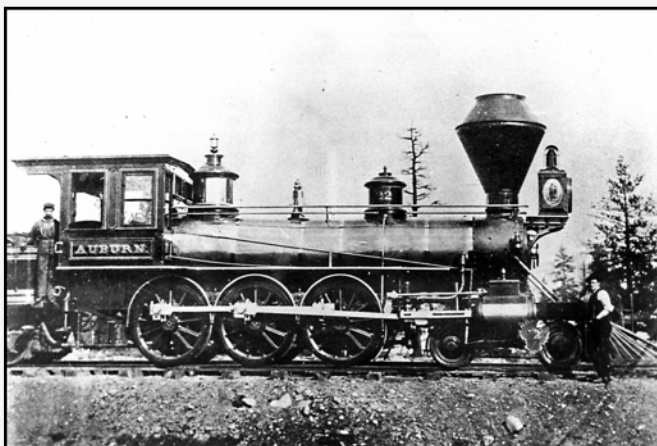
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*CPRR 4-6-0 Locomotive Auburn. Ken Yeo Collection*

### Scheduled Events & Notices



**Feb. 24 2014 Colfax Railroad Days Planning Meeting - 7:00 pm**

**Feb. 27 Monthly Meeting & Program – 7:00 pm**  
– William Wauters' story behind finding a partial CPRR locomotive plate  
– NOTE LOCATION - Auburn Airport Terminal Bldg

**Mar. 8 2014 Winterail – Scottish Rite Masonic Center, Stockton [winterail.com](http://winterail.com)**

**Mar. 27 Monthly Meeting – Program: California's High Speed Rail Project**

**\*\*\*Don't forget to renew your PSRHS membership for 2014\*\*\***  
(see note on page 2 and form on page 5 for renewal information)

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### Next member meeting 7 PM, February 27, **Donner Crossings Special Issue - Ken Yeo** **Auburn Airport Terminal Building**

**Program:** William Wauters will relate his interesting story about finding, almost losing and finding again what appears to be part of an original builder's plate from a CPRR locomotive. He will also discuss the research he did to authenticate his discovery.

**Note:** The presentation on California's High Speed Rail Project has been rescheduled for March 27.

### **Membership Renewal Reminder**

It seems the years are getting shorter. We just do our taxes, celebrate a holiday, or some other yearly event and before we know it...it's time to do it again.

So, yes it is time to renew your membership with PSRHS!

We rely on membership dollars to help support the important work we do as a non-profit organization. Our mission is to preserve the very important history of railroading on the Transcontinental Route over Donner Pass, collect and restore operational equipment for public enjoyment, and to help build an annual event to celebrate our railroad heritage.

Your dues are essential to help PSRHS grow in our community. If you have not already done so, please send in your renewal check today or use PayPal on our website [www.psrhs.org](http://www.psrhs.org).

A renewal form is provided on page 5 for your use if renewing by mail.

Thanks again and we look forward to a future of building a strong and sound society together.

LeeAnn Dickson - Membership



The 2014 issue of Donner Crossings is a special tribute to Ken Yeo and his contributions toward preserving local railroad history. Donner Crossings is distributed to PSRHS members as a benefit of paid membership.

### **Colfax Railroad Days/National Train Day**

A kickoff planning meeting will be held Monday, Feb. 24, 7pm, at the Auburn Airport Terminal Building. Purpose of the meeting is to start laying plans for PSRHS participation in National Train Day on May 10 and Colfax Railroad Days Sept. 13-14. National Train Day will include displays at the Colfax depot, along with a car show, art show and BBQ. All who are willing to donate skills or time to help make these events successful are invited to attend the planning meetings.

### **February Board Meeting**

The PSRHS board met on Feb. 3. Topics included:

- Tutorial on board member responsibilities
- Membership strategies
- Stewardship of Colfax caboose
- Brendan's PBS Video -- watch for it in March
- Status of web cam (camera is installed and should be operational soon)
- Railroad Days and National Train Day
- Future board meetings 1st Monday of quarter

### **January Program Summary**

Phil Smith presented an interesting slide show and discussion of his experiences as engineer on several New England railroads including the Winnepesaukee Scenic Tourist Railroad, Vermont Railroad, and New England Central. Part of the Winnepesaukee's operation was on state-owned lakefront tracks among expensive lakeside homes. Phil offered interesting perspectives both from the cab and from his knowledge of the management decisions affecting the operations of these lines.

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**Passing Scene** – This photo of the “GrandLuxe Express” observation car New York was taken in Colfax in 2007. Built by Pullman in 1948 for New York Central’s 20th Century Limited, the car ran under the name Sandy Creek until the 20th Century was discontinued in 1967. The car then went through several owners including a brief stint with Ringling Brothers, until receiving extensive restoration work in the 1990’s. It served on the American Orient Express until that line was absorbed by GrandLuxe Express. The car boasts a large bay window and luxurious interior including plush chairs and sofas, swivel rockers, and tables for writing or games, along with a full service bar. *Photo by Roger Staab.*

### 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

PSRHS, P.O. Box 1776, Colfax, CA 95713  
[www.psrhs.org](http://www.psrhs.org)

Reader comments, additional details, etc., are invited on any newsletter items or photos. Please forward comments, suggestions or information for inclusion in future issues of the newsletter to:

Roger Staab (530) 346-6722 [roger.staab@psrhs.org](mailto:roger.staab@psrhs.org)



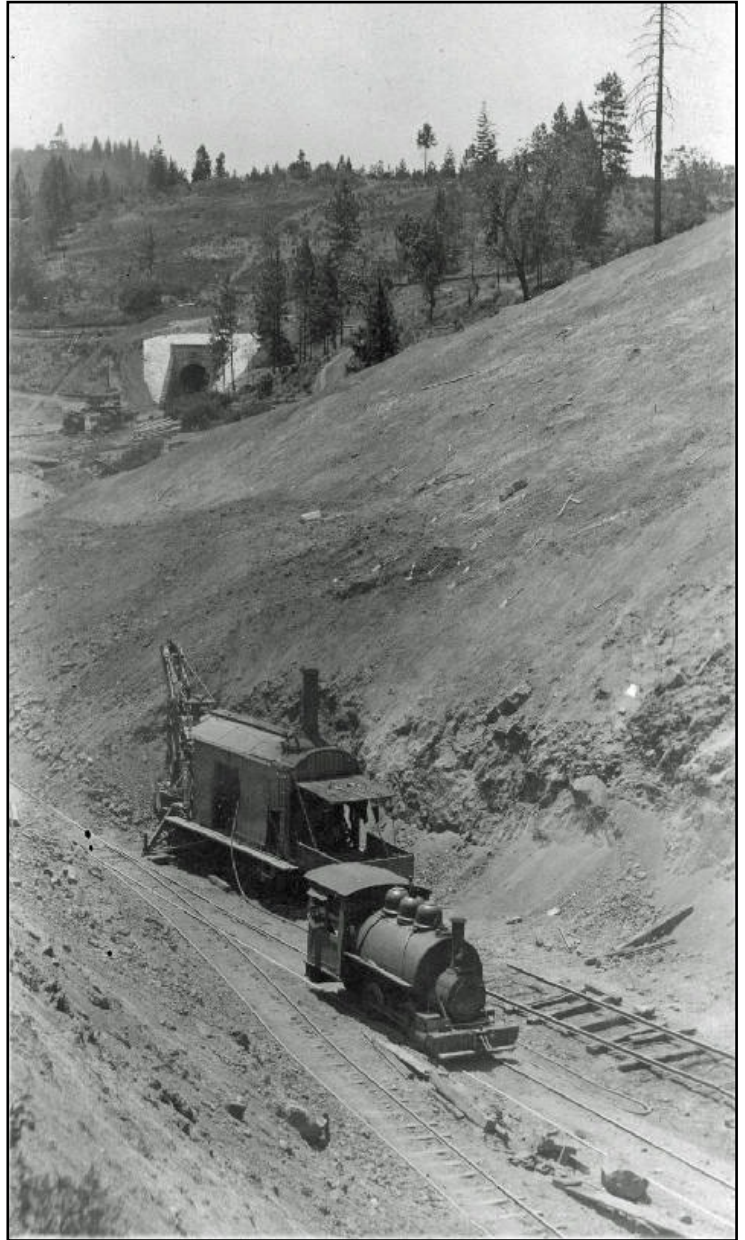
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## From the Archives

**February Mystery Photo:** Copies of this photo appear in a couple of local collections but its location and the activity being depicted are not identified. Our newsletter readers are invited to submit thoughts on where the photo was taken, and what is being shown in the scene. Your responses and the editor's thoughts will be presented in the March newsletter. *Photo courtesy of Art Sommers*



**CPRR/SP Donner Route Timeline:** Changes and improvements required due to repair and maintenance were made permanent in the late 1870's, with an eye toward economy in future repairs. Steel rail continued to be installed on new sidings and in track repairs, and 940,000 ties were used in 1878 and 1879. Over 4800 feet of snowsheds were lost to fire and replaced in 1878, along with 1200 feet of shed near Owl Gap in 1879. New woodsheds were constructed in 1879 at Rocklin, Clipper Gap, Colfax and Alta.

**Placer-Sierra Railroad Heritage Society**  
**Membership Renewal Form 2014**

**Individual (\$25)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Additional Family (\$5 each)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Donation \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**Greatest Need** \_\_\_\_\_

**Other (Specify)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Primary Member** \_\_\_\_\_

**Additional Name(s) for Family Membership(s)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mailing Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**City/State/Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number** \_\_\_\_\_

**eMail Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail check to PSRHS, P.O. Box 1776, Colfax, CA 95713**

**Or Renew On-Line using PayPal at [www.psrhs.org](http://www.psrhs.org)**