

Placer-Sierra Railroad Heritage Society



www.psrhs.org

March 2014 Newsletter

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*Artist's rendering of California's High Speed Rail system
Courtesy of Wikipedia*

Scheduled Events & Notices



Mar. 24 2014 Colfax Railroad Days Planning Meeting - 7:00 pm
– Auburn Airport Terminal Bldg

Mar. 27 Monthly Meeting & Program – 7:00 pm
– Auburn Airport Terminal Bldg

Apr. 7 PSRHS Board Meeting - 7:00 pm, location TBD

Apr. 24 Monthly Meeting – Program TBA

*****Don't forget to renew your PSRHS membership for 2014*****
Membership Information is at the bottom of Page 3

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Next member meeting 7 PM, March 27, Auburn Airport Terminal Building

Program: Presentation on California's High-Speed Rail Project by Frank Vacca, Chief Program Manager, California High-Speed Rail Authority. Frank is in charge of technical and engineering teams responsible for delivering the project. Before joining the authority he was Chief Engineer of AMTRAK from 2006-2012, and prior to that was Deputy General Manager for Infrastructure Engineering with New Jersey Transit Authority. The program was rescheduled from February.

Colfax Railroad Days/National Train Day Planning Meetings

A kickoff planning meeting was held Monday, Feb. 24. Purpose of the meeting was 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.

Several Railroad Days issues were identified for further discussion at future meetings:

- A budget needs to be set for RR Days
- Need to get people trained to staff OL booth
- Signage needs to be set up in advance
- Fund raising needs to start early
- May benefit from hiring professional assistance
- CCC may be back on board to assist
- Next month's focus will be establishing a timeline.

Next planning meeting is March 24, 7 pm, at the Auburn Airport terminal building. All are invited to attend and assist in pulling these events together.

Operation Lifesaver Training

One of the PSRHS's goals for Colfax Railroad Days is to "educate the public on grade crossing and railroad right-of-way safety." This is the right thing to do and we must extend that goal to other events held in our name. We can easily accomplish delivering this very important public safety message by working with

California Operation Lifesaver (CAOL) and becoming Operation Lifesaver Authorized Volunteers (OLAV).

The CAOL program relies on volunteers to staff our Operation Lifesaver (OL) informational booth each year. However, this year and for years to come we need to start staffing the OL booth with our own members who have completed the OLAV on-line and face-to-face training. CAOL cannot guarantee volunteers for Colfax Railroad Days, National Train Day or any other events in which we want to showcase the rail safety message. Our rail safety booth is a big draw and a fan favorite at Railroad Days and we must continue spreading the word.

If you are interested in becoming an OLAV, log on to www.oli.org and click on the Training & Volunteer tab on the right upper corner. Select: Become a Volunteer, complete the OLAV On-line Application and submit it. If you have any questions, please contact PSRHS's Membership Coordinator LeeAnn Dickson at 916-412-3233 or ladickson@surewest.net. As a certified OLAV coach and trainer, she will be able to explain the process and if needed help you navigate the training.

We cannot meet our goals without your help. Thanks.

February Member Meeting

During the February business meeting, PSRHS charter member Ken Yeo was recognized for his many years of contributions to local railroad history. With his son and daughters in attendance, Ken was given a plaque honoring him as a Lifetime Member. A special issue of Donner Crossings containing a tribute to Ken was then distributed to attendees. The Donner Crossings issue will be mailed to current PSRHS members who do/did not attend the February or March meetings.

February Program Summary

William Wauters provided an interesting talk about a portion of a CPRR builders plate that he found in an old dump near Clipper Gap. He described the research he did to first determine what he had found, and then to authenticate the significance of his discovery. ➡

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William's presentation generated a lot of questions and discussion. He is willing to share his research with anyone interested in pursuing it. You can contact William through the newsletter editor.

After William completed his presentation, member Dick Whitney showed and discussed a length of early rail he found on his property near Applegate.



Passing Scene – Another of the “GrandLuxe Express” excursion cars, also seen in Colfax in 2007, is this Great Dome Lounge Car “Copper Canyon”. Built by Budd in 1955, this car originally saw service on Chicago, Burlington and Quincy as #1395 "River View". It became BN 1395 in the merger, then Amtrak 9365 in 1971. It was rebuilt in 1984, and sold to American Orient Express in 2001. It features lounge and table top seating in the dome area, a small bar with lounge seats, and a lower level office. It served on the American Orient Express until that line was absorbed by GrandLuxe Express. *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

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:

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From the Archives

March Mystery Photo:

This month's photo was chosen especially for those of you who have forgotten what snow looks like. Where was the picture taken? Answer in the April newsletter.

Photo courtesy of Jay Hansell.



February Mystery Photo: Only three people responded to the February mystery photo. Based on discussions and analysis of photos and topo maps, I believe this photo shows construction of the second track near Applegate in 1910/11. The tunnel in the distance appears consistent with the east portal of Tunnel 28 (photo at right). The original track would not be visible from this construction site, and there is a gradual right-hand-curve approaching Tunnel 28 from the east. Contractors used "dinky" engines to remove excavation debris from the construction site. *Photo at left courtesy of Art Sommers. Tunnel 28 photo at right courtesy of Paul Lanyi.*



CPRR/SP Donner Route Timeline: The Chief Engineer's Report in 1882 reported that the new pier and passenger terminal were completed at the Port of Oakland in 1881. The pier was more than a mile long and 280 feet wide. Four tracks extended 4800 feet to its end. The depot building was 1050 feet long and 120 feet wide, with 60-foot wide side buildings. Ten tracks extended through the building. Two large passenger waiting areas were provided, along with offices for the Division Superintendent.