

Placer-Sierra Railroad Heritage Society



www.psrhs.org

**May 2014
Newsletter**

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Scheduled Events & Notices



- May 22** **Monthly Meeting & Program – 7:00 pm**
 – Auburn Airport Terminal Bldg
 – Presentation by Jeff Asay
 "Ghost Rails, Ghost Towns - and a Tower with a Ghost"
- May 27** **2014 Colfax Railroad Days Planning Meeting - 7:00 pm**
 – Auburn Airport Terminal Bldg
- Jun 26** **Monthly Meeting – Program TBA**

*****Thanks to all who renewed your PSRHS membership for 2014*****
 Membership Information is at the bottom of Page 3

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Next member meeting 7 PM, May 22 Auburn Airport Terminal Building

Program: Jeff Asay will present "Ghost Rails, Ghost Towns - and a Tower with a Ghost," a powerpoint show of his photographs of towns with abandoned railroads in Oregon, Washington and Idaho. The last part of his show is about his encounter with the ghost that lives in Davis Tower. Jeff reports that it's all in good fun and no photographers, railfans or ghosts were harmed during the making of the show.

Cape Horn Webcam

PSRHS's new Cape Horn webcam made its public debut at National Train Day. Check out the webcam link on our web page, www.psrhs.org. The webcam is currently streaming live views of the eastbound tracks. Enhancements being considered include the option of viewing recorded images of the most recent trains.

National Train Day May 10

PSRHS hosted National Train Day in Colfax Saturday May 10, as part of AMTRAK's nationwide celebration. In addition to debuting our new Cape Horn webcam, displays at the Colfax Passenger Depot included the ATCS train locator system, slide show of passenger train history on the Donner route, Brendan's video of rotary operations on Donner, and a basic model RR layout for the kids. T-shirts, videos and books were offered for sale at our PSRHS booth, along with tickets for the BBQ lunch. Siemens provided a static display, and AMTRAK provided handout literature, paper hats and National Train Day buttons. Peter also unveiled the new donation box he created for PSRHS events.

The Kiwanis club sponsored an antique car show across the tracks on Main Street. The two events appeared to enhance the experience for attendees at both events.

Colfax Railroad Days Planning Meetings

Next planning meeting for 2014 Colfax Railroad Days is Tuesday, May 27, 7PM at the Auburn Airport Terminal Building. All are invited to attend and assist in pulling this event together.

At the April 21 meeting, plans were finalized for National Train Day on May 10, including sources of tables, utensils, water and soft drinks for the event.

Railroad Days planning discussion was primarily focused on identifying the main areas for Sarah's time as event planner. A preliminary budget was presented to the group, and adjustments made based on 2013 actuals and what is known so far for the 2014 event.

Railroad Days Volunteers Needed

In addition to needing people to assist with Railroad Days planning, we need to start indentifying volunteers to staff various functions on September 13 & 14th, the days of the event. If you are able to assist in any way, please reply by email to the newsletter editor with indication of which day or days (Saturday or Sunday) you can be available to volunteer your time. Please indicate your preference for morning or afternoon duty.

April Program Summary

Bruce Gregory showed a one-hour DVD produced by the National Railway Museum, York, England. The DVD presented a comprehensive overview of the museum and the many railroad artifacts housed in the various buildings that comprise what is consider one of the finest railway museums in the world. Bruce also showed some of his personal photographs of the museum and the many steam and diesel engines on display.

Summary provided by Peter Hills



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National Train Day - Colfax – Photos by Roger Staab.



PSRHS merchandise table - BBQ crew beyond Webcam, ATCS and video viewing room



AMTRAK "goodies" table and kids' model layout
Westbound AMTRAK with heritage locomotive



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

May Mystery Photo:

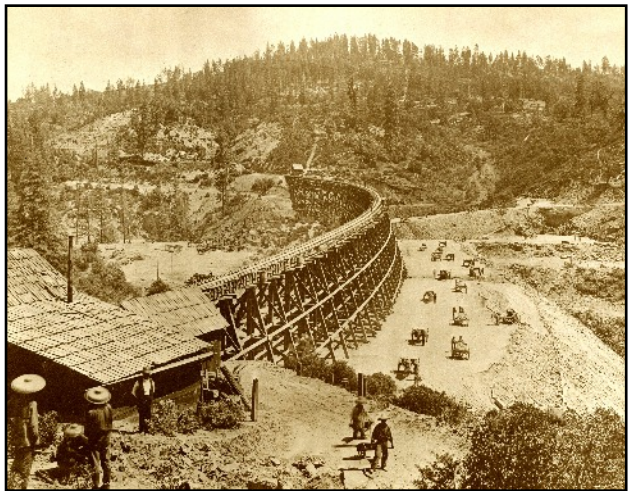
We've all heard the term "roundhouse" but this photo clearly shows where the name comes from. Where was this located? For extra credit, when was it built (does anyone really read the PSRHS newsletter?).

Photo courtesy of Tony Hesch.



April Mystery Photo: This famous scene of early CPRR construction shows Chinese crews filling in what was originally Secret Ravine Trestle. If you have driven I-80 near Gold Run you have passed adjacent to this location and perhaps didn't realize it. The hill in the background is Cold Spring Hill. Today I-80 traverses the near face of the hill from upper left and beyond the railroad tracks. Driving westbound from the Gold Run on-ramp, I-80 goes up a rise, then begins descending into a sweeping right-hand curve. At the end of the curve and adjacent to a 3000 ft elevation sign, you get a brief glimpse of the tracks on fill a short distance to the right. Those tracks and fill were once the curved trestle shown in this image.

Hart stereograph view from the PSRHS Collection.



CPRR/SP Donner Route Timeline: Branch lines began to appear along the Donner Route to provide rail connection to locations not directly served by CPRR. In 1876 the Nevada County Narrow Gauge Railroad began operating from its CPRR connection in Colfax to the gold mining districts near Grass Valley and Nevada City. Providing passenger and freight service, the line replaced a wagon road and stage line that were often made impassible by weather. Rail service on the NCNG continued until 1942.