

# Placer-Sierra Railroad Heritage Society

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## June 2014 Newsletter

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*Original California Zephyr (CZ) in Colfax?  
See photo and story on page 3.*

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### Scheduled Events & Notices



**Jun 23     2014 Colfax Railroad Days Planning Meeting - 7:00 pm**  
– Auburn Airport Terminal Bldg

**Jun 26     Monthly Meeting & Program – 7:00 pm**  
– Auburn Airport Terminal Bldg  
– Program to be announced

**Jul 24     Monthly Meeting – Program to be announced**

**Sep 13-14     Colfax Railroad Days**

**\*\*\*Volunteers Needed to help with Railroad Days Planning\*\*\***

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# Placer-Sierra Railroad Heritage Society

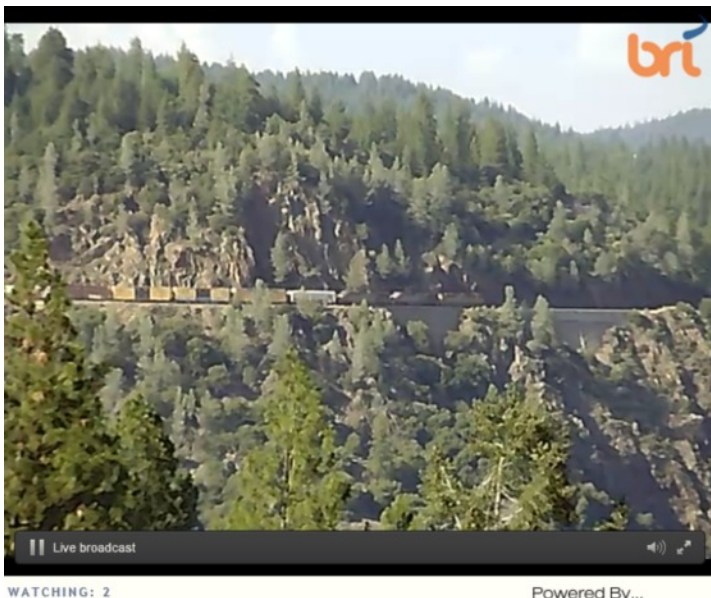
June 2014 Newsletter

**Next member meeting 7 PM, June 26**  
**Auburn Airport Terminal Building**

**Program: To Be Announced**

## Cape Horn Webcam

PSRHS's new Cape Horn webcam is operational and on-line. Check out the webcam link on our web page, [www.psrhs.org](http://www.psrhs.org). The webcam is currently streaming live views of the eastbound tracks (see image below). Enhancements being considered include the option of viewing recorded images of the most recent trains.



## May Program Summary

**Jeff Asay** presented his slide show "Ghost Rails, Ghost Towns - and a Tower with a Ghost," about towns with abandoned railroads in Oregon, Washington and Idaho. Jeff retired from a career with the railroad, and has collected photos and stories of these abandoned lines.



## Colfax Railroad Days Planning Meetings

**Next 2014 Colfax Railroad Days Planning Meeting is Monday June 23, 7PM at the Auburn Airport Terminal Building.** All are invited to attend and assist in pulling this event together.

We are rapidly approaching the September 13-14 dates for Colfax Railroad Days and there is still a lot to be done. We believe UP will provide one of the rebuilt rotary snowplows and perhaps other displays. We hope to repeat a popular feature from last year's event and have knowledgeable former railroad employees on hand to discuss the equipment on display.

An extensive kids zone is being planned for the area behind the Sierra Vista Center. This will not only provide a focus for kids activities, but also help draw attention to other displays at the Sierra Vista Center.

Plans include live music both days, several model railroad layouts, and of course t-shirt sales and raffle drawings put on by PSRHS.

## Railroad Days Volunteers Needed

Colfax Railroad Days is our club's one main event to bring more visibility to our club's activities, and to raise funds for future activities including establishing an outdoor railroad museum. There remains a lot to be done prior to the event itself. Please consider attending the planning meetings and offering your help.

In addition to needing people to assist with the 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.

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### Passing Scene



In 2004 Trains Unlimited Tours put together their Domes to Reno trip with vintage equipment reminiscent of the original California Zephyr. The excursion was offered in conjunction with the Western Pacific Railroad Historical Society's annual convention in Sparks, NV. One of the Portola Museum's Western Pacific Locomotives was originally slated to head the consist, but roadworthiness issues forced a last minute change. Former VIA Rails (Canada) diesel locomotive FP-9 #6304 underwent a quick makeover in Western Pacific colors, and was numbered 806-A for the trip. Built in 1954, it originally ran as Canadian National #6504.

This photo shows "WP 806-A" leading two AMTRAK locomotives as the train passed through Colfax on April 16, 2004, on its way from Emeryville to Reno/Sparks. The excursion made a return trip to Colfax and back to Sparks on April 17. (More in next month's newsletter) *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

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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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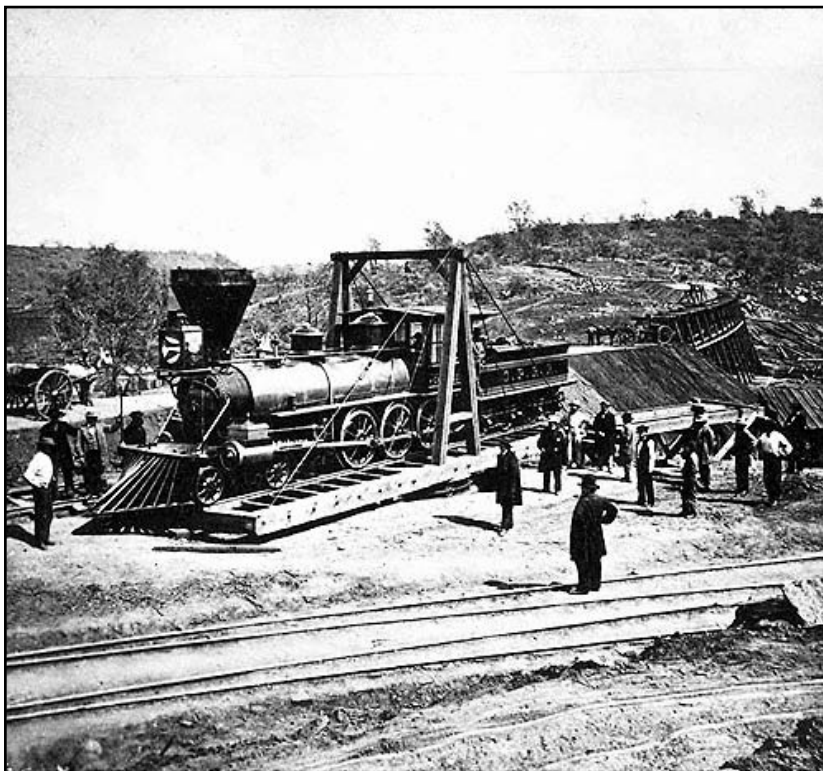




### From the Archives

#### **June Mystery Photo:**

Where is the location for this scene, and what is being built in the background? For extra credit, where was this location relative to present-day railroad structures? *Hart stereoview.*



**May Mystery Photo:** This photo shows the Truckee roundhouse that was located in the yard area just east of town near today's balloon track. As reported in the April PSRHS Newsletter's CP/SP Donner Route timeline, the 1882 Chief Engineer's report stated that a new 22 stall round house had been built in Truckee of native granite. The granite was brought by train from Rocklin. This roundhouse replaced a smaller wooden structure that had replaced the original roundhouse lost by fire in 1869. The granite roundhouse was torn down in 1955. *Photo courtesy of Tony Hesch. Historical details courtesy of Truckee-Donner Historical Society.*



**CPRR/SP Donner Route Timeline:** After tracks were completed to Alta in 1866, a siding one mile above Alta at Alta Shed served Towle Brothers' growing logging empire. In the 1870's, Towle Brothers built a narrow gauge logging railroad that extended over 30 miles from the Alta Shed siding into Nevada County. In 1883 Central Pacific established a station stop at the siding called Towle's. The company town boasted a hotel, store, planer, box factory, and pulp mill, until 1902 when the company was sold.