

Placer-Sierra Railroad Heritage Society



www.psrhs.org

October 2014 Newsletter

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UP's rebuilt rotary is on the move to Colfax Railroad Days. See RR days photos on page 3. Rotary photo courtesy of Paul Lanyi

Scheduled Events & Notices



- Oct 23** **Monthly Meeting & Program – 7:00 pm**
 – Auburn Airport Terminal Bldg
 – Mike Haire will show railroad photos from recent trips
- Nov 8** **Colfax Area Historical Society Fall Meeting, 7 pm, Colfax Depot**
 – Presentation by George Beckman on the Fordson Tractor
- Nov 20** **PSRHS Annual Potluck Dinner Meeting – 6:30 pm**
 – Auburn Airport Terminal Bldg
 – Program to be announced

Next member meeting 7 PM, October 23
Auburn Airport Terminal Building

Program: Mike Haire will present a selection of railroad photos from his recent trips.

Reminder: November meeting will be our potluck dinner and presentation Nov. 20 starting at 6:30pm.

Colfax Railroad Days Special Issue

With memories of 2014 Railroad Days still fresh in mind, the planning committee is already at work doing preliminary planning for the 2015 event. More on that in a moment.

Two highlights of this year's event were the appearance of UP's rebuilt rotary snowplow, and the expanded kids zone. UP provided an impressive string of equipment for display, including the rotary and other snow-fighting and maintenance of way equipment. In the area near the depot were displays by Siemens and California High Speed Rail Authority. A hands-on model layout for kids was also a big hit.

At Sierra Vista Center, the Sacramento Valley Live Steamers provided rides for kids of all ages, and nearby was a kids zone with bounce house and numerous hands-on activities for kids. This expanded offering was in response to a lesson learned from the 2013 event when it was apparent that families with small children were looking for activities to interest the kids.

Attendance were good for both days of the event, with numerous displays and activities for all to enjoy.

See page 3 for a selection of event photos.

A major lesson learned from this year's event is the need for better crowd control for people visiting the full-sized railroad equipment. We anticipate having even more equipment on display in 2015, and that will require careful planning to control both where visitors can safely access the equipment, and how many can be

safely accommodated at a time. This issue will be a major topic of discussion as planning progresses for 2015 Railroad Days.

Sesquicentennial Event in 2015

As many of you know, the 2015 event has special importance for Colfax. Central Pacific trains first began running to the new town in September 1865, 150 years ago next year. Thus, Colfax Railroad Days 2015, scheduled for Sept. 12-13 is also a sesquicentennial celebration of 150 years of railroading in Colfax.

Because of the added significance of the 2015 event for Colfax, participation of area service clubs is being sought to assist with planning and execution. There will also be an increased need for volunteers to help make the 2015 event a success. It's not too early to start thinking about how you can help. **Next 2015 Railroad Days planning meeting is Oct. 27 at 7pm at the Auburn Airport terminal building.**

Colfax Caboose Chili Cookoff Fundraiser

Tony Hesch provided this note on caboose activity::

A Chili Cookoff fund raiser will be held for the Colfax Caboose project on Sunday November 2, from 12-6 pm in Colfax behind the Freight Depot. Colfax Moms are sponsoring this event to raise money for the completion of the Caboose renovation. I invite everyone in the Railroad Society to either participate with your chili making skills or come and have some chili. I will also be making a presentation to the Colfax Lionesses club the first week of November, giving them an update on the caboose renovation project and asking for their support to help complete the work.

Tony further challenges the Railroad Society to participate in the cookoff with a Chili booth of their own.



Colfax Railroad Days 2014 in Photos





From the Archives

October Mystery Photo:

The October photo will likely require the eyes of our avid members who have combed the Donner Route chasing trains. Where was the location of this photo, and what purpose was served by the sidings? Speculation or convincing arguments on the location and purpose will appear in next month's newsletter. *Photo from Aat Sommers and Ken Yeo collections.*



August Mystery Photo: The August photo prominently displayed on Ken Yeo's wall shows a portion of the second Central Pacific Passenger Depot in Sacramento, the Arcade Station, built in 1879. It was located between the present-day passenger depot and the locomotive shop buildings that still stand. It is interesting to note that the 2013 relocation of the passenger terminal tracks places the new tracks and platforms very close to the track layout when this Arcade Station building was still in use, close to and parallel with the SP Shops buildings. This second Central Pacific Depot was replaced by the present-day Southern Pacific Depot, completed in 1926 near I Street, and the tracks and platforms relocated adjacent to the SP Depot. For those who are interested, the cityofsacramento.org web site has videos and time-lapse photos of the 2012-2013 shift of tracks and passenger platforms to their new location. Find the videos on the Path to Progress page.



CPRR/SP Donner Route Timeline: Area newspapers were abuzz in 1901-02 with the reports that Southern Pacific, then under E.H. Harriman's control, was surveying two possible tunnels under Donner Summit. Benefits would be reduced running time due to reduced grades and mileage, and elimination of some of the costly snowsheds. One tunnel would run from the American River Canyon some 6 miles to the Stanford Curve. The other would run some 5 miles from Soda Springs station to the north shore of Donner Lake. Huge construction costs and need for electrification eventually doomed these ventures.

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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