

Placer-Sierra Railroad Heritage Society



www.psrhs.org

April 2015 Newsletter

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Mike Haire caught this scene in Colfax two weeks ago, showing two new Siemens-produced electric locomotives being delivered to the East Coast on eastbound AMTRAK #6.

Scheduled Events & Notices



- Apr 23** **PSRHS Meeting and Presentation – 7 pm**
 – Auburn Airport Terminal Bldg – Program - Paul Beckstrom
 – Swayne Lumber Co. and Logging Railroad - Details on page 2.
- Apr 25** **PSRHS Spring Field Trip – San Francisco Muni – see flyer on page 5**
- May 04** **Colfax RR Days Planning Meeting – 7 pm – Colfax City Council Chambers**
- May 05** **Big Day of Giving (Big Dog) – details on page 2**
- May 28** **PSRHS Meeting and Presentation – 7 pm**
 – Auburn Airport Terminal Bldg – Program TBA



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Next meeting 7:00PM, April 23rd Auburn Airport Terminal Building

Program: Paul Beckstrom will present a slide show and discussion on Swayne Lumber Co. and its logging railroad that operated near Oroville.

Railroad Videos – Auburn Friends of the Library received a donation of 17 boxes of railroad videos and a few DVD's. Walt and Bonnie will bring the unsold videos to the April meeting. DVD's are \$2, videos \$1. Bonnie says bring cash and make the videos disappear.

March Program: Mike Haire presented portions of his "Year in Review" video clips of railroad action on Donner and other locations.

Spring Field Trip April 25

A reminder about the field trip Jim Wood has put together to visit San Francisco's Muni and cable car systems. The event is open to all including family and non-members. See the flyer on page 5 of this newsletter for more information and to sign up.

Big Day of Giving (Big Dog) May 5

PSRHS is a registered participant in this year's Big Day of Giving. This is an event that helps raise donations for local non-profits through a regional and national day of giving organized by GiveLocalNow. We are thankful for all donations to our club and its activities. If you are thinking of donating to PSRHS, consider waiting until the Big Dog event. Funds raised by individual organizations during Big Dog are enhanced by regional donations.

Check out our Facebook page, facebook/placersierrarhs.

Colfax Railroad Days Sept. 12-13

Next Railroad Days planning meeting will be held on **Monday, May 4, 7pm, at the Colfax City Hall Council Chambers.** At the April 6 meeting, **Britni Fitzgerald** led a discussion on potential railroad days activities, and the group designated points of contact

for each of the event categories.

Specific items of discussion included:

- Kids Zone -- Colfax Moms may be willing to take this on. Donation of at least one bounce house is likely. Sierra Vista Center indicated a willingness to assist with the Kids Zone.
- The Colfax Theater will be available for showing railroad movies.
- Assistance from high school students is anticipated.
- The group agreed to focus the raffle this year on one large grand prize, and to keep raffle ticket costs low to encourage more people to participate. Hope is to have another AMTRAK ticket prize along with lodging in Reno.
- Signage using a post in a pail of concrete is being considered for directional signs throughout the event.
- A fund raising dinner is still being planned for Friday evening at the depot. A sponsoring group needs to be identified. Additional items could be raffled off at this event. Plans include live music along with BBQ or other catered meal.
- Car shows are being planned for one or both days, with possibility of blocking off a portion of Main St. to help link Sierra Vista Center with downtown activities.
- Lonnie is trying to bring a train simulator to this year's event, and is negotiating for display equipment from UP that emphasizes new technology in railroading.
- The possibility of operating motor cars next to the Operation Lifesaver display is being revisited, and depends primarily on resolving insurance issues.
- Want to obtain bunting to display around town to lend to the festive sesquicentennial atmosphere.
- Points of contact and support needs were identified for the areas of Safety & Security, Web and Facebook, Volunteers, Advertizing, Entertainment, Electrical needs, and Event Layout/Map.

If you would like to help, Britni can be reached at britni@colfaxrailroaddays.org



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Passing Scene



Last month's Passing Scene photo showed UP's Western Pacific heritage locomotive at the Colfax Depot, and hinted that the Southern Pacific heritage locomotive was in the same consist. This month's photo was taken later that same day as the eastbound freight rounded Cape Horn. UP 1983 (Western Pacific) leads UP 8336 and UP 1996 (Southern Pacific) in September 2006. *Photo by Roger Staab.*

From the Archives

March Mystery Photo:

Snowsheds in this photo were typical of early shed construction near Donner Summit. Reader feedback indicates this scene shows a portion of the snowsheds just west of Cisco. At one time snowsheds covered the track from Emigrant Gap to the summit, with only occasional breaks due to bridges or tunnels. *Ken Yeo Collection*



April Mystery Photo:

What was the purpose of this building and where was it located? Hint – its use was railroad-related. *Art Sommers Collection*



CPRR/SP Donner Route Timeline: 1910-15 Double Tracking. East of double-tracked Tunnel 18 at Newcastle, the new eastbound track angled north of the old track and traversed Auburn Ravine on a trestle that today crosses over Interstate 80. While the trestle was being erected, construction equipment was transported on temporary tracks laid along Sacramento Street through Old Auburn to Nevada Street and up the opposite side of Auburn Ravine, where railroad construction work continued while the trestle was being completed. A new Nevada Street Depot was built near the present-day Echo Valley Ranch Feed Store. At Bowman the new eastbound track rejoined the old track but at slightly different elevations.

Membership Information

Individual Members = \$25.00/yr
Each Additional Family Member = \$5.00/yr

- Monthly Meetings (4th Thursday) and Newsletter
- Member Activities, History Pubs and Field Trips
- Display and Restoration Projects

PSRHS, P.O. Box 1776, Colfax, CA 95713
or join/renew online at 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

San Francisco Municipal Railway and Cable Car Trip

Saturday April 25

This day trip into San Francisco will give the opportunity to learn about the history of the San Francisco Municipal Railway and Cable Car systems

Highlights and Itinerary:

Round trip ride on BART into the City and back from the Pittsburg Station

Cable Car Ride on the California Line

Board at California and Market St

Cable Car fare is \$6.00

San Francisco Cable Car Museum

See the mechanics of the cable system and underground cable/pulley systems

Free Admission to the museum

<http://www.cablecarmuseum.org/>

Return to Market Street either on the Cable Car, bus or on foot

Lunch options include the various shops and street vendors on Market St

Market Street Railway Museum

Focuses on the San Francisco Streetcar Heritage — Free Admission to the museum

<http://www.streetcar.org/museum/>

San Francisco Municipal Railway streetcar ride (optional but recommended)

Special one hour tour of the San Francisco Waterfront on the historic Boat Tram at 1pm, Fare is \$20.

Participants should book their individual tickets online ASAP at the following website to assure seat availability as tickets sell out fast

<http://www.streetcar.org/product/grandparents-day-april-25-2015/>

Trip Logistics:

Car pool from Auburn and Roseville to the Pittsburg BART station. Depart Auburn area about 7:30am

Board BART at the Pittsburg Station and exit at the Embarcadero Station approx 50 min trip (\$12.60 / \$4.70 seniors for Pittsburg to Embarcadero RT)

Following the street car tour, board BART at the Embarcadero Station to Pittsburg for the return home. Return to Auburn area approx 5pm. Call Jim Wood to confirm attendance and car pool arrangements. 530 320-1276 or greenstonemaker@gmail.com