

# Placer-Sierra Railroad Heritage Society

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## October 2015 Newsletter

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*New baggage cars are now appearing on AMTRAK Zephyr trains over the Donner Route. Additional photo and info on page 3. Roger Staab Photo*

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### Scheduled Events & Notices



**Oct 22** PSRHS Board Meeting at 6 pm, prior to the member meeting.

**Oct 22** PSRHS Meeting and Presentation – 7 pm  
– Auburn Airport Terminal Bldg  
– Program - William Burg – 1894 Pullman Strike

**Nov 12** (Tentative Date - see comment on page 2)  
PSRHS Potluck Dinner Meeting and Presentation – 6:30 pm  
– Auburn Airport Terminal Bldg – Program - TBA  
– Note date and time

**\*\*\*No Member Meeting in December\*\*\***



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**Next meeting 7:00PM, Thurs. October 22,  
Auburn Airport Terminal Building**

**\*\*NOTE:** *Access to parking in front of building has changed. Turn right at sign for Arbotec Body Shop or continue to parking lot at rear of building.\*\**

**Program: The 1894 Pullman Strike.** William Burg's presentation will discuss the economic, social and political movements that led up to the Pullman Strike and the strike itself, specifically the role that the city of Sacramento played in the strike and other historic events including the progress of Coxey's Army and formation of the American Railway Union. He will introduce many of the individuals associated with both sides of the strike, including the effects the strike had on their careers and lives. The presentation will include historic photos of Sacramento and the Shops that document the strike and its aftermath.

**William Burg** became a docent at the California State Railroad Museum in 2003, and has written six books about Sacramento since 2006. He is a model railroader whose HO scale layout, based on Sacramento Northern Railway's belt line in Sacramento, was featured in tours by three Sacramento model railroad conventions, and the subject of an article published in the latest issue of *Layout Design Journal*. He works at the California Office of Historic Preservation as a reviewer of nominations to the National Register, California Register and California Historical Landmarks program, including many related to California's railroading history.

**Note:** The **November meeting** will be our annual potluck dinner and presentation. Due to a scheduling conflict for our meeting room on Nov. 19, the **November meeting is tentatively set for Nov. 12, starting at 6:30pm. The date will be discussed at the October 22 meeting.** The program (and date change if needed) will be announced in the November newsletter.

### Colfax Railroad Days 2015 Recap

A Railroad Days 2015 Recap and Lessons Learned meeting was held on October 12 in Colfax. Some key observations and comments from that meeting:

Overall, this year's event drew less people than last year but the crowds were fairly steady through both days. Smoky air and competition from other nearby events were likely contributing factors.

#### Positives:

- We nearly broke even financially, an improvement over past years. The Friday night dinner was a social and financial success and contributed to overall revenue.
- Visitors to the UP equipment were limited to 6 at a time and people were willing to wait for their turn, thus alleviating crowding in the equipment.
- Donations were decent at motor car rides and UP
- T-shirt sales were very strong, raffle tickets good
- New exhibits such as the Empire Mine gold panning were well received
- Highway signs were noticed and brought people in
- The event had a good "hometown" feel

#### Not so Positives:

- Linking the three venues continues to be a challenge. Signs and maps didn't work or people don't or won't read them. People mover helped get people to SVCC but it is very costly in our limited budget
- More promotion needed of individual activities and exhibits available and their location
- We had 18 arts & craft vendors this year but they did not do well. People were here to view railroad equipment, not buy crafts. Mixed results for food vendors.
- There was better involvement from other groups in staging this year's event, but still need to start planning and coordinating early, and need to make specific assignments to get commitment.
- Placement of event booths needs to be defined in advance to avoid conflicts on event setup days, and to ensure needed infrastructure is available.
- Volunteer numbers were low again but we had good assistance from one high school group.

Perhaps the biggest continuing issue is making people aware of the three physically separate areas in town, or perhaps accepting that many people will choose to attend only one or two venues depending on interests.





### Passing Scene



Now appearing for your viewing pleasure on the Donner Route – new Viewliner II baggage cars. These cars are being built by CAF USA as part of new equipment for AMTRAK's eastern corridor, but the baggage cars are being deployed nationwide to replace heritage cars built in the 1950's and 1960's. The new baggage cars include improved doorways that open at the center rather than sliding to the side, and racks that allow bags and boxes to be stored on shelves. Perhaps the most significant new feature, though, is the inclusion of six bicycle racks that could allow bicycles to be accepted fully assembled as checked baggage and stored vertically. AMTRAK has not yet declared a policy on accepting non-boxed bikes as checked baggage. *Details courtesy of Trains Magazine. Colfax Photo by Roger Staab*

### **Amazon Smile Fund Raising**

We are now part of the Amazon Smile fund raising campaign. We receive a donation to the society based on your purchases. Please feel free to copy and past the link below and include it in all your emails.

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/68-0488569>



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## From the Archives

**August Mystery Photo:** The photo at right shows eastbound tracks approaching Bloomer Cut shortly after the line was constructed in 1864. The same scene is also shown in 1994. Note the ridge is virtually unchanged except for the vegetation. *Both photos from Ken Yeo Collection*



**October Mystery Photo:** What is going on in the scene at left and where was the photo taken? *Photo Courtesy of Phil Smith*

**CPRR/SP Donner Route Timeline: 1910-15 Double Tracking.** With double-tracking underway above Colfax, focus within the town was on track realignment. Removal of the hillside northeast of Grass Valley St. created a straight path through town for the new tracks. But before the tracks could be moved the Nevada County quartz monument and the freight depot had to be relocated out of the new right-of-way. The quartz monument was moved to the north side of Grass Valley St. between the new alignment of NCNG and mainline tracks. The freight depot was moved to the Main St. side of the tracks in 1915, where it still sits today. A new transfer shed was built in the yard area near the engine house to transfer cargo between NCNG and SP cars.

### 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](http://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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