

Placer-Sierra Railroad Heritage Society



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September 2016 Newsletter

In this issue:

September Meeting and Presentation Pg 2

Board Meeting. Page 2

PSRHS Booth at Gold Country Fair. Pg 2

Siemens Field Trip. Page 2

Passing Scene. Page 3

Amazon Smile Fund Raising. Page 3

From the Archives. Page 4



Two of the new Siemens diesel electric locomotives pass through Colfax on AMTRAK #6 on their way to testing in Colorado. See article on Page 2 about the Nov. 2 PSRHS field trip to the Siemens plant in South Sacramento. Roger Staab photo

Scheduled Events & Notices



Sep 8-11 PSRHS Booth at Gold Country Fair in Auburn

Sep 22 PSRHS Board Meeting 5:30 pm prior to monthly member meeting

Sep 22 PSRHS Meeting and Presentation – 7 pm
– Auburn Airport Pilots' Lounge – Program - Dennis Magures
– Rebuilding Sierra Snow Equipment

Oct 27 PSRHS Meeting and Presentation – 7 pm
– Auburn Airport Pilot's Lounge – Program TBA

Regional Items of Potential Interest

Sept 21-24 Southern Pacific Hist & Tech Society National Convention, Palm Springs
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Monthly meeting 7PM Thursday, September 22nd, Auburn Airport Pilots' Lounge

September Program: Dennis Magures will discuss rebuilding the Donner snow equipment.

August Program Recap: Scott Inman presented an interesting collection of historic train photos along the Donner Route between Roseville and Sparks. He also discussed plans for the Southern Pacific Railroad History Center proposed for Rocklin and sponsored jointly by the SP Historical and Technical Society and the Pacific Coast Chapter, R&LHS. Plans for the facility include a model railroad layout and consolidated railroad archives for the two history groups. Scott invited PSRHS to become involved as a sponsor. Fund raising is underway as are negotiations for land for the building.

PSRHS Board Meeting Aug. 25

The PSRHS board met on Aug. 25 prior to the member meeting. Items discussed include:

- Our treasurer Peter Hills reported that the club is \$4900 to the good for the year, due in part to a UP grant which offset some costs of last year's RR days
- A new PSRHS brochure was approved for handing out at events. It includes a map of the Donner route and more photos along with a membership form.
- Display details ironed out for the Gold Country Fair
- Bill Yoder is testing the web cam against network speeds in preparation for activating it at a new location
- Bill offered to host the Railroad Days web site
- Strategic Planning: Peter suggested the meetings should be scheduled for a Saturday per month for three months. To avoid the holidays, the board voted to start the planning meetings Saturday Jan. 21 from 9am-1pm.
- It's time to start planning for 2019 events celebrating 50 years since completion of the transcontinental RR.

Gold Country Fair Booth

A reminder that PSRHS will staff a booth at the Gold Country Fair in Auburn, Sept. 8-11. This will be an excellent opportunity to inform the community about

our group and solicit new members. Displays and staffing plans were discussed at the August 25th PSRHS board meeting.

Hours of operation for the fair are:

Thursday, September 8, 2016: 4:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Friday, September 9, 2016: 4:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Saturday, September 10, 2016: 11:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Sunday, September 11, 2016: 11:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Volunteers will get free admission to the fair. PSRHS point of contact is Jim Wood (see Jim's email below).

Siemens Field Trip Nov. 2

Jim Wood has confirmed the date of **Nov. 2 from 1:00-3:30** for our repeat field trip to Siemens in South Sacramento. There is a lot happening at Siemens these days with the building of both light rail trains and diesel-electric locomotives.

Contact Jim Wood at greenstonemaker@gmail.com if you wish to join us on this field trip. Because of limited group size for Siemens tours, this field trip will be limited to **currently paid members only**.

Plan on about a mile of walking, some on uneven surfaces, indoor and outdoor. Closed toed shoes, no shorts. Siemens will provide eye and hearing protection.

Final details will appear in the October newsletter.



In Memoriam: We send our condolences to Jack Duncan on the passing of his wife Cleona, both charter members of PSRHS.





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Passing Scene



Spring 2016 yielded frequent sightings of Herzog equipment involved in brush removal along the Donner right of way. Piles of cuttings accumulated at several locations including the south end of the Colfax yard. The equipment used both sidings in Colfax for several weeks while conducting the work. *Photos 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 paste 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 is labeled SP 2-6-0, but closer inspection indicates it is likely a 4-6-0, with one of the leading or pilot wheel sets hidden from view. Archive photos of early Sierra fire trains show these same modified tank cars. None of our readers responded with suggested locations for this photo. We think this is a fire train somewhere in Sierra snowshed country. *PSRHS collection.*



September Mystery Photo: Many early staff or telegraph stations at higher elevations on the Donner Route were built inside snowsheds. Where was this staff station located? Note: Don't bother trying to read the sign over the door – I blanked it so this wouldn't be too easy. *PSRHS Collection*

CPRR/SP Donner Route Timeline. Improvements to Hwy 40 and the construction of Interstate 80 in the 1950's and '60's did not directly change the railroad right-of-way, but there were several impacts on railroad structures or crossings. A bridge was added at Newcastle to carry the tracks over the new freeway. At Auburn Ravine, a girder bridge was placed under the tracks to increase the span for the wider freeway. And at Long Ravine a girder bridge replaced one of the steel support piers to make room for the freeway to pass under the Long Ravine bridges. At Emigrant Gap old Hwy 40 went under the tracks but the new freeway crossed over the tracks. Additional bridges carried the freeway over the tracks at Bowman, Towle and Yuba Gap. Some remaining buildings at Towle were displaced by the freeway construction.

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:

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