

# Placer-Sierra Railroad Heritage Society

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## November 2016 Newsletter

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*This Cummins 16 cylinder 4000HP diesel engine is being installed by Siemens in its Charger locomotives. See page 3 for brief recap of PSRHS field trip to Siemens' facility. Photo from USA Today.*

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### Scheduled Events & Notices



**Nov 17 PSRHS Board Meeting 5:30 pm prior to monthly member meeting**

**Nov 17 Annual PSRHS Year-End Potluck Dinner Meeting and Presentation**

– Auburn Airport Pilots' Lounge – Note Start Time 6:30 pm

– Program - Brendan Compton's Newest DVD Rotaries Part II

**No Meeting in December – Happy Holidays**

**Jan 26 PSRHS Monthly Meeting & Presentation**

– Auburn Airport Pilots' Lounge

**It's Time to Renew Your Membership for 2017**

(See Pages 2 and 4 for details)



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### **Potluck Dinner Meeting 6:30PM Thursday, November 17th, Auburn Airport Pilots' Lounge (Note Date & Earlier Start Time)**

**Potluck Details:** Friends and family are invited to join us for our annual year-end potluck dinner meeting and program. Main meat dish and refreshments will be provided. You are invited to bring a favorite side dish or dessert to share. Note earlier start time for the potluck dinner. A short business meeting will follow including election of board members (see article below).

**November Program:** Noted Cinematographer and PSRHS member **Brendan Compton** will be showing progress so far on his newest DVD **Rotaries, Part II**. Brendan promises lots to look at in his latest and always interesting inside view of railroad operations.

**October Program Recap:** **Phil Smith** gave an engaging presentation on a 1970's accident that occurred with an eastbound freight traveling from Norden to Truckee. After departing Norden the locomotives and a few cars separated from the rest of the train and sped downhill, finally derailing near Truckee. Phil used details from the accident report and his own personal experiences operating locomotives on this route to analyze what went wrong and what changes were implemented as a result of this accident.

### **Election of Board Members**

Three board positions with three year terms expire at the end of this year, and one other board position is open with a year remaining. Malcolm Frost and Dave Ferreira are interested in being reelected to their board seats. Nominations will be accepted from the floor at the beginning of the meeting, and board positions filled by a vote of those members present at the meeting. If you would like to nominate someone for a board position and can't attend the meeting, notify the newsletter editor by email and your nomination will be presented.

### **Colfax Caboose Update**

On Nov. 8 members of the caboose committee met with the Colfax City Manager to discuss lease of the

caboose by PSRHS with the objective of creating interactive displays for public viewing on weekends and special events. There was agreement to present a lease document to the City Council after insurance and indemnification issues are clarified by both sides and included in the final lease package.

Ken Young, chairman of the caboose committee, wants to start monthly planning meetings starting in January to begin formulating and creating the displays. He also plans to establish work sessions on the second Saturday (tentative) of each month, starting in January. If you are willing to make a time commitment to the caboose committee and want to be involved, contact Ken at [kywine@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kywine@sbcglobal.net).

### **Membership Renewal Reminder**

It's time to renew your membership in PSRHS for 2017. Payment of dues is a major source of revenue for club activities including field trips and other special events, restoration projects, and publishing documents on regional railroad history. Tax-deductible donations are also welcome.

You can mail your payment to PSRHS, or renew or join on line at our web site [www.psrhs.org](http://www.psrhs.org). Membership details can be found in the box at the bottom of page 4.

### **Support from Local Business**

Organizations like PSRHS benefit greatly from support offered by local businesses. The support can come in many forms. This month we would like to salute **Colfax Mini-Storage** for providing a complimentary storage unit for our display items and supplies used at public events. Their generosity provides a secure storage location for these items and keeps them readily available when needed.

**Colfax Mini Storage** is located at 1255 So. Auburn in Colfax, phone (530) 346-7676.

Thank you **Colfax Mini Storage** for your support.

### Passing Scene – Siemens Tour

On Nov. 2 a group of PSRHS members were treated to a tour of Siemens Manufacturing facility in South Sacramento. Siemens currently has numerous projects underway developing locomotives and passenger cars for several light rail systems and for AMTRAK. The tour guide was Kevin McGrew, Director, Supplier Quality Management. Attendees report it was a very impressive tour, and wished they would have had more time to see more details. The jigs and robot welding on the stainless steel passenger cars were cited as especially impressive. Our thanks to Kevin and the busy Siemens team for making their facility and operations available, and to Jim Wood for arranging the tour.

Kevin told the group that Siemens will soon be shipping a complete Brightline train consisting of locomotive and four cars to Florida. As with their shipments of AMTRAK locomotives to the east coast, these units will be embedded in an Eastbound AMTRAK passenger train, probably over the Donner route. This promises to be an impressive show so keep your ears tuned and your cameras ready.

The photo below shows the PSRHS tour group in front of a Brightline diesel-electric locomotive shell being prepped for final assembly at the Siemens plant. *Photo courtesy of Peter Hills*



### 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

**October Mystery Photo (right):** This photo taken in the late 1930's shows a Nevada County Narrow Gauge train in the Colfax yard. The roofed building beyond the train is the narrow gauge transfer shed in its third location in Colfax. When the freight depot was relocated to the Main Street side of the tracks in 1915, the transfer shed was moved to the yard area between the fruit sheds and the engine house. Standard gauge cars can be seen on the far side of the platform. *PSRHS Collection*



**November Mystery Photo (left):** What is shown in this photo and where was it taken? For extra credit, what is the approximate date of the photo? *Photo courtesy of Jim Wood*

**CPRR/SP/UP Donner Route Timeline.** The 1996 merger of Southern Pacific into the Union Pacific system settled a long-standing struggle for management of the two competing lines that dated back to the original construction of the transcontinental railroad in the 1860's. UP now controlled the line that includes the Donner crossing from San Francisco Bay to Omaha and beyond. SP colors were soon replaced by UP yellow, and today only an occasional glimpse is seen of former SP markings on passing locomotives or freight cars. Under UP ownership one major construction change has been implemented over Donner. Tunnel heights were raised or floors lowered to allow double-stack container trains to travel the Donner route rather than Feather River Canyon. Not all tunnels were modified, though, and between Bowman and Colfax eastbound double-stack trains must cross over to the old number one track, transferring back to the number two track just west of Colfax at a new high-speed crossover. A westbound freight waiting just east of Colfax probably means an eastbound double-stack is making its way uphill on the number one track.

### 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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