

Placer-Sierra Railroad Heritage Society



www.psrhs.org

May 2018 Newsletter

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Brightly painted AMTRAK cars have been spotted on the Donner Route in recent months. See page 3 for details on these cars and their paint scheme. Photo courtesy of Swend Miller.

Scheduled Events & Notices



No PSRHS Board Meeting this month

May 24 PSRHS Monthly Meeting & Presentation – 7pm
Program – Andrew Brandon – Railroads of Nevada County

Jun 28 PSRHS Monthly Meeting - Roger Staab – PG&E Railroads in the Central Sierra

Future Programs//Events

Jun 7-10 Pacific Narrow Gauge Conference, NCNG Museum, Nevada City
Info at <http://www.ncngrmuseum.org/>

Sept 15-16 Colfax Railroad Days 2018



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Monthly Member Meeting 7PM Thursday, May 24th, Auburn Airport Pilots Lounge

May Program: Andrew Brandon will discuss his new Arcadia book, **Railroads of Nevada County**.

Andrew's book covers the Central Pacific/Southern Pacific from Truckee to the Nevada state line, as well as the many logging railroads that once operated north and east of Truckee. His chapters on Nevada County Narrow Gauge (NCNG) Railroad, Towle Brothers logging railroad and Lake Tahoe Railway were coordinated with the book **Railroads of Placer County** to minimize overlap between the two books.

Andrew has done extensive research on the NCNG and other narrow gauge and standard gauge lines. He contributes many volunteer hours at the NCNG museum in Nevada City, and he maintains a web site on narrow gauge railroads of the western US and Canada,

www.PacificNG.org

Check out his map of the NCNG route overlayed on a Google Earth map showing relationship of the route to current roads and other present-day landmarks.

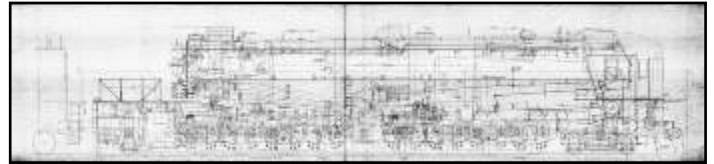
Andrew will bring copies of his book to sign and sell following the presentation.

April Program Recap: Bill Oudegeest made the case for why Donner Summit is the most historically significant square mile in California. He related stories of early wagon trains that traveled through the area, early roads and vehicles, and of course the nation's first transcontinental railroad.

Scans of Railroad Drawings and Photos

Jim Wood made a recent purchase on eBay for PSRHS of a full-sized Southern Pacific map of Colfax Station circa 1950's. Through follow-up email conversations with the seller Brian Wilson, we became aware of numerous other items Brian had and was willing to share with PSRHS's non-profit efforts to preserve railroad history in the region.

Brian has provided to PSRHS scanned copies of several SP documents and photos he had acquired and resold, including scans of the Colfax Station Map and Auburn Station Map. Among his scans are numerous SP locomotive blueprints including erecting elevations for SP's AC-12 cab forward locomotive, as well as other details for many locomotives.



Brian included photos of numerous SP steam and diesel locomotives as well as locomotives from other lines.

Scans of SP Claims Department negatives show highway overpasses and underpasses along the line from Sacramento to Reno.

Finally, he included scans of an album of Norden and Summit photos, showing the facilities and workers in mostly heavy snow conditions. The photos likely date to the 1930s or thereabouts.



We will schedule slideshows of selected images from this collection for future meetings and share the images with our members.

Thanks Brian for making your collection available to us. We have in turn provided Brian with copies of some of our PSRHS publications and photos.



Passing Scene

Decorated AMTRAK on the Donner Route. Several times in recent months a highly decorated railcar has been spotted on the Donner Route. The image below was taken in Colfax on May 8, while Swend Miller's photo on page 1 was taken April 7. The special paint scheme on this AMTRAK car marks it as part of AMTRAK's 2018 Winter Park Express ski train that operated on weekends from January 5 to March 25 between Denver and Winter Park, CO. The bright fuschia and ultramarine artwork promotes the Winter Park Ski Resort as well as the partnership with Lyft to provide transportation to the Denver AMTRAK station. Promotions for the train advised that people arriving at Denver International Airport have the option of light rail or Lyft to get from the airport to AMTRAK. After the Winter Park Express shut down operations for the year on March 25, the brightly painted cars were apparently returned to normal AMTRAK service. *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 paste the link below and include it in all your emails.

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

From the Archives

April Mystery Photo (right): PG&E #3, a Heisler locomotive, is on the PG&E siding at Forebay station (formerly Orel) west of Blue Canyon. The depot building is visible at left. A standard gauge spur track was built from the Forebay siding to Drum camp while construction of Drum Forebay and Drum powerhouse was underway in 1912-13. The Drum spur included 3 switchbacks and followed a portion of the old Towle Brothers right-of-way from Canyon Creek to Drum Camp. *Photo courtesy of Herman Darr*



May Mystery Photo (right): That is definitely a locomotive but those are strange looking tracks. Where did this movement originate, what was its destination, and what was the purpose of the move? *Ken Yeo Collection*



Accidents/Other Incidents. Did Chinese workers lose their lives while constructing the railroad at Cape Horn? The work was challenging, but newspaper searches have yielded only two documented instances where Chinese were killed while working near or on Cape Horn. The first was reported in the *Marysville Daily Appeal*, 28 Sept 1965: "Chinamen Killed – The *Transcript* says three Chinamen were killed on the line of the Central Pacific Railroad, above Colfax, on Saturday last. A large tree had been felled which got away from the workmen and rolled down the hillside. The log rolled over two Chinamen, killing them, and struck a third with such force as to knock him over an embankment. The latter died from his injuries in a few hours."

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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