

Placer-Sierra Railroad Heritage Society



www.psrhs.org

July 2018 Newsletter

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Come to the July 26 meeting to hear and see the story of how this caboose got from the Dobbas ranch to Carolyn Carter's back yard on a hilltop near Colfax. Photo by Roger Staab.

Scheduled Events & Notices



Jul 26 (tentative) PSRHS Board Meeting 5:30pm

Jul 26 PSRHS Monthly Meeting & Presentation – 7pm
Program – Carolyn Carter's Caboose
– So You Want to Have a Caboose in Your Back Yard

Jul 28 Heritage Trails Museum Tour - Colfax Caboose Open

Aug 23 PSRHS Monthly Meeting & Presentation – 7pm

Future Programs//Events

Sept 15-16 Colfax Railroad Days 2018

Sept 22 Conversations West Railroad Photography - CSRM
<http://www.railphoto-art.org/conferences/conversations-west-2018/>

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Monthly Member Meeting 7PM Thursday, July 26th, Auburn Airport Pilots Lounge

July Program: PSRHS member **Carolyn Carter** has a Southern Pacific caboose in her back yard. Roger Staab has put together a series of photos scanned from Carolyn's collection that follow the process of obtaining the caboose and having it delivered to and set up at her hilltop home near Colfax. Carolyn will provide "blow-by-blow commentary" for the slide show and answer questions about her caboose.

June Program Recap: Roger Staab presented a slide show titled **"PG&E Railroads in the Central Sierra."** The program highlighted PG&E's use of railroads to aid in construction of Spaulding Dam in 1912-13 and 1916, Drum Forebay and Powerhouse in 1912-13, and raising Fordyce Dam in 1924-26.

Volunteers needed to staff Colfax Caboose

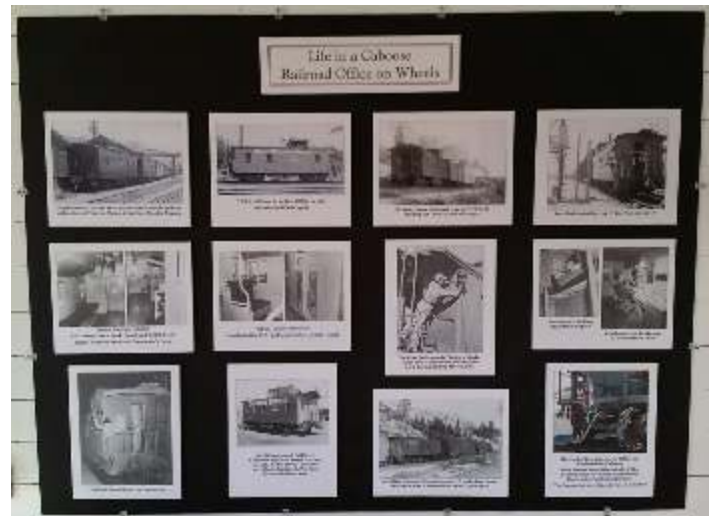
July 28 - Heritage Trails Museum Tour. The Colfax Heritage Museum in the passenger depot is listed as a stop for visitors to a series of museums in the area on July 28. We have been asked to have the caboose open as an adjunct to the depot museum. This event will bring numerous visitors to Colfax from surrounding areas and is a great opportunity to promote Railroad Days and other activities of our group. The museum and caboose will be open 10am-4pm that day.

If you can volunteer an hour or two for the July 28 event let me know by email (see contact information on the bottom of page 4 of this newsletter). Please list your preferred times. Thanks in advance for your willingness to help out.

At the request of the City of Colfax we staffed the Colfax caboose for the City's July 3 event. A near-steady stream of people visited the caboose throughout the day. As always the cupola was a big hit with kids, and many of the nearly 200 visitors expressed amazement and appreciation for the condition of the caboose and the work that went into its renovation. Numerous discussions took place on the history of cabooses in general and our caboose in particular.

Thanks to Don Brown, Janice Spencer and Peter & Sam Hills for helping staff the caboose during the event, and to Jim Wood for providing the ice chest and water.

These events are an opportunity to educate the community about the nearly forgotten role of the caboose, to provide information about our group and its railroad history preservation activities, and to draw in new members and donations.



This photo display in the caboose highlights the historical roles of the caboose and its occupants on freight trains in bygone days

Colfax Railroad Days Update

Planning is proceeding for the Sept. 15-16 event. We have learned that the Sacramento Valley Live Steamers will not be participating this year but we anticipate numerous model layouts that will be set up at various downtown locations. A meeting with City officials was held on July 6 to coordinate efforts to secure UP's participation with mainline equipment.

In the August newsletter I will be asking for volunteers to staff the PSRHS table and the caboose, and to assist event attendees in safely viewing whatever equipment is on display. Be thinking about which days and times you can help by volunteering for a 2 or 4 hour time slot.



Passing Scene

PSRHS member and videographer **Brendan Compton** recently provided your editor with some aerial photos of railroad-related scenes he has captured using his drone. Newsletters for the next few months will feature some of Brendan's interesting and at times dramatic drone views of railroad sites in Colfax.

This first scene shows the Colfax yard looking westbound from the vicinity of the passenger depot. The fruit sheds are on the left. The clear area in the distance near the center is where the engine house was located prior to its demise in the 1950's. To its left is the wye track. The two mainline tracks at right are clearly identified by the concrete ties. To their left is the 6400 foot siding with wood ties and additional siding tracks and spurs.

Watch for next month's photo – it's really cool.

Photo courtesy of Brendan Compton, BA Productions



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

June Mystery Photo (right): This is another photo showing PG&E's project to increase the height of the rock-fill Fordyce Dam in the mid-1920's. The railroad steam shovels, cranes, locomotives and side-dump cars played a major role in moving and stacking 2000 yards of rock per day on top of the dam, increasing its height by 47 feet. A portion of the rockwork on the dam can be seen at the far right of the image.

Ken Yeo Collection



July Mystery Photo (right): I've left some identifying notes on this photo to aid in determining its location. Where was the photo taken and what is going on in the scene? Answers in next month's newsletter. *Photo courtesy of Art Sommers*



Accidents/Other Incidents. *San Francisco Chronicle, 8 April 1897.* **Struck by an Engine – A Roadmaster Badly Shaken Up Near Colfax.** Colfax, April 7 – Roadmaster Phillip Goulden was struck by the engine of the Colfax local in a cut one mile east of Auburn at 6:35 to-night. Goulden was traveling west on a track velocipede and in going through the cut did not hear the approach of the passenger train. He was struck in the back by the pilot of the engine and thrown up with great force against the rocks in the side of the cut.

Engineer Hurlburt reversed his engine and Goulden was taken on board and carried to Colfax, where the company had a physician in waiting. Goulden has an ugly bruise where the pilot struck him in the back, between the shoulders. His left hip is also injured. No serious results from his injuries are anticipated.

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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