

Placer-Sierra Railroad Heritage Society



www.psrhs.org

August 2018 Newsletter

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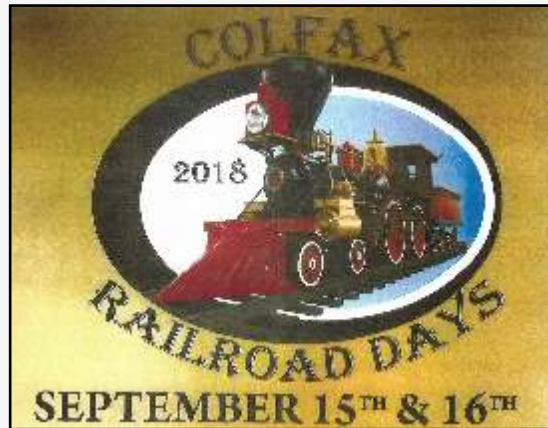
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Colfax Railroad Days is returning this year. Read the article on page 2 for what is planned for this year and how you can help make it a success.

Scheduled Events & Notices



Aug 23 PSRHS Board Meeting 5:30pm

Aug 23 PSRHS Monthly Meeting & Presentation – 7pm
– Program – Railroad Days Final Plans
– Chuck Spinks – Final Months of the Race to Promontory

Sept 15-16 Colfax Railroad Days 2018 — with Volunteer Opportunities!!!

No Meeting In September

Oct 25 PSRHS Monthly Meeting & Presentation – 7pm
– Program TBA

Future Programs//Events

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, August 23rd, Auburn Airport Pilots Lounge

August Program: Final plans for **Colfax Railroad Days** Sept. 15-16 will be discussed, along with volunteer assignments to satisfy PSRHS responsibilities for the event. See the accompanying article for more details.

For the night's program, **Chuck Spinks** will discuss the final months of the race to Promontory, and correct some of the myths about the Promontory event.

July Program Recap: **Carolyn Carter** provided commentary to accompany a slide show of her photos documenting the purchase and placement of a Southern Pacific caboose in her yard in rural Colfax. She described acquiring the caboose and the steps crews from Dobbas went through to deliver and place the caboose on her hilltop property. The caboose now serves as self-contained guest quarters including a kitchenette, bathroom with stall shower, sitting area and deck.

NOTE: There will be no meeting in September.

Colfax Caboose Open for Heritage Tour

The Colfax caboose was open July 28 for **Heritage Trails Museum Tour**. We welcomed 16 visitors during the half-day event. These were people who were interested in history in general and cabooses in particular. Discussions went both ways, with our volunteers providing a brief history of our caboose and the role played by cabooses in the past, and a few of our guests adding their own stories of their experiences and memories of earlier-day railroading.

Thanks to **Don Brown** and **Jim Wood** for helping staff the caboose for the museum tour. The next scheduled event for the caboose will be Railroad Days Sept. 15-16.

Colfax Railroad Days Sept 15-16, 2018 Saturday 10am-6pm Sunday 10am-5pm

UP has indicated they will provide equipment for this year's Railroad Days event. We anticipate a selection similar to that provided for RR Days 2015. Some of the maintenance of way trucks will be parked near the

depot along the walking path to the main UP equipment display. Numerous model layouts will be set up at various downtown locations. The antique single-cylinder engines will make a return appearance in the grassy area next to the depot. Two musical groups will be performing at separate locations. On Saturday local law enforcement will host a safety fair. Sunday will feature a pancake breakfast in the morning and a car and motorcycle show near the freight depot all day.

The caboose will include an ATCS display if wireless access is available. At the passenger depot the museum and visitor center will be open and the PSRHS table will feature items for sale and historic photos to view. Booths at the depot will include the NCSRR Museum, California State Railroad Museum, high speed rail authority, and a display honoring Chinese workers who helped build the original transcontinental railroad.

Volunteers needed for Railroad Days

Volunteers will be needed for both Saturday and Sunday. We are responsible for staffing our PSRHS table and the caboose, and providing safety and support staff to assist visitors at the UP equipment.

Sign-up sheets will be available at the August meeting, or you can let me know your availability by email. **Time slots are 10-2 and 2-6 on Saturday, and 10-1:30 and 1:30-5 on Sunday. Please indicate your preferred morning or afternoon time slot(s) and preference for PSRHS table, caboose, or UP equipment support.**

For those who signed up at the July meeting, note that the time slots have shifted to cover the new hours.

Fund-Raising Dinner Friday Aug. 24th

There will be a fund-raising dinner for Railroad Days on Friday, Aug. 24th from 5:30pm-9:00pm at Sierra Vista Community Center, 55 School St. in Colfax. Homie Joe's Tacos of Colfax will provide a Taco Bar, accompanied by a no-host bar, raffle prizes and music. Cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under 10.





Passing Scene

The Graceful Lines of Railroading. Here's another drone shot captured recently by PSRHS member and videographer **Brendan Compton**. This view is looking directly down on the Colfax Wye from his drone flying overhead. Brendan is known for the artistry he imparts to his videos of railroad scenes and operations. This image captures the artistic lines in the track layout of the Wye track used for turning locomotives.

To the right of the clear area between the Wye and the mainline tracks are temporary buildings in what was once the site of the Colfax engine house. Seven yard tracks extended into the engine house from the right, some of which are still visible. The Colfax Fruit Sheds are just out of view at top right, and the Colfax Sierra Market is just out of view below the bottom of the wye. The three white cars visible on the spur track at upper right are fire train cars, and the fenced area to their right encloses the fake tree cell tower.

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>

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From the Archives

July Mystery Photo (right): This photo shows early construction of Track 2 in Auburn around 1910. Small construction equipment was moved to the Nevada Street area prior to completion of the Auburn Ravine trestle that now crosses I-80. This allowed railroad grading to proceed before regular work trains could reach this location over the trestle and begin laying track. The dome of Placer County courthouse can be seen in the distance. *Photo courtesy of Art Sommers*



August Mystery Photo (right): Where was this photo taken and approximately what year? *Photo courtesy of Brian Wilson*



Accidents/Other Incidents. *Sacramento Daily Union, 10 May 1875. Runaway Cars.* Very many eastern cars, from roads with light grades, are fitted with brakes insufficient in power or number for travel over the heavy grades of the mountains. When these come along it is often necessary to put Central Pacific cars, which all have double brakes ... between eastern cars to hold them. One of these will hold four eastern cars. ... A few days ago a train of twenty-three eastern cars loaded with oysters reached the Central Pacific Railroad, having been delayed some time by the floods on the Union Pacific Railroad ... It was a large train, and it was not possible to get in mountain cars sufficient, as the sequel proved. The train came along all right until it struck a severe down grade near New England Mills, where the brakes proved insufficient to hold ... The two powerful locomotives at the head end were reversed, and every exertion put forth to check the speed, but without avail. ... Suddenly a man sprang out upon the track and waved a red flag, a signal to stop. ... Additional power was evoked from the engines ... and the train was brought to a halt in time to prevent it dashing into the wrecking train at work near Clipper Gap. Such was the speed attained [*about 40 miles per hour - ed*] that it was not effectually checked until the train had passed the flag nearly one mile. ...

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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