

# Placer-Sierra Railroad Heritage Society

---



[www.psrhs.org](http://www.psrhs.org)

---

## November 2018 Newsletter

### In this issue:

**November Meeting and Presentation.** Page 2

**November 1 Board Meeting Recap.** Page 2

**Election of Board Members.** Page 2

**Membership Renewal.** Page 2

**Passing Scene.** Page 3

**Amazon Smile Fund Raising.** Page 3

**From the Archives.** Page 4



*With Amtrak's new rules in place we are seeing only occasional private varnish cars on the Donner Route. This gem appeared eastbound in Colfax Sept. 15 during Railroad Days. See page 3 for more details.*

---

### Scheduled Events & Notices



**Nov 15 Potluck Dinner Meeting & Presentation – 6:30pm**  
– Program - Chuck Spinks – Final Months of the Race to Promontory

**No Meeting in December**

#### Future Programs//Events

**Nov 10-11 International Railfair, Placer County Fairgrounds, Roseville**  
<http://www.internationalrailfair.com/>

**Jan 24 Monthly Meeting & Presentation – Program TBA**

**\*\*\* Time to Join or Renew Your Membership in PSRHS for 2019 \*\*\***



# Placer-Sierra Railroad Heritage Society

## November 2018 Newsletter

### **Potluck Dinner Meeting 6:30PM Thursday, November 15th, Auburn Airport Pilots Lounge**

**November Potluck Dinner:** Our annual year-end potluck dinner will be held **Thursday, Nov. 15**, starting at **6:30pm**. **Note earlier date and start time for the dinner.** Bring a side dish to share and enjoy the conversation. The ham entree will be provided once again by Shirley.

**November Program:** After everyone has filled up on the dinner goodies and conversation, **Chuck Spinks** will discuss the final months of the race to Promontory, and correct some of the myths about the Promontory event. This presentation was rescheduled from the August meeting. Chuck's topic is very timely with next year's celebration of the completion 150 years ago of the nation's first transcontinental railroad that ran and still runs through our backyards and over Donner Pass.

**October Program:** **Brendan Compton** presented a sneak preview of his soon-to-be released DVD titled *Rotaries II*. He has again captured plenty of snow-fighting action along with the drama as seen from inside the equipment and narrated by the crew members on board.

### **November 1st Board Meeting Recap**

A special meeting of the PSRHS board was called by President Malcolm Frost on Nov. 1. Primary topic of discussion was Colfax Railroad Days. There was general agreement that this year's event was a moderate success for the town as it brought people into the area. It has not proved to be a money-maker for the club, though. Our original intent was to use it as both a way to share local interest in railroading and railroad history and as a fund raiser for other club activities. The major news this year was a last minute increase in insurance requirements from UP for right-of entry to their property for displaying the large equipment to the public. If PSRHS were to insure the event for this next year, we are facing an increase in our insurance costs of several thousand dollars.

At the Nov. 1 meeting, a quorum of board members voted to not host and insure such an event this coming year. That also removes us from the responsibility of coordinating with UP for display equipment, a task that proved very formidable for 2018.

If the City of Colfax decides to sponsor a 2019 event, PSRHS may decide to participate by staffing the caboose and providing a vendor table. That decision was tabled until a later meeting when the new board is in place (see next item).

### **Election of Board Members**

The three-year terms of Board Members Peter Hills, Bill Yoder and Walt Wilson expire at the end of 2018. At the November 15 general membership meeting a slate of candidates for the positions will be presented and nominations will be accepted from the floor. Those members present at the meeting will then vote to fill the three vacancies.

### **Membership Renewal**

As we approach the end of another calendar year, it is time to think about renewing your membership in PSRHS for 2019, or joining if you are not already a member. Membership dues are our primary means of raising funds for club activities, buying equipment and paying rent for monthly meeting presentations, etc..

If you enjoy the monthly newsletter, *Donner Crossings* issues, meeting presentations, field trips, other activities and club-supported publications, please send your membership check to our PO Box address (see the box at the bottom of page 4) or pay on line using pay pal on our web site, [www.psrhs.org](http://www.psrhs.org). Donations are always welcome.





### Passing Scene

**The San Marino.** The San Marino was ordered new from Pullman and delivered in 1916 as the private car for Henry Edwards Huntington. This car is a fine example of the nearly vanished glory of the early 1900's railroad cars, after the Palace cars of the late 19th century became just a memory. Henry E. Huntington (1850-1927) was the favorite nephew of Collis P. Huntington, the co-founder and main force behind the building of the Central Pacific's portion of the first transcontinental railroad. Henry E. Huntington also left his mark in California history, building the Pacific Electric traction network in southern California that sprawled across the Los Angeles basin, later famous for the Big Red Cars. After his death his estate became the world-renowned Huntington Library and Art Museum in San Marino. Southern Pacific acquired the railcar from the estate, assigned it the number 107 and renamed it the Del Monte. It was retired in 1978 and spent some time in Mexico as an executive car on the Ferrocarril Del Pacifico Railroad. The car returned to the US in 1985 and regained its name San Marino. It is now owned by the Aberdeen Carolina & Western Railway in North Carolina. They have completely redecorated the car and cosmetically restored it to its original luxury. *Car information from the AC&W web site acwr.com. Photo taken at Colfax Railroad Days 2018 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

**October Mystery Photo (right):** This circa 1924 photo shows a cab-forward approaching the new concrete sheds under construction at Norden. Note the pre-cast concrete pillars being placed in anchors at left. These were made at the Colfax yard and assembled on site. Pre-cast concrete panels will be slid in place between the pillars. *Photo courtesy of Colfax Area Historical Society Walter Keck collection*



**November Mystery Photo (left):** This month's photo is a departure from the usual. What can be seen in this present day photo and where was the picture taken? Hint – think both narrow gauge and standard gauge. *Photo by Roger Staab, Site access thanks to Jim Wood*

**Accidents/Other Incidents.** *San Francisco Chronicle, 18 Dec 1895* **TWO SLEEPERS GO OVER EMBANKMENT** – Colfax, December 17 – Five [sic] sleeping cars on the west-bound overland rolled down an embankment one mile east of Towles at 11:30 o'clock this morning. The train was turning a sharp curve at a speed of twenty miles an hour, when the Southern Pacific Pullman sleeper Flores and tourist sleeper No. 9304 left the rails and went over a twenty-foot embankment. The sleeper Flores made a complete revolution, and the tourist was turned bottom side up. Strange as it may seem, none of the passengers sustained injury other than slight bruises or cuts from broken glass. The prompt attention of the brakeman to the stoves in the cars saved them from destruction by fire. Many of the passengers were taken out through the car windows... The wrecking train from Sacramento reached the scene of the accident at 4 P.M. The track, which was badly damaged, was repaired. Overland passenger trains 1 and 2 were delayed about six hours. The wreck is supposed to have been caused by a broken rail.

#### 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:

Roger Staab (530) 346-6722 [roger.staab@psrhs.org](mailto:roger.staab@psrhs.org)

