

Placer-Sierra Railroad Heritage Society



www.psrhs.org

August 2019 Newsletter

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Attendees at a past PSRHS field trip check out the summit turntable ring in the parking lot across from Donner Ski Ranch. Look for details on our Oct. 19 field trip to Donner Summit in the September newsletter.

Scheduled Events & Notices



Aug 22 PSRHS Monthly Meeting – BBQ and Social Gathering – 5:30 Start Time
– See Page 2 for details. There will be no formal presentation.

Sep 4-7 39th National Narrow Gauge Convention – Sacramento www.nngc2019.org/

Sep 21-22 Colfax Railroad Days – Caboose open with PSRHS booth at the Caboose

Sep 26 NOTE: THERE WILL BE NO SEPTEMBER MEETING
DUE TO MULTIPLE CONFLICTS.

Oct 19 PSRHS Fall Field Trip – Donner Summit - Details in September Newsletter

Oct 24 PSRHS Monthly Meeting – 7pm – Program to be announced

Nov 9-10 International Rail Fair – Roseville – www.internationalrailfair.com



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**PSRHS Monthly Meeting 7PM Thursday,
August 22nd, Auburn Airport Meeting Room**

August Meeting BBQ

PSRHS members! We're doing something new for the THURSDAY, AUGUST 22 MEETING ... a barbeque/potluck social evening, at our usual Airport Terminal Building location, but starting at 5:30 p.m. for a social time and dinner at about 6:15. THIS IS A PERFECT OPPORTUNITY TO BRING FAMILY AND FRIENDS, ESPECIALLY IF THEY MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN JOINING PSRHS.

We'll have great visuals of train videos running throughout the evening as conversation pieces ... visuals only, no sound, so we can continue to socialize.

The board will supply hot dogs, hamburgers, buns and all the fixin's to go with them, plus paper plates, napkins, plasticware, waters and sodas.

MEMBERS, AND GUESTS WHO RESPOND FROM OUR AUBURN JOURNAL PUBLICITY, WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU TO BRING SIDE DISHES OR DESSERTS TO SHARE. AND REMEMBER TO BRING SERVING SPOONS OR FORKS WITH YOUR POTLUCK DISHES, PLEASE!

ALSO, TWO GUYS ARE NEEDED TO HELP GRILL THE DOGS AND BURGERS AND ANYONE WILLING TO BRING THEIR TRAIN VIDEOS SHOULD ARRIVE ABOUT 5-5:15 P.M. TO SET THEM UP.

We hope this casual meeting will result in an enjoyable evening, a chance to know each other and each other's families and friends, and a chance to increase our ranks with new members. See you there!

****No PSRHS Meeting in September****

Due to several conflicts in September, there will be no PSRHS meeting that month. Monthly meetings will resume in October.

**Colfax Railroad Days Booth
Sept. 21-22**

Your PSRHS board voted to limit our involvement in this year's Colfax Railroad days. We will staff the caboose for visitors, and set up a PSRHS booth at the caboose to provide information on our club and local railroad history. We anticipate having the caboose open from 10am-4pm each day.

If you can help out by volunteering time at the caboose and our PSRHS booth, please notify me at roger.staab@psrhs.org. Indicate which day you can help and whether you prefer 10am-1pm or 1pm-4pm. Thanks in advance for being willing to help. NOTE: No special skills or caboose knowledge are needed. A big part of the job is assisting kids and sharing their delight as they climb into the cupola and get to be inside a real train.

New Home Needed

The Roseville Roundhouse model railroad club has been notified that they need to vacate their current layout location at the Placer County Fairgrounds in Roseville. If you have any suggested locations for the club or anyone they could contact who might know of a location, please send the information via email to Landon Wolf at LandonWolf@placer.ca.gov.

Fall Field Trip

A return visit to the many historic sites at or near Donner Summit is being planned for our fall field trip on October 19. Watch for details in the September issue of the newsletter.





Passing Scene – BNSF on Donner Route

In this scene captured in Colfax in 2003, eastbound BNSF #4784 in Orange and Yellow leads another BNSF locomotive sporting Santa Fe's war bonnet colors, followed by a CSX pool locomotive. Exercising trackage rights gained during hearings and negotiations for the 1996 SP/UP merger, BNSF sends occasional trains over UP's Donner Route tracks. BNSF's colors are a distinct contrast to UP yellow normally seen plying the route. Your editor grew up in NW Montana which is Great Northern country, one of BNSF's predecessors, and BNSF colors are a pleasing reminder of the orange and green of Great Northern's flagship passenger train, the streamlined Empire Builder.
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>

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From the Archives

July Mystery Photo (right): The hillside near South Main St. in Colfax was being cut away to make room for the new yard and engine house. This work was part of the double-tracking of the line from Rocklin to Colfax. The photo was likely taken in 1910. The camera is looking eastbound. *CAHS collection*



August Mystery Photo (left): What was the name and location of this railroad building, what was its primary purpose, and what year did the railroad apply that place name? Extra Credit – What name preceded it at that approximate location? *Photo courtesy of Art Sommers*

Accidents/Other Incidents. *Colfax Record, Feb. 14, 1941.* **\$5000 Reward Offered by SP Company for Arrest in Attempted Sabotage - Spikes Removed from Rail Near Towle – Alert Trackwalker Discovers Attempt to Wreck Southern Pacific Train.** A reward of \$5000 is being offered by the Southern Pacific Company for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for the malicious tampering with the company's westbound track near Towle Station last Saturday. The attempted sabotage was discovered by Track Walker Antonio Nancini of Alta shortly after nine o'clock Saturday morning. After placing warning torpedoes and a red flag ... he telephoned Roadmaster H.H. Notley in Colfax and ... a section crew was rushed to the scene and repaired the track before the arrival of Train 289, the Reno-San Francisco local. ... The scene of the attempted derailment was ... one quarter mile east of Towle Station. It was also about 100 yards from the highway underpass west of Baxter's. ... A total of 44 spikes out of 48 had been removed from the outside of the right hand westbound track. ... it was apparent that the person or persons who attempted the derailment were frightened away before they had completed their job.

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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