

# Placer-Sierra Railroad Heritage Society

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## November 2019 Newsletter

### In this issue:

**November Meeting & Program.** Page 2

**Membership Renewal Time.** Page 2

**Caboose Open for Colfax Winterfest.** Page 2

**Fall Field Trip to Donner Summit.** Page 2

**Passing Scene.** Page 3

**Amazon Smile Fund Raising.** Page 3

**From the Archives.** Page 4



*Paul Greenfield captured a pair of AMTRAK heritage locomotives providing motive power on westbound California Zephyr #5 on Halloween 2019. See more of Paul's photos on page 3.*

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### Scheduled Events & Notices



**Nov 21 PSRHS Monthly Meeting – 7pm – Program – Peter Hills - Norway - Trains, Planes, Ships and Snow**

**Jan 23 PSRHS Monthly Meeting – 7pm – Program TBA**

**No Meeting in December – Happy Holidays!!**

**Its time to renew your PSRHS membership for 2020. Member dues are the primary source of funds for our club historic preservation activities, field trips, etc.**

**Mail your check to PSRHS, PO Box 1776, Colfax CA 95713,  
or renew on-line at our web site, [www.psrhs.org](http://www.psrhs.org).**

**Thanks for your support of our PSRHS activities and preservation of railroad history along the Donner Route.**



# Placer-Sierra Railroad Heritage Society

## November 2019 Newsletter

### PSRHS Monthly Meeting 7PM Thursday, Nov. 21st, Auburn Airport Meeting Room

**NOTE:** This will be a regular meeting, not a year-end potluck.

**November Program:** PSRHS member **Peter Hills** will present **Norway - Trains, Planes, Ships and Snow**. The program includes tram rides in Oslo and Trondheim, a train ride from Oslo to Bergen over the highest railway point in Norway stopping to travel on the Flam Railway from Myrdal to Fram, 7 day Coastal Voyage from Bergen to Kirkenes (2 miles from the Russian border and above the arctic circle) stopping at 36 cities, towns and villages along the Norwegian coast. Plus train rides from Bodo to Trondheim (9 hours) and from Trondheim to Oslo (7 hours). Presentation include some history and facts regarding Norway.

Peter's programs are always interesting with something for everyone.

**October Program Recap:** **John Lanham** talked about the **United States Railroad Administration (USRA), 1916 - 1920**, a federal agency that operated the nation's railroads during and shortly after WW I. He discussed the standardization that was implemented at that time to make parts interchangeable from one railroad to another and streamline operations when transporting wartime goods across the country. John's program was very interesting and informative.

### Membership Renewal Time

It's time to renew your membership in PSRHS for 2020. Member dues are our primary revenue source to fund club activities including research reports, field trips, historic preservation activities, etc. to document historic information about the Donner route for our members and the public. If you are not already a member, we encourage you to join us as a paid member.

You can renew by mail at  
PSRHS, PO Box 1776, Colfax CA 95713,  
or renew on line using PayPal at our web site  
[www.psrhs.org](http://www.psrhs.org).

### Caboose Open for Colfax Winterfest Dec. 14

Colfax Winterfest will be held Dec. 14 from noon-8pm in downtown Colfax. We anticipate staffing the Colfax caboose during this event from about 3pm until the light parade starts around 6pm. **If you can assist for a couple of hours contact me at [rsrr@exwire.com](mailto:rsrr@exwire.com).**

At the October meeting the PSRHS board decided to stop being in charge of staffing the caboose at City events after Winterfest. However, we may continue to assist in staffing the caboose as individual volunteers. It's a great opportunity to inform the public about the role of cabooses in railroad history and to promote our club's objectives and historic preservation activities.

### Fall Field Trip to Donner Summit

**Jim Wood** provided this summary of the fall field trip to Donner Summit:

We had a small but very dedicated group of our members attend our Donner Summit trip on Saturday, October 19, who braved a very cold day. The group walked through Summit tunnel #6 and inspected the interesting remnants of the original construction techniques by the largely Chinese work crews. The walk continued through Tunnel 7 and 8 through a portion of the abandoned snowshed galleries.

The trip culminated with a visit to Norm Saylor's Donner Summit History Museum at Soda Springs Station. This exhibit is a fascinating collection of historical photographs and memorabilia that documents the history of the Donner Summit region including the railroad's influence on the development of the area of the Sierra. The museum exhibit is a "must see" for history buffs! Admission is free and open Saturdays and Sundays most weekends of the year.

## Happy Holidays





### **Passing Scene – AMTRAK Heritage Locomotive Pair**

PSRHS member **Paul Greenfield** captured these unique AMTRAK images. The heritage locomotives celebrating the 40th anniversary of AMTRAK service in 2011 are fairly common on trains traversing Donner Summit, but seeing two heritage locomotives teamed together is rare. AMTRAK #5 had such a pairing on October 31, 2019 featuring engines #822 and #184 in their slightly different heritage color schemes. Paul took the larger image near the old Towle town site east of Alta, while the smaller inset image was taken west of Colfax. The same two heritage locomotives were seen on eastbound AMTRAK #6 in Colfax on November 7. Thanks Paul for providing the photos.



### **Amazon Smile Fund Raising**

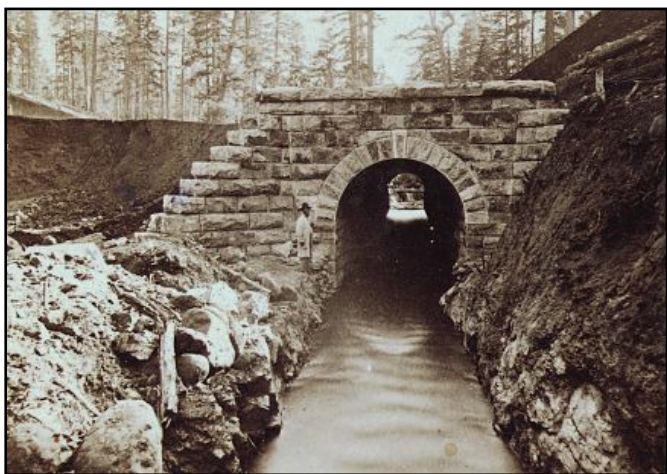
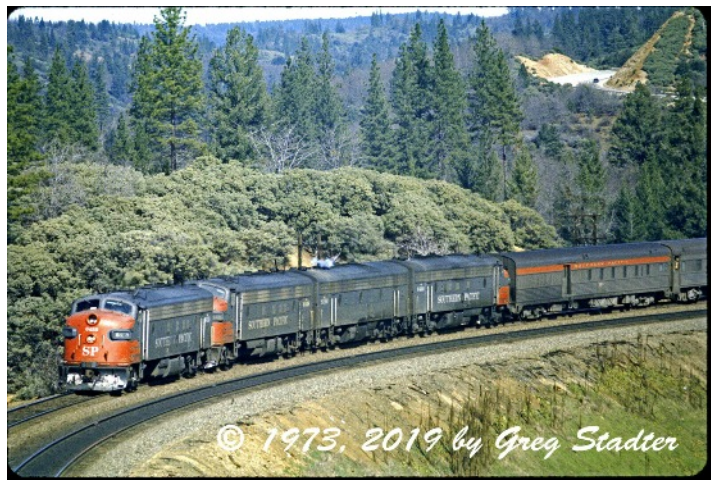
We are now part of the Amazon Smile fund raising campaign. We receive a donation to the society based on your purchases. Please feel free to copy and paste the link below and include it in all your emails.

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



### From the Archives

**October Mystery Photo (right):** This Southern Pacific A-A-B-A diesel set leads a passenger train westbound toward Colfax. If the 1973 date is correct this would be an early AMTRAK run. The train has just left the Long Ravine steel bridges and is on the curved fill that was once the Long Ravine trestle. Interstate 80 is visible in the upper right corner near where it crosses under the Long Ravine steel bridges. *Photo purchased on EBay by Jim Wood*



**November Mystery Photo (left):** What is this structure and what is its significance to the Central Pacific Railroad route? What can be seen there today? *PSRHS Collection*

**Accidents/Other Incidents.** *From the Sacramento Union, 3 Aug 1922: "Rail Company Offers Reward For Capture of Roseville Gunmen* – Three hundred dollars reward was offered last night by J. Dyer, general manager of the Southern Pacific company, for information directly leading to the arrest and conviction of each person who participated in the shooting into the Southern Pacific roundhouses in Roseville and Colfax July 25 and 31.

In the Roseville shooting twenty-five or thirty shots are alleged to have been fired into the roundhouse from a building across the street. In the Colfax shooting about twenty-five shots are said to have been fired. The firearms used were of seven different calibers, according to Southern Pacific officials. Since this indicates that at least seven persons participated in the Colfax shooting, it is pointed out, the total reward for the persons involved there would be twenty-one hundred dollars.

There was no one injured in the shootings."

*[Note: These shootings took place during a nationwide strike of railroad shops and maintenance personnel.]*

#### 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)

