

# Placer-Sierra Railroad Heritage Society

---



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

## April 2020 Newsletter

### In this issue:

**NO MEETING IN APRIL.** Page 2

**SPRHC Site Tour and BBQ postponed.** Page 2

**Spring Field Trip in Question.** Page 2

**PSRHS Board Actions.** Page 2

**AMTRAK Service Changes.** Page 2

**Passing Scene.** Page 3

**Amazon Smile Fund Raising.** Page 3

**From the Archives.** Page 4



*A contemporary fire train in action.  
See photos and story on page 3.*

### Scheduled Events & Notices



**All Events Listed are Subject to Rescheduling due to CoronaVirus restrictions**

- Apr 18**    Status update and BBQ at site of new SP History Center in Rocklin  
              – **THIS EVENT HAS BEEN RESCHEDULED TO FALL 2020** – see page 2
- Apr 23**    **APRIL PSRHS MEETING IS CANCELED DUE TO  
CORONAVIRUS PRECAUTIONS - SEE NOTE ON PAGE 2**
- May 23**    **(RESCHEDULE LIKELY - SEE PAGE 2) Dedication of Track Segment,  
Monument and Information Kiosk for NCNG RR at site of Nevada City Depot**
- May 28**    **(TENTATIVE) PSRHS Monthly Meeting – 7pm – Program TBA**



# Placer-Sierra Railroad Heritage Society

April 2020 Newsletter

There will be **NO** PSRHS Monthly Meeting in April. Our meeting room at Auburn Airport is not available due to Coronavirus precautions and restrictions on group gatherings.

The status of the May Meeting will be announced in May's Newsletter. We will continue to monitor restrictions on gatherings due to coronavirus before resuming monthly meetings.

## SPRHC Site Tour & BBQ Postponed

The BBQ and site tour for the new Southern Pacific Railroad History Center scheduled for **April 18** has been postponed due to coronavirus restrictions on group activities. Organizers hope to reschedule the event for September or October. We will include updates on this event in the PSRHS newsletter as details become available.

Contact Linda Wampler, Rocklin Historical Society at [rocklinhistorical@gmail.com](mailto:rocklinhistorical@gmail.com) for more information.

## Spring Field Trip in Question

The March newsletter announced a possible field trip outing for our members to the NCNG railroad museum in Nevada City. Museum volunteers have erected a track segment and monument along the original railroad right-of-way at the Nevada City depot site. They had planned to host a **dedication ceremony on May 23 for the track segment and a new monument to the NCNG railroad**. Plans included operating their narrow gauge rail bus on the new track section for this event.

Due to coronavirus restrictions, this event will likely be rescheduled, but a new date has not yet been determined. We will notify our members of the status of this event in future newsletters.

## PSRHS Board Actions

Your PSRHS board is still active during the stay-at-home order, conducting business via email. If you have any issues you would like to see addressed by the board please contact one of the board members or email me at [roger.staab@psrhs.org](mailto:roger.staab@psrhs.org)

The 2020 slate of PSRHS board members includes:

President: Chuck Spinks  
Vice President: Don Anderson  
Secretary: Shirley Racine  
Treasurer: Peter Hills  
Peter Diurni  
Dave Ferriera  
Malcolm Frost  
Paul Greenfield  
Bill Yoder

## AMTRAK Service Changes

AMTRAK is continuing to offer rail service as an essential business, but some changes have been made due to travel restrictions and reduced ridership. Of major local interest is the temporary (we hope) stoppage of service from Emeryville to Denver on the California Zephyr. Service is still available from Emeryville to Reno using AMTRAK buses, but there is no service from Reno to Denver. The buses will not stop at Colfax and the Reno station is temporarily closed. Reasons given for the service reductions are low ridership and reduced personnel available to staff the trains.

<https://www.amtrak.com/alert/california-zephyr-schedule-changes.html>

General AMTRAK alert information can be found at

<https://www.amtrak.com/service-alerts-and-notice#>



### **Passing Scene – Contemporary Fire Train Action**

Last month's newsletter featured testing of fire train equipment in the Colfax yard in 2007. The photos below show that same fire train equipment in action during a wildland fire in 2014 that reached the tracks at Cape Horn. Auburn Journal photographer Mike Kirby captured these images showing the intense smoke from the fire, and fire train crews attacking the blaze from the railroad tracks (main photo and inset). *Photos courtesy of Mike Kirby*



---

### **Amazon Smile Fund Raising**

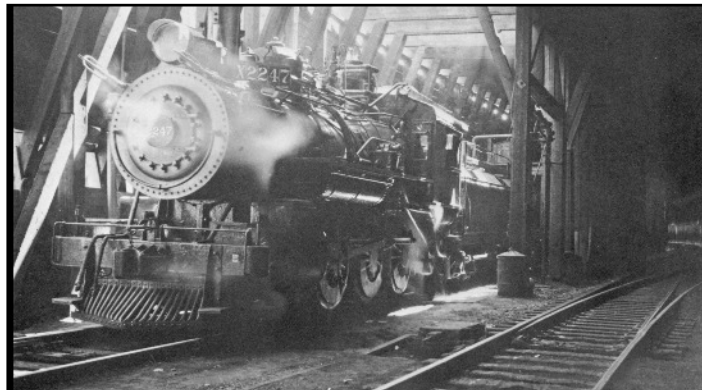
We are now part of the Amazon Smile fund raising campaign. We receive a donation to the society based on your purchases. Please feel free to copy and paste the link below and include it in all your emails.

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



### From the Archives

**March Mystery Photo (right):** The Norden fire train powered by SP #2247 is seen on the fire train track in the Norden sheds in 1940. Fire train locomotive #2252 can be seen today on display next to the tracks in Roseville. *John Signor, Donner Pass*



**April Mystery Photo (left):** What is happening in this image and what time frame does it represent in Donner Route history? For extra credit, what is the location of the image? *Photo courtesy of Herman Darr*

Accidents/Other Incidents. *Sacramento Union, 16 August 1920.* “**Seven Fruit Cars wrecked at Colfax** – Special to the Union. Colfax, Aug. 15. – Seven freight cars were overturned here this afternoon, when an extra freight eastbound, due to a misunderstanding of switch signals, sideswiped a regular freight westbound. The overturned cars were filled with fruit. Both east and westbound tracks were blocked for several hours as a result of the wreck. No one was injured. No estimate of the damage done could be ascertained.”

#### 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)

