

# Placer-Sierra Railroad Heritage Society

---



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

---

## June 2020 Newsletter

### In this issue:

**NO MEETING IN JUNE.** Page 2

**PSRHS Web Cams.** Page 2

**UP Steam Program Update.** Page 2

**SP RR History Center Update.** Page 2

**Passing Scene.** Page 3

**From the Archives.** Page 4



*Double stacks are relatively new on the Donner Route. This image captures the first double stack train to traverse the route. See story on page 3  
Photo by Roger Staab*

---

### Scheduled Events & Notices



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

**Jun 25    NO MONTHLY MEETING IN JUNE**

**Jul 23    (TENTATIVE) PSRHS Monthly Meeting – 7pm – Program TBA**



# Placer-Sierra Railroad Heritage Society

June 2020 Newsletter

## MONTHLY MEETING

**There will be NO PSRHS Monthly Meeting in June. Our meeting room at Auburn Airport is still not available due to Coronavirus precautions. The status of the July Meeting will be announced in July's Newsletter. We will resume meetings once restrictions have been lifted.**

## PSRHS WEB CAMS

The PSRHS board recently approved the purchase of a new webcam along with site preparation and installation expenses. The first webcam will be installed on the eastbound track approaching the west portal of Tunnel 28 next to Peter Hills' property in Applegate. Site electrical modifications have been completed and most of the equipment has been received. Final installation should be completed in the next two weeks with the webcam coming on line by the end of June. Once the camera is operational a link will be placed on the psrhs.org web site inviting visitors to view the trains. Watch the newsletter and web site for further updates.

Additional sites are under consideration for future webcam installations. The mid-term goal is to provide a series of webcams that will allow PSRHS web site visitors to view the progress of trains as they conquer the grades up and over Donner Summit.

## UP STEAM PROGRAM UPDATE

In a special video message to Union Pacific Steam Club members, Sr. Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer Scott Moore announced that the planned 2020 steam excursion has been cancelled. Moore pointed to the uncertainty surrounding COVID-19 and necessary social distancing measures as the country continues to recover from the pandemic.

"But I'm here to tell you, we're committed to 2021," Moore said. "We saw last year how much America

loves the Big Boy, and what it can do as the giant, rolling ambassador of the Union Pacific Railroad."

View the entire video message as well as a special message from UP Steam Team's Ed Dickens about the status of No. 4014 [here at YouTube](#).

That's all for now. Be safe, and we'll see you trackside,

**Union Pacific Steam Club**

## SP RAILROAD HISTORY CENTER UPDATE

Scott Inman reports that SP-10 was due to move to Rocklin in recent days, so if you are in Rocklin stop by and have a look. The museum has a five year lease on the property, and although the virus slowed down the kickoff for promotion and fundraising, they hope to return to normal soon.

\*\*\*\*\*

## \*\*\*\*\* This Space Available \*\*\*\*\*

If you have a railroading news item of interest or a story to share, consider providing the details to the newsletter editor for presentation in a future edition of this monthly newsletter. See the box at the bottom of page 4 for contact information.





### **Passing Scene – Double Stacks on the Donner Route**

Double stack freight trains now appear as a regular fixture on the Donner Route, but the vertical clearance of the Summit Tunnel 41 had to be increased and other modifications completed before double-stack trains could traverse the route. This image captures the first eastbound double-stack freight passing through Colfax on Nov. 19, 2009. It would have been very costly to modify the several tunnels on the uphill eastbound track between Rocklin and Colfax to accommodate the height of the cars. Instead, signals were installed to allow eastbound double-stack freights to use the older westbound track until reaching the new high-speed crossover just west of Colfax where the trains are returned to the eastbound track. When you see a westbound freight idling just east of the Grass Valley Street crossing in Colfax, the engineer is likely waiting for an uphill double stack to clear the westbound track before being released by the dispatcher to proceed down the hill. *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>





# Placer-Sierra Railroad Heritage Society

June 2020 Newsletter

## From the Archives

**May Mystery Photo (right):** This photo shows the Glendale Hotel at Blue Canyon. The hotel was owned by Levi Powers. His daughter Elvira accepted a Louisiana lottery ticket from a train passenger as payment for a room, bath and place to sleep. Her kindness more than paid off when the lottery ticket paid \$150,000, a major windfall in the late 1800's. The hotel was destroyed by fire in 1900. *Photo courtesy of Art Sommers. Hotel information from Pannings by Janet Dunbar Fonseca*



**June Mystery Photo (left):** Where was this trestle located and what is there today?  
*Houseworth image, PSRHS collection.*

**Accidents/Other Incidents.** *Placer Herald, 11 June 1904* – “A broken wheel under an oil car caused a wreck at Blue Canyon early last Sunday morning, and about four hundred feet of snowsheds were torn down. Two oil cars went over the mountain side, but none of the train crew were injured.”

### 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)

