

Placer-Sierra Railroad Heritage Society



www.psrhs.org

June 2022 Newsletter

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*Railroad graffiti or art? See page 3.
Image from PSRHS Web-cam.*

Scheduled Events & Notices



Jun 4 - Sep 3 Placer County Heritage Trail Tour of Museums. See page 2.

Jun 25 Colfax Museum & Caboose Open House 9-4. See page 2.

Jun 28 PSRHS Monthly Meeting, 7PM – John Knox - Auburn Dry Diggings and Water – Rivers, Ravines, Ditches, Springs, Wells and Waste

Jul 1-4 Great Western Steam Up - Carson City, NV. See page 2.

Jul 26 PSRHS Monthly Meeting, 7PM – Program TBA

NOTE: UP Big Boy July West Coast Steam Tour has been postponed indefinitely

Please consider joining PSRHS or renewing membership for 2022
See the box at the bottom of page 4 for details. Thank you for
supporting our railroad history preservation activities.

Preserving Railroad History on the Donner Pass Route

Auburn Veterans Memorial Hall

1900
MAP OF
AUBURN
REVISION BY HENRY

June 21 , 2022



Passing Scene – But Is It Art?

Living near the railroad tracks these days provides a near-continuous kaleidoscope of amateur art in the form of graffiti on rail cars. While it can be annoying to some, in many cases the artwork is quite striking. Occasionally a piece of that art stands out in the design or execution of a particular image. When you think you have seen it all, there are still the surprises, such as this image captured from our Applegate web cam courtesy of Paul Greenfield. But is it art or simply more irritating graffiti? You be the judge.



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>

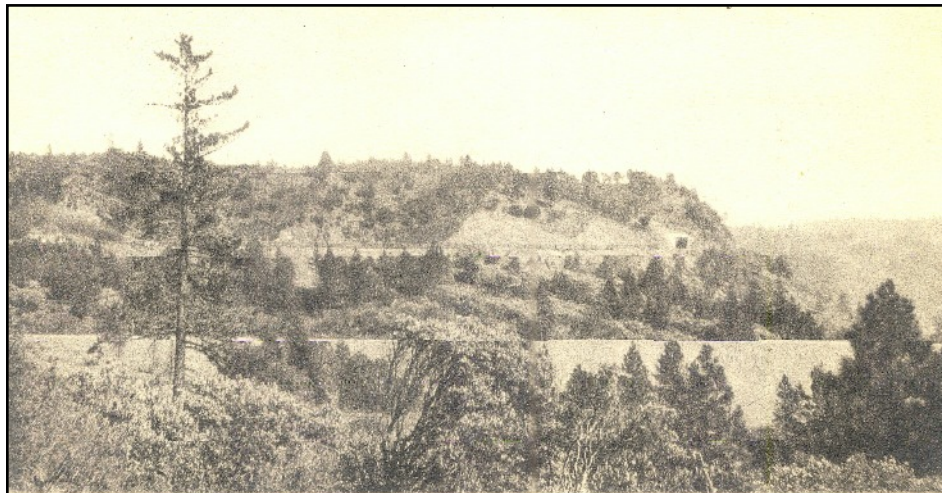


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From the Archives

May Mystery Photo (right): A train has just cleared Colfax's Grass Valley St. crossing, but the crossing guard in the middle of the road has not yet released the vehicles waiting to cross the multiple set of tracks. The cross-buck RR Xing sign is visible near the left edge, beyond the guard shack. A crossing guard was assigned to this crossing into the 1940's with crossing gates not yet installed and heavy wartime rail traffic. *PSRHS Collection*



June Mystery Photo (left): Where was this photo taken and what is visible in this image? *PSRHS Collection.*

Accidents/Other Incidents. *Sacramento Union, Dec. 4, 1913 – Five Passengers Injured in Wreck – Overland Train Jumps Track at Midas and Traffic Is Tied Up Twelve Hours.* Railroad officials of the Sacramento division of the Southern Pacific company were diligently engaged early this morning investigating the derailment of overland train No. 5 which jumped the tracks at Midas early yesterday afternoon injuring five passengers and overturning the locomotive and three baggage coaches.... A wrecking train sent from Sacramento cleared the track and traffic was resumed at 2 o'clock this morning. The train was derailed on a curve and the officials are not sure as yet as to whether a split rail caused the wreck or an obstruction was placed on the track.

Membership Information

Individual Members = \$25.00/yr
Each Additional Family Member = \$5.00/yr

- Monthly Meetings (4th Tuesday) 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 <https://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@psrhs.org



GREAT WESTERN STEAM UP

July 1-4, 2022

The Nevada State Railroad Museum in Carson City will host the Great Western Steam Up July 1-4, 2022. This event will celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the completion of Nevada's famous Virginia & Truckee Railroad with an exciting pageant of steam locomotion, train rides behind visiting narrow- and standard-gauge steam locomotives, food, live entertainment, "lost art" demonstrations and more! It will include the largest reunion of existing Virginia & Truckee locomotives assembled in over 75 years, including Reno, No. 11.

For more information and to purchase tickets for the event in advance at a discount, visit their web site <https://greatwesternsteamup.com/>

NCNG #5 STEAMS AGAIN

The dedicated volunteers at the Nevada County Narrow Gauge Railroad Museum have been busy restoring NCNG #5 to operating condition in preparation for showing it at the Great Western Steam Roundup. A new boiler was installed and in late May #5 steamed again for the first time since being brought to the museum for static display. By the time this newsletter is distributed #5 should be in Carson City ready to be operated alongside its sister locomotive Glenbrook.



*NCNG #5
Ken Yeo
Collection*

Geological Field Trip on the Amador Central Railroad

Story and Photos by Jim Wood

The Amador Central (AMC) is a historic shortline railroad that was built between 1904 to 1908 from Ione to Jackson, CA to transport mining equipment to the gold mines as well as serve passenger traffic. The route traverses through 10 miles of picturesque Sierra foothills landscape.

When this railroad was threatened with abandonment and scrapping, a recreational nonprofit organization stepped in to acquire the line to preserve it for the public. This group maintains and operates the railroad strictly for recreational purposes. Nowadays, rail traffic consists of periodic rail excursion events using track speeders or motorcars.

When PSRHS member Jim Wood first rode this historic shortline railroad in 2019, he marveled at the many exceptional rock outcrops along the route in railroad cuts. With his experience as a geologist, he began to envision the potential of using a rail excursion along this route to conduct geology field trips for both the public and professional geology associations.

After two years of working and planning with geologists from the California Geological Survey (CGS), the inaugural geology field trip on the Amador Central Railroad was held on May 4th. The all day trip hosted 30 geologists from the CGS mapping group. By all accounts, it was a great success.

Trips of this nature will be held in the future to attract more rail enthusiasts and bring additional revenue to support the maintenance and preservation of this unique and special railroad.

See Jim's photos from the field trip on the next page.

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Photos showing the geologists viewing remnants of a historic copper mine below the tracks.

This was one of several stops allowing the closer inspection of historic or geological features.

