

Placer-Sierra Railroad Heritage Society



<https://www.psrhs.org>

April 2024 Newsletter

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Amtrak Heritage Unit #161 leads westbound #5 through Colfax on April 13 in this image Paul Greenfield captured from the new Southwest Railcams Colfax webcam. See pages 2 & 3 for more images and information.

Scheduled Events & Notices



**Apr 23 PSRHS Monthly Meeting, 7PM - Program - Jim Wood
– Establishing a Railroad-Themed Colfax Heritage Park**

**May 28 PSRHS Monthly Meeting, 7PM - Program - Paul Helman – Floods, Fires,
Levees and Railroads: The Ever-Changing Landscape of Sacramento City
– 1830s to 1870**

Jun 25 PSRHS Monthly Meeting, 7PM - Program In Development

July 12-13	Union Pacific Big Boy in Roseville
July 20-21	Union Pacific Big Boy in Ogden

Renew your annual PSRHS Membership by mail or on our web site using PayPal

Your annual PSRHS membership helps fund purchase of historic photos, publication of railroad history documents, field trips, and other historic preservation activities.

Preserving Railroad History on the Donner Pass Route

PSRHS MONTHLY MEETING APRIL 23, 7PM

April Program: PSRHS founding member **Jim Wood** will discuss **Current Efforts to Establish a railroad-themed Heritage Park in Colfax.**

The idea of an outdoor Railroad Park near the Colfax Passenger Depot has been talked about since the depot renovation was completed in 2007. With a new City Manager and council members showing interest in the concept, its time may finally be here. Jim will discuss ideas being considered to establish outdoor displays near the depot in a park-like setting. The buzz being created by news of UP 4014 Big Boy's July visit has heightened interest in Colfax's rich railroad history.

Our meetings are open to all who are interested. See our web site for updates on future meeting topics and directions to the meeting location.

March Program Recap: Peter Hills discussed **Positive Train Control (PTC) for Steam Engine Operations.** He provided a look at the modifications that were needed on Santa Fe 3751 and its accompanying diesel unit to make the 3751 compliant as lead locomotive for excursion runs on lines operating under PTC control.

MARCH PSRHS BOARD MEETING

The PSRHS board met prior to the March 26 meeting.

Vacant Board Position: William Wauters has agreed to fill the vacant board position.

Colfax Depot WebCam: See the next section for current status of the Colfax WebCam.

Colfax RR Days: Colfax City Council member Carolyn McCully is lead planner for this year's RR Days. She wants to re-emphasize the railroad theme with the help of PSRHS, and thinks she can work with UP through contacts she and her husband have. She will be invited to the April board meeting to discuss her ideas including possibly offering motor car rides again.

Removal of RR Items at Peter Hills' Property: Railroad items and our Applegate web cam need to be removed from Peter Hills' property near the end of April in preparation for selling his house. Brendan will be asked to remove the camera. A backhoe will likely be needed to remove a CPRR square telegraph pole.

NEW COLFAX WEBCAM

We are excited to announce that the installation of the Southwest Railcams webcam on the Colfax Passenger Depot was completed April 9 by a PSRHS team headed by Paul Greenfield. The camera entered test mode that day, was an immediate hit and went public April 11. The camera currently operates on a wi-fi link but will soon be connected via ethernet. It provides a terrific view looking westbound from the depot, but the eastbound view is partially blocked by the roof line of the building's colonnade which sits at an angle to the tracks. As an added feature viewers can listen to local railroad radio conversations while observing the trains and the downtown area.

To access the web cam follow this link.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JmXz1dFsGkM>
The link will soon be available on our PSRHS website.

UP'S BIG BOY COMING THIS SUMMER

Union Pacific Steam Club has announced the tentative schedule for UP 4014 "Big Boy" to visit California and Utah this July. The club's complete announcement can be found on page 5, with more details to follow, including planned whistle stops along the route. The tour map shows the westbound journey on the Feather River Canyon Route to Roseville for display on July 12-13, then returning eastbound from Roseville to Ogden on the Donner Route the week of July 14-19. A possible reason for choosing this routing is to avoid the uphill pull through Tunnel 41 that created problems for 844 on one of its trips west. The new Colfax webcam is ready to capture 4014's movement through Colfax.

See Big Boy announcement on page 5



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Passing Scene - Amtrak #6 captured on new Southwest Railcams Colfax WebCam

The new Southwest Railcams Colfax web cam was recently installed on one of the roof dormers at the Colfax Passenger Depot by PSRHS members led by Paul Greenfield. The photos below were captured as screen shots by your editor while replaying the webcam video several hours after Amtrak #6 arrived in Colfax on April 10 with three private cars in tow. Viewers can look back through the past 12 hours of recorded video. The cropped but unedited high quality images illustrate how the moderator can zoom and rotate the camera.



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





From the Archives - 2001 Move of Colfax Railcar

Jim Wood's April program will mention talk of moving the Colfax caboose from its current location at the corner of Main and Grass Valley streets to a new home near the Colfax Passenger Depot. This will involve transporting the caboose across the Union Pacific mainline tracks, easier said than done. The photo below shows the equipment required to move the Colfax railcar the relatively short distance from its previous home in front of the Colfax Hotel to where it presently resides. A new section of track was erected in place and the heavy-duty cranes placed the railcar directly onto the tracks in its new home. Similar equipment and preparations will be needed to move the caboose. *CAHS collection*



Accidents/Other Incidents. *Marysville Daily Appeal, Sept. 12, 1876.* "The work of filling the deep ravine immediately east of the town of Newcastle, now crossed by the Central Pacific trains by trestle work, was commenced last week. There will be somewhere near 300 men employed on the job and it is expected to take them three months to complete."



Union Pacific Steam Club Update - Westward Bound Tour Update

Big Boy No. 4014's Westward Bound Tour Coming this Summer!

Union Pacific's famed Big Boy No. 4014, the world's largest operating steam locomotive, will return to the rails this summer with a scenic tour across mountain ranges and high desert vistas in four western states: Wyoming, Utah, Nevada and California.

Big Boy will journey from its home base in Cheyenne, Wyoming on **Sunday, June 30**, en route to Roseville, California, before returning to Wyoming by the end of July. It will make numerous whistle-stops in communities along the way, with public display stops scheduled in:

- **July 12-13: Roseville, California**
- **July 20-21: Ogden, Utah**

Additional route details and approximate times for whistle stops will be shared closer to the tour. A [route map](#) can be found on [UPsteam.com](#).

During the tour, the [Union Pacific Museum](#) will host a special passenger trip. The unique experience is the annual gala fundraiser for the nonprofit organization and provides a rare opportunity to travel on this historic heritage equipment. More information on the specifics will appear at [www.UPtrainTix.com](#) when they become available. This is one of two public tours planned for Big Boy in 2024, with a second tour planned later this fall with stops in Texas, Arkansas, Kansas, and Illinois, among other states. Details of the second tour will be released later this spring.

The month-long "Westward Bound" tour will honor Union Pacific's rich railroad legacy and celebrate the railroad's employees and communities it serves. For part of its journey, the Big Boy's consist will include an assortment of rail cars giving spectators a glimpse into what the locomotive looked like pulling freight in its heyday. "The Big Boy locomotive symbolizes the pivotal role railroads played in shaping our nation's history, and the technological advances we have witnessed within our industry," said Union Pacific CEO Jim Vena. "We are thrilled to share this living piece of history with our employees and the public, and we love seeing the enthusiasm this locomotive generates wherever its whistle blows."

But What About the Pacific Northwest?

Last fall, we had anticipated including Boise, Idaho, and Portland, Oregon on the Westward Bound tour. As planning continued, we determined that the network capacity on our northern corridor could not accommodate Big Boy No. 4014 along with anticipated demand on a single track. Our goal is to share the Big Boy with as many rail fans as possible across our network, and we look forward to seeing everyone track side – 25 feet back this summer and fall.