

Placer-Sierra Railroad Heritage Society



<https://www.psrhs.org>

**September 2025
Newsletter
Colfax RR Days**

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The UP Fire Train target shoot was a crowd favorite at 2025 RR Days. See more RR Days photos on pages 3 & 4

Scheduled Events & Notices



**** NO MONTHLY MEETING & PROGRAM IN SEPTEMBER ****

- Oct 28** PSRHS Monthly Meeting, 7PM – Program - Jim Wood
- Dry Stone Construction-- Application to Railroad, Industrial and Mining Structures in California in the Late 19th Century + Britain's Railway 200
- Nov 8-9** International Railfair Model Railroad Show at Cal Expo;
internationalrailfair.com
- Nov 25** PSRHS Monthly Meeting, Time and Program to be announced

Annual membership renewals pay for publishing railroad history documents, purchasing and posting historic photos, arranging field trips, & other historic preservation activities.

Preserving Railroad History on the Donner Pass Route

Placer-Sierra Railroad Heritage Society



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PSRHS MONTHLY MEETING NO MEETING IN SEPTEMBER

NEXT MEETING IS OCTOBER 28

AUBURN VETERANS MEMORIAL HALL

SEE OUR WEB SITE AND OCT. NEWSLETTER FOR DETAILS

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

August Program Recap: Roger Staab presented **Colfax at 160 – Celebrating Railroad Changes and Incidents That Redefined the Region.** In honor of the town's now 160-year link to the transcontinental railroad, this program highlighted significant railroad-related changes that have occurred at Colfax and along the Donner Route since the town was created by the railroad in 1865.

AUGUST BOARD MEETING

The PSRHS Board of Directors met prior to the August meeting. Items discussed included:

1. Colfax RR Days (No PSRHS meeting in September)

- Dates: September 13-14
- Caboose to be staffed. Open 10-5 both Saturday and Sunday
- Miniature statue mock-up of Chinese railroad workers will be presented to Museum at 2 pm on Saturday
- Colfax City Councilwoman McCully stated that there is a good probability of UP providing a Jordan Spreader, Flanger and relocating the fire train with the possibility of allowing the public to practice their aim with a stream of water at a target.

• ACTION: Roger Staab to maintain list of volunteers for the Caboose

2. Newsletter and emails

- Bulk email is not guaranteed. Bill Yoder working to make emails/newsletter appear less like spam.
- Membership email issue: There's no email for membership. A problem if someone wants to cancel emails
- E-mail traffic to a specific board person can be routed such that it returns with our psrhs.org domain

- ACTION: Bill Yoder will work these various IT issues
- ### 3. PSRHS Brochures
- ACTION: Roger Staab to add Union Pacific to the Historical Map
 - ACTION: Bill Yoder to print extra brochures that will be needed for Colfax RR Days and other events.
- ### 4. Items from Peter Hills Move
- HO layout was deemed surplus. Bill Yoder can dispose/transfer at his discretion.
- ### 5. Combining our PSRHS Archives with the Colfax Area Historical Society (CAHS)
- An issue was raised about the building the CAHS is currently using.
 - The Board decided to hold off on making any decisions regarding this item until status is clarified
- ### 6. Possible Future Presentation
- Paul Greenfield attended a very interesting presentation on the Lincoln Highway's history with emphasis on its location and routing in California.
 - ACTION: Paul Greenfield will see if the presenter can tie-in a little extra railroad coordination for the Lincoln Highway's northern route through Donner Pass. If that can be done, Paul will work with the presenter for a possible future presentation

COLFAX RAILROAD DAYS RECAP

Colfax Railroad Days 2025 was an unqualified success. Along with great weather, Union Pacific came through this year with the Western Pacific Heritage locomotive, flanger, spreader and new fire train. They allowed the public to board the fire train crew car and "shoot" the water monitor at targets. Kudos to Caroline from the City and Peggy from UP for making this happen.

PSRHS staffed the caboose along with a table displaying surplus books and videos that we offered to the public for a donation to our programs. We also led walking tours highlighting Colfax railroad changes.

Photos on pages 3 & 4 feature some of the many attractions at this year's event. A big thanks to those who helped staff the caboose and to all who attended.



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Passing Scene - Colfax Railroad Days 2025

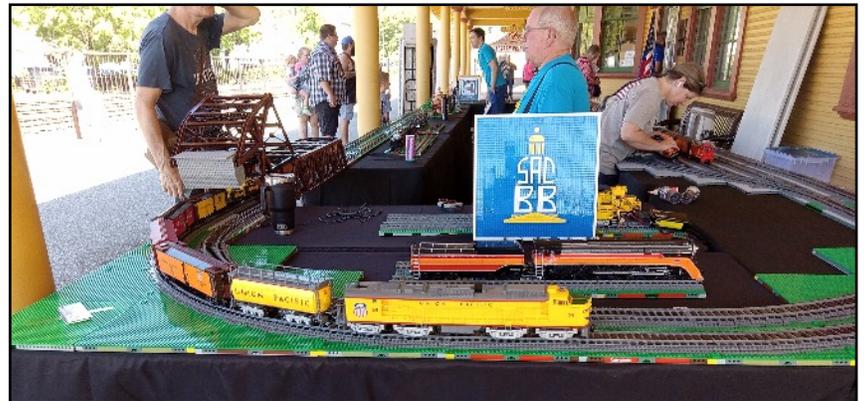


UP Displays Arrival & Testing



Wilmunder NCNG Handcar Rides

The UP Experience



Legos (yes legos) Model RR Layout



First Stop - Operation Lifesaver

Membership Information

Individual Members = \$25.00/yr
Family Membership = \$30.00/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

Passing Scene - Colfax Railroad Days 2025



Interactive UP Fire Train Display/Target Practice



Helping Hands Getting on and off the Cars



Chinese RR Worker Statuette Presented to Museum by Chinese-American Railroad Friendship Association



**Trains & Food Galore
Main Street Vendors**



Train Waiting for Train to Clear Crossing



One of Several Model RR Layouts



From the Archives - Colfax Railroad in Transition circa 1915

Visible in this Colfax image are the cutaway hillside at left and new mainline and yard tracks on the cleared area and fill. Tracks near lower right lead to the 1912 engine house or Wye track. Near the passenger depot the tracks curve left onto the old alignment, then traverse the new Grass Valley Street crossing before passing on this side of the freight depot. The hillside beyond the freight depot has been cut away, ready for new tracks to be laid straight through town on the present-day alignment, but not until the freight depot is moved out of the way to its third and present location next to North Main St. The faint path crossing the tracks near the center is the unimproved Oak Street crossing that will soon be closed due to the multiple yard tracks that now must be crossed. The NCNG transfer shed and Fowler Hotel are at right. *Southern Pacific collection*



Accidents/Other Incidents. *Grass Valley Morning Union, Oct. 18, 1914.* **“RAILROADS ARE STILL IN DISPUTE. Work on New Line Through Cutoff at Colfax Will Result in Moving Freight Depot.** The work of laying the main tracks of the Southern Pacific Company for the new line through the cut-off at Colfax is going steadily ahead. The double-track has been laid to a point in front of the Marvin hotel, and a single track has been laid across the Narrow Gauge tracks to Grass Valley Street. Yesterday a couple of flat cars were run across the Narrow Gauge tracks, loaded with dirt taken out to get the right grade. The cars were taken back to the main line again and the rails across the Narrow Gauge taken out again.

The two railroad companies have been having some dispute as to which should pay for the moving of the Narrow Gauge tracks, each one stating the other should pay the expense. It is quite probable, in view of the tracks being laid by the Southern Pacific Company, that things will come to a climax in the near future. The Narrow Gauge tracks are to be laid south of the double main tracks of the Southern Pacific Company. The new track is laid only a few feet from the present site of the freight depot and no doubt that building will be moved within the next few days to its permanent site on the north side of the main tracks.”

