

Placer-Sierra Railroad Heritage Society



<https://www.psrhs.org>

September 2026 Newsletter Colfax RR Days Special Issue

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Two attendees enjoy (?) the NCNG hand-car ride at Colfax RR Days.

Scheduled Events & Notices



NO MONTHLY MEETING IN SEPTEMBER

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| Oct 27 | PSRHS Monthly Meeting, 7PM - Tentative Program – Jim Wood’s recent visit to railroad museums in England |
| Nov 24 | PSRHS Monthly Meeting, 7PM – Program under development |

Watch our website and newsletter for monthly program details

**** Please Consider Becoming a PSRHS Member for 2027 ****
**** New Member Dues paid in September or Later Include 2027 ****

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

AUBURN VETERANS MEMORIAL HALL

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

There will be no meeting in September. We are taking a break after participating in Colfax Railroad Days including staffing a table and opening the Colfax Caboose to visitors.

Our monthly programs will resume in October and November.

October Program Preview: Jim Wood recently returned from a business trip to England, and while there he visited some major railroad museums and viewed historic equipment on display and in operation. He hopes to have a slide show ready for our October program. Watch our web site and the October newsletter for more details.

August Program Recap: The PSRHS August 25 program featured railroad photos from the William Wauters collection that were taken by Auburn resident Al Phelps in the 1930's and 1940's. Several of the photos showed historic views of regional railroad scenes that are rarely found in other collections. In addition to a selection of Al Phelps photos, the program included several railroad-oriented photo postcards from Williams's collection.

PSRHS BOARD VACANCY

A vacant position still exists on the PSRHS Board of Directors. Our board meets on the 4th Tuesday from 6-7pm prior to most monthly program meetings. Please consider serving on the board and help steer the club's future activities and programs. Contact a current board member for more information.

IF YOU LIKE WHAT YOU HAVE BEEN SEEING - THEN GET INVOLVED

Like many non-profits, PSRHS depends on the work of volunteers to prepare and give historical presentations, scan & upload historic documents to our web site to make them accessible to all, prepare & mail a monthly newsletter, plan & lead field trips, etc., etc., etc.

If you enjoy these programs and find postings on our web site to be informative and interesting, consider contributing some of your time or talents to PSRHS and our mission. Some tasks require only a few hours of your time each month, possibly performed at home.

COLFAX RAILROAD DAYS RECAP

Colfax Railroad Days 2026 was enjoyed by a large family-oriented crowd this past weekend, although the attendance on Saturday was down a bit due to competition with several other nearby events. The Colfax Museum and the caboose saw steady streams of visitors all day both days. At our PSRHS table we sold a number of used railroad books and provided information on our regional railroad history programs.

Union Pacific came through in a big way, displaying a rotary plow, the Colfax based-fire train, and UP 1996 Southern Pacific Heritage Locomotive. Tours were allowed inside the rotary, and the water cannon on the fire train was a crowd favorite. Supplementing the equipment displays were representatives from many UP divisions to answer questions, along with booths for Operation Lifesaver and CSRM Foundation.

A big **Thank You** to UP staff for their participation, as well as those **volunteers who helped staff our PSRHS table and the caboose** for the weekend event.

See a selection of event photos on pages 3, 5 & 6.





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Passing Scene - Colfax Railroad Days 2026 in Photos

All Photos by Roger Staab



More Photos on Page 5

Reader comments, additional details, questions, etc., are invited on any newsletter items or photos. Please forward comments, suggestions or information for inclusion in future issues of the newsletter to:

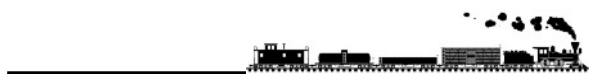
editor@psrhs.org

Membership Information

Annual 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/>





From the Archives - New Diesel-Powered City of San Francisco

This Al Phelps photo from the William Wauters collection shows the new City of San Francisco diesel-powered passenger train stopped at Auburn in December 1937. The new power for this luxury train owned and operated jointly by Southern Pacific, Union Pacific and Chicago and Northwestern was on a trial run to Oakland. Note the logos for the joint owners of the new line on the nose of the first of three locomotives in the set. The new train offered additional lounge and dining car space, coffee shop, longer and wider berths, individual heat control in all rooms, service telephone system to the diner and cocktail bars, and outlets for plugging in electric razors. Beds were designed to fold into the walls in compartments, bedrooms and the new "roomette" accommodations, to give full floor space for comfortable movable chairs in daytime.



Accidents/Other Incidents. *Auburn Journal*, Dec. 23, 1937. "New Overland Streamliner To Start January 8. The new streamliner "City of San Francisco," largest and most powerful in the world, will be placed in service January 8 from Oakland pier, replacing the present train of that name on the San Francisco-Chicago run, Southern Pacific announced today. Nearly twice as large and more powerful as the 11-car streamliner now in service, the new train has a top speed of 110 miles an hour. It is powered by a 5400-horsepower three-car Diesel-electric locomotive, each car equipped with twin 900-horsepower units, and has 17 cars with accommodations for 168 Pullman and 54 chair car passengers, a total of 222 as compared with 170 on the present train.... The train is owned and will be jointly operated by Southern Pacific, Union Pacific and Chicago and Northwestern railroads via the Overland route, ..."





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Passing Scene - Colfax Railroad Days 2026 in Photos



Cleaning the Windows



PSRHS & Museum Table



More Photos on Page 6



Passing Scene - Colfax Railroad Days 2026 in Photos

