Placer-Sierra Railroad Heritage Society

https://www.psrhs.org

November 2026 Newsletter

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The Colfax Caboose in its new home in RR Heritage Park See details on pages 2, 5 & 6. *Roger Staab photo*

Scheduled Events & Notices

**** No PSRHS Meetings in November or December ****

**** HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM PSRHS ****

Jan 26, 2027 PSRHS Monthly Meeting – Program by Tim Schroepfer, President & CEO, California State Railroad Museum Foundation

Watch our website and newsletter for monthly program details

**** Please Consider Renewing or 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

PSRHS MONTHLY MEETING

AUBURN VETERANS MEMORIAL HALL

There will be no PSRHS meetings in November or December. Next Meeting will be January 26.

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

January 2027 Program: Our speaker will be **Tim Schroepfer, President & CEO of California State RR Museum Foundation.** Watch for more details in the January newsletter and on the PSRHS website.

October Program Recap: Jim Wood offered an interesting program on **Rocket - First of the Modern Steam Locomotives and the Beginning of Intercity Railroads.** Jim presented photos and discussion of the Rocket replica he viewed on his recent visit to the Locomotion Railroad Museum in Shildon, England. Also included were photos of the Flying Scotsman that happened to be at the museum during Jim's visit.

OPEN PSRHS BOARD POSITION

PSRHS has an open position on its Board of Directors. We'd like to find someone who has some new ideas and an interest in maintaining the railroad history of our area. Board meetings occur prior to our regular monthly meetings and last one hour. **If you are a member of PSRHS, and have the interest, please contact Paul Greenfield at Secretary@psrhs.org**.

BOARD MEMBER ELECTIONS

Our bylaws call for an election of board members at our January member meeting. The six current board members - Chuck Spinks, Roger Staab, Paul Greenfield, Malcolm Frost, Dave Ferreira and Jim Wood - have expressed their willingness to continue serving on the board if approved by members. Other nominations of prospective board members can be made at the January meeting prior to voting.

REMINDER - 2027 MEMBERSHIP DUES

As we approach the end of 2026 it is time to renew your PSRHS membership or join us as a paid member. Membership dues are our primary source of funds to pay for purchasing historic photos or documents to share on our website, supporting historic restoration projects like the Colfax caboose (it needs some repairs after its recent move described below), and publishing a monthly newsletter and other historical articles. Dues are $30 per year for all family members residing at the same address. See page 3 for how to renew or join.

MOVING THE COLFAX CABOOSE

Nov. 11 & 12 marked the move of the Colfax caboose from the space it has occupied since 1969 at the corner of Main and Grass Valley Streets, to the track panel recently completed by volunteers in the new Railroad Heritage Park (RHP) area between the Amtrak platform and the 1905 Colfax Passenger Depot. **A link to a slide show of the move can be found on the PSRHS website homepage at www.psrhs.org. See pages 5-6 of this newsletter for selected photos of the move.**

Joining the 1924 wood-sided caboose in the near future at the Railroad Heritage Park will be a Nevada County Narrow Gauge (NCNG) gondola car, other historic railroad artifacts, exhibits honoring Colfax's Native American heritage & its mining history, and a tribute to Chinese workers who helped build the nation's first Transcontinental Railroad through Colfax in the 1860's.

The Colfax wood-sided caboose NWP 28 was built for Northwestern Pacific in 1924 to Southern Pacific standard C30-1. NWP 28 operated out of Willits until it was retired in 1969, purchased by Colfax Soroptimists and placed at its downtown Colfax location as part of the Centennial celebration of completion of the Transcontinental Railroad. The caboose received a major facelift in 2010-2015 thanks to a restoration project spearheaded by members of Placer-Sierra Railroad Heritage Society (PSRHS) and community volunteers, then renumbered as SP 863, an identical wood-sided caboose that was also built to the SP C30-1 standard and operated on the Colfax Local in the mid-1900s.

Passing Scene - UP 1943 in Colfax - Honoring Our Armed Forces & Veterans

On November 8, 2026, Colfax was visited by UP 1943, a commemorative locomotive that honors our nation's military services and veterans. The 1943 designation is a tribute to a group of UP employees who in 1943 raised money through war bonds to purchase a B-17 bomber that was christened Spirit Of The Union Pacific. The locomotive's color scheme honors each military branch - Air Force former SAC Blue Sash, Coast Guard red racing stripe, Navy battleship gray, Marine Corps and Army camo, along with the POW/MIA symbol.

UP 1943 was in town to collect gifts for active duty military and veterans, an event sponsored by American Legion 192 Colfax. When not on special assignment, UP 1943 joins the fleet as a conventional road engine, while proclaiming its salute to our armed forces as it travels the rails criss-crossing the country.



Top two Photos by Roger Staab

Bottom Photo Courtesy of Paul Greenfield



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

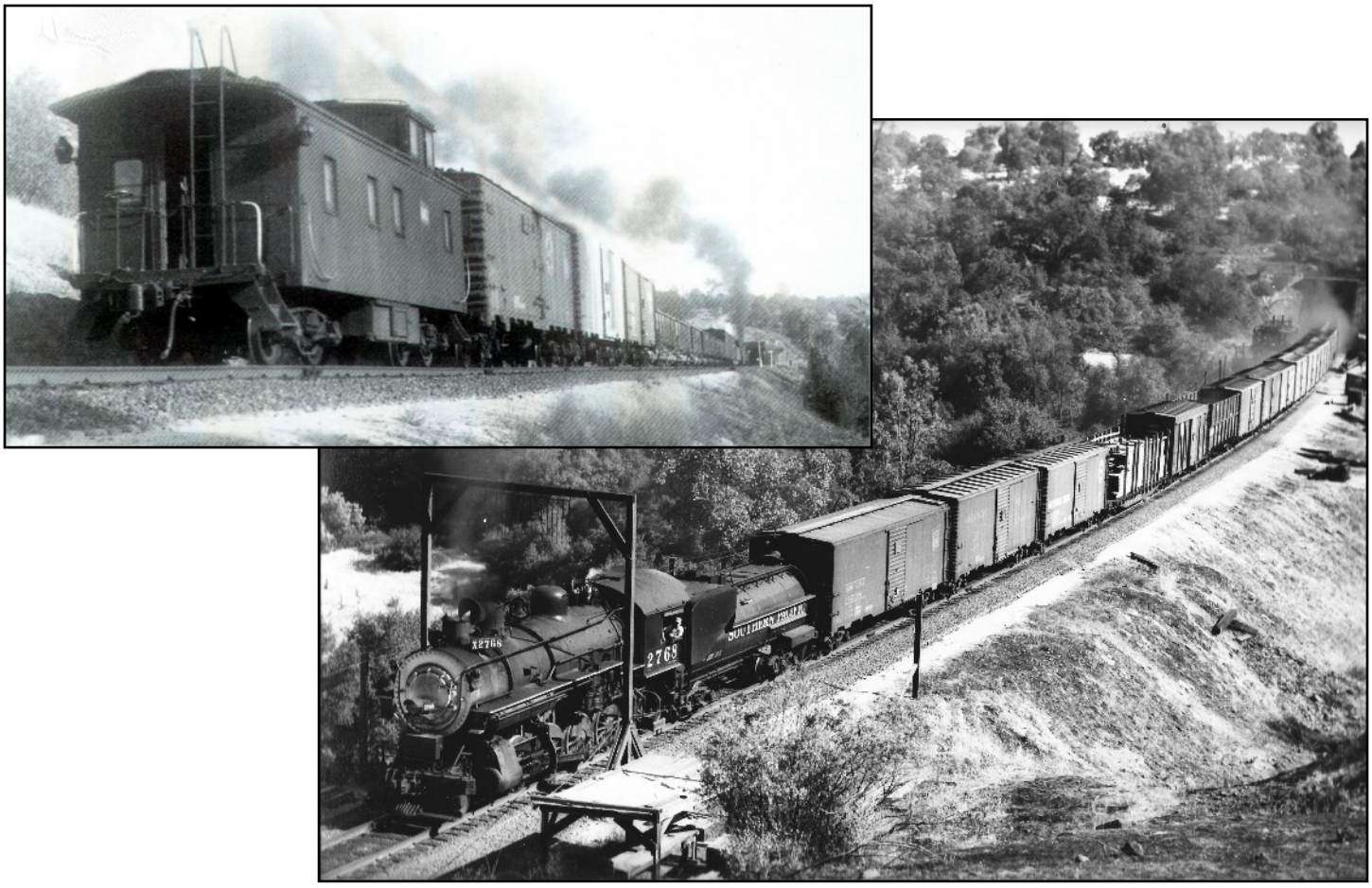
Annual Family Membership = $30.00/yr

- 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 - An SP C30-1 Caboose On The Colfax Local Freight Run

The Roseville-Colfax local freight run, known as the Colfax Local, provided pick-up and drop-off service for businesses along the route between the two towns. Empty cars were dropped off at fruit-packing sheds and full ones picked up, and vice versa for businesses receiving goods delivered by the railroad. The bottom photo below shows the Colfax Local delivering empty cars to fruit sheds. The top photo shows the Colfax Local near Penryn with SP Caboose #863 on the rear. SP #863 was built to SP Standard Design C30-1, the same SP standard design as the Colfax NWP #28 caboose. When NWP #28 was restored in 2015, it was renumbered SP #863 in recognition of an identical caboose that operated on the Colfax tracks. *Both photos by Al Phelps*



· **Accidents/Other Incidents**. *Colfax Weekly Record, Aug. 19, 1949.* "**Brakeman Injured In Local Yards' Accident.** Steve Roberts, an S.P. Brakeman on the Colfax-Roseville local freight run, suffered a broken jaw and face injuries Monday about noon while uncoupling an air hose in the yards here.

He was taken to a local doctor for first aid treatment and then was sent to the Southern Pacific General Hospital in San Francisco. The air hose on the cars is said to carry about 80 pounds pressure."

Moving The Colfax Caboose



Caboose Move Is Underway



Crossing the UP Tracks



Approaching the RHP Track Panel and Front Truck



Inserting Front Truck by Hand

Moving The Colfax Caboose



Raising Caboose for Rear Truck



Lowering Caboose Onto Rear Truck Pin



Move Complete!

View Detailed Slide Show of Caboose Move at www.psrhs.org