

Placer-Sierra Railroad Heritage Society



www.psrhs.org

November 2012 Newsletter

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UP 844 at Colfax, October 4. Photo by Roger Staab

Scheduled Events & Notices



Nov 28 Colfax Caboose Work Day 9AM-1PM

Nov 29 Potluck Dinner and Meeting (**NOTE: 6:30 PM start time for dinner**)
– Nomination of Board Members
– Presentation of two vintage SP films

No Meeting in December – Happy Holidays!

Next Meeting January 24th

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November Meeting – Thursday, 29 November, 6:30PM - DeWitt Senior Center

Annual Potluck Dinner meeting. Shirley is bringing ham. Bring your favorite dish to share.

November Program: Two Vintage SP Films

- Snow on the Run – features 1951-52 snowstorm
- This is My Railroad – Early Diesel Era

October Meeting and Program

President Jim Wood provided a summary of the many activities our club members have enjoyed over the past two months, including a field trip to the Coldstream area, two visits of UP 844 to the Donner route including stops in Colfax, and Colfax Railroad Days.

The October program consisted of members' slide shows of Colfax Railroad Days and the second visit of UP 844.

Colfax Caboose Update

Caboose project manager Tony Hesch is restarting the caboose work parties. The cupola is back under tarps to protect the interior from the rainy weather. Cupola windows have been removed and not yet replaced.

If you are interested in participating in the caboose renovation, please contact Tony at his new email address tonyhesch@wavecable.com.

Membership Renewal Time

It's time to send in your membership renewal. Member dues are our primary source of revenue to cover costs of publications, field trips, and other events. Note that effective in 2013 the board increased the fee for single membership to \$25. Additional cards for family members can be added for \$5 each. If you wish to add family members, please list primary member and family member name(s), and enclose \$5 additional for each family member. A card will be issued for each person.

Board Meeting/ Colfax Railroad Days Post-Mortem

Jim Wood convened a meeting on October 30 of board members and others who had participated in Colfax Railroad Days planning and execution. Main objective was to discuss what went well and not so well, and how we can improve the event for 2013.

First, a word of thanks to our club members and their volunteer efforts. We had enough volunteers so that

each person had plenty of time to take in the event and not feel tied to their volunteer post for the entire time. Staffing needs were reduced this year by not needing to staff the motor car rides, but the response was still excellent. Those from PSRHS who volunteered their time include:

Ron Wong	Shirley Belleville
Shelton Campbell	John Perry
Bruce Choate	Malcolm Frost
Bob Lee	Jim Rutherford
Tim Fagan	Claudia Fulton
Ken Young	Roger Staab
Tony Hesch	Peter Hills
Jay Hansell	Walt Wilson
Lonnie Dickson	Lee Ann Dickson
Brendan Compton	Dave Ferreira
Jim Wood	Bill Yoder
Paul Lanyi	

Attendance was down compared with last year's event, with an estimated 2000 visitors this year over the two days. Advance promotion and advertising of the event fell far short of the 2011 effort, due in part to the uncertainty of what railroad equipment might be coming from UP. All agreed that we need to advertise sooner and more actively, even before we know for certain what equipment will be on display.

We also need to involve other regional non-profits and railroad employee groups in fund-raising and staging the event. Part of our club's mission is to display and convey the railroad history of the area, and the Railroad Days event helps us fulfill that mission. But the railroad, area businesses and region as a whole benefit from the publicity and visitors. Involvement by other groups would help with the planning and costs of putting on the event.

Following the discussion of Railroad Days, the board took action to fill the board vacancy left by Tony Hesch's resignation. Dave Ferreira was appointed to fill the remaining term of Tony's board position.

Election of Board Members

Terms of board members Peter Hills, Walt Wilson and Bill Yoder expire at the end of 2012. Nominations will be accepted at the November meeting to fill these board positions for the next three years. If you are interested in running for one of the board positions, please notify Jim Wood at 320-1276 prior to the November meeting or have your name placed in nomination at the meeting. Election will be held at the January member meeting.

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From the Archives

September Photo: The photo at right from Signor's book Donner Pass shows an eastbound view of single-track snowsheds at Andover, between Tunnel 13 and Horseshoe Curve in Coldstream Canyon. At one time Andover boasted a turntable and siding for fire trains. Photo at lower right shows roughly the same scene today. At lower left is the view westbound from Andover toward tunnels 13 and 42. *Lower photos by Roger Staab*



November Photo: Where and when was this photo taken, what action is underway, and what is noticeably missing in the scene? Answers in the January newsletter.

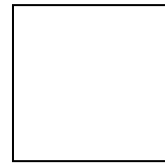


CPRR/SP Donner Route Timeline: During the harsh winter of 1866/1867, Cisco was abandoned and tracks were kept open to Alta. Grading and track work was impossible on the summit, so crews were sent to Truckee. Teamsters hauled a locomotive, 40 cars, and material to build 40 miles of track to Coburn's Station (Truckee). Track-laying forces did not return to the summit until June 1867.

Please forward comments, suggestions or information for inclusion in future issues of the newsletter.

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To:

Passing Scene – Member Mike Haire captured this terrific view of UP 844 and its consist crossing Long Ravine Bridge on October 4. The train had just departed Colfax after a 45 minute stop witnessed by a delighted crowd of onlookers. Train buffs gathered at numerous locations along the way to catch a glimpse of history as this classic steam engine made its way over Donner Pass on its return trip to Wyoming.



Monthly Meeting...

The next PSRHS meeting will be held at **6:30 PM** on **Thursday, November 29th** in the Multi-purpose Senior Citizen Center at the Dewitt Complex in Auburn (enter on D Ave.). See Extra Board section on web site for map and directions.

Membership Information

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

- Monthly Meetings (4th Thursday) and Newsletter
- Member Activities, Presentations and Field Trips
- Display and Restoration Projects

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