



The Peninsular Lumberman

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The Official Newsletter of the

*Peninsular Railway & Lumbermen's Museum
& The Simpson Railroad*

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Peninsular Railway and Lumbermen's Museum is a registered nonprofit 501(c) 3 Organization dedicated to preserving and interpreting the rich railroad and logging history of the Olympic Peninsula of Washington State.



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Christmas Open House a success

After weeks of work by our volunteers the Simpson Railroad held it's Holiday Open House and fundraiser. Named "Christmas in the Coach " it was the first self promoted public event were we were the sole reason visitors decided to enjoy a couple hours of their time. As coach work progressed it was apparent we had an opportunity to show her off and give everyone a glimpse of what's is to come next year. Coach 1212 was the center piece of the day and our first chance to show her off. With short notice plans were made to hold a holiday event and museum fundraiser. Inside held hats, books and other items were for sale, a chance to sit in a coach , and watch one of the Simpson Railroad videos. And of course the main attraction inside was a visit with Santa. The speeder rides around the Sortyard were predictably a big hit. We took our guests on a short ride down the loop track then switched over to the main and down to locomotive 1200 and returned. The ride totaled about 3 miles and lasted between 25– 30 minutes. Speeder 5-3 and 5-5 held the honors and left several times together loaded with no empty seats. Other activities included tours of caboose 201, Locomotive 900 - with chance to blow the horn (everyone wants to blow the horn). *Continue page 3*



Above: One of the Families who took the time to visit Santa in coach 1212

Right: Sitting in the engineers seat do you think he took a time or two blowing the horn-the smile tells you the answer.





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Christmas Open House a success

In total over 200 persons drove out to the Sortyard ,west of downtown Shelton, to have a visit and see what the Simpson Railroad is all about. None one left Saturday disappointed with many offerings wonderful feedback to many volunteers. Many encouraged us to do more of these family friendly events and are looking forward to the day we offer rides out of downtown Shelton. So look for more of these events to come in 2020 on our way to becoming fully operational some time next year.





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Horn Blow

The Christmas event was not the only event the Simpson Railroad held since our last newsletter. An event we called “the Horn Blow” was held on September 21st using engine #900. This smaller scale event was organized by long time Simpson employee and board member Pete Replinger. It gave those who collect diesel air horns a rare chance to mount them on a real locomotive and hear what they sound like. In total 6 participants brought over 20 different styles, makes and colors. Once mounted on engine 900 Pete took the owner on a short run up and down the main giving them the chance to pull the “whistle cord”. Being out in the Sortyard and away from homes and neighbors gives us the opportunity to make a bunch of noise without bothering anyone around us.

Air horns of all types and colors are ready for their turn on engine 900



Christmas trees for the record

Recently the City of Shelton set a new world record reclaiming its title as Christmas tree capital of the world on December 7th. A total of 797 Christmas trees created a maze of lit trees shattering the record of 559. The trees were part of the Christmas town, USA festival which pays homage to the town's rich timber heritage. Some of those trees were from the Simpson Railroad ROW, which helped us maintain and clear the ROW. At one time box cars full of trees left Shelton for destinations all over North America. Once the Festival was over those trees were donated, replanted or available for purchase with proceeds going to local charities and families in need.



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5-5 continues to visit train shows

September 21st and 22nd the 5-5 ventured up to the north peninsula area for a visit to the North Olympic Peninsula Railroaders show and swap meet. The show was held at the Clallam County Fairground and organized by John Kumparak, a Simpson Railroad Volunteer. Next up was the Lewis County Model Railroad Club show and swap meet held at the Lewis County Fair Grounds October 12/13th. This year the 5-5 was outside and greeted visitors as walked up the shows entrance. One common observation is the 5-5 has become a popular addition to area train

shows, with some show organizers asking for it to attend. That shows that the word is getting out about ourselves and our mission. Additionally the shows create a little revenue from the sale of items to pay daily expenses.



The 5-5 sits outside the Lewis County train show greeting visitors

Puyallup Train Show 2020

Put January 18th and 19th on your calendar. The 5-5 will be visiting the Puyallup train show for the second time. This popular show is one of the busiest in the Puget Sound region. Come by and say hi or if you are interested volunteer for an afternoon. As always come get your hat, coffee mugs, or book at the train show.



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Working on the Simpson

Since September the majority of the work on the Simpson Railroad centered around coach 1212. Starting in September volunteer Dale Campbell spent some time removing a partition and fire alarm system that were added for stationary non - railroad use. Once completed and having a better idea of the scope of work needed for interim use, our Holiday event work parties were held. A total of three work parties were held, the first two on November 24th and December 7th concentrated on a variety of tasks needing to be completed. Amongst those items, and not a complete list, was the removal of the old carpet, cleaning walls and ceiling, removal of non railroad and unnecessary electrical conduit, opening of the vestibule doors.



George pulls obsolete wiring from under 1212

Left: Janice cleans window—a never ending task on a coach.

Center: With the carpet gone Kamela Kaivo takes on the task of cleaning the floor.

Right: Pete P wipes years of dirt and grim from the luggage racks





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Working on the Simpson

One of the more noticeable items addressed was “Santa’s room”. Having had a small equipment fire, the room was beyond cleaning. Minor floor and wall repairs were performed and the room was painted with a coverage primer to hide all the smoke staining. December 8th volunteer began the process of decorating for the Christmas in the Coach event.



Before and after photos of Santa’s room. This was the former men’s



Left: Proper coach seat installed for event

Right: Cory gives the coach a much need bath.

Center: Beginning to look like Christmas.





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Working on the Simpson

Maintenance activities: Besides coach work and getting ready for our Holiday event, a few other tasks have seen attention the past few months. Such as locomotive 1200 getting a new voltage regulator, Caboose 201 getting it's diesel stove working again. Out on the tracks volunteer Randal Washburn spent several days with a wrench tightening bolts and identifying others in need of more help than a wrench can provide.

With speeder rides being offered, Cory Wheeler , Pete Panos , and new volunteer to us (but not new to the Simpson) Michael Carlson spent time clearing tress and black berries from around the tracks where the speeders, with visitors, were going to operate.

Work parties: Watch for work parties to repair the loop track, coach 1212 and other related work in early 2020. If you have time and want to help, let us know we will be glad to let you know when we will be out and working on the Simpson. Or watch for announcements on Facebook or our web site.

Volunteer Appreciation

The last months of 2019 saw the Simpson volunteers step up in a big way. Planning, organizing, and putting on our Christmas in the Coach Open House and fund raiser. The event marks our first self -promoted public event centered on the Simpson Railroad. Marketing efforts, donating decorations, cleaning up 1212, handling speeder rides and tours were taken care of by Volunteers and Board members. With the efforts of each volunteer the event was well liked and successful and will lead on to other events in the near future . The following volunteers have spent hundreds of hours in support of the Simpson Railroad.

Randal Pratt, Michael Carlson, Ray Correll, Les and Marina Bagley, Kamela Kaivo and kids, Josh Kaivo, Janice and George Vocke, Cory Wheeler, Dale Campbell, Pete Panos, Mike Huntzinger, Jenn Graff

New Volunteers and Members to the Simpson RR

The Simpson Railroad is pleased to add new volunteers and members. Your Help and support is greatly appreciated by everyone at the Simpson Railroad.

Michael Carlson, Ray Correll, Lee Hatch, George & Suzanne Donovan, Edward Nelson & James Abney, Jenn Graf Welcome to the Simpson RR family.



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Simpson News

New Board Member

Welcome our newest board member Dale Campbell. Dale comes to the PRLM Board of Directors with prior Railway Museum board experience to offer. Working on coach 1212 & speeders 53 & 55, producing marketing & display materials, the Simpson RR website and this newsletter are some of the contributions that you may have already seen from him.



Historic Photo for December

This Pete Replinger photo is from May 17 1974, some 44 plus years ago. Here engine #900 is with it's water tender at the Canyon River transfer picking up a train load of logs to head to town with.



Pete replinger Photo



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Please help preserve a part of Shelton's heritage by considering a donation or membership to the PRLM at [simpsonrailroad.org /Donate](http://simpsonrailroad.org/Donate) or membership Paypal enabled

Or send it to the following with the form below to: **Peninsular Railway and Lumberman's Museum**
P.O. Box 1333 Shelton Washington 98584

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Deadlines for submissions: the 25th of the proceeding month.

Submission and publication policy: Submissions should be concentrated on logging and railroading on and around the Olympic Peninsula and PRLM activities and information in particular. All submissions should be positive in nature and reflect the values of the PRLM and the community's for which we serve. We reserve the right to withhold any submitted articles which do not meet these requirements or are deemed inappropriate for this publication.