



# The Peninsular Lumberman

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The Official Newsletter of the

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

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## In the March issue

- Page 2&3:** Working on the Simpson
- Page 4:** New and more
- Page 5:** 20% for the Simpson
- Page 6&7** Out on Display
- Page 8:** Volunteer hours for 2019
- Page 9:** T-Shirts
- Page 10:** Historic photo for March

*Please note that our Easter Open House has been canceled.*

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





# The Peninsular Lumberman

## *Working on the Simpson*

Even in the rainy weather much of the focus this winter has been on track repair in the Sort yard. Those repairs concentrated on the loop track. The loop track takes off just after you cross Harts Lake Rd just as the track enter the Sort yard. The track loops to the south and follows the southern boundary until it turns back north and reconnects with the main one the West end of the Sort yard. That loop around the Sort yard is the basis of the tracks nickname of “the loop track”. Some time in the not so distance past two sections where removes, one not so neatly with a bulldozer, for creation of a settling pond. Reconnecting the loop track offers a unique loop for speed-

er operations during fundraisers and to enhance future operations. First up was the removal of a short unusable stub track that provided the needed rail and hardware for the planned repairs. The first repair was a fairly simple rail replacement for one that had been broke and removed some time ago.



*Above:* Cory and Michael pull spikes before removing a rail.

*Right:* Rail replacement area.

*Far Right:* After bolting the rail in place it is gauged and spiked in place. Here Cory takes his turn with the spike maul.

Dale Campbell photos!







# The Peninsular Lumberman

## *Working on the Simpson*

The second repair was a more involved track reconstruction. The track had been removed, not so delicately removed with a bulldozer, to build and give access to a settling pond. Adding to this was an unused switch which spur had long been removed. Still having solid switch ties the switch was removed. Those salvaged ties will be used to replace deteriorated one's out on the line. With the switch removed some 150 ft. or so of track now had to be rebuilt. For most of February and into the first part of March work parties completed the reconstruction and a gravel crossing which allowed access the settling pond. With the majority of the work had been completed straw was spread around the disturbed ground to prevent any excessive erosion from reaching the settling pond. Special thank goes the Wheeler family for providing a tractor which helped greatly!

*Both :* The 5-5 is sitting on the freshly connected loop track. Also shown is straw was spread to prevent soil erosion. Cory Wheeler photos!







# The Peninsular Lumberman

## News and More

### Seattle Foundation Grant

For the Second year in a row the Seattle foundation has awarded the PRLM a grant to help with development and reaching the goal of starting historic excursion operations by years end. This second year grant helps establishes our credibility as a museum. A special Thanks goes to the Seattle Foundation.

### Donation recognition

Recently the PRLM and the Simpson Railroad placed window stickers in the windows of Locomotives #900 and 1200, speeders 5-3, 5-4, & 5-5 along with Caboose 201. Those stickers acknowledge the generous donation of those historic pieces of Simpson Timber Railroad equipment by Sierra Pacific Industries.

### Web Site news

The Simpson Railroad website continues to grow in popularity. To date our website has been viewed in 16 countries around the world. Website visits have been from as far away places like Kenya & Kuwait. With Australia being our third most visited country. As example the first 8 days of March, on the strength of the loop track repair saw over 500 visits. The single day record currently sits at 283 visits. That is pretty good for a 10mile RR working towards starting excursion operation late this year. The majority of those visits come from information on social media outlets. Social media can be a strong allies in railroad and history preservation reaching many who would not know of our efforts otherwise.



*Right:* Looking out the window of caboose 201 everyone will be reminded of SPI's generosity. Dale Campbell photo





# The Peninsular Lumberman

## *20 in 2020 for the Simpson*

### ***Tax refund donation***

2020 is shaping up to be an historic year here at the Simpson Railroad. The loop track has been reconnected to aid with events and enhance future operations. Work on coach 1212 is scheduled to resume this spring to return it to service in anticipation of being used in a limited excursion serve by the end of 2020. With tax season here and many of you having done, or will be soon doing, your 2019 taxes. The Simpson Railroad asks that you think of us when that refund check arrives. 20% of that refund can go a long way in getting the railroad up and running with some limited event operations outside the Sort yard by years end.

### ***\$20 monthly web site donation***

We have another way to donate \$20 in 2020 for the Simpson. On the front page, along with the header on all pages, of our website now is a PayPal donate button. Click that yellow donate button, fill in \$20 (or any amount) and check the monthly donation box before check out. It's that simple and your set for the rest of the year.

**Any and all donations are greatly appreciated and valued for its support of the Simpson Railroad.**





# The Peninsular Lumberman

## Out on Display

The Simpson Railroad continues to be out on display at many of the areas train shows. Back to where we started, for a second year in a row we attended the Great Train Show at the Puyallup fair grounds January 18th and 19th. This show is the largest we attend all year. And one we can not miss. Of course speeder 5-5 was in attendance and drew much attention. Learning from past events we had a much better lay out. That lay out helped visitors see they could climb into a life-size speeder. Of course our display and for sale items were within easy view. This show was by far our most successful to date. Next up was the 29th annual United Northwestern train show held at the Monroe fairgrounds February 28th & 29th. Again speeder 5-5 attended and new to this show was the new Simpson Railroad T-shirts (more on those latter).

*Below:* The new more open layout at the Puyallup train show.

*Right:* Who said girls can't drive the speeders.

Dale Campbell photo's







# The Peninsular Lumberman

## Out on Display



*Left:* A common scene this year is a line up, next to the display and commerce tables, to take a turn driving the 5-5.

*Below:* every kid just has to push the horn button.

Dale Campbell photo!

*Below:* Fun for the entire family. Here an entire family climbs aboard to get a unique photo and family memory. Much of the Simpson Railroad future will be Families and Family friendly events. Dale Campbell photo!







# The Peninsular Lumberman

## Volunteer hours record for 2019

2019 saw an increase not only in volunteer hours recorded but the number of volunteers in support of the Simpson Railroad. I am sure 2020 will exceed those total once the year ends. Here is the break down by monthly totals for 2019. Volunteer hours are recorded in two main categories administration and active work in railroad service which includes work parties and events. Below is the break down of hours recorded by month. Please make sure to record your hours. Many hours do not get recorded so the real totals are most likely a bit more than shown.

January -177, February -190.5, March -121, April -295.5, May -238.75, June -314.25, July -303.5, August -330, September -243.5, October -214.5, November -101, December -419.5.

Grand totals of 2949 hours volunteers have given to the Simpson Railroad.

Those hours were put in by a total of 44 volunteers throughout 2019. Thank You very much for your dedicated service!

Les Bagley, Michelle Bragg, Bill Busacca, Dale Campbell, Mike Carlson, Ray Correll, Jim Davenport, Charlie Dockins, Jen Graf, Mark Greenfield, Lee Hatch, Joel Hawthorn, Jacob Higgins, Mike Huntzinger, Carly Kaivo, Josh Kaivo, Kamala Kaivo, Mattie Kaivo, John Kumparek, Rick Mendenhall, Tom Mendenhall, Edward Nelson, James & Kat Norvell, Rob O'Neill, Cynthia Newman, Doug Newman, Pete Panos, Randall Pratt, Pete Replinger, Johnny Ringos, Barrett Scott, Bill Van Slyke, Marianne Smiley, Ted Svendsen, Mark Vocke, George Vocke, Janice Vocke, Randy Washburne, Barbara Wheeler, Cory Wheeler, Jim Wheeler, Rachel, and Justin.





# The Peninsular Lumberman

## New T-shirts

We once again we have Simpson Railroad T-shirts! These Black shirts with white graphics look sharp on anyone who wears one. The front features the name Simpson Railroad with "Simpson" being it the railroads custom font which was created years ago by Simpson Timber. Under the Simpson logo is our location of Shelton Washington in an arch that is representative of the famous Vance creek bridge. The back has a large line drawing of engine 900 with the Simpson font logo under. Having these shirts available is part of our fundraising activities and have already become a popular item. They will be available at any of the shows we attend, one of our meetings or if you send us an email or note, and you size is still available, we may be able to have one brought to a work party.

**Price for members is \$20, non members a regular price of \$25.**



**Simpson  
Railroad**



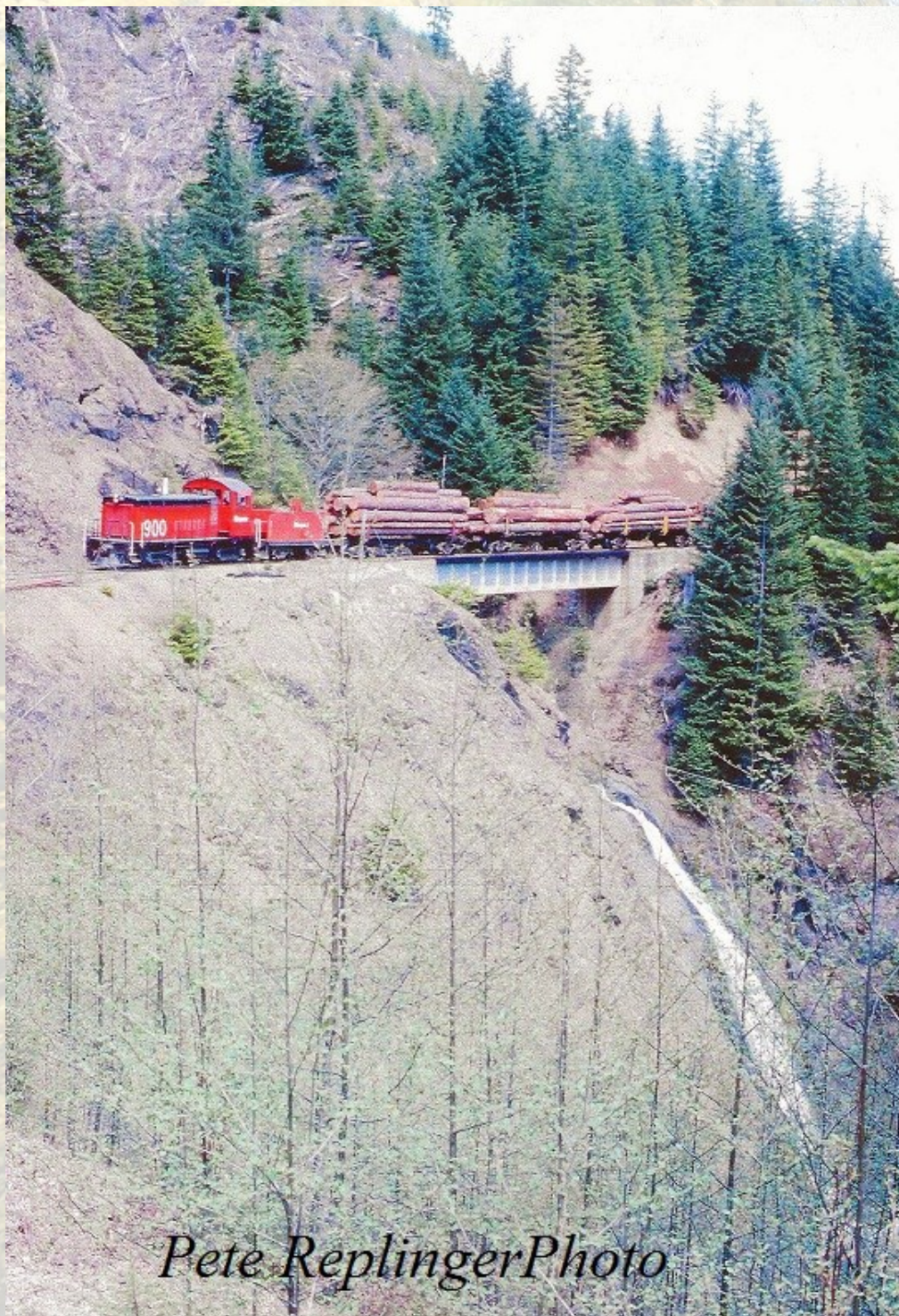
**Simpson  
Railroad**





# The Peninsular Lumberman

## Historic Photo for March



*Pete Replinger Photo*

Pete Replinger once again provides the historic photo for this edition. Here engine #900 is at Falls creek, on the Govey branch, with its water tender, for fire control, and a train full of logs heading to the dry sort yard in May 1976. I bet by the looks of it Pete just stopped the train to take this great photo. Wouldn't our passenger trains look good at this location.





# The Peninsular Lumberman

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

**Membership \$25 per year**

**Donation**

**\$25 \$50 \$75 \$100 Other \_\_\_\_\_**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-Mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP:** \_\_\_\_\_

**All donations are tax deductible** Peninsular Railway and Lumbermen's Museum is a registered non-profit 501(c)3 Organization dedicated to preserving and interpreting the rich railroad and logging history of the Olympic Peninsula of Washington State.

## **PRLM Officers, Directors & Board Members**

### **Officers:**

President Josh Kaivo (360)589-9201

Treasurer:

Secretary Les Bagley (360)908-1734

### **Board Members:**

Peter Replinger (360)426-8386

Cory Wheeler: (253)-389-1608

Mike Huntzinger

Dale Campbell: (253) 224-8834

## **Newsletter Staff**

Editor: Dale Campbell

Distribution/Editor : Janice Vocke

Historic photos and information: Pete Replinger

For submission/email address: [contact@simpsonrailroad.org](mailto:contact@simpsonrailroad.org)

**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.