



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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Museum signs lease for the Simpson Railroad

On February 20th 2019 museum members , volunteers and supporters gathered in the Railroad Tap Station's Banquet room in downtown Shelton. The occasion was to celebrate the signing of the lease with Green Diamond (Simpson's land company) for the Simpson Railroad. Among our guests was Lisa Perry from Sierra Pacific industries and the Chamber Of Commerce (front left) , John Larson from the Polson Museum in Hoquiam and Chrissy Williams from the Mason County Historic Preservation Commission. Lisa has supported our museum over the last few years on behalf of S.P.I. She helped arrange the donation of the remaining Simpson equipment, such as locomotives 900 & 1200 and speeders 5-3 & 5-5, for example. John Larson is the director of the Polson Museum in Hoquiam which has close ties to the lumber industry itself. He has been a proponent of our efforts and is excited to see the Simpson being preserved and came to show his support. Chrissy Williams is from the Mason County Historic Preservation Commission and some one the museum will be partnering with as the preservation and operation of the Simpson moves along. PRLM President Josh Kaivo (front center), Board member Pete Replinger (front right), PRLM Treasurer Janice Vocke, PRLM Secretary Les Bagley ,and board member Cory Wheeler stand left to right for a commemorative photo of the lease signing. Many faithful volunteers came out to show their support and enjoyed Hors-d'oeuvres, drinks, a celebratory toast and some good company.

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Museum signs lease for the Simpson Railroad

In negotiations for over 1 calendar year the signed lease allows the PRLM to operate and preserve the remaining 10 miles of Simpson Timber Railroad (A museum goal). The length of negotiations were needed in order to produce an acceptable lease arrangement that made sense for all parties involved. Several points had to be worked out to everyone's satisfaction, which takes time to complete and is not something you should rush into. Insurance requirements, length of terms, minimum maintenance requirements and overall liability concerns are just a start of what needed to be thought through carefully and language produced that satisfied both sides. Unfortunately while negotiations took place many items such as track work and fundraising had to be put on hold until the railroad was officially part of the museum. This made for a quieter 2018 than had been initially anticipated and planned for. Now with the railroad secured we are moving forward once again (*see big news items page 7*) and a very busy and exciting 2019 is forecasted. The first and most important item will be fund raising to pay for the many expenses needed to start operating and maintaining the Railroad. Items like operating insurance, coaches, crew training and the many maintenance items for equipment and Right Of Way will need to be taken care of before self generating income can support the organization's basic everyday needs. Come and help us with the rebirth of the "Simpson Railroad". Watch for work party announcements this spring and summer. A variety of railroad and non-railroad items are needed in order to begin and sustain railroad operations. If you would like to help, have a specific skill to lend, or just have the desire to contribute, lets us know. We will have many opportunities in the coming months no matter the skill or physical abilities you possess **everyone is welcome**. **Of course monetary donations are always accepted and needed.**



Above: information and display items for those on hand



Above: Museum members & supporters gather to celebrate the lease.



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The 5-5 goes on display

With a lease agreement forthcoming, Speeder 5-5 (pronounced by Simpson as five–five for radio and safe operating practices) went on tour to raise awareness and the profile of our organization. With only work in Mill #5, out of public view, to prepare equipment for a busy 2019, it was decided to get back in the public eye. The goal was to start building back the momentum and excitement the PRLM had seen in the early months of 2018 and show everyone that we are moving forward once again. The 5-5's first stop was a quickly arranged display in downtown Shelton next to "Tollie" (The three truck shay in downtown Shelton) with Santa and decorated with Christmas lights on Sunday December 16th & 23rd. Visitors stopped by to talk to volunteers in the gazebo and kids got to touch and sit in a real piece of railroad equipment. But with the rain on both days the real action was the many local folks who stopped next to the 5-5 and rolled down there windows to take a look and read the display boards (just our presence made an impact). The Shelton display was a good dress rehearsal for our



Left: The 5-5 Sitting next to the log car and caboose in downtown Shelton.

Right: With Christmas lights on, volunteers and (Santa) stay dry in the gazebo.

Dale C Photos



much bigger showing at the Puyallup Train show held at the Puyallup Fairgrounds January 19 and 20th. Being the "new kid" at the show we drew a lot of interest not only from the many train show visitors but also from veteran train show display attendees. The 5-5 in particular was a hit with the many kids who come to get train overload. A chance to sit in the operators seat and press the horn button (with a reduced noise level was a big hit). Why bring a gang car the size of the 5-5 to a mostly model train show? Well it provided a large visible presence and was a big attention grabber that can be seen from across the building. It also provides a popular conversation starter of who we are that was hard to miss. Of course we had the opportunity for those in attendance to support the PRLM and its mission with T-shirts, kids engineer hats, copies of board member Pete Replinger's books from "Logging on the Salt Chuck" and his new "Shafer Brothers" books along with copies of museum member Joel Hawthorn's "Simpson Railroad" for sale. Many stopped to read about the PRLM and its mission from the new display boards. Several hundred rack cards were handed out, several donations received, a few new members signed up. But the big draw was the 5-5 which everyone just had to check out. In all a very successful two days on display in Puyallup.

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The 5-5 goes on display



Left top and bottom: Some of the many kids enjoying the 5-5 under the watchful eyes of Janice.

Top Right : set up and ready to go the Friday before

Middle: The constant line of kids and others who were checking out the 5-5



Bottom: Museum President Josh Kaivo "helps" in loading the 5-5 with his Dukes of Hazard impersonations. At the same time Cory watches for any issues and helps Rob O'Neill from the United Northwestern winch the 5-5 onto the trailer.



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The 5-5 goes on display

The next stop for the 5-5 was in Monroe, Washington and the large United Northwestern model Railroad show and swap meet held February 23rd and 24th at the Monroe fairgrounds. Seeing the 5-5 in Puyallup the UNW model railroad group “hinted” that they had room for the speeder at their show. The show in Monroe gave us an opportunity to show ourselves off in a region where we may not be known as well known in. New for the Monroe show was a larger availability of engineer hats and books. Also a newly constructed donation box made with one of the logos from the speeders made its debut. Once again the 5-5 turned out to be a big hit with everyone in attendance. As before many stopped by, grabbed a rack card, got information on who we are, and gave well wishes for our success. A special thanks goes to Cory Wheeler for transporting, housing and having the 5-5 ready for its display tour which will continue thru 2019 at some of the events listed on the next page.



Above left: Brother takes his sister for a ride on the 5-5.
Left: Janice and Michele taking care of business at the show.
Above: Les chatting with a show visitor.
Photos from Les.



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Upcoming events

Building on the success of the previous shows the PRLM and the Simpson Railroad is scheduling our participation in a variety of events throughout 2019. The benefits of these events help us show who we are, what we have done, where we are heading, and that we are an active museum worth supporting. Having items available for purchase such as books and hats is one avenue of fundraising in our quest to start passenger operations in 2020. Here is a listing of upcoming events for 2019 all being in and around the greater Mason County /Shelton area. Many details are still in the planning stages, so look more information on these as they get closer. If you are interested in lending a hand, drop us a note on Facebook or through our website listed below.

April 6th & 7th-Lewis County Model Railroad and Swap Meet: Southwest Washington Fairgrounds Blue Pavilion building located at 2555 N. National Ave., Chehalis, WA 98532.

April 27th & 28th - Olympus Rally: Large event at the sort yard /Mill 5 area with work party the Friday before. Last year locomotive 900 and caboose 201 ventured over to the public area for display.

May 4th and 5th - Old Timers' Historical Fair in Matlock: Matlock Washington is just a few miles beyond end of track and an event we have participated in before.

May 7th - Possible speeder event and tour: Organized by Motorcar Operators West (NARCO) a group dedicated to the preservation and safe operation of vintage railroad motorcars. They will be touring various tourist and short line railroads around the northwest. They have asked for an opportunity to operate and tour our line. **This event is still in the planning stages and is subject to change or cancelation.** It will be limited to active members only and subject to an RSVP (no public rides) with speeders 5-5 and 5-3 as possible participants.

June 1st and 2nd - Shelton Washington Forest festival: This is the Shelton's big event. We will participating in the parade down Railroad avenue thru downtown and have a exhibit booth over on Loop Field off of West Franklin Street (very close to Knights Yard). Will be front and center in the Shelton community.

July 12th, 13th & 14th -"Power of the Pacific Northwest" Show: celebrating vintage farming, forestry and maritime machinery. Hosted by the Antique Farm Engine and Tractor Association of Shelton - Branch 245 of the "National Early Day Gas Engine and Tractor Association". Held at the Old Iron Show grounds - 11 E Johns Creek Drive Dr., Shelton, WA 98584. Look for more information on this exciting fun event. www.edgeta.com/event/nw-regional-show-hosted-by-branch-245/

Friday July 19th - Community Expo Street Fair: More information to come.



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Big news items

PRLM receives first grant

The Seattle Foundation has awarded the PRLM its first official grant. \$1500.00 was awarded to our museum to help with development and obtaining the goal of 2020 passenger operations. A grant awarded from a recognized and well established foundation like the Seattle Foundation will aid and give credibility when approaching other foundations, and donors for their support. A very special thanks goes out to the Seattle Foundation.

Economic Development Council

Recently board members Les Bagley, Janice Vocke and member John Kumparak met with Mason County Economic Development Council staff members Karin Leaf and Jennifer Baria. This initial meeting is a step in establishing ourselves and becoming an active participant in the Shelton and greater Mason county area. The exchanging of ideas, thoughts, and possibilities these types of meetings produce will help us bring scenic excursion train operations on a reborn Simpson railroad. An operating train the public can enjoy and experience will bring many benefits to the Shelton community. An excursion train leaving the city of Shelton would certainly bring needed tourist dollars to the economy of Shelton, as example. This initial meeting was a step in our goal of train operations in 2020. Doing so cooperatively and with open conversations creates a win-win situation for everyone involved. We look forward to working with the EDC, The city of Shelton and those in the Greater Shelton-Mason County area as we move forward.

Licensing agreement

Another important step for the PRLM is a licensing agreement with the Simpson Timber Company for use of the "Simpson Railroad" name. That agreement allows the PRLM to use, maintain, and preserve the name "Simpson Railroad" for railroad purposes. We will be using that name for railroad operations, marketing and a general identity for our organization. Using that name gives us an established identity and presence that has been established for decades. It will be instantly recognizable with the public, donors, and will be a source of pride for volunteers. When the name Simpson Railroad is used, everyone will know who we are without a need of a more detailed explanation. Additionally it will be a living and lasting legacy of Simpson Timber to those who founded Simpson Timber so long ago.



Above: Les, Janice and John K (taking the picture) sit down with Karin Leaf and Jennifer Baria of the Economic Development Council to discuss the road ahead for the PRLM.



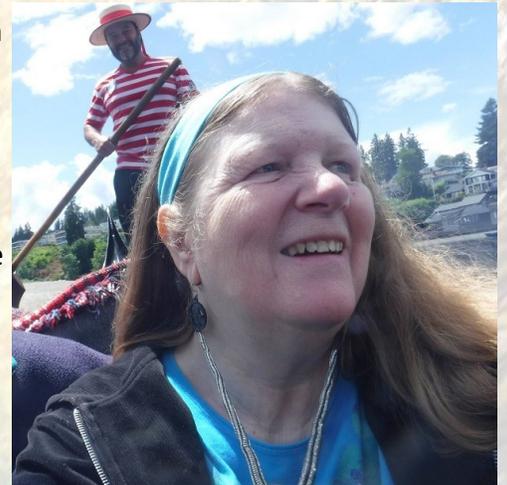
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Welcome to the board

Janice Vocke and Cory Wheeler both have accepted positions on the PRLM board of directors. Both bring fresh energy and a positive attitude to the board and museum which has already been displayed. When you see them give them a congratulation.

Janice Vocke:

Janice lives in the Shelton area and has taken the position of treasurer. Originally she worked in the mental health/counseling/health field, usually with senior and disabled clients. She owned a courier service and limousine company, specializing in special events and custom tours. When disabled seniors she knew needed help, she returned to her original field and cared for them. As an active community volunteer, she has been on 30 non-profits' boards. She was once nominated for the Chamber of Commerce's Citizen Of The Year. Loving to travel, she has been to 13 countries, 49 states in the USA, and 8 Canadian provinces. She and her husband George always travel with guidebooks for historic trains, covered bridges, lighthouses, and historic roads. Logging trains have a special place in her heart as one saved her dad's life, after a horrible logging accident, by rushing him to the hospital. She has been a PRLM volunteer since 2017. Janice has hit the ground running representing the museum. She can be seen at Mason County Chamber of Commerce events, organizing museum functions, and work parties. She is conducting an ongoing research on the many avenues of fundraising and handles many of the day to day duties in and around Shelton for the museum.



Cory Wheeler :

Cory has been one of the driving forces in the maintenance and rehabilitation of the museum's maintenance equipment. Alongside Bill Clark, Cory has taken on such projects as the fuel tank removal and cleaning for the regulator. His can-do and no-task-is-too-big-to-tackle attitude is infectious among the volunteers who have worked alongside him. He also has been the 5-5's chauffeur to the various events it has attended. He brings a hands-on workman's perspective and representation to the board.





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P R L M V o l u n t e e r s :

The PRLM wishes to thank following individuals listed below who have volunteered their time and participated in a variety of ways in helping the organization reach its goals since our last newsletter in December 2018. These volunteers in January contributed a total of 177 hours. February saw another 190.5 hours being contributed. Special thanks goes to Rob O'Neil a member of the United Northwestern Model Railroad Club and Union Pacific engineer who made unloading and loading of the 5-5 much easier at the Puyallup train show with his truck mounted winch. Thank you

Janice and George Vocke, Cory Wheeler, Josh Kaivo, Dale Campbell, Les Bagley, Pete Replinger, James Norvel, Mike Huntzinger, Michelle Bragg, John Kumparak, William Clark, Randy Washburne, and Joel Hawthorn.

Museum Collection Spotlight: Speeder 5-5

Brief History

The 5-5 was built in 1976 by Fairmont Motor Cars and delivered late that year to Simpson Timber in Shelton. It arrived with Orange exterior and yellow interior paint and given number 100. In its 42 plus years of service the 5-5 has never left Simpson rails (a rarity). It has spent its entire working life for Simpson Timber on the Olympic Peninsula of Washington state. It was purchased to aid in track maintenance and inspection of the vast Simpson rail network. That function has continued to this day, having served with the PRLM and its volunteer crews on the same railroad it was built for. The 55 was donated to the PRLM in 2017 by Sierra Pacific Industries. Since being owned by the museum it has received some much needed attention. For starters, or stoppers, the vacuum powered brake system needed rehabilitation with new brake blocks and remanufactured linkage components. The Ford straight 6 power plant received a much needed tune up and a few new parts & pieces. Replacement of deteriorated floor board & panels, side rails, side curtains, curtain chains and replacement black vinyl seats completed the planned work to insure its reliability and safe use in the coming months.

Specs

Built by: Fairmont Motor Cars

Serial Number: 242822

Model: A-8C Gang Car

Weight: 4550 lb.

Drive Train: Ford 6 Cylinder, 4 wheel Drive 4, Heavy Duty Transmission

Capacity: 14 persons (very friendly persons-Fairmont spec)





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Please help preserve a part of Shelton's heritage by considering a donation or membership to the PRLM at peninsularrailway.org /Donate or membership Paypal enabled

Or send with the form below to:

Peninsular Railway and Lumbermen'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 nonprofit 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

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Vice President

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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.