

Yakima Valley Trolleys

YVT BULLETIN

SPRING 2009

Trolley Wire Restraining Expected to Begin Soon

Scott Neel has been working diligently with Pacific Power & Light and the City of Yakima to complete the final details needed before wire restringing on the Selah line can begin. There are numerous procedures to go through to bring the wiring up to code. Although one might think putting the trolley and feeder wires back up where they were originally attached would be a simple task, unfortunately there were many things that did not meet present electrical codes and all of these aberrations must now be addressed before wire can go back up.

Bob Desgrosellier from the City's Engineering Department has helped us as well as PP&L's field engineer, and although

there remain a few hoops for us to jump through, it is hoped that wire restringing can begin this summer.

In preparation for the installation of an alarm in the new overhead wire system, **Mark Fredrickson** built and wired a relay control box and installed it during our work party on April 4th. This relay system will give precise location to the dispatcher in the event of an attempted wire theft and police will be directed to the thieves' location. The use of aluminum feeder wire instead of copper, plus the declining price of copper will all combine to lessen the chances that we will suffer any more wire loss in the future.

Santa Trolley Hauls Many Kids

Over 360 people rode the Santa Trolley in December and everyone had a good time seeing the smiling faces of the kids when they met Santa on the trolley. In one day we collected over \$1000 in fares, gift sales and donations. Thanks go to many people for making the 2008 Santa Trolley a success. **John Epperson** again did a great job playing the title role. **Paul Edmondson** motored, ran the gift shop and helped with

crowd control. **Mary Edmondson** served refreshments, baked cookies, made *delicious* taco soup for the volunteers, and brought a boom box for Christmas music.

Charlie Cripps donated a coffee urn, brought supplies and helped wherever help was needed. **Liz Brown** as Mrs. Claus hailed people from 3rd Avenue to come ride the trolleys, decorated the trolley and took many photos of the kids and Santa. **Scott Neel** fixed the brake valves and did most of the trolley motoring. **Ed Neel** got the park-

ing lot cleared and smoothed by the City's contractor, fixed the heater for the powerhouse and acted as docent in the museum. **Gregory Johnsen** got us advertising and publicity for the event, decorated the trolley and worked the crafts table in the powerhouse.

Lauri Johnsen baked cookies, worked the refreshments table and recruited several new members from the people who came to ride.

Rich Wilkens cleared the parking lot, flagged for the trolleys in the cold winter weather and took care of the numerous odds and ends that crop up on events like this. **Joe Rief** motored the trolley. **Crystal Knoblauch** and her family baked cookies, brought cocoa, served refreshments while daughter **Tysa** handed out candy canes to kids riding the trolley. **Dan Tamsky** worked the gift shop the entire day.

Bob Sullivan got publicity for the Santa runs by taking posters around to numerous Yakima businesses and posting them. **Yvonne Wilbur** baked cookies and helped get us publicity. **Bob Brown** provided a large hot water urn for refreshments and publicized the Santa Trolley in the Wray's Thriftway advertisements. **Jane Neel** and **June Neel** provided cookies and crayons for the craft table. **David Klingele** helped clean up

afterward and winterized the bathroom. **Operation Lifesaver** people had a display and handed out goodies to our visitors. If I have left anybody out, you have my apologies. Please let me know and I will list you in the next issue. A huge thanks to everyone who helped!



**Santa with another group of happy trolley riders.
Gregory Johnsen Photograph**

Spring Presentation and Work Party

On Friday, April 3rd, **Ken Johnsen** presented a public evening program on the YVT at the Women's Century Club in the Donald Mansion on the corner of Lincoln and Second Streets. The program was designed to attract new members and many of the attendees took membership applications home with them. The program consisted of a powerpoint slide and movie show of the history of the YVT and a look at what volunteers are doing now and some predictions for the future of Yakima's



Scott Neel and Rich Wilkens moved the switch stands to the opposite side of the switches so that trucks can pass through the gate near the car barn without damage to the switch points or tires. Larry Perrigo watches.



Charlie Cripps and Paul Edmondson clear brush from the area behind the powerhouse in preparation for moving some of the track parts from elsewhere to this site.

trolleys. A number of YVT members came to the program to visit with the guests and introduce them to our organization. **Lauri** and **Gregory Johnsen** brought cookies and helped with the setup. **Yvonne Wilbur** helped publicize the event, brought cookies and refreshments and helped pay the rent for the Donald House.

A work party was held at the car barn property on Saturday, April 4th. **Rich Wilkens** and **Scott Neel** reconfigured the two track switches near the southeast corner of the car barn so that the A-6 and Bucket Truck can pass through the gate without damaging the switch points (as well as save wear and tear on their tires). **Tap Menard** provided a load of pallets which are being made into removable covers for the maintenance pits in the car barn. **Larry Perrigo** worked on the track switch in Pine Street and made the trolley barn more "cat proof". **Paul Edmondson** sprayed weeds in the

yard and, with **Charlie Cripps'** help, cleared brush from the area behind the powerhouse, making several trips to the dump. **Liz Brown** washed the glass display cases and tidied up the gift shop. **Ken Johnsen** and **Ed Neel** worked on paneling the two large museum display cases in the powerhouse and making them ready for historical displays. **Mark Fredrickson** worked on the overhead wire alarm system and helped Rich and Scott.



Liz Brown washes display cases in the gift shop and takes inventory of all the contents.

Ken Johnsen, President

YVT #297 Sidelined

Ken, Lauri and **Gregory Johnsen** visited the Orange Empire Trolley Museum in Perris, California on March 25th and viewed the former YVT Baldwin-Westinghouse motor #297. It is no longer

pulling trains for the museum rides. Orange Empire volunteers said it had some sort of electrical problems and had not been used for a while. The good news is that it is stored inside their new multi-million dollar climate controlled storage building, away from effects of weather and vandalism.



Glendale & Montrose boxcab motor #22 at the Montrose car barn in 1926. Ken Johnsen collection.

YVT #297 in storage at the Orange Empire Railway Museum's climate controlled storage building.



The 297 was given to the Orange Empire museum in 1985 when Union Pacific abandoned service on the YVT in Yakima. Alan Krieg, a Union Pacific official and Orange Empire member facilitated this donation, to the disappointment of Yakimans who felt the locomotive should have remained in Yakima. The locomotive was originally built as Glendale & Montrose #22 in 1923 and ran on that Southern California line for about 9 years before the line was absorbed into the Union Pacific. It was then operated as Union Pacific #E-100 before ultimately being transferred to the YVT in 1942. YVT numbered it 297 and used it for 43 years.

The Orange Empire museum has said in the past that they would like to repaint and reletter the 297 into its original Glendale & Montrose paint scheme.



Motorman Testing and Recertification

On Saturday, May 16 at 9:00 motormen wishing to operate trolleys this season can get their certification renewed or tests taken. For information or a motorman's manual, contact Ken Johnsen at yakimavalleytrolleys@hotmail.com.

New Members

Joe and Trisha Rief gave birth to Jade Rief on November 21, 2008. The following month she took her first trolley ride on the Santa Trolley and appeared to enjoy it. Congratulations to Joe and Trisha.

Our English members Andy and Petrina Gautrey have brought another little YVT fan into the world. Elliot William Gautrey was born on March 31, 2009. Andy says he has shown little Elliot his superdetailed YVT HO layout, but Elliot seemed more interested in sleeping. Congratulations to Andy and Petrina.



Joe and Trisha Rief with baby Jade.

Classy New Refrigerator for Gift Shop



The gift shop now has a first class glass door refrigerator for our special private brand trolley water, obtained through the efforts of member Bob Brown. The new refrigerator was installed by Pepsi Cola company on May 1 and is used exclusively for the trolley water that we sell to raise money for the trolleys. The old refrigerator was moved to the carbarn office and filled with Kirkland bottled water donated by Ken Johnsen, for the use of trolley crews and work parties. The Kirkland water in the carbarn is free. Crews are requested not to take private brand trolley water unless they pay for it.

Thanks to Bob Brown for making this possible.

Yakima Valley Trolleys - Membership Application

Name _____ Phone (____) _____

Address _____ City _____ State ____ Zip _____

E-mail address _____ New Member Renewal

Please list those areas you have experience in or would like to help with:

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trolley restoration / maintenance | <input type="checkbox"/> Board of Directors / officers | <input type="checkbox"/> Website and e-mail |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trolley operation | <input type="checkbox"/> Liaison with City of Yakima | <input type="checkbox"/> Publications / newsletter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Track maintenance | <input type="checkbox"/> Museum development | <input type="checkbox"/> Audio / video productions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Overhead wire maintenance | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Relations | <input type="checkbox"/> Archives / library |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ticket selling / gift shop | <input type="checkbox"/> Finances and bookkeeping | <input type="checkbox"/> Fund raising |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | | |

DUES AND DONATIONS

Dues are \$25.00 per calendar year. Donations are gladly accepted to help with necessary repairs and projects of the YVT. YVT is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization. All donations are tax deductible.

- Enclosed is \$25.00 for my membership. \$ _____
- Enclosed is my donation in the amount of: \$ _____
- Total enclosed: \$ _____

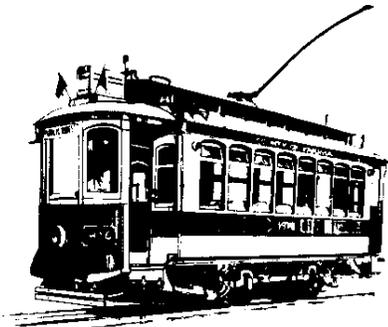
Mail application and dues, payable to Yakima Valley Trolleys, to:
Ken Johnsen, Membership Secretary, P.O. Box 161, Renton, WA 98057-0161

YVT Bulletin

Yakima Valley Trolleys
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Yakima, WA 98907-0796



Beginning the Next 100 Years !



FIRST CLASS