

# Yakima Valley Trolleys

## YVT BULLETIN

### WINTER 2008

## Santa Trolley Wraps Up Successful 101st Year

The special Santa runs on Saturday, December 13 will close out the 2008 trolley season. Fares are reduced to \$2.00 for everyone, but not as low as last year's commemorative 5 cent fare for the Centennial. Last year we had over 600 riders on the Santa Trolleys. We are hoping for a large turnout again this year.

Yvonne Wilbur, Bob Sullivan and Gregory Johnsen have worked to get publicity for our Santa runs and credit for any successes we have must go at least in part to them. John "Yakima Santa" Epperson has agreed to help again this year too. Several people are baking cookies and planning refreshments and activities for kids while they wait for the trolley ride.

According to published reports, the City is planning to move ahead with repairs to the car barn in early 2009. The crane support rail needs to be removed so that a rotten timber under it can be replaced and then have everything reassembled back together again. The walls that are bowing will have concrete buttresses built against them to shore them up. Also the City is planning to do

some work to the Naches River bridge in connection with the William O. Douglas Trail.

The first phase of the wire restringing project has been accomplished in a couple weekends in November. Overhanging tree branches along Pine Street and North Sixth Avenue have been pruned back so that the wire can be lifted up to its hang-

ers and also so that thieves cannot hide in the trees anymore when they attempt to steal the wire. Ed Neel, Scott Neel, Ken Johnsen, Paul Edmondson Dan Tamsky and David Klingele worked on the trees, getting them piled up in neat piles for the City to come pick up the following Monday. Thanks go to Chris Waarvick, the City's utility director, for having crews come

pick up all the pruned branches.

Scott Neel has refurbished both of the brake stand valves in car #1976. They should no longer leak air now. Thanks, Scott! Ed Neel has fabricated some parts to get the yellow truck, #A-6, back into operation. It will be especially useful when we restring wire. Ed also did a beautiful job of making a replacement block that supports the trolley pole hook on car #1776 and installed it. Ed has



installed the chain hoist on the north door to the car barn and made a hold down bracket for it so that we need never worry again about hitting the door with the trolley while going in and out of the barn. Ed's efforts are greatly appreciated!

The Riverpointe Landing development on Sixth Avenue is still on track in spite of the overall declining economy in this country. Jack Evans, the project's head, in November again reaffirmed their desire to have trolley service provided by us. This will be a mutually beneficial arrangement, since providing a regularly scheduled service will open up great opportunities for Urban Mass



Transit funding for Yakima's trolleys. It will also give the trolleys a very viable destination from downtown and this in turn may help fuel the effort to get the trolleys back onto the east side of town to go to the convention center.



2009 will see more effort expended on getting the Selah Line back into operation, hopefully in time for the season which begins on Memorial Day weekend. Scott Neel has been jumping through the many hoops necessary to get our wires onto some of PP&L's poles. Even though some of this is just replacement of what was already there, PP&L has stringent requirements and Scott has been patiently carrying out each of their requests. With the tree branches removed and the yellow truck ready for service, we are ready to start restringing wire when PP&L is satisfied.

Wishing you all Happy Holidays,

Ken Johnsen, President, Yakima Valley Trolleys

# From the YVT Archives at the Yakima Valley Museum

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December 17, 1929

Dict. December 17

W. S. Howard  
Mgr. Yakima Valley Transportation Co.,  
Union Pacific Building,  
Yakima, Washington

Dear Mr. Howard:

I am writing you again this year on behalf of the Elks Club. Each year for the past several years, you have permitted the poor children to ride on the street cars to and from the Elks' Christmas kiddies party.

Our annual dinner for the poor children will be given Sunday, December 22 and we would appreciate you extending the same courtesy this season as you have done in the past. In order that your street car operators may be advised, I will be glad to furnish you with one of the tickets of admission to this dinner party.

I have tried to see you personally about this matter, but understand that you have been indisposed for some little time and have not been at the office.

Sincerely,

By: *B. K. Gage*  
B. K. Gage

B  
K  
G:  
P  
T

*O. L. Patten*  
*Take care of this as usual.*

*W. S. H.*  
*Done 12-19-29 O.L.P.*

# 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

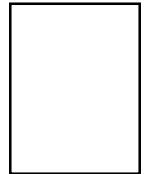
Dues are \$25.00 per calendar year. Donations are gladly accepted to help with necessary repairs and projects of the YVT. YVT is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization. All donations are tax deductible.

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

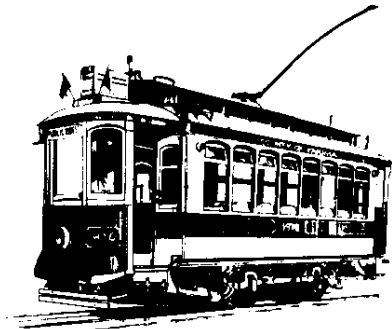
Mail application and dues, payable to Yakima Valley Trolleys, to:  
Ken Johnsen, Membership Secretary, P.O. Box 161, Renton, WA 98057-0161

## YVT Bulletin

Yakima Valley Trolleys  
P.O. Box 796  
Yakima, WA 98907-0796



**Happy Holidays  
from the  
Yakima Valley Trolleys !**



**FIRST CLASS**