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Dodger Point Lookout – COMPLETED!

by Chris Scranton, Volunteer at Olympic National Park

Last year's Fund-A-Need at our annual Spring Dinner & Auction focused on Preservation with a Purpose, raising funds for the renovation of historic structures in our three parks. What follows is a success story! Last year, WNPF raised funds to complete the Dodger Point Lookout restoration as well as the Long Ridge Trail leading up to it. Thank you Chris Scranton, long-time volunteer at Olympic National Park, for your story AND all your dedication to the project.



Photos Courtesy of Chris Scranton

I spent 16 days at Dodger as an official volunteer helping the restoration crew work on the Lookout. It is the 45th year in a row and my 51st hike to Dodger. I just got back two days ago. The trail is in the best shape I have seen in 45 years and it is a dream come true to see the Lookout restored. So far, the foundation has been rebuilt, the building was reefed

back to true, all siding was removed and the structure was reinforced. Then all siding was replaced and given three coats of paint, a new cedar shingle roof was made and installed from an old growth cedar that fell across the Quinault Road, and new 4x4 corner posts were installed. The shutters were repaired, bad boards replaced and then given three coats of paint and are now all are rehung on new hanger boards milled from an old growth Douglas fir that fell across the Hoh Road. I spent 85 hours removing all the old glazing from 171 panes of glass in the 19 windows (9 panes each) and then re-glazing them all. The crew was fantastic and Nathan Forrest, the crew leader, is dedicated and experienced in back country carpentry. We were not allowed to use any power tools so all carpentry was done with hand saws, drill braces and chisels. It is very gratifying to see something I have pushed for years come to pass and to personally contribute my time. I am very thankful to Washington's National Park Fund and Superintendent Creachbaum for her support.



The blueberry crop was abundant and attracted several bears. We heard elk and saw them on several occasions. Hawks were migrating through, large flocks of band-tailed pigeons flew near the Lookout, and the views were spectacular except for two days of smoke when we could not see the nearby mountains. I left on a frosty morning and can't wait to go back to see the final completed project. When I left last year, the Lookout was so unstable that I was certain the winter snows would crush it. I left with a heavy heart. Somehow it made it through, despite having 5 panes of glass broken under a crushing load of snow. Now I feel confident that Dodger Point Lookout will stand for many years to come as a symbol of a time gone by before radar and satellites, when young men and women spent summers alone in the mountains watching over the forests and searching for lightning strikes.



You can read more from Chris and his adventures at the Lookout **here** (<https://wnpf.org/preservation-purpose-volunteers-tale/>). And be on the lookout for details of this year's **Spring Dinner & Auction** (<https://wnpf.org/spring-dinner-and-auction/>) coming on April 7!

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