

Garrett Simmelink

We'll start out with your favorite color...kidding it won't be that painful! *Off-yellow (just kidding).*

Tell us a bit about yourself... *I was born and raised in the Tri-Cities and have lived in Kennewick for most of my life. My family (on my father's side) were dryland wheat farmers in the Horse Heaven Hills south of Kennewick. Professionally, I have worked up and down the west coast but I consider eastern Washington my home. I have two sons...Clayton, 31, who works for Ferguson Enterprises in Richland and, Cleveland, 29, who works for Lockheed Martin in southern California. I attended college mainly to play baseball & obtained a B.S. degree in Occupational Safety & Health Management. I have three brothers who live in the PNW.*

What is your work day like? *Mostly just trying to be a resource for project staff & crew members. This involves a lot of planning, paperwork (permits, pre-task planning aids, procedures, etc.) & meetings to ensure that we are working safely & are in compliance with state/federal regulations, Company policies & project-specific requirements. There are a lot of administrative duties associated with safety management (documenting compliance) but my favorite part of the job is working with staff & crew members solving challenging safety issues in the field. I spend a lot of time training new hires to ensure they will be safe & successful during their time on the project.*

The one work related goal you want to accomplish this year is... *Right now, I am primarily dedicated to the Darigold project, and will be until we wrap things up. I am looking forward to working more closely with the Pasco division of JRT and being a resource for our eastern Washington and Oregon projects and service divisions. I love the program-development aspect of safety management and I would really like to focus on creating easy-to-use tools for our troops (things like electronic inspection forms for forklifts and aerial lifts that can be accessed and completed from a cell phone or tablet). Anything that can make safety compliance easier and more streamlined so that we can focus more of our attention on hazard recognition and pre-task planning in the field.*

Your work history consists of? *My first job in safety was in 1988 when I worked full-time in the Environmental, Health & Safety Department at the university where I received my degree (basically an unpaid internship while I attended school). From there, I did EH&S management for various food and beverage manufacturing companies throughout WA, OR & CA. I spent five years as a EH&S consultant for a non-profit organization called the WorkSafe Institute of Washington, focusing my efforts on industries in eastern WA. Most recently, I worked as the safety director for a couple of commercial construction General Contractors.*
Your happiest when... *When I get an opportunity to hang out with my two sons. Doesn't matter what we are doing.*

Tell us about your family - *Three brothers and two sons. Some uncles and a bunch of nieces, nephews and cousins. The guys on the Darigold project...They are like family to me.*

Your Pets are? *No pets. I do have a lot of mice (rural farm house) that I have grown fond of.*

What you like most about work? *The crew. A bunch of solid dudes. Really, everyone (JRT folks) I get to work with.*

If you could visit anyplace in the world, it would be? *Portugal. I fell in love with Fado music about 25 years ago and would love to chill in some café and listen to live performers.*

The thing that would surprise us the most about you is... *I used to design and make my own furniture (woodworking). I have a degree in Enology and Viticulture.*

Your friends/family would describe you as? *Hilarious. People at work...not so much.*

Your favorite way to spend a weekend is... *Working outside around the house (yard work/landscaping). I also love cooking...experimenting.*

For fun you like to? *I really love (& miss) woodworking. I haven't been able to for a few years because I haven't had access to an adequate work space. Recently, that has begun to change so I definitely plan to start up again this spring.*

A few things on your bucket list are...*I want to attend a major league baseball game in the following cities: Pittsburgh, Chicago (Cubs), Detroit, Kansas City, LA (Dodgers), Minneapolis, Baltimore, New York (2), Philadelphia & San Francisco. I also would like to date Gal Gadot. I might do that...we'll see.*

The funniest thing that's ever happened to you is: *My family moved around a lot (locally...house-to-house in the same town) when I was growing up. When I was 17, my American Legion baseball team travelled to S. California to play a bunch of games over a 9- day trip. While I was gone, my family moved. I had no idea where we lived when I got back. This was before cell phones.*

A few of your pet peeves are: *Passive-aggressive & narcissistic people. Grinders (I hate grinders)*

What surprised you the most when you started here is? *How much JRT actually does what they say they will do. The employee gifts, newsletters, employee spotlights & recognition/shout-outs, holiday parties, onboarding gift packages, team-building activities, etc. I have worked with a lot of small to-mid-size companies who genuinely want to do these things, but just can't seem to keep it going. JRT does. It is pretty cool in my book.*

Anything else unique about yourself you want to add? *That I REALLY, REALLY, REALLY appreciate those that have gone above-and-beyond to personally & professionally help me during my time with JRT. It is so appreciated.*



Garrett



Sons



View from his house

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

I would like to nominate Emery for employee of the month, He has shown a lot of interest in learning, has been a great help out in the field by answering questions from other guys, making my job easier. He's always looking for ways to improve and speed up tasks. Overall he's a great hand to have on the job site! – Larry Kaushnyan

Emery did an amazing job handling Cambria Hotel while Larry was out. He communicated with the GC, effectively addressing challenges and promptly bringing attention to any field issues. JRT really appreciates him stepping up to the plate during this time. – Taylor B

I NOMINATE EMERY FOR EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH BECAUSE HE WAS WILLING TO TAKE ON THE TASK OF RUNNING CAMBRIA HOTEL, EMERY HAS DONE A FANTASTIC JOB AND HAS MORE THAN PROVED HIS READINESS FOR THE FOREMAN POSITION – RODNEY TAPANI

EMERY RUDALF



FEBRUARY WORK ANNIVERSARIES

Sven Johnson - 16 yrs.
Larry Kaushnyan - 8 yrs.
Doug Moir - 8 yrs.
Shad Kuenzel - 4 yrs.
Jeb Mehner - 4 yrs.
Sam Hornsveld - 3 yrs.
Alejandro Alvarez - 3 yrs.
Jason Cousins - 1 yr.
Daniel Dowd - 1 yr.
Malcolm Johnson - 1 yr.
Jose Garcia - 1 yr.
Andrew Frasier - 1 yr.
Normando Bermudez - 1 yr.
Shawn Cunningham - 1 yr.

JRT NEWS



Congratulation to Riley and Jenny Collins
on your new baby boy Crew.

Shad and Lauren Kuenzel welcome a baby boy
Leland Axel. Congrats to you both!



He's here! Congratulations Kat & Bobby Guzman on
baby boy Hudson.

Way to go Jesse Zambrano on
passing your WA journeyman test!

Open Enrollment

The Insurance Open Enrollment Period is next month! March 2025. New insurance plan starts on 4/1/25

****During open enrollment is the time when you can make changes to the variety of benefit plans that are offered. If you have previously waived the benefits and need to enroll, you will be allowed to jump on the plan April 1st! ****

Stay tuned for any changes coming to the plans!

****Reminder****

Employee Kiosk Self-Service Portal

With your Trimble/Viewpoint login, you can do all of these things:

- Download your W-2 form.
- Update your contact information.
- Update your emergency contacts.
- Manage your direct deposit accounts.

Happy Birthday

Juan Banales
Brandon Blackman
Scott Broderson
Jorge Campos
Irwin Carmona
Riley Collins
Jason Cousins
Bradley Ek

Salvador Espinoza
Kurt Granger
Josh Hallstrom
Paul Homola
Dan House
Louie Juntunen
Robert McFarland
Conrad Moore

Emilo Ortiz
Jason Raines
Gilberto Romero-Corona
David Smith
Henri Tapani
Blake Tasci
Kaidin Tasci
Kathi Taylor

PRODUCTIVITY TIP



Sean Mulligan had the great idea at Darigold of setting up scaffolding, vs using scissor lifts for the piping on the pipe bridge.

Send in any of your ideas that we can share to increase production to Ron Bergmann 360-903-2742 (or ronb@jrtmechanical.com). If your idea is selected in a future newsletter, you will receive 50 dollars in cash.

Colton Edwards won last month, after he found a new model of sammy express's. It is called the sammy express drive drive, which is faster to install and even costs less.



PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS

FROM THE MONTH OF JANUARY

SVEN JOHNSON



Pasco Pre-fab & Pipe

DILLARD ABBOTT



Reser's Duct

WANT TO WIN? WANT TO WIN? WANT TO WIN? WANT TO



Enter by sending in your JRT content to
BethanyC@jrtmechanical.com