

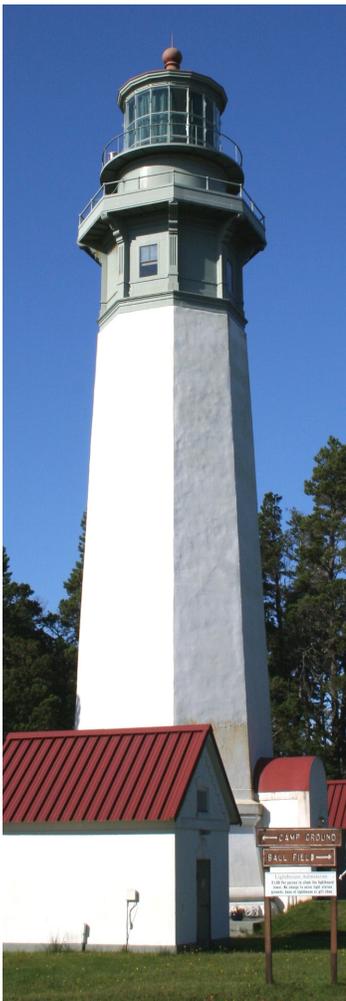
FogHorn

Westport-South Beach Historical Society Newsletter

1st Quarter 2013



The mission of the Westport South Beach Historical Society is to preserve and interpret the history of the South Beach, with an emphasis on natural resources and advocating for preservation of our local historic structures in our maritime community.



2013 Whale of a Sale is Coming Soon!

By Thor Lauritzen

Spring is just around the corner, and so is our annual rummage sale. The sale will take place in McCausland Hall, adjacent to the Museum on April 20 and 21, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

We would love to help you clean out your garages and storage spaces for some quality items that can grace our shelves, walls, and tables at the annual Whale of a Sale. We will gladly accept toys, picture puzzles, books, artwork, working electronics, sporting equipment, kitchen and table ware, appliances, gardening and automotive supplies, and more. Unfortunately, we cannot accept clothing.

We will be accepting donations at the Museum during its open hours and will pick up items locally. You can call the museum at 360-268-0078 or a volunteer at 360-268-9831 for further information or pickup requests. Because of severe space limitations storage, we cannot accept large items such as furniture or appliances until the week prior to the sale.



Look for the sale in April!

All proceeds from the sale go the Westport Maritime Museum and the Grays Harbor Lighthouse to support our community activities. We hope that you can help us make this event a truly great WHALE OF A SALE!

Changing of the Guard at Museum

Westport South Beach Historical Society would like to acknowledge a changing of the guard at the Westport Maritime Museum. Our thanks to Randy Beerbower for two years of service at the helm of WSBHS, for our collection of 22,000 new photos, and for steering safe passage in 2011 and 2012.

The Museum Board of Trustees is now steering a new course in leadership and will soon announce a new business model with co-directors as described in the president's letter. Questions about this change should be directed to Sam Martin, WSBHS Board President, at the museum phone number 360-268-0078.

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~ FogHorn ~

A publication of the
Westport-South Beach
Historical Society

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Change in your Contact Information?**Don't Forget to Tell Us!**

Every quarter as the newsletters are sent, several are returned for inaccurate addresses. These include both email and postal mailing. Additionally, some phone calls to members or supporters in recent months have reached "no longer in service" messages. **PLEASE REMEMBER** to let us know of any changes. We don't want you left out of the information loop. E-mail the changes to Bobbi Willard at wm@wsbhs.org or call her at 360-268-0078. If you cannot reach Bobbi, leave a complete message with whoever answers your call or on the voicemail system. You may also send a change of address notation by postal mail to the Westport South Beach Historical Society, PO Box 1074, Westport WA 98595.

**President's Letter by Sam Martin****Growth and Change in the New Year 2013**

Happy New Year to WSBHS members, volunteers, and friends! We welcome the new year with challenges of growth and change.

Our biggest changes will be made in the first quarter of the year. We are in the process of transition in the way we do business at the Museum and Lighthouse. Formerly, we had an inconsistent event planning process; now we have formalized that process to require a "Planning Guide." Each and every project committee, event planning group, or task force will fill out a preliminary proposal for board approval. Upon approval, the persons or committee making the proposal will research the project and complete a planning guide that describes details of who, what, where, when, and at what cost. Then the board will give final approval and the project will begin. A board member, committee chairperson, or staff member will be assigned to help guide the planning process. Planning Guides will be done at least a calendar quarter ahead of the date of the event. There will be general training for everyone on how to use this process.

Along with our new business model, comes a new philosophy. Our motto, brainchild of board member Stephen Irving, is "WIFM:What's In It For the Museum?" While the board and organization serve the community at large, as trustees of our community history, we must make ends meet to survive. Each activity we conduct will be analyzed for cost effectiveness and potential income or business sponsorship to cover its costs and contribution to the museum's overhead. We plan to continue maximum service to our community service with access to our historical treasures at affordable cost to the public.

A third major change is also historical. Business at board meetings has often drifted with the tide of opinions over the rough seas of controversy. "Back to the basics" means back to the WSBHS Bylaws, which remind us to use the classic Robert's Rules of Order to keep meetings effective, short, and sweet. This means that a lot more work will be done in committees, and through Planning Guide teams. Completed proposals will come to the board ready for a motion to approve.

Another change on the horizon is our pending return to a co-director model of staffing the organization. In the past, we have utilized two program directors, or a team of paid workers. The work of a professional director has grown bigger and more complex than a single qualified person can reasonably handle. We need diverse skill sets, from maintenance to money management, grants to grounds-keeping, museum science to public relations, fund raising to fun making. A proposal was passed at our February 12th board meeting, and more information on the newly approved staffing plan will be forthcoming.

Continued on Page 5

A special thank you...

We are fortunate to have an editor of our local newspaper, *The South Beach Bulletin*, who is committed to the Westport South Beach Historical Society's work and to the Westport Maritime Museum and Grays Harbor Lighthouse. Barb Aue has included numerous features during the past year that highlight the Museum exhibits, events such as a wedding at the lighthouse, and various maritime topics of interest to our South Beach community. She is also assisting in the pursuit of a reprinting of Ruth McCausland's book, Washington's Westport.

Thank you, Barb Aue, for your support and ongoing encouragement!

Solving the Mystery of When the Fog Signal House Fire Happened

Whether you have been a visitor or a curious local resident, you have probably heard numerous stories of the earlier fog signal structures. In fact, over the years there has been quite a bit of confusion over exactly when the original fog signal house burned. Jeff Pence wanted to find the facts about the date, so he ventured to the National Archives at Sand Point in Seattle, where the log books are on microfilm. (Original log books are in Washington, DC.) These excerpts from the lighthouse keeper's log book from October 9, 1923 should settle the confusion over dates once and for all.

Jeff asks us to please realize that he could not decipher all of the notes, so he excerpted the pertinent language for this article. He also attempted to include as much of the original spelling, grammar, and punctuation as possible. Jeff's notes from the logs follow:

October 9, 1923:

"Light-variable airs, clear. Coast Guard...Elmer Wilkins on watch at look-out...the blaze [started] about 2 am... Telephoned in to station, 1st Asst. on watch, called keeper and 2nd Asst. stating that signal building was afire and burning badly. The station crew was called out, and done good work in helping to save pump house and machinery. Cause of fire starting not-known, all tools and fittings in building destroyed, and damaged from heat. Keeping Watch...smoldering ruins, and wetting down when necessary. Fire smoldering in coal pile."

October 10, 1923:

"1st Asst. and 2nd Asst. gathering and storing salvable burned tools from basement at signal building."

October 11, 1923:

"Going over burned articles, gathering up same. Cleaning up and marking for storing the lump coal from burned coal shed..." The keeper also notes the "C.W.Leick arrived am." Leick was the architect who designed the lighthouse.

October 12, 1923:

"All hands working on signal wreckage, stacking coal and having same hauled to south oil house. Saved 56 sacks out of coal pile-the rest was fine and burned."

October 13, 1923:

Mr. C.W. Leick bound south by 1st Asst. auto 815am."

Again, we must realize that these are excerpts from the actual log book and, as such, should be considered the primary source for historical information on events at the lighthouse over the years. Mystery over the date of the fire solved! Thanks, Jeff Pence!

WSBHS Welcomes new Board Members

The Westport-South Beach Historical Society welcomed four new members at the October 10th Quarterly meeting when members voted them into designated positions.

The new board members elected were Christopher Kerr, Jeff Pence, Jim Wynans, and Rosalie Zimbelman. Subsequent to the election, Jim Wynans and Rosalie Zimbelman found it necessary to withdraw from serving on the board due to conflicts with other commitments and responsibilities. Monica Henion will be filling the role of board secretary.

Chris Kerr has lived in Westport for seven years and is well known in the community for his role as a music teacher for elementary and secondary schools in the Ocosta School District. He has brought students' choral and instrumental music to several events at the Maritime Museum over recent years. Chris also is an announcer for girls' soccer games and competitive events. He was encouraged to join the board to enhance liaison relationships between the Historical Society and local schools, a purpose he plans to fulfill and enjoy. Chris holds board Position 1.

Jeff Pence moved to Westport five years ago with his wife Marianne, after they both retired from the Tacoma School District, where Jeff was on the legal team. Westport was not new to them since they had visited often and had earlier owned a house here before purchasing their current home. Having grown up in the Great Lakes area, Jeff had enjoyed the maritime life of that region and welcomed opportunities to volunteer with the museum and lighthouse. As an enthusiast about local history and preservation of maritime culture and facilities, Jeff was soon invited to serve on the board and was elected to Position 2 in October.

Monica Henion was approved to fill the secretary's position at the January board meeting. Monica has lived in Westport since 2004, when she ventured out to this area to "get away from the rat race," as she described it. She had lived in Tacoma, working for several businesses until she was injured in 1998 and stepped aside from her employment. Monica has volunteered at the lighthouse gift shop and reception area and at the museum and looks forward to this new way to give to her community.

Board Position 3, vacated by Jim Wynans will be filled by appointment. Experienced active members or former board and committee volunteers are encouraged to step forward to fill this vacancy. Please call President Sam Martin at 360-268-11321 to express your interest. Orientation and training are provided.

Introducing *The Foghorn* Work Team

For 2013 The Foghorn will be managed by a work team of several participants and contributors. Members of the team and their Roles are:

Sue Shidaker—Team Coordinator and Writing Reviewer, Layout Assistant

Noel Kreicker—Editor

Bobbi Willard—Writer, Layout Coordinator, Printer Liaison

Sue Thomas—Coordinator of Newsletter Distribution

Peggy Coverdale—Writer and Historian

Sam (Elwonger) Martin— Board President and Communicator of Board Information to the Team

Others are invited to submit either suggestions or drafts of articles. These should be either dropped off at the museum for *The Foghorn* mail basket or sent to Sue Shidaker at sueshidaker@comcast.net.

Coming Soon.....

Please mark your calendar for events between March 1 and June 1:

MARCH

- March 1: Lighthouse and Museum hours continue Friday through Mondays, 12 noon - 4 p.m.
- March 2&3: Beachcombers Fun Fair (Society Booth) Ocean Shores Convention Center
- March 5: Volunteer breakfast, McCausland Hall, 9 a.m.
- March 12: WSBHS Board of Trustees Meeting, Museum Board Room, 6 p.m.
- March 13: WSBHS Quarterly Membership Meeting and Potluck, McCausland Hall, 6 p.m.; grand opening of the Ocosta Schools historical exhibit

APRIL

- April 1: Spring/Summer Hours begin
- April 2: Volunteer Breakfast
- April 9: WSBHS Board of Trustees
- April 20 & 21: Whale of a Sale, McCausland Hall, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- April 25: Proposed articles due
- April 26-28 GH Shorebird Festival (Society Booth) Hoquiam
- April 27: Loyalty Day Parade

MAY

- May 7: Volunteer Breakfast, McCausland Hall, 9 a.m.'
- May 10: Final drafts of Foghorn articles for June 1 due
- May 14: Board of Trustees Meeting, Museum Board Room, 6 p.m.

Growth and Change... Continued from page 2

A transition team comprised of the board's executive committee and staff will manage business until the new staff positions are filled, hopefully by the second quarter. We will be hiring at least one new part-time co-director in the near future to replace our former full-time Executive Director position. During the transition, January through March, Bobbi Willard, Operations Director, and volunteer watchstanders will continue to man the helm at the museum and cover the lighthouse tours during open hours. Communications to the Executive Director will be channeled to the Board President for consideration and action by the executive committee.

We will also appoint two or three new board members. Please call and leave possible nominee names and contact information with museum staff, 360-268-0078.

We will be having a major Membership and Volunteer drive in May. Local and regional businesses will get plenty of perks for donating money and in-kind resources. They will also benefit from heightened exposure to tourists and local community members. Our museum-to-lighthouse map will feature sponsoring business logos. Our newly formed Website, a work still in progress, will offer links to business sponsors. A notable plaque and signage at the museum grounds will acknowledge our sponsor's generosity and commitment to our community history. Details on this plan will be available at our March quarterly members' meeting.

Perhaps the "slow season" won't be so slow this year. We are planning a new temporary exhibit to be entitled "Ocosta Schools: Past, Present, and Future," slated to open on March 13th at the Quarterly Membership Potluck. We are also considering compiling documents for

a written WSBHS history pamphlet. We are preparing this year, to celebrate Westport's Centennial Year throughout 2014 with a reprint of Ruth McCausland's Washington's Westport. Plans are afoot for a new gift shop at the lighthouse in the old North Oil House. (I intend to donate some of my collectible lighthouse memorabilia to start the décor and stock the shelves.!)

Looking ahead, there's Whale-of-a-Sale in April...speaking of cleaning out the oldies but goodies at home! Donations will be stored in the Museum basement for dusting and beautification before the sale. We need baked goods for a bake sale that weekend too, as we get a lot of traffic from the Crab Race crowd. I am looking over seed catalogues to plant interesting herbs and plants for the plant sale on the fourth of July, and let's all begin our own fitness training in preparation for the "Run 4 the Light" event!

Please join me in this new year of growth and change, and tons of fun, for the Westport South Beach Historical Society

Sam Martin, WSBHS Board President (Yes, another change; it was Sam Elwonger, now Sam Martin.

Thank you, donors!
The cash donations received by the Westport South Beach Historical Society during 2012 totaled \$9,205.65.

Committee Participants Welcomed!

The following committees are welcoming additional members, so please contact the museum at 360-268-0078 to express your interest. You may leave messages for the committee chairs listed.

Nominations:	Jessica Aply
Strategic Planning:	Stephen Irving
By-laws:	Jeff Pence
Membership:	Leslee Lindstrom
Development:	Sam Martin and Leslee Lindstrom

FogHorn

Westport-South Beach Historical Society
Newsletter

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Volunteers' Corner by Bobbi Willard, Operations Manager

With blue skies and sunshine, the lighthouse opened right on time February 1st. When lighthouse cleaning parties have been scheduled, spring is just around the corner. We're now looking forward to meeting the many Workcampers already scheduled to roll into town starting in March.

Please remember that even though Workcampers are being used to "man" the lighthouse and museum, local volunteers are always welcomed. Some of the ideas we would like to implement this season are, shorter shift hours, longer hours for tours, and lunch breaks mid-day. Any time you have to give would be greatly appreciated.

Thanks to the following volunteers who have kept the museum staffed and the facilities monitored during the fall and winter:

Museum Watchstanders Extraordinaire: Sue Thomas, Peggy Coverdale, Kathy Townsend, Jim and Fran Allen, Leslee Lindstrom, and Monica Henion.

Lighthouse and Lens Building Crew: Jim Allen, Peter Eberle, and Jeff Pence.

Holiday Decorating Team: Peggy Coverdale, Leslee Lindstrom, Donna Ellis, Kathy Townsend, Brian McClure; and special thanks to Randy Willard for single-handedly removing all the greenery from the museum and grounds.

With our busy season fast approaching, we invite everyone to become involved in the many upcoming events and activities. There's something for everyone to do whether you are a painter, a gardener, a baker, a carpenter, or someone who just needs to get out of the house for a few hours.

Please call the museum at 360-268-0078 if you would like to share the fun and excitement of our upcoming 2013 Season. Also, I hope to see many of you at the Membership Potluck Dinner on March 13th.