



# GIG HARBOR BOATSHOP

Newsletter | December 2016

## INSIDE

Family Boat Building  
Maritime Mentorship  
Program  
Axel Roy Fisk Award  
And more!



## AT A GLANCE

WOW! With staff members Monica Veles and Brette Lovrovich at the helm, the public more than tripled its use of the BoatShop Livery Service in 2016 from 2015.

SAVE THE DATE: Ray Troll and the Ratfish Wranglers, from Ketchikan, will perform at the BoatShop February 22. Tickets go on sale soon.

CONGRATULATIONS! Historic preservation advocate Lita Dawn Stanton was honored with a Career Achievement award from the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation. Lita performed a pivotal role in saving the historic Eddon Boatyard.

NEW PROGRAMS: Keep an eye out for workshops added to the lineup of classes. Knotwork and diesel engines are a few of the topics coming up.

## The Most Wonderful Time of the Year

The holiday season gives us the opportunity to take a few moments to reflect on a year filled with accomplishments at the BoatShop. In the midst of caroling, cookies, and hot cocoa, we can also celebrate realizing many exciting milestones, including completing the planning process for the **2017-2021 Strategic Plan**, partnering with the City to finalize the **Eddon Boatyard House** lease, and seeing patronage of the **BoatShop Livery** service more than triple in its second season (BoatShop staff member Monica Veles is pictured above skippering the Livery fleet vessel *A.R. Fisk*).

There's more. With a renewed funding commitment from **RPM Foundation**, the inaugural **Maritime Mentorship Program** provided an intense hands-on experience for five interns and the second MMP project is well underway. We added new workshops such as the **Greenland Paddle** workshop and several **Fancy Ropework** classes. We finished work on the first phase of the **Avalon Exhibit** and received a second round of funding from the **Pierce County Historic Preservation Grant Program** to continue exhibit development. The **Family Boat Building** program produced its one hundredth (and counting) Salt Bay Skiff. In summary, we've worked hard, with boots on the shop floor and oars in the water, to make your community boatyard a better place by delivering authentic experiences and high-quality programming.

While it's tempting to sit back, sip eggnog, and relax, there is more to be done. The strategic plan, being created by a team of staff and volunteers with assistance from facilitator Betsy Davis (executive director of Northwest School of Wooden Boat Building and former executive director of Center for Wooden Boats on Lake Union) will guide us as we tackle big goals and projects. We will take the next steps on the Eddon Boatyard House lease, with an eye on making the house active and useful for our community. We will continue to think creatively to develop interesting and unique programming. We will expand the Livery hours so more people have on-the-water access. We will seek the remaining funds required to finish the **Marine Railways**. And that's just the start.

We are in the midst of a busy season here at the BoatShop. Kids will take over **Santa's BoatShop** on December 10 and 11 where they'll build model purse seiner boats. There are a number of workshops and classes (great gift ideas!) offered in December and into the new year. Ray Troll and the Ratfish Wranglers, in town straight from Ketchikan, will perform in February (Ray is also a talented artist). More classes and workshops are added all the time. Visit [GigHarborBoatShop.org](http://GigHarborBoatShop.org) for the latest offerings.

The most wonderful time of the year is upon us. Warm wishes to you and yours from the BoatShop.

## AXEL ROY FISK AWARD



Roy Fisk

Gig Harbor BoatShop's Axel Roy Fisk Award is presented in honor and fond memory of Roy Fisk, one of the first to walk down the boatyard driveway to volunteer at the community's new boatyard-based non-profit. Roy, an accomplished shipwright, was well known for his work at Tacoma shipyards and for his tenure as manager of the McNeil Island boat repair facility. Roy was a consummate craftsman and a master of tact. We all learned from Roy, regardless of how much we thought we already knew.

The Roy Fisk Award recognizes a BoatShop community member, volunteer or staff, who contributes significantly to our mission with grace, courtesy and hospitality. We welcome nominations at any time.

This year the Axel Roy Fisk Award recognizes an extraordinary Volunteer of the Year. The 2016 award recipient will be announced in mid-December.

## Family Boat Building Program Makes Waves

This has been another solid year for Family Boat Building, the BoatShop's flagship community boatbuilding program. In 2016, 21 families (nearly 100 people) took their newly built 12-foot rowing skiffs home to paint and varnish to their own tastes. Many teams went for shakedown rows on Sunday afternoons. But some families "did not want to get their new boats wet!" We advise them on finishing processes and products just like we do for their saltier brethren and sisters who go rowing right away.

Now completing its fourth year, FBB is staffed by a dedicated core of experienced Family Boat Building journeymen, including Bill Moorehead, Stubby Huey, Mike Porter, Dave "Thwarts" Higby, and David Gaffney.

We thank these generous volunteers, and the other BoatShop folks who lend a hand from time to time. Business manager Sheri Lovrovich, who orders supplies and signs people up, also deserves thanks, as do our store clerks Elizabeth Wren and Brette Lovrovich.

Among our suppliers of materials, adhesives, accessories and hardware, Edensaw Woods stands out for delivering premium plywood at a discount.

Family Boat Building will start up again in March 2017. The FBB team welcomes new volunteers to help with kit-building and coaching. Each month, our guests and our teachers go home on Sunday evening tired but proud, wet or dry!



## Eddon Boatyard House to be Available for Community Use

In August Gig Harbor City Council members unanimously approved amending Gig Harbor BoatShop's existing Eddon Boatyard lease to include use and management responsibility of the Eddon Boatyard House. The action was in response to a proposal submitted by the BoatShop in 2013.

"The BoatShop has done a fantastic job of doing what they said they would do — providing programming about our historic working waterfront," councilmember Steve Ekberg said.

The main floor and outdoor deck of the historically significant house will be available

for public use as a BoatShop-managed community space 180 days per year and through BoatShop educational programming during the remaining days of the year. The upper floor will contain offices to support the BoatShop and our Northwest Fleet vessel documentation program. The renovation and preservation costs are partially funded by a grant awarded to Gig Harbor BoatShop from **Washington State Heritage Capital Projects Fund**. Pending budget approval, the Council has included restoration funds in next year's budget to augment the grant.

Along with the boatyard buildings, marine railways, and dock, the house is considered part of a historic structures complex, unique because of its traditional use as a boat building business and because all components are largely intact at the original site.

"Few historic buildings in the Pacific Northwest are more perfectly a product of their place than Eddon Boatyard," historic structures expert Michael Sullivan said. "In a community named for a small wooden boat, the Eddon Boatyard typifies Gig Harbor's maritime connections to commercial fishing vessels, working boats and pleasure craft."



Community members will have access to the Eddon Boatyard house when renovations are complete as shown in this artist's rendering.





*Intern Will Smallwood learns hands-on boatbuilding skills through the Maritime Mentorship Program.*

## Intern Program Provides Training for Future Boatbuilders

The Maritime Mentorship Program (MMP) is designed to introduce college-aged students to valuable hands-on experiential learning focused on boat restoration, boat building, and boat repair. The program received renewed grant funding from **RPM Foundation** (formerly Hagerty Education Program at America's Car Museum) this year.

The first project, restoration of a 1964 Chris Craft Super Sport, was completed during the summer. The second project, construc-

tion of a Gannet Sailing Dinghy is in underway and anticipated to be complete in 2017.

The mentorship program pairs master craftsmen with interns to provide one-on-one training—the kind you can't get from reading a book. Beyond teaching practical skills, the MMP seeks to inspire a new generation of craftspeople to care for the important boats and artifacts from our maritime culture.

Seven quarter-long internships have been awarded to date.

## Avalon Progress Update: Phase I Finished, Wheelhouse Underway

At the end of her useful life, Gig Harbor BoatShop rescued fishing vessel *Avalon* from a quick demolition. Instead, the historic Gig Harbor fishing vessel was thoughtfully deconstructed and documented, with several dozen artifacts preserved. The artifacts, along with the stories and memories passed down through generations, are being compiled and developed into an exhibit.

The first phase of exhibit work is complete. Meanwhile in the shop, BoatShop volunteers are carefully restoring *Avalon's* wheelhouse and other artifacts, which will be featured in the exhibit design.

*The Avalon Project: Salmon, Seiners & Life on the Sea* will tell a Gig Harbor story, and a Puget Sound story, of boat building, commercial fishing, and the natural environment. We continue to seek grant and other funding to complete this important project.



*Jaime Storkman on the Avalon wheelhouse.*

## COMING UP

DECEMBER 10 and 11: Santa's BoatShop. Kids will get to peek at what happens inside Santa's BoatShop and build a model purse seiner. Advance registration strongly recommended.

DECEMBER 15: Half Hull workshop. Build a 1/8 scale half hull model. Register by December 9.

JANUARY 8: Making Wood Cleats workshop. Register by January 5.

JANUARY 8: Leathering workshop. Learn to sew leather chafing guards on oars and lines. Register by January 5.

JANUARY 18: Sailor's Fancy Knot workshop. Introduction to marlin-spike seamanship art of ropework. Register by January 13.

JANUARY 22: Nautical Ocean Plait Mat workshop. Make a nautical ladder mat in this popular workshop. Register by January 19.

FEBRUARY 22: Music at the BoatShop Concert Series featuring Ray Troll and the Ratfish Wranglers.



## MARINE RAILWAYS PROJECT UPDATE

Marine railways are an essential component of all working boatyards, and they are critical to fulfilling Gig Harbor BoatShop's commitment to Eddon Boatyard's complete restoration. Railways historically existed at Eddon Boatyard, but were removed nearly ten years ago as part of site environmental clean-up with the intention to replace them as funds became available.

Completing the marine railways will cost an estimated \$325,000. This system is the last unfunded piece of the comprehensive Eddon Boatyard restoration, a multi-million dollar project.

Installing the new marine railway system is a high priority and significant capital project. Engineered design drawings are complete and permits are in place. Pilings, the inside railway, and part of the inside carriage are all installed. Completing the remaining items will provide a fully operational system that will enable Gig Harbor BoatShop to carry out the functions of a working boatyard.

As permit deadlines approach, we are focused on seeking funding to complete the work. Please consider donating to this mission-critical project.

If you have any questions, or would like to learn more about how you can support the marine railways installation, please contact the BoatShop at (253) 857-9344.

# Giving Thanks

Gig Harbor BoatShop is a passionate organization—we care deeply about what we do, and why we do it. But we can't do it alone. Your membership dues and donations directly support operations and programming that advance our mission and purpose. The Board of Directors and staff wish to thank the members and donors who have contributed between January 1, 2016 and November 30, 2016.

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*Gig Harbor BoatShop wishes to thank the many people and organizations who have generously donated goods, services, boats, tools, auction items, and more to support our organization. Because of the large volume of in-kind donations, we are unable to individually list in-kind donors in the December 2016 newsletter.*

