



# GIG HARBOR BOATSHOP

Newsletter | December 2017

## INSIDE

*PUG* Team Wins Edensaw Challenge

*Veteran* Programs

Marine Railways Update

And more!



## AT A GLANCE

GOING ONCE, going twice, sold! Thanks to your generosity, we raised over \$55,000 at the **annual spring auction**.

INQUIRE WITHIN. Are you looking for a way to get more involved with the BoatShop? This is your chance! We are seeking an enthusiastic and organized person to serve as the **Volunteer Coordinator**, a key role responsible for managing our cadre of incredible volunteers. Call the BoatShop for more information.

MARK YOUR calendars for the 2017 **annual meeting and holiday party**, scheduled for 6 p.m. on Tuesday, December 12 in the Joiner Shop. All BoatShop members are invited. Expect a report on the BoatShop's activities during the last year, presentation of the **Axel Roy Fisk Award**, good food, and great company.

## Engaging the mind-hand connection at the BoatShop

We are Gig Harbor BoatShop. You know us well as your community boatyard. You know we offer fantastic programming and authentic maritime experiences. You may even know our mission is to *perpetuate working waterfront skills, uses, and traditions at the historic Eddon Boatyard and aboard classic vessels of Puget Sound*.

But those of you who have been captivated by Gig Harbor BoatShop also know that we are about much more than wood, fasteners, putty, and paint. We are an organization with heart. We interpret a piece of heritage along a waterfront that is changing rapidly so you, your children, and their children, can develop a sense of place based on real-life experiences. In the shop and on the water, our activities promote the mind-hand connection, something that is becoming more and more fleeting with the swift advance of technology and digital devices.

We respond to vital needs in our community for hands-on creative outlets, to make tangible and relevant things, and for places to connect with others in an environment that is strictly real, as opposed to virtual reality. And it's making a difference in people's lives.

There may be no better example of this than the **Community Boat Restoration Program for Women** program. Led by Board Secretary Jaime Storkman, this group meets regularly to work on a boat repair or restoration project. Three years ago, program participant Pat Lapp walked into the BoatShop

with no prior woodworking experience. That day, she picked up a piece of sandpaper and started working on a dory. Over time, the group has expanded to five women: Pat, Dawn Ellis, Lise Gagne, Cindy Hackett, and Diane Nason.

The women have tackled many notable projects, including restoring the *Avalon* wheelhouse and the Ulsh Story Pole, and working on the *Veteran* (Dawn and Diane are pictured above on the *Veteran's* back deck).

"I love every project simply because I am learning new skills, meeting people, and contributing to the care and feeding of the BoatShop," Cindy said. "My favorites are probably the story pole and the *Veteran*, primarily because they both have an intrinsic story that reflects the history of Gig Harbor. They both have stories in the fibers of the wood that I helped clean, sand, paint, scrape, and varnish."

The projects motivate and engage the women as they learn new skills.

"It felt like a team was jelling. We kept learning new things every week and we were having fun," Diane said. "It's fun to do something different from my life's work."

As they work together, the women have formed lasting bonds with each other.

"With the BoatShop, I have found a group of women who are inclusive, caring, interested, motivated, and enjoy each other's company both in and out of the BoatShop," Pat said.

## MENTORSHIP PROGRAM LOOKS TO NEXT PROJECT

The second **Maritime Mentorship Program** (MMP) project, constructing a Gannet sailing dinghy, was completed in September. The finished Gannet was showcased at the Port Townsend Wooden Boat Festival and sold to a private buyer.

The MMP is currently preparing to commence its third project, which has received a renewed commitment from the **RPM Foundation**, as well as a gift from **Foss Maritime**. We are actively seeking the remainder of the start-up costs to begin restoring a 1941 16' Chris-Craft under the tutelage of project leader Bruce Bronson.

The MMP provides paid internships for young adults in a unique one-on-one student/mentor environment. Interns benefit from hands-on training and real-world experiences that are designed to provide an introduction to maritime trades and to help foster an appreciation for the art of boatbuilding and boat restoration and repair.



The finished Gannet under sail in Gig Harbor bay.

## Veteran Excursions Educate and Enchant Passengers



(Above) Passengers Mary and Chic Murray watch as Gig Harbor purse seiner New Oregon hauls a load of chum salmon in Puget Sound. (Below) Passenger Cindy Hackett observes a seine opening on a brilliantly sunny fall day (Photo courtesy of Shaun O'Berry Photography).

Programming aboard *Veteran* has commenced! Community members first had the opportunity to “meet” *Veteran* during a series of dockside tours in May and June. Beginning this fall, *Veteran* offerings expanded to include several maritime heritage excursions.

**Fish Stories**, a four-hour cruise to local fishing grounds to observe Gig Harbor’s commercial purse seine fleet fishing for chum salmon, frequently sold out. Coast Guard-licensed skippers with purse seine experience led the trips and provided commentary on fishing techniques and history.

“What a unique opportunity to learn about the Gig Harbor fishing boats and heritage,” said passengers Chic and Mary Murray. “The *Veteran* is a treasure.”

**Sound Stories** is a four-hour excursion led by a Puget Sound Pilot or a Commercial Fishing Skipper. Passengers visit Commencement Bay and are regaled with stories of local maritime history and tales of today’s Puget Sound shipping and port realities.

Front-and-center seats for the start of the November 18 Le Mans sailboat race in Gig Harbor were offered while enjoying **Break-**



**fast on the Veteran.** The historic vessel is also available for private custom charters. Watch for additional programming to be developed in the future.

From cleaning the bilge to financial contributions, a group of dedicated volunteers and supporters have made it possible for the BoatShop to share this living cultural treasure with our community. To learn more about becoming a **Friend of the Veteran**, contact the BoatShop office.



# BoatShop Team Wins Edensaw Boatbuilding Challenge

A HUGE congratulations to the Gig Harbor BoatShop team, which won the **Edensaw Boatbuilding Challenge** at the Port Townsend Wooden Boat Festival. Team members Tony Cox, Nigel Davey, Rick Meyers, and Will Smallwood, led by the BoatShop's resident boatwright Tom Regan, built the *PUG*, a 6'-6" lapstrake pram.

The BoatShop team faced stiff competition in the challenge, which entailed constructing a vessel from the ground up over the course of 32 hours (spread over three days). After the "tools down" time was called, each boat participated in a short row to demonstrate its seaworthiness. Judges awarded the *PUG* first place in the competition based on criteria like originality, design, workmanship, performance, aesthetic, and seaworthiness, as well as the builders' teamwork. This year was Gig Harbor BoatShop's first time participating in the Challenge.

The winning team began prepping for the competition in February. After lofting, they built a half-size then a full-scale prototype at the BoatShop, with efforts focused on speeding up construction while reducing errors in order to maximize performance during the competition.

Fun fact: originally *Pugwash* was considered for the name, after an old English television show. Team members decided to shorten the name to *PUG* when they realized that, much like the dog of the same moniker, the boat design is "short and tubby with a flat nose and butt that looked really, really cute."

Longtime **Family Boat Building** supporter **Edensaw Woods** sponsored the competition and awarded the BoatShop a \$1,500 gift certificate.

In addition, the BoatShop's 1926 historic purse seiner *Veteran* was accepted into the Festival. Skipper Mike Skrivanich and volunteers Dawn Ellis, David Gaffney, Lise Gagne, Cindy Hackett, Pat Lapp, John McMillan, Diane Nason, Bruce Smith, Jaime Storkman, and others spent countless hours during the summer preparing *Veteran* for the show. Their hard work paid off, as the boat literally gleamed while approximately 40 festival-goers per hour boarded *Veteran* dockside and learned more about her story.

The completed Gannet sailing dinghy, the product of the **Maritime Mentorship Program** and the **Community Boat Restoration Program**, was also displayed at the Festival.



Photo courtesy of Elizabeth Becker

*PUG* builders (from left) Rick Meyers, Nigel Davey, Tony Cox, and Will Smallwood celebrate their winning design at the Edensaw Boatbuilding Challenge at the Port Townsend Wooden Boat Festival in September.

## COMING UP

**ONGOING:** the **Community Boat Restoration Program** meets on Saturdays. Participate in a boat restoration, repair, or construction under the guidance of a master shipwright.

**ONGOING:** **Veteran Charters.** Contact the BoatShop to learn more about private charters for up to five passengers aboard the 1926 purse seine vessel *Veteran*.

**DECEMBER 3: Tales at the BoatShop.** Kids ages five and up are invited to Eddon Boatyard for storytelling with a maritime twist. Sessions offered at 1 p.m., 2 p.m., and 3 p.m. Advance registration recommended. No cost.

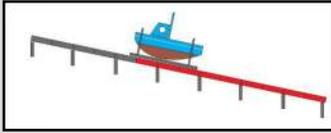
**DECEMBER 7: Bending Wood workshop.** \$45 for members / \$55 for non-members.

**DECEMBER 9:** Come on down to **Santa's BoatShop**, a festive holiday event for the whole family sponsored by **Columbia Bank**. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Advance registration required. \$10 fee.

**DECEMBER 12: Member Annual Meeting and Holiday Party.** Members will receive an email with details.

**DATES TBA: Intermediate Lofting workshop.** \$150 for members / \$175 for non-members.

# MARINE RAILWAYS CAMPAIGN UPDATE



We have reached over 50% of the Phase I fundraising goal.

The **Marine Railways Capital Campaign** to fund the marine railways reconstruction at Eddon Boatyard is underway. Thanks to your generous donations, we have raised over 50% of the estimated Phase I project cost.

The marine railway system is the final unfunded component of the holistic Eddon Boatyard site restoration, and is identified as the highest capital priority in the BoatShop's **Strategic Plan 2017-2021**. When completed, this key facility will enable the BoatShop to move boats in and out of the water for repair, programming, and other projects.

We have raised over \$45,000 for Phase I (completing the outside railways), including a \$35,000 gift from the **City of Gig Harbor**.

The project is anticipated to be phased. Construction for Phase I will begin as soon as funds are available, with phases II and III (completing the inside carriage and outside carriage, respectively) to follow.

Please contact the BoatShop to learn more about the project.

# 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, vision, and purpose. The Board of Directors and staff wish to thank the following members and donors:

## GIFTS RECEIVED BETWEEN APRIL 1, 2017 AND NOVEMBER 7, 2017

### BOATBUILDER (\$1,000+)

Baker Foundation  
Tom Bullis  
Erik & Kathleen Carlson  
Peter & Pam Carr  
Greg & Melinda Davis

Rick Ellingson  
Foss Maritime  
David Gaffney & Patricia Oriti  
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Community Foundation

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### SHIPWRIGHT (\$500 —\$999)

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Miles Struxness & Pamela Parish  
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Washington Trust for  
Historic Preservation  
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Betty Young

### APPRENTICE (\$50 —\$99)

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Nathan Bliss-Miller  
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Bill & Michael Welch  
Jeanne Williams  
S. & D. Winningham  
Donna Wisenburg  
Charles Wright

### IN-KIND DONATIONS

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

## LIFETIME GIVING CIRCLES

### WHEELHOUSE CIRCLE (\$50,000+ lifetime accumulation)

Erik and Kathleen Carlson

Emily Hall Tremaine Foundation

John McMillan

### COMPASS CIRCLE (\$25,000—\$49,999 lifetime accumulation)

Anonymous  
Peter and Pamm Carr

Rick Ellingson  
Greater Tacoma Community Foundation

Grindstone Foundation

### FO'C'SLE CIRCLE (\$10,000—\$24,999 lifetime accumulation)

Baker Foundation  
Chuck and Dianne Hunter  
Wade and Beth Perrow

Don Rees  
Pierce County Landmarks & Historic  
Preservation Commission

RPM Foundation  
Gerald Smith  
John Voigt / Voigt Charitable Trust

