

# FogHorn

Westport-South Beach Historical Society Newsletter  
March 2019



Photo Courtesy of  
Discover Grays Harbor

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## WESTPORT-SOUTH BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2019 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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### Executive Director

John Shaw  
johnshaw98520@gmail.com

### Education/Operations Manager

Julie Smith  
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*The FogHorn is a publication  
of the Westport-South Beach  
Historical Society*

Editor: Kimmi Kerns

(360) 268-0078

www.wsbhs.org

## Meet Your 2019 Board of Trustees and Staff



Pictured from left: Sherrie Williams (Treasurer), Kimmi Kerns, Winnie Cragg, John Shaw (Executive Director), Julie Smith (Education/Operations Manager), Pete Eberle (President), Nicki Kollar, Bobbi Willard (Secretary).  
Not pictured: Evelyn Robinson (Vice-President).



### YOUR PICTURE HERE

We have an open position on the Board of Trustees. We meet once per month and plan the future of the Museum and Lighthouse. It's a fun way to get involved and make a difference in our community.

Can't you just picture yourself in the picture above (in that space between John & Julie?).

Call the museum and talk to Pete (360) 268-0078.

## Westport South Beach Historical Society 2019 SPRING Calendar of Events

### March:

**Quarterly WSBHS Meeting & Party**  
**Lighthouse Clean Up Event**  
**Wild Float Release**

**Friday, March 15th 6:00 pm**  
**Saturday, March 16th, 8am on**  
**March 29th thru April 7th**

### April:

**Driftwood Show & Glass Float hunt**  
**WSBHS Whale of a Sale**  
**Crab Races**  
**Coastal Clean-up**

**Saturday-Sunday, April 6-7**  
**Saturday-Sunday, April 20-21**  
**Saturday, April 20**  
**Saturday, April 20**

### May:

**Weekend with the Fleet**  
**Blessing of the Fleet**  
**VFW Memorial Ceremony**

**Saturday-Sunday, May 25-26**  
**Sunday, May 26**  
**Monday, May 27**

## Message from your President

by Pete Eberle



It is an Honor to have been elected to serve as President of the Society and I hope to do a great job for the organization. First off let me tell you a little about myself. My wife, Debi and I have been members since 2003 and have been volunteers part time since then. Both Debi and I have served previously on the Board of Trustees. Currently I have been a board member since 2015 and served as Vice President until now.

I live between Renton and Issaquah Washington, three miles from where I grew up and am active in my community. I am President of a local nonprofit that works with local governments and advocates for residents to get involved in their neighborhoods. I am a retired Marine Engineer and spent 31 years working for the State of Alaska Marine Highway System. We spend part of every month at our Cabin in Grayland. We enjoy the beach and playing with our kids and grandkids. And we love to volunteer at the lighthouse, giving tours and helping in the gift shop. Our biggest reward is the smile on visitors faces when they get to see the view from the top of the Lighthouse.

The Lighthouse Committee is where I have spent the most of my energy. Over the years, I have done everything from getting our set of lighthouse blueprints digitized to painting the stairs and landings in the lighthouse. I have learned how to properly clean the lighthouse lens and instructed numerous new members to do the same. I was involved in rebuilding the chariot wheels on the Destruction Island lens, and have worked on maintaining the operating machinery. I am fully aware of how much work is involved in maintaining these treasures.

For the future I am looking forward to working on refurbishing the Museum & Lighthouse. Both structures need a lot of work to maintain them in a stable and safe condition. Our Museum, built in the 1930's needs a paint job, window repairs and possible updating, a new roof and railing and deck repairs. By working with the City of Westport we hope to accomplish work on the Museum. The lighthouse needs metal structural repairs, paint removal to treat rusty areas, Lens room repairs to leaky windows, vent repairs and possible replacements. A second phase of reconditioning will address the needed work on the masonry part of the structure. All of this work is outlined in our current structural materials report done by Sue Licht, Historic Preservation Architect. To work on the lighthouse we will have to seek multiple grants and do some major fund raising to achieve our goals. We will need to start on grant writing and fund raising this year, while our work and cost estimates are still valid. We hope to give a presentation of the Structural Materials Report at the next Quarterly Membership Meeting in March.

We are also excited about the possibility of our coast line becoming a National Heritage Area. A bill approved by the US Senate now goes to the House of Representatives for approval. Be sure to write your congress person to support this bill, The National Resources Management Act. The National Heritage Area extends along the Coast and throughout Puget Sound and covers lighthouses, historic vessels, parks and other landmarks that are within a quarter mile of the shore. This may help us tap available federal funds for restoration work. Another source of funding we hope to explore is the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office which provides a Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG) Program. This grant program allows for grants to support Navigational Aids such as the Grays Harbor Lighthouse. If anyone is interested in helping us or has information to share, please contact us.

So finally a big cheer to our new endeavors and thanks to all of you that have helped get us to this point. And also a great big thanks to my fellow board members, John Shaw our Executive Director and Julie Smith our Operations Manager and all of our volunteers and Work Campers who keep our doors open. They are truly the lifeblood of our organization.

## Executive Director's Corner

- by John Shaw

One of the very rewarding points of engagement that Julie and I have become involved with are the Coast Guard 13th District Memorial Events. In addition to good outreach to our own past "Coasties", it has allowed us to make contacts with the broader Coast Guard Community that so often intersects with our Lighthouse and Lifesaving History. We are always working to learn, collect and archive the stories that connect us.



At the recent Columbia River Triumph Memorial service I was able, with the hospitality of the Columbia River Maritime Museum, to do a sit down, long form recorded interview with Gordon Huggins, the lone survivor of the Triumph. Gordon has told the story many times over the years but this is the first time it has been recorded for the archives.

One of the tie ins to our own Museum is that prior to Gordon being Stationed at Point Adams, he was on Destruction Island along with his wife and family. Gordon is one of several of our Retired Coast Guard friends who were "hands on" when our own Destructions Island Lens was still on the Island and in service. Having known Gordon for a few years now, I decided to check our copy of the original D.I. Visitors Logbook. This book recorded every non-assigned visitor from 1895 to the last man signing out at the closing of the Lighthouse to automation in 1968.

In the accompanying picture I am showing Gordon his wife's entry on arriving to the Island in 1957. Making connections.

**PLEASE support the following businesses  
who support US by their membership and/or donations:**

American Sunset RV  
Brumfield Construction  
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Westport Marina Cottages  
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### MARCH POTLUCK

Friday, March 15th, 6:00 pm McCausland Hall

**There will be a presentation from the LH Committee regarding the findings of the Investigatory work performed in 2018.  
This Potluck will be open to the Public.**

## Collections Corner: Tokeland in 1908

by John Shaw



In working through archives and boxes of "to be filed" information, some things always seem to invite a good read. This is Tokeland in 1908 from a marketing booklet. Very Fun. Now we have to figure out if there was a real mineral spring? Anyone?

(From a Booklet, from the Scott Clarks)

*"Located on Willapa Harbor four miles from the Pacific Ocean, there is probably no place upon the Pacific Coast so replete with natural charm as Tokeland. Its exquisite beauty and variety of scenery are diversified by ocean bay and river and groves of spruce, pine alder, and other trees. The bay is delightfully adapted to boating and yachting and many kinds of fish may be taken at all seasons of the year. For bathing purposes the beach at Tokeland is all that could be desired, one long, bold sweep of wide gentle sloping, clean, white sands--the very perfection of a bathing beach, and so safe that children may play and bathe upon it with entire security.*

*There are also great varieties of sea mosses, shells, pebbles, and agates scattered along the beach, fringed as it is at all times with the creamy ripple of the surf.*

*That Tokeland as a summer resort is rapidly growing in popular favor is shown by the fact that the number of hotel guests and campers each year greatly exceed the numbers of previous years.*

*The famous Mineral Spring is located near the center of Tokeland in a shady grove which provides excellent camping privileges. This mineral water which gushes out in a continual stream from a depth of 280 feet has no doubt great medicinal virtues as no sickness is known to exist in Tokeland where this water is used for domestic purposes.*

*North Cove light house and life saving station can be reached by stage over a most beautiful drive of five miles through scenic groves of pines and alders.*

*Excellent trout fishing is found in adjacent streams such as North River and Cedar River, which are both in easy reach. Crab fishing, when the tide is out, is also a great sport, the only implements needed to catch them being a garden rake and gunny sack. The eastern and mud clam can also be found in great abundance nearby.*

*Tokeland has a splendid transportation service in the two daily steamers, Sharnrock and Reliable.*

*Tokeland has two first class hotels in the Tokeland Hotel and Hotel Rustic. The Hotel Rustic is built like a river boat, having on the first deck a large dining saloon that will comfortably seat 50 guests. On the second deck are 20 staterooms with upper and lower berths. All are outside rooms, commodious and with a fine view of the beach. To the third or hurricane deck has just been added ten large rooms, which together with the annex just built, will give accommodation to twice the number of guests as in former seasons. This hotel is located on the beach and within fifty feet of the water.*

*The pioneer hotel of Tokeland is the Tokeland Hotel, owned and operated by Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Kindred. It has been repeatedly enlarged to accommodate the growing patronage of those who have spent previous summers there and now make their visits annually. This is besides a large transient trade for which the hotel is well equipped. They own the Tokeland town site, and still have a number of lots and tracts for sale at reasonable prices."*



## A Conversation with Executive Director John Shaw

by Joni Rodgers

If you sit down for an hour to talk history with John Shaw, you'll get up two hours later having discussed everything from professional football to the travel habits of honey bees. Our Mr. Shaw is a renaissance man who grew up around the NFL, made a name in the boat-building business, and is now executive director of Westport's Maritime Museum. It's easy to go off on tangents, but the conversation always comes back to how to keep history in focus while envisioning a future for the organization.

### What are your priorities as steer the museum forward?

Survive. I preach on this, that our organization 35 years ago was founded when we had Greatest Generation and Baby Boomers who gave a lot of time, a lot of effort out of their lives, a lot of volunteerism. Now we are in the world of Gen Xers and Millennials who have completely different priorities. So I try to find the Historical Society a path that really carries into the future.

### Do you have a strategy for bringing Millennials on board?

I would like to have them all enjoy history. I want them to engage. Because some of them will want to go deeper. I see people that come in [to the Maritime Museum]. They're very engaged. Families, kids—they ooh, ah, but they're not gonna get real deep. You want to try and engage them, so let's do a good show, let's try and always be improving what we're telling people. Let's have something where we really are preserving as much as we can.

### Is it all tourists coming in or are some people doing serious research?

Just recently, we performed very well with two books. People came in and needed us to dig out stuff. We've been able to do well, giving them a moment of "Wow, we really didn't know that." I want us to be able to really do that as the Historical Society. Ultimately, I'd like to have that stuff online and engaging people.

### Archiving online—is that one a lessons we learned from the fire at the Aberdeen museum?

Oh yeah. Tragic.

### What was lost in that fire that particularly hurt your heart?

All the rest of the Bob McCausland stuff. Bob McCausland was one of the great Washington editorial cartoonists. One of the sweetest guys in the world, and he had a great bead on things. They had a bunch more of his art, plus they had his office furniture, his drawing desk, his chairs, his stuff from the wall. For me, that was one thing. That was really hard to know, that's all gone. You look back, and that political humor stuff—it's just gold. We want to save it. Luckily, we saved the birds. We'll probably box them up pretty soon just to store them because we're going to do something new in that room at the museum. It's getting a little bit long in the tooth in there. But just to be saved.

### What's going to happen in the room?

One idea is local photographers taking turns showing their work. I tread carefully, because for me, photography is not a contest, but for those guys it is. Now we're having this discussion: Who gets to be first? Diplomacy's a big thing. You have ups and downs over the years. If you go back and study the history of ourselves—or any organization—

### Or any family.

Of course. There's times where you feel like everybody's just bound and determined to have a problem. My point of view in life is, everybody lighten up. I used to be in business that way, too. It had to stay fun. You had to be into it. Doesn't mean it wasn't hard at times, but it isn't rocket science. We're a small town museum and a Historical Society, and there's no reason we can't all get along. There's no shortage of things to work on. First and foremost, you keep the door open. It's like, keep the patient alive and go from there.

## HELP WANTED !!

Do you have some free time but don't want to commit to a regular or specific time schedule?

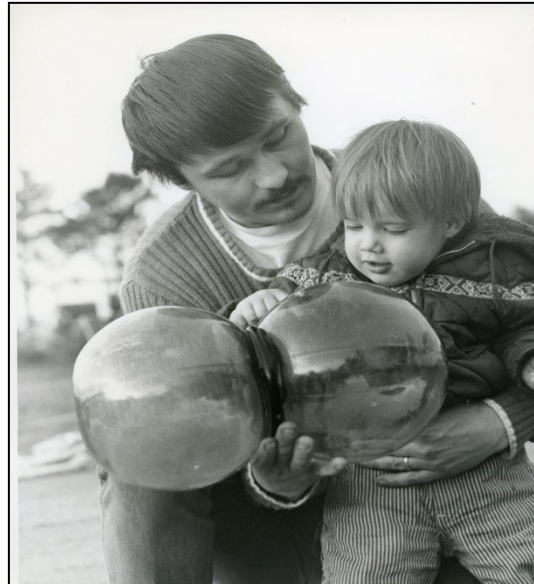
Here are some tasks that we could use help with at the museum and/or the lighthouse:

**Current needs:** Outdoor sign repairs/repainting for Old Fashioned 4<sup>th</sup> of July  
Prepping, updating kids games  
Sorting/inventory of assorted holiday decorations

**Future needs:** Face painter needed for Old Fashioned 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration

*If you can help, please call the museum at 360-268-0078 and leave message for Bobbi Willard.*

## Westport South Beach Historical Society brings you "Westport Wild Float Release 2019"



Starting March 29th, 2019, several hundred authentic Japanese fishing floats will be released along the Washington Coast with the goal of tidal landings during this year's Spring Break and ending with the 57th Annual Driftwood show in Grayland on April 6th and 7th.

The Maritime Museum has real floats from Tsunami clean up in Japan and imported back to the USA. We see so many visitors and families that engage in the beachcombing and the tradition of finding a real float and the nostalgia of classic beachcombing memories. We have worked out with some experts, Alan Rammer and Curtis Ebbesmeyer on how and where strategies to get the bulk of the floats to land across a short window on the South Beaches. This would be adjusted to weather. We have boats arranged to drop and record release groups out off the coast line a few miles. The floats will have small diamond engraved numbers on them. Finders will have been advised that they can report to the Museum with the float so that the number can be recorded and a certificate of beginning location can be issued. Visitors keep the floats. We as the Maritime Museum, with our "experts", can record the findings along with tide, weather and timing information. Many beach communities have their float event, but we want Westport, as Washington's "Original Beach Town", to have the first and only real float event that gets people onto the beaches like the old days and take home a real float.

## Maritime Heritage Act Intends to Preserve Washington State's Maritime History -Press Release from Derek Kilmer's office

Tribes, Counties, and Cities in the Proposed National Maritime Heritage Area



*The proposed Washington State National Maritime Heritage Area would include the saltwater shoreline of western Washington from Grays Harbor County to Whatcom County.*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Recently the Senate voted 92-8 in favor of S. 47, the Natural Resources Management Act, a sweeping public lands package that included a bill led by Representatives Derek Kilmer (D-WA) and Denny Heck (D-WA) to establish a National Maritime Heritage Area in Washington state.

The Kilmer-Heck Maritime Washington National Heritage Area Act (H.R. 975), which was championed in the Senate by Senators Cantwell (D-WA) and Murray (D-WA), would designate a majority of Western Washington's shoreline as a National Heritage Area to help promote maritime-related tourism, economic development and maritime history as told through Washington state's museums, historic ships, fishing culture and other activities.

This would be the first National Heritage Area established in the Pacific Northwest. Congress has designated 49 National Heritage Areas nationwide to promote local economic growth and tourism and preserve sites and landmarks with cultural and historical significance.

"This bill will honor our shared maritime traditions and support our local economies," said Kilmer and Heck. "We want to express gratitude to Senator Cantwell for her leadership on this. By creating a National Maritime Heritage Area and helping coastal communities protect national treasures along our coast, we can remind future generations of our rich history along the water and attract visitors from across the nation. We're proud to see progress made on this bill which will support the vibrancy of our coastal communities, and we hope the House will move forward soon."

The provision included in S. 47 would create a heritage area that consists of **Lighthouses, historic vessels, parks, and other landmarks located within one-quarter mile of the shoreline** in 13 counties, including Whatcom, Skagit, Snohomish, San Juan, Island, King, Pierce, Thurston, Mason, Kitsap, Jefferson, Clallam, and Grays Harbor counties. It also would include 19 Native American tribes, 32 cities and 30 port districts.

National Heritage Areas are partnerships between the National Park Service, states, and local communities through which the Park Service supports local and state efforts to preserve natural resources and promote tourism. They are operated by local boards that are established by legislation. National Heritage Areas are not part of the National Park System, which are lands that are federally-owned and managed. No federal regulations are imposed, and no private land is affected or acquired.

Heritage Area designations are eligible for federal grants, and can help draw contributions from state, local and private sources. Heritage Area designations also help coordinate marketing and tourism promotion, such as developing websites, putting up highway signs to advertise sites, sponsoring festivals, and publishing brochures and tour maps. Heritage Areas also can help with assisting in the operation of museums and visitor centers.

## Lighthouse Clean Up Event



**Bring a pair of gloves and join us for our Annual clean up of the Lighthouse and grounds to get ready for the tourist season. The event will start at 8 am and go until 3 pm on Saturday, March 16th. You don't have to stay the whole time...if you have a couple of hours just show up when you can. Thank you!**

**(Our ever helpful volunteers Jesse & Jerrod Diles pictured)**



## The Ghost Busters Returned

### I.P.R.O. Investigation Report

- Investigators:** Greg Noonan, John Butera, Barry Fossand & Bob Lyon
- Guest Investigators:** Julie Smith & Lowell Deaton
- Equipment Used:** Digital Voice Recorders, Digital Video Cameras with Night Shot, Digital IRIUV Camera, EMF Meters, Digital Thermometers, Spirit Touch
- Investigation Overview:** The investigations were conducted over a 2 night period, Friday being in the museum and Saturday in the lighthouse. IRPO was granted full access to the entire museum and the lighthouse plus both oil houses. This is the second visit by the team to both facilities.

#### Westport Maritime Museum - Oct 19<sup>th</sup>

The team investigated all floors of the museum itself along with McCausland Hall. Some of the claims involve a computer mouse that fell on the floor repeatedly and a heavy metal door moving on its own. The team investigated both claims and could not find a logical explanation. In addition, there have been several interesting responses from Julie's German shepherd Chief when he is in the museum. Chief is a young dog that frequently stands at attention in a doorway waiting for something like a treat, he stares up the stairwell as if looking for someone and is fixated with a display in one of the rooms.

At the end of the hunt, the team performed a flashlight experiment at the top of the stairs. This experiment involves adjusting the sensitivity of the on/off switch to make it easy to turn on. Two flashlights were positioned at the top of the stairs and the team was at the bottom and not touching the staircase. John's flashlight came on twice on request. A different team member set the lights up for a third attempt. When Julie said if the light turned on she would bring Chief to the museum the next day, the light went on a third time. We did capture a few EVPs (electronic voice phenomena) in the museum, please see included clips.

#### Grays Harbor Lighthouse - Oct 20<sup>th</sup>

The team investigated the lighthouse itself as well as the two oil houses that are adjoining. Another major claim is of the volunteers viewing a woman in white looking down at them from the upper levels. There is also a claim of seeing a little girl looking out of a window. IPRO team members were unable to capture photographic evidence of the little girl or the woman in white. However we did capture a possible woman's voice on our audio (which was heard by one team member at the time) as well as one or more voices around the oil house. We conducted a flashlight experiment in the oil house/gift shop. The flashlight turned on once but did not turn off and we could not repeat the result.

#### Investigation Summary:

Thank you for allowing the IPRO team to investigate both the museum and the lighthouse with full access. Activity in the museum seems to have increased since the team's first investigation in November of 2016. We feel the increase in activity may be due in part to the presence of the dog, Chief. The lighthouse continues to be active with female and male voices recorded in the complex.

IPRO would like to take this opportunity to thank Julie and Lowell for their assistance in these investigations. We would also love to give a shout out to Chief for his willingness to participate. On the audio we would hear him panting, when we asked a question he would hold his breath too. Great ghost hunting dog. IPRO is always willing to come back and perform any further investigations you may request..

Thanks again! - Greg, John, Barry and Bob  
Independent Paranormal Research Organization  
(I.P.R.O.)



Westport-South Beach Historical Society  
Newsletter

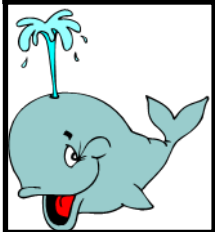
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## Whale of A Sale ... Coming Soon



Are you getting through the final stretch of winter by doing some pre-Spring cleaning? Or have personal items not bringing you joy? If so, it's time to start gathering donation items for the annual **Whale of a Sale** in McCausland Hall the weekend of April 20-21<sup>st</sup>.

Donations of new and gently used items are welcome, including household items, toys, sporting goods, tools, antiques and collectibles but clothing is not accepted. Donated items can be dropped off at the museum but call 360-268-0078 first to verify the availability of staff to receive them. Let's make this year's sale the biggest and best!

### **\*\* A Note to All Ocosta Elementary School Alumni \*\***

I am collecting information about the history of the Ocosta Elementary Dance Festival for a possible article in an upcoming edition of ***The Foghorn***.

If you have participated in the Festival and have memories, photos, or programs from past performances that you would like to share, please email to Bobbi Willard at [Rwill10294@gmail.com](mailto:Rwill10294@gmail.com) or drop them off at the Maritime Museum to my attention. Thank you!

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