



a view from the WEST POINT INN

The Newsletter for the West Point Inn Association and Friends

June 2017 • Issue 30

Mission Statement:

The West Point Inn Association exists to preserve, maintain, operate and educate the public about the significance of the historic West Point Inn.

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The newsletter is published with funds provided in memory of Lifetime Member, Ernest E. Emig, and Honorary Member, Harold Allen Atkinson.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Bob Newcomer

Another busy quarter. On the social side of things, we have had several very successful special events which will be highlighted in this issue: Chili Cook-off, Tango Night, Heritage Night, and a fourth Old Timer's Night coming in June. We also had the monthly Work Parties, our Spring Members Meeting and the Mother's Day Breakfast. All of these events are opportunities to connect with WPIA friends and others while enjoying the mountain (and for some a night at the inn), and the comradery that comes from helping prepare meals, cleaning, and the many other tasks that make our events successful and reaffirm our bond as WPIA members. Similar opportunities await those working at the pancake breakfasts, clean-up crews, and work parties during the Summer.

This quarter, in spite of the extended rain and windy conditions, has also seen notable progress on several Inn projects. I am particularly pleased to announce that the long delayed repair of the roof/ceiling supports in the Member's Lounge is completed. This repair was financed in part by the Raise the Roof fundraiser of a few years ago. The repair stabilized the support structure for the roof and ceiling. Another happy announcement is that the Emig cabin is virtually completed. We have gotten positive feedback from those coming to the Inn who toured the cabin. We expect to begin renting the cabin in July, after we have completed all the required inspections: compliance with the Americans for Disability Act regulations, and county and fire marshal inspections. In the interim we will be conducting a "Soft launch" of the cabin. This includes inviting representatives from several Bay Area disability organizations to stay at the cabin as our guests. We are doing this to introduce this new and somewhat unique recreational resource to the public, and to gain feedback on our reservations information and our service to persons with a variety of disabilities. A third major accomplishment is the work done by Bonnie Jones (the WPIA secretary), innkeeper Gordon Edwards, and MMWD to upgrade the water quality testing and management from our 'new' water tank. Their work is not as 'visible' as the other things I've mentioned, but it is tasteful and effective.

Over the next few months we will be processing plans for our deck expansion, doing our annual brush cutting as part of our fire safety program, having our monthly pancake breakfasts, and the beloved work parties, and completing some finishing touches on the Inn (e.g., adding handrails to our ramps, and contrast strips to our stairs). These will bring the Inn into compliance with ADA regulations for persons with accessibility, and vision limitations.

Finally, I'd like to announce that Brenda Roberts has officially begun her vacation-travel adventure in late April. When she will return remains to be seen, but she left a detailed work plan that will help us finish the many of the projects she organized over the past few years. We should all hope to complete our WPIA service like this.

WPIA ANNUAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION - CALL FOR CANDIDATES

The WPIA Board of Directors and Election Committee welcome inquiries from qualified members who might be interested in serving on the board. Here is some information:

- There are nine WPIA members on the Board of Directors.
- The term for a Director is three years.
- By-Laws require that an initial candidate be a member in good standing for no less than one year who has not served on the Board for 12 months prior to taking office.
- By-Laws currently allow a first-term Director to choose to stand for re-election one additional time. Thus, the maximum a member can serve as a Director is six consecutive years. Please see article elsewhere in this newsletter about potential by-law changes.
- By-laws state that the Nominating Committee consists of outgoing Board members and the President.
- By-laws state that any qualified member, other than those selected by the Nominating Committee, may run for the board by delivering a petition signed by at least 10% of voting members by September 1 (in this case, by 09/01/2017).

The election process is by mail. Candidates submit a short bio. An alphabetical list of candidates and their bios is printed in the Fall newsletter. Ballots and bios are mailed to the voting membership at least 30 days prior to the Annual Fall Meeting in October (10/15/2017) along with an addressed return envelope. Voting officially ends when the annual meeting is called to order. Votes are then tallied with results announced toward the end of the meeting. Results are kept confidential. Winners' names are announced alphabetically.

Serving on the Board of Directors is an excellent way to help the West Point Inn. Please consider sharing some of your time and talent to insure that the Inn continues to operate for the benefit of the members and guests who appreciate the opportunity to experience our unique establishment.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

Bob Newcomer
Jan Gauthier
Wayne Koide
Pete Martin

ELECTION PROCESS COMMITTEE:

Lin & Chris Marcuse

NOTE: We welcome help from members in conducting the election. If interested, please contact us.

QUESTIONS IN GENERAL: Contact Chris or Lin PHONE: (415) 516-4253 or e-mail: elections@westpointinn.com

PLEASE CONTACT SOMEONE ON THE BOARD OR ELECTION COMMITTEE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IF YOU HAVE AN INTEREST IN BECOMING A CANDIDATE FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.



RETURN TO WPI BOARD THREE YEAR TERM NEARLY COMPLETE

Wayne Koide

This October, you, as a member, will have an opportunity to vote on the final piece of “legislation” in our Bylaws which returns us to the three year term limit with a rotation of three Board members each year. Essentially, we are returning things to the way they were before 2012.

Background

The WPIA Board, in 2012, decided that changing to a two-year term might encourage more volunteers to consider running for a position on the nine-member governing body simply known as “The Board”. The thought, at the time, was that a three-year term was simply too long of a commitment - several board members were resigning before their three-year term was up.

The devil, of course, is always in the details. Since a two-year term is short, the Board determined the need to maintain a continuity of leadership in order to preserve institutional knowledge. They instituted the option for a board member to run for (up to) an additional two terms of two years each, making it theoretically possible for a board member to be in that job for up to six years.

The fallout from these changes to the Bylaws, which were voted on by the membership, was a very confusing system which in the end, made no sense and by 2014 resulted in as many as six board members being changed in one fell swoop. These changes failed to accomplish what they were set out to do.

The Solution

The Board recognized, after a time, the difficulties that this 2012 change to WPIA Board term limits presented. Last year, in conjunction with the Policy and Procedures Committee, your Board enacted a “transition” back to the “old way of doing things” to a three-year term limit.

Unfortunately, this could not be accomplished overnight. The two-year term limit system had already been put into place and the transition to the three year term system needed to be “dove-tailed” over a period of nearly two years before everything could be returned to “normal.”

If you were paying close attention to this, you might note the chart that was included as an attachment to the latest version of our Bylaws.

The Final Piece

We are happy to report that the final piece will be coming to you for a vote at our upcoming Fall Membership meeting this October. Simply put, the Board proposes a return to the three-year, non-extendable term limit for Board members with a slate of three board members going out each year.

This will result in the elimination of the attached chart from the Bylaws and removal of two paragraphs from the current section “Term of Office.”

There will be three outgoing board positions open and ready to be filled for three-year terms starting in January 2018. Those positions will be voted on at the October meeting as well.

We invite members who have never served on the Board to run for office and bring new, fresh energy and perspective to our organization.

Please look elsewhere in this newsletter for information about how to become a Board member.

Lesson learned: if it ain't broke – don't fix it!

GRATITUDE FROM THE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Whoops!! We missed acknowledging Marjorie Good in our last newsletter for “Heal the Hearth” Campaign. Thank you Marjorie Goody for your generous contribution.

In addition, we have received two more donations since the last newsletter:

Jeanne and Michael Lipson
Howard Raff

We are grateful for these donations. As we know, the Inn has a long list of projects to keep her in tip top shape.

Suzie Koide
Olene Toby Sparks
Patti Schmidt

MEMBERSHIP NOTES

Gordy and Lynn MacDermott

Hello Members,

Here are our latest new members:

Gideon Bernstein of Mill Valley
Kate Kilbourne & Robert Friedman of San Francisco
Holly Payne of Mill Valley
Mary Muszynski of Emeryville
Carolyn Gregorian of San Anselmo
Sara Lanham of Piedmont
Gretchen Verner of Oakland
Kate & Elliot Hayne of Mill Valley
Nicole Taliaferro of San Francisco
Chris Schierholtz of Mill Valley

The following new members have shared some information about themselves:

Grethen Verner wrote: I've lived in the Bay Area since 1998 and work in and live in Oakland. I have an 11 year old daughter and a 4 year old dog. I'm a high school math teacher at the College Preparatory School and currently teach Statistics, Geometry and Introductory Calculus. I moved to the Bay Area because of the progressive culture and because of access to the outdoors. In the past I have been a big sailor but now I mainly hike and bike on road and trails. I first discovered WPI through a hiking group that hiked to a pancake breakfast. For the past 5 years, I have been bringing groups of my students to the Inn for multi-night stays during our week-long spring Intraterm program. This past spring we called the trip to WPI "Camp Unplugged" and enjoyed 4 days and 3 nights of cooking great food, long hikes, and quality community time without phones and laptops. It was a special week, made possible by having such an incredibly place to call home!

Nicole Taliaferro wrote: I was born in Toulouse, South of France and moved to San Francisco 30 years ago after falling in love for the city. An avid hiker, I am on the trails every weekend, specially in the Marin Headlands, and Point Reyes. I am so happy to become a member of West Point Inn and give back to this beautiful organization. I had participated in many work parties and had truly enjoyed the camaraderie of all, I am looking forward to many more.

Elliot and Kate Hayne are thrilled to be a part of the West

Point Inn! They are both teachers; Kate teaches high school and community college; Elliot teaches elementary school. Elliot was born and raised in Marin County; Kate is a native of Connecticut. They both enjoy reading and the outdoors. They are game to do any job that needs doing, and willing to participate and contribute as much as possible to a really wonderful community!

INNKEEPERS REPORT

Lin Marcuse

It's summer and things are hopping up at the Inn. We want to give a big shout out to our tremendous crew of Innkeepers. I know I say it every issue, but the Inn truly wouldn't be in the great shape it is without our Innkeepers being up there. They keep the place looking spectacular. Along with all the volunteer time from members, of course!

All of our Innkeepers are a great source of assistance and knowledge to the many visitors to our part of Mt. Tamalpais. However, I owe one a belated "atta-boy!" On New Year's Day, David Durr was the Innkeeper on duty when a mountain biker came in complaining of shortness of breath and a heaviness on his chest. Although the cyclist protested, David quickly realized the man needed more than just a few minutes of rest. David called 9-1-1 and got the man aspirin, assisting him until the paramedics arrived. Turned out the gentleman had an acute heart attack, but survived thanks to David being there to help and getting him the medical attention he needed. Thank you, David!



WORK PARTY REPORT

Jennifer Barclay

Volunteer of the Decade!

It's always been very difficult to choose who was the best volunteer at the WP's. There are so many truly amazing people who come up, often many times each year, to give to the West Point Inn that I just couldn't decide. At the last WP it became clear to me which one of my awesome volunteers stood out from the rest. Gary Munoz Senior. He started coming up with his son (Gary Munoz Jr.), then 7, over 10 years ago. Back then his son was very shy and didn't want to do much except nap on the couch. But, as his father dragged him to the WP's year after year, he began to open up, join in and blossom. I sometimes had him lead a gang of children on projects. Gary Jr. will soon be off to college. I am so proud of him.

Anyway, back to Gary Sr...not only is he a great father by leading through example and raising an awesome son, he always shows up an hour early and never left until I did. At the beginning, the two of them hiked up together but, as the years went by Gary Jr. was showing up earlier than his father. I'd ask him, where's your father! He'd say he's comin', just getting old (kidding of course). Gary Sr. can do anything, really! And, he's always has a big smile on his face and never, never gets tired. When he was starting out as a young adult, working his way into life, he was a short order cook so he is amazing in the kitchen leading or assisting. But then, he is good at fixing things too. When he gets finished with one task and comes to me, "what do you want done next, anything?" And, he is the best organizer. Having OCD tendencies, every project he took on came out perfect. And, on top of all this he is a modest man, no ego to get in the way of things and fun for all to be around.

So, there you go...volunteer of the decade, Gary Munoz Sr.!

A huge thank you Gary!

CHILI COOK OFF

Kathleen Kopp

Chili Cook Off Delicious Fun

This years chili cook off was the best yet. We had about 80 people in attendance, a live band, and 5 incredible chilis. There was cornbread galore, homemade coleslaw and brownies. We used the Event Brite site to sell tickets, and that was quite successful and easy to track, and effortless to collect payments.

The event was graciously hosted by Kathy Kopp and Gail Shahan. Our wonderful chili chefs were Pat Williams, Toni Lee, Nancy Urban, Evo Gregorian, and Lars Hansen. Tim Sarter brought up some friends to play great music on the deck. All goods and services were donated by these lovely people!

Hope you can join us next time! The only real rule is to have a good time. If you are interested in participating next year, contact one of the hosts and we'll keep you in mind.



GARDEN OF EATIN'

Kathleen Kopp

The summer crops are in. We planted tomatoes in 2 stages, hoping to stagger production and ripening. There are many tomato varieties including Early Girl, Beefsteak, Chadwick Cherry, Black Cherry, Stupice, and several Sungolds, which grow very well on the mountain. We also planted zucchini, cucumber, broccoli, kale, peppers, purple beans, green pole beans, and snap peas. We added some organic plant food. Our garden continues to be a wonderful place to relax, breathe deep of the mountain air scented with sweet peas, and marvel at the miracle of life in nature.

Enjoy!



PANCAKE BREAKFASTS

Gordy MacDermott & Lin Marcuse

We would like to give a big thanks to our fantastic new Mother's Day Pancake Breakfast Hosts! Back in April, we had no host for one of our biggest fund-raising events. When Scott and Lisa Halsted were asked if they would consider being the hosts, they immediately said, "Sure, tell us what to do!" Fast-forward a month and they were running their first PB as if they had been doing it for years. Under their great leadership (and some guidance from Gordy), the crew served 994 orders. We also want to thank that very busy crew and the clean-up crew that had to follow all those hungry diners!

This in no way diminishes the up-coming contributions from the new & veteran hosts for our remaining Breakfasts & Clean Ups. We want to thank those listed below for stepping up and taking a leadership role for the Inn. If you would like to volunteer for one of their crews, please email us at pancakes@westpointinn.com and we will forward your contact information to the appropriate host(s).

We further want to thank those assisting with publicity for these important events. Darla Holst is assisting with poster distribution and, once again, Patti Schmidt is our media relations guru. Lastly, but definitely not least, we want to welcome two new members to the Pancake Breakfast committee, Molly Casey and Talia Friedman. They will be making sure all the supplies needed each month are ready and waiting for the incoming crews. Thanks, Molly and Talia, for helping out!

The remaining Pancake Breakfast dates are:

June 18 (Father's Day)

Breakfast: Mark & Antoinetta Northcross

Clean-up: Fran Rondeau

July 9

Breakfast: Fran Rondeau, Patti Schmidt & Gail Shahan

Clean-up: Nita Winter

August 13

Breakfast: Jan Gauthier & Wade Hufford

Clean-up: Bonnie Jones

September 10

Breakfast: Bob Newcomer & Gordy MacDermott

Clean-up: Rose Sullivan

October 8

Breakfast: Pat Kavanaugh

Clean-up: Megan Agosto



Heritage Night: "Saving Mt. Tamalpais"

Full house -- over 60 guests filled the "Member's Lounge" of the West Point Inn on two consecutive nights for Heritage Night 2017. National Park Service Ranger Mia Monroe talks about the Kent Family's gift of Muir Woods to the people of the United States--the first such thing ever. The gift that almost never was.

A MOMENT IN TIME HERITAGE WEEKEND 2017

Fred Runner

There was a lot of Heritage the first weekend in May.

The Inn hosted two Heritage Night dinners and, on Saturday afternoon, a plaque dedication at the foot of our historic stone steps.

On Friday afternoon the wind was swirling around the Inn. Its speed increased and the trees around the Inn swayed back and forth. (We saw gusts of 47 miles per hour.)

Inside was the hum of activity. Large photos were being hung in the Member's Lounge and in the kitchen many hands were chopping and sautéing that night's dinner.

About 5 PM, people began showing up. They grabbed a glass, poured some wine and pasted a name tag on their chest. Gentle fires popped and crackled in the fireplaces.

Both nights had sold out and the Member's Lounge was very full.

Chef Fran Rondeau created an excellent meal: Bill Cody's hearty beef stew, farm-fresh salad and asparagus, David Durr's fresh-baked bread and apple cake for dessert.

When dinner was finished we talked about the Inn's early days, when Mt. Tamalpais was privately owned. The Tamalpais Land and Water Co. owned most of the southern face of the mountain, including a canyon that held the last stand of virgin redwood trees near San Francisco. In fact, in 1905, it was the last stand near any major city.

The Tamalpais Land and Water Co. was about to log out Redwood Canyon, build a dam and sell water when William and Elizabeth Kent, wealthy citizens of Marin, bought the canyon and stopped the process. It had been a dream for the Kents to turn Redwood Canyon and Mt. Tamalpais into a National Park. The government was not interested. So the Kents considered turning the canyon into a biological preserve for U.C. Berkeley.

In the mean time, Sidney B. Cushing, William Kent's good friend and the president of the Mill Valley and Mt. Tamalpais Scenic Railway, began working on a branch line to bring people to the canyon that Kent wanted to rename Muir Woods.

The rail line was finished in the spring of 1907. The first train of visitors was filled with school children who came to see the massive trees.

In December 1907, Kent learns, a new water company, the North Coast Water Co., wants to sue him, take away the canyon and turn the canyon into a reservoir.

Luckily, Kent had gone to Yale. He contacted one of his college friends, Gifford Pinchot, the head of the U. S. Forest Service and a friend of Teddy Roosevelt. Very quickly, they engineer a deal to turn 300 acres on the floor of the canyon into a National Monument and block the suit.

On January 9, 1908, Roosevelt signs the proclamation that creates Muir Woods. It is the tenth National Monument created and the very first given by individuals.

Then Pinchot and Roosevelt, both progressive republicans, lobby Kent to run for congress. Kent does and wins a seat in the House of Representatives in 1910.

In 1912 Congressman Kent comes back to Marin to campaign for a referendum to create a publicly owned, publicly funded water district to provide water to the people of Marin. Kent says the private water companies have made too much money on the people of Marin.

The referendum passes by 85%. The next step is to pass a bond measure to fund it. Both measures, heavily campaigned against by the private water companies, win. The bond measure passes in 1915. In 1916 much of Mt. Tamalpais is condemned and the new water district is created. (The railroad continues to own its right of way and properties, including the West Point Inn.)

Kent has done two things:

- 1) Created the first municipal water district in California.
- 2) It is Kent's clever way of preserving the wilderness of Mt. Tamalpais with a publicly run, financially sustainable organization. (He also smites the water company that sued him.)

Also in 1915, Kent brings many fellow congressmen who are visiting the grand 1915 World's Fair in San Francisco, to ride the Crookedest Railroad in the World up Mt. Tamalpais and down into Muir Woods, to show them the marvel of an accessible preserved wilderness.

In 1916, Kent is the principal author of the "Organic Act", which creates, for the first time ever, the National Park Service, to fund, run and create the National Parks of America. President Woodrow Wilson signs the law on August 25, 1916.

Kent's story of wilderness preservation does not end there. He is one of the founders of the "Save the Redwoods League." The day before he died in 1928, he donates Steep Ravine to the fledgling state park of Mt. Tamalpais.

That was our Heritage story. But also note: William Kent and Sidney Cushing came through the West Point Inn many times. The Inn was built as part of a business venture for the two men the year before the Kents bought Redwood Canyon.

Guest speakers added perspective: Carl Nolte spoke of his father's first visit to Muir Woods in 1910, when he carved his initials in a tree. Muir Woods Supervising Ranger, Mia Monroe, who has worked at Muir Woods for thirty years, gave the perspective of the National Park, spoke of the park's future and how Carl's father probably carved his initials in one of the trees that had since fallen, irreparably weakened by those initials.

On Friday night, William Kent's granddaughter, Nancy Kent Danielson, was our guest of honor. At the end of our talk she stood and shook my hand, a big thrill for me.

FIRE & SAFETY COMMITTEE

Pete Martin

The Fire & Safety Committee is pleased to announce that we passed the May 18, Annual Fire Inspection conducted by representatives from the Throckmorton Ridge Fire Station, Marin County Fire Department.

We had only two minor infractions that included low pressure in two of our "pressure water fire extinguishers" and the certification of our Range Hood Extinguishing System. The certification was resolved on the spot. The two fire extinguishers will be serviced shortly.

HELP WANTED

The Prestigious Fire & Safety Committee has openings for two Co-Chairs to assume the reins in 2018.

- An opportunity to serve your Inn
- Experience not necessary
- Training will be provided
- Coordinates Fire & Safety systems
- Work closely with the Innkeepers
- Please contact Pete Martin at 415-499-8028



NOW HIRING

- * **Amazing Opportunity to Co-Chair the Fire & Safety Committee/Two Openings Available**
- * **Experience Helpful but not Required**
- * **Training Will Be Provided**
- * **Committee Chair Retiring 2018 - NEED HELP!**

For More Information:
415-499-8028
petemartin@comcast.net

NATIVE SONS PLAQUE DEDICATION AT THE WPI

Fred Runner

Saturday afternoon, the Native Sons of the Golden West, a distinguished historical organization founded in 1875, unveiled and then dedicated a new bronze plaque at the West Point Inn.

The plaque gives a short concise history of the Inn so any visitor can know why the Inn exists.

Plaque Text:

The West Point Inn was built in 1904 by the Mill Valley & Mount Tamalpais Scenic Railway where daily steam trains met a stagecoach for a journey to the beach.

The Inn was a stop on a railway whose major stops were at Tamalpais' East Peak and Muir Woods. For hikers, the Inn was a place of delightful hospitality with food, rooms and shelter where they loved to hike.

Over the years each time the Inn faced a crisis hikers quickly volunteered to find a way to keep it going. The Inn has been owned by the Marin Municipal Water District since 1932 and run by volunteers since 1943.

Dedicated by the Native Sons of the Golden West, May 6, 2017

Paul D. Lapachet Grand President



As part of the ceremony Marin Municipal Water District Ranger Brett Pedisich spoke eloquently of the long relationship between the MMWD and the volunteers who run the West Point Inn.

"Take a moment and look around. Look at where you are. It's pretty unbelievable. This setting. This building. The beauty of the West Point Inn, inside and out is unbelievable. In fact I can say with confidence it is as or more beautiful than it ever has been. The beauty of the Inn is directly linked to the energy, generosity and tenacity of its members. I'm continually impressed by the energy and passion of the WPIA and its members and how they operate to maintain this spectacular historic site.

"As a park ranger I'm tasked with helping to protect this beautiful wilderness sanctuary. As an employee of the MMWD, I can not state my praise emphatically enough for the partnership we have forged with the West Point Inn and the Association. We are so blessed to have such a monumental property with a grand historic significance perched on Mt. Tamalpais. It is truly an asset to the community, the state of California and the country as a whole that we preserve this chapter of our history."

National Park Service Ranger Mia Monroe spoke next saying she was glad to be part of the ceremony and reminded of the long and intertwined heritage of the West Point Inn and Muir Woods.

Former West Point Inn Association president Carl Nolte reminded everyone that the Inn's survival, in this setting and little changed from its early days, is a miracle.



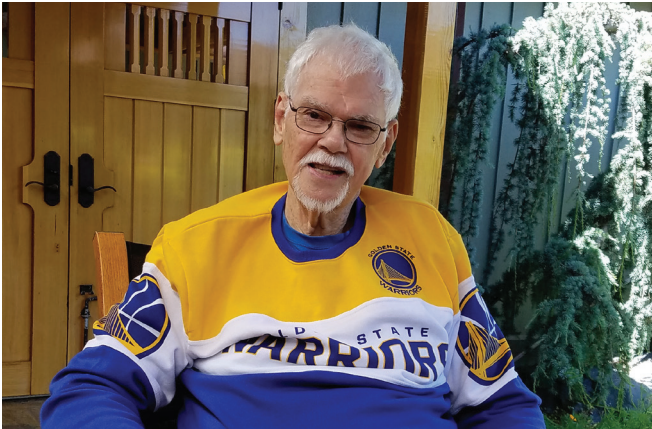
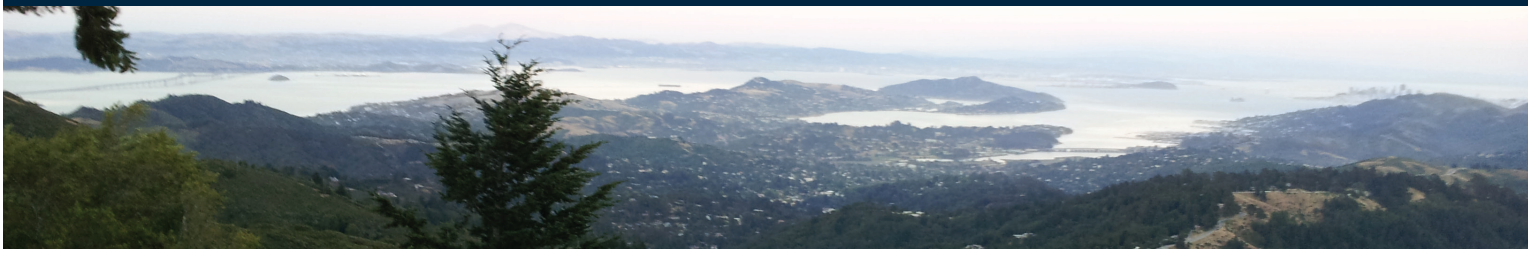
May 6, 2017: Native Sons of the Golden West Plaque Dedication at the West Point Inn

NSGW Grand President Paul Lapachet conducts a decades old ceremony at the foot of the Inn's 113-year old stone steps.

The Native Sons combined sand, concrete and water, gathered from historic sites from around the state, mixed them together and anointed the new plaque.

L to R - Bob Morris, Paul D. Lapachet, Fred Codoni, Tony Sterelli and Chris Nelson.

Photo by MMWD Ranger Mike Faus



VIEW FROM THE PORCH: GAGE SCHUBERT

Marilyn Skaff

It was in 1973 or '74 that Gage Schubert decided to take a hike from his home on Panoramic Highway and ended up at the West Point Inn. When he walked up onto the porch, he was immediately captured by the view. He was welcomed by the innkeeper, Jerry Schiffer, who suggested that Gage join the club. At that time it was a private club known as the West Point Inn Club. Jerry said that the best way to gain membership was to hang out on the weekends and get to know people. Gage followed that advice and managed to impress the board members, including Grace Woodward, the board president, and in 1975 became a member. Shortly after he joined, a group of members, including Jim Treadwell, Charlie Evans, and Ole Prahm, were approached by MMWD and asked to form a new board and to change the status of the inn from a private club to a non-profit association, open to the public. At a membership meeting, the new board took charge and the changes were made. Gage reports that most people were happy to see the change occur and the atmosphere was quite joyful.

There were three major projects that Gage was actively involved in during his years as a member. The first was the water pipe between the hummingbird tank (the old wooden tank along the fire road approaching the inn) and the Inn. In the summer, there was often no water for the inn, so Gage and his friends, Charlie Evans and Jim Treadwell, took

on the project of laying a new pipe between the water tank and the Inn, which involved getting a backhoe up on the mountain. The second project involved a new septic tank below the Honeymoon cabin. Gage related that their work on that project took place during the time of the hunt for the trailside killer. They were digging a hole, ready to lower the tank when a sheriff drove up and demanded to know what they were doing. One of the members of the crew, a fellow with a strong Irish accent, told the sheriff that they were "burying today's contingent of bodies!" Fortunately the sheriff had a sense of humor! The third major project that Gage contributed to was the approval for and construction of the Innkeeper's Cabin. He has been board president and has actively participated in many fund raising projects over the years.

Gage was born in Delaware, Ohio (near Columbus) where his father was a professor at Wesleyan University. Because of his father's profession, the family moved around quite a bit. Gage attended college at Marquette University in Milwaukee, then lived in Minneapolis before heading west to Los Angeles in 1957, where he worked in a phonograph record store. He visited San Francisco and fell in love with the city, so moved to San Francisco. In 1958 he opened a toy shop in North Beach, called Happy Things, and later added shops in Carmel and on Union Street. Eventually his career path took him into real estate development.

In the mid 90's, Gage left active involvement in the West Point Inn, but he describes his WPI years as among the happiest of his adult life. His dedication to volunteer work and generous support of the Inn and many other organizations continues to this day. He is well-known and appreciated in Mill Valley for his support of the Mountain Play, Marin Theater Company, the Fall Arts Festival, and the Dipsea Race. He believes that giving for the common good is "magic" and makes lives change for the better. In addition to his philanthropic work, he is a dedicated Warriors fan and loves to travel, with upcoming trips planned to Alaska, Madrid, and Athens.

Gage's love for the Inn continues, although he doesn't visit as often as he once did. Now at 82, he is still passionate about the spirit of the place and feels that one of the most compelling aspects of the Inn is the view from the front porch!

DEPARTURES



ROBERT SAGEHORN

Bob Sagehorn was born in San Francisco in 1938 and graduated from the California Maritime Academy with a degree in Marine Engineering. After sailing in the Merchant Marine for a couple of years he was offered a direct commission in the US Navy and so began his career as a Naval Officer. In 1962 he met Elizabeth

Toby, niece of Fred and Les Toby, founding members of The West Point Inn. Bob and Elizabeth were married in the Navy Chapel on Treasure Island in 1964. Bob served in Viet Nam and earned the Combat Action Ribbon, Purple Heart, and Bronze Star with "V" device while there.

Upon Bob's retirement in 1980 he applied to and was accepted at the School of Veterinary Medicine at UC Davis. Upon graduation, the Sagehorns opted to settle in Davis. Bob enjoyed his career as a veterinarian and retired for the last time in 2006.

Bob and Elizabeth were members of the WPIA for almost as long as they were married and enjoyed many happy weekends at the West Point Inn, although they never lived close enough to be active participants. They worked their fair share of Work Parties and Pancake Breakfasts and introduced many of their friends in Davis to the wonders of the Inn. Bob was always willing to do the dishes and clean up after events and especially loved singing around the piano and sitting on the deck at night listening to people's stories and telling a few of his own.

Bob had a wonderful sense of humor, told great stories, and always saw the best in every person and situation. He was unfailingly polite and kind to everyone - he defined the word 'gentleman'.

Bob died In March of complications from Parkinson's/Lewy Body Dementia. He leaves behind his wife of 52 years, two daughters and three grandsons who all miss him very much and wish him, "Fair Winds and Following Seas..."

Written by his wife, Elizabeth Toby Sagehorn

2017 ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

June

- 3 Old Timers Appreciation Party
Host: Marilyn Skaff
- 12 Board Meeting**
- 17 Work Party
- 18 Father's Day Pancake Breakfast
Hosts: Mark and Antonietta Northcross
Clean Up Host: Fran Rondeau

July

- 9 Pancake Breakfast
Hosts: Fran Rondeau, Patti Schmidt & Gail Shahan
Clean Up Host: Nita Winter
- 10 Board Meeting**
- 15 Work Party

August

- 13 Pancake Breakfast
Hosts: Jan Gauthier and Wade Hufford
Clean Up Host: Bonnie Jones
- 14 Board Meeting**
- 19 Work Party

September

- 10 Pancake Breakfast
Hosts: Bob Newcomer & Gordy MacDermott
Clean Up Host: Rose Sullivan
- 11 Board Meeting**
- 16 Work Party

October

- 8 Final Pancake Breakfast
Host: Pat Kavanagh
Clean Up Host: Megan Agosto
- 9 Board Meeting**
- 14 Night Before Fall Meeting
- 15 Fall Meeting & Member's barbecue
- 21 Work Party

November

- 13 Board Meeting**
- 18 Work Party

December

- 9 Cookie Party/ Member's Holiday Party++
- 11 Board & Committee Chairs Christmas party
- 31 New Year's Eve Party
Host: Olene Sparks-Toby

* Location at MMWD Boardroom
220 Nellen Drive, Corte Madera
MEETINGS START AT 7PM

++ Walk-out nights

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The West Point Inn Association exists to preserve, maintain, operate and educate the public about the significance of the historic West Point Inn.



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