

a view from the

WEST POINT INN

The Newsletter for the West Point Inn Association and Friends

September 2024 • Issue 59

*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

Mark Northcross

Dear members;

First, let me thank so many of you for your dedication to serving the West Point Inn. Work parties, member events, donations. The deep commitment of our membership to this service is what makes the Inn such a gift to our region!

2025 Projects. Your Board, with the help of many volunteers, is focused on fire hardening the Inn now that we have completed the major repair of the roof and its structural supports over the Member's Lounge. Our next projects are likely to be (1) replacing many of the sprinklers in the Inn to current fire safety standards, (2) fire hardening our propane tanks and (3) shrub pruning/removal and tree limbing for defensible space around the Inn's buildings. All three projects are within our current budget capacity

As you may know, propane tanks are a major fire hazard in a windstorm driven catastrophic wildfire. They explode. We have two of them, one by the "chicken coop", and one up by the solar field. Our current thought is to simply remove the propane tank by the chicken coop and replace the tank by the solar field with a larger tank with the latest fire safety features on it. We might actually bury that tank, but that remains to be seen. We would run a larger diameter propane gas line from the new solar field tank to the main Inn building. That should also help with kitchen oven and propane griddle capacity during pancake breakfasts.

But....that still leaves several other major vulnerabilities: the exterior siding, the decks, and the windows. At the October member's meeting we showed examples of fire resistant exterior shingles. While Hardie Board is nearly non-combustible, the fire resistant cedar shingle are aesthetically much more in alignment with how the Inn historically has looked. That's the good news. The bad news is that preliminary estimates for just redoing the main Inn building with fire resistant shingles, whether the cedar shingles or Hardie Board is about \$250,000. And...that does not include doing the cabins or other out buildings.

Bottom line: addressing all of the Inn's wildfire vulnerabilities is a several hundred thousand dollar project. To do this, we need major fund raising. And....we need to do it as we are doing it now, one step at a time, over a period of several years. I want to thank again members Michael Jefferies and Jim Hill for their steadfast attention on finding and implementing good options for fire hardening the Inn, as well as fire safety committee chair Scott Halsted, with support from member Chris Scheetz, in evaluating options!

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Continued from p1.

Fund raising. I also want to thank member Pete Karlen for continuing to take the lead on funding a long term endowment for the Inn. That endowment has now been legally created. Pete is reaching out to potential major donors now. This is a first for the Inn - and given the wildfire risk we now face, very timely!

Pancake breakfasts. Some of you may have noted the huge increase in attendance at our pancake breakfasts. While we really appreciate this, wait times have grown to be as long as 2 hours. Our pancake breakfast leadership team, Nancy Fox, Patti Schmidt and Alyssa Jorgenson, have come up with solutions for next year: 3 cashiers and a 4th pancake griddle. Let's hope this works!

MEMBERSHIP NOTES

Talia Friedman

Hello Members!

2024 was a successful year for the membership. We welcomed 26 new members, have a waitlist of 20 qualified applicants, and collected over \$41,000 in dues.

As the end of the year approaches, members will receive an invoice per email for 2025 Locker Fees and Member Dues. You can pay online with a credit card or make arrangements to mail in a check (the email has details on how or jot me a line at membership@westpointinn.com). If you have West Point Inn Bucks to remit, you can mail those in to me and the invoiced amount will be adjusted accordingly upon receipt.

****Notice to Joint Members:** only one of the two members will receive the payment request. If you are not the right person to complete the payment and I should send the invoice to your membership partner, please let me know right away so I can make the correction. Your prompt attention saves volunteer hours.

Thank you to all members for your contributions to sustaining the West Point Inn and to committee chairs who encouraged and facilitated new applicants. Wishing all a joyous and healthy 2025!



SURPRISE FALL MEETING

Fran Rondeau

For many years, (perhaps decades) our Fall meetings have been a highly anticipated event for old and new members alike. The meeting always begins with a kaffeeklatsch at 10 am where folks greet and chat with each other while enjoying coffee and home-baked snacks. Afterwards, we all gather in the Members Lounge for the Fall Meeting at 11am where we have an opportunity to meet and hear from our Board of Directors and Committee Chairs and participate in the latest Inn decisions and plans. There is also a question-and-answer period followed by a Raffle with assorted prizes including a free overnight stay. Raffle tickets are handed out to all members and are free of charge. A volunteer-prepared gourmet buffet lunch while enjoying a “million dollar” view concludes the occasion.

So, what was surprising about this year?

Surprise #1: Location.

Weather conditions aka “Red Flag Day” required a last-minute change of venue. This was not an easy feat! Thanks to Patti Schmidt and Nancy Fox, and with Board approval the perfect spot was secured: The Clubhouse at The Mill Valley Tennis Club .

Surprise #2: The turnout was huge! Over 75 members attended.

An enthusiastic group of volunteers jumped in at the last minute, made cookies and desserts at home, set up tables and chairs, artfully arranged platters, and stayed to clean up. I can’t help but pat myself and Nancy Fox on the back. With less than 3 days notice we managed to rethink and recreate a menu that would be an appetizing and delicious replacement for lunch at the West Point Inn. We hauled up every single piece of cutlery and serving platters from our personal kitchens. And with a little help from the Dollar Store, we bought paper plates and cups. We tossed out our carefully planned Inn prepared lunch recipes and created an even tastier array of both vegetarian and meat platters and salads for everyone to enjoy.

What an event! With this kind of success, we are considering holding the Fall Meeting at this same location in October of '25. Let us know what you think!



WORK PARTIES

Fran Rondeau

Work parties and Mini Work Party chairs coordinate schedules and tasks to keep the Inn up to snuff both inside and out. One huge task and one individual deserve special mention:

Donald DeLave and the event closet.

For years the tucked away “event closet” has been deteriorating. Anyone bent over struggling to locate pancake breakfast aprons, white linen table cloths, Christmas decorations, champagne glasses or duplicate pots and pans emerge muttering “what a mess!”. Loose pieces of raggedy insulation spilled down from the slanted roof on one side while old nails poked out from the other wall. Mini work party volunteers started preparing the space for repair on Tuesday, November 5 and Don DeLave worked for 2 days last Friday and Saturday November 15 and 16 finishing the project. The ceiling is still slanted but the inside is the work of a dedicated professional. Thank you Donald!

RESERVATIONS

Jennifer Greene

To make a reservation go to our website westpointinn.com and click “stay” and then “make a reservation”. This takes you to our booking engine and you are prompted to type in the member promo code. **Please click “+Add Room” when booking multiple rooms or cabins.**

This promo code allows you to book 120 days in advance, receive a 50% discount on ONE accomodation per night, and discount on whole inn bookings Tuesday-Thursday. We do not allow whole inn bookings on Saturdays or Sundays. Mondays we are closed. Please do not share the promo code with anyone.

The promo code is currently BOOTJACK

WPI bucks are redeemed by presenting them to the Innkeeper upon arrival at the inn. We look forward to seeing you at the inn soon!”



Donald DeLave and the event closet.



Crowds lining up for the October pancake breakfast. Over 1,000 people served!

WEST POINT INN OFFICERS AND CHAIRPERSONS

PRESIDENT

Mark Northcross
415.380.4171
president@westpointinn.com

VICE PRESIDENT

James Hill
415.8644408
jameshill@jameshillarchitect.com

TREASURER

Craig Hill
415.518.4130
treasurer@westpointinn.com

SECRETARY

Joss Hanna
jhanna@harvestproperties.com

POLICY & PROCEDURES

Wayne Koide
yuzuru3632@gmail.com

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

Michael Jefferies
michaeljefferies48@gmail.com

DEVELOPMENT

Pete Karlen
petekarlen@gmail.com

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Lin Marcuse
pancakes@westpointinn.com

MT. TAM LIAISON

Bob Newcomer
rjnewcomer@comcast.net

COMMUNICATION

Jan Gauthier
jangauthier08@gmail.com

GARDEN

Kathleen Kopp
katkopp@gmail.com

FIRE SAFETY COMMITTEE

Scott Halsted
scott.halsted@gmail.com

HERITAGE

Fred Runner
onesoundfred@mac.com

HOUSEKEEPING

Fran Rondeau, franrondeau@gmail.com
Bonnie Jones, bmjones4123@gmail.com

INN HISTORIAN

Fred Runner
onesoundfred@mac.com

MEMBERSHIP

Talia Friedman
membership@westpointinn.com

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Alison Bricker
alisonbricker@gmail.com

EVENTS

Nancy Fox & Patti Schmidt
events@westpointinn.com

ELECTION

Susan Aronovsky
elections@westpointinn.com

WORK PARTY

Donald DeLave
workparty@westpointinn.com

BOOKKEEPER

Marta Gomez
bookkeeper@westpointinn.com

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Alyssa Jorgensen
alyssajorgensen@gmail.com

WEB MASTER

Kay Voyvodich
webmaster@westpointinn.com

INN RESERVATIONS

Jennifer Greene
reservations@westpointinn.com

WEST POINT INN PHONE/

INNKEEPERS

Jim Barry
David Durr
Gordon Edwards
Janice Hayes
Karl Jurgenson
John Slater
Bob Thomson
Pat Williams
415.388.9955
innkeepers@westpointinn.com

WEST POINT INN EMAILS

Board

board@westpointinn.com

Committee Chairs

committee@westpointinn.com

Innkeepers

innkeepers@westpointinn.com

MAILING ADDRESS

West Point Inn Association
4040 Civic Center Drive
Suite 200
San Rafael, CA 94903

BOARD MEMBERS

Craig Hill
James Hill
Peter Karlen
Melanie Leavitt-Cantarutti
Mark Northcross
Patti Schmidt
Allison Stockman
Ceci Van Vorhees
Alan Zimmerman

WEST POINT INN ASSOCIATION
4040 Civic Center Drive, Suite 200
San Rafael, CA 94903

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CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR EMAIL?

PLEASE UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFO

BY SENDING AN EMAIL TO:

MEMBERUPDATE@WESTPOINTINN.COM

WANT TO SUBMIT AN ARTICLE?

PLEASE SEND SUBMISSIONS

AND PHOTOS TO

EDITOR@WESTPOINTINN.COM