



a view from the WEST POINT INN

The Newsletter for the West Point Inn Association and Friends

March 2018 • Issue 33

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

Wayne Koide

"It Doesn't Get Any Better than That"

If any of you are secretly wondering what it's like to sit in the shoes of the "head cook and bottle washer" (aka president) of this very distinguished volunteer organization known as the West Point Inn Association, I can tell you from two-months worth of experience that it is a totally EDUCATIONAL and HUMBLING experience.

To be sure, I had some big shoes to fill after outgoing President, **Bob Newcomer's** term ended on January 8. I would like to thank Bob for a great year of leadership and for making the transition for me as smooth as one could possibly ask for – so much was already done before I even got here thanks to him.

I have learned more about how the Inn really works and how it really relies on the hard work and dedication of a number of people – without whose monumental efforts, this place, known affectionately as "the Inn," would be an old, dilapidated chunk of decomposing wood on the side of Mt. Tamalpais.

It is in fact, the Innkeepers, the Work parties, the Building and Grounds folks, the Events, Heritage/History, Membership, Reservations, Communications, Fire and Safety, Personnel, Housekeeping, Policy and Procedures, Pancake Breakfast, Garden, Archivist, Election, Mt. Tam Liaison, Newsletter, Old Timers and Development committees that are really doing the heavy lifting to keep the Inn vibrant, alive and good for another hundred years. Not to mention all of those devoted volunteer leaders who serve on the WPIA board.

When you stop and think about it, this is really a remarkable thing. In an age where the focus seems to be on individual achievement, accomplishment, and might I add, social and political polarization, the West Point Inn, in nearly all respects, represents what a successful, collective volunteer effort can do when minds (and hearts) move in the same direction.

So this is just a long-winded way of saying that "the Inn" and its organization is all about PEOPLE – that's all of YOU! To that end, it is my goal this year, to engage more of you to get involved in the workings of the Inn. Pick an area of interest that you feel you can contribute to and just do it. By my count, we have nearly twenty standing committees, so there is bound to be an area that would be of interest to you. I would like this year to be the year that you got involved in something that is meaningful to you.

Continued on p2.

Continued ofrom p1.

At the end of this issue is a list of committees and the contact information for all committee chairs. Please don't hesitate to drop an e-mail to one (or more) of them outlining your interest in getting involved. You may actually get more out of it than what you put in!

Challenges for 2018

To me, the biggest challenge facing us is the environment. No, I'm not getting "political" on you, but we have seen a noticeable drop off in revenue to the Inn last year as a result of more "Red Flag" days* where we lost one Pancake Breakfast and an unprecedented twenty four days of revenue from overnight fees.

We have built-in a "drop off" in forecast 2018 revenues to account for this in our budget— another challenge will be to prioritize how and what we spend funds on this year and what projects we can postpone until next year or later.

If this winter ends up being a dry one, we need to consider the effects of this on our water supply and what needs to be done to replenish it and what that would cost. Hardening the Inn against the ravages of a fire is another challenge before us.

We have seen and met challenges before so this is nothing new to us. What remains constant is the ethos of the Inn – the ethos of volunteerism, which is the spirit of this organization.

I will close with quote from Crystal Yezman, Facilities and Watershed Division Manager at the MMWD who stated at a recent meeting, "You guys <at the WPI> are a model for non-profits on the watershed. We point to you as an example to follow." This didn't happen by accident.

From my perspective, it doesn't get any better than that. I look forward to working with all of you this year – thank you for your support!

**Red Flag Days – designated days where heat/humidity index is determined to be a fire risk and the watershed is closed to visitors.*

MEMBERSHIP NOTES

Gordy and Lynn MacDermott

Hello Members,

We at membership would really like to thank all our members who renewed their memberships in January. It makes our job easier when we receive the renewals on time and don't have to send out a second notice.

Also a big thanks to all of you that took a moment to fill out the back of the notice. This information will help our committee chairs find some folks who will be able to help out.

We have been at our membership cap since last November so have no new members to announce. We should have some for our next newsletter in June.

WORK PARTY REPORT

Jennifer Barclay

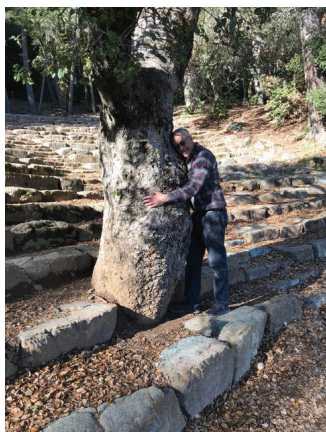
I've been doing work parties since before I became a member in 2004. When I started only 20 people showed up. Now we accept 60 volunteers and have to turn people away!

It's time for me to let go! I've LOVED doing the WP's. It's the best position to have at WPI. It's the gateway to meeting everyone who wants to become a member and be with members who've been there longer than I! I will always consider WPI my second home. It feels like family when I'm there and I've made life long friends. West Point Inn has made me a better person!

I'll still be coming up, hanging out and lovin' this very special place. I am forever grateful to you all and your love and friendship.

I'll see you around.

All the best,
Jennifer Barclay



GARDEN OF EATIN'

Kathy Kopp

Welcome to our Northern California winter, which would look like spring many other places. Hope you have been enjoying the beautiful days and getting out on the trails and up to our wonderful inn as much as possible.

The garden is thriving with delicious winter crops of kale, peas, chard, broccoli, and assorted greens. Flower bulbs are sprouting forth in the garden and on the mountain.

Let's all hope for more significant rain so we can replenish ground water, and fill up our creeks and reservoirs for a safer year.

We plan to start our spring preparation and planting soon. You can contact me if you are interested in helping.

HIKERS' LOUNGE UPDATES

Bonnie Jones

The next time you are relaxing in the Hikers' Lounge, you will be resting your weary bones on newly upholstered cushions that just were installed this past week. **Fran Rondeau**, **Nan Torrey** and I have been planning this upgrade for some time and at the beginning of the year we trudged into the City to pick out the 90% wool/10% linen fabric and notions. The West Point Inn is very lucky to have such a talented member – Nan has upholstery in her blood, as this was her parent's business – and she directed and designed the 12 new cushions and six throw pillows. We put the finishing touches on the cushions at the work party and they are ready for everyone to enjoy. The old cushions are being repurposed - **Craig Gordon**, one of our new innkeepers, suggested donating the old cushions to a homeless shelter in the City that he supports.

See the "work in progress" and finished product pictures below.





Volunteers Liora Krantz and Will Sink

THE INN WAS CRACKING!

Jan Gauthier

The West Point Inn hosted its first Annual Crab Feed and fundraiser on Sunday, February 11th at the Inn. It was a beautiful clear weekend on the mountain and all 68 guests who purchased tickets showed up. The event was sold out early and members, non-members, and new comers enjoyed fresh cracked crab provided by Osprey Seafood in San Francisco. One hundred and twenty pounds of fresh cracked and cleaned crab was served along with a delicious salad and garlic bread. Guests were then treated to brownies, cookies and ice cream before hiking down off the mountain before sunset. The Inn's member and hikers lounge were transformed for the day with long tables covered with red checker table cloths, crab cracking tools, an assortment of sauces and each guest adorned a crab bib for the event.

The attendee's ticket and raffle purchases made it a successful fundraiser for the West Point Inn and the event was made possible by a great group of volunteers for the day. Special thanks go to the head chef **Fran Rondeau** for the delicious dishes that accompanied the crab and running the kitchen from start to finish, **Gail Shahan** for setting up the rooms, decorating the tables, and keeping the guests well served, **Wade Hufford** for serving the crab and running the back kitchen, for **Liora Krantz** for her help from start to finish, greeting and checking in our guests, managing the raffle, serving and cleanup, **Sean McCormick**, **Will Sink**, and **Bryce Hufford** for serving, helping in the kitchen, breakdown and cleanup, **Bonnie Jones and her husband Mike** for help with desserts and cleanup, **Bob Newcomer and Carol** for help with serving drinks and cleanup, and **Peter Grazier** the InnKeeper on duty for lending a helping hand throughout the day and keeping the Inn running smoothly.



TANGO RETURNS TO THE INN

Mark Northcross

Would you like to learn and dance the Argentine tango to live music at our favorite inn? **Antoinetta and Mark** are doing the Tango on the Mountain fundraiser for the Inn on the evening of Saturday, May 5. We will have a beginner's class Saturday evening. The Bay Area's own Trio Garufa will play live tango music after dinner for dancing in the Member's Lounge. In addition, we have a small collection of old 78 rpm tango records to play on the Inn's Victrola between live sets. Antoinetta will prepare dinner for us all on Saturday night and breakfast Sunday morning.

Please email Mark at mark@nhaadvisors.com or call Mark at 415 380 9746 if you are interested in attending. Mark should have the costs figured out by the time you see this in the newsletter.



Painting by Ken Marschall

HERITAGE NIGHTS 2018

May 18 & 19

Fred Runner

R.M.S. Titanic and “Honeymoon Cabin” Centennial A Once In A Lifetime Event

On a cold, clear April night a century ago, a voice cried out, “Iceberg right ahead!” The R.M.S Titanic, the greatest ocean liner ever built, was sailing at full speed toward disaster.

Over the next 2 and 1/2 hours, the elegant new ship sank slowly into a calm, frigid North Atlantic while telegraph operators hammered out distress messages and signal rockets flew into a moonless night.

On board, a San Francisco man, Dr. Washington Dodge, helped his family into a lifeboat, and a short time later found himself adrift in lifeboat 13 as he watched the great ship rip itself apart.

Dodge would return to San Francisco and tell a fascinated crowd his story. Later, he would seek solitude at West Point and build the “Honeymoon Cabin” in 1918.

The Titanic’s story still fascinates us more than a century after she went down.

On two nights, Friday and Saturday, May 18 and 19, West Point’s next Heritage Night will celebrate the centennial of the “Honeymoon Cabin” and present the story of Dr. Washington Dodge and his harrowing ocean adventure.

Our special guest will be internationally renowned Titanic Historian **Ken Marschall**, a man fascinated by the Titanic his whole life. He’s been down on the crumbling wreck, helped James Cameron rebuild the ship for the famed movie and known Titanic survivors, including one who shared lifeboat 13 with Dr. Dodge. Her name was Ruth Becker Blanchard. Ken will tell us about their friendship and how they rediscovered her personal experiences aboard the great liner.

Guests will enjoy a Titanic-themed dinner created from the menus of the Titanic by chef Fran Rondeau. Dinner and wine is \$45. Edwardian dress is optional. Reservations are necessary. See www.WestPointInn.com

A few overnight accommodations are still available. Please contact Fran Rondeau if you’re interested. Fran Rondeau: franrondeau@gmail.com

As a special centennial feature we will auction overnight stays in Dr. Dodge’s “Honeymoon Cabin” that feature Titanic-style amenities. It starts with chilled Champagne and flutes served upon your arrival. Auction will open on eBay in April and close May 1. Each overnight will be a separate auction.

We must thank Merri Martori for her generous grant that covers Ken Marschall’s honoraria, given in memory of the firemen of the R.M.S. Titanic.

We look forward to the pleasure of your company.

Because of strict Marin Municipal Water District rules automobile access is very limited. Most people will need to walk to the West Point Inn, a relatively easy two mile hike up the Old Stage Road from the Pan Toll Ranger Station. There is a small parking fee at Pan Toll.

A group will hike back to Pan Toll following the Heritage Night presentation about 9 PM. A twilight sky will help light the way but please bring a flashlight.

Please make your reservations early. Heritage Night is a popular event that sells out quickly.

Heritage Night Schedule (both nights)

Hors d’oeuvres:	5:30 pm
Dinner:	6:00 pm
Show:	7:30 pm
Hikers Depart:	9:00 pm

FIRE & SAFETY REPORT

Pete Martin

Caution! Regarding the information below, while exciting to us, it may not be exciting to you. It is okay to rip this page off and line your birdcage with it. Otherwise read on.

Since the reorganization of the Fire & Safety Committee into three separate subcommittees, Lodge, Landscape & Vegetation, we now have committee leaders for each. And if that isn't enough good news, six other members are joining the committee.

Wayne Koide and I recently met with **Mike Swezy**, MMWD Watershed Manager, and **Carl Sanders**, Watershed Maintenance Supervisor to discuss requirements for defensible space around the Inn. Our lease now requires WPI to maintain a 200-foot radius from the 9-building complex. Fortunately, our volunteer vegetation management brush cutters have already brought us into compliance with the exception of the upslope area above the solar array (Zone 1-A & Zone 9 in graphic below). When that is completed we will have converted 2.88 acres of wildland vegetation to defensible space!



PANCAKE BREAKFASTS

Lin Marcuse & Gordy MacDermott

It's that time of year again! Our pancake season is just a few short weeks away. Our six breakfasts are the West Point Inn Association's largest fundraising events for the year. Some breakfast and clean-up hosts have an experienced crew all ready to go, but others are always looking for some new recruits. So, if you are interested in helping out the Inn and spending a free night either before a breakfast or after a clean-up, please contact us at pancakes@westpointinn.com and we will pass along your contact info to the host(s) for that event. Also, we are still looking for someone to host the May, June & July cleanups. If you're interested or would like more information on what's involved, also contact us at pancakes@westpointinn.com.

And, if you can't commit to an overnight but still want to enjoy a great breakfast with wonderful scenery, come join us at the Inn!

2018 dates are:

May 13 (Mother's Day)

June 17 (Father's Day)

July 8

August 12

September 9

October 14.



VIEW FROM THE PORCH: NANETTE ZAVALA

Marilyn Skaff



Back in the late 80's, an innkeeper named Daniel (and an Inn cat named Hobo) ran the Inn during the week. Members volunteered to be the host on weekends to give him time off. It was during this time that Nanette and her future (first) husband visited the inn for the first time. They fell in love with the place and decided they wanted to get married there; how-

ever, in order to do that, they had to be members. They did the three work parties that were required, became members, and planned their wedding. In February of 1989, they stayed overnight on Friday night and were married on Saturday night in the members' lounge by her father-in-law, who was a judge. Nanette became a frequent weekend host. She recalls one winter weekend in February when it snowed on the mountain and the pipes at the inn burst. She and her two children often volunteered to be weekend hosts, as well as celebrating birthdays and holidays at the Inn.

Nanette was born and raised in Los Angeles. She credits her father, who was a brick mason, with her love of mountains and the outdoors. He took her camping in Yosemite for two weeks every summer when she was growing up. In 1979, she moved to Berkeley to attend law school. This was during the time of the "Trailside Killer" (David Carpenter) and she had concerns about hiking on Mt. Tam. In a real twist, she had a summer a summer job with the Santa Cruz Public

Defender's office and attorneys in that office were representing David Carpenter for murders committed in that county. She currently works for the State of California as staff to the Judicial Council, overseeing judicial education.

Among her favorite memories of the Inn are the nights and weeks she spent there with her children, playing board games. She also described meeting a 92 year old Austrian man who was spending the night after taking a bus from San Francisco to Tam junction, hitch hiking to the Mountain Theater, and hiking from there to the inn. Another special memory involves sitting on the deck, with the fog rolling down the hill behind the innkeeper's cabin, looking like a giant waterfall. She especially loves cabins 2, 3, and 4 (in the old numbering system), despite the fact that the shared bathroom is down the trail. She says that this is more than made up for by the spectacular views. Nanette expressed gratitude for the improvements that have been made and is especially fond of the garden. She is charmed and fascinated by the multitude of hummingbirds that flock to the feeder on the deck. She also has deep appreciation for Fred Runner whom she credits with protecting the inn.

Nanette said she regrets that she doesn't get up to the inn as often as she would like, but hopes to go more often after she retires and thinks of being an Innkeeper. She is pleased that, after more than 20 years of paying dues, when she and her second husband, John, were married 5 years ago, a group of friends donated the money to pay for a lifetime membership for them. She expressed feeling a sense of responsibility to care for the Inn, which she hopes all members share.



WEST POINT INN ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL SPRING MEETING
ALL MEMBERS WELCOME

DATE: SUNDAY APRIL 22ND 2018

TIME: 10 AM KAFFEEKLATSCH
11 AM MEETING
12:30 PM LUNCH

Please join us for the Annual Board Meeting at the West Point Inn and meet the new board. Coffee and snacks before the meeting and lunch afterwards. Raffle and Prizes.

For more information, to volunteer, or reserve a room for the night before contact : Fran Rondeau, franrondeau@gmail.com

Overnight guests will be needed to assist with setup and cleanup.
HOSTS: Fran Rondeau and Gail Shahan

Additional volunteers still needed

**WEST POINT INN
OLD TIMERS' APPRECIATION PARTY
Saturday, June 2nd, 2018**



3:30 – 5:00 DRINKS AND SOCIALIZING
5:00 DINNER
6:00 STORY TELLING & MEMORY SHARING

LIVE BLUEGRASS MUSIC

RSVP Required by Wednesday, May 23

Dinner reservations: contact Marilyn Skaff at 415.713.5259 or marilynskaff@gmail.com

Overnight lodging: Contact Olene Sparks-Toby at 510.236.8293 or email olenes@aol.com

All members are welcome, but preference for overnight lodging will be given to Old Timers (20+ years as members). Newer members can contact Olene Sparks-Toby on or after May 23rd to inquire about overnight availability.

Questions or requests for transportation: contact Marilyn Skaff

Cancellation of event: Rain or Red Flag Alert (Fire Danger)

Permission to hike out after dark

Updates: Contact Innkeeper (415) 388-9955

NOTE: PARTICIPATION LIMITED TO 50 PEOPLE

2018 ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

March

- 12 Board Meeting**
17 Work Party

April

- 9 Board meeting*
21 Work Party
21 Night before Spring Meeting
22 Spring Meeting & Members barbecue

May

- 5 Tango Night++
Host: Mark & Antoinetta Northcross
13 Mother's Day Pancake Breakfast
Hosts: Scott and Lisa Halsted
14 Board Meeting**
18/19 Heritage Nights
Host: Fred Runner
19 Work Party CANCELLED

June

- 2 Old Timers Appreciation Party
Host: Marilyn Skaff
11 Board Meeting**
16 Work Party
17 Father's Day Pancake Breakfast
Hosts: Mark and Antonietta Northcross

July

- 8 Pancake Breakfast
Hosts: Fran Rondeau and Marilyn Skaff
9 Board Meeting**
21 Work Party

August

- 12 Pancake Breakfast
Hosts: Jan Gauthier and Wade Hufford
13 Board Meeting**
18 Work Party

September

- 9 Pancake Breakfast
Hosts: Bob Newcomer & Gail Shahan
10 Board Meeting**
15 Work Party

October

- 8 Board Meeting**
14 Final Pancake Breakfast
Host: Pat Kavanagh
20 Work Party
28 Fall Meeting & Member's barbecue

November

- 12 Board Meeting**
17 Work Party

December

- TBD Cookie Party
8 Member's Holiday Party++
10 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.



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