

a view from the

WEST POINT INN

The Newsletter for the West Point Inn Association and Friends

March 2019 • Issue 37

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

Chris Marcuse

Greetings West Point Inn Family!

I have edited many of these president's reports during my time co-running the newsletter (and even ghost-written a couple), but this is the first time I've authored the report under my own name. I am honored to have been selected by the Board of Directors to be the Association's leader this year and I hope to serve you all well.

Speaking of service, I want to thank my predecessor, Wayne Koide. He is a leader by example, and I aim to fulfil my term much the way he did last year. I will hear all sides of the issues before the Board and strive to reach the decisions that are in the best interest of the Inn and the Association. I will also rely on the guidance and advice presented by the Board. To that end, I want to welcome the two newcomers to the Board, Don Keeley and Jim Parton. I also want to express gratitude to Fran Rondeau and Olene Sparks, who completed their Board terms in January.

Some of the issues facing us this year are related to problems the entire state is facing. The aftermath of the wildfires California suffered the last few years is also affecting the Inn. We are dealing with changes in open space management, fire safety and insurance. We additionally have the "aches and pains" associated with a building that is over a century old. Unfortunately, correcting and mitigating these concerns will take money. Thankfully, we have a great fundraising campaign for one of our biggest projects being led by Suzie Adams Koide. She and her team have raised over \$5,000 towards our water infrastructure improvements but we still have a ways to go. If you can contribute, it would be greatly appreciated.

Besides money, maintaining our Inn takes volunteers. And those we have in droves! I attended the February work party and was impressed that over 40 people braved the elements to come up and contribute. There were jobs being done by all sorts. From young children organizing the game drawers, to teens helping in the kitchen (do their parents know?), to adults cleaning and repairing things all over and to the super brave few that were out brush clearing in the downpour. Thank you all!

And if you can't make it up to the Inn as often as you would like, but still would like to assist with our organization, many of the committees could use your help. Think what interests you about the Inn and contact the chairs responsible for that area. Almost every segment of our Association could use more help. Consider working with Lin Johanson and Gordy MacDermott on Pancake Breakfasts, or Alison Bricker with the

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Newsletter, or Bonnie Jones and Fran Rondeau with House-keeping. I do want to thank new member Ross Asselstine, who is stepping up to join Urban Carmel with some of the big projects that Buildings & Grounds will be tackling this year. The Inn couldn't run without all our dedicated volunteers and our talented group of Innkeepers. Again, kudos to all!

Lastly, I want to invite everyone to the Spring Members' Meeting. It will be held at the Inn on Sunday, April 14, 2019. Social hour starts at 10 AM, with the meeting beginning at 11 AM. A wonderful lunch will be served afterwards. Please come up and hear about the state of the Inn. The Board will also be there to hear your concerns and suggestions. Remember to mark your calendars.

Thank you all and, as another of my great predecessors used to say, "See you on the porch!"

HOUSEKEEPING REPORT

Fran Rondeau

Very often "housekeeping" duties involve one of us picking up a curtain rod, a few pillow protectors, or yet another tea kettle. Sometimes, as was the case this month, there are bigger tasks. A huge thank you goes to the volunteers at the January work party who swapped out all of the twin mattresses from the cabins to the rooms in the Inn. Currently all of the twin beds inside the Inn all have donated McRoskey mattresses.

Another huge thank you goes to Nan Torrey and Bonnie Jones for our lovely new pillows in the member's lounge. Last spring these same ladies replaced the worn out cushions and pillows in the hiker's lounge with the lovely blue ones. In January they spent two weekends sewing new pillows for the member's lounge. Take a look at the craftsmanship and professionalism that went in to making these the floral printed pillows, with their intricate shirred cording and removable covers for cleaning.

MEMBERSHIP NOTES

Gordy and Lynn MacDermott

We would like to thank all our members who renewed their memberships. We did have a few members who decided not to renew. This will let us take some folks who have been on the wait list off it and be added to our membership roster. Also a BIG thanks to all of you that made a donation for "Let It Flow".

Many thanks, Gordy & Lynn

PANCAKE BREAKFASTS

Gordy MacDermott & Lin Marcuse

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. We are also looking for poster ideas. Please let us know if you have one and you could become famous (at least to the Inn community and visitors)!

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! Our 2019 dates are: May 12 (Mother's Day), June 16 (Father's Day), July 14, August 11, September 8 and October 13.

2019 CRAB FEAST

Jan Gauthier

Christmas morning in the High Sierras? No! Twas the morning before the Second Annual Crab Feed!

A soft layer of fresh snow blanketed the West Point Inn and Mt Tam on Sunday, Feb 10th as the volunteers scammedered and prepped for the day's event. The sun came out, the guests made their way up the mountain and were treated to appetizers, drinks and warm fireplaces upon arrival. The afternoon continued with unlimited fresh cracked crab, salad, warm garlic bread, brownies, ice cream, and coffee. The afternoon ended with a lively raffle.

A big thank you to our event chef, Fran Rondeau who cooked for the whole weekend including dinner and breakfast for the volunteers. Kudos to cohost Wade Hufford who arranged for the delicious cracked and cleaned crab from Osprey Seafood in San Francisco.

A special thank you to the fifteen volunteers who prepared, served, and replenished food for our 70 guests. Thanks to Bob Newcomer for donating wine for the event, Olene Toby Sparks and Fran Rondeau for donating raffle items, and Bonnie Jones for making the dessert. The event raised extra money for the Inn with a raffle of special wines, artwork, cards, an overnight at the inn, and a historic poster of Mt Tam.

Thanks to the members, guests and volunteers for another successful fundraiser for the West Point Inn.

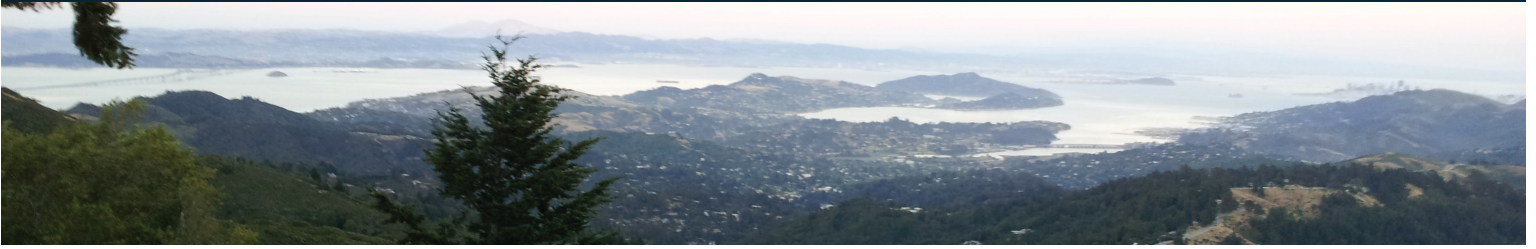
See you next year.

PERSONNEL REPORT

Lin Johanson & Fran Rondeau

The Personnel Committee wants to thank our brave Innkeepers for weathering the monster storms that have hit the mountain several times in the last few weeks. Each deluge creates new sounds, which can be quite "interesting" to hear in the middle of the night. Also, each band of rain causes the Inn to show its age. We are grateful to our group of Innkeepers who use their skills and experience to keep the ol' gal together until the work parties and Buildings & Grounds can handle the bigger repairs. Thanks for the great teamwork, gang!





VIEW FROM THE PORCH: Mary Ann and Malcolm Dunlap Marilyn Skaff



Mary Ann and Malcolm Dunlap “stumbled across” the West Point Inn while on a hike in 1995. Malcolm had known Olene Sparks since the late 60’s from skiing at Squaw Valley. It was through this relationship that Malcolm and Mary Ann eventually learned of the Inn. Malcolm credited Olene with “hooking them in” and they joined the WPIA in 2000. It wasn’t long before David Coffey called to ask if they would be chairs of the membership committee, which they agreed to do. Malcolm and Mary Ann did this job for 10 years. The work was portable, so they could take it with them to Tahoe where they spend 5 months of the year.

Malcolm was born in Seattle, but moved to Greenbrae when he was 16. He went to Drake High, College of Marin and then on to UC Berkeley. He has worked in high tech manufacturing most of his career, but there was hiatus in 1967 when a friend who had just bought a boat, invited him to sail down the coast, stopping in Mexico, through the Panama Canal, to Columbia, and finally to Miami. His trip back to the west coast took him through Denver, Woodside, and finally to Santa Rafael. He lived in Tahoe for 11 years, where he built a house, but returned to the Bay Area. Mary Ann grew up on the peninsula. After graduating from Berkeley, she went to work for Sunset Magazine in advertising. She wanted to move to the city, so she got a job doing sales for the Sir Francis Drake Hotel and later entered a career in investment banking.

When asked how they met, both smiled and told the story of how they had met. Mary Ann had a blind date to go sailing with a friend of Malcolm’s. She eventually married the blind date. She and her husband remained friends with Malcolm. After her divorce, their relationship transitioned into a romance and they were married in 1983. Fortunately they both love cats, so felines have been an important part of their family. They still spend 5 months of the year in their home in Tahoe, with occasional trips up there the rest of the year because Malcolm and Mary Ann are members of the Board of Directors of the North LakeTahoe Historical Society.

When asked about their favorite memories of the Inn, the New Year’s Eve parties, hosted by Olene Sparks, were the first thing they mentioned. For several years, they have been responsible for the breakfast on New Year’s morning (something the regular guests look forward to). They recalled one New Year’s Eve, in particular, when Fred Runner presented a period performance every hour reflecting the history of the Inn. They also enjoy the Chili Cook-Offs, Heritage Nights, and talked about the 100 year celebration in 2004 when Fred Runner arranged for a stage coach to visit the Inn. They value the historic nature of the Inn and the fact that everyone does their share of the work. They believe that the work parties are a great idea to get people used to the idea of pitching in to help. They have never stayed in the Inn itself, but they both said that Cabin 2 (in the old system) is their favorite, with its breath-taking morning views. They also enjoy staying in the Honeymoon Cabin, with its indoor plumbing and cozy fireplace.



April and May are sponsored by Marin CNPS, and made possible by support from the Marin Municipal Water District, Marin Community Foundation, and One Tam. Visit cnpsmarin.org for more information about speakers, wildflower hikes and garden tours. The original Beauty and the Beast exhibit was the result of a collaborative partnership with Nita, Rob, and fellow West Point Inn member Joan Jasper, Exhibit Curator at the San Francisco Public Library. Since 2017 the non-profit organization Exhibit Envoy has traveled the exhibit across the state. Later this year it will be shown in Alta Loma CA, and then Danville CA in 2020.

Article by Amy Cohen, Director of Exhibit Envoy

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST: California Wildflowers and Climate Change Nita Winter and Rob Badger

The Marin Chapter of the California Native Plant Society (Marin CNPS) will present a special educational, photographic exhibit entitled Beauty and The Beast: California Wildflowers and Climate Change, featuring over 70 wildflower portraits and landscapes by West Point Inn members Nita Winter and Rob Badger. Their beautiful images and text panels address how climate change and other human impacts affect California's wildflowers. Admission is free.

All geographic regions of California are highlighted in this stunning show, from the high alpine "rock gardens" in the Sierra Nevada Mountains to below-sea-level in the Mojave desert's Death Valley National Park. Many of the images featured in Beauty and the Beast are Marin wildflowers that can be seen during hikes to and from the Inn on Marin Municipal Water District and state park land. The artists photographed this Western Azalea (pictured above) on Old Stage Road as they were on their way to join a pancake cleanup crew. Additional sections highlight the power of fire and renewal, a behind-the-scenes look at how the photographers capture these images, and an overview of California's geographic regions.

The exhibit will be on view at the Bay Model Visitor Center lobby (2100 Bridgeway, Sausalito) from April 2 through June 1, 2019, and will be open to the public Tuesdays–Saturdays, 9 – 4pm. Join the artists at the opening reception on Saturday, April 6 from 1–3pm, or meet them on the first two Saturdays and Sundays of May during Marin Open Studios. Note: On Sundays there is access to the lobby only, with no access to the model of the bay.

The exhibit, and additional events and activities throughout



ALMOND FLOUR COFFEE CAKE (GLUTEN FREE)

Fran Rondeau

Quick and easy this little breakfast cake was enjoyed by the volunteers at the 2nd annual Crab Feed in February. Use either coconut or canola oil.

Combine:

2 ½ cups of almond flour

¼ t salt

½ t baking soda

Mix together and add:

¼ cup canola oil

3 eggs

½ cup honey

Pour batter into a round cake pan

Add topping

½ cup sliced almonds+2 T.cinnamon+1/4 cup sugar+1/4 cup canola oil

Spread evenly over batter

Bake at 350 for 25 minutes

**WEST POINT INN
OLD TIMERS' APPRECIATION PARTY**
Saturday, June 1st, 2019



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

LIVE BLUEGRASS MUSIC
by The Usual Suspects

RSVP Required by Wednesday, May 24

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, you don't have to be an Old Timer (20 years membership) to attend!

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

2019 ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

March

- 11 Board Meeting**
- 16 Work Party

April

- 8 Board meeting*
- 13 Night before Spring Meeting
- 14 Spring Meeting & Members barbecue
- 20 Work Party

May

- 12 Mother's Day Pancake Breakfast
- 13 Board Meeting**
- 18 Work Party

June

- 1 Old Timers Appreciation Party
- 10 Board Meeting**
- 16 Father's Day Pancake Breakfast

July

- 8 Board Meeting**
- 14 Pancake Breakfast
- 20 Work Party

August

- 11 Pancake Breakfast
- 12 Board Meeting**
- 17 Work Party

September

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

October

- 13 Final Pancake Breakfast
- 14 Board Meeting**
- 19 Work Party
- 20 Fall Meeting & Member's barbecue

November

- 11 Board Meeting**
- 16 Work Party

December

- 7 Cookie Party
- 7 Member's Holiday Party++
- 9 Board & Committee Chairs Christmas party
- 31 New Year's Eve Party

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

++ Walk-out nights

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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