



a view from the WEST POINT INN

The Newsletter for the West Point Inn Association and Friends

September 2016 • Issue 27

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

Fran Rondeau

Finding beauty and inspiration in today's world can be challenging. A summer morning, afternoon, or evening on the deck of the West Point Inn is my way of feeling inspired and grateful... and I know that there are 550 others who feel the same way.

This past Spring I was invited to join a group of twelve lovely ladies from North Carolina in Canada. I traveled by plane to Vancouver, by ferry to Victoria and by train to Banff, visiting for the first time places with colorful names like "Shuswap Lake", "Kicking Horse River", "Sunwakpa River Valley" and "Athabasca Glacier". In an effort to protect wildlife and allow for migration, the Canadian government built a fence around the entire province of Alberta as well as 6 camouflaged overpasses and 38 underpasses. Infrared cameras in the tunnels record and monitor animal movement and offer proof that the millions of dollars spent was worthwhile.

So what does my trip to Canada have to do with the West Point Inn? Well, maybe it is a stretch, but I feel that we are doing something similar. Preserving and protecting something unique is a priority for us just as much as it is for the Canadians of Alberta Province.

Our volunteers trim bushes to ensure a safety area around the Inn, repair and paint and polish and sand to keep the structure in good shape. All this so that members and non-members can enjoy the beauty and peacefulness of the Inn and the mountain. When overnight guests leave the Inn sparkling clean and as clean and orderly as they found it upon arriving we are giving it the respect it deserves. As the last few months of 2016 approach and we prepare for the end of the year activities I think about what an amazing job we have done to protect our 112 year old Inn. The number of volunteers needed to round off the year is pretty darn impressive: 40 folks to do our final two pancake breakfasts, 20 to do the cleanup afterwards, 7 plus to organize the annual October meeting, the Board and Inn Christmas parties, the cookie party and the New Year's Eve party. And most importantly the 550 other members whom we count on to support and attend these events. As we approach the largest membership ever let's not forget what a privilege it is to be a volunteer and the responsibilities that go along with that. The entire community contributes to this endeavor and every one of us takes pride in how well the Inn looks and feels. We all know that we have to keep at it so that our children will enjoy the Inn for another 112 years.

MEMBERSHIP NOTES

Gordy and Lynn MacDermott

Hello Members,

Here are our latest new members:

Michael Evans of Sausalito
Shawna Stoney & Jay deWolf of Mill Valley
Lynn Aylward of San Francisco
Laura Wittman & Joshua Marker of San Francisco
Asha McWilliams of Kensington
Scott & Lisa Halsted of Mill Valley
Marcus Sandberg of San Francisco
Jessica Jacob & Zac Townsend of San Francisco
Jack Woodruff of Oakland
Robert & Rosemarie Thomson of San Francisco
Darla Jan Holst of San Rafael

The following new members have shared some information about themselves:

Shawna Stoney & Jay deWolf wrote: Shawna has appreciated the West Point Inn over the last 25 years while biking and hiking on Mt. Tam. Her background is interior architecture, and she enjoys being creative. Jay hopes as a member to find a place to use his woodworking and construction skills.

Laura Wittman & Joshua Marker wrote: We have a son, Felix, who is two and a half and has spent every Christmas since he was born at the West Point Inn. He is especially fond of brooms and likes to sweep the porch during work parties. Joshua is handy with tools and is also very good at making pancakes. Laura loves to cook and can also sew. All three of them love camping, books and languages, and making things.

Scott & Lisa Halsted wrote: We have lived in Mill Valley for 29 years and use the Inn frequently, staying there 2-3 times per year. We have 4 children who are now out of the house and have the time to contribute more to the Inn.

Jack Woodruff wrote: Born, raised, and living in Oakland. I currently run the Bay Area's only nonprofit tutoring organization, Aspire Education Project. It's based in Oakland too. For a while in my 20's, I lived in South America in the Peace Corps – first as a volunteer, then as a trainer. Free time, when I can get it, is spent running, strumming a guitar, devouring New Yorker magazines, and cooking.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

Lin and Chris Marcuse

This year there are six seats up for election, three 2-year terms and three 3-year terms. Ballots will be mailed out to members by mid-September and need to be returned to the Inn by the start of the Fall Membership Meeting on October 16, 2016. If you have questions or don't receive your ballot by September 20, 2016, please contact:

Lin or Chris Marcuse:
(415) 516-4253 or elections@westpointinn.com

Your six candidates are:

GORDY MacDERMOTT: I am running for a 2-year term on the W.P.I.A. board. I have been a member of the W.P.I. since 2004 and have been chair of Membership since 2012. I have been serving on the board since last September, after being asked to fill a slot that became open. I have enjoyed this opportunity to increase my participation in the leadership of this organization. It has also been a pleasure to work with this thoughtful, dedicated and fun group of people.

BOB NEWCOMER: Mt. Tamalpais is a special place, with its views, micro climates, solitude, and its array of opportunities for hiking, biking, and other activities. That the West Point Inn has existed (and contributed) to this ambiance for now more than 100 years is an amazing accomplishment and a tribute to the WPI Association and its leadership. As a 40-year resident of Marin County, I have long admired the Inn and those who have continued its traditions. I greatly appreciate the opportunity to seek reelection for the board of directors. During my current term on the board I have served as Vice President and chair of the Ways & Means Committee. My training is in urban planning and public policy research. I will bring these perspectives and my experience as a grant writer and in project planning and budget management to the board. Perhaps more importantly, I bring my commitment to the Inn and concern for the preservation of outdoor space within Marin County.

MARK NORTHCROSS: I have been a member for the WPIA since 2000 and have been the treasurer since 2001. I have previously served on the board and have been co-hosting the Father's Day pancake breakfast for several years. I love Mt. Tamalpais, and serving the Inn is my way of giving back to the mountain.



FRAN RONDEAU: I became a member and volunteer at the West Point Inn in 2004, served as secretary of the board for two years and have been a board member twice since then. Both before and since my retirement from teaching I have devoted many hours to supporting the Inn and sharing my enthusiasm by planning some and participating in many events at the Inn. Working at pancake breakfasts, attending and cooking for Heritage night and Christmas parties, cleaning at work parties, and chairing the housekeeping committee are some examples. I am currently President of the board and ask for your support so that I may serve once again on the board.

PATTI SCHMIDT: A 37-year resident of Marin County, I was raised in the suburbs of NY and came here by way of Chicago directly after college. I have since raised a family in Sausalito and had a 30-year import business located in the Marinship area. The West Point Inn was the culmination of one of the first hikes I took upon my arrival here. I recall being immediately taken with the beautiful views, rustic atmosphere, and comfortable wrap-around porch. Since that time, I have taken numerous out of town visitors on a variety of trails to see the Inn.

Five years ago, I semi-retired and began volunteering at the Pancake Breakfasts and joined the WPIA. Soon after, I became the Media Liaison responsible for promoting and publicizing our fundraisers. I have been enjoying that work and continue in that capacity. Most recently, I became a member of the Development Committee where I've worked with Ward Flad and others to promote our raffle and increase our outreach. I currently work as a consultant in executive recruiting for nonprofits and hope to bring that knowledge and experience to the Board.

I greatly appreciate the opportunity to seek election for the WPIA Board of Directors. I cherish the inn and enjoy the comradery of the like-minded people who support it. I hope to have the chance to be a more active steward of this unique and wonderful refuge from the 21st century.

OLENE SPARKS: My first visit to the West Point Inn was in the early 80's. At that time Board of Directors meetings were held in the parlor at the Inn and neighbor friends who were on the board invited me to drive to the Inn about the time their monthly meeting would be adjourned and a party would begin. It was a beautiful day and I idled along the way, stopping for many amazing views. I stopped to watch a Chicago film crew shooting a car commercial near Rock Springs and was invited to stay for a picnic. Soon it was becoming dark and I drove on in search of the road leading to the Inn which I never found. I retraced between Rock Springs and East Peak several times. No luck, no cell phone, it was dark, and I was near tears when I heard someone call my name. The MMWD Ranger overseeing Mt. Tam at that time informed me that a search party had been looking for me. He led me to the Inn. We entered and I was welcomed with concern and warmth. The ranger joined the party and there was a happy ending to the evening. I was amazed at the wonder of the rustic, beautiful old Inn and the friendly members. It has been a privilege to be an active, contributing member ever since. I've served on the board multiple times, fulfilling different roles including past president. I've served on committees and helped with fund-raising events. I'm presently on the board, a member of the Development Committee and Liaison to other Mt. Tam Organizations. I still consider it a privilege to be a member.

EVENTS HELP WANTED

Gail Shahan

Volunteers are what keep the West Point Inn humming along. I'm reaching out to all members who are interested in becoming more involved with the routine and special events that make the Inn such a unique place.

Situations may arise where we need extra helping hands. If you are interested in assisting in any way, or would like to join a committee or co-host an event, I would be more than happy to add your name to the list.

Please contact me at events@westpointinn.com and let me know. If you have a preference as to a specific committee or an event, please let me know that as well.

I look forward to hearing from you!

PANCAKE BREAKFAST REPORT

Lin Marcuse & Gordy MacDermott

The pancake breakfast season is well underway, with September's event just around the corner. The June, July and August breakfasts were huge successes, thanks to the hard-working and dedicated hosts and crews. **Mark and Antoinette Northcross** hosted for Fathers' Day, **Fran Rondeau** and **Marilyn Skaff** hosted in July, and **Jan Gauthier** and **Wade Hufford** hosted August. We are also especially grateful for the clean-up hosts and crews, who really lighten the workload of our innkeepers. A big thanks to the clean-up hosts, **Fran Rondeau, Fran Sullivan, Paula Grosse, Eileen Sullivan, and Olene Sparks-Toby**, some of whom were filling this role for the first time.

Volunteering for a pancake breakfast or cleanup crew is a wonderful way to meet other members and have a terrific time at the Inn. There are only two pancake breakfasts left for the year. If you are interested in helping, please contact us at pancakes@westpointinn.com. The remaining dates are:

September 11

Breakfast hosts: Bob Newcomer & Gordy MacDermott

Clean-up host: Rose Sullivan

October 9

Breakfast host: Pat Kavanaugh

Clean-up host: Bonnie Jones



PERSONNEL REPORT

Lin Marcuse

Our Innkeepers are continuing to do a tremendous job of taking care of the Inn and making sure our overnight guests have a wonderful time. There are a few new IK's in the pipeline (and maybe one or two old ones) who will be introduced in the near future. So if you're up at the Inn and see a new face, or one you haven't seen in a while, go ahead and get acquainted! And be sure to let them know how appreciative you are of their hard work!

GARDEN OF EATIN'

Kathy Kopp

All is well this summer in the garden of Eatin'. There is a healthy crop of delicious tomatoes. The Sungolds especially love the exposure and climate on the mountain. The purple beans are the other bumper crop this year. Our new signage in the inn lets guests know to help themselves to the garden's bounty. It feels good to grow nutritious produce to share with all who venture to the inn to prepare and share a meal. Thank you to all who have contributed to this special place.

In dirt we trust.



TOMATO TART

Fran Rondeau

This photo shows a summer tart I made recently, inspired by a recipe in the NY Times. Vary quantity and type of tomatoes according to taste and be generous with garlic, olive oil, and spices.

Ingredients and directions:

1. Toss together and bake in 325 degree oven for 2-3 hours or until tomatoes are reduced and slightly caramelized
 - Cut chunks 12 medium tomatoes
 - ½ cup olive oil
 - 5 chopped cloves garlic
2. Roll out and place in a round tart pan or on flat cookie sheet
 - One sheet frozen puff pastry, baked according to package
3. Spread over the cooked pastry
 - The cooked tomatoes, drained
 - ½ cup ricotta mixed with fresh basil, salt and pepper
4. Top the tart with
 - Sliced yellow, green, and red heirloom tomatoes
 - Top with fresh basil, olive oil, and cracked pepper

Optional

Serve cold or bake in 350 degree oven for 7-8 minutes to warm all



WORK PARTY NEW ASSISTANT LEADERS UPDATE

Jennifer Barclay

I can't believe I did this on my own...what was I thinking!

As you may remember in January I started bringing in assistants for the Work Parties. I am very glad to report, after a rocky start trying to figure out how to work together, things are running very smoothly now. It's been a real team effort. I've received constructive feedback from everyone. We're working in sync and the load is now lighter.

It's a lot more fun to work collaboratively with a team of people. A BIG thanks to the following WP leader volunteers: **Sandy Stadfeld, Deborah Franklin, Nita Winters, Rob Badger, Melanie and Jeff Cantarutti, Ellen McGlynn, Megan Agosto, Don Deeley, Melanie Mocium, Jenny Koehler and Michelle Slader.**

Also, a BIG thanks to all the people who've stepped up to volunteer to chef for each WPs: **Alison Stockman, Megan Agosto, Zabou Seneise, Ellen McGlynn, Marc Olivier Le Blanc, Suzanne and Robert Suwanda, Hanna Rahill, Nancy Urban, Laura Wittman and Kate Kubiak.** We've had some amazing meals!

Their willingness to help is greatly appreciated and is only making WPI a better place.

Moving forward, I want to continue building on bringing in a few more volunteer assistant leaders and chefs. This would leave me to work behind the scenes before the WPs to gather projects to place on the List-of-Things-to-Do, from the Grounds Committee Chair, WPI Inn Keepers, President of the Board and others. And, give me time to train new assistants, coordinate each month's team (2-3 each WP), and bringing in a chef. Oh, and buy supplies needed to do the projects.

With all this being said, would you like to come have fun with us? If there is anyone else who has good people and project management skills, can work collaboratively, is patient, has lots of energy, and would like to help lead with me and my team at the WPs, let me know. We always have room for more assistants.

Thank you.

Your loyal Work Party Chair
Jennifer Barclay
415 398-7596
jbarclay1@aol.com



**WEST POINT INN
OLD TIMERS' APPRECIATION PARTY
Saturday, September 24, 2016**



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

LIVE BLUEGRASS MUSIC

Although all our lodging is booked, we have plenty of room for those who would like to attend the dinner and festivities on Saturday night.

There will be a group hiking out at the end of the evening.

RSVP Required by Wednesday, September 14

Dinner reservations: contact Marilyn Skaff at 414-713-5259 or marilynskaff@gmail.com

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

2016 ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

September

- 11 Pancake Breakfast
Hosts: Bob Newcomer and Gordy MacDermott
Clean Up Host: Rose Sullivan
- 12 Board Meeting*
- 17 Work Party
- 24 Old Timers Appreciation Party++
Host: Marilyn Skaff

October

- 9 Final Pancake Breakfast
Host: Pat Kavanaugh
Clean up Host: Bonnie Jones
- 10 Board Meeting*
- 15 Work Party
- 16 Fall Meeting and New Members' BBQ
Hosts: Jan Gauthier
Chef: Michael Stephens

November

- 14 Board Meeting*
- 19 Work Party

December

- 3 Cookie Party/ Member's Holiday Party++
Hosts: Alison Bricker, Carol Sarter
Chef: Fran Rondeau
- 12 Board and Committee Chairs Holiday Party
Host: Gail Shahan
- 31 New Year's Eve Party
Host: Olene Sparks-Toby

Events Coordinator: Gail Shahan
Email: events@westpointinn.com

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

++ Walk-out nights

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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