JANUARY 2009
Puget Sound Maritime Historical Society
P.O. Box 9731
Seattle WA 98109-0731

JANUARY DINNER PROGRAM:
MYSTERY OF ANCIENT
OREGON COAST SHIPWRECK REVEALED!

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January Dinner Program:
Mystery of Ancient Oregon Coast Shipwreck Revealed!

Sometime prior to European settlement of the Pacific Northwest, a large ship constructed of teak timbers and carrying a cargo that included tons of beeswax and Chinese porcelain wrecked near the mouth of the Nehalem River in Tillamook County, Oregon. From the time of the earliest fur traders in the region and continuing through today people have wondered about the origin of this wreck: where did the vessel come from, and where was it going? What year did it wreck?

Speculation about the origin ranged from it being a Spanish galleon to a Chinese junk to a Dutch pirate vessel. Recent historical and archaeological research has identified the nationality of the wreck and narrowed it down to one of two possible vessels.

Our speaker at our first Wednesday evening dinner meeting of 2009 is Scott Williams, the Principal Investigator of the non-profit Beeswax Wreck Project. Scott is an archaeologist with over 25 years of experience working in the Pacific and Pacific Northwest.

2009 Society Board Members and Officers Elected

A new slate of Puget Sound Maritime Historical Society board members and officers for 2009 was elected at the November 30 monthly membership meeting. Named President and returning for a second year at the Society helm is Chuck Fowler, a retired marketing and communications consultant who lives in Olympia. First Vice President Roger Ottenbach, a Port Orchard resident, and Second Vice President Leon Gessula from Seattle, were re-elected to second terms in these positions on the Board of Governors. Roger is a retired broadcasting executive and currently owner of Cutty Sark Nautical Antiques in Seattle, and Leon is an executive with Holland America Line.
Mystery of Ancient Oregon Coast Shipwreck Revealed

In his role as Principal Investigator of the Beeswax Wreck Project, Scott leads a team of archaeologists, historians, geologists, students and community members in their attempt to identify and locate the Beeswax Wreck. Scott’s day job is as the Manager of the Cultural Resources Program for the Washington State Department of Transportation.

Scott’s presentation will include many visuals of his group’s findings and will show the processes they used in zeroing in on the details of the wreck.

Please join us as we start the brand new year with some very old subject matter. We’ll be back at the Swedish Cultural Center with cocktails at 6 p.m., Dinner at 7:00, followed by Scott as he unveils the mystery of Nehalem River. Please see the sign-up coupon on page 3.

We look forward to seeing you and your guests.

Membership News

We received a memorial donation in memory of Robert Abendroth from Pat & Jim Twisselman.

We thank the following members who have renewed their annual membership dues in November. We thank you all for your generosity:

PATRON: John Osberg
SUSTAINING: Laura Burns Carroll, Floyd Waite
Norman & Donna Smith, Bill & Judy Spaulding

* WELCOME ABOARD * NEW MEMBERS

Thomas Roberts, Patron
Shannon Fitzgerald, Sponsor

Kane, a Boeing retiree, steamboat enthusiast, and Bainbridge Island resident; Jerry Mattos, a longtime maritime industry leader and publisher from Seattle; and Jackie Schwartz, Seattle, an educator, Seattle University faculty member and maritime heritage curriculum developer.

Leonard Garfield, executive director of the Museum of History and Industry (MOHAI), continues as an ex-officio, liaison board member. The Society is MOHAI’s half-century-old maritime affiliate, and Fowler serves currently as an ex-officio member of its board.

New Society board members elected for 2009 are John Hough, Olympia, a retired deputy state attorney general and president of the nonprofit Washington State Parks Foundation; Tim Beaver, Seattle, president of Global Diving and Salvage Co. and Historical Diving Society board member; and Lisa Haug, Seattle, director of communications for Manson Construction Co.

“We are fortunate to have a very strong board for 2009,” Fowler said. “Working with other Society volunteers and members, as well as the Museum of History and Industry board and members, these individuals have the dedication, skills and experience to help lead us forward as we support the new Armory museum project and achieve other significant Society goals.”