Sunday Afternoon Brunch at MOHAI
[continued from front page]
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Recently our Seattle newspaper printed an article about the “Atlantic Garbage Patch.” But that is only one of eight known ocean garbage patches that he will speak about. Recently a dead whale washed ashore off West Seattle and the stomach was full of garbage material. And certainly the warm oil rig in the Gulf of Mexico has brought great awareness to all of us about the terrible damages to beaches and marine life.

Now retired, Curt has written a book about his studies of the floating world and continues speaking out about our problems with floating debris and how it affects our waters. Four times a year he also publishes a newsletter “Beachcombers’ Alert.” Subscription information is available on his web site www.flotsametrics.com.

We all need to be more conscious of how we treat our beaches, rivers, sounds and oceans. Plastic garbage in the water never disintegrates, it just gets smaller and floats around killing fish and birds that ingest it. The currents and tides just move it from place to place.

Bring your family to hear this most interesting program about our water environment. Young and old will find it of most fascinating.

Our June 6th program will be on Sunday afternoon at MOHAI with another Sunday afternoon brunch by SOUP DADDY. Please come at 2:00 p.m. to mingle with friends and we will have our buffet served at 2:30 p.m. followed by our speaker.

After our brunch our speaker will be Curt Ebbesmeyer, a retired Oceanographer from the University of Washington. He will speak on the very timely subject of what is out there in our oceans or even local waters that may be commonly called “garbage” but surely does not belong in our waters or on our beaches.

Curt graduated from college as a mechanical engineer and went to work for Mobil/Standard Oil which financed the doctorate studies that made him the company’s first oceanographer. Years of traveling the world gave him an intimate knowledge of how ocean movements affect oil rigs, but he grew increasingly fascinated by sea currents and eddies and began to focus on beaches, more specifically on debris deposited there.

His earliest track to fame came when a Pacific storm knocked five containers filled with thousands of athletic shoes off a cargo vessel. Nearly a year later the shoes began washing up along the west coast of America. With help of beachcombers Curt tracked the progress of the shoes up and down the coast and produced a groundbreaking study of ocean currents.

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PSMHS Founder Jim Gibbs Dies at 88

The last surviving founder of PSMHS passed away in May at the age of 88. Jim Gibbs was author of many books about the Northwest maritime scene, especially ship wrecks. He was an avid collector of maritime memorabilia. He was always fascinated by lighthouses and wrote frequently of them. While a member of the Coast Guard he was assigned as a keeper to the Tillamook Lighthouse, “Terrible Tillie,” one of the most storm ridden locations on the West Coast. One of his books was Tillamook Light about his time on this lighthouse.

He was a Past President of PSMHS and former editor of The Marine Digest. When he moved to Oregon he built the lighthouse at Yachats, which is charted and privately maintained.

PSMHS online: www.pugetmaritime.org
Time to Say Goodbye to The Chandler’s Cove Museum

The PSMHS Board of Governors agreed to close our maritime museum space at Chandler’s Cove. If you’ve attended any of the recent dinner meetings, this will not come as a big surprise. Financial, human resources and low attendance figures compelled this decision to be made as we look forward to working with both the Maritime Events Center and MOHAI on new maritime history exhibits in the future.

We thank all those who over the years have given so much of themselves in creating and operating the gallery and store. We hope you know your dedication was greatly appreciated by the board as well as visitors who came by.

As we look to the future, PSMHS will seek new and engaging ways to share our collections and our vast historical resources with the public. If you have any questions about this, please call Roger Ottenbach.

Report from “Behind the Scenes”

By Karen Marshall, Interim Executive Director

By the time you read this, Seattle Maritime Week will have passed. PSMHS was active during the week and in particular on Saturday at the Maritime Events Center where we participated in the Maritime Festival with our tabletop promotional display, coloring sheets for kids (thanks to Ron Burke and our sponsor Manson Construction) and a make your own PSMHS flag activity. This event reminded me that we need special event/outreach volunteers who would be on-call to help with events such as this.

I’m looking for folks who enjoy talking to the public, working with kids and would enjoy the fast paced environment that festivals offer. I am also looking for volunteers who would enjoy working with school children as we may be developing some outreach post-MOHAI tour maritime programs to supplement student experiences at MOHAI. Please contact me if you would be interested in any of these on-call opportunities or if you might know of someone who would be interested—a great opportunity for retired teachers or for younger volunteers who can’t commit to helping on a regular basis.

Grand Opening of The McCurdy Maritime Library

The Northwest Maritime Center announces the grand opening of the McCurdy Maritime Library in the new NWMC Chandler building. New services at the McCurdy include checking out books as part of the CLAN regional library system.

The McCurdy Maritime Library together with the Port Townsend Library constitute one of the nation’s largest maritime collections for circulation. Carol Baker, who established the Port Townsend collection and upon retirement there, joined NWMC as volunteer curator to catalog and assemble the inventory for the library.

Medal of Merit and Volunteer of the Year Awarded at Recent Dinner Meeting

Jack Carver has received the 2010 Puget Sound Maritime Heritage Medal of Merit in recognition of his 25 years organizing and upgrading the Society’s extensive library. He has also developed many maritime displays at MOHAI. In addition he has served as newsletter editor, recording secretary and a board member.

Carol Greene has received the 2010 Volunteer of the Year award in recognition of his 15 plus years of absolute dedication to the Society’s collection of marine artifacts, models and paintings. Carol has served as historian, curator and registrar. Both awards were presented at the May 2 Society meeting at the Maritime Event Center on Seattle’s Pier 66. Additional information on the awards program can be found at the PSMHS Web site.

Lunch on MS ROTTERDAM Saturday, July 10

Mark your calendar for Saturday, July 10th and make plans to invite family and friends for our special PSMHS lunch on ROTTERDAM.

The beautiful standard-bearer of the Holland America fleet of ships, ROTTERDAM just recently completed “Signature of Excellence” enhancements and features a two million dollar art and antique collection.

Watch for a special invitation in the mail and plan to be aboard for this Society fund-raiser event courtesy of our longtime sponsor and supporter Holland America Line.