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

MARCH DINNER PROGRAM:
KVICHAK MARINE INDUSTRIES:
ONE OF OUR MOST SUCCESSFUL BOAT BUILDERS

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March Dinner Program
[continued from front page]

Jim will begin his presentation with his beginnings on the water which led him to his current position as co-owner and active partner in KVICHAK MARINE INDUSTRIES. He will then tell us how a tiny company grew into a major firm and take us along on a virtual tour of the wide range of vessels built by his company.

We're pleased to present this look into a leading Seattle boat builder for our March dinner program. Please bring a friend and join us on Wednesday evening, March 4th at the Swedish Cultural Center. Clip and mail the coupon on Page 3 for your reservation.

Additional Information Wanted
[continued from page three]

Perhaps some of our readers could help with the following: 1. Locating some of the descendants of the Matthews, Hitchings or Schaefer families of that place and time. 2. Anyone knowledgeable about The Matthews Shipbuilding Company. 3. Anyone with knowledge or experience with the old Bounder Semi-Diesel Engines.

Contact Ron Burke 9426 45th Ave. SW Seattle, WA 98136, 206-935-7584, or TheBurkes2@Gmail.com

March Dinner Program: KVICHAK MARINE INDUSTRIES: SUCCESSFUL BOAT BUILDERS

Our March dinner meeting speaker is Jim Meckley who, along with two partners, formed Kvichak (pronounced KWEE jack) Marine 28 years ago. A native of the Northwest, Jim started sailing on Lake Washington and the Sound at the age of 11 with his father. He rigged and sailed on several square rigged replicas from his senior year in high school until he was 21. He built boats as shipwright from the 1970s to 1979 when he and current partner Keith Whittemore were part of building 45 gillnets for Marco in San Diego.

From a very modest start in a garage on Eastlake in 1981, to near bankruptcy in the early 1990s, to a almost 600 million dollar contract to build up to 250 twin diesel 45-foot fast patrol boats for the US Coast Guard—Kvichak Marine Industries has become a leading builder of aluminum commercial and military boats in the nation.

He fished commercially in Bristol Bay in 1980 and the following winter they started Kvichak in their garage on Lake Union. Now with 240 employees, a commercial boat building shop on the ship canal across from Foss, and a shop in Kent dedicated to production of the 45-foot USCG boats, Kvichak is recognized widely for their exceptional vessels.

Kvichak’s specialty in a line of boats has evolved over the years. Transitioning from mostly fishing-boat production in its early years, the company recently sent, for example, 39-foot fireboats to Los Angeles, a 75-foot pilot boat to Georgia and a 93-foot emergency marine services hovercraft to Alaska.

Annual Fund Donation Total Tops $26,000

With generous capping donations from PSMHS member John Goodfellow, and also board members Johnie Ridgway and Tim Beaver of Global Diving and Salvage Co., and his business partner John Graham, the Society’s 2008 Annual Fund total topped $26,000 in early February.

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Annual Fund Donation
Total Tops $26,000

[continued from front page]

“Thank each and every contributor to our 2008 campaign,” said Society president Chuck Fowler, “and appreciate this strong support especially during this time of serious economic challenges.”

Additional donors to the list since published in the February newsletter are:

John Goodfellow
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Tim Beaver and John Graham,
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Membership News

We thank the following members who have renewed their membership or joined the Society in the past few months:

**NEW CORPORATE MEMBER**

- Global Diving and Salvage

**NEW MEMBERS**

- Lisa Haug & Amando Shuck
- Tom Krebbiel

**RENEWALS**

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- Stein Kruse, Holland America Line

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SUSTAINING:

- Ralph Stachi

**Correction from February 2009 issue should read:**

“...who passed away in memory of...”