March 2012
Puget Sound Maritime Historical Society
P.O. Box 9731
Seattle WA 98109-0731
SUNDAY AFTERNOON PROGRAM
AT THE MOHAI MCCURDY GALLERY:
TALES ABOUT DISASTERS AT SEA

Let’s Move!

Over the next two months dramatic changes will be occurring at MOHAI. In addition to our move with MOHAI’s library and artifact collection, galleries are closing as artifacts move around. Thanks to all of you who have contributed so generously to our Annual Fund Campaign.

March Afternoon Program At MOHAI McCurdy Gallery—Raincoast Chronicles 21: Tales About Disasters At Sea

Few places on earth have more tales about disaster at sea than BC’s rock-bound coast. Maritime Historian and author Rick James will be sharing some of these stories from his book, Raincoast Chronicles 21: West Coast Wrecks and Other Maritime Tales. Rick will present a slide show that recounts the experiences of unique coastal characters and reveal a number of mysteries—such as the story of GEO S. WRIGHT—an American Steamer that was thought to go down somewhere near Cape Caution (close to Alert Bay off the coast of northern Vancouver Island).

There may have been survivors, but after the wreck was reported to authorities, the story became more and more convoluted as rumors in newspapers became increasingly sensationalized. At the center of the story was Alden Westy “Wes” Huson, the Alert Bay storekeeper who informed a British Columbia newspaper of the wreck, saying “I have no doubt but that all are past and gone.” However as Rick James presents various artifacts and newspaper articles from the time, we find out that there may have been more going on with Wes Huson than meets the eye.

Rick James is a writer, maritime historian, photographer and field archaeologist, whose work has been published in numerous periodicals, including British Columbia Magazine, The Beaver: Canada’s History Magazine, The Sea Chest and Western Mariner. He is the author of Ghost Ships of Royston and co-author of Historic Ships of BC’s Central Coast, Historic Shipwrecks of the [continued on page 2]
**2011 Annual Fund Donors**

(Since January 1, 2012)

$0-$99
- Bill Baker
- John & Linda Beatty
- Ralph Studli
- Charles Stotts

$100-$499
- Roy Bourliot
- Frederick Eastman (in memory of Old Johansen)
- Mark & Margie Freeman
- Peter Haug (in memory of Peter Manson)
- Nigel Tugby
- George Willock

$500
- Global Diving & Salvage

**March 4, 2012 Afternoon Program**

[continued from front page]

**Sunshine Coast and the Camas Valley**

Many people recognize him from the television documentary series The Sea Hunters, in which he played a role in the episode “Malahat: Queen of the Rum Runners.”

Rick James has no shortage of stories about the fascinating and too often tragic events that happened in waters of the Pacific Northwest. You will enjoy this program.

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**Membership News**

We thank the following new members and members who have recently renewed their membership at a new level:

**NEW MEMBERS:**

Members renewing at a higher level:
- Arnold & Ellen Andersen, Tim Beaver, Randle M. Biddle, John Braithmayr, Laura Carroll, Harry Durschl, Earl Ecklund Jr., Capt. Ralph Edwards
- USN (Ret.), Lee Godwin, Devon Grennan, Nat Howe, Judy Kebbekus, Mary Kulhman, Steve Lloyd, Gary Ritzman, Martha Shields, Frederic Smith, Gordon Tweit, James Van der Ven and George Willock.

**Medal of Merit Nominations Sought**

In the last PSMHS Newsletter we asked for nominations for our Medal of Merit Award. At our May 2012 meeting the Society will honor an individual who has made major contributions to the preservation and promotion of the maritime history of Puget Sound, or has rendered distinguished service to the Society.

The winner for 2012 will be selected by an anonymous selection committee. George Osborn and Pat Harle are Co-Chairpersons of the Awards Committee, but do not take part in the selection process.

Nominations should state why the nominee should receive this prestigious award. All nominations will be kept confidential, known only to the judges and the Award Committee. Past recipients of the Honor Life Member and Medal of Merit awards are not eligible. A list of those recipients can be found in the Awards Section of the Society website at www.pugetmaritime.org/ Awards.

Nominations can be e-mailed to georgeosborn@comcast.net or patharle@comcast.net or mailed to George Osborn 3823 N Fbrace Av., Tacoma, WA 98407.

Nominations must be received by March 25 if e-mailed, if mailed postmarked no later than March 24th.

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**CLIP AND MAIL FOR MEETING SUNDAY, MARCH 4, 2012**

RESERVATION DEADLINE: NOON ON WEDNESDAY, FEB. 29, 2012

**Name(s):**

**Telephone:**

**Mail to:** PSMHS, P.O. Box 9731, Seattle, WA 98109-0731

**Mail to:** PSMHS Membership, P.O. Box 9731, Seattle WA 98109-0731 (Include your check)

**Make Checks Payable To:** PSMHS

**Dinner Meeting**

**Hotel:**

**Address:**

**City:**

**State:**

**Zip:**

**Phone (H):**

**Fax:**

**E-mail:**

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**Eve**

**Welcome:**

**Sponsor:**

**Corporate Membership**

**Name(s):**

**Address:**

**City:**

**State:**

**Zip:**

**Phone:**

**Fax:**

**E-mail:**

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**New Member Renewal**

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**Membership Application**

| Individual/Family Membership | $40 |
| Associate (Libraries, Museum, Non-Profit) | $40 |
| Sustaining Member | $50 |
| Sponsor | $75 |
| Patron | $100 |
| Corporate Membership | $500 |
| Benefactor | $500 |
| Navigator | $1000 |

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**PSMHS Afternoon Meeting Reservation**

**RESERVATION DEADLINE:** NOON ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2012

**Name(s):**

**Telephone:**

**Mail to:** PSMHS, P.O. Box 9731, Seattle WA 98109-0731

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**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: PSMHS**

**Mail to:** PSMHS, P.O. Box 9731, Seattle WA 98109-0731

**Call 206-324-2397 or patharle@comcast.net for changes, cancellations or questions. Guests are always welcome. Please include payment.**

**Reserve Early and Notify of Cancellation. A member who makes a reservation and then does not attend a dinner or give notification of their cancellation in a timely manner (48 hours) will not be refunded their money for the dinner. The Society may pay for the number of meals we have reserved in advance, regardless of the number of meals actually served since the caterer orders several days in advance. Walk-ins cannot be guaranteed a meal.**

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**We Think the Move Date is Set!**

As of February 1, the latest word is that the PSMHS office, artifact collections and Maritime Research Center are expected to move to our new location with MOHAI in Georgetown by the first week of May. With this in mind, research services will close March 22. We anticipate reopening the Maritime Research Center in early June. Stay tuned for additional updates.