May Dinner Program: Recognizing Our Founders and Maritime Heritage Medal of Merit Award

1948 was the year of our founding, the start of Puget Sound Maritime Historical Society. Sixty years ago five men had a distinct vision of an organization with a mission to preserve and collect marine items and information so that future generations might understand and appreciate our area’s maritime history.

The founders’ early start up has grown to membership of 600 from all facets of the maritime industry and groups dedicated to its heritage. Add to that a significant collection of over 8,000 artifacts, a library of thousands of historical photographs and an important reference collection of books and ship’s plans. The Society’s quarterly publication of The Sea Chest has provided nautical scholars with important historical information while various museum exhibits at the Museum of History and Industry (MOHAI) and elsewhere have given young and old an opportunity to learn about our area’s marine genesis.

Now in 2008, on our sixtieth anniversary, we are proud to present a program honoring these five founders of PSMHS. We will award for the first time a Maritime Heritage Medal of Merit to the remaining founder Jim Gibbs or to his family representative, as well as to family representatives of the other four. Immediate Past President George Osborn will emcee the program of special tributes and award of Merit awards.

Members Renew at Higher Membership Levels

We thank the following members who have renewed their annual membership dues at elevated levels during March 2008:

- **Benefactor:*** Michael Wollaston *Mr. & Mrs. Irving Haug*
- **Patron:*** Captain Fred Jerrell *Robert P. Hart, John R. Graham, John S. Williams*
- **Capt. & Mrs. Mark Freeman***
- **Sustaining:*** Mr. & Mrs. Lew Jordan *Mr. & Mrs. William Lundquist, John Tronnsen, Scott Rohrer, William J. Prothero, Robert O. Sylvester, Robert J. Bell*
- **SPONSOR:*** Peter Strong *Mr. & Mrs. Carol Greene, Paul M. Poliak, Chuck Cordiner*
- **Welcome, New Members!*** Pat McGarry *Leon Gessula, Paul Marlow*

For more information please contact Pat Hartle at 206-938-2397.

SWEDISH CULTURAL CENTER

1920 Dexter Avenue North

Seattle, Washington

Menu: Seafood Cakes/Rice Pilaf

Use form on page 3 to mail in your reservation TODAY!

Bar opens at 6 PM

Dinner at 7 PM

Program: Recognizing Our Founders: 1948-2008

In honor of the Society’s 60th anniversary we will honor the five founders with special tributes and the first maritime heritage medal of merit award to our remaining founder, Jim Gibbs.

Your reservation form must be received not later than noon on Monday, May 5, 2008 or call Pat Hartle at 206-938-2397 for more information and reservation changes only.

MAY DINNER PROGRAM:

Wednesday
May 7, 2008

SWEDISH CULTURAL CENTER

1920 Dexter Avenue North

Seattle, Washington

Menu: Seafood Cakes/Rice Pilaf

Use form on page 3 to mail in your reservation TODAY!

Bar opens at 6 PM

Dinner at 7 PM

Program: Recognizing Our Founders: 1948-2008

In honor of the Society’s 60th anniversary we will honor the five founders with special tributes and the first maritime heritage medal of merit award to our remaining founder, Jim Gibbs.

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SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday, June 1st, 2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

at The Naval Reserve Armory, South Lake Union Park.

This is the first of our more informal Sunday afternoon monthly meetings designed to provide more opportunity for more members from the greater Puget Sound area to participate and socialize while enjoying maritime history related activities.

June 1st will be an old-fashioned picnic in the North end of the Armory building and, weather permitting, on the historic ship’s wharfs. Our theme will be the steamboats of our past. A buffet picnic lunch will be $10.00 each. Information about reservation RSVPs will be in the June newsletter. Members are encouraged to bring guests, children, grand children, and potential new members.

[continued on page 2]
The Swedish Cultural Center is not a contact John Creighton, President, Port of
ing is to write, e-mail, phone or otherwise
US mail: PSMHS
thanking members for their support of
Lake Union Park,” said Fowler. But in
Interested volunteers should bring
These books and records have to be pro-
grams for youth and families, also urge
May 7th is a very special PSMHS dinner. Please plan on joining us
we are very fortunate to have a young
of Nat’s outstanding qualifications
and growth. Please welcome him as the newest
Wednesday, May 7th is a very special
New Society Administrator
and Curator Named
who could never come.
In late February, the Port of Seattle
and commercial space we need to act
ODYSSEY
and the Chef is able to
Room is 1000.
attended.
Society's excellent research li-
A phone number is listed on the reser-
Freighter ship models. However we have
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Currently the Society has a limited
but important presence at Odyssey, ma-
rine shipping-related interpretive infor-
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landmarks, and the Ochre. However

New Society Administrator and Curator Named
Effective April 1, Nat Howe became
the Society’s first near full time staff Ad-
ministrator and Curator.
Nat is a Seattle native with longtime
ties to the PSMHS, Northwest Seaport,
Discovery Modelers and other maritime
history organizations. An honors gradu-
ate of Wisconsin’s Beloit College in
history and museum studies, he recently completed
two years of work on the continuing resto-
ration of the 17th century Swedish warship
VASA and at the Vasa Museum in Stockholm.
Nat is currently completing graduate
studies for his master’s degree museum exhibition
management at Stockholm University. He
received a prestigious Fulbright Scholarship
followed by another foundation grant to
pursue his maritime history graduate stud-
ses in Sweden.
With office space at MOMAH, Nat will
be working four days a week with
the Society and one day a week with
Northwest Seaport on future plans for
the WAWONA and the Seaport’s other his-
toric vessels. His Society responsibilities
will include coordinating with the board
and working with our curatorial, library
and archives volunteers to review, reorga-
nize and policies and procedures to im-
prove the management of our collections
and other historical resources.

Membership Support Needed to Help Save Odyssey
In late February, the Port of Seattle
Committee voted to terminate the lease
with the nonprofit Odyssey board for the
maritime discovery center and museum’s
27,500 square feet of space at Bell Street
Pier. However Odyssey itself is not closing
completely. Through December 31, 2008
it will continue to be open weekdays from
10 A.M. to 5 P.M. for visitors and educa-
tional programs, and evenings and week-
ends for conference center-related activi-
ties. But its longer term future beyond the end
of the year is uncertain.
Currently the Society has a limited
but important presence at Odyssey, ma-
rine shipping-related interpretive infor-
manship, photographs and four large
freighter ship models. However we have
been asked by Odyssey staff to expand our
endeavors, develop a new exhibit in 30 feet
glass front display cases in the main gallery
and consider other partnership opportuni-
ties. But there is a more immediate need.
If the Odyssey space is to be retained
in the future as “public benefit” space for
maritime education and expanded history-
related purposes rather than strictly more
retail and commercial space we need to act
now according to Society president Chuck
Fowler. Members are urged to contact the
Port Commission to express our support
for retaining Odyssey as an important part
of our maritime heritage public outreach
efforts. The best way to express your back-
ing is to write, e-mail, phone or otherwise
contact John Creighton, President, Port of
Seattle Commission at P.O. Box 1209,
Seattle WA 98111 or by e-mail
jcreighton@portseattle.org. The
Commission’s phone number is 206-728-
3034. You can also contact any one of the
five commissioners directly; see their biog-
raphies and e-mail addresses on the Port’s
website at www.portseattle.org. It will be
important also that not only you as a
Society member contact the Commission
but because of Odyssey’s educational pro-
grams for youth and families, also urge
your children and grandchildren to do so.
“We are going to continue to
strengthen our longtime, valued partner-
ship with MOHAI as we work coopera-
tively toward the new Armory museum at
Lake Union Park,” said Fowler. But in
thanking members for their support of
Odyssey, he emphasized also that the Soci-
ety needs all the interpretive and educa-
tion space and facilities to help tell
the story of Puget Sound and the Pacific Northwest.

Now Hear This! Please Help!
Over 20 years ago the board adopted
a mail-in policy for reservations for the
regular dinner meetings. The PSMHS
Newsletter gets delivered in plenty of
time so everyone is requested to fill out the
cancellation form so that if you have to cancel or
resend your children and grandchildren to do so.
While calling in your reservations during the
days in advance. Walk-ins cannot be guaranteed a meal.

Library Needs Volunteers
The Society’s excellent research li-
rary has received a number of maritime
books from the estates of our members.
These books and records have to be pro-
cessed by extra volunteers in order to make
them available for research to you all.
Interested volunteers should bring
their lunch on Thursdays and work in the
enjoyable surroundings of MOHAI’s

Restaurant, they only buy what is needed
and working with our curatorial, library
and archives volunteers to review, reorga-
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