

The Conversation

Port plays host to the biggest Wooden Boat Festival to date

Every September, one of the Port's largest tenants, the Wooden Boat Foundation (WBF), stages a world-renowned gathering of wooden boats and aficionados on Port property at Point Hudson. This year's 32nd Wooden Boat Festival was the biggest ever!

The Conversation (TC) asked Festival Director Kaci Cronkhite (KC) her views on the role the Port plays in making the Festival happen.

TC: How does the Point Hudson venue contribute to the Festival's success?

KC: As a point, the geography of Point Hudson serves as a destination from land or sea—perfect for a festival. The venue is second only to the exceptional people who attend as the reason why this Festival stands out as one of the top three [wooden boat gatherings] in the world.

TC: What can the Port do to help future Festivals be more successful?

KC: Keep the historic buildings and keep making steady progress to improve the facilities, the grounds, and their stewardship of the natural setting. There have been steady improvements to the walkways and the safety and visual appearances of the marina and buildings. Nothing happens quickly and there are many financial needs the Port has to juggle, but we appreciate what they've done and the openness of the commissioners and staff this year. Our Port is a rare example in the world these days and the




Point Hudson was filled with record numbers of boats and people at the 32nd annual Wooden Boat Festival, Sept. 5-7, 2008. Photo by Jan Davis

best thing they can do is to keep working with all of us to continue to make it better.

TC: How is the Festival relationship a win-win for both the WBF and the Port?

KC: People from across the country look to us and the Port for suggestions on how to cooperate on such an enormous task. Without a Port, the WBF would be lost in the virtual world, floating around without a home. Without the WBF, the Port would lose a rare and valuable distinction as a Port that succeeds in concert with its community.

 *An expanded interview & photos are posted online at www.portofpt.com/newsletter.htm.*

Record-setting Fest

A record **146** boats exhibited in the water at Point Hudson Marina (measuring one nautical mile, if lined up end to end!), nearly **30,000** people attended (a 6% increase over last year's record numbers), and **550** volunteers made it all happen. Nearly **200** boats anchored on the waterfront and the Port's Boat Haven Marina at the other end of town was **filled to capacity** on Friday and Saturday nights.



"The Festival contributes significantly to sustaining and enhancing Port Townsend's reputation as a hub for both traditional and modern boat building and repair and related maritime activities, thus supporting the Port's mission" to enhance economic activity that is consistent with community values of Jefferson County.

— Port Commissioner John Collins

Conversation About Port Budget Begins

With this issue of *The Conversation*, we invite you to participate in the conversation about the Port's annual budgeting process.

The Port is projected to collect and spend about \$6.4 million in 2009.

Limiting a property tax increase to 1% is forecast to bring in \$8,180 in new revenues.

Major changes from the 2008 budget, according to Finance Director Don Taylor, include:

- Cost savings from not filling two vacant staff positions.
- The assumption of a reduction of approximately 10% in anticipated guest traffic, both boats and RVs.
- A 5% rate increase on permanent moorage, most workyard and shipyard operations, and Port-operated airport hangars.

Draft budget documents will be available on our website by the first week of November.

Budget Hearings Nov. 12

The Port of Port Townsend is a public entity serving you, the citizens of Jefferson County, and you are encouraged to comment on the draft balanced budget.

Two formal budget hearings are scheduled for **Wed., Nov. 12**: an afternoon hearing at **1 p.m.** and an evening hearing at **6:30 p.m.**, both in the Commission Chambers.

Contact a Commissioner

- John Collins, District 1—(360) 643-1410, jcollins@portofpt.com
- Dave Thompson, District 2—(360) 643-2050, info@portofpt.com
- Herb Beck, District 3—(360) 765-3728, herbbeck@embarqmail.com

From the Commission

The economy holds center stage in the budget preparations for 2009, and we continue to look at a downturn of recreational activities. The positive note in our operations is the Shipyard, which seems to be attracting more and longer haul-out projects. If this trend continues, this will help with the debt service incurred putting in this facility as well as providing employment for skilled labor.

My hat is off to the marina design committee for addressing and resolving the gritty details of the A/B Dock design they are developing. The fine points are still to be worked out, but the design appears to include more smaller (25') slips than was originally envisioned. Personally, I think it is a good compromise, as the economy may dictate more economical, and subsequently smaller, boat models. Keep in mind that Bill Nance, one of the principals of Townsend Bay Marine, sailed around the world in a 25' sailboat, so smaller is not a limiting factor!

To add to the Stewardship Update, I want to list some of the federal and state committees and boards on which we are represented by our Port Director, Larry Crockett.

- State Recreation & Conservation Office—Larry sits on the grant funding committee for boat ramps, transient moorage facilities and related boating infrastructure.
- Washington Public Ports Association—Larry chairs the committee that represents all the public marinas in the state. It raises legislative issues and lobbies on behalf of commercial and recreational boating.
- Peninsula Regional Transportation Planning Organization—Larry represents the Port's interest on DOT projects from the Hood Canal Bridge closure to ferry issues to road projects such as those on Hwy 104 and Hwy 19. Commissioner Beck is also active in this organization.
- Peninsula Development Association—Larry seeks funding for economic development projects in Jefferson and Clallam counties.

And there's at least a dozen more! Talk to Larry if you have an interest in any of these topics, and make our Port connections count.

—Dave Thompson, President



Community Advisory Committee formed to guide strategic plan

The individuals who were invited to join the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) to shape the Port's draft strategic plan were nearly unanimous in their acceptance.

The 17 who stepped up to the challenge of providing guidance on the community's vision for the Port over the next 10 years represent a broad spectrum of the Port's constituency.

"These people are well respected in the community and they can serve as advocates both for the strategic planning process and the product," says Eric Toews, a member of the planning team.

At a work session in mid-October, the CAC discussed the Port's core values, vision and mission. Concepts such as fairness, tradition, environmental stewardship and commitment to community service were vetted, as was the intangible economic value of the Port.

"Everyone thought that it was important that we talk about values so that we have those as shared thinking about how we conduct ourselves as a port," explains facilitator Bill Wise.

CAC members are also looking into alternative mission statements that recognize the Port's role in a larger community.

Stewardship Update: Stewards beyond the Port



Port Commissioner Herb Beck intimately knows his local waterways, living as he does between the Big and Little Quilcene rivers. That's one of the reasons he agreed to sit on the planning unit for

Watershed Resource Inventory

Area (WRIA) 17.

For the past five years, Beck has put in 6-20 hours a month as part of the advisory team that is recommending instream flows for the rivers and streams in east Jefferson County to the state Department of Ecology.

"My vision is to have input from the citizens, the people who it will affect. I don't want Olympia's vision, I want the local folks'. That's another

The 17 members of the Community Advisory Committee represent the following stakeholder/interest categories:

District 1: David Hero

District 2: Ted Pike

District 3: Joe Baisch

Marine Trades: David King, Townsend Bay Marine & Les Schnick, DesignKraft

Moorage Tenants: Bertram Levy & Gary Rossow

Small Boaters: Steve Tucker

Airport: BJ Hallinan, PT Aircraft Services

Environment: Barbara Nightingale

Education: Bob Lawrence, Peninsula College

Nonprofits: Kaci Cronkhite, Wooden Boat Foundation

Local Businesses: Bob Little, Little & Little Construction

Fort Worden: Steve Shively

City of PT: Rick Sepler, Planning Director

Jefferson County: Al Scalf, Planning Director

Port Employee: Larry Aase, Maintenance Supervisor

reason I got involved," says Beck.

Yet another reason is plain and simple: "It's community service," he says.

"It's also very helpful to know the other elected officials and planners, and the problems that we have across counties," adds Beck. "I'm not a stranger when I approach them about Port issues."

Beck and the other Port Commissioners sit on a number of local committees that steward community resources. So does Executive Director Larry Crockett. He is currently active on the City's Alternative Energy Committee, on an advisory committee to the County's Shoreline Master Program update, and on the County's Marine Resources Committee. All in a day's work of being a steward beyond the Port!

GOOD EATS: Readers judged these Port tenants the "Best of the Peninsula" in the *Peninsula Restaurant* (Best Chinese Food), *Port Townsend Brewing Co.* (Best Cold Beer), and *County Leader's* most recent poll also singled out **The Blue Moose Café** (Best Break

New PT Aero Museum takes flight

17 antique aircraft on display, many still flying

A new museum interpreting historic aviation in the Pacific Northwest celebrated its grand opening Sept. 6 at Jefferson County International Airport.

The Port granted a 50-year ground lease for the 18,000-s.f. steel building that is designed to echo the curve of an airplane wing. Museum founder Jerry Thuotte said the facility, which broke ground in April 2005, is worth \$5 million, but cost his nonprofit organization \$3 million “because of the generosity of our contractors.” Local firms involved in construction include Grant Steel Building Systems, Leavitt Trucking & Excavating, Hanson Electric, Sunshine Propane and the PT Shipwrights Co-op.

Jerry—a former Boeing riveter, air traffic controller and airline pilot—and his wife Peggy moved here in 1998 and the two have spent the last eight years creating the museum, in a true labor of love. (www.ptaeromuseum.com)



The Port Townsend Aero Museum at Jefferson County International Airport is now open Wed.-Sun., 9 a.m.-4 p.m. General admission is \$10.

Kids learn to restore airplanes

With a unique focus on bringing together “old airplanes and young people,” more than 190 youth volunteers have learned valuable job skills at the Port Townsend Aero Museum since its founding in 2001.

“Ninety percent of our staff are under age 21,” says museum founder Jerry Thuotte.

In addition to guiding tours and staffing the facility, youth learn the history of the museum’s collection through direct application: learning aircraft restoration techniques and receiving flight training in the museum’s airworthy antique aircraft.

The thrill of learning to fly lured 15-year-old Nick Saul of Port Townsend to the museum’s programs last summer, when he volunteered 2-3 days per week. Since then he has been involved in the restoration of 10 aircraft and has begun his flight training. “I’m hoping to get my [pilot’s] license by 17. I’m planning to solo by the time I’m 16,” he reports.

Saul is also one of 21 youth recognized on a plaque in the museum for their work finishing



Nick Saul, 15, is a Port Townsend youth who has been volunteering with the Port Townsend Aero Museum since the summer of 2007, when he worked to restore this Piper J-3 Cub.

out the new building. Tasks included painting, finishing floors, landscaping, building cabinets and displays, and hanging aircraft and artwork.

Current ongoing aircraft restoration projects include a 1927 TravelAir Biplane, a 1937 Aeronca Model K, and a Piper Super Cub.

High school and college internships and community service positions are available. Adult volunteers are welcome, too!

Port Shorts

POINT HUDSON MARINA & RESORT: Fine dining is coming to the Point Hudson waterfront with the relocation of T’s Restaurant from the Boat Haven end of town.

In October, owners Gary and Nancy Tocatlian signed a 25-year lease for the Single Attendants’ Quarters at Point Hudson (a.k.a. the old shower building). The 3,000-s.f. building, which has been vacant for more than a year since the new shower building opened, is undergoing extensive renovations. While T’s is responsible for interior remodeling, the Port is installing new electrical and plumbing service in addition to new windows, fixing the roof, and painting the exterior.

Originally opened in 1995 and formerly known as Lonny’s, T’s Restaurant serves up cuisine best described as Continental, but whose influences range from Italian to Northwest. A grand opening at T’s new location is slated for May 2009.



JEFFERSON COUNTY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT: The Port has begun negotiations with Tailspin Tommy’s to take over the fuel operation at the Airport, effective Jan. 1, 2009.

The Port has run the fueling station for 10 years, but decided that a shift to a private on-site operator would improve customer service by allowing for cash purchases, windshield service, etc.

BOAT HAVEN: Plans for the new A/B Dock design are moving forward. In October the A/B Dock Citizens Advisory Committee members collaborated on reviewing the preliminary plans drawn up by PND Engineers.

Initial design recommendations are slated to be presented at the first Port Commission meeting in November. (Check the agenda at www.portofpt.com/agenda.htm.)



Peninsula Daily News’ 2008 contest: **Sea J’s Café** (Best Fish & Chips), **Shanghai** and **T’s Restaurant** (Best Steak, Best Romantic Dinner). The *Port Townsend-Jefferson* (Best Breakfast and Best Lunch) and **Hudson Point Café** (Best Newfound Place). Yum!



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Join *The Conversation!*



Send your feedback and story ideas to Editor Shelly Randall at editor@portoft.com or (360) 385-0811.

To add a name or make a change to the mailing list, contact Sue Nelson at snelson@portoft.com or (360) 385-0656.



Business Spotlight: PT Shipwrights Co-op

The second-largest employer in the Port of Port Townsend Shipyard—employing 35 at the height of the busy season—is also one of the longest lived.

Since its founding in 1981, the Port Townsend Shipwrights Co-op (PTSC) estimates it has serviced 2,000 boats and made nearly as many friends.

“We go out of our way to welcome our customers to our community,” explains PTSC member Chris Chase. “Most of them become friends, and many of them drop by on their way through town and we drink a beer.”

The family atmosphere and co-op business model has attracted over the years a talented slate of shipwrights, mechanics,

electricians, riggers and woodworkers that can tackle nearly any boat project. The number of member/owners has ranged from five to 13 but is currently at 12. “We divvy up the profit 12 ways, giving the worker a strong wage, a slice of the pie,” says Chase. “It’s a socialist model.”

Only one founding member of PTSC, Jim Lyons, remains, but others—including Port Commissioner Dave Thompson—are still active in the larger marine trades community.

In the 27 years PTSC has been in business, its members have seen the Shipyard shift from servicing mainly commercial vessels to servicing mainly private yachts. Sensing this trend, in 2005 PTSC built a 3,700-s.f.

enclosed and heated workshop that can accommodate vessels up to 65’ in length. The Port has approved expansion of the building to accommodate growth as needed. “We built it to attract the yacht industry, which we saw being the future,” says Chase.

But this year a boom in business from the fishing industry might spell record profits for PTSC, which typically grosses \$2 million a year.

“Because of our diversity, we can tap markets that aren’t economically crunched,” says Chase, even in this current economic downturn. (www.ptshipwrights.com)



The 12 members of the Port Townsend Shipwrights Co-op are (standing, L to R) Todd Lee, Ben Tyler, Pete Rust, Suzie Barnes, Dave Griswold, Curtis Schloe, Chris Brignoli, Bene Hoffman, Martin Mills with his daughters, (kneeling) Chris Chase, Jim Lyons & Ric Brenden. Photo by Joe Crecca

Kudos on First Issue

“Thank you for the information and insights provided in the Summer 2008 issue.

“As a Boat Haven tenant, frequent Airport transient user, and part-time Port Townsend resident, the issues surrounding the upkeep and development of Port facilities are of keen interest to me, and this effort on the part of the Port to keep me informed is appreciated.

“I’m glad to see a renewed interest on the part of the Port to communicate with it’s customers.”

—Timothy Carman, Portland, OR

Port Calendar

Nov. 12—Two 2009 budget hearings, 1 p.m. & 6:30 p.m.

Regularly scheduled Port Commission meetings are the **second Wednesday of each month at 1 p.m.** and the **fourth Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.** A 9:30 a.m. public workshop precedes the regular meeting on the second Wednesday.

Location: the Commission Chambers, Port Administration Building, 375 Hudson Street, Point Hudson, Port Townsend.

The Conversation is the quarterly newsletter of the Port of Port Townsend, a county-wide municipal corporation, whose mission is “to responsibly develop property and facilities that encourage job creation, private investment, local economic stability and diversity, and to better the quality of life for the citizens throughout Jefferson County.”

Edited by Shelly Randall, Story Services

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