

a view from the

WEST POINT INN

The Newsletter for the West Point Inn Association and Friends

March 2020 • Issue 41

Mission Statement:

The West Point Inn Association exists to preserve, maintain, operate and educate the public about the significance of the historic West Point Inn.

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The newsletter is published with funds provided in memory of Lifetime Member, Ernest E. Emig, and Honorary Member, Harold Allen Atkinson.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Chris Marcuse

Hello again! As you can see from the byline, I have the honor of serving as your president for another year. Joining me on the Board this year will be Nancy Fox, Pete Martin and Clare Wellnitz. Continuing on will be Bonnie Jones, Don Keeley, Wayne Koide, Jim Parton and Johanna Sistek.

While it is a privilege to serve the Inn and Association in any capacity, it also takes a lot of time and energy. This is especially true for people that serve in leadership capacities or on multiple committees. If you look at the last page of this newsletter, you will see the same names in many different spots. While we appreciate any time you can volunteer at the Inn, we would like it if more people got involved at the committee level. Think what interests you about the Inn and contact the chairs responsible for that area.

Almost every segment of our Association could use more help. Consider working with Lin Johanson and Gordy MacDermott on Pancake Breakfasts or Alison Bricker with the Newsletter. Bonnie Jones and Fran Rondeau would welcome assistance with House-keeping and Don Keeley is always looking for fresh chefs for the work parties. Ross Asselstine and Urban Carmel could use a hand with some of the big projects that Buildings & Grounds will be tackling this year. Gail Shahan and Fran would welcome assistance with planning all the awesome events the Association puts on each year. There are several other committees, so give that last page of the newsletter another look.

We are especially looking for someone to help Jean Jefferies with taking the minutes as Board Secretary. This is a great way to learn the inner workings of the Association and see what it takes to keep our 116-year old jewel looking as great as it does. The Inn couldn't run without all our dedicated volunteers and our talented employees. Again, thank you all!

Speaking of employees, I want to thank our great groups of Innkeepers: David Durr, Pat Williams, Jennifer Greene, Karl Jurgenson, John Slater, Jim Barry and Bob Thomson. I also want to thank our Housekeeper, Jennifer Barclay, who comes up on Mondays to help get the Inn ready for another week of welcoming guests and members. Additional gratitude to Jennifer Greene, who does double-duty of serving an international clientele as our Reservationist. The place couldn't run without this great group of people.

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Continued from p1.

It is important to remember that these individuals are the Association's employees and, hopefully, you consider them friends. What they are not are our servants. To that end please remember to be respectful of them and their job, which is to take care of the Inn and our guests. A couple things to remember: if you are not an overnight guest, it's time to leave when the Inn closes at 5 PM (6 in the Summer). Also, unless you are participating in a work party or other Inn-wide event, the kitchen is not generally open for your use. You may always ASK the Innkeeper to use the fridge or plates, but it is at their discretion on whether to allow this. Additionally, if you are at the Inn for the day and have friends along, ASK the Innkeeper before giving a tour. Sometimes guests stay for multiple nights and we don't want people walking through their private space.

Lastly, if you are the host for a group, it is ultimately your responsibility that your guests follow the rules. We've had some incidents lately where people stay past the checkout time of 11 AM or, worse, have been caught with smoking/vaping materials. There is nothing more dangerous to our beloved Inn than an errant open flame. I don't mean to revert to my law enforcement demeanor but remember that the rules are there for a reason: to keep you and the Inn safe.

Getting to a happier note, I want to invite everyone to the Spring Members' Meeting. It will be held at the Inn on Sunday, April 19, 2020. Social hour starts at 10 AM, with the meeting beginning at 11 AM. A wonderful lunch will be served afterwards. Please come up and hear about the state of the Inn. The Board will also be there to hear your concerns and suggestions. Remember to mark your calendars. And be sure to check out all our other great events!

Thank you all and, as another of my great predecessors used to say, "See you on the porch!"

PANCAKE BREAKFAST REPORT

Gordy MacDermott & Lin Marcuse

It's Spring and we're gearing up for pancakes again! We're looking forward to productive fundraising for the Inn. Unfortunately, we've had to cancel the October event a few times over the past few years because of red flags. Our fingers are crossed for a full season, but you never know with California weather nowadays. To compensate for that potential loss, plus the rising costs for the meals, we are raising the price by \$2 for adult portions and \$1 for a child's serving.

Please let us know if you are interested in volunteering for any of the events. The May breakfast crew is full, but we are still looking for help for the other breakfast teams (you get to stay over Saturday night) and all the cleanup crews (you get to stay over Sunday night). Contact us at pancakes@westpointinn.com and we'll pass along your contact info to the hosts for that date.

We're also looking for poster ideas. Please let us know if you have any notions. And, if you just want to enjoy a good meal with a spectacular view, please join us on May 10 (Mother's Day), June 21 (Father's Day), July 12, August 9, September 13 or October 11. See you then!

PERSONNEL REPORT

Lin Marcuse & Fran Rondeau

We want to thank our Innkeepers, David Durr, Pat Williams, Jennifer Greene, Karl Jurgenson, John Slater, Jim Barry and Bob Thomson, and Housekeeper, Jennifer Barclay, for making sure the Inn looks spectacular. It takes a lot of effort to preserve and protect our century old-plus edifice. We appreciate all the work our crew puts in.

The team also wants to thank our members and guests for all they do to keep up the Inn. Our employees greatly appreciate all the time and effort put in by volunteers at the work parties and other events that support West Point. They do ask that everyone remember to follow the new dishwashing procedure, which involves washing, rinsing and then sanitizing your plates. That way they will be nice and clean for your next great meal up on the mountain.



3RD ANNUAL CRAB FEED

Jan Gauthier

The West Point Inn hosted the 3rd Annual Crab Feed on Sunday, February 9th. Seventy guests hiked in for the afternoon and enjoyed all you could eat crab, salad, bread, dessert and drinks followed by a raffle.

It was a successful fundraiser with 128 pounds of delicious crab from Bodega Bay thanks to Osprey Seafood and member Wade Hufford. The kitchen crew was lead by none other than our chef extraordinaire Fran Rondeau who was assisted in the kitchen by volunteers Bonnie Jones, her husband Mike, Tim Aaronson, Nancy Fox, Rosy and Graham. They served up bowls of fresh salad, warm garlic bread and heaping bowls of crab prepared by Wade and member, Jon Gauthier.

Event coordinate Gail Shahan decorated the tables and led our servers who included Heidi, Kayla, Ellie, and Liora Krantz, Kayla Gauthier, and Rosy. Our servers donned crab hats and cheerfully served our guests and sold raffle tickets.

Innkeeper, David Durr joined in and made home made bread for Saturday and Sunday meals. The guests finished off the afternoon with brownies, ice cream and coffee followed by a raffle of Mt Tam memorabilia and wine before trekking down the mountain. And lastly, thanks to the volunteers Patti Schmidt and Judy Hyrne who came up on Sunday afternoon to help with cleanup and putting the Inn back in order.



NEW YEAR'S EVE 2019

Submitted by Olene Sparks-Toby, Photography by David Spangler



HERITAGE WEEKEND 2020

Please join us for Heritage Weekend on Friday, April 24th and Saturday, April 25th, 2020!

More information and sign up links are included in the attached flyer.

Friday includes a costume party and dance, games, nosh and drinks from 6:30 - 9:00pm

[Sign up for Friday night on Eventbrite](#)

Saturday includes a formal dinner and a history talk from 5:30 – 9:00pm

[Sign up for Saturday on Eventbrite](#)

For reservations or questions, please contact Patti Schmidt at treeshaschmidt@gmail.com

\$40

**Costume Party and Dance
Friday Night**

JOIN US FOR

HERITAGE WEEKEND

AT

WEST POINT INN

\$60

**Formal Dinner and History Talk
Saturday Night**

We will go back in time to the year 1920 when our MEMBERS' LOUNGE was added to the inn by enclosing an open air dance floor in order to create a dining room. Previously, the HIKERS' LOUNGE had been a parlor and the only room for dining and socializing. The new dining room was opened with a dinner and dance on April 24, 1920. We are celebrating the 100-year anniversary of the MEMBERS' LOUNGE with two special events. Come for one or both nights. Reservations essential. Space is limited.



FRIDAY APRIL 24, 2020 FROM 6:30 - 9:00 PM

Revel in the year 1920 with a dance in the "dining room," games in the "parlor," nosh and "giggle water." Don your favorite WWI surplus gear or late Edwardian best for the 1920 Mt. Tam costume contest. Enjoy ragtime tunes, learn a new dance or play all night at your favorite parlor game. *Hikers depart at 9:00 pm.*

Sign Up on Eventbrite: <https://heritagenightfriday.eventbrite.com>



SATURDAY APRIL 25, 2020 FROM 5:30 - 9:00 PM

Enjoy a formal dinner offering excellent cuisine and service in the "dining room" with a history talk from our very own Fred Runner who will tell us about the various innkeepers and significant figures who influenced, preserved and enriched Mt. Tam in the early 1920s. *Costumes representing the year 1920 are welcome.*

Sign Up on Eventbrite: <https://heritagenightsaturday.eventbrite.com>

PARK AND HIKE

Use Pantoll Ranger Station parking lot to hike to and from the inn. Please bring a flashlight for the 2-mile walk on Old Stage Road.

OVERNIGHT ACCOMODATIONS

Members \$25/Non-Members \$50 per person. Limited overnight availability. For reservations or questions address Patti Schmidt at treeshaschmidt@gmail.com.

WEST POINT INN OLD TIMERS' APPRECIATION PARTY SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 2020



WPI 1914

3:30 – 5:00 DRINKS AND SOCIALIZING
5:00 DINNER
6:00 STORY TELLING & MEMORY SHARING

LIVE BLUEGRASS MUSIC
by The Usual Suspects

RSVP Required by Wednesday, May 20

Dinner reservations: contact **Marilyn Skaff** at 415-713-5259 or
marilynskaff@gmail.com

Overnight lodging: Contact **Olene Sparks** at (510) 236-8293 or olenes@aol.com

All members are welcome- you don't have to be an Old Timer (20 years membership) to attend!

Questions or requests for transportation: contact **Marilyn Skaff**

Cancellation of event: Rain or Red Flag Alert (Fire Danger)

Permission to hike out after dark

Updates: Contact Innkeeper (415) 388-9955

NOTE: PARTICIPATION LIMITED TO 50 PEOPLE

2020 ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

Our 2020 calendar is currently being finalized. Below are a few noteworthy dates that have been finalized. Stay tuned for a full calendar of events to come in the next newsletter. In the meantime, you can always check the calendar online at:

www.westpointinn.com/wpi-calendar

January

- 13 Board Meeting
- 18 Work Party

February

- 9 Crab Feed Fundraiser
- 10 Board Meeting
- 15 Work Party

March

- 9 Board Meeting
- 15 Chili Roundup
- 21 Work Party

April

- 13 Board Meeting
- 18 Work Party
- 19 Spring Member's Meeting
- 24 Heritage Night Cocktails and Dancing
- 25 Heritage Night Dinner and Historical Talk

May

- 10 Mother's Day Pancake Breakfast
- 11 Board Meeting
- 16 Work Party

June

- 6 Old Timers'
- 8 Board Meeting
- 21 Pancake Breakfast
- ** No Work Party in June

July

- 12 Pancake Breakfast
- 13 Board Meeting
- 18 Work Party

August

- 9 Pancake Breakfast
- 10 Board Meeting
- 15 Work Party

September

- 13 Pancake Breakfast
- 14 Board Meeting
- 19 Work Party

October

- 11 Pancake Breakfast
- 12 Board Meeting
- 17 Work Party
- 17 Fall Members Meeting

November

- 9 Board Meeting
- 21 Work Party

December

- 5 Cookie Party
- 5 Members Holiday Party
- 31 New Years Eve Party
Host: Olene Sparks-Toby

* Location at MMWD Boardroom
220 Nellen Drive, Corte Madera
MEETINGS START AT 7PM

++ Walk-out nights

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Jim Parton
Johanna Sistik
Clare Wellnitz

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The West Point Inn Association exists to preserve, maintain, operate and educate the public about the significance of the historic West Point Inn.



CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR EMAIL?

PLEASE UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFO

BY SENDING AN EMAIL TO:

MEMBERUPDATE@WESTPOINTINN.COM

WANT TO SUBMIT AN ARTICLE?

PLEASE SEND SUBMISSIONS

AND PHOTOS TO

EDITOR@WESTPOINTINN.COM