

Mission Statement:
The West Point Inn Association

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

Fran Rondeau

Speaking of history.....

In my message exactly one year ago I ended with the following sentence. "Cyclists, hikers, guests from here and there continue to feel welcome and appreciate the care and attention we offer in order to preserve this small piece of history." Much has transpired in these last months of 2016 and for the Inn this is a result of community support and collaboration as we fulfill our mission statement. Glance at the first paragraph of every newsletter- we exist in part to educate and serve the public and preserve the historic West Point Inn. Over the past few months we have cleared the way and laid the foundation for a state of the art accessible cabin, restored our 112 year old chimney in the front parlor/hiker's lounge, and repaired our antique wicker chairs. For all of these projects please read the articles and enjoy the photos further along in this newsletter. Perseverance, commitment, expertise, and financial support are key to our accomplishments. Whom do we thank? You the members, for respecting the Inn and volunteering to keep it in tip top shape. When you complete your chore before checking out in the morning, when you leave your room looking spiffy, when you volunteer at an event, when you thank the innkeepers and follow the rules, and even when you pay your dues you are preserving the Inn and supporting our mission. A huge round of applause goes to all of our committee chairs and the 2016 board members Brenda, Bob, Jan, Olene, Ward, Fred, Gordy, Pete and Fran for leading the helm. Please hike up often and watch the progress of the new cabin and have a healthy and peaceful holiday season.

MEMBERSHIP NOTES Gordy and Lynn MacDermott

Hello Members.

As we are approaching membership renewal time, we would like to remind members of our dues policy:

- Renewal letters are sent out the last week of December.
- Dues must be postmarked by January 30.
- Members whose dues are not received by February 2nd receive a final notice, including a late fee of \$35.
- There are no other notices or reminders.
- Dues and late fees must be postmarked no later than March 2nd, after which, the member is removed from membership and would have to go through the normal application process to rejoin.

Here are our latest new members:

Libby Dietrich of Sausalito
Colette Ireland of Homer, Alaska
Mike Willmarth of Napa
Jeff Cantarutti of San Rafael
Paul Van Ravenswaay of Tiburon
Robert DeVries of San Anselmo
Rebecca Douglass of San Anselmo
James & Maureen Parton of Mill Valley
Zepporah Glass of San Francisco
Isabella DiBari of Oakland
Claire Heinzelman of Berkeley
Lucy Runkel of San Francisco

The following new members have shared some information about themselves:

Paul Van Ravenswaay wrote: I grew up in Tiburon and went East for medical school and later psychiatry training in Philadelphia. I was in Annapolis to sail and later Washington DC to dance tango. I came back to Tiburon in 2014 and work from home practicing telepsychiatry. I race sailboats on the Bay, hike, bike, garden, and enjoy playing bridge and chess. Also, I have been restoring the house I live in.

Lucy Runkel wrote: I've lived in San Francisco for 20 years. Originally from the Washington DC area, I came west after sojourns in Chicago, Yemen, and Chile. I am an avid reader with a wide range of interests in education, politics, and foreign affairs. My career has focused on adult education and

job training programs; currently I am working as an independent consultant with City College of San Francisco. I fell in love with the West Point Inn when my friend and fellow member Kelly Saturno invited me for an overnight visit there in 2012. I had just returned from a 200-mile journey on the Camino de Santiago in Spain, and felt the same welcoming sense of community and love of nature at WPI that I had found on my walk.

James & Maureen Parton wrote: We have made our home in Mill Valley for the last 30 years. Jim has a law practice in San Rafael, and Maureen works as an Aide to Supervisor Kate Sears at the County of Marin. We enjoy live music of all description and helped a friend, for a time, run a house concert series called the "Acoustic Vortex." In addition to hiking, we enjoy camping, travel, cooking, reading, gardening, local history, art, theology classes at Dominican University, good wine, getting to know a wide variety of people, and involvement in local politics.

Jeff Cantarutti wrote: I grew up in San Anselmo and San Rafael, where I attended Marin Catholic High School and College of Marin. Hiking the trails of Tam was my favorite activity. Beyond hiking and cycling, I am also an avid fisherman. I am actively employed at Backroads (a luxury active tour operator based in Berkeley), where I have managed the Italy tour program for over 20 years.

PERSONNEL REPORT

Lin Marcuse

We want to welcome two new Innkeepers to our rotating crew. Next time you're up at the Inn, please give a warm hello to **Alex Edwards** and **Jennifer Greene**. Alex is an active and vivacious young man who has experience working with youths in an outdoor setting. Jennifer is an accomplished world traveler who also works as a paramedic in the Bay Area. We know their skills and experiences will be great assets to the Inn family. And, of course, we want to thank our current crew of **Pat Williams, David Durr, Gordon Edwards and Geoff Johnson**. They, as always, have been doing a tremendous job of maintaining the Inn and interacting with the public.

Also, on behalf of the Innkeepers, we want to show appreciation for our outstanding Reservationist, **Rose Sullivan**. She does an incredible job of keeping track of the thousands of people that want to stay at the Inn and of notifying the IK's of the upcoming visitors. It is a behind-thescenes role, but vitally important to maintaining one of the Inn's biggest revenue streams. Thank you!

WORK PARTY REPORT

Jennifer Barclay

They Did it Again!

October 2016 Work Party was wet, wet, wet but still 58 volunteers showed up and, again with most of the work being outside.

A huge thanks goes to **Nigel Robinson** for 1.) installing the new weather system along with **Brenda Roberts and Gordon Edwards** help and, 2.) finishing the beam work on the porch to the last 3 cabins so it looks just like the original when they were first built.

Another big thanks goes to my assistant **Ellen McGlynn**. Couldn't have done the WP without her help.

And, last but not least, Todd Benzies for leading about 15 people loading the firewood that was delivered into the shed.

December is the month I start gathering assistant leaders for the Work Parties and developing the schedule. We have several from last year who want to continue on 2017 but need about 10 more people to add to the list so the burden does not fall on just one person. Please email me if you'd like to be part of the WP Team, jbarclay1@aol.com. Thank you. I look forward to hearing from you.



PANCAKE BREAKFAST REPORT

Gordy MacDermott & Lin Marcuse

We want to thank all the hosts and crews for another incredibly successful pancake breakfast season! Without their dedication and service, we wouldn't be able to feed thousands of hungry hikers and bikers while providing them with a million-dollar view. While every single member of the breakfast and clean-up crews is important, we especially want to recognize the leadership of each team. Kudos go to:

May 8 (Mother's Day)

Breakfast hosts: Brenda Roberts & Rose Sullivan

Clean Up hosts: Suzie & Wayne Koide

June 19 (Father's Day)

Breakfast hosts: Mark & Antoinetta Northcross

Clean Up host: Fran Rondeau

July 10

Breakfast hosts: Fran Rondeau & Marilyn Skaff

Clean Up hosts: Fran Sullivan, Paula Grosse & Eileen Sullivan

August 14

Breakfast hosts: Jan Gauthier & Wade Hufford

Clean Up host: Olene Sparks-Toby

September 11

Breakfast hosts: Bob Newcomer & Gordy MacDermott

Clean Up host: Rose Sullivan

October 9

Breakfast host: **Pat Kavanaugh** Clean Up host: **Bonnie Jones**

We are currently putting together our leadership for next year and want you to remember when to come on up for a great breakfast with breathtaking views. So, mark your calendars for our 2017 dates: May 14, June 18, July 9, August 13, September 10 and October 8. Also, for those who would like to help with supporting the Inn but might not be able to make it up on a Sunday, we are looking for people to help with advertising. This means visiting bike and outdoor shops (mostly Marin, Sonoma and San Francisco counties, but would like to expand our reach to the East and South Bays) in the Spring and asking them to display our posters. If you might be interested in assisting this way, please let us know by writing us at pancakes@westpointinn.com and we will contact you in March or April for further arrangements. Thanks to every one for their support and hope to see you at the Inn!

HISTORIC FIREPLACE RESTORED AND RETURNED TO SERVICE

Fred Runner

In mid-November, between rain storms, major work was done on our oldest and most historic fireplace.

You may know that last spring there was a chimney fire in the parlor fireplace, quickly quenched by Innkeeper **David Durr.** Before lighting any more fires, we got the 112-year old fireplace and chimney inspected and found the interior needed some serious TLC.

The Inn and cabins are on the National Register of Historic Places. So our repair work needed to be historically sensitive. When we were done, there should be no sense anything had changed, that we had the same hospitable fireplace a century of visitors had always known.

A lengthy (phone) search took us to historic fireplaces on Civil War battlefields in Virginia and the company that had restored them, Fire Safe Industries. I mentioned we were on the National Register and needed a contractor that knew how to manage our repair and yet keep the historic elements intact. They knew a company that restored 40 National Register-listed fireplaces at Bryce Canyon for the National Park Service, dozens more on the north and south rims of the Grand Canyon and the famous El Tovar hotel. (We're a year older than the El Tovar. They opened in 1905.)

On the phone, Boston Brick and Stone in Pasadena, spoke of improving fireplace performance with code-compliant parts while keeping the visible historic parts unchanged.

That's what we have. Photos and captions show some of the work.

The best news: the parlor fireplace was back in service the week before Thanksgiving.



Boston Brick & Stone's 35-foot scafold looms over the Inn as masons restore and improve airflow in the 112-year old chimney.



Boston Brick & Stone plastic barrier helped keep the Inn clean. During "demo" (demolition) a fan was atop the chimney sucking dust and dirt out.



Remnants of the 112-year old clay chimney liner await removal from the parlor fireplace. Note the missing firebrick at the back. We're deepening the "firebox" as part of improving the "drafting" of the fireplace. Historically correct firebrick, the same kind of brick used originally, will cover the back wall and look no different than the fireplace we remember after a few fires.



The new spark arrestor they created for the top of the parlor chimney.

HEAL THE HEARTH

Olene Sparks

'Tis the season when a good fire is appreciated at the unique, rustic West Point Inn.

Members were recently sent a fund raising card requesting help with front room fireplace repair expense. The card features art work donated by well known Bay Area Artist, Jim DeWitt. Artist information is on the back of the card.

The fireplace was built in 1904. It has been "out of order" for months due to dangerous issues. Bringing it to a safe place required historical expertise and cost far more than original "guestimates". All members are urged to donate. Any and all amounts are welcome and tax-deductible.

Donate by check or credit card. Designate "Heal the Hearth".

CHECK - payable to West Point Inn Assn. HEAL THE HEARTH %Susan Koide 63 Suffield Avenue San Anselmo, Ca. 94960

CREDIT CARD:

Check the website and provide your information. Designate "Heal the Hearth".

Card number. Expiration date.

Name (please print)

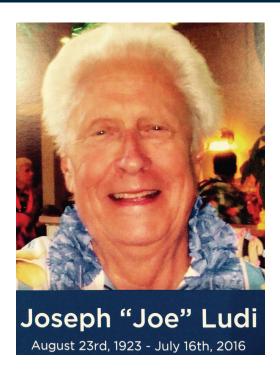
Address

Phone

Email

Thank you, WPIA Development Committee





IN MEMORIAM: JOE LUDI

West Point Inn's most senior member, since 1954, Joe Ludi passed peacefully just shy of his 93rd birthday. He was far from shy in personality, wit and energy. Until the week before, Joe was planning the annual Luau and Cinco de Mayo parties at Lake Park Retirement where he lived.

Joe grew up in New Mexico. His parents had 12 children, 4 of whom did not survive childhood. In 1940 he rode a train to San Francisco to see the World's Fair, fell in love with the City and made it his home.

Joe served in the Navy, worked for Getty Oil, Diamond International and Notre Dame de Namur University in Belmont. Upon retirement he taught English as a second language to children, helped tourists through Traveler's Aid and the elderly at S.F. Senior Center. For the West Point Inn he served many pancake breakfasts, did many work parties and received the Rusty Spike Award for his contributions. Joe took exotic excursions around the world. In his later years his favorite trip was taking BART to S.F. where he dined at In-N-Out burgers, caught a movie and had a street car ride past his old haunts.

Joe was a regular at WPIA Annual Old Timers events. This year's event was dedicated to his memory. His estate designated WPI as recipient of memorial donations in his honor.

Respectfully submitted by Olene Sparks-Toby.

WPIA WEATHER REPORT

Tim Aaronson & Olene Sparks

On a gloomy, foggy, drippy day did you ever cancel the idea of hiking up Mt. Tam and later learn that it was warm and sunny at the Inn, above it all? Problem solved.

Welcome your new weather station installed above the Innkeeper's Quarter and transmitting real time weather data worldwide via the Internet.

A grant from the California Alpine Club Foundation provided the funding to purchase a Personal Weather Station (PSW) replacing old instruments above the chimney near the Inn's East end fire escape.

You can access the weather readings by going to our West Point Inn webpage and clicking on the "Weather Info" link or visiting any of these websites:

http://www.weatherlink.com/user/westpointinn/index.php?view=summary&headers=1

https://www.wunderground.com/personal-weather-station/dashboard?ID=KCAMILLV52

http://www.findu.com/cgi-bin/wxpage.cgi?call=EW9939&units=english&last=12

or use these "apps" on your mobile device: WunderStation WeatherLink

Weather stations have historically been a part of Mt. Tamalpais. The Weather Service maintained a station on East Peak until the 1920's. The Air Force monitored the weather closely when it occupied property on Mt. Tam. There exists an automated weather and wind system on West Peak, accessed by phone. The Marin Fire Department volunteer fire lookouts report the wind, weather and humidity twice daily (11 a.m. & 2 p.m.) during the fire season (June - October) with reports going to Marin Fire Department Headquarters in Woodacre.

The West Point Inn, mid-mountain at 1800 ft. elevation, exists in a kind of micro-climate, just above the fog but affected by it. It's also exposed to westerly winds that make it differ from West Peak or East Peak. The Inn is located in a main hiking, biking and general use area of Mt. Tam and its weather station can provide more accurate information for

these activities. Also, historical records are worth having. The long-term impact of weather at the WPI may prove valuable scientifically and environmentally, such as anomalies in the weather that might be related to global warming.

INFORMATION SOURCES:

- Pat Williams, WPIA Innkeeper, retired firefighter, volunteer fire watch, East Peak.
- Carl Nolte, WPIA Historian, volunteer fire watch, East Peak, Meteorology & Climatology Studies, S. F. Chronicle Reporter.
- Pete Martin, WPIA Fire & Safety Committee Chair, retired firefighter, collector of weather instruments, follows home weather station.

RESEARCH AND INSTALLATION:

 Tim Aaronson, retired math and science instructor, S.F. Unified School Dist., Lawrence Hall of Science, former Peace Corps/Phillippines.

INSTALLATION:

- Nigel Johnson, Member
- · Brenda Roberts, Building & Grounds Chair
- Pat Williams, Innkeeper
- Gordon Edwards, Innkeeper







WPIA 2016 AWARD RECIPIENTS

Olene Sparks

In keeping with tradition at the WPIA Annual Fall Membership Meeting special awards are given to show appreciation to members who have been exemplary in their dedication and devotion to the Inn. At the October 16, 2016 meeting the following individuals were recognized.

RUSTY SPIKE AWARD - BRENDA ROBERTS

The Rusty Spike Award is the WPIA President's award to someone who has been especially helpful during the year. A member since 2008, Brenda is Building & Grounds Chair, a position she has held for many years. Most notably she dedicated an enormous amount of time toward the new ADA cabin. Beginning 2008 and after six years of extreme effort the cabin is finally being built. Brenda has always been in motion tending to the needs of the Inn and cabins with attention to preserving the historic fabric of the Inn. She is a past President of the WPIA. She hosts pancake breakfasts, helps with work parties, special events, etc. She received her first Rusty Spike Award in 2012. With the 2016 award she has the distinction of being the first "double" WPIA Rusty Spike Award recipient.

WALL OF FAME AWARD - GAGE SCHUBERT

The Wall of Fame Award is presented to someone who has a long history of being very involved with benefiting the Inn. Gage became a member in 1975 and immediately became active in improving and preserving WPI grounds and structures. He liked hands-on big projects work such as installing a water line from the Hummingbird Tank down to the Inn during summer drought when he rented a backhoe from Big 4 Rents, purchased 30 PVC 4" X 20' pipes, trucked them in and helped dig the trench for their placement. He was involved in sewer repair/replacement. During that period the MMWD and State Park Superintendent trusted him with keys to all the gates for vehicle access, a privilege he respected. Gage worked many pancake breakfasts, many work parties, many events. He helped conceive and financially benefited building the Innkeeper quarters in 1986. He was a major contributor to the WPIA Centennial 100 Year Campaign in 2004 when the Inn needed a new foundation. Gage served as WPIA President in 1985. He fits the Wall of Fame recipient criteria of "exemplifying the spirit of the West Point Inn".

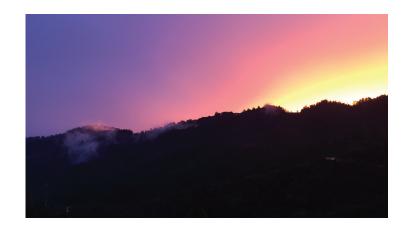


Gage Schubert and Brenda Roberts

GARDEN OF EATIN'

Kathleen Kopp

At our October work party we had a lively group of volunteers in the garden. It was wet and muddy, perfect for digging in the softened earth. We cleared out the spent summer crops, turned the soil, and did our fall planting. We sowed seeds of kale, lettuce and peas which are leafing forth already. We also planted some winter crop starters of chard, spinach, peas and kale. There may be some new bulbs hidden around the inn to surprise us in the spring. Happy and warm holidays to all!





THE NEW "EMIG" CABIN Fred Runner

It's the first cabin built at West Point in 98-years.

The last cabin constructed was our "Honeymoon Cabin", built in 1918, by Dr. Washington Dodge, a man who survived the RMS Titanic in lifeboat 13. The new Emig ADA Cabin is a mix of old and new: modern construction techniques but the look of something that fits with the other cabins.

This construction began as an idea by former Buildings and Grounds chair **April Dubois**, c 2008, as a way to meet ADA requirements without modifying existing historic buildings. A long process of ideas and revisions and approvals finally resulted in the Marin County Planning Commission granting approval this past fall.

Over most of the last 7 years, **Brenda Roberts**, West Point's current Buildings and Grounds chair, has shepherded the project through dozens of meetings, finding a contractor and now supervises the construction work. Funding for the project is from the Emig Foundation.

Photos illustrate the progress since the first shovelful of earth was scooped from the ground, October 24, 2016. Anticipated completion is early part of 2017.





OLD TIMERS' APPRECIATION PARTY

Marilyn Skaff

On Saturday, September 24, approximately 35 people gathered at the Inn for the annual Old Timers Appreciation Party. The purpose of this event is to recognize the long time members for their contributions to the Inn and to give them an opportunity to reconnect with old friends and reminisce about their experiences at the Inn. It is not limited to only old timers, but also a wonderful way for newer members to meet these folks and learn in a very personal way about the history of the Inn.

Although this is usually an overnight event for those who want to stay, this year those plans were altered by the declaration of a red flag warning issued on Saturday morning for 9:00 that evening. Thus we held the party anyway, but had to be off the mountain by 9:00. There was disappointment, but the party spirit was not dampened at all. Folks gathered for a social hour, followed by a wonderful dinner prepared by Jennifer Barclay. Afterwards, our Master of Ceremonies, Charlie Evans, elicited many delightful stories and memories from the long time members. One of my favorites was the tale shared by Charlie and Gage Shubert about building the pipeline between the water tank and the Inn. A vital part of this event is the music provided by our very own bluegrass band that has been playing at the Inn since its early days. George Martin, Lynn Ludlow, and Margo Freistadt (the original group) were joined by Lynn and Margo's daughter, Kenny, and her fiancée, Kevin, and they played throughout the event. (Some of our old timers were inspired to dance along with the music!)

I would like to thank the volunteers who made this wonderful evening possible: Jennifer Barclay, a master chef; Olene Sparks Toby, who handles reservations, and reaches out to long time members (and took photographs); Charlie Evans, a masterful master of ceremonies; and our talented musicians. To me, this event is what the West Point Inn is all about.











WICKER CHAIRS

Fran Rondeau

Our much loved Wicker chairs were showing signs of their age & were starting to deteriorate & unravel. Michelle Moore of Jardin Wicker in Richmond worked her magic and has restored the chairs to their former beauty. From her assessment the 1918 lounge chair is a Haywood Wakefield piece, is an original and quite valuable. She advised us about the continued care so that we can maintain these pieces in their restored beauty.

BURNING NOTES FROM THE FIRE & SAFETY COMMITTEE Pete Martin

With beginning of the rainy season, our work thinning brush, technically "vegetation management," below the Inn be will be put to rest until next March or April. The progress we have made made is significant. Our dedicated crew under the guidance of Ken Malvino have been working in an area on the south-facing slope between 100 and 300-feet below the building complex. Reducing the volume vegetation creates an environment (defensible space) that dampens an approaching fire and should protect the buildings from radiant heat and/or direct flame impingement, two major sources of ignition. There were two known fires that threatened the Inn. One was in 1913, and the other in 1916, a 100 years ago +/-! Both started deep in Redwood Canyon. The vegetation, (fuel load), often measured in "tons per acre," on the mountain and around the Inn was nowhere near what we have today.

We are excited about the restoration of fireplace in the lounge to its original safety and splendor. We are thankful for the many people who worked so hard to make this project happen.

We are always looking for volunteers to help protect the Inn from fire, both inside and out. If you are looking for a way to serve the Inn, members who would like to join our committee. Participation can be as little or as much as your interest and energy allow. Please call **Pete Martin** at 415-499-8028.









Please join us for the annual

WEST POINT INN

Cookie Party and Members' Holiday Party Saturday, December 3rd

1:00pm - 3:30pm tree trimming & cookie decorating

4:30pm cocktails

5:30 - 7:30pm dinner (\$35 per adult / \$12 per child)

no rsvp necessary for cookie party • rsvp for dinner • dinner space is limited

Hosts: Alison Bricker, Leah Durr, Carol Sarter Chefs: Fran Rondeau and Blanche Crabé

Member overnight \$25.00 Option to attend party and dinner only and hike out after dinner.

For Dinner Reservation and Overnight Reservations Contact: Carol Sarter at 415.971.4329

> Mail checks to: West Point Inn, c/o Carol Sarter 70 Crescent Land, Novato 94947

2017 ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

December 2016 July Cookie Party/ Member's Holiday Party++ 9 Pancake Breakfast Hosts: Alison Bricker, Carol Sarter 10 Board Meeting** Chef: Fran Rondeau 15 Work Party Board and Committee Chairs Holiday Party 12 Host: Gail Shahan August 31 New Year's Eve Party 13 Pancake Breakfast Board Meeting** Host: Olene Sparks-Toby 14 19 Work Party January Board Meeting** <u>September</u> 21 Work Party Pancake Breakfast 10 11 Board Meeting** **February** 16 Work Party 13 Board Meeting** 23 **Old Timers Appreciation Party** 18 Work Party Host: Marilyn Skaff October March 13 Board Meeting** 8 Final Pancake Breakfast Board Meeting** 18 Work Party 9 Night Before Fall Meeting 19 Chili bake-off - Host: Kathleen Kopp & Gail Shahan 14 Fall Meeting & Member's barbecue 15 21 Work Party April Board meeting* 10 15 Work Party November 22 Night before Spring Meeting Board Meeting** 13 23 Spring Meeting & Members barbecue 18 Work Party Host: Fran Rondeau 29 Tango Night - Host: Mark Northcross December Cookie Party/ Member's Holiday Party++ 11 **Board & Committee Chairs Christmas party** May 5/6 Heritage Night++ 31 New Year's Eve Party Host Fred Runner Host: Olene Sparks-Toby Board Meeting** 8 14 Mother's Day Pancake Breakfast 20 Work Party June Location at MMWD Boardroom 12 Board Meeting** 220 Nellen Drive, Corte Madera Work Party 17 **MEETINGS START AT 7PM** Father's Day Pancake Breakfast 18 ++ Walk-out nights

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Brenda Roberts
Fred Runner
Ward Flad

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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