

a view from the

WEST POINT INN

The Newsletter for the West Point Inn Association and Friends

June 2016 • Issue 26

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.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

President's Message	1-2
Membership Notes	2
Call for Candidates	3
Personnel Committee	3
Pancake Breakfasts	4
Recipe: Apple Walnut Cake	4
Garden of Eatin'	5
Scenic Railroad	6
Fire and Safety Help Needed	6
Movie Shoots at the Inn	7
View from the Porch	8
Heritage Night	9
Old Timers' Party	10
Events & Pancake Breakfasts	11
WPI 2015 Calendar	12
WPI Officers & Chairpersons	13

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

During the past 3 months The West Point Inn has witnessed and welcomed many unforgettable events and activities. During the summer of 1915 when stagecoach and train service to the Inn ceased the Inn was closed. On April 8, 2016, we celebrated the 100 anniversary of the reopening of the Inn. Hosted by Fred Runner and Brenda Roberts the two-night event sold out. More than 100 guests attended. Fred demonstrated his wealth of knowledge of the era through stories, photos, original documents and video. Leah Durr, Blanche Crabé, and Fran Rondeau served a dinner inspired by the menu from the meal served at the East Peak Tavern chef in 1916. Attendees declared, once again, that this was the best Heritage Night ever. Reservations filled up quickly this year so check your calendar on the website (westpointinn.com) and don't miss the event next year!

The Spring Meeting on April 17 had an average attendance. With almost 600 members it is surprising that we see only 35-40 at each member meeting. Nevertheless, we board members are thrilled to see everyone who comes and to share with them the inside scoop on what makes the Inn tick. A lovely lunch of Aidell's chicken apple sausages, Greek salad and Jennifer's potato green bean salad were served and enjoyed on the Inn porch overlooking the Bay.

I want to extend a huge thank you to all of you new and old members who continue to come to the work parties and keep the Inn in such good shape. Jennifer does a magnificent job of coordinating all of the tasks suggested by the innkeepers so that everyone who hikes up early on Saturday has a job. Those jobs both large and small literally hold the inn together and the volunteer hours that go in to making the inn glow are priceless. Recent housekeeping improvements include adorable blue and white curtains in the Toby and Honeymoon cabins thanks to the sewing skills of our secretary and housekeeping co-chair, Bonnie Jones. Bonnie also used the same material upstairs in the hallway to make panels, which lessen the amount of light coming from the hallway into rooms 3,4,5,and 6. Building and Grounds chair Brenda Roberts continues to not only keep track of the plumbing, electrical, water, and heating needs of the inn but also oversees and organizes the repairs and ordering of all necessary materials. And she manages to make these improvements quietly and efficiently so that guests are never disturbed or even aware of the changes.

Continued on p2.

Continued from p1.

In another article in this newsletter you will hear more about the recent Mother's Day Pancake Breakfast. Host Brenda's excel spreadsheet of tasks will go down in history as the most detailed and organized distribution of duties ever. Thank you to Rose Sullivan, co-host of the breakfast, for thoughtfully initiating a special toast and welcome to our honored Pancake Breakfast King and Queen, Charlie and Marji Evans. We have been very fortunate this year in Marin to have enough rain to keep our reservoirs adequate and to have been able to enjoy some of the most beautiful wild flowers around the Inn and on the trails that surround us. Let us hope that in the coming months we have few if any red flag days that interfere with everyone's enjoyment of the Inn.

I close with a huge shout of gratitude to our innkeepers who never get enough recognition for how much they do to welcome the public day in and day out and keep the inn safe. We all must help them by following the rules and leaving the Inn by 10 am (9am on Mondays), by cleaning up everything we use while staying overnight, and by treating our environment with care.

MEMBERSHIP NOTES

Gordy and Lynn MacDermott

Hello Members,

Here are our latest new members:

Hope Salger of Piedmont
Clare Wellnitz of Berkeley
Judy Hyrne of Menlo Park
Karin McClune of San Francisco
Alan Zimmerman and Angela Wildman of Sausalito
Freddie Kusin of Petaluma
Robin Olesen of Berkeley
Molly Greene of San Francisco

The following new members have shared some information about themselves:

Angela Wildman wrote: With no idea about how to get there, what to do for work, or where exactly to go, Angela declared she was leaving New York City for California. What she did know was that she wanted the ability to paddle 12 months out of the year, to have access hiking trails from her backyard, and to find a town that felt like "home". Sausalito is now home for Angela. It's also where she met her fiance, Alan Zimmerman. Angela works as a brand and marketing consultant helping local nonprofits define and deliver on their purpose.

Alan is a visual designer in San Francisco. In his spare time he likes drawing and learning about California history. Together, Angela and Alan are also members of the Sausalito Historical Society and the California Heritage Council.

Karin McClune wrote: When my children were little, we wowed them at the Mountain Plays or cajoled them up the fire road for pancakes at WPI. Now that they are grown, the stars align and I am able to join and participate. I hope to work the pancake breakfasts, some work days and whatever else evolves. I feel so lucky to live in the Bay Area, where nature and culture hold hands. Personally, I am like a child's drawing that doesn't stay in the lines – a bit of this and that – hula, ukulele, hiking/biking, travel, theater and now for something completely different.

Robin Olesen wrote: I am a runner and a mom. I have stayed at the inn with my kids, and it is memorable. I really appreciate the historic preservation of the inn and its taste and grace. As a surfer and outdoor enthusiast in addition to runner and writer, the inn is an obvious refuge and place of inspiration.

Freddie Kusin wrote: I am a 55 year old real estate professional. I have 2 kids (24 and 25), boy and girl. My son lives in Marin, and my daughter lives in Germany doing equestrian training. I was in the hi-tech world for 20 years and love tech. I also love video and photography. I also love the outdoors and hiking.

Clare Wellnitz wrote: I visit Mt. Tam every possible weekend for hiking. I love the trails on the mountain. I'm also a member of the Friends of Mt. Tam and frequently do their hikes. I'm a member of Sierra Club as well. I work for University of California Press as a publisher, where we publish many books about California and the Bay Area, including nature guides. I love nature and the outdoors and find it very fulfilling to be with others who do as well.

Hope Salger wrote: I first stayed at the West Point Inn in the early 1990's when I flew from Boston to attend a week-long women's mountain biking camp. It immediately won a place in my heart, and I have been visiting happily as a hiker-biker-day visitor since I moved to the Bay Area in 1998. I am now settled in the East Bay with my 2 children, Henry and Clio, and I'd like them to become as captivated and enchanted with the Inn as I am.

Molly Greene wrote: I have been coming to the West Point Inn for years and would love to formally become part of the community. I am an avid runner, hiker and cyclist and come over here almost every weekend.

WPIA ANNUAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION CALL FOR CANDIDATES

Chris Marcuse

The WPIA Board of Directors and Election Committee welcome inquiries from qualified members who might be interested in serving on the board. Here is some information:

- There are nine WPIA members on the Board of Directors.
- The term for a Director is three years. * FOR THIS ELECTION ONLY: There are 3 three-year seats and 3 two-year seats available. *
- By-Laws require that an initial candidate be a member in good standing for no less than one year who has not served on the Board for 12 months prior to taking office.
- By-Laws now allow a Director to choose to stand for re-election one additional time. Thus, the maximum a member can serve as a Director is six years.
- By-laws state that any qualified member, other than those selected by the Nominating Committee, may run for the board by delivering a petition signed by at least 10% of voting members by September 1 (in this case, by 09/01/2016).
- This year the Nominating Committee is comprised of Ward Flad, Jan Gauthier and Pete Martin

The election process is by mail. Candidates submit a short bio and, for this year only, choose whether to run for a three-year or two-year term. Ballots and bios are mailed to the voting membership at least 30 days prior to the Annual Fall Meeting in October (10/16/2015) along with an addressed return envelope. Voting officially ends when the annual meeting is called to order. Votes are then tallied with results announced toward the end of the meeting. Results are kept confidential. Winners' names are announced alphabetically.

Serving on the Board of Directors is an excellent way to help the West Point Inn. Please consider sharing some of your time and talent to insure that the Inn continues to operate for the benefit of the members and guests who appreciate the opportunity to experience our unique establishment.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

Ward Flad
Jan Gauthier
Pete Martin

ELECTION PROCESS COMMITTEE:

Lin & Chris Marcuse

NOTE: We welcome help from members in conducting the election. If interested, please contact us.

QUESTIONS IN GENERAL: Contact Chris or Lin PHONE: (415) 516-4253 or e-mail: elections@westpointinn.com

PLEASE CONTACT SOMEONE ON THE BOARD OR ELECTION COMMITTEE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IF YOU HAVE AN INTEREST IN BECOMING A CANDIDATE FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Lin Marcuse

What more can I say? Our innkeepers are great! Our professional staff is keeping the Inn safe & beautiful. **Pat, David, Gordon, Geoff & Jim** are doing amazing work. Their dedication, along with the many hours donated by our work party volunteers, are preserving our ol' gal. She's still spry & good looking for being 112 years old! Thank you, gang, for your service and ability to handle any unusual situation that arises.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST REPORT

By Lin Marcuse &
Gordy MacDermott

We want to thank **Brenda Roberts & Rose Sullivan** for leading the Mother's Day pancake breakfast. Even though it was unseasonably cool and wet after a couple of days of rain, they still served almost 900 orders! This just goes to show how many people love the Inn and make it a part of their mother's special day year after year. We also want to thank Suzie & Wayne Koide for leading the clean-up crew. And, of course, we want to thank the many people who volunteer for the breakfast and clean-up crews. It's not easy interacting with the multitudes of people that come up the mountain, but we and the Association appreciate your dedication and service to the Inn!

If you want to have fun, enjoy great food and camaraderie, and get a free night at the Inn (breakfast crew the night before/clean-up crew the night after), volunteer for an upcoming date. Contact us at pancakes@westpointinn.com with the day you are interested in, and we'll pass along your offer to the host(s). The remaining dates are:

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



APPLE WALNUT CAKE

Megan Agosto

2 cups sugar
1 1/2 cups canola oil
3 eggs
3 cups flour
1 tsp baking soda
1 tsp salt
1 tbsp pure vanilla extract
3 cups peeled and diced apples
1 cup black walnuts
1 cup coconut
1 tbsp each of cinnamon, cloves and nutmeg

1. Preheat oven 350 F. Grease and flour a 10 inch bundt pan
2. In a large mixing bowl, whisk together the sugar, oil, and eggs until well blended.
3. Sift together the flour, baking soda, and salt. add the flour mixture and the vanilla to the mixing bowl with the oil and sugar mixture.

Whisk well. The batter will be very stiff. Fold in the apples, black walnuts and coconut
4. Pour the batter into a prepared 10 inch bundt pan.

Bake for 1 hour and 20 minutes.
5. Let cool in pan for 15 minutes before turning out onto a cake plate.

Serves 15 - 20 humans
Enjoy!!!!

GARDEN OF EATIN'

Kathy Kopp

Our garden is off to another wonderful start this year. We did our primary weeding, soil turning and planting at the March work party, and then planted another batch of tomatoes, peppers and squash in April. We decided to stagger the tomato crops so they don't all get ripe at once and we can enjoy a longer harvest.

The crops this year are 8 varieties of tomatoes, 4 different peppers, chard, kale, collard greens, pole beans, purple bush beans, peas, lettuce, spinach, asparagus, and zucchini squash.

We really enjoy and appreciate the participation of all volunteers in the garden. This year Lily Barber, who is a senior at Redwood High School, chose our garden as the site for her AP Environmental Science project. She has created and installed some new, but appropriately rustic appearing signage for the plants in our garden. Lily is also designing a laminated sign to have in the kitchen, letting guests know there are vegetables and herbs in the gardens, to use while they are preparing meals at the inn.

The herb gardens between the sheds are producing well. The erosion control area below the hitching post is effective and continues to fill in nicely with native plants. The (mostly) native plant area below the vegetable garden is also growing well.

A future project in the conceptual stage is to plant a variety of native plants along the pathway to the cabins, with some subtle signage and a laminated picture and info guide to native plants of Mt Tamalpais. We would like the opportunity to provide participation and education for adults and children to learn more about our mountain and the awesome beauty and power of nature.



Tomatoes are coming!



Lily Barber, garden volunteer, with her donated signage.



Bridge over untroubled water



Easter Bunny in the Garden



The Garden Gate



March work party garden team

SCENIC RAILROAD COMING TO CIVIC CENTER LIBRARY

Tim Aaronson

Article from the Anne T. Kent California Room Community Newsletter by the Marin County Free Library

Railroad historian Fred Codoni is thrilled to report:

“After 86 years, the 1/10th scale model Shay locomotive crafted by an employee of the Mt. Tamalpais & Muir Woods Railroad in 1911 has returned to Marin and will soon be on display at the Civic Center branch of the Marin County Free Library and later at the Gravity Car Barn museum at Mt. Tamalpais State Park.”

“Thanks to the efforts of Fred Runner, Richard Torney, Arlene Halligan and other Scenic Railway buffs, the model was rescued from a scrap dealer’s basement in Illinois and shipped to Marin, arriving at master model craftsman Phil Gazzano’s San Anselmo workshop on February 4th. Gazzano said the model must have over 2,000 hours in its construction because of all the details, including dozens of nuts and bolts and moving parts. It’s ‘way above and beyond anything built at that time. The craftsmanship is incredible. The details are through the roof.”

Fred Runner, author and historian of the Mt. Tamalpais Scenic Railway, fills us in on the history of this remarkable scale model:

“The model was first on display in the Scenic Railway’s San Francisco ticket office on Market Street at Christmas time in 1911. From the beginning it drew crowds. Like so many artifacts from that era, the year ‘1915’ is marked in numerous places on the model’s engine. The year ‘1915’ was meant to publicize the coming World’s Fair (Panama Pacific International Exposition) and to also suggest that 1915 was a great time to ride Mt. Tam’s ‘Crookedest Railroad.’”

“In 1915, the model was moved to San Francisco’s Ferry Building where nearly 19 million people from around the world came streaming in, on their way to the World’s Fair. The model did its job as 1915 proved to be the Scenic Railway’s most successful year yet, with an average of 700 passengers a day during the summer months; that’s over 20,000 passengers per month!”

“After the fair, the model was returned to the ticket office window and stayed there until Mt. Tam’s Scenic Railroad was abandoned in 1930. That year, Hyman-Michaels scrapped the railroad and carried the model back to their Chicago offices where it has been ever since - for 86 years.”

EDITOR’S NOTE: Starting in the middle of April (date to be announced soon!) the beautifully-restored 86-year old Shay locomotive model will be on display at the Civic Center Library. Please join us on Wednesday, April 20th at 12 noon when Fred Runner gives an illustrated talk and a brief docent tour of this remarkable survival of Mt. Tam’s Scenic Railroad days.

HELP WANTED FIRE AND SAFETY COMMITTEE CO-CHAIR

Pete Martin

The fire and safety committee chair is appointed by, serves at the pleasure of and reports directly to the Board President. The committee oversees and coordinates all aspects of fire safety throughout the Inn complex and the vegetation areas that immediately surround it.

Ideally, the candidate will have a fire service background and/or the skills required to manage the points listed below.

He/she ensures that all firefighting systems and equipment are in perfect working order and coordinates other aspects of fire & safety including but not limited to those below:

- Fire alarm system; monitored 24/7.
- Annual fire extinguisher servicing.
- Monthly in-house range hood inspection.
- Fire sprinkler system (certified every five years).
- Fire hose cabinets
- Coordinates on-going vegetation management and maintenance for defensible space surrounding the Inn.
- Strives to attend every monthly work party to support Work Party Supervisors.
- Participates in annual fire inspection conducted by the Marin County Fire Department, Throckmorton Ridge Fire Station.
- Maintains records and calendars pertaining to points listed above.
- Maintains working rapport & communication with innkeepers.
- Depends heavily on the innkeeper’s participation in systems listed above and all other aspects of fire & safety in and around the Inn.
- Attends a minimum of 6 board meetings regularly to submit updates regarding activities of the committee.

BIG TIME MOVIE SHOOTS AT THE WEST POINT

Fred Runner

A movie company came to the West Point Inn to shoot. It was a tremendous logistical feat moving over 70 crew members and many tons of movie lights and equipment to, around and then away from the 112 year old Inn.

Because all of us there signed Non Disclosure Agreements, we can not mention the production company, the show name, the actors or the content. But we can say it was impressive watching the swarm of activity move from the Honeymoon Cabin to the Member's Lounge, the kitchen, the porch and finally, after dark, back to the Honeymoon Cabin.

Because of the narrow one-lane Old Railroad Grade, the company moved most of the heavy equipment to the Inn the day before, designating specific areas for lights, grip equipment, additional restrooms, props and dozens of other things. The Inn's rooms and remaining cabins became "green rooms," places where the actors could relax when not needed.

On Tuesday May 10, the crew worked at the Inn for over 13 hours, arriving at 9:30 and shooting until after dark. When through they loaded their equipment into large steakbead trucks that drove up the mountain. At East Peak they reloaded their gear into bigger trucks that headed down the mountain and on to Grace Cathedral where they shot the next morning.

Innkeeper Pat Williams, WPIA President Fran Rondeau and I, were there the three days the company worked, moving out the familiar Inn furnishings and adding the pieces the scenes needed, watching them shoot and then restore the Inn.

The Inn made a tidy sum as a movie location. Other than all the new gravel used to smooth and fill the uneven Old Railroad Grade fire road you'd never know they ever came to the visit.

Historically speaking, very few recent movies have shot on Mt. Tamalpais (Robin Williams' "Jack.") State Park officials say car commercials shoot on Ridgecrest Boulevard almost once a month. But they don't shoot on the Railroad Grade or at East Peak where this movie setup its base camp. The first known movie to shoot on Tamalpais' Railroad Grade was Thomas Edison's Kinetoscope crew, shooting three clips in March 1898, when movies were three years old. They are in the Library of Congress and on the internet.

1898 Edison clips:

No. 1 - <https://www.loc.gov/item/00694422> -- Engine No. 2 at East Peak Tavern

No. 2 - <https://www.loc.gov/item/00694251/> -- Shows Shay engine 498 and flatcar used by crew.

No. 3 - <https://www.loc.gov/item/00694252/> -- Engine No. 2 climbs Tamalpais



Set Dressers gave the Inn different blinds and yellow curtains on each window.



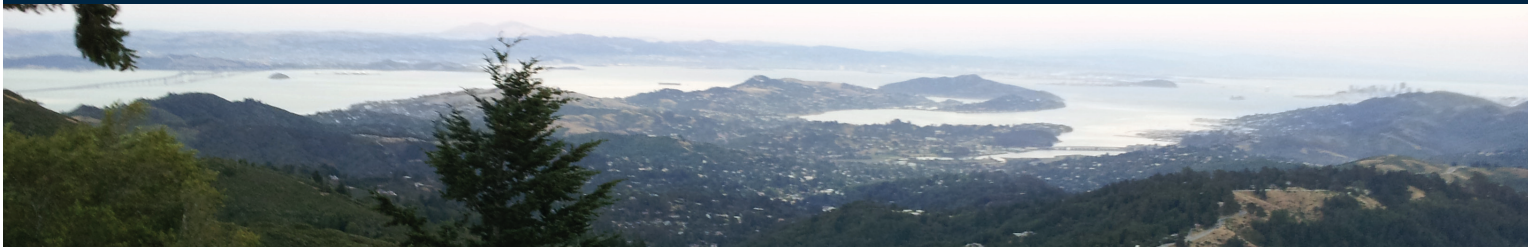
Grips and electricians wield heavy stands and 12-foot wide white silk diffusion to light the Member's Lounge.



The kitchen buzzes with activity as the lighting crew hangs lights for a scene.



Steakbead trucks ferry movie equipment back to East Peak for reloading onto the big trucks that could not get to the Inn.



VIEW FROM THE PORCH: CAMILLE CUSUMANO

Marilyn Skaff

Those of you who have attended a Tango Night at the West Point Inn may have had a tango lesson from Camille Cusumano. A member since 1988, both the West Point Inn and Argentine tango are important parts of Camille's life and once a year they come together at the Inn. Camille is also an accomplished author and the Inn has played a role in that area of her life as well. She reports using stays in Room 1 to work on her books. When she was doing travel writing, she often invited fellow travel writers to join her for an overnight at the Inn. She recalls the Innkeeper in those days, Daniel, making them swear that they would never write about the Inn to maintain the peaceful nature of the place. Also an environmentalist, Camille was very active in the Greenbelt Alliance in the 1990s. She participated in weeklong bike rides to raise money for the organization and hosted reunions at the Inn for riders who participated with her.

Camille grew up in New Jersey, the 5th of 10 children in big Italian family (her grandparents were from Sicily). After she graduated from college in 1973, she moved to San Francisco and fell in love with the city. With a BA in Psychology, she was determined to go into publishing, so she applied for a job with the San Francisco Chronicle. She was interviewed by WPI member, Carl Nolte who thought she was overqualified for the job she had applied for and she wasn't hired. She went back to school and earned a Master's degree in

French, leading to a job for a French language newspaper. In the 80's she returned to the East Coast and worked for a publishing company in rural Pennsylvania that focused on fitness and health. She moved back to San Francisco in 1986 and went to work for the AAA magazine, Motorland (now Via), where she worked as a travel writer for 17 years. This provided her the opportunity to travel around the US as well as internationally. Of all the places she has traveled, she says that Alaska is one of her favorite places due to its bountiful natural beauty.

Camille's love of Argentine tango started when some friends encouraged her to try it. She took some ballroom dance classes and soon tango became a central part of her life. In 2006 she moved to Buenos Aires and lived there for four years and still visits there once a year. She enjoys teaching and dancing the tango at local milongas (venues for tango), describing it as a combination of martial arts and spiritual practice ("yoga with a partner").

Camille is a prolific writer whose books reflect her passions for tango, travel, and her large family. She has two recent books, "Wilderness Begins at Home: Travels with My Big Sicilian Family" and "La Cucina di Carmela: A Sicilian American Cookbook." The cookbook is a collection of her mother's recipes.

Camille's visits to the Inn these days involve relaxing and reading, as well as volunteering for pancake breakfasts. She appreciates the quiet, but also said, having grown up in a big family she can enjoy the crowds that sometimes gather at the Inn. When asked what makes the Inn special to her, she said that she loves that fact that it is so close to an urban center, yet so far away, in the wilderness. The Inn, she said, "floats like some Camelot with a tidal wave of fog that comes in in slow motion." She expressed gratitude for the people who do so much for the inn and values its presence in her life.

HERITAGE NIGHT

Fred Runner

On April 8 the wind whipped around Mt. Tamalpais and showers fell throughout the afternoon. Inside the West Point Inn Chef Fran Rondeau, Master Baker David Durr and their crew were busy creating dinner. Brenda Roberts and Leah Durr teamed up to manage reservations for over 100 guests across two nights.

It was Heritage Night weekend at West Point.

This year was a look back at an important night, exactly a century ago, when a closed, abandoned Inn was reopened by Tamalpais' scenic railway to the Mountain's hikers. It was also that spring that the railroad expanded the porch to the size we know today, added the heavy-timber "West Point Inn" sign and changed the Inn's focus from stagecoach service to hiking headquarters on the mountain.

We talked about the Inn's reopening April 8, 1916, the overflow crowd, barbecue dinner, gravity service back to Mill Valley or cots to rent and spend the night. It was the beginning of Work Parties. And we talked about the hiking guests and the featured speakers. Who were the people visiting the Inn? They were an inspiring group.

The railroad had underestimated the Inn's popularity with hikers. Hikers wanted the Inn reopened.

The Tamalpais Conservation Club (TCC), a new hiking club founded in 1912 and constant user of the Inn, negotiated the Inn's reopening. It became their "temporary" mountain headquarters, one the TCC supported for decades.

Since 1904, the scenic railway had seen the Inn as a passenger amenity, a place of shelter, food and hospitality for those who rode the train to West Point and connected with the stage to Willow Camp (Stinson Beach.) The Inn was built so if the stage was late or the weather was nasty you could come into the Inn for a bowl of soup, a warm cup of coffee and sit by the fire or find relief from the hot summer sun.

1916 guests included Ernest J. Mott, a lawyer and President of the TCC. He must have played a part in reopening the Inn, he MC'ed the evening. The scenic railway's President Hal Buckingham not only reopened the Inn and brought East Peak Tavern cooks to West Point to make dinner, but helped guests find candles when the gas lights did not work.

We also talked about regular visitors to the Inn, like hiking botanist Alice Eastwood, who spent her life cataloguing Mt. Tamalpais as well running the botany department at the Academy of Sciences. Eastwood was also on the expedition to record the effects of the 1906 earthquake, a trip that brought her to the Inn. The authoritative two-volume Lawson Report mentions that "the buildings at West Point...did not suffer." Photos taken along the route show Eastwood.

The Rehlaender family loaned new photos of that era. Some taken by William Hood, a man previously unknown to us. It turns out he was the Chief Engineer of Southern Pacific Railroad, a skilled photographer and a man who loved to hike on Mt. Tamalpais.

Among Hood's many projects for the "SP", he engineered the design of the Tehachapi Pass, a remarkable feat that carried trains from the Mojave Desert at 4,000 feet, twenty-eight miles down a constant 2 1/2% grade to Bakersfield at roughly sea level. He created the design in 1874. Construction was finished in 1876 and it has not been changed in 140 years since. Today it sees an average of 30 freight trains a day.

We brought in over \$2000 in dinner receipts and filled the Inn both nights.

Thanks to everyone who made the evenings possible!



West Point c 1914

Probably Mountain Play day. Many hikers on Rock Spring Trail headed away from Inn. Note windbreak that shielded a dance platform before the franMember's Lounge was built. Someone stands on the roof of the stagecoach stables to the right of the Inn.

Courtesy Rehlaender family collection

**WEST POINT INN
OLD TIMERS' APPRECIATION PARTY
Saturday, September 24, 2016**



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

LIVE BLUEGRASS MUSIC

All members are welcome, but preference for overnight lodging will be given to Old Timers (20+ years as members). Newer members can contact Olene Sparks-Toby on or after September 14 to inquire about overnight availability.

RSVP Required by Wednesday, September 14

Dinner reservations: contact Marilyn Skaff at 414-713-5259 or marilynskaff@gmail.com

Overnight lodging: Contact Olene Sparks-Toby at 510-236-8293 or email olenes@aol.com

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

WPI EVENTS

Gail Shahan

For many members, new and old, the West Point Inn has become a second home. We look forward to spending time in a wonderful environment on beautiful Mt. Tam. You can always look forward to seeing familiar faces as well as meeting and conversing with new parties. By volunteering, your membership will be enriched on many levels. We hope you will continue to seek out and take part in the Inn's upcoming events throughout the calendar year.

I have listed below some of the ongoing volunteer opportunities:

- Monthly work parties the third Saturday of each month
- Assisting work parties or hosting lunch
- Pancake Breakfasts Mother's Day, Father's Day and 2nd Saturday from July October

- Helping hands, hosting and cohosts
- Pancake Clean up
- Helping hands, hosting and cohosts
- Participation on various committees check the newsletter for what might interest you
- Helping with parties and events throughout the year check out the calendar
- Music Venues:
- We are always looking for members that can enhance our yearly events with their musical talents.

We encourage you all to read The Newsletter for the West Point Inn Association and Friends. Our newsletter will keep you informed of upcoming events.

Please join us! Through volunteering, the inn can become a personal part of your life. If you are interested in continuing your volunteer services please feel free to contact me, Gail Shahan, at events@westpointinn.com

I look forward to seeing you all at the WPI!




2016 West Point Inn Pancake Breakfast Schedule and Hosts

Join us for our monthly Pancake Breakfast the second Sunday (except Father's Day on the third Sunday) of the month starting in May and ending in October. Sundays 9 am – 1 pm (no reservations). Pancakes, sausage, and hot coffee are \$10 for Adults and \$5 for Children. Orange juice and cantaloupe are available for \$1 extra. Scenic views, great company, and live music are free! It's a fundraiser to maintain and improve the historic nature of the West Point Inn for future generations. Hike or Bike in to the Inn (See www.westpointinn.com for trailheads and parking)

- To volunteer contact: pancakes@westpointinn.com

May-Sunday May 8th, 2016 – Mother's Day Pancake Breakfast **THANKS !**

Hosts: Brenda Roberts & Rose Sullivan
Clean up Hosts: Suzie Adams Koide & Wayne Koide

June-Sunday June 19th, 2016 - Father's Day Pancake Breakfast

Hosts: Mark and Antoinetta Northcross
Clean up Host: Fran Rondeau

July-Sunday July 10th, 2016 Pancake Breakfast

Hosts: Fran Rondeau and Marilyn Skaff
Clean up Hosts: Fran Sullivan, Paula Grosse & Eileen Sullivan

August-Sunday August 14th, 2016 Pancake Breakfast

Hosts: Jan Gauthier and Wade Hufford
Clean up Host: Olene Sparks-Toby

September-Sunday September 11th, 2016 Pancake Breakfast

Hosts: Bob Newcomer & Gordy MacDermott
Clean up Host: Rose Sullivan

October-Sunday October 9th, 2016 Pancake Breakfast – Last of the Season

Host: Pat Kavanaugh
Clean up Host: Bonnie Jones

2016 ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

June

- 13 Board Meeting*
 18 Work Party
 19 Father's Day Pancake Breakfast
Host: Mark and Antoinetta Northcross
Clean Up Host: Fran Rondeau

July

- 17 Pancake Breakfast
Host: Fran Rondeau and Marilyn Skaff
Clean Up Hosts: Fran Sullivan, Paula Grosse & Eileen Sullivan
 11 Board Meeting
 16 Work Party

August

- 8 Board Meeting*
 14 Pancake Breakfast
Hosts: Jan Gauthier and Wade Hufford
Clean Up Host: Olene Sparks-Toby
 20 Work Party

September

- 11 Pancake Breakfast
Hosts: Bob Newcomer and Gordy MacDermott
Clean Up Host: Rose Sullivan
 12 Board Meeting*
 17 Work Party
 24 Old Timers Appreciation Party++
Host: Marilyn Skaff

October

- 9 Final Pancake Breakfast
Host: Pat Kavanaugh
Clean up Host: Bonnie Jones
 10 Board Meeting*
 22 Tango Night
Host: Mark Northcross
 15 Work Party
 16 Fall Meeting
Hosts: Fran Rondeau
Member's appreciation barbecue
Chef: Michael Stephens

November

- 14 Board Meeting*
 19 Work Party

December

- 4 or 11 Cookie Party/ Member's Holiday Party++
Hosts: Alison Bricker, Brenda Roberts
Chef: Fran Rondeau
 12 Board and Committee Chairs Christmas party
 31 New Year's Eve Party
Host: Olene Sparks-Toby

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

++ Walk-out nights

WEST POINT INN OFFICERS AND CHAIRPERSONS

PRESIDENT

Fran Rondeau
415.595.3185
franrondeau@gmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Bob Newcomer
rjnewcomer@comcast.net

TREASURER/FINANCE/DEVELOPMENT

Mark Northcross
415.380.9746
mark@nhainc.net

SECRETARY

Bonnie Jones
415.868.0974
bmjones4123@sbcglobal.net

PARLIAMENTARIAN

Ward Flad
415.381.5575
1234draw@gmail.com

POLICY & PROCEDURES

Wayne Koide
415.457.4434
yuzuru3632@gmail.com

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

Brenda Roberts
415.572.2349
Brenda@homemanagement.com

DEVELOPMENT

Ward Flad
415.381.5575
1234draw@gmail.com

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Lin Marcuse & Gordy MacDermott
415.516.4253
pancakes@westpointinn.com

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE CO-CHAIR

MT. TAM ORGANIZATIONS LIAISON
Olene Sparks-Toby
510.236.8293
olenes@aol.com

COMMUNICATION AND WEBSITE COMMITTEE

Jan Gauthier
415-328-2083
janguauthier08@gmail.com

GARDEN COMMITTEE

Kathleen Kopp
707.328.9009
katkopp@gmail.com

FINANCE/HERITAGE CHAIR

Quintin McMahon
925.376.9279
qjdm@earthlink.net

FIRE SAFETY COMMITTEE

Pete Martin
415.499.8028
petemartin@comcast.net

HERITAGE COMMITTEE CO-CHAIR

Linda Hulley
415.233.0123
linhulley@gmail.com

HOUSEKEEPING COMMITTEE

Fran Rondeau
415.924.9132
franrondeau@gmail.com

INN HISTORIAN

Fred Runner
415.302.7677
onesoundfred@mac.com

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Gordy & Lynn Mac Dermott
415.785.4223
glmacd@comcast.net

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Alison Bricker
415.596.3922
editor@westpointinn.com

EVENTS COORDINATOR

Gail Shahan
415.250.9223
gailshahan@comcast.net

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Lin Marcuse
415.516.4253
tover@aol.com

WORK PARTY COMMITTEE

Jennifer Barclay
415.398.7596
jbarclay1@aol.com

OLD TIMERS LIAISON

Marilyn Skaff
415.389.8628
marilynskaff@gmail.com

ARCHIVIST

Nancy Skinner
415.457.9491
nancyskinner@comcast.net

BOOKKEEPER

Marta Gomez

INN RESERVATIONS

Rose Sullivan
415.577.4449
rose@rosesullivan.net
reservations@westpointinn.com

WEST POINT INN PHONE/

INNKEEPERS
Geoff Johnson
Jim McElrath
Alan Reynolds
Gordon Edwards
Pat Williams
David Durr
415.388.9955

BOARD MEMBERS

Fran Rondeau
Bob Newcomer
Olene Sparks
Pete Martin
Jan Gauthier
Gordy MacDermott
Brenda Roberts
Fred Runner
Ward Flad

WEST POINT INN ASSOCIATION
1000 Panoramic Highway
Mill Valley, CA 94941

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