

Turn Point Light Station

Annual Newsletter

March 2017

TPLPS 2016 Newsletter

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The photo above is one from Turn Point that is the earliest photo we have ever seen. We believe it was taken about 1894 or 1895. The family on the right is assistant keeper Christiansen, wife, daughter, and son. The son was born August 15, 1894. The family on the left should be Keeper Allen and wife.

Another Great Year!!

Perhaps the biggest event was the completion of the Fog Signal Building restoration project and the moving of the museum to the Fog Signal Building. A big thanks to Jim and Linda Bergquist and the Stuart Island volunteers who helped move the Museum.



Our contractor, who was to finish up the LEXAN installation over the windows, became ill, so TPLPS volunteers finished up the project.

TPLPS volunteers continued with the installation of flooring in unit two and the placing of furniture in the living room so that when visitors look in they see a pleasing sight. TPLPS opened a whale interpretation center in the Oil Storage building

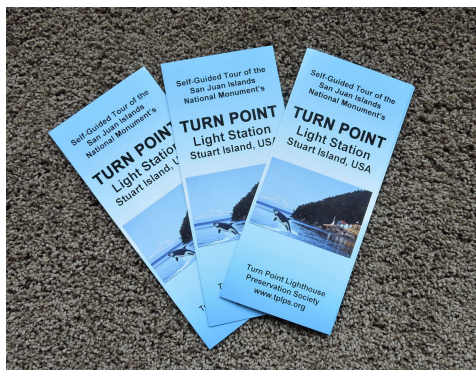
with the help of the Center for Whale Research.



We hired a contractor to put a picket fence around the paint lockers for safety. We think it looks pretty sharp too.



We created a map brochure that allows visitors to do a self-guided tour of Turn Point. We hope all our visitors find it helpful.



BLM provided us a Polaris 6 passenger side-by-side off-road vehicle to support our activities. We all enjoyed learning how to use it.



We recently received a letter from Carol Ericsson whose mother lived at Turn Point.

'What an emotional experience for me to be a docent at the museum, spend days and nights at Turn Point. I was awed by the life my Mom lived and marveled again by the amazing beauty of nature. Early mornings and late evenings I sat on the porch of her childhood home. I was enveloped by reverence and serenity.

As the days sped by my 81 years slowed one down, oh that road to the trailer – what a hike!! Eric and my grand—daughter Anna shared the duties with me and loved the experience as much as I did. Knowing that Linda and Jim are nearby was a comforting thought.

Again, thank you for honoring my grandfather and making the Turn Point experience available to future generations.'

It's letters like these that remind us why we love TPLPS and everything we do. Thank you Carol Ericsson.

Overall a very productive year for TPLPS. Thank you all for your continued support.

2016 Docent Program

Many thanks to our docents for volunteering their time and the hard work involved. We had docents that came from many different states and all enjoyed the special place that Turn Point is.

Interested in being a docent? TPLPS will furnish transportation from either Orcas or San Juan Island. Housing is in a trailer. The trailer is located on the "host" pad at Turn Point, about 200 yards up the hill from the main house. A very nice pit toilet is available for sanitation

We ask that 2 docents be on duty each week. The museum is open from 11 AM till 4:30 PM, Tuesday through Sunday. One docent will give scheduled tours in the main keepers quarters and the other will man the museum. We change out the docents each Monday. Docents are at Turn Point from 1 July till the end of the Labor Day weekend.

If you are interested contact Margaret Jonas via e-mail sheets11@earthlink.net, please put docent inquiry in the subject line or phone (360)376-5246.

Once again a heartfelt thanks to all those who served as a docent!

Connie Stahlman & Lana Reilly



Dan & Pam Garries



Diane & Riley Quayle



Gloria Sampson & Brian Klinksiek



Greg & JoAnn Dramer



Irene Dodge & John Rover



John Payne & Marisa James & Patch



Madeline & Rachel Renkens



Nelson Crowhurst



Steve & Lori Halverson + Anthony



Barbara Lott & Lee Zurcher



The Corinthians Bring It Again in 2016

The Corinthian Yacht Club of Bellingham once again coordinated a large group of volunteers to ready Turn Point Light Station for its summer visitors. The annual CYC event was held on Saturday, June 25th. TPLPS and BLM extend their appreciation to every volunteer with special thanks to the Corinthians 2016 Turn Point Work Day co-chair persons Mike and Karen Reed.

Some volunteers came a great distance to donate a full day of work to the light station. Those participating (pictured from left to right) were: Chip and Wiley Clough from Roseburg, OR, Jo Ann and Greg Dramer from Oro Valley, AZ (and Montana), Debbie Dempsey, 'Barkley' and Mary Dubrow of Bellingham, WA, Jim Bergquist of Stuart Island, WA, Ayumi Takabe Williams of Bellingham, Karen and Mike Reed of Bellingham, Linda Bergquist of Stuart Island, Dennis and Sylvia Holmstrom from Lynden, WA., Neal and Kim Bittner of Bellingham, and Marcia deChadenèdes from Lopez Island, WA. Not pictured was work day volunteer and photographer, Rex Williams from Bellingham. Nearly every volunteer traveled most of a day or more both to and from Stuart Island to donate their day of work, making this a 3 to 5 day

offering. Again, thank you to all the volunteers.

'Some' of the work that was done included; a thorough cleaning of the Keepers' Quarters, the Fog-Signal Building/Museum and the Docent's trailer. The walls of the former museum, known as The Mule Barn were cleared of all the Velcro that had held numerous pieces of historical information and photos, now displayed with even more Turn Point memorabilia, in the Fog-Signal Building. Some of the men scraped old linoleum from the floors and screwed down underlayment in the Keepers' Quarters while others took on the lawn mowing and weed-eating detail. Many more duties were accomplished too.

The Corinthian Yacht Club provided lunch for all the volunteers, and that evening, a big potluck dinner and fun social time was enjoyed by all on Linda Bergquist's family beach.

The 2017 Annual CYC Turn Point Light Station Work Day will be held on Saturday, June 24th 2017

The Corinthians and Turn Point Lighthouse Preservation Society invite you to join in this one-day of labor (and fun) event.

Contact Donna-Marie Cahill at cahilldm@comcast.net for more information and/or to volunteer.





In Memoriam Rita Billson

Sadly TPLPS lost a good friend this last November. Rita Billson passed away on the 7th of November from cancer complications. She was one of our founding board members and the supervisor of our docent program. She worked very hard at the program and did a fantastic job. As all you who have been docents will remember, she was very conscientious about all the details of the program. All of us at the TPLPS family will miss her.

Lighthouse Environmental Programs (LEP)

TPLPS received a \$2,900.00 grant in the 2016 LEP license Plate Program for restoring the floor and counter tops of Keepers Unit 2. TPLPS provided an additional \$2151.57 to pay for the materials.

The LEP license program is the specialty license plates you see on Washington cars that say 'LH' and a picture of a lighthouse. For each sale, \$28.00 goes into the funds and all the lighthouses in the state can apply. Turn Point has received more than \$26,000 over the years to help with restoration projects.

Volunteers

We had two major projects that volunteers helped with this year. We moved the museum from the Mule Barn to the Fog Signal Building. The volunteers involved in the move were John and Lynn Bunton, Diane and Mike Noble and Loie Benson.

The second major project was putting LEXAN on the Fog-Signal Building. Bill Benjamin helped Jim Bergquist with the LEXAN.



Marcia's Musings

Dear Most Amazing Turn Point Lighthouse Preservation Society,

Have we shared with you how much we appreciate you? Do you know yet how amazing we know it is that this phenomenal assortment of talented individuals has selected a very precious spot on earth to make an extraordinary experience unfold for thousands of individuals, from the farthest corners of the earth. What an amazing act of generosity and selflessness. We are endlessly appreciative! Truly!

Well, it looks like it's finally going to happen. The paperwork has been pushed around so long that one might think the ink would have rubbed right off, but the process for the US Coast Guard releasing the administrative responsibility of Turn Point Light Station to the BLM, which started in 2005, is on its way to Washington DC for the last review and we recommended signing. It is out of our hands. This most recent development to the process was jumpstarted about a year and a half ago, and has involved moving around discussions and documents between and amongst specialists and managers from four separate BLM offices, and three separate Coast Guard offices. A goal was to

get it to DC before the change of administration, which didn't happen, but by another amazing stroke of luck, our realty lead from the BLM Oregon State Office, who has been invaluable in this whole mashup, is going for a couple of months on a detail to the DC office where this whole transfer package is being forwarded up to. And our previous State Director Jerry Perez, who has visited Turn Point and participated in the recognition of TPLPS with a Keepers of the Light Award, is now the Acting Deputy Director of the BLM, the whole organization! Needless to say, we are hopeful for a successful completion to this process. Thank you all for holding on, holding your sides with laughter as the federal pace of progress!

Other news pales but is worthy of mention - the every four year maximum scrutiny of agency health and safety status for facilities, the "CASHE" review, occurred at Turn Point this last fall with hardly a hiccup. This was with great thanks to the Bergquist's attentions to the seemingly endless list of must do's to meet these standards. The review four years ago required several significant amendments, such as the fence around the paint locker, but this time several of the fixes were deals that didn't receive mention last time. So we are fixing and installing railings,

and working with TPLPS to sort out the water facility questions for the docent's area. And we're in the pink for another four years. Thanks again and again, Linda and Jim!

So do keep us in mind when you want someone to stand up and sign your song, or raise a brush or push a broom beside you. I can hardly wait for spring! It is hard to imagine a more honorable company to keep!

With warmest regards!

Marcia deChadenèdes
San Juan Islands National
Monument Manager
Spokane District

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Ideas and Plans for 2017

We plan on purchasing a vehicle for use by our docents, we are looking for a 2000-2006 Subaru Forester style vehicle. Having a safe and reliable vehicle for our docents is a priority.

We also plan to update our docent trailer this year. Our docent accommodations will be a trailer for many years to come and we want to offer a comfortable, dry, warm and safe place for all our docents. If you know of a 25-28 ft. trailer, please let us know. We are a 501C3 and can offer tax deductions for a reduced price.

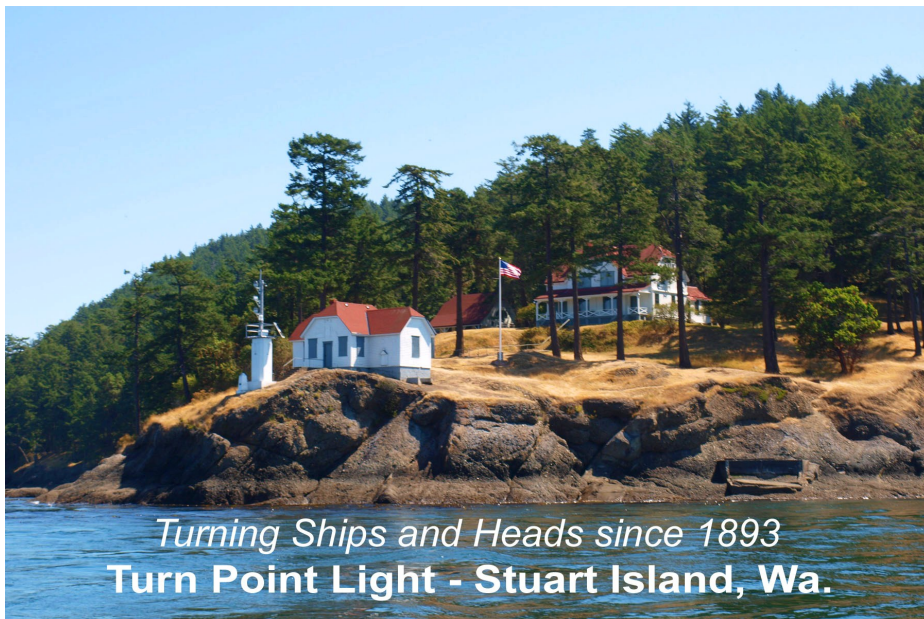
We have submitted a request to the BLM to connect the docent trailer to their electricity. We are awaiting an answer.

We will continue our restoration work in Unit 2, working on the floors and the kitchen counters.

TPLPS is looking for people interested in joining the board. If you are interested we will let you know what is involved.

The National Monument/BLM is still in the long range planning process for the use of Turn Point. Once it is concluded we will know if we can use the keepers quarters to house our docents and operate a light keeper of the week program.

Turn Point Light Station



Board of Trustees

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Donna-Marie Cahill
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