

2019 Boathouse Work Parties

The Japonski Island Boathouse is looking a bit different these days through the support of a Historic Preservation Fund grant. This Spring, a new addition shell was built, which will eventually serve as the main entrance to the Boathouse as well as house bathrooms and office space. Additionally, the main Southwest wall of the original building has received a facelift with the help of many, many volunteers. Each original piece of siding was carefully numbered and removed, then insulation, plywood sheathing and an infiltration barrier were installed. The



(Photo: SMHS, 2019)

Knot Topic

In April, we were proud to present “The Knots You Need” a workshop on some of the most widely used and essential knots for any mariner (or everyday life!). Instructor and Board Member, Stan Barge did a fantastic job of guiding participants – many of whom were novices – through progressively more complicated knots. The group started with a square knot and worked up to a trucker’s hitch! All participants went home with an illustrated booklet of how to tie each knot learned (plus a few more advanced knots) and a length of rope to practice on. **Look out for more hands-on workshops from SMHS!**



Volunteers working on the Southwest wall (Photo: SMHS, 2019)

original, repainted boards were then refastened to the

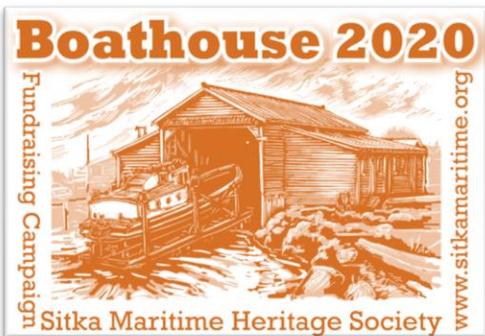
building, with a few new replacement boards, milled to match the originals, taking the place of earlier repairs. This work makes the wall sturdier and weatherproof. So much effort has gone into doing this work on the wall and it’s great to know that it’s just as improved on the inside as it looks on the outside! **Thank you so much to all of the dedicated community volunteers who have donated their time and skills to this project!**

The First Exhibit in Progress

The Northeast wing of the Boathouse a good cleaning this Spring with the help of many volunteers. The floors, walls, and even the ceiling were washed to freshen up the interior of the Boathouse’s future exhibit wing. The first exhibit to be installed in the Boathouse will be on the history of fishing in Sitka (for more on this topic, see the enclosed *Sitka’s Fish Trade: A History*). While certainly no small task, Spring Intern Andrew Gianotti and Board Member Rebecca Poulson have done a great job of curating a wealth of information. We are also thankful to the Cultural Resources Committee of The Sitka Tribe of Alaska for their guidance on displaying information about Tlingit fishing technology. Converting a 1940s workshop/storage wing into a functioning public exhibit space is a big undertaking and we still have some work to do before it will be ready to be opened to the community on a regular basis. In the meantime, we appreciate your ongoing support and enthusiasm for this exciting project.

Boathouse2020 Capital Campaign Kickoff

This June we kicked off our Boathouse 2020 Capital Campaign with a gala open house! It was incredible to see how many Sitkans came out to see the Boathouse and show their support. SMHS is so fortunate to have the backing of the community as we embark on this final push to raise the funds to



complete the necessary rehabilitation work so that everyone can enjoy this building. We've come so far since acquiring the lease in 2005 when the Boathouse was in dire need of repairs and stabilizing, but still have a way to go before it is ready to function as a maritime heritage center.

The completed Boathouse will be a place that buzzes with activity year-round. With a permanent space to hold regular classes, workshops, and lectures, we will be able to multiply the amount of programming we can offer the community. The exhibit wing will feature changing exhibits on local topics, and the workshop area will provide space for working on smaller watercraft. The

Boathouse will be a place for people to gather, learn, and teach. **We hope you share in this vision for the Boathouse and with your help, we can finally make it reality.**

When you contribute to the Boathouse 2020 Capital Campaign your donation will help to eventually match larger foundation grants, which makes your contribution go further. A Boathouse 2020 donation also comes along with different levels of benefits, including the "Donor Wall" where all donors contributing \$1,000 or more will have their names permanently displayed in the completed Boathouse. Each and every single donation makes a difference and brings us that much closer to enriching our community for generations to come! **If you'd like to contribute to the Boathouse 2020 Capital Campaign, you can do so via our website (sitkamaritime.org/boathouse2020), by mail to P.O. Box 2153, or you can stop by our booth at Whalefest.**

Visit the SMHS Booth at Whalefest!

November 1,2,3 – 10am to 4:30pm
Harrigan Centennial Hall

Come Sing Along!

Sea Songs & Chanteys by Don Sineti

Presented by SMHS and Whalefest

October 29 - Doors open at 6pm, music 7pm
Beak Restaurant

Sitka Maritime Heritage Society

P.O. Box 2153

Sitka, AK 99835