Built with pride in Anacortes: BMW Oracle exhibit continues at Maritime Heritage Center

The exhibit BMW Oracle: Building a world champion in Anacortes, continues at the Anacortes Maritime Heritage Center, 7th Street and R Avenue. Be sure to visit soon — the W.T. Preston sternwheeler and Anacortes Maritime Heritage Center are open daily, except Mondays, until Labor Day, then weekends only through October. Both are closed until April. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays and Saturdays and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sundays.

USA 17, the fastest yacht in the world, was built by Core Builders and launched in Fidalgo Bay on Aug. 25, 2008. Its construction was highly secretive, so its unveiling and sea trials in Rosario Strait brought the attention of the world to Anacortes. Initially known as BOR 90 and nicknamed DoGzilla, USA 17 is a technological marvel that shows what the best yacht designers and aerospace and automotive engineers can do when they are backed by a billionaire and given few rules to follow.

From the day of its launch, USA 17 outran everything on the water. Later, when the sail was replaced with the largest wing ever built, it went on to easily win the most prestigious yacht race in the world, America’s Cup, in 2010.

Our exhibit includes a huge wind tunnel model of the trimaran, pictured at right in a photo courtesy of Oracle Racing, and a discarded rudder. Exhibit panels discuss the history of the America’s Cup, describe the specifications of the space age yacht and how it was built in Anacortes, show it being tested in local waters and celebrate the triumphant visit of the America’s Cup trophy to Anacortes. The W.T. Preston and Maritime Heritage Center are at 7th and R, next to the Depot Arts & Community Center. Admission to the Center is free. The Preston is $1-$3 for the general public; free to Foundation members.

Anacortes Museum Foundation

Through memberships, the Anacortes Museum Foundation supports and assists the educational and preservation goals of the Anacortes Museum.

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Please make checks payable to: Anacortes Museum Foundation.
Send to: 1305 8th, Anacortes, WA 98221. Thank you!

FALL 2013

Learn about the struggles, successes of Washington’s first people

An important new exhibit, “We’re Still Here.” The Survival of Washington Indians, is now open at the Anacortes Museum. Plans are in the works for an opening reception this fall, but a date had not been set at press time.

The main exhibit, created by the Washington State Heritage Center, follows Washington’s original inhabitants through a war over land, a clash over culture and a revival of Native tradition today. To enhance local context, Museum Educator Bret Lunsford worked closely with representatives of the Samish and Swinomish Tribes to develop exhibit panels interpreting the experiences of Fidalgo Island’s first people.

In conjunction with this exhibit, Tribal historians will discuss their own stories at the Anacortes Public Library on Oct. 23 and Nov. 20. The Anacortes Museum will hold open houses before the presentations those nights. See story inside for details.

For thousands of years, these Coast Salish Tribes maintained a culture centered around abundant saltwater resources such as salmon, shellfish and marine mammals, and upland resources such as cedar, cama, berries and wild game. They lived in large winter villages and in summer encampments that followed the seasonal cycle of resource gathering from the mouths of rivers and streams, to coastal shorelines, marine waters, and inland forests.

As American settlers arrived in the 1800s, tribes were pushed onto small reservations and forbidden from practicing their ancient customs. Native culture suffered and tribal languages nearly disappeared. Today, Washington’s Native Americans strive to protect who they are, what they believe and how they live.

Clockwise from top right: The Swinomish hosted the Tribal Canoe Journey in 2011; a Native canoe and crew near the Anacortes Port Dock circa 1900; Carver Bill Bailey/Tsalt-lon discusses woodwork with a youngster. Bottom left photo courtesy Samish Indian Nation; photos at right are from the Anacortes Museum collection.

Anacortes Museum

1305 8th Street
Anacortes, WA 98221
360-293-1915
http://museum.cityofanacortes.org
coa.museum@cityofanacortes.org

The Carnegie Gallery is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and 1-4 p.m. Sunday. The Museum Office is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday-Friday.

The Anacortes Museum & Maritime Heritage Center exist to preserve and interpret the history of Fidalgo and Guemes Islands, and to nurture in the community an awareness and appreciation of its heritage.

To receive your newsletter via email contact elainew@cityofanacortes.org

This newsletter is produced by the staff of the Anacortes Museum and edited by Elaine Walker
W.T. Preston gets new paint for its 30th anniversary

If you haven't visited the W.T. Preston in a while, September or October would be a good time to drop in and see the historic stern-wheel steamboat, which is looking particularly shipshape after a lot of hard work and a substantial investment by the City this summer.

In June Museum Director Steve Oakley worked with Mitch McCormick (College Pro Painters) to prep and paint the starboard side of the first deck. Mitch, who is licensed to handle lead paint, generously volunteered his time. Mitch is pictured at far right.

In July, David Jackson and Sea Scout Crew 4081 replaced four canvas boots, including the two pictured at right, as a community service project. The boots were cracked and leaking.

With approval from Mayor Dean Maxwell, College Pro Painters, pictured at lower right, began contract painting in August. Work included scraping, washing and painting of exterior cabin deck walls, softsift, trim, skylights, rope boxes, skiff cradle, hoist gear area, crane operator station and the second deck. Work was satisfactorily completed Aug. 20. The City invested about $9,000 into the project.

The City cares for this National Historic Landmark with the essential support of volunteers. Last year, the Anacortes Museum Foundation contributed $3,570 to the Preston's maintenance and upgrades and $2,650 to produce a Preston video tour. Tom Thompson has been working on getting the whistle in working order.

As anybody who owns a boat knows, keeping them up is a lot of work. We appreciate all the help!

18th Antique Machinery Show is Sept. 14

Enjoy rail rides, a parade of vintage vehicles, chugging old engines, children’s activities, music and much more at the 18th annual Anacortes Antique Engine and Machinery Show, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 14 at Market Street and 6th Street, behind the historic W.T. Preston. Admission is free.

This year’s theme is “Tools.” You can browse displays of vintage tools and see tools at work, or bring in odd old tools from your collection and get some help figuring out what they are.

The parade of tractors and vintage vehicles starts at 11 a.m. downtown.

We plan to have Tommy Thompson’s engine out of the train shed for those who would like to take a closer look at the beautiful and beloved little train.

Each year about 100 exhibitors from across the Northwest haul tons of gas, steam and kerosene-fueled machines of all sizes to the show. The show will include steamboats, trucks, cars and plenty of contraptions. There will also be working models, metal workers, hands-on exhibits, carvers, weavers, machinery-oriented vendors, hay rides and children’s activities.

A special narrow gauge track will accommodate a working hand car. Visitors can ride the rails and pump the hand car with the help of some muscular volunteers. For more information, contact the Anacortes Museum at (360) 293-1915.

Tribes, Museum and Library offer “We’re Still Here” events Oct. 23 & Nov. 20

The Anacortes Museum Foundation will host open houses prior to special presentations by Swinomish and Samish Tribal representatives at the Anacortes Library on Oct. 23 and Nov. 20. Drop by for these extended hours before the library events and take some time to view the exhibit “We’re Still Here.” The Survival of Washington Indians, and related artifacts.

Plans are also in the works for an opening reception event this fall for “We’re Still Here.”

In coordination with the Anacortes Museum exhibit, Larry Campbell will do a presentation on the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community’s past, present and future, focusing on historic, social, cultural and political events and strategies that affect the well-being of the community.

“As settlers from the east came to the Northwest, the expectation was that the tribes would disappear through assimilation, disease and cultural genocide. The tribes surprised everyone and are still present and thriving, 158 years after the Point Elliott Treaty was signed, which relegates tribal family groups to reservations. The tribes continue to exist and are making progress in today’s world, still living according to their ancient teachings and traditional laws,” he writes.

Larry will talk on the history of the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community’s approach to life — an approach that enables their unique way of life to “still be here,” not only surviving the challenges of the last 150-plus years, but thriving as well.

An eloquent speaker, Larry is Tribal Historical Preservation Officer in the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community’s Cultural Resource Office. For 25 years, the greater part of Larry’s work has involved the interrelationships between tribal, local, regional, national, and international governmental programs.

While details of the Nov. 20 Samish presentation are not finalized at press time, the event is certain to also be interesting and enlightening. The Tribe has faced a different set of challenges and successes as it works to assert its rights and reclaim its cultural traditions.

Foundation funds fabulous new flat files

Due to our “full to the brim” collection storage here at the museum, the curatorial staff is always trying to improve spaces to open up shelving for new items. The Anacortes Museum Foundation recently purchased four “flat files”, each with five drawers, and one large table-top. Now we are able to store the maps and blueprints in our collection in a flat manner to ensure a longer life and better access.

During her summer break, Stephanie Noar helped to make sure the accession number and photograph was on file (and on the item), then made sleeves/envelopes to protect the document. At that point the map/blueprint was placed in its new home file.

Because of the vast amount of maps waiting to be done, she will be back helping us during her college breaks. Sound interesting? Volunteers are always welcome!

Thank you to the Foundation for their help in getting these files and to Stephanie for her assistance!

Judy Hakins, Curator of Collections