

ON THE WATERFRONT

A Publication of Waterfront Organizations of Oregon

March 2001

Looking back at 2000...

The year 2000 was a good year for the Waterfront Organizations of Oregon

The annual dinner meeting was held on February 26, 2000 at the Multnomah Channel Yacht Club. It was well attended.

Some of the reports given at that meeting included a report on the Oregon Division of State Lands by Tom McInnis, a report on the Oregon State Marine Board Boater Education Law, Waterway Development Policy and Remote Water Skiing Bill by Jan Hamer, a report on Federal ADA Guidelines for Marinas and Moorages, and on the Salmon and Endangered Species Act by David Grant. Dick Rix reported on Networking, suggesting that the organization work toward getting involved with other organizations such as SOLV for the betterment of our waterways.

All of these reports were informative and very interesting and emphasized the importance of our organization being constantly involved with each of these governmental agencies.

- During the year we had speakers at the May 10 meeting from the State Land Board (Steve Purchase, John Lilly and Larry Potter) who offered more information on the waterway leases and on the surveys being accomplished.

- At the June 14 meeting the speaker was Don Dobbs, President of North Pacific Research, who gave a presentation on Salmon Restoration and the Endangered Species Act—with a little twist. He believes the problem of salmon restoration cannot be solved with dam removal but that the decrease in salmon population is directly tied to a decrease in the ocean's food supply and an increase in predator population.
- The final speaker of the year to address the Waterfront Organizations was Mitch Shults, a candidate for State Treasurer. He seemed knowledgeable about the problems of waterfront owners and those who live and work on the water and had some good ideas about how to alleviate some of the problems. He didn't get elected as a third party candidate (Libertarian) but his talk was interesting and thought-provoking.
- In addition, the **Statement of Purpose** was renewed, along with changing the name of the organization to more closely reflect the organization's membership. We are no longer known as "Waterfront Owners and Operators of Oregon" but as **Waterfront Organizations of Oregon**.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

1. *To encourage and promote Educational programs aimed at all users of Oregon's waterfront and waterways in order to increase public access to the river as a gathering place for a wide range of waterway activities.*
2. *To foster stewardship of Oregon's waterways with an eye toward environmental responsibility and recreational use, making our organization available for projects that benefit Oregon's waterways.*
3. *To monitor and communicate with governmental agencies to ensure that members are fully informed of waterway and waterfront regulations and policy changes that potentially impact the members of the waterfront community.*
4. *To network and associate with other groups as a resource for the common interests and benefits of all waterway users.*



February 1996

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Oregon State Marine Board Mandatory Education Update

During January 2001, the Marine Board will distribute Boater Education Card application forms to boat license agents, fish and wild-life license agents, and marine law enforcement officers. Forms can also be downloaded from the web site. The forms will be available to boaters who have met the boating safety education requirements. (This means they have completed a boating safety course.)

When the application is sent in it must include \$10 for the card and a copy of the diploma or certificate that was received when the boating safety course was completed.

Boaters must mail the completed application form and accompanying materials directly to the Marine Board. It will take less than one month to receive their card.

There are several options available for people needing to meet the boater safety education requirements.

1. **Classroom Course:** Boating safety classroom courses are offered by several different organizations, including the U.S. Power Squadron, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, the American Red Cross, and some community colleges. Courses must be approved by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) and by the Oregon State Marine Board.
2. **Internet Course:** Anyone with access to the internet can participate in the approved online courses. To access these courses, go to the Oregon State Marine Board web site at www.boatoregon.com.
3. This proctored exam is designed for boaters who know the rules and regulations for safe boating in Oregon waters. Testing locations will be set up throughout the state and will be administered by Marine Law Enforcement Officers and their volunteers.

If you have questions or need further information about the Mandatory Education Program, please contact Kendra Callahan at (503) 378-8587, Extension 272.

More...OREGON STATE MARINE BOARD

Tom McInnis and Jan Hamer went through the "Draft Waterway Clearances Guidelines" and felt there were a couple of things that stuck out that could potentially be a problem in the future. They sent a letter to Doug Baer at O.S.M.B. to address these issues.

First, they requested wording be placed in the guidelines stating "This policy is not meant to apply to existing facility permitting or lease renewals provided that the renewal or modification does not extend the facility beyond its existing use area."

The second issue concerned possible wave attenuation and the combined safety zone distance. Both felt the combined distances could unnecessarily restrict a proposed development's extension into the waterway making it unfeasible and allowing very little latitude for board staff. They suggested the board consider "If a floating wave attenuation system or floating waterway marker are recommended by the board which extends beyond the furthest extension of the development project proper, this distance be included in the safety zone requirements."



Endangered Species Act

By

David Grant

A combination of factors has quieted the furor over salmon. A new president, a power shortage, low water, a looming drought and a reported large fish return this year all contributed to a lull. This won't last long. All sides of the issue will be gearing up for further rounds of studies and rhetoric that will return this issue to the front pages of the media. The Waterfront Organizations of Oregon will closely monitor and comment on this issue as it affects our position.

We are not the reason salmon are disappearing. We are, however, among the most visible of waterway users, and that fact alone will bring us under the closest scrutiny. It is very important that we continually stress our importance to the wise use of the waterways. We must also demonstrate that we are the most informed and conscientious users. We, as individuals and as an organization, must be environmentally sound in our practices. We need to show that the waterway can be used without being destroyed.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY

Tom McInnis



In the coming year there will be a myriad of new and on-going issues directly, and indirectly facing the waterfront community and users of Oregon's waterways. These issues will range from the complexities of governmental regulations and policies, such as the "Endangered Species Act", salmon restoration, power generation, to the simplest of fact, that.. .it's going to be a low water year.

It is my greatest hope that through a strong membership, participation, networking, and a sense of cooperation, the Waterfront Organizations of Oregon can help all those associated with Oregon's water community navigate through the course ahead.

Respectfully
Tom McInnis,
President

WOO LUNCHES MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

WE WANT YOU...



Information will soon be sent out for renewal Memberships. We anticipate all of our 2000 members will be back and encourage new members from all areas of waterfront and waterway users. We encourage all members to participate not only at meetings, but on committees. There **IS** strength in numbers.

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WATERFRONT ORGANIZATIONS OF OREGON

By Jan Hamer

The Waterfront Owners and Operators of Oregon, a non-profit organization, was originated in response to what moorages felt was an unreasonable and unfair Multnomah County zoning issue which arbitrarily changed eight moorages from MUA-2 (Multi-Use Agricultural) to CFU (Commercial Forest Use). These moorages had the zone changed without notification by the County. The ramifications of the zone change were many. Most important was that each moorage was no longer a conforming use under this new zone and the various properties involved were severely devalued. Also, there was no possibility of future development or even replacement of existing docks, etc. Under this new zone classification several moorage owners and operators got together to overturn Multnomah County's "mistake", and henceforth, Waterfront Owners and Operators of Oregon was born. Through many meetings and a major communication effort and some outside political and legal influence, Multnomah County agreed they had made an error and chose to correct the zoning without any further cost to the moorage owners. With this issue resolved, and several new issues on the horizon, it was easy to determine that there was an immediate need to organize all waterfront interests throughout the state.

The ever-increasing demands of the public and the governmental agencies who want to influence more and more of water-related uses, have been the underlying emphasis that has kept this organization moving ahead.

Continuing issues involving the Oregon Division of State Lands to raise waterway lease rates and the Oregon State Marine Board's proposed policies to restrict waterfront development increased our awareness that there was an urgent need to get involved with all water related agencies, therefore, the By-Laws were changed to involve and attract all waterway and waterfront related industries and interests. The name was then changed to **Waterfront Organizations of Oregon.**

The organization holds monthly meetings to which all members are invited, and is involved, not only with working with the Division of State Lands, but contributing to: Salmon and Endangered Species Act; Willamette River keepers; Multnomah County Planning Commission relating to rules regarding houseboats, boathouses, etc.; Oregon State Marine Board rules regarding boating and other water-related activities; the DEQ on permitting, cleanup and pump out stations; as well as working to become involved with SOLV to keep riverbanks clean and litter free; and assisting with Guidelines for Marinas and Moorages proposed by the Americans With Disabilities Act.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

By David Grant

A coordinated response was put together by the State of Oregon in answer to rules proposed by the federal government. The response dealt specifically with boating facilities and fishing piers. It rewrote the federal proposal and provided a clearer and more sensible approach to access for all on the waterways. Waterfront Organizations of Oregon carefully studied the state's response and wrote letters in support for the state's proposal. These activities took place in late 1999. The results were published in 2000.

The most important result of the state's effort established guidelines for ramps and gangways that do not bring about expensive and unrealistic requirements for moorage and launch facility operators. The new rules acknowledge special needs for facilities built on waterways that have large fluctuations in water level.

Other areas of interest in the new rules are parking, accessible routes, boat slips, and boarding floats. Complete copies of the rules and definitions can be obtained from the Oregon State Marine Board in Salem. Just call and ask for "ADA" related materials or look it up on the net.



Be sure to look for your invitation to the annual meeting in your mail. It is being planned for Friday night, April 27, at the Oregon Maritime Museum on the waterfront in downtown Portland (the old sternwheeler Portland).