

NORTHWEST  
SCHOOL *of* WOODEN  
BOATBUILDING

# ANNUAL REPORT

2016 SCHOOL YEAR

*October 01, 2015 – September 30, 2016*



# Staff & Board

## Board of Directors \*

David Blessing, President; Nuclear Power Engineering Consultant  
John Barrett, Vice President; Dentist and Owner of Dentistry Northwest  
Michael Delagarza, Treasurer; Business Manager at Champion Video Productions  
Linda Newland, Secretary; Maritime Attorney and Former School District Administrator  
Geoff Pentz; Owner of Sound Diver Center in Bremerton  
Julia Maynard; Owner/Manager of Haven Boatworks of Port Townsend  
Dee Meek; Retired Veterinarian and Owner of Tugboat *Elmore*  
Lee Hoffman; Retired Jeweler and Marine Retail Manager  
Aislinn Palmer; Manager at Bayside Housing Center

## Instructional Staff \*

Sean Koomen, Chief Instructor  
Bruce Blatchley, Instructor  
Jody Boyle, Instructor  
Olivier Huin, Instructor  
Ben Kahn, Instructor  
Leigh O'Connor, Instructor  
Bob Miller, American Maritime Heritage Instructor  
Jeff Hammond, Senior Instructor  
Ray Speck, Senior Instructor

## Additional Staff \*

Betsy Davis, Executive Director  
MB Armstrong, Career Services and Program Evaluation Specialist  
Christina Cogan, Development and Communications Coordinator  
Charlie Duerr, Shop and Facility Manager  
Jon Ferguson, VetCorps Member  
Rita Frangione, Veteran Resources and Vet Connect  
Richard Johanson, Admissions and Student Services Manager  
Linda Tolf, Administrative Assistant and Accounts Payable  
Kate Whalen, Business Manager

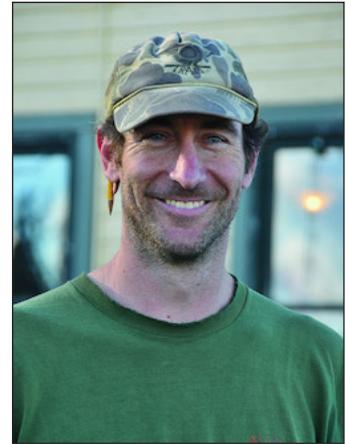
\* as of September 30, 2016

# Mission

*To teach and preserve traditional and contemporary wooden boatbuilding skills while developing the individual as a craftsman.*

Ben Kahn grew up “building stuff” for the family farm in Ohio, earned his Bachelor’s Degree in Industrial Technology Management from Berea College, and worked at Boat Haven in Port Townsend for five years. Ben has been an instructor at NWSWB for 10 years. In that time, he has helped students build 26 new boats, large and small. He has a passion for using his hands and becoming proficient with boatbuilding materials in addition to wood. He is currently completing a 36’ motorsailer.

*“If you know how to create with your hands, your skills will always be in demand.”*



Jody Boyle started his woodworking career in 1988, building custom furniture and cabinetry, and working in the wood shop at the Martha’s Vineyard Shipyard. In 2003, he graduated from the Arques School of Traditional Boatbuilding in Sausalito, California, and became co-owner of North Bay Boat Works on the Sausalito waterfront, building and repairing wooden boats from 2003 to 2014. He moved to the Pacific Northwest in 2014 and began teaching at NWSWB in June of 2015.

*“I enjoy working in this educational environment. We are teaching not only boatbuilding and repair, but also problem-solving and how to work effectively as a team.”*



MB Armstrong moved to the northwest in 1997 to work aboard the local tall ship *Adventuress*. She has spent 20 years teaching students of all ages authentic hands-on classes in non-traditional settings. She has worked as a staff trainer, captain, and educator on land and aboard traditional wooden boats all over the country, as well as many local maritime organizations. In her spare time, you can find her mucking about at low tide with her family, sailing their Haven 12½, and pursuing a master’s degree in Education.

*“I love planning on-the-water experiences — helping students make the connection between what they’re building and the ‘salt in your face, callouses on your hands’ kind of experience. It makes what they’re doing in the shop more relevant and provides a deeper, richer learning environment.”*



## Letter from the Chief Instructor

One of the most intriguing aspects of the Boat School is the diversity of projects our students work on each day. From cold-molding human-powered submarines to hanging planks on a 36' motorsailer, our students practiced a wide range of boatbuilding techniques over the past year. They learned as they lofted and built skiffs, two rowing whitehalls, an iconic sailing Folk boat, and a first-time build of a Hacker motorboat. Our students enter the workforce with an incredible sense of craftsmanship and an innate ability to problem-solve, making them highly sought-after in the trades.

This last year, we also strengthened the School's infrastructure — building out facilities, evolving the curriculum, and developing the organization. We have a strong foundation to build on, including a full staff of returning instructors steeped in the Prothero Method (which was featured as the NWSWB teaching method in the Spring issue of *WoodenBoat Magazine*). There's always more to do, but we made some giant leaps in 2015 and 2016.



**Sean Koomen**

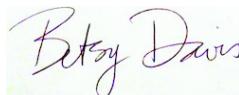


## Letter from the Executive Director

It's been a year of satisfying firsts here at the Boat School. Always looking for new ways to give students a strong head start into the workforce, we piloted a "Pints and Possibilities" event where students got to meet more than 15 potential employers. We launched *Hull Raiser*, a magazine showcasing the craftsmanship that's fostered at NWSWB. Plus, our work to create an excellent learning environment for military veterans was capped by the Washington Department of Veteran Affairs awarding the Boat School with a "Veteran Supportive Campus" designation.

But, every year without fail, most satisfying of all is to see the range of jobs our graduates move into — working in boatyards and marine businesses of all kinds, building furniture and houses, and teaching young people how to work with their hands, to list a few.

I am inspired by the strong team members among our staff, board members, program advisory committee members, and volunteers. Their passion — and the passion of our students — will shape the future!



**Betsy Davis**

## Letter from the Board President

NWSWB is a remarkable school in a remarkable setting. Its continued commitment to teaching the highest levels of expertise make it a perfect fit for Port Townsend Bay, known for its collection of fine craftsmen of all sorts.

During this past year, we made substantial progress implementing the Strategic Plan we adopted last January. This plan spells out our five-year priorities for growth and development, with the overarching goals of continuing to provide quality education and job readiness, teaching and preserving craftsmanship, and bringing vitality to the local community. In addition to improving our facilities, we are starting work on a Systems Curriculum, launched with a \$100K grant from the State of Washington.

The goals in our Strategic Plan are much more than a collection of promises. You can feel the vitality and commitment to quality and craftsmanship at the School — at instructor presentations at the Port Townsend Wooden Boat Festival; at gatherings like "Pints and Possibilities," where students can meet alums and local business owners; in our continued work as a Veteran Supportive Campus; in the satisfaction our commissioned boat owners express; and in the success of our alums in a variety of settings.

In fact, Boat School alums played a key role in all these initiatives — as instructors, staff, board members, Program Advisory Committee members, Vet Support team staff, volunteers, and informal ambassadors for the Boat School. Their first-hand experience of Boat School values and hands-on experience in the shops informs every decision we make and helps us stay true to our mission of teaching and preserving traditional and contemporary wooden boatbuilding skills while developing the individual as a craftsman. You'll be hearing more about alumni initiatives in the months ahead!



**David Blessing**



# Providing Quality Education and Job Preparedness

In an increasingly digital world, we provide experiential education to teach time-honored skills to new generations of craftspeople, preparing them for real-world employment and the satisfaction of creating high-quality and functional products with their hands.

NWSWB tracks graduation and employment rates annually in accordance to guidelines established by our accreditor, ACCSC. Detailed information about program employment rates is available on the Career Services page of the School's website. The following is a partial list of employers that have hired recent Boat School alums.

## CLASS OF 2016

Cape George Boatworks; Port Townsend, WA  
 Dolphin Club; San Francisco, CA  
 Gig Harbor Boat Shop; Gig Harbor, WA  
 James Betts Enterprises; Anacortes, WA  
 Northwest Maritime Center; Port Townsend, WA  
 Northwest School of Wooden Boatbuilding  
 Rocking the Boat; Brooklyn, NY  
 Salmon Ridge Woodworks; Ilwaco, WA  
 Schooner Creek Boatworks; Portland, OR  
 Shipwrights Co-op; Port Townsend, WA  
 Thompson Boatyard; Port Townsend, WA  
 Van Dam Custom Boats; Boyne City, MI

## CLASS OF 2015

Cunningham & Stringham; Port Townsend, WA  
 Custom Wood Interiors; Seattle, WA  
 Haven Boatworks; Port Townsend, WA  
 James Betts Enterprises; Anacortes, WA  
 Johns Bay Boat Co.; South Bristol, ME  
 Mervin Manufacturing; Seattle, WA  
 Miller & Miller Boatyard Co.; Seattle, WA  
 Northwest School of Wooden Boatbuilding  
 Pacific Northwest Timbers; Port Townsend, WA  
 Philbrick Boat Works; Port Hadlock, WA  
 Shipwrights Co-op; Port Townsend, WA  
 Taku Marine; Port Townsend, WA

## Fast Facts—Class '16

- **68 enrolled (2 summer only)**
- **12 veterans**
- **Ages: 18-66**
- **From 20 different states and 3 countries**
- **27 Traditional Large Craft**
- **14 Contemporary**
- **25 Traditional Small Craft**
- **43 graduated with Associate of Occupational Studies Degrees**
- **10 graduated with Diplomas**



Seth Ealy  
 Class of 2016  
 Cape George Boatworks  
 Port Townsend, WA



Julia Hechanova  
 Class of 2016  
 Dolphin Club  
 San Francisco, CA



Jacob Eastlick  
 Class of 2015  
 James Betts Enterprises  
 Anacortes, WA



Steven Lane  
 Class of 2016  
 Schooner Creek Boatworks  
 Portland, OR



Neena Milton  
 Class of 2015  
 Miller & Miller Boatyard Co.  
 Seattle, WA



Kat Murphy  
 Class of 2015  
 Shipwrights Co-op  
 Port Townsend, WA

*“The Boat School is a top-notch place to develop the skills necessary to work as a professional in the trade. The area is saturated with all things maritime. You can walk in one shop and see an old sailboat being restored. Walk in another and you’ll see a high-performance carbon-fiber catamaran being built.”*

– Tom Loomis, Class of 2016

## WHERE DID THE CLASS OF '16 COME FROM?

Alaska	3
Arizona	2
California	8
Colorado	1
Georgia	1
Hawaii	1
Iowa	1
Idaho	1
Kansas	3
Louisiana	2

Montana	2
North Carolina	1
Ohio	1
Oregon	5
Texas	1
Virginia	1
Washington	28
Wisconsin	1
West Virginia	1
Wyoming	1
International	3

# Preserving and Developing Craftsmanship

The School is a living repository of knowledge that preserves time-honed boatbuilding skills through active practice. Students learn how to build a boat from scratch and then launch it. A talented and dedicated group of instructors keep the craft vital by leading the construction on many styles of boats, both traditional and wood composite. The boats built in the program reflect strong craftsmanship — quality construction, efficient methods, and effective project-management practices. The School contributes to the broader community knowledge by providing consulting to other organizations, writing articles for publications, giving presentations at conferences, and partnering with other like-minded organizations.

Collectively, students worked on more than 25 boats ranging from new builds, restorations, and interior construction. A few highlights are featured below.



## ***UW Human-Powered Submarine***

The hull of this submarine was strip-planked with red cedar and cold-molded under vacuum pressure. With the bright finish, students carefully placed the 1/16" Khaya veneers to fit perfectly.



## ***Whitehall Rowboat***

This craft combines age-old design with unique twists in the garboard plank. Students learned how to carve a sliding rowing seat with custom brass hardware, and how to make hollow spoon-blade oars.



## ***Nordic Folkboat***

Students built lapstrake planking over molds, then added steamed oak frames, floors, and the deck. The design required careful work with metric plans to meet racing specifications.



## ***Sid Skiff Rowboat***

Based on a design from Instructor Emeritus Ray Speck, this rowboat gave students the opportunity to master technical lapstrake construction, including paring gains on the planks.



## ***Handy Billy Motor Launch***

"Very high-quality workmanship, the best materials available, and incredible attention to detail are visible everywhere on the boat."

- Bill & Barbara Litscher, owners



## ***Felicity Ann Sloop***

The complete restoration of this mid-century world traveler included planking, decking, cabin, and lots of TLC.

# Bringing Vitality to our Local Community

Port Townsend Bay is home to more than 100 maritime trades and draws major wooden boat projects from Alaska to California. The Boat School creates a pool of talent for these local employers to draw from. Some graduates choose to stay in the local community and start businesses, or become involved in other types of woodworking or construction. The Boat School is recognized as one of the key draws for young people to move to this area. The School and its students contribute about \$2 million annually to the local economy. These contributions come from the School's investments in staff, services, and materials, as well as students' purchases of housing, food, entertainment, and other living expenses.

## NWSWB Sets a Collaborative Course

### Providing a Home for the Community Boat Project



The Boat School shares a portion of its site with the Community Boat Project, an inclusive, hands-on educational non-profit that attracts high-school students from both the Chimacum and Port Townsend School Districts.

### Sharing Skills at the Port Townsend Wooden Boat Festival

Thanks to the hard work of the Northwest Maritime Center and the Wooden Boat Foundation's hosting of one of the world's premier traditional maritime events, NWSWB instructors once again provided educational sessions to the public with multiple standing-room-only crowds.



### Supporting Veterans



In 2016, the Washington State Department of Veteran Affairs designated the School as a Veteran Supportive Campus. The School was also awarded its first VetCorps member who supports the School's veteran students and works with the local non-profit Vet Connect.

## Program Advisory Committee

These individuals served\* as advisors to the School to ensure the programs stay relevant to today's boatbuilding jobs:

- Ann Avary; Northwest Center of Excellence for Marine Manufacturing & Technology
- Brandon Davis; Turnpoint Design
- Sam Devlin; Devlin Designing Boat Builders
- Jim Franken; James J. Franken, Inc.
- Stephen Gale; Haven Boatworks
- Sam Gibboney; Executive Director of the Port of Port Townsend
- David King; Retired CFO of Townsend Bay Marine, and past mayor of Port Townsend
- Jim Lyons; Port Townsend Shipwrights Co-op member
- Dan Newland; Pegasus Aeromarine, Inc.
- Peter Proctor; Jensen Marine
- Kevin Ritz; lead instructor for the American Boat and Yacht Council
- Gordon Sanstad; shipwright, former Marine Carpentry instructor at Seattle Central Community College
- Jim Tolpin; writer, craftsman, instructor at Port Townsend School of Woodworking
- Walt Trisdale; Port Townsend mechanic and systems technician

*\*as of September 30, 2016*

### Working with Local Maritime Businesses

The School draws on the unique maritime resources of its community to complete construction of boats built on commission. When the School embarked on the first-time build of the 21-Hacker Runabout shown below, it collaborated with the Port Townsend Shipwrights Co-op, Coastwise Marine Design, Walt Trisdale, Mystery Bay Sails & Canvas, LAW Enterprise, and Edensaw Woods.

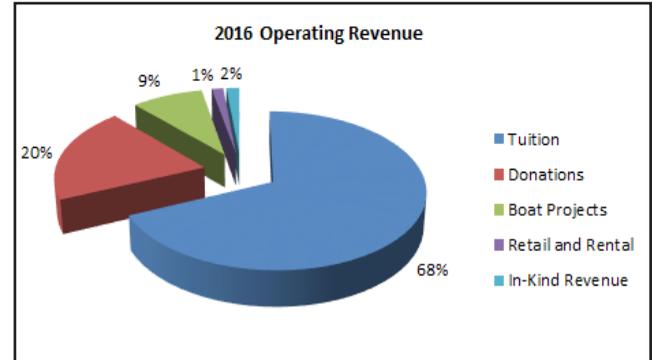


# Financials

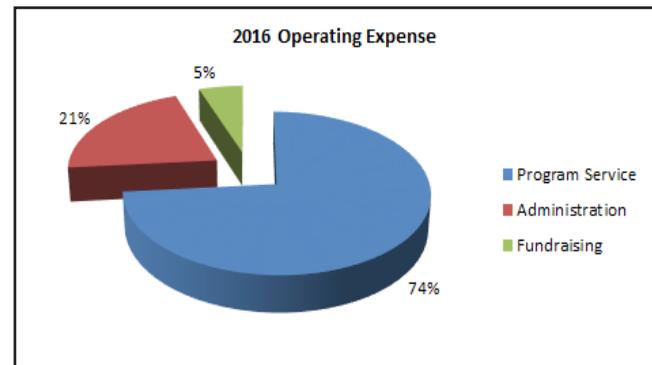
The Northwest School of Wooden Boatbuilding engaged Baker, Overby and Moore, Inc., P.S. to conduct an independent audit of our financial statements for the year ending September 30, 2016. There were no material weaknesses. A summary of the Statement of Activities as of September 30, 2016 — with comparative totals for September 30, 2015 and 2014 — is presented below.

<b>OPERATING REVENUE</b>			
	<b>9/30/2016</b>	<b>9/30/2015</b>	<b>9/30/2014</b>
Tuition	\$1,059,093	\$955,858	\$786,923
Donations	310,077	264,695	60,184
Boat Projects	135,414	206,705	244,917
Retail Sales and Rental Income	21,715	33,268	59,112
In-Kind Revenue	24,618	63,347	62,513
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,550,917</b>	<b>1,523,873</b>	<b>1,213,649</b>
<b>OPERATING EXPENSE</b>			
Program Service	1,013,060	1,088,670	860,639
Administration	291,366	246,064	170,102
Fundraising	73,817	72,513	11,304
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,378,243</b>	<b>1,407,247</b>	<b>1,042,045</b>
<b>Change in net asset from Operating Activities</b>	<b>172,674</b>	<b>116,626</b>	<b>171,604</b>
<b>OTHER REVENUE AND EXPENSE</b>			
Amortization	(1,022)	(1,022)	(1,022)
Depreciation	(59,603)	(52,414)	(55,177)
Interest Expense	(44,450)	(44,107)	(50,677)
<b>Total Other Revenue and expense</b>	<b>(105,075)</b>	<b>(97,543)</b>	<b>(106,876)</b>
<b>Total Change in Net Assets</b>	<b>67,599</b>	<b>19,083</b>	<b>64,728</b>
<b>Net assets - beginning of the year</b>	<b>1,265,518</b>	<b>1,246,435</b>	<b>1,181,707</b>
<b>Net assets - end of year</b>	<b>\$1,333,117</b>	<b>\$1,265,518</b>	<b>\$1,246,435</b>

## Revenues



## Expenses



## Asset Growth

The Northwest School of Wooden Boatbuilding completed its new Milling Room attached to the Hammond Shop and improvements to the existing Rubb Shelter boatshop. These investments helped support 2016's record enrollment and will support future growth at the Port Hadlock Heritage Campus.

The statement of financial position and the related statements of activities and cash flows, for the year ended were audited by Baker, Overby & Moore, Inc., P.S. Certified Public Accountants.

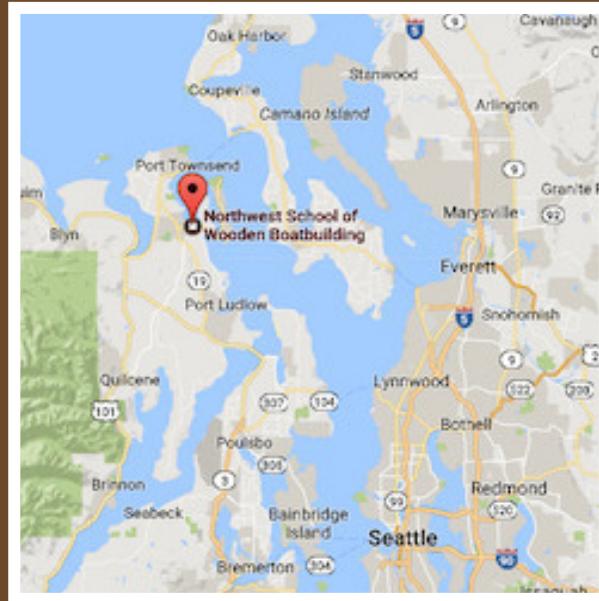
*"In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Northwest School of Wooden Boatbuilding as of September 30, 2016, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America."*



NWSWB is deeply committed to non-profit transparency and accountability and has achieved the GuideStar Platinum Level Profile as a demonstration of that commitment. GuideStar is the world's largest source of information about non-profit organizations (the GuideStar database contains a profile for every tax-exempt nonprofit registered with the IRS) and a leader in advancing transparency in the non-profit sector. To be awarded the GuideStar logo, NWSWB provided all requested information on the non-profit profile page. You can search for information about any non-profit at [www.guidestar.org](http://www.guidestar.org).

# Where We Are

**You're invited to tour our Port Hadlock Heritage Campus at 3:30pm on the first Friday of each month. See firsthand our tradition of craftsmanship, and learn about exciting growth and changes. Two additional tours during the Port Townsend Wooden Boat Festival are available on Friday September 8th at 3:30pm and Monday September 11th from 9:00am to noon.**



## **Northwest School of Wooden Boatbuilding**

**Port Hadlock Heritage Campus  
42 N Water Street, Port Hadlock, WA 98339  
360-385-4948  
email: [info@nswsb.edu](mailto:info@nswsb.edu)  
[www.nswsb.edu](http://www.nswsb.edu)**

**The Northwest School of Wooden Boatbuilding is accredited by the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges (ACCSC). The Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges (ACCSC) is a recognized accrediting agency by the U.S. Department of Education. [www.accsc.org](http://www.accsc.org)**



**The School is also licensed under the Private Vocational Schools Act, Chapter 28C.10 RCW of Washington State. [www.wtb.wa.gov](http://www.wtb.wa.gov)**

**The Northwest School of Wooden Boatbuilding is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit institution. Tax ID 91-1122839.**