

# ANNUAL REPORT

2021 SCHOOL YEAR

*October 1, 2020 – September 30, 2021*



# STAFF & BOARD

## Board of Directors

Sonja Mathews, President; Management Consultant and Retired Senior Executive  
Kathleen Brooker, Vice President; Historic Preservation Consultant  
David Blessing, Secretary, Alum 2003; Nuclear Power Engineering Consultant (completed term 12/2021)  
Michael Delagarza, Treasurer, Alum 2004; Business Manager at Champion Video Productions  
Bob Hartman, Board Member, Alum 2020; Retired attorney with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (joined 5/2021; became Board Secretary 1/2022)  
Angela Hewitson, Board Member, Alum 2017; Public Engagement Manager at the Northwest Maritime Center (joined 5/2021)  
Linda Newland, Board Member; Maritime Attorney and Former School District Administrator  
Sean Sanders, Board Member, Alum 2017; Consulting Veterinary Neurologist and Neurosurgeon (joined 5/2021)  
Stephen Sklar, Board Member; Financial Advisor at Edward Jones (through 2/2021)  
Lynn Schwarz, Board Member; Retired Executive Coordinator in the biotech industry

## Instructional Staff \*

Sean Koomen, Chief Instructor  
Bruce Blatchley, Boatbuilding Instructor  
Jody Boyle, Boatbuilding Instructor (through 12/2020)  
Leland Gibson, Boatbuilding Instructor  
Kevin Ritz, Marine Systems Lead Instructor  
Jordan Primus, Marine Systems Instructor

## Additional Staff \*

Betsy Davis, Executive Director  
Jim Argites, Shop and Facilities Manager  
Heidi Blehm, Admissions and Student Services Manager  
Mo Gibson, Facilities Crew Member  
Rebekah Korenowsky, Digital Engagement Manager  
Beverly Moore, Librarian  
Kristin Potter, Administrative Assistant and Visitor Services  
Laura Prendergast, Marketing Manager (through 8/2021)  
Antonio Romero, VetCorps Member  
Christina Ruben, Student Affairs Manager  
Katie Whalen, Business Manager

\* as of September 30, 2021

# MISSION

To teach and preserve boatbuilding and marine systems skills while developing the individual as a craftsman.

# STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Bruce Blatchley graduated from NWSWB in 1997, honed his boatbuilding skills at Port Townsend's Baird Boat Co. (now Haven Boatworks), and became a Boat School instructor in 2006. Since then, he has guided students through dozens of challenging and innovative builds, including construction of *Clean Bay*, an electric-solar workboat launched in 2021; the cold-molded hull of a human-powered submarine for the University of Washington engineering team that made its racing debut at the International Human-powered Submarine Races in 2017; and the Bob Perry-designed 62-foot yacht, *Sliver*, launched in 2014.

*"Once students have decided to devote themselves to being craftsmen and to craftsmanship, there's no better place to start their journey. It's a very nurturing environment."*



Photo © Elizabeth Becker

There's a new face at the Boat School front desk, skillfully juggling phones, emails, visitors, and a range of administrative tasks. Kristin Potter studied theater, film, and marine biology in college and discovered that "the magic that happens behind the scenes is just as important as what happens onstage." This led her to customer service positions with varied organizations, including wineries, colleges, market research firms, and nonprofits, as well as another boatbuilding school on the East Coast — which was her first opportunity to do a deep dive into the marine industry. Welcome to the West Coast, Kristin!

*"My theater background has inspired me to find roles with organizations where I can be part of a team, meet new people, and bring folks together to share education and celebrate what inspires them."*



Photo © Elizabeth Becker

Following six years in the U.S. Air Force, Mo Gibson worked as a kayak and SCUBA guide and purchased a Cape Dory 28 sailboat in Portland that he sailed down the Columbia River and up the coast, ending up in the Puget Sound where he enrolled at NWSWB. In 2021, he joined the Boat School staff as Facilities Crew Member, where he helps maintain the shops and facilities on the Boat School's 7-acre campus. He lives aboard a 38' 1968 wooden troller that was converted in the late 90's to a comfortable cruising boat by extending the cabin over the back deck.

*"After finishing the boatbuilding and marine systems programs, I wasn't quite ready to leave the amazing community that revolves around the school!"*



Photo © Elizabeth Becker

# LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In 2021 we celebrated the Boat School's 40th anniversary and the completion of campus improvements representing an investment of \$3 million in facilities and equipment. Thanks to the efforts of alum-owned Brent Davis Construction, the work reflects the same craftsmanship that is at the core of the school's teaching. We are grateful to the community of individuals, foundations and government agencies that helped make the expansion of the school possible. We are also grateful to the community of students who stayed flexible and played a pivotal role in keeping the work environment safe during the global pandemic.

"If anything, the pandemic has heightened interest in occupations that support key sectors of the economy," said Marine Systems Lead Instructor Kevin Ritz. "We had a significant waiting list for the Marine Systems program starting in April 2021, and we're now holding classes in a dedicated 4,800 square foot Marine Systems Shop that went from 'dirt to done' in just eight months. At a time when so many businesses are contracting or going out of business, it's a testament to the organization and the need for skilled marine systems technicians that we're expanding."

"We are grateful to everyone who kept the school going through a challenging year," said Chief Instructor Sean Koomen. "That includes families and friends who joined in our Zoom-based graduation ceremony, industry partners who contributed equipment and expertise as we rapidly expanded the capacity of our Marine Systems program,



Photo © Bill Curtsinger

The Boat School's leadership team includes (left to right) Marine Systems Lead Instructor Kevin Ritz, Executive Director Betsy Davis, and Chief Instructor Sean Koomen.

alums who serve as role models and mentors, boatbuilding instructors who finished commissions and built simulators resembling boat hulls (for students to practice installing marine systems in cramped spaces) when boatbuilding classes were put on hiatus, and colleagues at other boatbuilding schools who have been collaborating with us on pandemic safety protocols and so much more."

Betsy Davis

# LETTER FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT



I didn't think we could do it for another year — provide hands-on training in the midst of a pandemic — but we did. I credit this to the resolve of the whole community — students, teachers, staff, and board — focusing on what was good for students. The challenges of the past year have also brought us a new realization about teamwork. We knew it was important, but now we know it's vital. We've all tapped our inner reserves, but working together and stretching the boundaries of our job descriptions has made us stronger and more aware and appreciative of the skills in each person's toolkit.

As we transition to a new school year, with a full contingent of Boatbuilding and Marine Systems students embarking on their pursuit of

craftsmanship, I'll never forget my first tour of the Boat School. There was a young boatbuilding student pounding bungs with a big wooden mallet, working on the historic restoration of the *Felicity Ann*. She was working by herself and I was struck by how strong, confident, and comfortable she seemed working on that boat.

I love wooden boats and I love watching unbent planks become something amazing like the Dark Harbor. But what I love even more is watching and supporting the transformation of students as they discover what they're capable of doing and bringing to their community.

Sonja Mathews

# PROVIDING QUALITY EDUCATION & JOB PREPAREDNESS

NWSWB programs are accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Career Schools and Colleges ([www.accsc.org](http://www.accsc.org)) and are licensed by the State of Washington Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board ([www.wtb.wa.gov](http://www.wtb.wa.gov)).

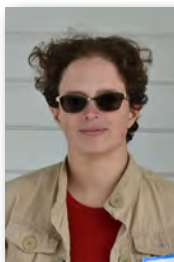
## CLASS OF 2020/2021\*

Haven Boatworks — Port Townsend, WA  
 Port Townsend Shipwrights Co-op — Port Townsend, WA  
 Chesapeake Bay Maritime — St. Michaels, Maryland  
 Devlin Designing Boats — Olympia, WA  
 ACI/Goldstar Marine — Port Townsend, WA  
 KKMI, Inc. — San Francisco, CA  
 The Center for Wooden Boats — Seattle, WA  
 Sound Experience — Port Townsend, WA  
 Ceiba, SAILCARGO INC. — Punta Morales, Costa Rica  
 CSR Marine — Seattle, WA  
 Acorn to Arabella Project — Granby, MA  
 Perkins Marine - Port Townsend, WA  
 Graveyard Fish Company - Port Hadlock, WA  
 Northwest School of Wooden Boatbuilding — Port Hadlock, WA

*Several students went on to open their own businesses, and three students are continuing their education at NWSWB in a Boatbuilding or Marine Systems program.*

## FAST FACTS CLASS 2020/2021\*

- 45 enrolled
- 12 military veterans
- Ages: 21- 68
- From 17 different states/countries
- 21 graduated from the Boatbuilding program with Associate of Occupational Studies Degrees
- 24 graduated from the Marine Systems program with Diplomas (8 graduates in December 2020; 16 graduates in December 2021)



**Megan Mitchell**  
Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum  
St. Michaels, MD



**Angie Lungu**  
Sound Experience  
Port Townsend, WA



**Jeff Matthews**  
Devlin Designing Boats  
Olympia, WA



**Ned Flash**  
CSR Marine  
Seattle, WA



**Lou Geraghty**  
Haven Boatworks  
Port Townsend, WA



**Nathaniel Attal**  
Ceiba, SAILCARGO INC  
Punta Morales, Costa Rica

## WHERE DID THE CLASS OF 2020/2021\* COME FROM?

Alaska	1	New York	1
California	4	Ohio	1
Colorado	1	Oklahoma	1
Georgia	1	Oregon	3
Idaho	1	Pennsylvania	1
Kansas	1	Virginia	1
Maryland	2	Washington	13
Minnesota	1	Australia	1
North Carolina	1		

*\* The information on this page applies to graduates from the class of 2021 and to the class of 2020, whose graduation was delayed for three months by the temporary school closure while pandemic safety policies and procedures were being implemented.*

*The experience, expertise, and connections of the instructors allowed me to get the exact job I was hoping for when I started school.*

—Ned Flash  
Rigger, CSR Marine  
Seattle, WA

# PRESERVING AND DEVELOPING CRAFTSMANSHIP

The Boat School is known for the range of new boats students build each year. In 2021, we celebrated the launch of a classic Herreshoff Rozinante and *Clean Bay*, an electric-solar workboat, on the same day!

## CLEAN BAY

### TRADITIONAL LOOKS WITH CONTEMPORARY TECHNOLOGY



“Building *Clean Bay* gave students experience with laminating, strip-planking, cold-molding, foam-core construction, vacuum infusion, millwork, joinery, and working with CNC production,” says boatbuilding instructor Bruce Blatchley. With all this state-of-the-art technology, the mission of the school is staying true. “We’re not just building boats,” says Blatchley, “our main product is education.” *Clean Bay* provided a leap into the future for Marine Systems Lead Instructor Kevin Ritz and his students. The project gave students a chance to learn and experience the real world problem solving skills which come with any new custom design and its integration with new technologies. The project included installing a 500-gallon wastewater tank, Torqeedo lithium-ion battery banks, solar panels and controller, a Torqeedo electric propulsion system, bow thruster, and impressed current cathodic protection. “We are teaching and deploying state-of-the-art systems and propulsion technology for which, in many cases, standards have yet to be written,” says Ritz.



## THE HERRESHOFF ROZINANTE

### PRESERVING A TRADITIONAL BOAT DESIGN

The 28-foot Rozinante canoe yawl was designed 70 years ago by L. Francis Herreshoff. A trailerable daysailer and cruiser with a long keel and elegant lines, it has become a classic over the years. The boat is planked in Western Red Cedar over White Oak frames. The rig has been modified by Doug Hylan, moving the mizzen mast further aft in order to allow for better handling of the tiller. Construction began in January of 2018 and involved several classes of students, led by instructor Leland Gibson. “An entirely new wood boat construction—from the keel up—is quite the rarity these days,” Gibson notes. “It’s important for students to build boats so they know how to take them apart and repair them. The more you put boats together, the better you become at problem solving.”



# BRINGING VITALITY TO OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

## Creating career pathways

The Boat School brings vitality to the local community by preparing the next generation of boatbuilders and systems technicians for living wage employment in the marine trades. Many of the students passed the Marine Electrical Certification Exam offered by the American Boat and Yacht Council — a big achievement that gives them a running start on future jobs. Ned



Flash (shown to the right) entered the program with the goal of obtaining a job in a Seattle boatyard. His goal was fulfilled upon graduation when he became a rigger at CSR Marine, a full-service boatyard in the Ballard neighborhood of Seattle. “The experience, expertise, and connections of the instructors allowed me to get the exact job I was hoping for when I started school,” says Ned.

## Serving those who served

Since 2016 the Boat School has been designated as a “Veteran Supportive Campus” by the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs. In 2021, the agency once again awarded the school a VetCorps member position to serve as a resource to military veterans, who typically account for 25 to 30 percent of the student body. Antonio Romero (shown below) was selected to fill the roll again for the 2020-2021 school year. Antonio, who served in the U.S. Coast Guard before attending the Boatbuilding program at NWSWB, observes that “the school has done a phenomenal job of laying the foundation, educating themselves, and building a veteran supportive environment. I feel privileged to be part of that.”



## Galster House (Home of the Ajax Café) Gets a Timely Upgrade

The Ajax Café has long been the heart of lower Port Hadlock. It was forced to close in 2016 due to new septic system requirements. Thanks to a grassroots fundraising effort and a leadership grant from the Murdock Trust, the Boat School was able to purchase the property in 2018 and expand the septic system, enabling a long-term lease to the Ajax crew so they could re-open the cafe. A competitive grant award from the Washington State Heritage Capital Projects Fund (the project was ranked #7 out of 30 projects from across the state) funded rehabilitation of the south wall with new siding and new windows and construction of a new deck, just in time for the Ajax crew’s expansion of outdoor seating during the pandemic.



## PROGRAM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### Preserving Craftsmanship and Ensuring Relevance

Marine businesses are represented on the school’s Program Advisory Committee, which provides regular input on the school’s curriculum. Their focus ensures the school’s education programs offer high quality training and relevancy to the industry. We are grateful to the following individuals for their service on the committee.

**Marc Adams;** Factory Field Rep PNW, Dometic

**Tammy Anstatt;** Marine Systems Manufacturer’s Representative, Derema Group

**Ann Avary;** Director, Northwest Center of Excellence for Marine Manufacturing & Technology

**Steve Bamesberger;** Marine Systems Manufacturer’s Representative, Jack Park Company

**John Mark Barrett;** Marine Systems Manufacturer’s Representative, Imtra Corp.

**Eron Berg;** Executive Director, Port of Port Townsend

**Chris Bergnoli;** Member-Owner, Port Townsend Shipwrights Co-op

**Cort Corino;** Service Manager, Jefferson Beach Yacht Sales

**Brandon Davis;** Owner, Turnpoint Design

**Sarah Fiskens;** Marine Operations Specialist, Washington Sea Grant

**Jim Franken;** Owner, James K. Franken, Inc.

**Stephen Gale;** Owner/Manager, Haven Boatworks

**David Jackson;** Marine Surveyor, Pacific Rim Marine Surveyors

**Charlie Johnson, PE;** President, JTB Marine Corp.

**David King;** Retired CFO Townsend Bay Marine and Former Mayor of Port Townsend

**Michele Hollingsworth Koomen;** Research Professor, Dept. of Education, Gustavus Adolphus College

**Dieter Loibner;** Editor at Large, Professional BoatBuilder Magazine

**Scott McEniry;** Manufacturer’s Representative, Power Products

**Jake McFadin;** Lead Electrician and Project Manager, Schooner Creek Boat Works

**Dan Newland;** President, Pegasus Aeromarine Inc.

**Peter Proctor;** Owner, Proctor Boat Company

**Chris Sanok;** Member-Owner, Port Townsend Shipwright’s Co-op

**Gordon Sanstad;** Boatbuilder, Former Boatbuilding Instructor, Seattle Central Community College

**Heron Scott;** Executive Director, Port Townsend School of Woodworking

**Jim Tolpin;** Founder and Instructor, Port Townsend School of Woodworking

# FINANCIALS

While NWSWB successfully completed recent years net positive and with growth of assets, COVID had a big impact on tuition revenue — the school was closed for three months in 2020 and, in 2021, the school had to cancel the year-long boatbuilding program. Revenue overall remained stable due to a combination of contributions and COVID relief funding. Program Service expense grew in 2021 which reflects capacity-building investments in the Marine Systems program made possible by contributions from individuals, businesses, and the Department of Commerce. In 2021 73% of the school's overall expenses went directly to programs, with 19% for Administration, 7% for Fundraising, and 1% property expenses. Each dollar earned or contributed is extended thanks to the hours committed by generous and dedicated volunteers.

<b>OPERATING REVENUE</b>						
	<b>9/30/2021</b>	<b>9/30/2020</b>	<b>9/30/2019</b>	<b>9/30/2018</b>	<b>9/30/2017</b>	<b>9/30/2016</b>
Tuition	329,266	564,144	\$675,543	\$833,533	\$707,552	\$1,059,093
Donations including COVID Relief	1,441,372	1,633,597	1,158,249	594,618	732,761	310,077
Boat Projects	71,525	22,607	63,195	134,572	130,286	135,414
Retail Sales and Rental Income	37,286	45,278	34,598	29,067	18,569	21,715
In-Kind Revenue	117,616	4,000	8,540	14,759	17,400	24,618
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,997,065</b>	<b>2,269,626</b>	<b>1,940,125</b>	<b>1,606,549</b>	<b>1,606,568</b>	<b>1,550,917</b>
<b>OPERATING EXPENSE</b>						
Program Service	973,076	783,797	997,368	1,087,662	1,035,060	1,013,060
Administration	247,308	280,137	310,212	292,506	248,094	291,366
Fundraising	93,467	119,038	82,202	89,090	116,611	73,817
Other - Rental Property	15,828	7,665	13,092	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,329,679</b>	<b>1,190,637</b>	<b>1,402,874</b>	<b>1,469,258</b>	<b>1,399,765</b>	<b>1,378,243</b>
<b>Change in net assets from Operating Activities</b>	<b>667,386</b>	<b>1,078,989</b>	<b>537,251</b>	<b>137,291</b>	<b>206,803</b>	<b>172,674</b>
<b>OTHER REVENUE AND EXPENSE</b>						
Amortization	0	0	0	(426)	(1,024)	(1,022)
Depreciation	(120,163)	(91,105)	(73,570)	(61,975)	(56,054)	(59,603)
Interest Expense	(120,170)	(56,595)	(83,301)	(72,765)	(49,295)	(44,450)
<b>Total Other Revenue and Expense</b>	<b>(240,863)</b>	<b>(147,700)</b>	<b>(156,871)</b>	<b>(135,166)</b>	<b>(106,373)</b>	<b>(105,075)</b>
<b>Total Change in Net Assets</b>	<b>426,523</b>	<b>931,289</b>	<b>380,380</b>	<b>2,125</b>	<b>100,430</b>	<b>67,599</b>
<b>Net Assets - beginning of year</b>	<b>2,747,339</b>	<b>1,816,050</b>	<b>1,435,672</b>	<b>1,433,547</b>	<b>1,333,117</b>	<b>1,265,518</b>
<b>Net Assets - end of year</b>	<b>3,173,862</b>	<b>2,747,339</b>	<b>\$1,816,052</b>	<b>\$1,435,672</b>	<b>\$1,433,547</b>	<b>\$1,333,117</b>

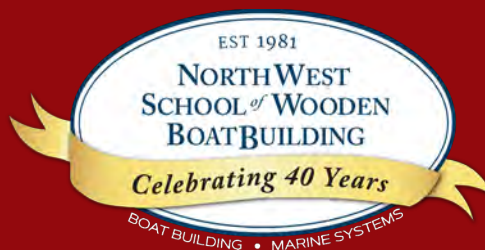
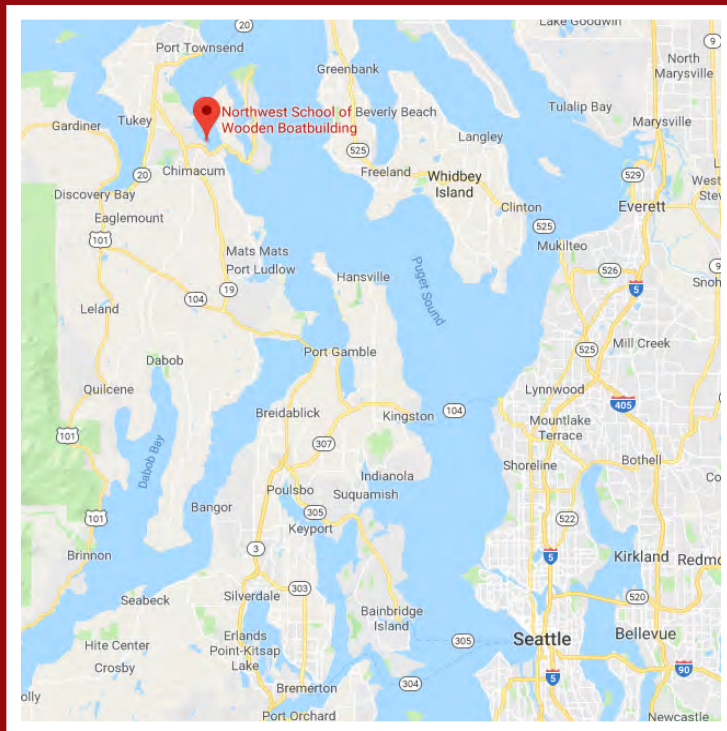
The Northwest School of Wooden Boatbuilding engaged Baker, Overby and Moore, Inc., P.S. to conduct an independent audit of our financial statements for the year ending September 30, 2021. They reported the following: "In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Northwest School of Wooden Boatbuilding as of September 30, 2021, 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

Learn about all that's happening at the Northwest School of Wooden Boatbuilding by signing up to receive our free monthly electronic newsletter. You may also want to join one of our virtual Admissions Open Houses. Sign ups for both are on our website at [www.nswsb.edu](http://www.nswsb.edu).



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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. Learn more at [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) nonprofit institution. Tax ID 91-1122839.