

OLYMPIC COAST NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY



OLYMPIC COAST DISCOVERY CENTER

VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER - AUGUST 2007

Thank You, Volunteers!

Carol Bernthal recently asked me for a summary visitor statistics and volunteer hours since the Olympic Coast Discovery Center opened on July 17, 2004. Since then we have greeted 36,571 visitors from across the United States and around the world. Even more impressive is that since we opened volunteers have worked a total of 5542 hours. At the current value of a volunteer's time, you have contributed over \$100,000 to the OCNMS!

Out of 110 people who have completed volunteer training, 55 have worked at least one shift in the OCDC. But 10 volunteers from the first training session in June of 2004 have stuck it out through three years of hot, busy summers and cold, quiet winter days. Those ten people – Anita, Rose, Becky, Jim, Judy, Tina, Lu, Margaret O., Beth, and Jamye have contributed 3267 hours, or an average of 327 hours each. Our “champion” volunteers are Jim and Becky Jewell and Rose Forbes, who have each worked over 500 hours in the OCDC.

I didn't have time to say it formally at the barbecue, but I sincerely thank all the volunteers, both the seasoned veterans and newly trained, for all the hours you spend greeting visitors and telling them about the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary.

NEW PARKING PASSES

We have a **new parking pass** for volunteers. It's valid at city lots that have “PERMIT” spaces, such as the lot across from Camera Corner and the lot between Zak's and Budget Records and Tapes. If you work a one or two hour shift you can probably still get away with using the Landing parking lot, but for longer shifts you should park offsite.



Two of our champion volunteers, Jim & Becky Jewell

Seal Pups

You have probably heard by now that two seal pups died near the Discovery Center within the last two weeks. When these pups were onshore volunteers in the OCDC faced lot of concerned visitors who wanted us to “do something!” including wrapping the animal in a blanket, pouring water over it, and bringing it food and water. We called the Marine Mammal Stranding Network and were told the only thing to be done was to stay away and leave the animals alone.

Approximately 50% of seal pups do not survive their first year. Contributing factors to pup mortality are premature birth, attacks by wild predators or domestic dogs, infection, disease, dehydration, or starvation. Adult seals are more wary of humans than pups are. Mother seals will flee to the water if approached and may leave their pups behind. If activity continues near the pup, the female may eventually give up trying to return. A nursing pup that is separated from its mother will not survive.



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83rd Annual Makah Days Celebration August 24, 25 and 26

All OCDC volunteers, their families and friends are invited to join us in Neah Bay August 24-26 for Makah Days. Rob, Beth and Juanita will be there by Friday afternoon to set up the OCNMS tent. They could use help if anyone's available. I'll leave Port Angeles after the OCDC closes on Friday, with room for 1 or 2 passengers if anyone wants a ride. There are a few bunks available in the OCNMS trailer at the Coast Guard base. If you would like to stay there let me know ASAP so I can save you a spot.

We hope everyone will be join us on Saturday for the Parade, Street Fair, Salmon Bake, and Traditional Dances. We'd like to have enough volunteers that no one has to be in the booth for more than an hour or two during the day. Be sure to wear your OCDC T-shirt and bring your name tag. We will also have hats for volunteers who help in our booth. For more information about Makah Days, and a schedule of events for the weekend, go to <http://www.makah.com/makahdays.htm>

Seattle Aquarium

OCDC Volunteers are invited to the Seattle Aquarium on Thursday, August 23. We'll meet at the Bainbridge ferry terminal at 9:00, walk on the ferry, and then walk to the aquarium. We're

expecting complimentary admission and a behind-the-scenes tour. Because this is a very special day of training, attendance is limited to volunteers who are working shifts in the OCDC this summer. Please wear your volunteer T-shirt. You must contact Janet, Rob or Deb at 457-6622 ext 31 prior to August 22 to let us know that you plan to attend. If you would like to carpool to Bainbridge, please sign up the next time you work a shift in the OCDC.

New Books in Our Library

Tracking Trash, by L. G. Burns,

explores the topic of marine debris - its sources, movement in the ocean, and harm done to marine animals - without becoming too negative, and it ends with an excellent section on what we all can do to make a difference. It would be a great book to share with a younger readers.

Eye of the Albatross: Visions of hope and survival
by C. Safina

Safina blends history and science to offer first an ecosystem, then a species, and finally one bird, Amelia, a hardworking parent albatross wearing a state-of-the-art satellite tracking transmitter.

Voyage of the Turtle: In pursuit of the earth's last dinosaur by C. Safina

The fate of the Leatherback Turtle is in our hands. The distressing decline of these ancient sea turtles in Pacific waters and their surprising recovery in the Atlantic illuminate the results of our interventions and the lessons that can be applied, globally, to restore the ocean and its creatures.

Fathoming Our Past: Historical contexts of the National Marine Sanctuaries

"Fathoming Our Past" helps define why our maritime heritage is important to us as a community and a nation. It also tells us about who we are and why it is worth our efforts to preserve and interpret heritage resources for future generations.