

Turn Point Light Station

TPLPS 2023 Newsletter

2023 was another good year for the Turn Point Lighthouse Preservation Society (TPLPS). We had lots of visitors, including whales. This year a couple humpback whales were seen often in Haro Strait. Visitors liked our policy of masks being optional inside the buildings.

There was not much activity in the way of restoration. Many of our projects are on hold awaiting Bureau of Land Management (BLM) approval.

Source of Water

In order for us to house our docents in the Keepers' Quarters, we need a source of water, a septic system, and extensive rewiring of the building. TPLPS submitted a proposal to BLM in 2019 where we showed three sites that could be drilled for water. One was favored by the BLM geologist and the other two by TPLPS. The BLM site could produce good water without much chance of salt water intrusion. The TPLPS sites may have a chance of salt water intrusion. The drawback to the BLM site is getting the water to a storage tank near the buildings at the point.

In 2023 the TPLPS board agreed that TPLPS should drill the well at our preferred site. TPLPS will fund it and only submit a request to BLM for reimbursement if the well is successful. BLM has not approved our plan.

Finances

TPLPS has amassed considerable funds for restoration work at Turn Point. Because we didn't have any approved projects needing the funds, our board approved a partial reallocation of checking account and Money Market Savings (MMS) account funds to purchase certificates of deposit (CDs). This action took place in March and, by the end of the year, we had gained over \$2000 in net interest (CD1 gain + CD2 gain minus what we would have made in MMS).

See the attached financial report.

Personnel

Brie Chartier, the BLM Monument Manager for the San Juan Islands has hired Owen Ellis to the position of Recreational Planner, filling the job once held by Nick Teague, who retired. Welcome aboard Owen!

TPLPS added a new director to our board. He is Patrick Whitley of Orcas Island. Patrick has helped us in the past with transporting docents and other projects at Turn Point. Welcome aboard Patrick!

Yacht Club Work Parties

For many years the Bellingham Corinthian Yacht Club has come to Turn Point on the 4th Saturday in June. This is just before the station opens to tourists with docents present. They provide a valuable service to TPLPS and they get the station looking pretty spiffy. We thank them for their service and dedication to Turn Point. Here is a picture of the 2023 crew:



2023 Bellingham CYC Work Party

Docents

Each year we need 9 – 10 pairs of docents to man the museum and give tours of the historic Keepers' Quarters. The demand for these slots was so great that we had to stop taking names. We have worked through the list and we can now open it up. Our preference is those who have not served before, but we do maintain a standby docent list that we call in case of a cancellation. If you want to be added to the list, please send an email to info@tplps.org.

2023 Docents



Week 1 – Kathryn True & John Korath

Week 2 – Rod & Carolyn Rasmussen

Week 3 – Diane Dungey & Tim Sullivan

Week 4 – Marvin Kyle & Jill Mount

Week 5 – Linda & Gerry Wear

Week 6 – Mary Ann Thompson & Mary Campbell

Week 7 – Aurora de la Cruz & Guy Hamilton

Week 8 – Mary Rose Denton & Richard Schmitz

Week 9 – Michael Connolly & Neil Fishman

THANK YOU DOCENTS!!!!

Looking Forward

TPLPS – Leadership

The leaders of TPLPS are aging and we need some youth to step in and carry the ball forward. It has worked fairly well with Jim and Linda Bergquist on Stuart Island close to Turn Point and Mike and Margaret Jonas on Orcas Island near the post office and bank. It will be hard to replace them. We are always looking for new blood to join our leadership team, especially ones from the San Juan Islands.

TPLPS Board

Margaret Jonas – Founder/President Emeritus

Mike Jonas – Founder/Director

Kurt Bartelheimer – Director

James Bergquist – Director/Historian

Patrick Whitley - Director

Warren Hendrickson – Director

Linda Bergquist – Director/Membership

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Attachment

2023 TPLPS Financial Report

Checking Account

Balance on 1/1/23	\$ 49,753.89	
Memberships	+ \$ 11,210.00	
Donations	+ \$ 5,037.80	Includes gift shop
BLM ASAP funds	+ \$ 6,635.00	Maintenance expenses are reimbursed by BLM
Expenses (Maint)	- \$ 9,795.00	ASAP Funds shortage; under discussion with BLM
Expenses (TPLPS)	- \$ 4,758.87	
Purchase CD	- \$ 40,000.00	Better return
Transfer to MMS	- \$ 12,000.00	

Balance on 12/31/23	\$ 6,082.82	

Investments (Money Market Savings = MMS)

Value on 1/1/23	\$ 80,401.44	
Purchase CD	- \$ 55,000.00	Better return
Xfer from Checking	+ \$ 12,000.00	

Value on 12/31/23	\$ 37,808.84	Gain of \$ 407.40

Investments (CDs)

1 st CD	\$ 40,935.61	Gain of \$ 935.61
2 nd CD	\$ 56,844.48	Gain of \$1,844.48

Value on 12/31/23	\$ 97,780.09	

Grand Total (Checking + Investments)

As of 12/31/22	\$130,155.33	
As of 12/31/23	\$141,671.75	Gain of \$11,516.42 in 2023