

Ballard Maritime Academy steering committee meeting minutes Sept. 14, 2009

The committee began with a discussion of the current state of the maritime industry. One part of the discussion centered around NOAA's decision to move its fleet out of Seattle to Newport, Oregon and the effect that may have on our partnership with NOAA. Jim McManus also related the status of this year's Pollock fishing fleet and his amazing journey to Alaska by jet-ski.

Gary Stauffer let the group know that the Propeller club will be holding its national meeting in Seattle October 6 – 9. He encouraged members to participate in some of the activities.

Diana Parker reminded the group that the 21st annual Fishermen's Fall Festival will be on Sept 26th from 11 am to 6 pm at Fisherman's Terminal. The BMA will have a booth at the festival, with an ROV tank, as well as a team competing in the survival suit race.

BMA science teacher Megan Vogel reported back on her summer experience with students at the Olympic Park Institute. She had 23 students involved in this amazing program working on a historic project involving the removal of dams on the Elwha River on the Olympic Peninsula.

BMA teacher John Foster told the group about his summer experience with students, taking nine BMA students to the California Maritime Academy campus to complete an STCW Basic Safety course using the campus facilities. The group had a wonderful time in the Bay area, completed their training, and had an opportunity to take a cruise aboard the SS Jeremiah O'Brien, the last remaining operational Liberty Ship from WWII.

The group discussed upcoming activities for students during the school year. The teachers will be doing many of the same projects/trips they have in the past, but perhaps adding a boat cruise in the fall around Bainbridge Island, to complete the navigation unit, and tie in with the Marine Science course.

The committee spent some time discussing the class numbers and our need to recruit more incoming sophomores. Some of the ideas were a quarterly newsletter to parents about the program, putting announcements in the school bulletin and PTSA newsletter.

Megan Vogel told the group about her new Oceanography 101 course being offered this semester. She has a full group of excited students, looking forward to the year-long course. Students have the opportunity to earn 5 credits from the University of Washington for \$319.00. The BMA may be able to provide scholarships to some students for whom this will be an economic burden.

Ms. Vogel also mentioned that we will be again participating in the Citizen Science program this year.

Charlie See reported to the group that our fund raising dinner brought in nearly \$5000 this year, another great success.

We also discussed job shadows and internships. Gary Stauffer mentioned that he may be willing to set up a sort of job fair for students, and that he would work with Megan Vogel this year on internships.