

## **COMANCHE NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2018**

**\*SCIENTISTS\* \*VOLUNTEERS\* \*JOIN COMANCHE 202 CLUB\***

**REUNION TIME ABOARD COMANCHE July 14 & 15 at Tacoma:** It was a great reunion of Cutter *Comanche* crews from 40 to 50 years ago or more. They started arriving 3 days early from as far away as the Florida Keys and by Saturday evening July 14 nearly 50 people from all over the US were aboard for hot dogs, chicken, salmon, corn on the cob and more. Already there are feelers out for another reunion! What do you want, old crew?



**IT LIVES! AUXILIARY GENERATOR IS WORKING!** After sitting idle for nearly FOUR years, *COMANCHE* got under way on August 30<sup>th</sup>, and headed south for Olympia, WA and to our favorite event HARBOR DAYS. Thanks to the diligent work of Steve Wallace, a Boeing electrical engineer, we got the wires uncrossed and DC auxiliary power for steering, etc. going. *Comanche* spent two weeks in Olympia and hosted over 5,000 people aboard to explore the ship. A record number of visitors in such short time!



Same *COMANCHE* on the same day with two different paint schemes. WW-II camo and USCG stripe.

After Olympia we cruised to Bremerton, WA for another two weeks of open house and participation in the annual conference for the Historic Naval Ships Association of which *Comanche* is a member.



During a break in the conference *COMANCHE* took about two dozen HNSA attendees for cruise along the Navy Base at Bremerton for an up-close look at the Navy ships including a couple of air craft carriers and submarines. *Comanche* is one of six HNSA ships that can get underway.

Joe Peterson, *COMANCHE*'s Director of Operations since 2007 received an award for preservation and restoration from the Association. Joe has logged over 8,500 hours of volunteer service on the *Comanche* project. In 2019 Joe intends to cut back on his volunteer hours.





Our crew for the return cruise after getting nested in at Tyee: left to right: Von Armstrong, John Morgan, Jesse Schwartz, Marty Jackson, skipper, Joe Peterson, Andy Davis, Kara Hansen, Scott Larsen and engineer Mike Meinecke. Not pictured is Jeff Hoge.

*COMANCHE* returned to Tyee Marina, her winter layover home, on October 1. It was a soggy chilly cruise back to Tacoma. Riders are always welcome, too, at no charge but cruises are typically one way. Overnight accommodations are often available in original “racks”.

**NEW TO COMANCHE:** An introduction to our Chief Science Officer Dr. Jesse David Merton Schwartz. With over 25 years’ experience leading research, monitoring and education programs he brings a great deal of skill and potential to COMANCHE’s future. He has served as Principle Investigator and Lead Scientist on a variety of boats including research vessels, NOAA fleet and local government research and enforcement. His expertise has placed him on campaigns in East Africa, New England, the Gulf of Mexico and California Nearshore and San Francisco Delta, the Columbia Basin, Hawaii, Biosphere 2, and the Puget Sound. Dr. Schwartz is working to develop our conservation and enforcement program to support Puget Sound’s marine resources... more and more Comanche is return to her duties as a distinguished Coast Guard Cutter from decades ago. Best of all, he loves the Comanche and is our most recent volunteer crew member. Welcome aboard Dr. Schwartz!

A Note About Conservation, Science and the Sea by Jesse Schwartz, PhD, Chief Science Officer aboard the COMANCHE.

When I introduce someone new to ATA 202 (aka USCG Comanche) I am often most vocal about her Battlestar from World War II, or her daring rescues at sea as a Cutter. The ship has impacted so many people’s lives it is easy sometimes, even for myself in my science focused role on the ship, to too quickly pass over the ship’s significant role in conservation. Under Missions Five (Protection of All Living Marine Resources), Nine (Protection of the Marine Environment), and Eleven (Enforcement of All Marine Laws to Prevent Illegal Fishing) USCGC Comanche was compelled to protect our precious Pacific marine resources; she spent her longest service in those pursuits.





*COMANCHE seizure of the first foreign ship in American Fishery Pacific Waters.*

*Comanche* was the first US Vessel to issue a citation of violation of international fishing law in American waters. For twenty years *Comanche* worked in a multi-mission role, search and rescue and the protection of our Pacific Northwest marine resources. As your newly appointed Chief Science Officer I pledge to work tirelessly to preserve this rich history through our education work, and through ongoing practice.

In addition to my work in industry and at sea, I have spent much of my career developing experiential education programs. I believe that one of the many unique aspects of *Comanche* is the fact that we operate as a Working Maritime Museum – we provide the public with direct access to the nautical practices of a working tug and a working Cutter. During 2019 we will expand our program to revive *Comanche's* history of environmental work through an active Fisheries Watch program to continue her tradition of protecting marine resources through active volunteer support of Missions 5, 9, and 11 – and here is how you can help!

First, become a member. Stay in touch by joining our 202 Club and get early access to volunteer opportunities, classes, guest lectures, and ocean adventures. Second, stay tuned for our Fisheries Watch invitation and Summer 2019 Course Schedule, and Friday Fantail Fundraisers coming soon! Third, if you would like to get involved, have ideas on how we can develop a great Conservation program, or just have questions join *Comanche's* 5-9-11 Committee by emailing me directly. [jdmschwartz@icloud.com](mailto:jdmschwartz@icloud.com)

The successes of our programs come from you – our volunteers, members, and supporters. Thank you for all you have done, and all that you do. I truly hope our new Conservation program will provide you with a unique opportunity to come down to the water and **Explore Comanche!** 2019 Cruising schedule will be out in February 2019.

**NEW ITEMS!** Some of the things we have acquired this year include a 26' USN Motor Whaleboat very similar to the one that would have been onboard *Comanche* in the 1970s. It was given to us by Scott Benedict from the Sacramento delta area of California. We have long looked for one of these. Volunteers Ted Lahti and Dr. Jesse Schwartz drove down south with a suitable trailer and towed it back to Garfield Street, Tacoma where it is undergoing some serious restoration. Ship's carpenter Andy Davis is heading up the work. Volunteers are welcome.



Our volunteers unloading the 26' motor whale boat. 1970s.



As one appeared on *Comanche* in the 1970s.

Also new to us and something we have long sought for is an engine room order telegraph. It's like the one that would have been used in *Comanche* engine room.



Thanks to your generous donation\$ and support we were able to acquire these sought-after items that will help *Comanche* be more complete! BZ to you all..>! 🇺🇸

## **NEW VOLUNTEERS**

COMANCHE simply wouldn't have existed these past 11 years if it hadn't been for the dedication of our volunteer crew! Volunteers are welcome any time, no experience is needed. Youth volunteers are welcome with parent's permission if under 18.

Volunteers make it happen! Since we started keeping records in 2007, over 40,000 volunteer hours have gone into restoration, preservation and operation of 74 years old COMANCHE (aka ATA 202). Volunteers work aboard (and at home), crew the ship when we cruise and can stay aboard any time plus bring family and friends. Work parties are most Saturdays and Wednesday. New to the volunteer in 2018 crew are:



Douglas Johnson a USCG vet and retired motorcycle mechanic is our Chief Bosun.



Steve Wallace, electrical engineer for Boeing and his wife Libby and father-in-law Von Armstrong volunteer, too



Jim Jefferies, a partner in steam railroading with our past chief engineer Tom Payne volunteers on Wednesdays.

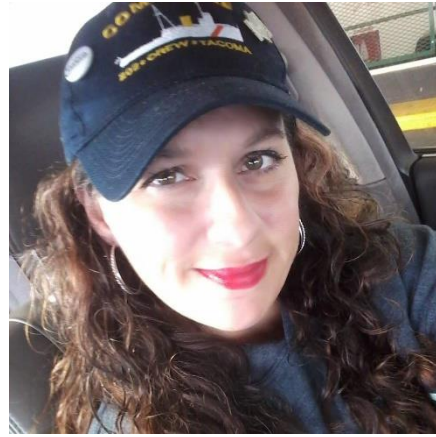


Jim's friend, Gary Keefer, is also a neighbor close to Comanche.





Active duty Coast Guard members have also volunteered here with chief engineer Dave Howard.



Kara Harrison comes over from the Olympia Peninsula to volunteer.



First assistant engineer Mike Meineke has a dual role aboard serving as our mascot Salty Dog, too.



TJay Gardner is an electrician and a neighbor at Tyee.



Long time staff at Tyee Marina, Jeff Hodge.



Ships carpenter Andy Davis

**JOIN US!** *Comanche* is growing. We are a historic Working Maritime Museum – one of only six WWII ships in the Historic Naval Ships Association roster able to get underway!

Today we are positioned to become a long-term resource for the residents and visitors of Puget Sound. We are close to being able to obtain grant funding: but we cannot do that without your help. That's because many of the organizations we are working with to develop longer term support require one thing of their funded organizations: annual members. Individuals that are ready to support a cause they believe in by making a commitment for a full year of support.

That's why we are asking you to join the **COMANCHE 202 Club**. We are asking for your annual pledge of \$202 a year, \$16.83 a month, or 55 cents a day to help ensure that the ongoing expenses of keeping *Comanche* open to the public are covered. Our goal is to cover all of our ongoing expenses through our annual membership contributions, so we can focus more on improving *Comanche* and the programming we offer our supporters. We need you, our existing supporters, to help make that happen.

Your donation of **\$202** or more, has its benefits:

- 1) our special 'members only' newsletters.
- 2) an ATA 202 USCG *Comanche* commemorative coffee cup and USCG *Comanche* sticker.
- 3) 5% discount on any purchases of *Comanche* merchandise including our online store to be rolled out in February!
- 4) early notification of all programming, courses, and sailing opportunities.

Will you join us in making *Comanche* a permanent fixture of Puget Sound?

Please do keep those donation\$ coming. It can't be done without them! You can donation via Facebook (via Paypal and Facebook's Network for Good) or via a check to

**COMANCHE 202 FOUNDATION**

**403 GARFIELD ST. S.**

**TACOMA, WA 98444**

**(253) 227-9678 email: [ATA202@live.com](mailto:ATA202@live.com)**

**<https://archive.hnsa.org/ships/comanche.htm>**

*A State of Washington and Federal IRS non-profit 503 (c) 3 since September 11, 2007*



*Comanche departs Bremerton Marina, October 1, 2018*