

75,000 Students!



Linda Locklin's Gift to OSO



50 Years of Safe Harbor

odyssey NEWS

75,000 Students!

O'Neill Sea Odyssey (OSO) served its 75,000th student on Tuesday, December 3, 2013. A certificate was presented to teacher Stan Wyman's 6th grade class from Bolsa Knolls School in Salinas after they

boarded the Team O'Neill catamaran. O'Neill Sea Odyssey wishes to thank our talented crew, our Board of Directors, and supporters for achieving this milestone! ♦



OSO Receives Silicon Valley Business Journal Award

On November 5, 2013, O'Neill Sea Odyssey received the Silicon Valley Business Journal's Community Impact Award. Read more at www.bizjournals.com/sanjose ♦



Bridget O'Neill, proudly posing with OSO's award from the Silicon Valley Business Journal



Thank You

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Why I'm Leaving a Legacy Gift for OSO

BY LINDA LOCKLIN

It was the last week of November and I was at my favorite Santa Cruz spot, Cowell's Beach. Standing mid-calf in the water, adjusting my cap and goggles in readiness for a swim out to the end of the Pier, I looked down and saw feathery dark shapes swaying in the gentle surf. Presuming it was kelp, I stepped in a few feet deeper and prepared to dive in when something sparkly caught my eye—it was a huge school of shimmering anchovies!

Now I have seen a lot of amazing things in Monterey Bay from my decades of ocean swimming and ocean rowing, but this was a brand new and exciting experience. I dove in the chilly waters and the school burst into smaller groups. I tried to follow some of them as best I could but they soon disappeared in the murky Santa Cruz waters.

I knew that these were the same schools of anchovies that had been providing a feeding frenzy of entertainment for us humans over the last couple of months. These tiny fish had been hanging out right near the shore, bringing with them the dive bombing birds, the roving sea lions, the circling dolphins and the spouting humpback whales. This wild kingdom-style phenomenon was closely observed by our ocean scientists, but no one is really sure why the anchovies choose to come in so close and in such high numbers.



*Linda Locklin—
Santa Cruz
ocean swimmer,
ocean rower,
coastal planner*

O'Neill Sea Odyssey provides a fantastic ocean learning experience for thousands of children. I support OSO as it teaches respect, curiosity, critical thinking and hopefully a love of the sea. Who knows where the kids who experience a day on the O'Neill catamaran will go and what they will do? Perhaps one of them will discover the mystery of why the anchovies came to Santa Cruz in 2013.

I have been fortunate to have had a 38 year career that ties my professional environmental planning background with my passion for protection of the coast and ocean. Ensuring that the coast is

clean, open and accessible to all is not just a vision; it is a mandate of the State Constitution. The coast and ocean are treasured public resources for us all to enjoy, share and care for over the next ten generations.

Join me in supporting OSO. I have included OSO in my will; it is the least I can do to help with ocean protection from now till whenever... ♦

Thank You, Linda

BY JACK, BRIDGET & TIM O'NEILL



This newsletter includes the story of Linda Locklin, whose life has been devoted, personally and professionally, to the ocean and California's spectacular coast. We were humbled by her very personal decision to name O'Neill Sea Odyssey as a beneficiary in her will, and her choice to tell other O'Neill Sea Odyssey supporters about that decision in this newsletter.

Linda administers the California Coastal Commission's coastal access program and (continued on next page)

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Joyce Anderson Joins Advisory Board

BY DAN HAIFLEY,
OSO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Joyce Anderson, a videographer who has helped to promote OSO's work, was selected by the Board of Directors to serve on the Advisory Board. Joyce worked as a Fashion Stylist for South Bay Accent Magazine and has coordinated fashion and bridal shows. She has been an instructor for Talent & Modeling Agency, the Summer Arts Program for the Children at the City of San Jose School District, Teen and Adult classes at the Saratoga Community Center and she's taught workshops at the Community Television Station in Santa Cruz. She has produced special fashion and event segments for KNTV TV in San Jose and shows and public service announcements at KSAR Television in Saratoga and Community Television Station in Santa Cruz. ♦

(cont.) has worked at the agency during most of its existence, starting in the early 1970s. She's a neighbor of the harbor and is President of the Santa Cruz Rowing Club. She enjoys being on the water and loves that O'Neill Sea Odyssey does the same for youth who otherwise would not have the opportunity.

We hope that you will be inspired by her example. Leaving a gift today that will outlive you, is easy to do. Contact Dan at dhaifley@oneillseaodyssey.org ♦

OSO Board Approves 2014-2018 Strategic Plan

At its September 2013 meeting O'Neill Sea Odyssey's Board of Directors approved a new, five-year strategic plan for 2014 through 2018. The plan includes the following goals:

In 2013 75,000 students had been served and our goal by the end of 2018 is to have served 100,000 students with our hands-on, ocean going education program.

Continue to increase environmental stewardship and advocacy among youth through our hands-on ocean education program combined with our promotion of ocean science curriculum and watershed concepts in classrooms, especially for inland schools.

Achieve financial sustainability through endowment & building.

Using O'Neill Sea Odyssey's success as a model, continue to advocate for outdoor, hands-on environmental education.

The plan was developed by OSO's staff and shaped with critical guidance provided by Crystal Birns, Reed & Tricia Geisreiter, Cheryl & Joe Pruss, Mary Lou Goeke, Denny Smith, Betty Aboytes, Bill Simpkins, Bob Simpkins, Paul Michel, Kris Beall, Jessica Mancini, Ralph Schardt, and Sarah Leonard. To get a copy, contact Dan Haifley at dhaifley@oneillseaodyssey.org ♦



Annual Evaluation Demonstrates OSO Crew's Impact On Youth

Appplied Survey Research's (ASR) 2012-13 evaluation measured the results of surveys of students administered before and after the program as well as the results of surveys completed by teachers whose classes participated in the program. These surveys were cross-analyzed against demographic data about the participating schools. It found that the OSO program was effective in promoting substantial increases in students' environmental awareness. Before participating, an average of 79% of students agreed with the survey questions and after, this percentage increased to 97%. These results are due to the excellent work done by OSO's crew, who has the singular responsibility of teaching the students a solid curriculum in an effective way.

Before the program, a smaller percentage of students from lower income groups agreed with the survey questions overall (77%), compared to students from middle income groups (79%) and students from higher income groups (81%). After participating in the program, 96% of students from lower income groups agreed with the survey questions (19% difference), while 98% of students from middle income groups (19% difference) and 97% of students from higher income groups (16% difference) agreed.

Seventy percent of all teachers/group leaders reported that they had used the online teaching materials provided on the website before their field trip, and most teachers (93%) intended to use the online teaching materials in the classroom after the trip. The full survey analysis may be found in the 'Beneath the Surface' portion of the 'Supporters' page on the OSO website. ♦

Our Ocean Backyard: 50 Years of Safe Harbor

BY DAN HAIFLEY

On April 19, 1964, 360 boat slips were dedicated in a new small craft harbor at Woods Lagoon, culminating an effort that began when fishermen anchored their boats offshore and tied to the now defunct railroad wharf and, after 1914, today's municipal wharf. Strong swells or storms would toss vessels onto the beach, often ruining them beyond repair, driving the search for safe harbor.

The US government conducted surveys in 1879 and 1915, both times recommending a sheltered port for Santa Cruz. In 1949 a third effort yielded a positive report and this time, the Army Corps of Engineers put political muscle behind it. The Santa Cruz Chamber of Commerce launched a community organizing effort by leaders including Malio Stagnaro, Worth Brown, Norm Lezin, Henry Mello, Victor Ghio, Bert Snyder and Paul Groszmann. In 1951 they asked voters to approve a tax and formation of

a special governmental district, and won.

A new five member Port Commission got to work recommending a site, considering Neary Lagoon, the San Lorenzo River, Woods Lagoon, Watsonville and Capitola. They even looked at an ocean harbor off Lighthouse Point. Woods Lagoon became the compromise choice, despite the problems of sand drift from the San Lorenzo River that could clog its channel. The Army Corps officially adopted it provided that the channel would be kept navigable with a "sand bypass system." And thus a campaign to lobby Sacramento and Washington began.

In 1962, Congress appropriated \$1.6 million to build jetties and dig a harbor channel and a local share was paid from taxes accumulated since 1951. \$3 million in state loans was obtained for pilings, docks, restrooms, and parking facilities on the condition the port would be accessible to all Californians. The first year a tsunami hit and the sand dredge was feared lost. Friends Jack O'Neill, Jerry Colfer and Bob Judd located it, got it off the sea floor, pulling it in for repairs. The harbor's popularity compelled the Commission to approve a new upper harbor on the inland side of the train trestle. So at a cost of \$5 million, 455 more slips were ready in 1973.

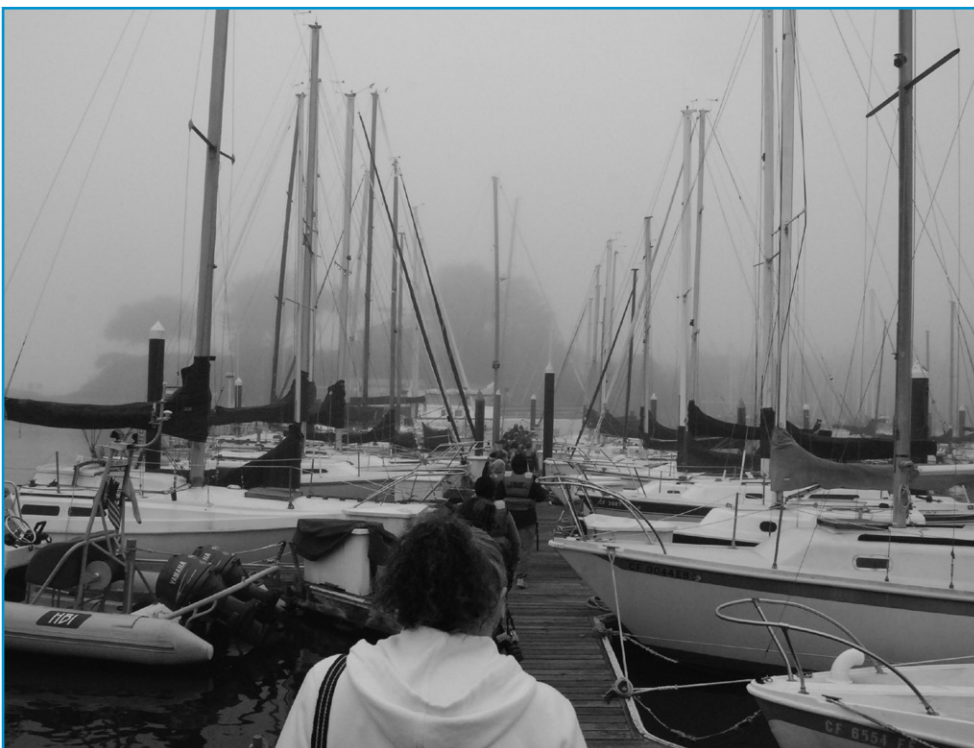
In the late 1970s controversial state legislation to ban surfing between the harbor's jetties was approved, and another law was approved allowing voters to select the governing Port Commission. The debate over surfing cooled after the harbor took control of its dredge operation, creating a deeper channel at its entrance, but legends of jetty surfers—including Harbor Bill—remain.

Businesses serving non-boaters settled in at the harbor's dedication. In 1965 the O'Neill Building was built and today its upstairs houses O'Neill Sea Odyssey's ocean science education center and private tenant spaces managed by the non-profit, including the Surfrider Foundation's lab and office. The Sea Witch coffee shop was transformed into the Crow's Nest restaurant in 1969. Aldo's had also been at that location then moved to the other side of the channel.

In the mid-1990s the harbor lost the remaining property tax funds voters had awarded it in 1951. Port Commissioners grappled with how they'd use their diminished revenue to meet capital renovation needs 50 years after the harbor's construction. But then the March 11, 2011 tsunami that devastated Fukushima, Japan before it crossed the Pacific did enough damage to the harbor to require around \$20 million in infrastructure repairs, not including damage to boats or private property. The state and federal government are covering all but about \$1.2 million of those costs, allowing repair of aging infrastructure.

The Santa Cruz Harbor is also home to the Santa Cruz Yacht Club, established in 1928 and situated on the municipal wharf before the harbor's construction. Sailing innovation was behind the victory of Santa Cruz' Merlin in the 1977 Trans-Pacific race and today the club continues its sailing and charitable activities. Much of the political drive for a sheltered port came from fishermen and 150 fishing boats took refuge when the harbor opened and the industry hit its peak in the 70s and 80s. Today 40 boats still operate, with crab and salmon as primary target species.

2014 will mark 50 years of safe harbor. Learn more at www.santacruzharbor.com. This column appeared in the Santa Cruz Sentinel on December 21, 2013. ♦

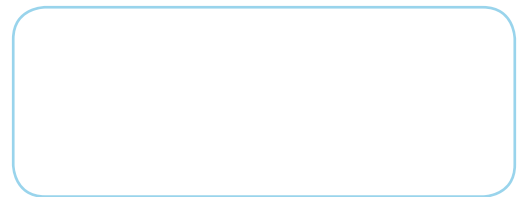




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Be the First to Own a Sea Odyssey Hat!

OSO has just added some beautiful, navy blue cotton twill logo baseball hats to its online store. They are only \$15, and nicely complement our tote bags, t-shirts, sweatshirts, and our two books: *Ocean*

Odysseys and autographed copies of *Jack O'Neill: It's Always Summer on the Inside*. Go to www.oneillseaodyssey.org, click on "Supporters", then click on "Shop." ♦



Winter 2014

Lighthouse Lighting



The 2nd annual Holiday Lighthouse Ceremony and Celebration was held from 4 to 6 p.m. on Friday, December 6 at the O'Neill Sea Odyssey (OSO) education center. It was organized by OSO Advisory Board member Bill Simpkins and OSO Board member Jim

Thoits, who had also spearheaded the fundraising drive for the Walton Lighthouse at the Santa Cruz Harbor. OSO would like to thank Jim and Bill, System Studies Incorporated, The Crow's Nest Restaurant and The Kind Grind coffee shop for supporting the festivities. ♦