

NEWSLETTER OF THE PUGET SOUND CHAPTER
OF THE AMERICAN CETACEAN SOCIETY

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 4

FALL 2007

Next Meeting: Wed. Nov 21st
Paul Wade, research biologist in the Cetacean Program at the national Marine Mammal Lab, Alaska Fisheries Science Center, NOAA Fisheries, Seattle, WA **North Pacific right whales**: recent observations in the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska. See www.acspugetsound.org for details

There is no meeting in December.

Event Information

All speaker series events meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at the Phinney Neighborhood Center, Room 6, 6532 Phinney Ave. N., Seattle, (just north of the Woodland Park Zoo).

Doors open at 7pm and the program starts at 7:30pm. Plenty of free parking is available in the upper and lower parking lots. Admission is free—donations to offset the room rental costs are gratefully appreciated of course as we operate on a shoestring like almost all nonprofits.

Inside...

Chapter Currents	1
Southern Resident Update.....	1,3
GiveADam for Salmon & Orcas.....	2
VHP: Southern Residents Return.....	3
Meet the ACS/PS Board	4,5
Book Review	
<i>Harpoon, into the heart of whaling</i>	6
Makah Illegal Whale Killing	6
Thank You Joe Olson	7

Chapter Currents

by Uko Gorter, ACS/PS President

“Whenever it is a damp, drizzly November in my soul”, these are the words of Ishmael, the narrator in Melville’s, *Moby Dick*. However, there is little gloomy and absolutely no rain in this gorgeous November day. But, speaking of whaling, you will find a few related articles in this issue: an account of the, shocking and illegal, Makah gray whale hunt, and a book review of *“Harpoon, into the heart of whaling”*, by Andrew Darby.

I would also like to take the opportunity to welcome three new board members. First of all, Odin Lonning, who most of us already know and who has often contributed to our chapter in so many ways. A Tlingit artist and performer, Odin brings his unique artistic talent to our organization. Jill Swanson, previously from San Francisco, brings with her a phenomenal expertise in PR and media relations. Last but not least, Hella Cascorbi, a director PRA, Destination Management, in Seattle. Hella’s experience in event coordination is invaluable.

Unfortunately, two wonderful board members have stepped down, and will surely be missed, although we look forward to seeing them at our Speaker Series. Joe Olson, ACS/PS past president has worn many hats during the years since he brought the chapter back to life (see the article on page 7). Darcie Larson, ACS/PS fundraising chair gave her notice just a few days ago. Darcie is at the threshold of a new career path and future move. Thank you Darcie, for your help, support, and friendship.

Southern Resident Update:

Good and Bad News

by Candice Emmons, ACS/PS Secretary

First the good news: there are three new additions to the Southern Resident Killer Whale Community. L109 was first seen in Monterey Bay and confirmed to be the second calf in four years for Nugget (L55) by the Center for Whale Research. In May Slick (J16) returned to the San Juan Islands with her fourth offspring, J42, in tow. This brought the annual census number to 86 animals individuals (Center for Whale Research unpub. Data). But then Moonlight (L83) surprised us all with her first calf, L110, in August bringing the popula-

(Continued on page 3)



“Give a Dam For Salmon” and for Orcas too!

by Darcie Larson

With the listing of the Southern Resident orca population as endangered under Federal law, attention is being focused on what can be done to recover these whales. Number two on the list of five recommended actions in NOAA Fisheries’ Orca Recovery Plan is “support salmon restoration”. Did you know that the largest salmon-producing river system on earth was once the Columbia and Snake Rivers? If we are going to save the Southern Resident orcas from extinction, it is critical to bring back as many wild salmon as we possibly can. The loss of Columbia/Snake salmon was identified as probably having the largest impact on prey availability for the orcas in the proposed Orca Recovery Plan. Columbia and Snake Chinook are likely particularly critical to the orcas, as recent studies show the Southern Resident’s preference for these large, fatty fish. Upper Snake River Chinook runs must migrate up to 900 miles from the ocean and gain 6,000 feet in elevation, a feat which requires very large fat stores.

Right now, the federal government is allowing four costly, out-dated dams on the lower Snake River in eastern Washington to drive wild salmon to extinction while limiting opportunities for recreation and clean, renewable energy alternatives. The Save Our Wild Salmon Coalition is launching a nationwide effort, beginning with a new website – www.GiveADamForSalmon.org - to collect and deliver tens of thousands of comments in the form of letters, photos, art, and video that urge our decision-makers to... GIVE A DAM FOR SALMON AND STEEL-HEAD and resolve the Pacific salmon crisis in the Columbia and Snake Rivers.

The Columbia-Snake River basin, spanning six western states, was once home to the most abundant runs of salmon and steelhead in the world – as many as 16 million wild fish returned each year to these rivers and their tributaries. Fast-forward to today: all runs of salmon and steelhead in the Snake River are either already extinct or listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act. This year, *only four* Snake River sockeye survived to return to their spawning grounds in the mountains of central Idaho.

Three of the last four salmon plans have been thrown out of federal court for violating the Endangered Species Act and failing to protect salmon and steelhead. Oct 31st marked the release of a 5th controversial plan.

Whulj
“the saltwater we know”

The Newsletter of
the Puget Sound Chapter
of the American Cetacean Society



P.O. Box 17136
Seattle, WA 98127-0836
206-734-4737

acspinfo@acspugetsound.org

ACS/PS Board

OFFICERS:

President - Uko Gorter,
uko.susan@verizon.net
Vice President - Ann Stateler,
reletats@aol.com
Treasurer - TBA
Secretary - Candice Emmons,
cemmons@u.washington.edu

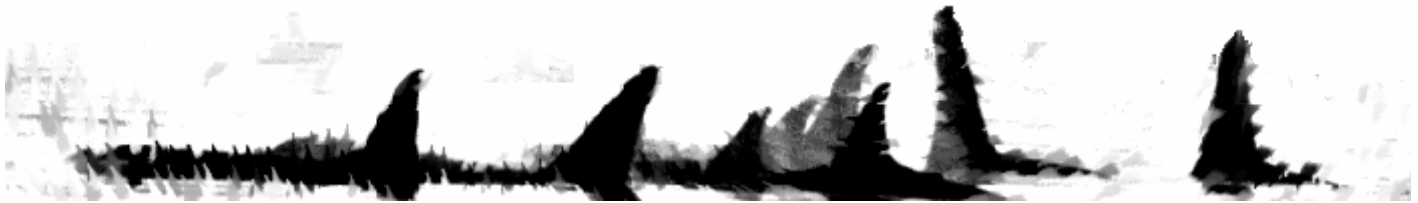
BOARD MEMBERS:

Chapter Delegate: Uko Gorter,
uko.susan@verizon.net
Conservation: Ann Stateler,
reletats@aol.com
Education: Peggy Foreman,
pforeman20@yahoo.com
Fundraising Events, co-chair: Hella Cascorbi,
hcascorbi@pra.com
Fundraising Events, co-chair: Odin Lonning,
odinshark@aol.com
Grants: Stephanie Norman,
whaledoc@verizon.net
Media: Jill Swanson,
mjills@gmail.com
Membership: Uko Gorter,
uko.susan@verizon.net
At-Large: Bonnie Gretz,
bonnie@solv.org
Past President: Joe Olson,
joe.olson@acspugetsound.org

ACS/PS Scientific Advisors

Dr. David Bain, Dr. Robin Baird, John Calambokidis,
Dr. Marilyn Dahlheim, Dr. John Ford,
Dr. Richard Osborne, Dr. Adam Pack,
and Dr. Peter Ross

Whulj publication schedule: February, May, August, November
Editor - Diane Allen, diane@artemisComputing.com - 360-437-1303
46 Village Way, suite 171, Port Ludlow WA 98365
submissions, comments, suggestions, and questions welcomed



Southern Resident Update: Good and Bad News continued

(Continued from page 1)

tion up to 87 individuals. Interestingly, L83 was a surprise herself, being one of the rare summer babies (most new calves are seen in the spring when the whales return to the San Juans) And thanks to the amazing work and observation skills of the Center for Whale Research staff we know that J42 is a female and L110 is a male. Researchers will be keeping an eye out for these new calves throughout the winter, given that calf mortality can be as high as 40% in the first year of life.

And now the bad news.... new research has given us more insight into the risks the Southern Residents face. A collaborative project between NOAA Fisheries, Cascadia Research, and Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada has given us new information about contaminant levels in these whales. The recent study had three key findings. First, legacy pollutants like PCB's have decreased in the whales over the last decade, but they are still present and could have adverse health effects. Second, contaminants that characteristic of urban environments, like flame-retardants, and have been introduced into the environment relatively recently were seen at the highest levels

VHP Update: Southern Residents Return to Vashon

By Ann Stateler, VHP Coordinator

After more than a year's absence, J Pod returned to Vashon-Maury Island waters on November 5 to herald the start of our fall/winter orca season. In the following days, researchers had several productive encounters with the killer whales, collecting ID data, prey remains, fish scales, regurgitations, fecal samples, and other secretions.

Near Blake Island north of Vashon, ACS/PS Board secretary Candi Emmons, a NOAA Fisheries researcher, identified J14 (Samish) as the mother of newborn J43, perhaps only 24 hours old on November 7. J Pod now has 26 members.

On November 9, the Vashon Hydrophone Project (VHP) made the first known recording of J's with Baby J43 and several L Pod members. The foraging killer whales gave us our best recording yet as they transited the VHP site at night, when Colvos Pass was flat calm and quiet. The orcas let it rip with an opulent repertoire of calls, echolocation clicks, buzz trains, and whistles. We may have recorded some orca "baby talk." Earlier that day, the keen eye of VHP associate Mark Sears spotted a few L Pod

in the youngest killer whale studied (approx. 3 yrs old). And finally, differences in chemical signatures between J pod and L pod whales suggest that the two pods spend the winter months in different places.

The uniqueness of the Southern Resident situation presents many exciting challenges to researchers and the need to develop new and less invasive ways to study this population. Here are just a few of the current projects being done: collecting samples of killer whale blows to look at the potential for diseases in these animals, using killer whale feces to examine stress in these animals, using killer whales feces to isolate genetic material from both killer whale and its prey, use of remote acoustic recorders to learn more about winter movements of Southern Residents, and using scales and tissues collected from predation events to look at the food habits of Southern Residents. For more information on any of the projects mentioned please visit the following websites:

<http://www.cascadiaresearch.org/>

<http://www.nwfsc.noaa.gov/>

<http://www.whaleresearch.com/>

<http://www.grrescue.org/>

<http://depts.washington.edu/conserv/>



Southern Resident orcas frolic near the VHP site in Colvos Pass. Photo by Mark Sears .

whales traveling with J Pod.

Another VHP recording of J Pod In Colvos Pass, with an appalling wall of noise from purse seiners and other vessels, offers an acoustic snapshot of how loud underwater noise can be for orcas traveling up Vashon's west side, which normally has less boat traffic than East Passage.

We eagerly await our next visit from the Southern Residents!



Uko Gorter

President, Chapter Delegate, Membership Chair

Uko Gorter was born in Arnhem, Netherlands. Uko is a trained ballet dancer and pursued a dance career for 17 years. Following in his father's footsteps, he then actualized his lifelong dream of becoming an illustrator. Uko enrolled in the School of Visual Concept and the School of Realist Art in Seattle, WA. His interest in nature led him to become a successful natural history illustrator.

Specializing in marine mammal illustration, Uko Gorter has traveled extensively to observe whales and dolphins in their own environment. In addition to his involvement with ACS/PS, Uko is a member of the Society for Marine Mammalogy.

Uko is an avid outdoorsman and loves to go whale watching. He is also an history and art buff and reads anything he can get his hands on.

Stephanie Norman, DVM, MS
Research Grants Chair

Dr. Stephanie Norman was born in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. Stephanie received her veterinary degree from Texas A&M University in 1991 and has been involved in the marine mammal field for the last 15 years. She completed her Master's degree in Epidemiology at the University of Washington in June 2007. Currently, Stephanie contracts with various marine mammal stranding response groups (see *Whulj* v7n2) in the Pacific Northwest and with agencies involved in marine mammal research including Global Research and Rescue in Seattle.

Stephanie has a varied and extensive background in research and animal health care including work on both land and sea. She has also participated in research of the causes of mortality in marine mammals and has assisted with public education of tourists and residents regarding conservation of marine mammals and wildlife. Stephanie is past Head Veterinarian at the Humane Society for Seattle/King County, Seattle, Washington. Most recently, she has provided veterinary medical consultations to various marine mammal research projects being conducted by NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association) and NMML (National Marine Mammal Laboratory, Seattle, Washington). Stephanie is the Research Grants Chair of the Puget Sound Chapter of ACS. Her extracurricular interests are her family, traveling, gardening, and reading.

Ann Stateler

Vice President, VHP Coordinator, Conservation Chair

Ann Stateler graduated with honors (High Distinction, Phi Beta Kappa) from the University of Arizona. She worked as a mental health counselor and case manager before moving to San Juan Island, WA in 1992, where she completed marine naturalist training and interned at The Whale Museum in Friday Harbor. In 1994, she moved to Vashon Island and started collaborating with researcher Mark Sears to document killer whale travel and behavior in Central Puget Sound. Ann coordinates the ACS/PS Vashon Hydrophone Project (VHP), which collects acoustic data to supplement Mark's photo ID data. She regularly writes about whale issues and the VHP for Vashon media and *Whulj*, the ACS/PS chapter newsletter. Inspired by their First Nations ancestry, Ann and her partner, Odin Lonning, created *Keet Shu-ka: An Indigenous Tribute to Killer Whales* and other programs that integrate Native culture, science, and art.

Jill Swanson
Media Chair

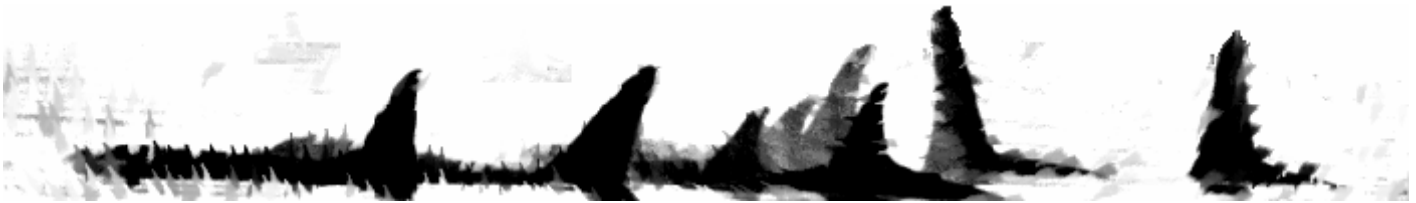
Jill Swanson is a native New Yorker, though she recently moved to Seattle from San Francisco. She received her Bachelor's from Russell Sage College in New York, focusing on Sociology and Psychology as her majors and Zoology and Women's Studies as her minors.

She has worked with the National Organization of Women on reproductive health issues, as an in-hospital doula and lay apprentice home birth midwife. Jill has lived in both Europe and India as a medical anthropologist at-large, researching how different societies are organized around birth and reproductive strategies. She has published in the journal *Midwifery Today*. She has also worked at the Bronx Zoo's Ornithology Department studying Hummingbirds and the New York Aquarium where she focused on marine mammals.

Jill's second career has been as a Communications Strategist in the technology sector of San Francisco. She moved to the Pacific Northwest in an effort to apply her Communications skills to issues surrounding killer whales and salmon.

Jill makes her home in Seattle's Capitol Hill district where she can be found gardening, painting, reading, sewing or planning her next adventure.

**MEET
THE
ACS/PS
BOARD**



Candice Emmons
Secretary

Candice Emmons was born in Los Angeles. She received her Bachelor's degree at California State University Northridge and her Master's at the University of Washington.

Candice is currently a biologist at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in Washington State. She is an athlete and enjoys running, hiking and taking meditative strolls on the beach.

Bonnie Gretz
Member-at-Large

Bonnie Gretz is a native New Yorker, but grew up in Whale Country, Southern California. She received her B.A. in Interior Design at San Diego State University. Bonnie currently lives in Portland, Oregon, and works for SOLV, an environmental and volunteer non-profit agency. She has been studying and observing the Southern Resident Killer Whale pods since 1994, after serving as an Earthwatch volunteer at The Center for Whale Research on San Juan Island.

Bonnie has been a member of ACS since 1994, served on the National Board as Conservation Chair for three terms, and attended the International Whaling Commission meeting in Japan in 2002 as ACS's representative. In addition to being impassioned about the Southern Resident Killer Whales, Bonnie is a photographer, an artist, and enjoys traveling.

Hella Cascorbi
Fundraising Events Co-Chair

Born and raised in southern Bavaria, Hella attended Ludwig Maximilian University in Munich for both her undergraduate work and MBA.

Hella is the owner and president of PRA Destination Management Seattle. Prior to which, she has held various positions in the meeting planning, event and trade show industry in her native Germany as well as the United States. She is very active in MPI and PCMA and also an active member of the German American Chamber of Commerce and the Seattle Basket Brigade.

Hella loves to ski, kayak, sail and take long walks. She is well read and traveled.

Peggy Forman
Education Chair

Peggy Forman received her Bachelor's of Science degree from Western Washington University and her Master's degree in Teaching from the University of Puget Sound.

Peggy is currently on sabbatical. Recent assignments have included 7th grade math at Einstein Middle school, and 5th & 6th grades at Syre Elementary. Prior to that, she taught English in Hong Kong as well as two years at the tribal school in Puyallup. However, Peggy's background is in marine biology. She has worked as a naturalist on board whale watching vessels for 13 years. Three summers were spent up in Alaska, one winter in Hawaii with the humpbacks, and the remainder of those years in Puget Sound getting to know our resident killer whale pods. Recently Peggy participated in a 10-week research study, focusing

on the male vocalizations of the SRKW population with Beam Reach up in the San Juan Islands (see *Whulj* v7n3). One of Peggy's current projects involves writing curriculum based on the Springer story for NOAA.

In addition to her ACS/PS activities, Peggy is also a member of the Northwest Aquatic and Marine Educators,

and recently spoke on behalf of ACS during one of their conferences. She is very active outdoors, enjoying kayaking, hiking, downhill skiing and mountain climbing. Peggy also paints and makes jewelry.

Odin Lonning
Fundraising Events Co-Chair, Vashon Hydrophone Project associate

Odin Lonning is a professional Tlingit artist, dancer, and educator from Juneau, AK. He attended the Institute of American Indian Art in Santa Fe, NM. For 25 years, Odin has taught principles of Tlingit art and culture to Native students and other audiences. Since 2000, he has collaborated with his Native partner, Ann Stateler, on the Vashon Hydrophone Project (VHP), marine mammal stranding response, and environmental education that emphasizes the value of traditional ecological knowledge in killer whale conservation. Odin creates many pieces to promote awareness about Puget Sound's endangered orcas. He designed logos for the 2002 ACS International Conference and the Vashon Island Coffee Roasterie's Orca Blend, which supports the VHP. Visit Odin's web site at www.OdinLonning.com to learn more about his artwork.

**MEET
THE
ACS/PS
BOARD**



Book Review by Uko Gorter

Harpoon: into the heart of whaling, by Andrew Darby

To be honest, I wasn't quite sure if I should review this publication. First of all, I created the illustrations shown at the beginning of each chapter, and could be perceived to be biased towards this book, and secondly, this Aussie work has not yet been released in the U.S. However, I have decided that my small contributions to this book should not sway my judgment (I do not receive royalties). And, this book is now available online.

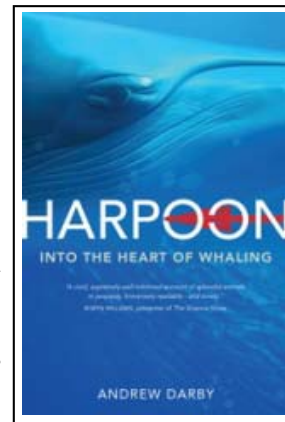
I have to admit, I had never heard of Andrew Darby before. However, after reading this thought provoking work, it is clear that this Tasmanian journalist is intimately familiar with the inner workings of the International Whaling Committee (IWC) as well as the history of whaling itself.

Harpoon: into the heart of whaling, is masterfully written, meticulously researched, and entertainingly revealing. While it is clear that Andrew Darby belongs to the anti-whaling camp, his work shows surprising objectivity. Never preaching, Andrew Darby's book is factual and illuminating.

Darby's work meanders from the historic shore whaling days in his native Tasmania, all the way to the last 2007

IWC meeting in Anchorage. Which makes this book immediate and current.

Andrew Darby gives us a revealing glimpse at IWC back-room dealings, and shows some insight in Japanese culture and mindset through surprisingly candid interviews. He paints an almost comic portrait of an arrogant Soviet whaling captain, and sheds light on the tragic results of man's repeated exploitations.



I strongly recommend this book to anyone who is interested in past and current whaling issues and the conservation of whales and ocean eco-systems. Andrew Darby has delivered an amazing eye-opener. Please, read it.

Allen & Unwin, 2007

p.p. 296

paperback

ISBN 1741146110

Available in the U.S. in early 2008. (Amazon.com \$16.50)

Makah Illegal Whale Killing

by Uko Gorter, ACS/PS President

While in the midst of a lengthy process to obtain a waiver under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), five Makah tribal members –apparently fed up with the red tape and long wait– slipped out of Neah Bay and killed a gray whale. This illegal hunt happened on September 8, and was witnessed by a few fishermen who alerted the U.S. Coast Guard. The five Makah were arrested and brought to the Neah Bay Coast Guard station. Two of the men turned out to be Makah whaling commissioners.

After four harpoons and 16 high-powered rifle shots, it took the gray whale an estimated 11 hours to die, and finally sunk to the bottom of the Strait of Juan de Fuca.

The Makah Tribal Council almost immediately denounced the hunt, and promised to prosecute the five rogue whalers in tribal court. In the mean time, the five Makah were arraigned in the U.S. District Court in Tacoma, where all pleaded not guilty. A trial is set for November 27.

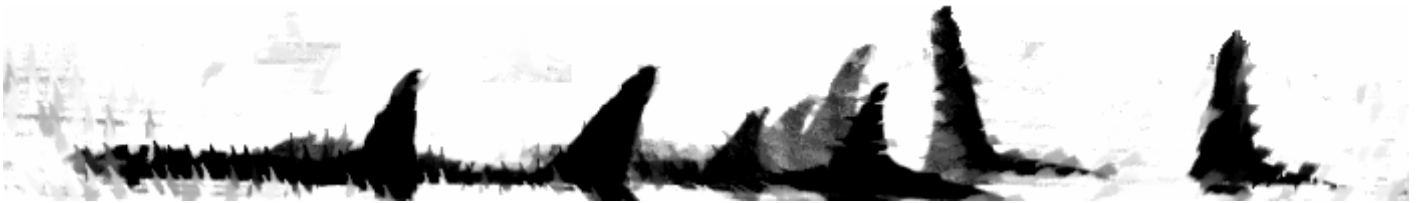
All five Makah men could face three misdemeanor charges against each of them:

- Conspiracy from an unknown date until Sept. 8 to hunt a whale.
- Engaging in whaling in violation of the federal Whaling Convention Act.
- Harassing and killing the whale.

Each count carries a maximum fine of \$100,000, a one-year prison term and a year of parole.

All men will also face separate prosecution in Makah tribal court, where they could be sentenced up to a year in jail; pay up to a \$5000 fine; and have their treaty rights to fish suspended for up to three years.

Sources: Seattle Times and Peninsula Daily news.



Thank You Joe Olson

By Uko Gorter, ACS/PS President

How does one step away from something that you have created and worked so hard for? Faced with this dilemma, Joe Olson was forced to make the difficult decision to step down as an ACS/Puget Sound Chapter board member.

It was Joe Olson who reestablished our chapter at the heels of the Makah gray whale hunt in 1999. An ACS Puget Sound chapter existed in the 1970s and 80s. However, burned-out volunteers could not save the failing chapter at that time.

Under Joe's leadership as chapter president, the new ACS/PS chapter flourished and inspired many volunteers to take up the cause and become involved. Although, Joe himself credits Mirto (an Italian wine), which he claims has powers to persuade hapless cetacean-lovers to become ACS/PS board members.

It was only a few years after the ACS/PS chapter's rebirth that Joe, in a daring and courageous move, spearheaded the offer to ACS National to host the 2002 biennial ACS conference in Seattle, and the subsequent effort to make it a reality. Although this conference was held in the uncertain and tense post September 11th time period, thus it did not quite bring in the expected funds or crowds, it was an overall success. Both keynote speakers Sylvia Earle and Flip Nicklin were fantastic and inspiring, and gave this conference the status of importance and class that it deserved. We can thank Joe Olson's incredible hard work, vision, dedication, and organizing skills that the 2002 ACS conference turned out so well.



Joe, Ingrid, and Alex recording humpback whales singing off the Kohala coast in March 2007

During the years between 1999 and 2003, Joe wore many hats. He has held almost every position on the board, as well as some non-board positions such as webmaster and newsletter editor. In 2003, Joe stepped down as chapter president. However, he remained an active ACS/PS board member as General Meetings and Technology chairs, and also served a term as Treasurer.

More recently, his marriage to Ingrid Mathews –virtuoso violinist and artistic director of Seattle Baroque, the birth of their son Alex, and his commitments to his company, Cetacean Research Technology, have forced him to focus his time and energy away from our ACS chapter.

Although Joe has retired from the ACS/PS board, he will remain an ACS/PS member, and plans to continue to be involved when he can. He continues to be a Vashon Hydrophone Project associate, and expects to attend our Speaker Series meetings when he is in town. We will certainly draw on his expertise and seek his advice from time to time.

Thank you Joe, for all your work and inspiration. We appreciate everything you have done and hope to carry the torch onwards, and to continue to build our ACS/PS chapter. Our beloved whales need our friendship.



Joe, Alex, and Ingrid at the 2007 Springer Reunion

AMERICAN CETACEAN SOCIETY



Puget Sound Chapter
P.O. Box 17136
Seattle, WA 98127-0836

www.acspugetsound.org
info@acspugetsound.org
206-734-4737

address label

address correction requested

SAVE THE DATE—Wednesday November 21st

Please join us at 7pm at the Phinney Neighborhood Center, Room 6 (just north of Woodland Park Zoo)

Paul Wade, NOAA research biologist, will speak on *North Pacific right whales: recent observations in the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska.*



Photo courtesy Mark Sears © 2002 All Rights Reserved

PLEASE JOIN US — SAY “YES!” — ENROLL ME AS A MEMBER OF THE PUGET SOUND CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN CETACEAN SOCIETY!”

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____
State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: (____) _____
E-mail: _____

- \$500 Patron
- \$250 Contributing
- \$75 Supporting
- \$45 Family
- \$35 Active
- \$25 Student/Teacher/Senior

Please make check payable to ACS and mail to: ACS/Puget Sound Chapter, P.O. Box 17136, Seattle, WA 98127-0836