

Ferry: Donations needed

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Lint said he plans to bring the watercraft down to Astoria sometime next month — weather permitting — just in time for the Astoria Bridge's 50th anniversary celebration.

"We plan to be back in the water within two weeks," he said. "I'm ready to go down the coast when we get out of the dry dock."

Next week, the board is holding the ferry's first fundraising event 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at Street 14 Coffee.

The nonprofit needs about \$50,000 to pay for the shipyard work in Washington, a marine survey that will allow the board to purchase fuel, insurance, the rest of Lint's deposit and additional costs, according to board Vice-Chairwoman Dulcye Taylor.

The event will feature historic photos of the 92-year-old vessel, and board members will be around to chat about the ferry's history. Joe Leahy, a board member, will give a short presentation at the top of every hour.

"It's information sharing, it's friend-raising, it's fundraising," Taylor said.

Cindy Price, a board member and Astoria city councilor, said she hopes the fundraiser draws former ferry workers. "I'd love to meet those guys in person," she said.

'Part of our history'

These major leaps forward follow a slow but steady year-long push to get the Tourist No. 2 back on the Columbia River.

The ferry carried riders and their cars between Astoria and Washington from 1924 to 1966, when the bridge made it and the rest of the city's ferries obsolete.

"It's a huge part of our history," Price said.

Almost a year ago Robert "Jake" Jacob, the majority owner of the Cannery Pier Hotel, got word that the Tourist No. 2 — which had been renamed MV Kirkland — still existed. Though he and other community members hoped to haul it home last year, the task proved more involved than the organizers had anticipated.

When the ferry arrives, it will be docked at 17th Street, an email from the board members said.

"We are weighing options for long-term docking, including at one of the (Port of Astoria's) marine basins," they wrote, adding that the ferry's original dock at 14th Street needs some work before it can be used.

The Tourist No. 2 won't be just another piece of Astoria's vintage eye-candy: The business



Photo courtesy of Christian Lint
Melissa Lynch, marketing director for the Tourist No. 2, aka MV Kirkland in Bremerton, Wash., stands beneath five years of tube worm growth on the bottom of the ferry, which is getting pressure-washed at Northlake Shipyard in Seattle this week.

plan includes shuttling locals and visitors along the riverfront, à la the Astoria Riverfront Trolley. Eventually, the ferry may be rented out for private parties and chartered excursions.

"This could be the start of something big again," said Price, who said she'd like to see the ferry featured in this year's Astoria Regatta.

At 110 feet long, 39 feet wide and 40 feet tall, the three-deck, wooden-hull ferry, built with old-growth timber, can accommodate more than 150 people depending on how it is used, Lint said.

"It's going to be a fun thing," Andrea Perez, a board member and local historian, said. "It's going to be a lot of work, and an adventure: A hundred-year-old boat is going to have a lot of history, and need a lot of love."

'A remarkable feat'

Donations are needed make it all happen. Specialists have told the board the ferry will cost approximately \$350,000 in the first 18 to 24 months, before full operation. That figure includes

moorage, maintenance, licenses and fees, wages and the big-ticket Certificate of Inspection from the U.S. Coast Guard, the board wrote.

Lint said that, after he's transferred ownership of the ferry, he wants to continue his involvement in the restoration and maintenance. Though he originally bought the ferry several years ago from a private company just to "flip it" and turn a profit, the Tourist No. 2 has come to mean a lot to him.

"I feel so strongly about this boat. It's like part of my family now," he said.

Taylor knows how he feels. When she saw the ferry for the second time on a sunny day some weeks ago, "she looked bright and shiny at the end of the marina," she recalled. "I just fell in love with that dang boat."

"It just totally belongs in Astoria," she said. "To have the opportunity to bring one of the original ferries home ... I mean, it's like a remarkable feat. It's like a once-in-a-lifetime thing — you don't get these opportunities!"

Southern Oregon University grad interns at The Daily Astorian

Stillman looks forward to covering the community

The Daily Astorian

Eli Stillman, a 23-year-old graduate of Southern Oregon University, has joined The Daily Astorian's staff as this summer's Snowden intern.

For about 10 weeks, he will work as a general assignment reporter, covering all manner of local stories.

"Eli came to us with outstanding recommendations and has approached his stories and the community with enthusiasm," Managing Editor Laura Sellers said. "We look forward to

his work this summer." The Snowden Internship Program, administered by the University of Oregon School of Journalism and Communication, is a premier internship program offering paid full-time summer positions at various publications throughout the state.

Astorian reporters Erick Bengel and Edward Stratton, and Coast Weekend Editor Rebecca Sedlak, are Snowden alumni.

"I'm really happy to be a part of it," Stillman said.

Originally from Paradise, California, Stillman studied at Butte Community College before transferring to SOU, where he majored in film, television and convergent media while working as editor-in-

chief of the campus publication The Siskiyou.

Last summer, he interned at The Rogue Valley Messenger and freelanced for the Ashland Daily Tidings. Before leaving SOU, he secured funding to continue the 90-year-old Siskiyou, whose future had been uncertain.

In journalism, "there are so many things you can do to constantly be getting better, whether it's your interview tactics or just your writing, researching, anything like that," he said.

Stillman is also a university track and field star — and proved it last weekend by winning the Running of the Trolls 5K race at the Astoria Scandinavian Midsummer Festival.



Eli Stillman

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