Anacortes Arts Festival

The Arts Festival is August 1–3. In its sixth decade, the festival has been named one of the top 100 fine art fairs in the US.

With a new director and staff, there is renewed energy and excitement this year. Look for some new areas, more emphasis on local participation, and creative staging and marketing.

Within the more than 300 booths, there are past favorites as well as some interesting new ones. A fun group of artists will be found in ink alley—a NEW indie craft area on 6th Street. These booths include a large percentage of local crafters with fun, cool and trendy products.

Festival music is expanding to three stages—the newest Waterfront Stage and Pub located on the port dock. This stage will feature both music and performance, including a cirque group all day Saturday. Main Stage features high-energy music including country, rock and world beat, running until 9 pm on Saturday. Finally, the 8th Street Stage offers a venue for local singer/songwriters to perform, as well as jazz favorites.

Working Studios—the demonstrating artist area (Saturday and Sunday)—has some WOW projects this year including a public art graffiti project, a steampunk interactive installation, and several living statues. Traditional crafts of blacksmithing, sculpture and painting round out the area.

As always, the Arts at the Port is a must-see. It features 41 regional fine artists relating to the theme “Air, Earth, Water” and a K–12 youth art exhibition. Work in this show includes a wooden bowl that is 8 feet tall and 9 feet across created by Camano artist Aaron Haba—plus large and small-scale 2D and 3D work. Again, look for a large number of Anacortes and Skagit County fine artists.

Though drawing tens of thousands of visitors each year, the festival is committed to retaining its community identity. The organization gave away over $55,000 this year, most of it to support arts programming for kids through Anacortes School District partnerships. Over 150 volunteers greet visitors; many local businesses join as sponsor partners. Together with the downtown merchants, the festival helps define Anacortes as a vibrant, well-rounded and welcoming community.
Anacortes Guest Survey

Board member, Duane Knapp (Pearl Buttons) and community branding expert through his business BrandStrategy has partnered with the chamber to produce an Anacortes Guest Survey. Visitors will be enticed to take the survey online at www.anacortes.org by having the chance to win a return trip to Anacortes.

An independent firm, GMA Research, is conducting the survey—with hopes of having a minimum of 500 respondents. Chamber staff is producing cards to supply to Anacortes businesses who can urge their visitors to take part and let them know that their opinion of our waterfront community is at the heart of this process.

A portion of the survey compares Anacortes to other destinations in Washington state and asks the respondent to rate us on how we are faring in many of our key attributes.

Once the survey closes, Mr. Knapp will share an overview of results with the chamber board and the Marketing and Promotions Division to help direct the future plans for promoting Anacortes as a getaway, not just a gateway.

Eat Local Anacortes

Local food is at the core of the Anacortes community, whether it’s supporting local producers, encouraging healthier options in our schools and senior centers, or local farms featured in neighborhood restaurant menus. Eat Local Anacortes is a month-long celebration of local food in our community for everyone who believes we can keep growing Anacortes’ food culture by creating opportunities to connect and share.

September is Eat Local Anacortes Month—look for the “Eat Local” decal in your favorite local restaurant or farmer’s market.

New look for our bi-monthly enews (email sent to 2330 contacts)—note that this month celebrates our vibrant entertainment—and it matches our Highway 20 billboard.
6th Annual Work Boat Races and Pirate Faire

Aaarrgh! Treasure is in the eye of the beholder, but you’re guaranteed to come away “richer” from a visit to the 6th Annual Work Boat Races and Pirate Faire on the north shore docks of Anacortes.

This free, family-friendly event incorporates all things marine, from a colorful contingent of pirates to competitive work boat crews running “all ahead full” in their effort to take top honors in their respective divisions.

The landscape will be filled with characters and adornments, from eye patches to tri-cornered hats, strapless silk dresses to sidearms and swords. Add food vendors, live music, car show and beer garden and you’ve got an event menu that’s sure to whet the appetite of all guests.

The action opens Saturday, August 23, 11 a.m. at the main Port dock at the north end of Commercial Avenue. Pass by the massive anchor at street’s end and you will enter an entertainment zone featuring not only spectator sports, but interactive options as well.

Enter your taste buds in the chowder contest, or among miscellaneous other food vendors. Dress like a pirate (pirates of all ages welcome!) prepared to compete, or simply play the role of observer in the popular “Aaaar-off” and “Swagger and Stagger” contests.

Take advantage of an ample supply of water balloons to engage in battle with work boat crews “attacking” with their own barrage of balloons from waterside. Boisterous pirates are actually gentle as kittens, most eager to pause for photo ops between pirate competitions. Definitely bring the camera, as other event features include a car show filled with classic beauties. The Land’s End Bar/Beer Garden will welcome those of legal age who choose to wet their whistles.

As noted, the dockside schedule begins at 11 a.m. A noon memorial service will be conducted a few blocks south at Seafarers’ Memorial Park, then it’s back to the Port dock for a 1 p.m. boat parade followed by a series of exciting races.

See www.portofanacortes.com or Anacortesworkboatraces on Facebook for details.

—Steve Berenston, Anacortes Scene
Cash Donations & Clothing Needed for Back to School Fair

The Salvation Army, in partnership with the Anacortes School District and local community, is preparing for its 14th annual Ready to Learn Fair on Saturday, August 23rd. The annual fair helps fill in the gap for families who are unable to afford all of the costs associated with starting a new school year. Last year, nearly 300 children and teenagers were helped.

Thanks to local service clubs, churches and a giving community, students received school supplies, backpacks, books, as well as haircuts, new or gently-used clothing, shoe vouchers and hygiene products.

Cash donations to help with the cost of schools supplies are most welcome. Donations of new or gently used clothing for students ages 6-18 are also appreciated.

Donations of cash and clothing can be dropped off at The Salvation Army located at 3001 R Ave in Anacortes on Tuesdays and Thursdays 9-12 and 1-4 p.m. If you have any questions, please contact Lt. Josh Boyd or Paula John at the Salvation Army at (360) 293-6682.
It’s hard to believe that Anacortes’ beer festival is already in its fifth year, with that milestone date the Anacortes Oktoberfest Bier on the Pier committee decided it was time to make change. They voted unanimously to shorten the name to Anacortes Bier on the Pier, while retaining some elements of an Oktoberfest this name change will allow the event greater freedom to bring in other musical entertainment and food styles.

Another new and exciting feature this year is the “Hoppin’ on the Water” Bier on the Pier commercial contest in partnership with GoSkagit.com. This contest will play out over the next few months on GoSkagit and Anacortes Bier on the Pier’s facebook pages. Fans of Bier on the Pier will produce a 30 second commercial keeping the theme “Hoppin on the Water” in consideration. Fans will upload their commercial to the GoSkagit page and vote on their favorite. The winner of the contest announced in September will win ten two-day tickets, hotel accommodations and their commercial will be featured on Washington State Ferries as part of our 2015 Bier on the Pier campaign and more! All commercials will be shown at the event. You can find more information about the commercial contest from our website and facebook page.

There are many partnership levels available for you to be a part of this great event and market your business, please contact Cecilie (360) 293-7911 at the chamber and she will guide you to the level that best suits your business needs.

We would like to thank the following 2014 Bier on the Pier Sponsors:

- **Barrel**
  Birch Equipment

- **Keg**
  Shell Puget Sound Refinery
  Tesoro Refining and Marketing Company

- **Growler**
  Anacortes American
e2 promotions inc.
  Rockfish Grill/H2O/
  Anacortes Brewery

- **Yard**
  Trident Seafoods
  Whidbey Island Bank

- **Stein**
  Island Rental and Supply

- **Pint**
  Cathy’s Accounting and Bookkeeping Services, LLC

- **2014 Chair:**
  **Kevin Pierce – Anacortes Brewery**

- **2014 Committee:**
  Jeff Bear—Intermax Networks
  Cameron Bigge—Fidalgo Island Chiropractic
  April Breckenridge—Anacortes Sun
  Colleen Craig—Windermere Real Estate
  Lee & Betty Dawes—Fidalgo Artillery
  Jim Gordon—Gordon Telecom
  Lisa Helm-Morrow—KeyBank
  Ben Holm—Apothecary Spa
  Brenden Jones—Bank of the Pacific
  Steve McInerney—Individual Member
  Karen Rose
  Tanya Prentice—Birch Equipment
  Rick Star—Rockfish Grill/H2O
thanks...

Thank you to Fidalgo DanceWorks for hosting a lovely July after hours in their garden, and to Secret Cove for donating delicious appetizers for nibbling also thanks to the following businesses for bringing gifts for the give-away!

- Anacortes Sun
- Donatello’s
- Fidalgo DanceWorks
- Fidalgo Pool and Fitness
- Lighthouse Park RV Park & Mini Storage
- Papa Murphy’s Take ‘n’ Bake Pizza
- Read Me A Story
- The Red Door Thrift Shop
- Watermark Book Company

2014 Ambassadors

April Breckenridge—Anacortes Sun
Jack Hamilton—Cap Sante Court Retirement Community
Barry Harter—Central Payment Corporation
Linda Harvey—Anacortes Ship Harbor Inn
Rich Heidecker—Youth Dynamics
Brenden Jones—Bank of the Pacific
Lisa Helm-Morrow—Key Bank
Sarah Jurkovich—Washington Federal
Kari Kennedy—Key Bank
Matt McKay—Nantucket Inn; Anchor Catering
Catherine Mers—Windermere Real Estate
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Tesoro committed to community

An often repeated truth expressed by Tesoro Refinery Manager Dan Cameron is, “We operate at the pleasure of the community.” Commitment to that foundational statement is evidenced by company priorities including personal and process safety, environmental protection and investment in community.

This 59-year-old plant has a strong tradition of outreach, dating back to the mid-Fifties when engineers donated their services to assist with vital City of Anacortes street improvements. Refinery employees were also instrumental in establishment of a Skagit County United Way.

Tesoro Refinery plays a leadership role in the Chamber of Commerce, including “Cornerstone Partner” status for support of a range of Chamber initiatives. Among recent community volunteer initiatives by refinery employees were the American Cancer Society Relay for Life and the refinery-hosted March Point Run.

The annual Tesoro March Point Run was held under sunny skies on June 28, drawing dozens of runners and generating more than $5,000 to be shared between the American Cancer Society and United Way of Skagit County. More than three dozen employee volunteers contributed to the day’s success.

“It’s always a pleasure to open our doors for this great community event,” said Cameron. “It’s gratifying to be part of a strong tradition that yields not only happy participants but funds for charity too.”

Tesoro also contributed as a key sponsor of the Anacortes Relay for Life, held this year in May at Memorial Stadium, Anacortes High School.

Tesoro takes pride in its environmental protection measures. The plant supports an “EAGLES” program to coordinate environmental projects – roadside litter cleanup, Earth Day activities and environmental awareness talks with employees.

In recent months, Tesoro’s commitment to the local community has been strengthened by the establishment of the Community & Tesoro Advisory Group (CTAG). This volunteer group is made up of local residents who have stepped forward to act as an independent source for a credible and productive relationship between Tesoro and neighboring communities. The group meets monthly to discuss refinery issues and local perspectives.

Tesoro volunteers including this group contributed time and talents at Camp Kirby on Samish Island.

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Tesoro and Community Advisory Group (CTAG)
vic (visitor information center) statistics

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Thank you, volunteers!

June 2014
June 2013

Relocation Requests 17 14
Web Visits 13,674 14,199
Web Page Views 35,652 36,667

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