Please join us on June 21st from 5:30-7:00pm at the A Dock Terminal of Cap Sante Marina for this month’s Business After Hours hosted by Island Adventures.

Island Adventures is celebrating 22 years of business in its homeport of Anacortes. The Island Explorer 5 is celebrating its first birthday and this state-of-the-art vessel has made Anacortes the premier whale watching destination in the Pacific Northwest. Island Explorer 5 boasts impressive range, cutting-edge technology, and an expansive menu featuring made-to-order burritos, wraps, and salads.

Island Adventures attracts whale and wildlife enthusiasts from across the country and the world to enjoy the natural beauty of the waters surrounding Anacortes, La Conner, Port Angeles, and Everett. In 1996, Island Adventures carried 1,000 guests. This homegrown company has expanded to carry over 25,000 whale watchers per year from Anacortes alone.

Island Adventures’ main office and gift shop located on Commercial Avenue serves as a one-stop-shop for whale and Anacortes themed gifts. Stop by — their professional crew will be able to answer any whale/wildlife questions you may have!

We look forward to seeing you Thursday, June 21st from 5:30-7:00pm, at the A Dock Terminal of Cap Sante Marina (Dock entrance right across from the Cannery Building, by Seafarer’s Memorial Park), and remember that gifts for the giveaway are welcome! RSVP to the chamber online or by calling the office at 293-7911.
Ernie Hutchins

Ernie and his wife Pattie grew up in Massachusetts. They met at a summer resort dance on the actual “Golden Pond” in New Hampshire. Pattie’s friends dared her to ask him to dance.....the rest is history.

After high school Ernie spent four years in the US Navy and graduated from Bryant & Stratton School in Boston. His first job out of college was working for Anderson & Thompson Ski Company, headquartered in Seattle, at their Boston location. He had the opportunity to help test, market, and sell the first K-2 skis. Pattie worked as a med tech at the Children’s hospital in Boston.

In 1968 they moved to New Hampshire to be closer to the beautiful mountains and lakes. Ernie continued his career in the ski business as one of the managers and ski school director at a small family ski area. In the summers they built homes.

Another Seattle opportunity came knocking in the early 70’s when he went to work for United Parcel Service (founded in Seattle). Over the next 26 years he and his family lived and worked in New England, Alabama, and New Jersey. Ernie helped to open UPS services in Texas, Oklahoma, and its first international territory, Canada.

Retiring in 1998 they thought they would like to try living in the Pacific NW. Anacortes made the final cut after looking at many areas in Oregon and Washington. The small town feel, proximity to the greatest boating in the country, and skiing in the Cascades.

They renovated an old Craftsman style home on 8th street, bought a boat, and built a cabin over on the east side of the Cascades in Mazama. They really like the neighborhood on 8th street. You can walk almost everywhere.

Ernie has worked at the Anacortes Visitor Information Center for eleven years. He enjoys talking with people from all over the world...and always the folks from back east. In their spare time both Ernie and Pattie have traveled to many countries, enjoyed boating on Puget Sound, and most recently baby sitting grandkids. Pattie volunteers with the Friends of Skagit Beaches, and enjoys gardening.

Ernie enjoys handyman work and cooking Ernie and Pattie have three children and six grandchildren. Recently they have all made the move to Washington state. One family in Woodinville, one here in Anacortes, and one that will be moving to the Marysville area in the next few months.

June is one of my favorite months of the year. It feels like everything is alive and the town is filled with fun events. It’s time when we run into our neighbors and welcome our guests.

On Friday, June 1 is the Waterfront Festival Kick-off Dinner produced by the Port of Anacortes. That evening is also the kick off of the chamber sponsored ArtWalk (Friday 6:00 -9:00 pm and Saturday 10:00 am-4:00 pm).

Our own Waterfront Festival will be in full swing Saturday, June 2nd and Sunday, June 3rd. You can read more about all the fun activities later in the newsletter or online at www.anacortes.org.

June also kicks off live music in many outdoor venues: the Heart of Anacortes, Seafarer’s Park, the Depot, and Cap Sante Marina – thanks to so many community sponsors for providing these entertainment opportunities.

The spray pad and a new Born Learning Trail at Storvik park are open to provide more joy and fun for families throughout what is surely to be a beautiful summer. Make sure to take time for a cookout on Sunset Beach at Washington Park – always fun family memories.

The Independence Day Parade is scheduled for 11:00 am on Tuesday, July 4, with the town photo taking place at 10:00 am on the corner of 5th and Commercial Ave. We would love to see more businesses and community organizations building true parade floats.

Many beautification projects began in earnest in May – uptown banners are displayed; downtown flower baskets and planter pots are in bloom; planters along south Commercial and R Avenue have been planted – thank you to the many partners that make that happen.

Enjoy our beautiful island getaway!

Stephanie Hamilton, President
The inaugural Anacortes Boat & Yacht Show on May 17-20 was an amazing success!

- 103 different marine businesses represented shoreside and in the marina
- 243 boats on display representing 115 different boat manufacturers
- 10,000 square foot tent with 50 different marine service providers
- 52 volunteers greeted our guests with enthusiasm
- 5,214 people checked into the show, from as far away as Alaska, British Columbia, Oregon, Massachusetts, and Louisiana

Thank you also to our Venue Sponsor Port of Anacortes for all the help they provide to us before and during the festival. (Pictured is Port Commission President Joe Verdoes and Chairman of the Board Mary LaFleur).

This annual event is our way of thanking all of our sponsors who we could not do this event with out.

Thank you to Trident Seafoods for transforming your space for us, and of course the great fish for the menu. (Pictured here are some of their team members who attended the poster unveiling event)

We look forward to seeing you June 2nd and 3rd on the water, and be sure to get your tickets to the Kick-Off Dinner being held at the Port of Anacortes Transit Shed Event Center!

George Harris, President NMTA, christens the start of the Anacortes Boat and Yacht Show.

LR – Brad Johnson (Cap Sante Marina Harbormaster), Stephanie Hamilton (President, Anacortes Chamber), Katie McPhail (Boat Show Director, NMTA), Richard Riddell (Anacortes Town Crier), George Harris (President, NMTA), Mary LaFleur (ALT Insurance and Chairman, Anacortes Chamber) Laurie Gere (Mayor, City of Anacortes), Joe Verdoes (President, Port of Anacortes Commission), Craig Perry (Chairman, NMTA), Dan Worra (Executive Director, Port of Anacortes)
beautification

On May 6th, over 100 flower baskets were hung with special thanks to Anacortes High School students. We could not have done it without you, thank you!

Getting closer to new welcome sign at the International Gateway near the ferry terminal. Thanks to Tim Fisher of Fisher Excavating for his contribution to this project.

ribbon cuttings

Congratulations to the team at the Swinomish Casino and Lodge - all of your hard work has paid off! With a total of five restaurants, and more gaming space than ever, the facility is truly a partner for Fidalgo Island’s economic impact.

Elizabeth Johnson and family recently opened The Johnson Manor, located at 702 Commercial Avenue. The store carries an array of home and gift items, and brings a whimsical touch to the downtown shopping area. Congratulations and welcome!

Born Learning is a public engagement campaign in Storvik Park that helps to explore ways to turn every day moments into fun learning opportunities! Created and installed by Leadership Skagit team “Skagit Reign” - class of 2018.
The 29th Annual Anacortes Waterfront Festival is only days away! We look forward to seeing many of you at the beautiful Cap Sante Marina for both days of this family-friendly event.

Start the weekend off by attending the Waterfront Festival kick-Off Dinner hosted by the Port of Anacortes on Friday, June 1st starting at 6pm.

Then, at the festival, build memories with the family by going for a boat ride with Anacortes Yacht Club or make a wooden boat with the Fidalgo Island Rotary! Explore the All Corvette Car Show on Saturday, and Custom Classic Car Show on Sunday, both days hosted by the Majestic Glass Corvette Club.

Another festival favorite is the Quick and Dirty Boat Building Demonstration. Coordinated by the Anacortes Waterfront Alliance, teams work from 10am-3pm on Saturday to build boats out of limited materials and then demonstrate their floatability on the water at the marina at 5pm.

There is plethora of entertainment options from our own student choirs and bands to the A-Town Big Band; from the Shifty Sailors to the Vela Luka Croatian Dancers - music runs all day.

The many food options will satisfy any and all appetites and taste buds and wash them down with some great beer from the Anacortes Brewery.
new members

Bronze Palette LLC, The
Anacortes, WA 98221
(360) 610-1025
Denise Ford
maidenbronze@gmail.com
http://madeinbronze.com

Fidalgo Island Heath Center
316 O Ave Anacortes, WA 98221
(360) 588-9108
Jim Bentz
contact@fidalgoislandhealthcenter.com
http://fidalgoislandhealthcenter.com

Karralga Marine & Associates
37018 Millstream Rd Victoria, BC V9B0E8
(604) 612-4820
Rick Snelling
rsnelling4@gmail.com
Sales and installation of sideshift bow and stern thrusters.

Koskovich Design Group
2315 13th St Anacortes, WA 98221
(206) 949-0488
Patty Kosovich
pkosko@xx-link.com
http://koskovichdesigngroup.com
KD G is a full service design firm to help you with material selections for a remodel or new construction as well as interior furnishings.

Northwest Marine Trade Association
1900 N Northlake Way Suite #233 Seattle, WA 98103
(206) 634-0911
George Harris
kateanderson@nmta.net
http://www.nmta.net
The purpose of the Northwest Marine Trade Association is to promote the growth of recreational boating and the businesses of our members.

2018 ambassadors

Chair: Dan Maul - Fidalgo Artisan Yarn Company
Stephanie Bayless - Sherwin-Williams Paint Store
Brandon Carter - Robert W Baird
Crystal Eddy - Skagit Bank
Megan Goldstein - Cap Sante Court Retirement Community
Barry Harter - Central Payment Corporation
Rich Heidecker - Chamber Member
Mindy Holland - Interpreting Technology
Shona Martin - Fidalgo Financial Planning LLC
Jessica Nguyen - Peoples Bank
Richard Riddell - Edward Jones
Meagan Schwab - People’s Bank
Carol Van Iterson - Bank of the Pacific
Charles Yousling - Waddell & Reed Inc

Thanks...

Thank you to Andeavor for sponsoring our May luncheon, and to Kathryn Bennett for the presentation on Leadership Skagit, and also to the Majestic for hosting and for the delicious meal. Thanks also to the following businesses and individual members for bringing a giveaway prize.

- Academy Mortgage
- Anacortes Oil & Vinegar
- Bank of the Pacific
- Boys & Girls Club of Skagit County
- Costco Wholesale
- Express Employment Professionals
- Peoples Bank
- Skagit Bank

Thank you to Anacortes Family Center for hosting the Business After Hours, and for all that they do for our community! The groundbreaking for their new 20-apartment complex was well attended and their guided tours were informative.

member renewals

- CompuMatter
- Craig, Colleen @ Windermere Real Estate
- Creative Cabinets
- Edward Jones - Troy Kunz
- Elsa and Company Charity Outlet
- Farmers Insurance - Curtis Payne Agency
- Irving Construction Corporation ICC
- Island Express Charters, Inc.
- Kiwanis Sunrisers
- Lang Custom Concrete & Construction, Inc.
- Mert’s Taxi
- Seaside Autobody & Accessories
- Seattle Yachts
- Shearwater University
- Skagit Valley College
- Soroptimist International of Anacortes/Thrift Shop
- Total Home Services
travel & words conference

The Travel & Words Conference is produced by a group of travel media and industry professionals who live and work in the Northwest and volunteer their time and skills. The conference was hosted by Explorer Media and Marketing, who is an advertising partner that we’ve been working with for many years.

The conference featured two keynote speakers: Don George, author of 12 books about travel and travel writing and editorial advisor for National Geographic Traveler; and Spud Hilton, travel editor, San Francisco Chronicle.

There were also two different educational panels that were helpful to both the writers who were attending, and the destinations. The Editors Panel focused on how to get the inside scoop on the travel media industry from the perspectives of four professional travel editors. The Destination Marketing Panel helped Anacortes define where we stand in comparison to some other destinations. Four different panelists spoke about their best practices in the tourism industry and how best to build productive relationships with them.

On Tuesday, Amanda participated in the Destination Marketer-Writer Matchmaking. Experienced writers attending Travel & Words sat down in ten minute “speed dating” sessions to explore story ideas and possibly press trips. Sixteen different bloggers and freelance writers learned more about Fidalgo Island - and while no press trips were set up, we learned that many of them had either stayed one night with us in the last five years, or were at least aware of Anacortes.

ifwtwa media trip and conference

The International Food Wine & Travel Writers Association (IFWTWA) is a global network of journalists who cover the hospitality and lifestyle fields, and the people who promote them. They held their conference on Whidbey Island from May 6-8, and Fidalgo Island was able to host several of them on a media trip from May 4-6! Our guests strolled the First Friday Artwalk, and enjoyed the water with guided kayak trips from Anacortes Kayak Tours, and a boat ride around beautiful Deception Pass from Deception Pass Boat Tours. They each enjoyed staying two nights at The Majestic Inn & Spa, after being given a tour of the buildings from Kerra Irwin. They dined with Amanda at 5th Street Bistro, Calico Cupboard, and A’Town Bistro. Many thanks to Lara Dunning for joining in for the kayak tour and a guided tour around the historic downtown. Several new connections were made as Experience Anacortes was one of only thirteen other exhibitors at the conference on May 7th. Amanda even got a chance to catch up with a friend that she knows from outside of the tourism industry! Many thanks to the partners who donated their time or services, and offered discounts or special treats for our guests.
Thank you, volunteers!

Visit us on the web at www.anacortes.org

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Changes in 2018 are not as dramatic for Relocation Requests, Web Users and Web Sessions.

Board of Directors

Cory Ertel Shell Puget Sound Refinery
Kristi Gabrielse Windermere
Mayor Laurie Gere City of Anacortes
Matt Gill Ardeavor
Barry Harter Central Payment Corporation
Diana Jordan-New Bank of the Pacific
Lori Maul Classic Style & Company
Reid Meyers Law Office of Reid E Meyers
Jeff Pleet Edward Jones
Leslie Powell Lighthouse Memory Care
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Mark Wenzel Anacortes School District
Allen Workman John L. Scott
Dan Worra Port of Anacortes

Chamber Staff

Stephanie Hamilton President
Sandy Swartos Visitor Information & Operations Director
Amanda Hubik Marketing & Promotions Director
Heather Miller Events & Communications Coordinator
Kristi Daniels & Crystal Johnson Licensing Sub-Agents

Saturday June 23rd

Whale of a Sale

SAVE BIG on clothing, home goods, gifts, jewelry, and more - just look around on the sidewalks in downtown Anacortes

Coast in. Hang out.