

## **COMANCHE NEWS, AUGUST 2019**

First, our news about up and coming events in the next couple of weeks.

### **HARBOR DAYS**

COMANCHE plans to attend the annual Harbor Days event in Olympia again this year. We will depart Thursday, August 29th from Tyee Marina, 5618 Marine View Dr, Tacoma, WA 98422. All riders must be aboard by 0900. Someone will meet you at the gate up to that time. Don't be late, we don't wait! You'll see how Comanche gets out of Tyee and ride with us up the Hylebos Waterway to off load three engine blocks. We will then proceed to Olympia arriving around 1830 at Perceval Landing, right downtown Olympia. This is a one-way cruise and rides must provide their own ground transportation. There is no charge to ride but donation\$ are sure appreciated!

When you board: BE ON TIME. Dress for the weather. Bring your own eats and drinks (alcohol ok). You may bring a lawn chair if you like. Children must be supervised by a responsible adult. No pets. No handicap accessibility. Sign the "hold harmless" log (all riders board at their own risk.) There are two heads (restrooms), a galley with microwave and refrigerator, running water (but bring your own drinking water is highly recommended.) All we guarantee are enough life-jackets. Riders can explore the ship, take a turn steering on the bridge or stand a watch in the engine room. Plenty to do, games, too, and bunks for naps. Friday, August 30 to Sunday, Sept 1 the Harbor Days will be in full swing. Comanche will be open to the public to explore. There are a couple of shipboard demonstrations planned, too. Painting the anchor chain shots, running the fire fighting hoses and sound the horn and bell. Lots of activities are promoted by the Harbor Days people. See <https://www.harbordays.com/>

### **MEMORIAL**

Monday, September 2, there will be a memorial for our oldest volunteer George Mills who passed away on his 97th birthday in his home in Burbank, CA. George was a World War II US Coast Guard landing crafter coxswain (Higgins boats) throughout the Pacific. George and his wife loved attending Harbor Days. A Coast Guard Honor Guard will be in attendance. The Comanche will be at the Port Plaza, Olympia. Be aboard by 1100. All are invited. The ship will go out into the Budd Inlet for the memorial and return to the Port Plaza. Time out is about 2 hours. 75/60 ANNAVERSARY

After the memorial on Monday Comanche will welcome guest for our 75th (1944) launching anniversary and 60th commissioning as a Coast Guard Cutter (1959). We will cruise out into the Budd Inlet for a few hours with 3 live bands and cake! Those wishing to come there is an optional \$20 ticket to help support the band and underway effort (but it is optional.) The ship will return to Port Plaza before 2000 (8pm).

### **PAST EVENTS 2019**

COMANCHE had a pretty full summer even before summer official started!

In May Comanche cruised to Seattle and South Lake Union Wooden Boat/Seaport/Museum of History and Industry for the Classic Workboat Show. Perfect moorage for Comanche in Seattle attracted a good number of visitors and even some new volunteers.

On Memorial Day, Comanche cruised from Seattle to Bremerton for a joint reunion with Modoc, Comanche's twin Cutter. Modoc has since gone to Mexico for hull work.

Early June, Comanche cruised from Bremerton to Port Townsend via Agate Passage. Comanche was in town during the Steam Punk celebration. Mid June Comanche cruised back to South Lake Union for Father's Day weekend and on Monday returned to Tyee Marina, in Tacoma. Over the 4th of July week, Comanche

anchored out off Old Town Tacoma as the point boat for the air show then returned to Tyee Marina for the next two months.

## **A WORD ABOUT THE STATE OF OUR MUSEUM SHIPS**

### **HISTORIC SHIPS IN TROUBLED WATERS**

(Taken from an article by Johnathan William, President of the Historic Naval Ships Association, ANCHOR WATCH, Summer 2019. COMANCHE is a member of the HNSA.)

“We are seeing a major transition in museum and historic ship industry.

A very serious and challenging situation is confronting us. It is not just museum ships but the museum industry in general. Museums are disappearing. Attendance and funding is become scares.

The majority of our supporters and volunteer base are aging. The maintenance and operation is simply not financially sustainable.” (This includes COMANCHE.)

That being said it is questionable if the COMANCHE can continue to cruise around on the Puget Sound. We do not charge for the use of the ship for visitors or riders. Our donations have sustained 80% or better of our finances, which are not that great.

Your consideration of this is appreciated. The crew of COMANCHE.

We fully intend to keep COMANCHE going. We depend greatly on your donation\$ to do much of that. We have received no grants or public funds. 80% of our budget comes from private donors and the rest from selling scrap and surplus items off the ship. So far we haven't had to cut much of the ship up yet to sell...! It's likely we will suspend cruising unless funds are available prior to a cruise. In 2020, we have been invited as far north as Friday Harbor. Folks up there are raising funds for that extended cruise. If the funds for fuel exist, we may go as far as Bellingham. Plus, we are attempting to retire our debt. This we have committed to do before we do another haul-out, which we hope to do in the next two years.

Donations may be made via Facebook, PayPal or a check to Comanche 202 Foundation, 403 Garfield Street S., Tacoma, WA 98444 “Red skies at night!”

Tentative ports to visit in 2020: Seattle Classic Workboat Show; Bremerton Kitsap Harbor Days; Port Townsend; Friday Harbor; Bellingham; Everett; and Olympia.

See us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/COMANCHE202>