

The
News

DROGHER

February/March 2018

Historical Society February Meeting Will Feature Guest Speaker Eric Plunkett



On **Wednesday, February 28, at 7 p.m.**, the Dana Point Historical Society will present history enthusiast Eric Plunkett as our featured Speaker. Eric graduated with a degree in History from Cal State University Fullerton in 2008. He will discuss a brief overview of the life of Richard Henry Dana, Jr. and his book *Two Years Before the Mast*. In doing so, the early use of Dana Point as an anchorage will be examined. He will also give a detailed analysis of Dana's time in Dana Point, focusing on the locations where the events in the book took place. His article, "Richard Henry Dana at Dana Point," is being published in two parts in the next two issues of the journal *The Branding Iron*, published by the Los

Angeles Corral of Westerners. Eric is also currently working on a blog with a series of articles covering the chronological history of visitors to the San Juan Capistrano area. You can view his blog here: <https://visionsofcalifornia.blogspot.com/>

We will meet in council chambers at **Dana Point City Hall**. A reception will be held in our museum immediately following the program.

Get Ready for the Festival of Whales!

Dana Point's Festival of Whales is once again upon us and the Society will be looking for volunteers to help with our outreach booth on both weekends. We're looking for volunteers to help in two-hour shifts on both Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dates available are March 3-4 & 10-11.

Our booth will be located at the corner of Island Way and Dana Point Harbor Drive, just before crossing the bridge to the island. In addition to selling our historic photos and merchandise, we will be giving out our membership brochures to inform people of our mission and to encourage people to join the Society.

If you would like to help at the booth you can email Newsletter@DanaPointHistorical.Org telling us which day(s) you prefer. You can also leave a phone message telling us of your interest by calling 949-248-8121.

No experience is necessary and *new* volunteers will be accompanied by an experienced Society member. Come on down to the harbor and help promote the history of Dana Point!

If you'd like to read more about the Festival of Whales events, please visit the webpage at FestivalofWhales.com.



Remember that the Society will be giving walking tours on March 3 & 4 starting at Coastal Kitchen Restaurant on Blue Lantern at 2 p.m. The tour takes about 1.5 hours and includes a leisurely walk through the older downtown area of Dana Point and an adjacent historic neighborhood. Groups are also welcome to make special arrangements for tours on March 10 or 11 by calling 949-248-8121.

President's Message



Thirty Historical Society members attended the 5:30 p.m. tour of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church before the Dana Point Historical Society Annual Meeting on January 24. We are grateful to Rev. David Mattson, the pastor of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, who personally led the tour of the new 350-seat sanctuary completed last October. Rev. Mattson explained the impressive architecture, including the glass door entrance that opens to the outdoor courtyard to accommodate another 1,000 people for a service or as a gathering area before and after church services. The donated Austrian Bösendorfer grand piano and the new pipe organ were highlighted as important to the music ministry in the Lutheran Church. A bell tower chimes on the hour and is enjoyed by the congregation, their pre-school students and neighbors. After the tour, society members could take the elevator or the stairs to return to Bankson Hall, the former sanctuary, which now provides space for church meetings and community events such as our Annual Meeting. Our thanks to the Gloria Dei staff for arranging the chairs, tables and providing the navy blue tablecloths for dinner. Historical society members provided delicious salads, casseroles and desserts enjoyed by everyone. Sixty members and guests were present for our annual meeting. Honored guests included Debra Lewis, City of Dana Point Council Member, Sergio Prince, the 5th District Orange County Supervisors Community Relations Advisor, Jeff Rosaler, City of Dana Point Parks Manager and former DPHS Membership VP Regina Barnes and husband Jim Barnes, a past member of the DPHS Preservation Committee. DPHS officers reported on the state of the Society. Parliamentarian Joel Bishop read the slate of officers and directors who were re-elected for terms of office, as named in the January *News Drogher*, and he installed those officers. At the conclusion of the business meeting, Sergio Prince, presented a framed *Adjournment Memorial* on behalf of Orange County Fifth District Supervisor Lisa Bartlett in honor of DPHS member and Founders Day Honoree Colene Schwandt, who passed away in 2017. Nancy Jenkins, Dana Point Arts & Cultural Commission Chair, also presented a drawing of the Heritage Park Memorial Bench designated in honor of Colene, who also founded the Lawn Chair Concert Series. Both documents will be sent to the Schwandt family.

The 2018 Pat Plepler Citizenship Award was presented to Keith Johannes in a special presentation by former City of Dana Point Mayor Bill Bamattre. Bill called upon DPHS Director Terry Walsh who shared the experiences of working with Keith, from documenting and re-installing sidewalk and curb stamps to assisting with historic walking tours and other society projects. Jeff Rosaler commended Keith on his volunteer work for the City from 2009 to the present as one of the first Nature Interpretive Center docents. Bill read the Dana Point Historical Society's framed Proclamation listing Keith's civic, cultural and preservation contributions as written by Elizabeth Bamattre. Keith introduced his special guests who attended in his honor and thanked the society members for the award given in Pat's memory over the past 10 years. The award, endowed by the Plepler family, was established to recognize an individual or group that endeavors to make a difference in the quality of life in Dana Point.



Terry Walsh, Jeff Rosaler, Keith Johannes and Bill Bamattre.

Please join us on February 28 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers for our next program meeting. Bob Minty, Program Director, has arranged for Eric Plunkett to share his research on the hide droghers, as described by our namesake, Richard Henry Dana, Jr. This is an important subject for our Society since the hide drogher is depicted on the Society's logo. As Dana described, "*It was really a picturesque sight. The great height, the scaling of the hides, and the continual walking to and fro of the men, who looked like mites on the beach. This was the romance of hide-droghing!*" --- Richard Henry Dana, Jr., *Two Years Before the Mast*, Ch. 18, Easter Sunday.

The presentation about this early 19th century maritime trade promises to make interesting discussion at the reception that follows our February meeting.

Watermen Plaza

By Bruce Beal

There it is, above, the latest name given to the new city park plaza on PCH across from Doheny Beach, where the Hobie Memorial and statues of 10 other local surfing legends and industry pioneers will soon be located. If you walk between the pedestrian bridge and Carl's Jr. on Pacific Coast Highway, you can see the plaza materializing. You will see the bases for ten legends in their places waiting for their statues. The first statue, now at the foundry, is Phil Edwards, voted the world's first and best surfer by Surfer magazine in 1963. Bruce Brown of *Endless Summer* movie fame, is being sculpted, and John Severson of *Surfer Magazine* fame, is next in line, to be followed by seven other figures.

The Hobie Memorial, an actual size Hobie Cat 14 sailing vessel with Hobie at the helm in a local wave, as shown in the image at right, is in production. Its "wave" water base is currently at the bronze foundry, the Hobie Cat 14 portion is in production locally, and Hobie's figure is in detailing stages and will be ready for the foundry in three weeks. All parts are scheduled for completion this June. Thus, installation and finish are expected in late June or early July, and with good fortune we will have a Hobie Memorial this summer!



The Society can be proud of its large financial contribution and its members' substantial labor contributions to the Hobie Memorial Foundation, as well as its long advocacy and assistance in the integration of bronze sculptures of the greatest local historical surfing and sailing figures into the Dana Point scene, this time across from Doheny Beach, where it all started.

Rock Slide Imperils Historic Gazebo, Harbor Restrooms and Picnic Area



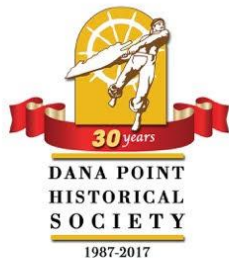
The historic gazebo (pictured at left, from below) at the Ken Sampson Overlook behind Coastal Kitchen restaurant (originally the *Blue Fountain Lunch and Gas Station* owned by Anna Walters) has been closed off because of potential risk from further rock deterioration beneath the structure. Officials first reported the rock slide problem on January 13



when several tons of rock fell from the area to the harbor below. Also damaged was a picnic area and restroom (above) purportedly made from stone left over from the San Juan Point Corporation's original blufftop walkway and Scenic Inn picnic area as stated in its 1924 booklet, *Dana Point*

and Vicinity. OC Parks, which maintains the area, is assessing the condition of the bluff to determine what safety concerns need to be addressed. For now, the restroom and picnic area will remain closed.

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2018 DPHS Calendar

Feb 28 Meeting & Eric Plunkett Program **March 3,4,10 & 11** Festival of Whales **April 22** Meeting & Program (tba)

Membership

Please welcome new member **Joe Jaeger** and new *Life-time Member* **Julie Simer**.

As a reminder, the annual renewals for 2018 were due in January. Thank you to all who have already renewed. The membership categories are as follows:

Individual	\$25 annual
Family	\$30 annual
Business	\$50 annual
Patron	\$100 annual
Life	\$500 lifetime

Also, please check to make sure we have a current email for you. You can also send your email to me at rmlarusso@msn.com. REMEMBER that all contributions are tax deductible as the Society is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization.

Marsha LaRusso

Preservation Committee Update

The DPHS Preservation Committee will present two upcoming “webinars” at our museum. The first, on March 13, from Noon to 1:30 p.m., the California Preservation Foundation will discuss the Secretary of Interior’s *Standards for Historic Preservation* which are used to determine how the reuse of an historic building can retain its historic status. Understanding what those standards are *before* alterations are planned can help renovators, construction companies, designers, etc. make sure the historic integrity is retained.

The second webinar on April 10, also starting at Noon: *Playing Well Together: Coordinating Specific Plans, Zoning Codes and Preservation Guidelines* is important because the historic inventory of Dana Point will soon be presented to the city council for approval and adoption. Once that occurs, the specific topics presented in the webinar are what our city will use as its guidelines.

The webinars are open to any interested individuals. Please call the museum at 949-248-8121 for more information.
~~~ Keith Johannes