



DANA POINT  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

The  
News

# DROGHER

February/March 2015



## DPHS Program Meeting with Special Guest Randle M. Biddle on February 25

Please join us on **Wednesday, February 25, at 7 pm, at the City Hall Council Chambers** at 33282 Golden Lantern, above the DPHS museum for an in depth presentation about the brig PILGRIM. Many of us are familiar with Richard Henry Dana, Jr. and his voyage in the brig PILGRIM to Alta, California in 1834 from Boston, and of his return in the ship ALERT in 1835.



However, much of what has been presented about the PILGRIM since the 1840 publication of Dana's story turns out to be incorrect in many respects. Guest speaker, Randle M. Biddle, shares the findings of his extensive research (in heretofore unexamined primary and secondary source material) directed toward reconstructing the most probable appearance of the brig. Learn more about her history --- before Dana's voyage, and afterwards. Randy's illustrated presentation centers on the process he followed in examining and evaluating what we thought we knew about the PILGRIM. In collaboration with the late Raymond Aker of Palo Alto, CA, a model of the PILGRIM was rendered anew, drawing heavily on the 1830 portrait of the PILGRIM, and reconstructed in more recent fine scale model interpretations. The PILGRIM was an otherwise obscure, prosaic vessel which gained a place in history through the eyes and memories of a 19 year old who went to sea, "before the mast" for literally the voyage of a lifetime. Randy will be joined by Jeff Rosaler, former First Mate and Chief Rigger of the *Ocean Institute's* brig named the PILGRIM to discuss how that vessel came to be, and how it compares to what we now know of the real PILGRIM, built in Medford, Massachusetts in 1825. **Reception follows at the DPHS Museum.**



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Mr. Biddle's overnight accommodations graciously provided by the Dana Point Marina Inn.

**March Events: Festival of Whales and the Fifth Annual Reading of  
Two Years Before the Mast**

**See inside for our complete schedule of events!**

## President's Message



Our February program will continue our celebration of Richard Henry Dana Jr.'s bicentennial year with a presentation about the brig Pilgrim, the tall ship that brought our namesake, Dana, to Capistrano Bay in 1835. Our captain on this journey is Randle M. Biddle, a published author in maritime history from Valencia, California, who builds and repairs model ships. He will share his extensive research to reconstruct the actual appearance of the Pilgrim and will present a copy of his annotated Pilgrim bibliography. Jeff Rossaler has also accepted our invitation to attend the meeting and compare Randy's observations with his experiences as First Mate and Chief Rigger of the Ocean Institute's Pilgrim II.

Members of our Dana Bicentennial Banner Committee have met with city representatives and Dekra-Lite Graphic Designers to create banners that will proudly fly on our city's vertical light poles. Our banners will be raised throughout the city on March 16 and will commemorate Dana as well as the Fifth Annual Community Reading of his classic *Two Years Before The Mast*. The Dana Point Historical Society's goal is to inspire residents and visitors to know more about Dana's personal accomplishments and his cultural legacy.

**We invite you to sponsor a banner** (see insert) as a salute to the educated young man who left Harvard and signed on as a common seaman in search of physical health and adventure. At only 19 years of age, Dana had the wisdom to record his observations on the science of navigation, the life of a merchant sailor and the informal life style of California as compared to Boston. *Two Years Before The Mast* was an 1840s best seller, inspiring young lads to go to sea and adults to emigrate West to experience the California described by Dana during his stops along the coast. On March 27, 28 and 29 join Mayor Olvera, Sheriff Hutchens, Reverend Manson, Brad Gross and many more to become a part of our cultural history when you read aloud or listen to Richard Henry Dana's description of his voyage and "... the only romantic spot on the coast" at the Nature Interpretive Center.

March 7 is the Festival of Whales Parade and the Society's entry is a bright red 1964 Crown Firecoach Pumper generously provided by the California Fire Museum – Safety Learning Center. The pumper originally came from the Orange County Fire Authority, is used at special events and in outreach programs and will be displayed in the future California Fire Museum. Look for three of our Board of Directors riding on the truck, driven by Don Forsyth, California Fire Museum President. Please check the enclosed schedule for the DPHS Booths, Historical Walking Tours and other interesting Festival of Whales activities related to Richard Henry Dana Jr. at the Ocean Institute and onboard the brig Pilgrim II.

Please join us for as many of these informative and fun events as you can!

Barbara Force Johannes

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## Local History in the News

*Dana Point Times*, January 16, 2015: A Landmark Decision: Cook's Point Designated Historic; Cook's Point A-frame the first mid-century modern structure on Historic Resources Register by Andrea Swayne

<http://www.danapointtimes.com/a-landmark-decision-cooks-point-designated-historic/>

*Dana Point Times*, February 12, 2015: It's History: The Best of the Past by Carlos N. Olvera

<http://www.danapointtimes.com/its-history-the-best-of-the-past/>

*San Clemente Times*, January 28, 2015: Historical Happenings: The Economics of Heritage; It's time for San Clemente to take advantage of its history by Raad Ghantous

<http://www.sanclementetimes.com/historical-happenings-the-economics-of-heritage/>

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## Going Digital Saves Us Money!

Remember that choosing to receive your newsletter only via the internet saves us valuable dollars in printing costs. If you have not signed up for the electronic version please consider doing so today.

Email: [DPHSnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:DPHSnewsletter@gmail.com).

## THE YEAR OF DANA - 2015

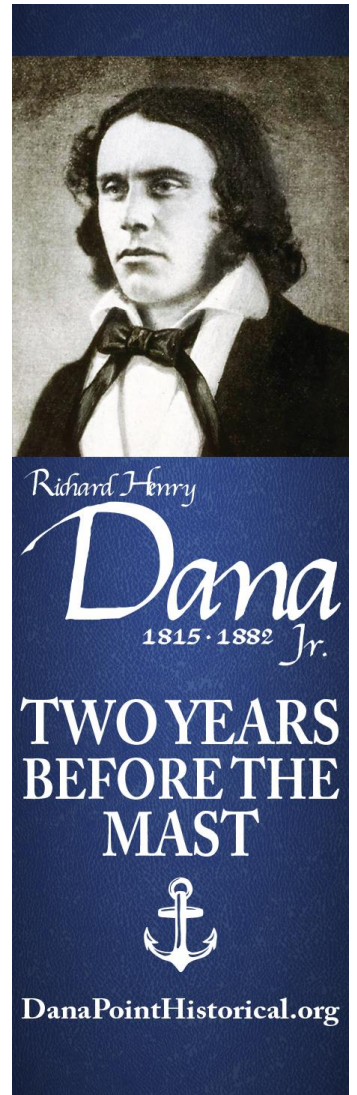
2015 has been designated by the Dana Point Historical Society as *The Year of Dana*, commemorating the bicentennial of Richard Henry Dana Jr.'s birth – August 1, 1815.

Please join us during our marathon reading of Dana's classic, *Two Years Before The Mast*, on March 27, 28 & 29 at the Nature Interpretive Center on the Headlands.

As a special project, beginning this year, the DPHS is purchasing 42 vertical light pole banners (seen right) for installation throughout the city of Dana Point to celebrate the life and works of our namesake.

To mitigate the \$125 expense of design, purchase and installation of each banner – we invite you to become a sponsor. The 8-foot tall banners will be installed twice in 2015 – before the reading in March and during the four weeks over Dana's birthdate in August. The banners will be cleaned, stored and then installed again *each year* for the Reading of *Two Years Before The Mast* to salute the young man who so aptly described our coast in his famous book.

Please fill out the form below to be a Dana celebrant. You will have the distinction of underwriting a banner, gifting a sponsorship to a friend or perhaps in memory of a loved one. You will be recognized in our *News Drogher* newsletter, on our website and your name will be featured on an oversized R.H. Dana birthday card in the DPHS Museum window throughout 2015 ~ The Year of Dana.



Thank you for your support!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### ***Bicentennial Banner Sponsor @ \$125***

If you would like to donate another amount to the Bicentennial Banner Fund, please enter the amount of your donation \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to: **The Dana Point Historical Society**  
**PO Box 544, Dana Point, CA 92629**

For information: Elizabeth Bamattre: 818 636 0471 or Barbara Johannes: 949 496 4345  
*All donations to the 501(c)3 DPHS are tax deductible.*



**Richard Henry Dana, Jr.**  
**1815 - Bicentennial - 2015**

*Two Years Before the Mast*  
by Richard Henry Dana, Jr.

**Dana Point Historical Society**  
**Fifth Annual Book Reading**

**Friday, March 27, 1 pm to 4 pm**

**Saturday, March 28, 9 am to 6 pm**

**Sunday, March 29, 9 am to noon**

**Nature Interpretive Center**  
**34558 Scenic Drive, Dana Point**



The Dana Point Historical Society in collaboration with the City of Dana Point presents the fifth public reading of the complete text of *Two Years Before the Mast*. With a spectacular mural of the Dana Point coast as it was in Richard H. Dana Jr.'s time as background, this is a wonderful way to celebrate the history of Dana Point.

**Readers and volunteers needed!**

To volunteer, send e-mail to [twoyearsbeforethemastdp@gmail.com](mailto:twoyearsbeforethemastdp@gmail.com) or call 949-899-0907. Please provide your name, e-mail address, a phone number where you can be reached, and a preferred time to read aloud for 8 to 10 minutes or to volunteer for a 2-hour shift.

# DPHS March Calendar & Festival of Whales 2015

Festival of Whales: For More information go to <http://festivalofwhales.com/events/arts-and-culture/>



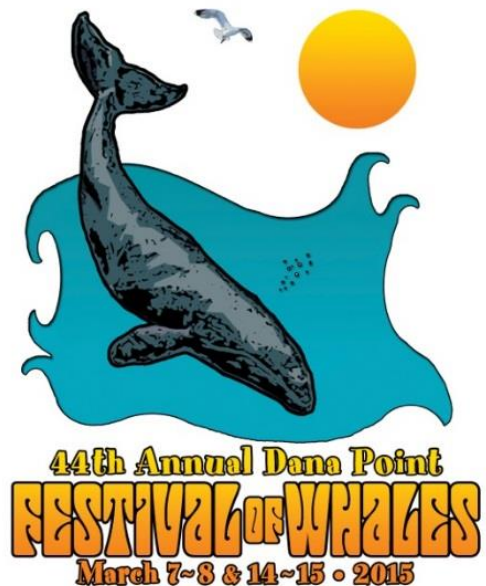
**March 7:** Festival of Whales Parade:  
**Parade assembles at 8:30 AM with a 10 AM start along PCH from Selva Road to Golden Lantern. The DPHS entry features a 1964 Crown Coach Fire Engine (left) courtesy of the California Fire Museum – Safety Learning Center.**

**March 7, 8, 14 & 15: Dana Point Historical Society Art in the Park Booth:** Society volunteers will display a variety of vintage photos, local history and guide books and gift items on the grassy area at the corner of Island Way and Dana Point Harbor Drive. The Festival's **FREE shuttle** has a stop immediately in front of our booth. Volunteers are still needed, especially for

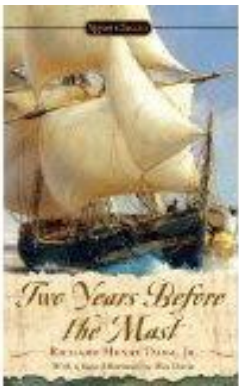
setting up and taking down the tent and booth each of the four days. Contact [DPHSNewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:DPHSNewsletter@gmail.com) if you are interested.

**March 7 & 8: Dana Point Historical Society Walking Tours of Town Center:** At 2 PM meet the guide at 34091 Pacific Coast Hwy (corner of Blue Lantern and PCH) for the historic town center walking tour. See and hear the stories of historic commercial buildings, homes and landmarks c. 1924 to 1939, as well as the area's earlier history. A Walking Tour brochure of Dana Point is included. For more information, call Terry Walsh: 949-493-7118 / cell 949-547-2991; or email: [walshtew@hotmail.com](mailto:walshtew@hotmail.com) or [museum@danapointhistorical.org](http://museum@danapointhistorical.org). This event is FREE – donations accepted. March 14 & 15 tours for groups of 3 or more only by appointment, email at least 3 days in advance or call DPHS Museum: 949-248-8121.

**FOW Water Taxi:** *Daily service available from 10 AM to 2 PM during the two Festival weekends will be offered between Dana Wharf and the Ocean Institute for a minimal round trip fee of only \$5 per person. Present your Metrolink ticket, OCTA bus pass or 91 Express Lanes transponder and ride the water taxi for only \$3 round trip per person. Tickets may be purchased at Dana Wharf Sportfishing & Whale Watching or at the Ocean Institute. Park and then ride this fun new water taxi and take in all the great sites from the water! Your captain will share interesting facts and features about the Dana Point area and its fascinating history provided by the Dana Point Historical Society.*



**March 27, 28, 29: Dana Point Historical Society Fifth Public Reading of *Two Years Before the Mast*:** The marathon reading of Richard Henry Dana, Jr.'s *Two Years Before The Mast* will take place during the last weekend of March starting Friday afternoon from 1 PM – 4 PM in the Nature Interpretive Center at 34558 Scenic Drive on the Headlands. One hundred volunteer readers will read for eight to ten minutes each, completing the



entire book in about 15 hours over the three days: **Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, 1 PM – 4 PM; Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, 9 AM – 5 PM Sunday and March 29<sup>th</sup>, 8 AM – 12 Noon.** This event is FREE. Visitors are encouraged to stop in and listen. For information or to volunteer, email: [twoyearsbeforethemastdp@gmail.com](mailto:twoyearsbeforethemastdp@gmail.com). Following the reading's conclusion on Sunday, there will be a reception at the Society's museum, 12:30-2:30 PM at 33282 Golden Lantern Street, Suite 104. All readers, March events volunteers and Society members are invited.

**Special Thanks** to *Barbara Johannes, Ann Leibowitz* and *Marsha LaRusso* for signing up readers and Watch Masters leading up to the Fifth Annual Reading of *Two Years Before The Mast*. The event is dependent on 100 plus readers and volunteers from the community. Additional thanks to *Georgelean Olvera* who has been busy preparing banners for City entry points. And a **special thank you** to all who have accepted assignments as a reader or Watch Master/Volunteer.

There are just a few reader slots open as the News Drogher goes to press – see the enclosed flier for details if you wish to join us the weekend of March 27, 28 & 29 at the Nature Interpretive Center on the Headlands.



**March 7, 8, 14, 15: Bob Minty Talks Whaling & Pilgrim/Sailor Activities (10 AM-12 PM)**

**March 7: Whale's Tail Sail; March 8: Facts & 'Fin'tasea (Mermaid Sail)**

**March 14: LiteraSea (Moby-Dick & the Essex); March 15: Two Years Before The Mast Sail**

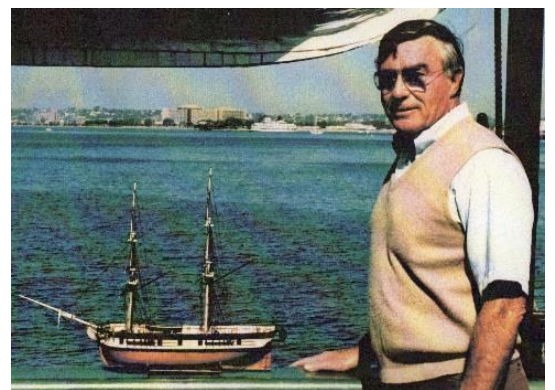
**And much more at: <http://www.ocean-institute.org/events/fow.html>**

### **Dr. William F. Brown, Master Model Ship Builder**

Dr. William F. Brown is a master model ship builder who has created more than 50 model ships since 1955. An Orange County native, he attended school in Anaheim, Fullerton Community College and California Medical Center in San Francisco. After graduation, he practiced dentistry in Long Beach, where he and his wife Jeane raised their two children. Dr. Brown, now 92 years of age, retired from dentistry in 1975 when he moved to Fallbrook, California, to pursue his work as a master ship modeler, gardener, to enjoy '40s music, classic cars and travel with his wife.

As a Maritime Museum of San Diego Trustee Emeritus and Advisory Committee member, Dr. Brown has a special interest in ships with important historical ties to San Diego and California, including the brig Pilgrim that brought *Two Years Before the Mast* author Richard Henry Dana Jr. to the California coast in 1835. The model of the brig Pilgrim displays incredible attention to detail and will be part of the 2015 ~ Year of Dana exhibit celebrating Dana's bicentennial August 1 birthday and will remain on display until mid-September.

Dr. Brown's ship models are recognized for their skilled craftsmanship and have been exhibited in a variety of museums and shows including the Maritime Museum of San Diego, the Smithsonian Institution, Mystic Seaport Museum, The Peabody Museum in Connecticut and the Los Angeles Maritime Museum.



*Dr. Brown and his model of the brig Pilgrim c1980.*

The Dana Point Historical Society wishes to acknowledge Dr. Brown for his generosity and trust in loaning the Dana Point Historical Society his model of the brig Pilgrim now on display.

## 2015 Annual Meeting

More than 60 DPHS members and guests attended our January 26 annual meeting. Once again, covered dishes arrived at the appointed hour and the Gloria Dei Fellowship Hall provided a great location to share delicious food and participate in the evening's program. After dinner, the business meeting was conducted



*Mary Crowl*

according to the Society's bylaws. The minutes of the January 2014 Annual Meeting were read by Heidi Hyde, Secretary, and approved. The 2014 Financial Report was submitted by Paul Hinman in the January News Drogher. Parliamentarian Mary Crowl announced the slate of officers for re-election who were then approved by vote of the members present. The installation of elected and appointed officers was conducted by Mary Crowl. Mary retired from the Board of Directors after volunteering 15 years in various offices, including Photo Chair, Editor, Home Tour Committee Chair and Co-President, but she will continue as the excellent museum docent she is. The

Society presented Mary with a framed DPHS Limited Edition ornament as a token of appreciation for her years of service.

The minutes of the January 2014 Annual Meeting were read by Heidi Hyde, Secretary, and approved. The 2014 Financial Report was submitted by Paul Hinman in the January News Drogher. Parliamentarian Mary Crowl announced the slate of officers for re-election who were then approved by vote of the members present. The installation of elected and appointed officers was conducted by Mary Crowl. Mary retired from the Board of Directors after volunteering 15 years in various offices, including Photo Chair, Editor, Home Tour Committee Chair and Co-President, but she will continue as the excellent museum docent she is. The



*Joel Bishop*



*2015 Pat Plepler Award recipient Dick Dietmeier*



*Mike Dunbar*

Joel Bishop introduced Dick Dietmeier as the recipient of the 2015 Pat Plepler Award and called on Betty Burnett, Mike Dunbar, SCWD President Wayne Rayfield and last year's Pat Plepler Award recipient Jim Miller to "toast and gently roast" Dick for his



*Betty Burnett*

civic contributions including harbor revitalization and his dedication to the improvement of water quality during his ongoing tenure with the South Coast

Water District. A DPHS proclamation was read and presented to Dick with the \$500 award provided by the Plepler Estate in recognition of civic activism in Dana Point. Dick shared that he was honored to receive the award and spoke about his respect for Pat Plepler and her efforts in early harbor revitalization. Dick thanked Society members and promised to use the cash award toward his "bucket list."

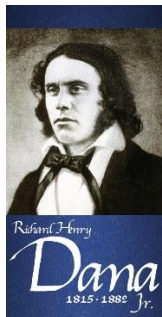
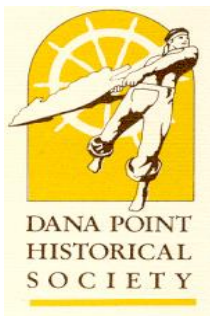


*Wayne Rayfield*



*2014 Pat Plepler Award recipient Jim Miller*

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## 2015 DPHS Calendar

Feb 25 Program

March 7 & 8 FOW

March 27, 28 & 29 TYBTM

## Membership

Please welcome new members **Karine Parry and Patricia Christiansen**

### *Membership Dues*

Your membership dues are important. Our activities, such as the newsletter, program meetings, collection and preservation of documents and photographs, are funded by your dues.

**Annual dues for 2015 were due in January.** The membership categories are as follows:

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

Look on your address label to see if you have a date of 1/15. If so, please remit your dues at this time.

All contributions are tax deductible as the Historical Society is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization.

Marsha LaRusso

## Volunteers!

Please remember the Society is always looking for volunteers for our various projects and events. Presently we have a great need for museum volunteers, assistance with our Festival of Whales Booth the first two weekends of March and help with our Fifth Annual Reading of *Two Years Before the Mast*. See inside this month's *News Drogher* for details about each event.

Please contact [DPHSNewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:DPHSNewsletter@gmail.com) if you are interested in volunteering at the museum for a two hour shift.