

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION
of the
**CAPE BLANCO
 HERITAGE SOCIETY**



CBHS BOARD MEETINGS: Currently held at Point.B Studio at 10:00 AM on the 2nd Tuesday of every month.
PLEASE NOTE: Our meetings are open to everyone who would like to attend. We invite and encourage anyone interested in CBHS to participate!

On Location at the Lifeboat Station Museum



L to R — Don McMichael, Wayne Gage and Steve Roemen at the Museum; Restoration of Lifeboat No. 36498 in 2022; Detailing the lifeboat.

The second and third episodes of “Living History Movies” featuring a conversation with Don McMichael and Wayne Gage, the last surviving officers of the Port Orford Lifeboat Station when it was still in service, are now complete. This project began in 2022 while Lifeboat No. 36498 was being restored at the station. The work in progress on the project provided the



Don McMichael in the '60s.

perfect backdrop for the two men’s stories of life atop Coast Guard Hill. The compound back in those days consisted of a house for the officer in charge, the barracks building (where the museum is now located), an office building, a water tower, a garage, storage buildings, pump house, a lookout tower and the old boathouse (that no longer exists) that held two lifeboats (#36495 & #36498). Both men served at the Port Orford Station before it was decommissioned and took the lifeboat out of Nellie’s Cove on its last trip out. They relate many stories in the movies

about the capabilities of the lifeboats and of the men who piloted them. The tales are interesting and amusing and it is wonderful to finally have these stories recorded for posterity. In one anecdote in particular they wonder what happened to much of the gear used in training such as a beach cart that as Don remembers “was completely intact with all of the equipment on it and it could have gone into a museum, but in those days museums weren’t quite interested in the changing that the Coast Guard was doing.”

Wayne and Don have always been great supporters and contributors to the museum since its inception. Fortunately, through considerable effort on behalf of the Point Orford Heritage Society, Lifeboat #36498, was indeed returned to the museum in 2000 and thanks to restoration efforts by the Cape Blanco

Heritage Society in [2004 and again in 2022](#), it is one of the best preserved 36’ lifeboats of its kind. An enclosure was added by Oregon State Parks to protect the vessel from the extreme seasonal marine climate. Work to preserve this irreplaceable piece of history continues and you can learn more about what needs to be done and how to help [on our website](#).

These three movies will be available at the Lifeboat Station in 2026. For more stories on life at the station with Don and Wayne, read [“Museum opens in Oregon Coast Guard station”](#) published on June 21 2000 (Susan Chambers, AP) which was first released the year the museum opened. ✨



WATCH THE MOVIES: Click the photo to watch all three episodes!

New Activities Planned for Jubilee and U.S. Coast Guard Day

IN 2026 we plan to add new activities to two of our seasonal events at the Port Orford Lifeboat Station Museum to support the ongoing work of our group.

A film screening of our new Living History Movies will be on display in the media room (*second floor*) at the museum throughout the day of the Jerry Can Races traditionally held during the Port Orford Jubilee. This will be a welcome addition to this annual tradition and it will be interesting to see how we can expand the event in the future. For instance, we would love to hear from filmmakers (*young and old*) with

an interest in creating materials about our historic sites. Film screenings in the future could be possible. The films will be available onsite for viewing throughout the open season.

Also this year, we plan to have vendors at our annual “Picnic in the Park” during the U.S. Coast Guard Day festivities. We have had repeat interest in adding support for this type of activity as a means for artists and craftspeople to help support the historic sites and the activities of the Cape Blanco Heritage Society (*proceeds of sales at the event will specifically support a CBHS fundraiser project, such as “Save Our Lighthouse” or Lifeboat No. 36498 Restoration*). Details

are being finalized and we will make them available on our website, our Facebook page and Heritage Journal newsletter (*become a member of the Cape Blanco Heritage Society to receive a subscription*). If you are interested in participating in



The 2024 event poster for U.S. Coast Guard Day featuring the artwork of Don McMichael (bottom). The event will be on August 2nd in 2026 this year and feature a new poster!

this event and would like to reserve early, please contact the Cape Blanco Heritage Society at 541-332-0521 or heritage32@frontier.com. ⚓



Become a MEMBER of the CAPE BLANCO HERITAGE SOCIETY



OUR MISSION: To provide interpretative and educational services for the Cape Blanco Light Station, Historic Hughes House and Ranch and the Port Orford Lifeboat Station. We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and your donation is tax-deductible.

Mail this portion of the form with your check made out to:
Cape Blanco Heritage Society. P.O. Box 1132 Port Orford, Oregon 97465.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION	MEMBERSHIP TYPE	DUES
NAME:	INDIVIDUAL	\$ 15
ADDRESS:	FAMILY	\$ 25
CITY/STATE/ZIP:	BUSINESS or ASSOCIATE	\$ 50
PHONE:	CITIZEN HISTORIAN	\$ 100
EMAIL:	BENEFACTOR	\$250—\$500
FAVORITE CBHS SITE:	LIFETIME MEMBER/MAJOR GIFT	\$1,000
	TOTAL ENCLOSED:	