JOHN HORN NAMED
SEA RANCHER OF THE YEAR

By Claire McCarthy
Teacher, mentor, inventor. Actor, carpenter, designer, gardener, biologist, environmentalist. All-around great guy, hard worker, helper and friend.

According to the many cohorts and colleagues who nominated him for the honor, it would be tough to find anyone who has worn more hats, pitched in more willingly, or taken better advantage of the opportunities to share his talents with the community than this year’s Sea Rancher of the Year, John Horn. Whether he’s designing and building sets for the Thespians during play season or digging into water meter pits during a water emergency, John demonstrates an energy and enthusiasm that inspire everyone around him.

Born in Seattle and raised in Los Angeles, John joined the Navy after earning an AA at Pasadena City College. During leave from his stint as a mechanic in the Naval Air Force, he met his future wife Katie on a Southern California beach in 1953. The two began dating and maintained a long-distance relationship after John went back to sea—“she’s got a whole stack of really corny letters,” he admits—and married in 1955.

They moved into veteran’s housing at Occidental College and John graduated in 1960 with a B.S. in Biology. He went to work as a high school biology teacher in the Los Angeles city school system and quickly proved himself to be a man who went above and beyond the traditional requirements of the job.

The staff analysis was conducted after questions were raised at the November budget workshop about whether TSRA had sufficient staff resources to achieve the 2008-2009 goals adopted for the Sea Ranch in October. Board members noted that several of these goals, of major importance to The Sea Ranch, will place additional requirements on staff as they conduct what are ex-
Working summers, John earned a Master’s degree in Biology at Washington State. The whole family (John, Katie and their two children) relocated to Washington for eight weeks each year, and it was during one of their trips up the coast in 1964 that they first saw The Sea Ranch. They eventually bought their lot in 1973, and “our friends thought we were crazy,” John recalls. “They said, ‘You paid ten thousand dollars for what?!’”

Originally John’s intention was to build a house himself, but he and Katie finally decided to hire Don Jacob in design and Matt Sylvia to build it. “We pretty much just trusted them to finish it,” he says, and, in spite of a run-in or two with the Coastal Commission, the basic house was completed in 1977 at a cost of twenty-nine dollars a foot. John did get to do the finishing himself—flooring, tile, painting and fencing.

The Horns put their new house on the rental program and finally moved to the coast when John retired in 1986. “Actually, moving here full-time was Katie’s doing,” John admits. “She thought LA was just too hot and once she found out what the weather was like here, that was it!”

During his first ten years on the coast, John worked for rental agencies doing handy-man and repair work, and also had a mowing business doing handy-man and repair work, and also had a mowing business doing handy-man and repair work, and also had a mowing business doing handy-man and repair work, and also had a mowing business doing handy-man and repair work, and also had a mowing business doing handy-man and repair work, and also had a mowing business doing handy-man and repair work, and also had a mowing business doing handy-man and repair work, and also had a mowing business doing handy-man and repair work, and also had a mowing business doing handy-man and repair work, and also had a mowing business doing handy-man and repair work, and also had a mowing business doing handy-man and repair work, and also had a mowing business doing handy-man and repair work, and also had a mowing business doing handy-man and repair work, and also had a mowing business doing handy-man and repair work, and also had a mowing business doing handy-man and repair work, and also had a mowing business doing handy-man and repair work, and also had a mowing business doing handy-man and repair work, and also had a mowing business doing handy-man and repair work, and also had a mowing business doing handy-man and repair work, and also had a mowing business doing handy-man and repair work, and also had a mowing business doing handy-man and repair work, and also had a mowing business doing handy-man and repair work, and also had a mowing business doing handy-man and repair work, and also had a mowing business doing handy-man and repair work, and also had a mowing business doing handy-man and repair work, and also had a mowing business doing handy-man and repair work, and also had a mowing business doing handy-man and repair work, and also had a mowing business doing handy-man and repair work, and also had a mowing business doing handy-man and repair work, and also had a mowing business doing handy-man and repair work, and also had a mowing business doing handy-man and repair work, and also had a mowing business doing handy-man and repair work, and also had a mowing business doing handy-man and repair work, and also had a mowing business doing handy-man and repair work, and also had a mowing business doing handy-man and repair work, and also had a mowing business doing handy-man and repair work, and also had a mowing business doing handy-man and repair work, and also had a mowing business doing handy-man and repair work, and also had a mowing business doing handy-man and repair work, and also had a mowing business doing handy-man and repair work, and also had a mowing business doing handy-man and repair work, and also had a mowing business doing handy-man and repair work, and also had a mowing business doing handy-man and repair work, and also had a mowing business doing handy-man and repair work, and also had a mowing business doing handy-man and repair work, and also had a mowing business doing handy-man and repair work, and also had a mowing business doing handy-man and repair work, and also had a mowing business doing handy-man and repair work, and also had a mowing business doing handy-man and repair work, and also had a mowing business doing handy-man and repair work, and also had a mowing business doing handy-man and repair work, and also had a mowing business doing handy-man and repair work, and also had a mowing business doing handy-man and repair work, and also had a mowing business doing handy-man and repair work, and also had a mowing business doing handy-man and repair work, and also had a mowing business doing handy-man and repair work, and also had a mowing business doing handy-man and repair work, and also had a mowing business doing handy-man and repair work, and also had a mowing business doing handy-man and repair work, and also had a mowing business doing handy-man and repair work, and also had a mowing business doing handy-man and repair work, and also had a mowing business doing handy-man and repair work, and also had a mowing business doing handy-man and repair work, and also had a mowing business doing handy-man and repair work, and also had a mowing business doing handy-man and repair work, and also had a mowing business doing handy-man and repair work, and also had a mowing business doing handy-man and repair work, and also had a mowing business doing handy-man and repair work, and also had a mowing business doing handy-man and repair work, and also had a mowing business doing handy-man and repair work, and also had a mowing bus...
MIDWINTER MEETING CELEBRATES COMMUNITY

By Nancy Carter, Chair, Communication Committee

A funny thing happened on the way to the Midwinter Meeting! It wasn’t really a meeting, rather a gathering of friends sharing information, ideas and expectations. Witness the sun shining for the first President’s Day weekend in years, beckoning all of us to enjoy the many reasons we came to the Sea Ranch in the first place; nevertheless, a limited and spirited cadre of some 100 members filled the Del Mar Center Hall.

The Question & Answer period, sometimes a contentious affair, consisted of only one question. The Board Treasurer’s report reviewed how a proposed significant dues increase had been scaled back and, to everyone’s surprise, no questions were asked. The Sea Rancher of the Year award presented to John Horn (see accompanying article) was almost a sentimental recognition of a member who through his full time residency and years of service had paid his dues many times over and was as popular a choice as could be remembered.

The Midwinter Membership Meeting is one of two meetings hosted annually by the Communication Committee to bring members current on Association business, to reestablish the volunteer contributions of members as a major part of Association activities and accomplishments, and to strengthen our community cohesiveness.

Highlights included:

- Norman Wolken, Chair of the Election Committee, announced that four candidates (Chris Beach, Martha “Dibby” Tyler, John Forenti, and Derek Bray) had filed for the 2008-2009 Association activities and accomplishments, and to strengthen our community cohesiveness.

- Hanne Liisberg and Marghi Hagen, Volunteer Coordinators, explained their process and role in assisting those who want to volunteer to be put in touch with groups and organizations needing help.

- Louise DeWilder, Director of Emergency Services, updated the audience on continuing improvements to the Disaster Operations Plan and its implementation, citing lessons learned in the recent water and power outages this winter. She stressed the need for all members to register their home (Sea Ranch) telephone numbers for instant notification during an emergency (See her current article in The Bulletin for 3n System phone notification and registration).

- Lisa Scott, Executive Director of the Department of Design Compliance and Environmental Management, reported that California and Sonoma County changes in building codes in designated wildlife-urban interface areas, including Sea Ranch, are conducting “ignition tests” on wood used as exterior siding, and at the present time, only horizontal tongue and groove is allowed, though debate is still clarifying vertical siding and board and batten requirements. Only new construction is affected by the changes. This code change brought the only question to the presenters and Board.

- Lisa answered the question, “Will changes in the code require changes to the CC&R’s and a member vote on the changes?” The short answer is that nothing in the code changes is in conflict with the CC&R’s since changes in law and state regulation override the CC&R’s.

- Two special announcements followed: Jim Jordan conveyed his apologies for missing the meeting, and that she is home at the Ranch and convalescing from her serious illness. She sends her thanks to all who supported and prayed for her during her absence. The meeting chair then introduced past Sea Ranchers of the Year in attendance, who in turn warmly welcomed John Horn to their special group.

- The short meeting sent all scurrying to the Del Mar House for food, friends, and fellowship. The three F’s highlight what this meeting is always about.

by Nancy Carter, Chair, Communication Committee

The Midwinter Meeting celebrates community by bringing members current on Association business, reestablishing the volunteer contributions of members as a major part of Association activities and accomplishments, and strengthening our community cohesiveness.

Highlights included:

- Norman Wolken, Chair of the Election Committee, announced that four candidates (Chris Beach, Martha “Dibby” Tyler, John Forenti, and Derek Bray) had filed as candidates for the 2008-2009 election.

- Jim Jordan, Board Chair, turned our attention to another election, that of Sonoma County Supervisor, and to the efforts to familiarize candidates for that position to the needs and special issues of our location and Association, and to invite members to a Meet the Candidates reception and forum on March 29.

- Bob Pounds, moderator of the meeting, highlighted how much Sea Ranchers give to the Mendonoma Community by asking volunteers in a variety of organizations and activities to stand and be recognized, until hardly a person remained seated.

- Our new Volunteer Coordinators, Hanne Liisberg and Marghi Hagen, explained their process and role in assisting those who want to volunteer to be put in touch with groups and organizations needing help.

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New Fire Code Affects Choice of Building Materials

By Lisa Scott, Executive Director, Department of Design Compliance & Environmental Management.

On January 1, 2008, under Chapter 7A (Wildland Urban Interface) of the 2007 California Building Code, California implemented new requirements for building practices and materials used in new construction within CAL FIRE (formerly CDF). State Responsibility areas. The Sea Ranch is included within these areas, which tend to be non-incorporated, rural areas. The code targets damage to structures caused by windborne burning embers which “lodge” themselves into the openings on the exterior of a building and can cause the structure to burn. Specifically, the new code pertains to both residential and commercial projects and addresses exterior siding, roofing, glazing, gutters, decking and stairs, skirting of exterior underfloors, enclosure of exterior soffits, and venting of building cavities. A critical aspect of the new code, and of primary concern to The Sea Ranch, is the requirement for “non-combustible” or “fire-ignition-resistant” exterior siding and decking materials.

Redwood and cedar, the preferred choices for siding and decking at The Sea Ranch, as well as other lumber products used in exterior construction must pass state-mandated fire tests in order to be code approved. Therefore, wood product organizations have been working with state officials in conducting fire tests to meet the new standards and in acquiring product and practice acceptance. Currently, the wood products (not chemically treated) approved thus far, such as Western Red Cedar, Incense Cedar, Port Orford Cedar, Alaska Yellow Cedar and Redwood, all require horizontal application with specific types of interlocking joint profiles, tongue & groove being one of these. Further testing is planned to expand the acceptance of other lumber products used in exterior applications, with additional patterns (vertical), and species expected to be approved in the near future. A complete and detailed listing of approved products is located in the Wildland-Urban Interface Products Handbook (www.fire.ca.gov/wildland.php). To obtain a better understanding of the codes, you can access more information at http://www.fire.ca.gov and click on “LIVING AND BUILDING IN THE WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE (WUI)”. It is strongly recommended that members planning to engage in a new construction project access this website for further information and resource listings.

Although these new codes apply strictly to new construction only (not additions or remodels), it is important to pay attention to other restrictions of the Wildland Urban Interface and 2007 California Building code enforcement. A few examples are the requirement for specific applications of tempered glazing in exterior windows, increased guard rail height, and the use of approved ventilation methods. These specific requirements, when used in combination with code-approved products such as siding, are crucial to protecting the structural integrity of a building in the event of a fire.

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