

THE HISTORY OF THE OLYMPIA HARBOR DAYS LOGOS



An exhibit by the South Sound Maritime Heritage Association (SSMHA) and Olympia Arts + Heritage Alliance (OAHA).

Harbor Days was established in 1974 with a small gathering of tugboats and other historic vessels. The first tugboat race was held in 1975. In 1978 downtown merchants, artists and musicians organized to start a companion shoreside HarborFair. By 1983 both events were combined into one festival with the logo, designed by Karla and Chuck Fowler, to have a dual purpose as identity for the festival and as recognition and a coveted award for the attending Puget Sound vintage tugs and skippers. The tugboat in the logo changes annually.

To become a “Logo Boat” the tugboat had to have been the oldest tug in attendance the prior year that had not previously been awarded the title. The logo is displayed on publicity materials, shirts and hats, and other festival merchandise. Many of the tugs in the subsequent years were illustrated by Karla. Some have been illustrated by other designers.

In this exhibit in the windows of this historic 1912 building (formerly City Hall and Fire Station) you will find the 41 unique logos of Olympia Harbor Days, from 1983 to 2023, and four posters from the pre-logo era.

Did you attend any of these years?
Which is your favorite tug?
Have you seen the tugboat races?
Do you know the origin of tugboat racing?

EXHIBIT OPEN NOW!

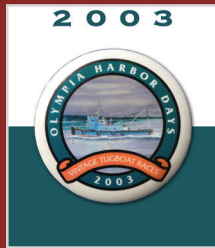
And, save the date to celebrate
Olympia Harbor Days Festival
September 1-3, 2023.

a sidewalk art and
culture exhibit in the
windows of the historic old
city hall and fire station at
the corner of state street
and capitol way.

View at 108 State Street, Olympia, WA



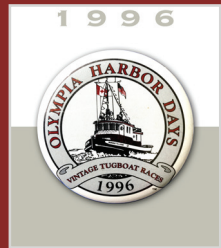
2023
50 Year
Anniversary



2003
Little Joe
(1919)



1995
HH Hubble
(1922)



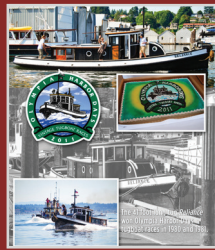
1996
Nanaimoi Tillicum
(1924)



2008
Gleaner
(1908)



2012
Thea Belle
(1941)



2011
Reliance
(1909)



2016
Patrón
(1937)



2021
Kathy M
(2014)



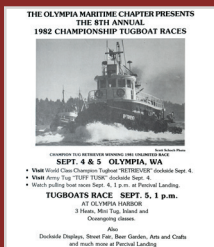
2017
Teal
(1949)



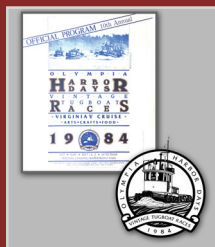
1990
Tillicum
(1901)



2009
Excaliber
(1908)



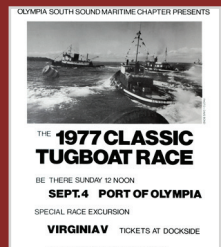
1982
Retriever
Featured Tug



1984
Rustler
(1887)



2005
Favorite
(1937)

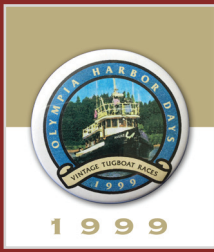


1977
Sunset
Featured Tug



For information about this year's
50th Olympia Harbor Days celebration events
September 1-3, 2023. Info@HarborDays.com





1999
Marlin II
(1906)



1993
Western Navigator
(1917)



1998
Daring
(1925)



1997
Lorna Foss
(1903)



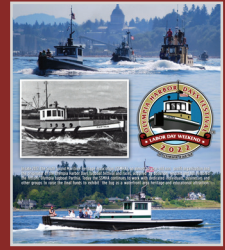
2007
Creosote
(1921)



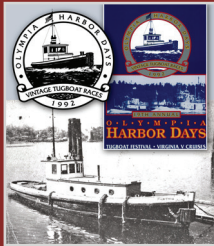
2023
Chippewa
(1943)



1983
Sandman
(1908)



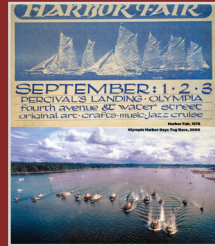
2022
Parthia
(1906)



1992
Parthia
(1906)



2018
Cedar King
(1970)



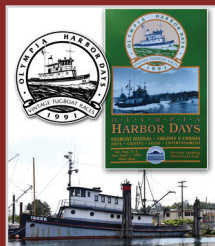
1978/2000
Harbor Fair/
Tug Races



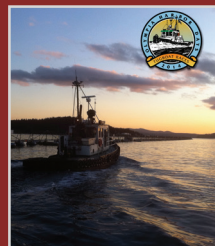
1985
Katahdin
(1899)



2002
Palomar
(1926)



1991
Irene
(1902)



2014
Reliable
(1945)



1986
Arthur Foss
(1889)



For a more information about South Sound Maritime Heritage Association (SSMHA), membership, and an extensive history of Olympia Harbor Days.

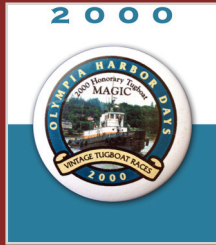




1994
CHALLENGE
(1890)



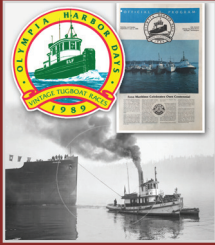
2004
Thelma S
(1925)



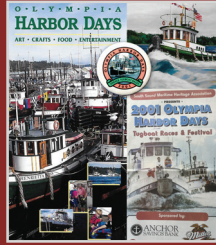
2000
Magic
(1923)



2023
50 Year Anniversary



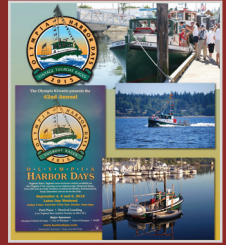
1989
Elf
(1902)



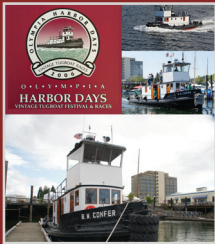
2001
Henrietta Foss
(1930)



2020
Smitty J
(2002)



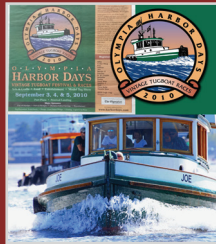
2015
Maggie B
(1961)



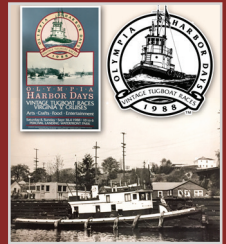
2006
R.W. Confer
(1930)



2019
Danni K
(1916)



2010
Joe
(1942)



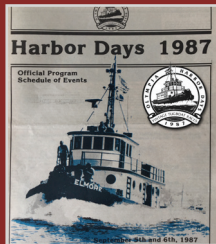
1988
Wallace Foss
(1897)



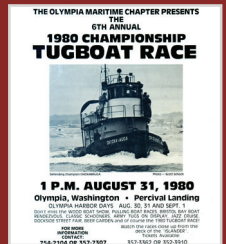
1978
Odin
Featured Tug



2013
Galene
(1943)



1987
Elmore
(1890)



1980
Chickamauga
Featured Tug



MARITIME WASHINGTON
NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

Shaped by Sea & Story

Olympia Harbor Days and SSMHA are proud supports of the Maritime Washington National Heritage Area at www.PreserveWa.org.