

RANCHO BODEGA HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Welcome

Welcome to our first annual Discover Day Festival, you are discovering for the first time or re-discovering once again our matchless Sonoma fishing port.

Greetings to all, commercial fishermen, sports fishermen, deep sea, dock, rock, surf, abalone and crab - greetings to all beachcombers, you who gather shells, driftwood, rocks, pictures, or most important of all, the serene pause in our busy lives that gives fuller meaning to the business of earning, welcome to all clam-diggers, skin divers, water skiers, boat owners, shutter bugs and graphic artists.

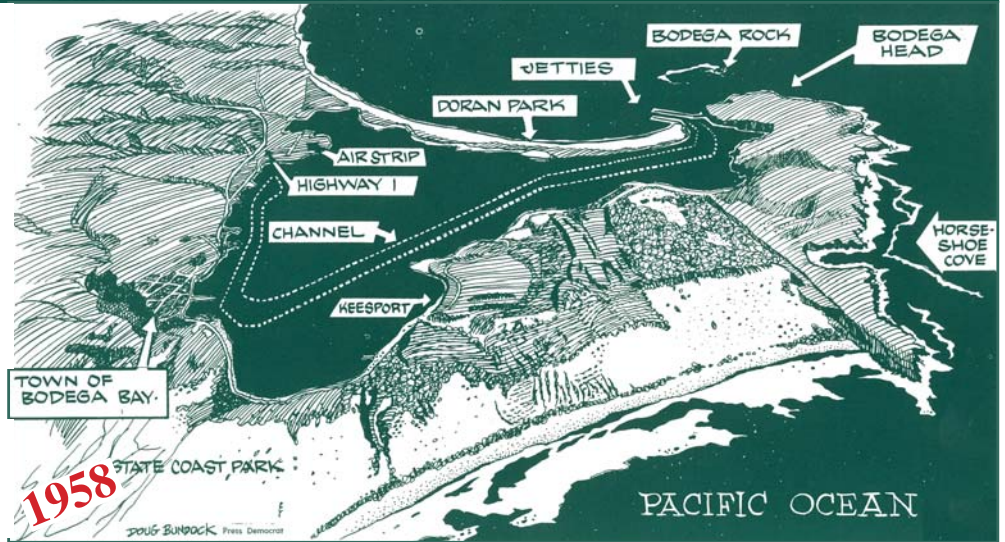
Let us salute the memory of Lieutenant Juan de Bodega y Quadra who, sailing down the coast from Sitka in his tiny sloop the Sonora, thought he had found San Francisco Bay, which had not yet been entered by water, but learned, on Oct. 3, 1775 that he had discovered a smaller, but also beautiful harbor on what is now the Sonoma County Coast.

Thank you, Lieutenant for making your discovery in October, between our busy commercial fishing salmon and crab seasons, and when our weather is almost uniformly sunny and sparkling.

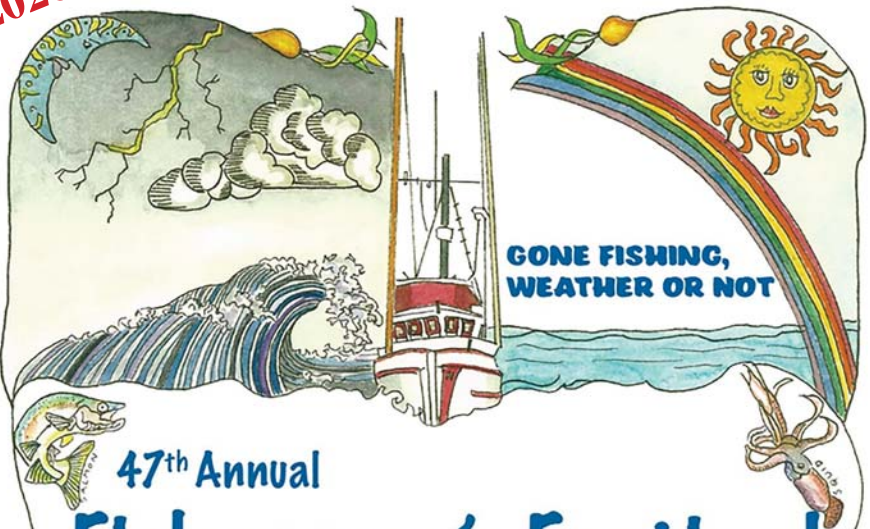
DISCOVERY DAY FESTIVAL

BODEGA BAY 1775 - 1958

SONOMA COUNTY CALIFORNIA



2020



47th Annual Fisherman's Festival

May 2 & 3, 2020

10AM - 5PM

Westside Park, Bodega Bay

FACES OF BODEGA BAY

Speaking of Fish Fest ... Meet Joshua (Josh) Steven Perucchi

by Robin Rudderow



Josh is an enthusiastic supporter of Bodega Bay's Fisherman's Festival. He first volunteered his support for Fish Fest as a student at Tomales High. Starting in 2007 he assisted with site setup as a member of the Bodega Bay Fire Protection District. In 2015 he became Vice Chair and in 2018 was proud to be named the Festival's Chairperson.

The Perucchi Family have been local Ranchers and Firefighters for generations. Growing up in Bodega on his family's dairy farm, established in 1952, Josh developed a passion for animals and an appreciation for the land.

He helps out on the ranch moving animals, fixing equipment, harvesting hay in the Spring and spreading manure in the Fall.

But being a third-generation rancher is his second job. At a young age Josh knew he wanted to be a fireman, following in the footsteps of his father and grandfather. At age 16 he joined the Bodega Volunteer Fire Department. In 2007, after training and graduating from Santa Rosa JC's Firefighter Academy, Josh became a Bodega Bay Firefighter. He then earned his A.S. Degree in Fire Technology and obtained his Paramedic Certification. He was

FACES OF BODEGA BAY

named Bodega Bay's Firefighter of the Year in 2013. Currently, he is with the Petaluma Fire Department as a Fire Engineer and Paramedic.

Josh's coastal loyalty is strong. He continues volunteering for the Town of Bodega as Fire Captain and Grant Writer. His excellent leadership has raised \$700,000 in grants. The money was used to purchase firefighting equipment and two new fire engines!

Josh and his wife Kelsey were married in 2017. Their first child was born in July 2019.

Asked what makes Bodega Bay special, Josh explains "I like the small town feel and beauty of the Pacific Ocean. I was lucky to grow up in Bodega where Bodega Bay was in my backyard."

We are lucky that Josh Perucchi is a dedicated leader and lifesaver in our community. ■



A regular appearance in our quarterly newsletter, The Faces of Bodega Bay is a photojournalistic record of people in our town: school kids, surfers, shop owners, fishermen, restaurant workers; a whole gamut of people who live and work in Bodega Bay and help make it the wonderful community that it is. These "environmental portraits" portray the subjects in their natural environment, capturing their character and telling their story through their surroundings.

FACES OF BODEGA BAY Project by:

John Hershey, photographer
hersheyj@mac.com

Robin Rudderow, archivist
rbhs@bodegamoons.net

FROM THE ARCHIVES

When Hitch and The Birds Came to the Coast

by Andrea Granahan

In the early 60s Alfred Hitchcock was ‘The Man’ in Hollywood. Not only did he have an immensely popular television series but he had just made the box office hit movie *Psycho*. He wanted to make another. In 1961 he read Daphne du Maurier’s short story *The Birds* and hired a screenplay writer to turn it into a script.

He had discovered Bodega Bay while shooting his film *Without a Doubt* in Santa Rosa. He decided to set the film there. The location crew came to Bodega Bay to scout for settings and to find lodgings for everyone. There wasn’t much choice in those days. It was The Tides or a campground. Hollywood may throw money around in some places but when it comes to locations they are penny-pinchers. They tried to bargain with Wanda Zankich, owner of The Tides, but they had met their match. On the 30th anniversary of the film’s release in 1963, Wanda said in an interview “They told me they would put Bodega Bay on the map and wouldn’t I cut the prices. I told them those are my rates, what I always charge. Take it or leave it. They took it.”

They decided to use Rose Gaffney’s house on the west side of the bay. Rose was still battling with PG&E over her land and was very wary. But the Location Chief charmed her into it. The house was run down and Rose was just using it as a weekend retreat then. They rebuilt the entire façade and added a barn and a gazebo to shoot the birthday party scene. After the film shots, the late Donna Freeman bought the gazebo at Rose’s estate sale and moved it to her Compass Rose Gardens. Many couples have been married under it, including some of Donna’s children.

Hitch used many locals as extras as he cinematically combined Bodega and Bodega Bay into one town. He and the cast got to know everyone while the towns had fun watching Hollywood at work. People told a lot of stories about the filming during the anniversary celebration in 1993.

When they filmed Tippi Hedren, dressed in her green

suit and the mink coat she wore in almost every scene, she slipped and fell into the Bay. While everyone else scrambled to rescue her, Hitch simply turned to his assistant and said in his British accent,



FROM THE ARCHIVES

“We are going to need another mink.”

Some of the film crew had the nasty job of going to a dump to film seagulls. They tied rotten meat to their cameras to get the birds dodging right into the camera. Real and phony birds were used in the filming. Some of phony crows have found a home at the Casino in Bodega where Hitch and the cast enjoyed libations.

Whenever Hitch drove up from the city in his limo he had pockets full of matchbooks from San Francisco’s famous eateries and night clubs. He handed them out to the local kids. He seemed to have had a soft spot for children.

While filming the scene when Tippi finds Suzanne Pleshette’s body pecked to death by birds, a school bus let out a first grader at the corner. As the little girl walked home she saw Pleshette in her make-up and fainted. She was carried to her house. Hitch stopped the filming and went into the home where the child lay on a couch with Pleshette and the make-up artist. He had the artist remove and then redo the make-up until finally the child laughed. Hitch got up and went out to resume filming saying, “Good. She won’t have nightmares now.”

He let the locals watch while they set up scenes as long as when the clapper cried “Action!” everyone ducked out of sight. While the filming went on and Hitch was endearing himself to locals, he was apparently stalking Tippi Hedren. The film *The Girl* was made in recent years about it, and Tippi was very candid in interviews.

Hitch became the High Lord when he was in Bodega Bay. He had English sole flown in from Britain while he was in town. That annoyed Wanda Zankich. “I told him our local fish was fresher but he insisted. I thought he was a snob at first but before long we learned to like each other.”

When the film was shown during the anniversary celebrations in Bodega, it was like opening up an old family album. Instead of succumbing to the horror and suspense, people called out to each other.

“Look at what a hottie Glenice was!”

“Stevie, you’re so little then.”

“How’d they make Rose’s old house look so good?”

Just two films that qualify as “folk movies”. One is *Gone with the Wind* in the South, and other is *The Birds* in Bodega and Bodega Bay. ■



Thank you to Bruce and Connie Martin for their generous donation of *The Birds* photos to RBHS, taken when they were young students at SRJC.



COMMUNITY EVENTS



PLEASE VOLUNTEER FOR THE FISH FEST

Meet your neighbors and help your community.

When you volunteer at the Fish Fest on behalf of RBHS you enjoy free admission and a \$5 food voucher.



1. Pick a shift : Saturday or Sunday, May 2nd or 3rd
9 am to 1 pm OR 1 pm to 5 pm
2. Request where you would like to assist.
3. Let us know if you are scheduled and would like to designate RBHS.

RBHS Volunteer Coordination: Ren Brown 707-875-2922 or rbc4art@renbrown.com




RBHS Open House

**Rancho Bodega Historical Society
Saturday, May 16th 10 am to 2 pm
Behind the Bodega Bay Elementary School
1200 Canon Street, Bodega Bay**

**Explore our wonderful archives:
fascinating books, file folders full of historical surprises, maps
and DVDs about historic people and places in the area.**

**Historical Photos on Display
Informative booklets and articles for sale.**

Our sincere thanks to our Advertisers, Supporters, Donors & New Members



Robin Rudderow
Attorney at Law
Estate Planning
Wills and Trusts
Bodega Bay, CA
(415) 298-6925 cell
rrlaw@bodegamoon.net



D. REN BROWN
1781 N. Highway One
Bodega Bay CA 94923-0156
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rbc4art@renbrown.com
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John Hershey Photography
Bodega Bay Photographer
hersheyj@mac.com
www.jhersheyphoto.com
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BECOME A MEMBER !! Enjoy the history of Rancho Bodega. Please join us. Subscribe for a year and receive the RBHS newsletters ... \$15 individual (\$20 family). Support the stories of Bodega Bay. Email Robin Rudderow for details.

THANK YOU TO OUR NEW DONORS

Patricia Engman

WELCOME TO OUR NEW ADVERTISER

The Tides Wharf

Thank you to Carol Sklenicka of the former Jenner Community Club who donated wonderful newspaper clippings and documents from the 1940s and 50s. The collection, originally gifted by the late Elinor Twohy long time Jenner resident, includes the **1958 brochure for Discovery Days** featured in our cover article this Spring 2020 issue of the RBHS newsletter.

If you have similar artifacts of Bodega Bay History to contribute to RBHS, please reach out to Robin Rudderow, our Archivist at <RBHS@ bodegamoon.net>

BOARD MEMBERS

Archivist

Robin Rudderow
rbhs@bodegamoon.net

Treasurer

Linda Mark
LJMark2@comcast.net

Member at Large

Ren Brown
rbc4art@renbrown.com

Newsletter

Melinda Pahl
Melinda.Pahl@comcast.net

Webmaster

John Maestri
JohnMaestri@comcast.net

Member at Large

Andrea Granahan
granahan10@gmail.com

**Rancho Bodega Historical Society, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation
PO Box 1027, Bodega Bay CA 94923**

Spring 2020 - Rancho Bodega Historical Society - 7

Rancho Bodega Historical Society
PO Box 1027
Bodega Bay CA 94923
www.RanchoBodega.org

IN THIS ISSUE



Fisherman's Festival

Since 1973, the Fish Fest has celebrated our local fishermen. The Festival is all-volunteer and proceeds benefit Bodega Bay Area community services.

Hitchcock and the Birds



In 1961 Hitchcock read Daphne du Maurier's short story *The Birds* and hired a screenplay writer to turn it into a script. After discovering Bodega Bay he decided to set the film here and the locations crew came to Bodega Bay to scout for settings.

SPRING EVENTS

THE 8th ANNUAL HITCHCOCK FILM FESTIVAL Friday March 27th & Saturday March 28th
Bodega Bay Grange Hall, 1370 Bodega Avenue, Bodega Bay. POSTPONED UNTIL A LATER DATE.

THE 47TH ANNUAL FISHERMAN'S FESTIVAL Saturday & Sunday, May 2nd & 3rd, 10 am to 5 pm, Westside Park in Bodega Bay. Featuring Live Music, Entertainment, Wine Tasting, Beer Booth, Local Cuisine Food Booths, Art Show, Crafts Fair Exhibits and Children's Events. Tickets available at <<http://www.bbfishfest.org/>>

THE RANCHO BODEGA HISTORICAL SOCIETY OPEN HOUSE Saturday, May 16th 10 am to 2 pm, behind the Bodega Bay Elementary School at 1200 Canon Street in Bodega Bay. Explore our wonderful archives, fascinating books, file folders full of historical surprises, maps and DVDs about historic people and places in the area. Historical Photos will be on display and informative booklets and articles for sale. For more information contact: Robin Rudderow <rbhs@bodegamoon.net>

SEAMAN'S CEMETERY The Rancho Bodega Historical Society is working with the Smith Family and Graton Rancheria to recognize and honor Native Americans and early settlers by respectfully marking a historic plot of land on Heron Drive in Bodega Harbour. Formerly owned by the Smith Family, Graton Rancheria holds the title to the burial ground overlooking the sea and Bodega Bay on one side. The other side overlooks the valley where Highway One winds among the steep hills and canyons of our Coastal Prairie below.<http://www.ranchobodega.org/seamans_cemetery2.pdf>

For more local events, visit our website. <<http://www.ranchobodega.org/events.html>>