Now Hear This!

Sandboxes and Volunteers

Turner Joy volunteers have to be careful about what they raise their hands for. Three years ago, yours truly raised his hand to write this newsletter. Two years ago, John Kieft, our fearless Lead Volunteer raised his hand to lead us. Both of us have been trying to find a sucker person to relieve us ever since. So, a few months ago Greg Baer raised his hand to build a sandbox. Yes, a sandbox.

This isn’t just any sandbox. It’s an Augmented Reality Sandbox. You can Google that and get a lot more info on it than we have space for here. We haul it to schools and various STEM events and use it as a hands-on aid to teach kids about geographic, geologic, and hydrologic concepts like how to read a topography map, the meaning of contour lines, watersheds, catchment areas, levees, erosion, etc. Of course, Greg and our President, John Hanson just like to play with the sand. All 200 - count ‘em, 200 - pounds of it.

Now, they have to wet the sand a little bit to reduce the dust, so that means the sandbox has to be waterproof. Enter Bruce Tegge and Deanna Kreshka, owner and General Manager of Silverdale Line-x, they do spray-on bed liners for trucks. Turns out they can also do a spray-on liner for a sandbox. They generously donated a spray-on liner for ours. Read about them at http://www.silverdalelinex.com/about.html.

Greg’s just glad the project’s finished and he can finally get his truck back into his garage.

THANK YOU!

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Silverdale Line-X Protective Coatings
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Volunteers
Greg Baer

FOR YOUR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE HISTORIC SHIP PRESERVATION PROJECT

The USS Turner Joy (DD 951) is a museum ship that pays tribute to the men and women who served, fought, and died during the Vietnam War and beyond. The Officers and Enlisted personnel, who served this ship from 1959 to 1982, left a legacy of honorable service, which is our humble duty to uphold. The ship is a memorial that preserves the US Navy and maritime heritage in the Pacific Northwest as a place for education, reflection, and fun. A place for local area residents and tourists to enjoy the beautiful downtown Bremerton waterfront.
WASHINGTON STATE SCIENCE FAIR

For the last several years, BHSA has had a booth at the Washington State Science and Engineering Fair. WSSEF advances the study of Science and Engineering in grades 1-12 throughout the State of Washington and provides the opportunity for students to display their projects and be judged at annual Regional Fairs as well as the annual State Science and Engineering Fair. The organization is dedicated to “promoting future scientists and engineers”. Read more about the state science and engineering fair at http://wssef.org.

But the sandbox was the biggest draw. Probably because kids of whatever age just can’t resist playing in the sand.

Aside from the sand in the box, the heart of this is a system that projects contour lines and colors onto the sand. As the kids move the sand in the box, the height of the sand changes, which in turn causes the contour lines and colors to shift. Sand below a certain height is considered underwater and turns blue. If you put your hand in between the projector and the sand, as Greg is doing in the photo, the system “sees” a cloud and it starts to “rain” below your hand and blue water runs off to lower elevations. Of course, here in Washington State, we don’t need computers and sandboxes to explain the rain.

This year our booth had some old standbys like balance birds, hydraulic experiments and putt putt boats from our existing STEM curriculum. There were also new mini robots provided by the U.S. Naval Academy.

The robots are about the size of a golf ball and will follow a line that the kids draw on a piece of paper with different colored Sharpies. They glow and change color depending on the color of the line. Check them out at https://ozobot.com.
**HISTORY AND HERITAGE**

Navy sailors have always trained. As part of a crew and as individuals. Today’s active duty sailors are no different. They train in their rate. They train as part of a crew or unit. When they become petty officers, they train as leaders. Part of that training is knowing who and what came before them.

This month, a group of Petty Officer Second Class Master at Arms (MA2) selectees from Naval Submarine Base, Bangor came aboard as part of their Naval History and Heritage training. Many of them had never been aboard a Navy ship before. TJ volunteers Doug Church, John Kieft and Brian Roades (not pictured) welcomed them aboard and gave them a tour sprinkled with crusty lies and sea stories and the history of the ship and her namesake ADM Charles Turner Joy. It was a privilege.

This years **Kitsap Great Give** is on April 24th. This is a major fundraising opportunity for us because donations are multiplied by a “bonus pool” that adds to your donation. Donate by clicking on [https://kitsapgreatgive.org](https://kitsapgreatgive.org) and follow the prompts. Thank you!
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Thank you!