



In 2010, the Secretary of the Interior selected the Northwest Schooner Society to be custodians of the eight acre light station. The three remaining buildings, constructed in 1906, were a mess.

Weather, neglect and vandalism had taken a substantial toll in the forty years since the light was automated. Everything was wet and many interior fittings had been stripped. But it was still beautiful and substantially sound, with an amazing view of sunset.

We got to work immediately.

**GOAL:** Restore to full habitability; open to the public for day tours and overnight stays.

**NEEDS:** Funding and more volunteers.



Northwest Passages/Northwest Schooner Society  
 PO Box 75421  
 Seattle, WA 98175



## Northwest Passages

### People

Shipmates coming together to make sail, make friends and make a difference.

[www.NWSchooner.org](http://www.NWSchooner.org)

### Restoration

A 1906 light station

A 1927 schooner

A 21st Century Adventure

[www.BurrowsIslandLighthouse.com](http://www.BurrowsIslandLighthouse.com)

### Preservation

Teaching & learning to sail, to navigate, to build, and to maintain historic skills

[www.SchoonerLavengro.com](http://www.SchoonerLavengro.com)

Built in 1927, the Schooner *Lavengro* operates as a sail training vessel with a licensed captain and qualified crew.

NWSS has partnered with Seattle's Center for Wooden Boats to offer free Sunday sails and as well as family sails aboard the *Lavengro*.

In Spring of 2014, volunteers learned some new skill, hand-turning new masts and bowsprit using circular saws, planers and a lot of sandpaper.

**GOAL:** Complete restoration, teach more classes, train more mates and captains. Teach sailing and marine arts.

**NEEDS:** Smaller, more modern engine





Northwest Schooner Society



Northwest Passages



Transitions + Transformations

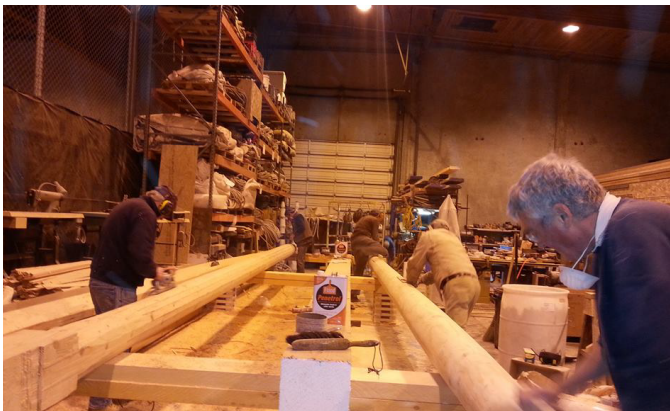
Restoration

The Northwest Schooner Society was formed in 1994 to provide access to skill-building opportunities for volunteers and professional sailors interested in learning traditional maritime arts, from tall ship sailing and navigation to rigging and marine construction. Society volunteers and supporters learned their skills on many of the Northwest's heritage boats, including the schooners Adventuress, Martha, Suva, and Zodiac, as well as on the Hawaiian Chieftain and Lady Washington. Skills were shared with new volunteers aboard those ships and aboard the Society's own schooner, the 1926 Biloxi Shrimper, Lavengro.

Thanks to the skills, and restoration credibility NWSS developed in the maritime history community, the Society was selected to become custodians of Burrows Island Light Station, an 8 acre, three-building complex near Anacortes, Washington. "Northwest Passages," a title recognized by the IRS as an alternate name for the Northwest Schooner



Society used for educational programming, is now being used as an umbrella title for both schooner and lighthouse activities.



Northwest Passages, is restoring Burrows Island Light Station to habitability and historic appearance, with the goal of opening the station buildings to the public for both day tours and overnight occupation. Once restored, the station can follow the lead of other Washington light stations and support continuing restoration and public outreach through program fees and hostelling revenue.

The project is huge but the steps manageable. Volunteers, working with state grants and private donations, have substantially restored the boathouse, patched holes in the still-active lighthouse and cleared debris from both inside and outside of the buildings.

Reroofing the massive Victorian Keepers' Quarters that dominates the station is the primary objective of this grant request, and a keystone to the overall restoration of the light station.



*One ship drives east and another drives west, With the selfsame winds that blow. 'Tis the set of the sails, And not the gales, Which tells us the way to go.*

*Like the winds of the seas are the ways of fate, As we voyage along through the life: 'Tis the set of a soul, That decides its goal, And not the calm or the strife.*

Ella Wheeler Wilcox



Burrows Island Light Station

Northwest Passages

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