

# Norwegian Commercial Club of Seattle



November 12th, 2015



A little Mischief from Fremont and...

## ROCKIN' THE HOUSE BOAT

Guests: Mike & Patti Sherlock

Mike Sherlock is a familiar face on the Seattle waterfront & has been for decades. He grew up on Whidbey Island, born into a non-fishing family. In the early 70's, ironically, it was a sinking boat that launched his life on the water.

He was 18 when he showed up to watch a new boat launch. Unfortunately, the builder was drunk (celebrating success a little too early). The boat fell off the ramp, a huge hole gouged in it, with the tide coming in. Young Sherlock piped up..he could fix it. He knew how to weld aluminum – a skill very few had in those days. He saved the boat.

The boat's owner invited him to Alaska – said he thought he could get him a job there. That was Fred McGill. Mike ran the sop for Petersburg Fisheries, which as you know became Icicle Seafood. It's where he learned to fish too – watching and working beside McGill. A year later, Bob Thorstenson and McGill loaned the “kid” more than \$300,000 to buy his own boat and permit. Mike paid it back fishing in less than 3 years.

Sherlock fished for 30 years – S.E., San Francisco and mostly Bristol Bay, where he innovated many techniques that kept him in the top percent for annual catch.

With his friend Roger Thompson, Mike designed a light-weight, under-dock fire-

fighting system (could have used that at the NOAA yard) and patented the safety collar used on Coast Guard skiffs.

It was keeping some highly-skilled shipwrights employed between projects that launched Mike into building houseboats. He's built about 20 in all, designing each one. Drawn by hand to scale, then building them from the ground up. You may have seen his work featured on HGTV, Discovery and Travel Channel.

We watched a video of his 2.3 million dollar houseboat being built and moved into place on Lake Union. It is the largest floating home in Seattle. It took several days, 2 cranes and use of tug boats to get the home moved from the building dock to its location on the water. It was actually built as a yacht and not a house, so permits were not needed.

Now Mike and his wife Patti own Fremont Mischief Distillery. He knew how to build the processing system from his shipyard work. From there, learning to make great spirits, well, that's just one more interest for a wide ranging, energetic mind. Some of the profits from the distillery go to 5 different foundations and kegs on Sig's boat & the Cornelia Marie are auctioned off to fund-raise after their use.

## **THE BIG EVENT IS NEXT!!** **FISHERMEN'S NIGHT**

**Thursday, December 10th**

Our annual seafood feast & fundraiser for the scholarship fund, where we announce the winner of our King Neptune Award. Even fewer tickets will be sold this year, so there is a limited number.

Buy yours today!

**TICKETS \$55**

**Available at** Pacific Fishermen Shipyard, Mountain Pacific Bank, People's Bank, Banner Bank, Ballard Oil & Lunde Marine Electronics.

It's our final meeting for 2015! Hope to see you there!!

