The Hammer Museum expands with a fifth room

More hammers than ever are on display after the Hammer Museum expanded into a fifth room during the 2012 season. Founder, Dave Pahl, worked tirelessly on renovations throughout the spring and summer, eager to display more objects from his immense collection. The addition was an important accomplishment for the Hammer Museum, now showcasing over 400 hammers that were previously in storage due to space constrictions. The new space features several new exhibits, including Estwing hammers, auto body hammers, and ice breaking hammers, as well as a public restroom and a gift shop area. It also includes a new private living space in the back of the museum that will serve as accommodation for the summer interns. This new living space was enjoyed by the two 2012 Hammer Museum interns, Julie Postma (May - August) and Eric Robertson (August - September). Though the space was under construction for much of the 2012 season, it is up and running for the 2013 season!

Haislers, Haines Home Building Supply, and Lutak Lumber for supporting the nail pounding competition during the Fourth of July
Bob Adkins for designing our newest rack cards
Our Board Members and Founders Dave Pahl, Carol Pahl, Cindy Jones, Joe Ordonez, Greg Rasmussen, Eric Kocher, and Gene Kennedy for their constant dedication!
Don Chase for volunteering during Beerfest
Carol Clifton for making delicious pound cakes during our 10th anniversary party!

The world’s first Hammer Museum dedicated to preserving the history of the hammer, mankind’s first tool.

Special thanks to the following people for their help and support during the 2012 season!
The Marks’ Family Foundation for their annual donation
ILWU & Longshore Division for the $1,000 donation in memory of Roger Potter
Bob Youngren, the President and CEO of Estwing, Dr. Ken Ostrand for donating ancient hammers, and Diane King for donating her painted hammer
The Pioneer Bar, Fogcutter, and Captain’s Choice for supporting the high striker during Beerfest

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Follow the Hammer Museum on Facebook and Twitter!

Newsletter 2013
Last year’s news, this year!
The Hammer Museum welcomed two new interns for the 2012 season. Julie Postma, from Atlanta, Georgia, arrived in May to kick off the season and Eric Robertson, from Madison, Wisconsin, arrived in August to finish it out.

Both interns were chosen for the Hammer Museum based on their interests in history and museum management as well as the exciting outdoor opportunities offered in Haines. The interns led tours of the museum and tackled some special projects. They created a self-guided tour of the museum highlighting 15 especially interesting hammers on display, added items to the museum store, and helped Mr. Pahl create new exhibits for the museum. The interns had the opportunity to go on trips offered by local tour companies as well as explore the town and surrounding areas during their down time.

Julie enjoyed hiking nearby trails on Mt. Ripinsky and Mt. Riley during her time off and going on complementary excursions with local tour companies such as a trip to Skagway to ride on the White Pass Railroad. She also represented the Hammer Museum at the Great Alaska Beer Festival and Southeast Alaska State Fair, two of her favorite summer experiences.

Eric enjoyed hiking on the beautiful trails around Haines and was especially fond of fishing and biking.

The Hammer Museum celebrated its 10th anniversary with a reception August 7, 2012. Approximately 60 people attended the event. Local cake baker, Carol Clifton, donated two delicious pound cakes decorated with hammers. There were also hammer shaped cookies among other treats. We would like to thank the local people and businesses who have supported us over the years, as well as our many visitors from around the world.

- Dave and Carol Pahl

In 2012, our bank check-cancelling hammer appeared on the cover of Thomas L. Aud’s historic monograph about a bank robbery that took place in Jackson, Tennessee in 1859. Local photography artist Dena Selby entered a black and white photograph taken on The Hammer Museum lawn in the SEAK State Fair and won Best of Class and Division Champion in photography as well as 3rd place in novice BW print at the Alaska State Fair. Though not one of ours, we were also pleased to see a hammer gracing the cover of the local phone book. Hammers seem to be on everyone’s mind!

In 2012 Hammer Museum founders, Dave and Carol Pahl, traveled to Toowoomba, Queensland, Australia to nail down a visit with fellow hammer collector Rupe Wisseman. Rupe and Dave have been corresponding for eleven years. Dave said, “It was awesome to finally meet Rupe.” Rupe, who is in his 80’s, is full of energy and great stories.

Besides owning around 3400 hammers, Rupe is also a rock hound with one of the world’s most comprehensive collections of Australian rocks and minerals. Rupe sent Dave home with a 22 lb. post driving maul head, which was designed and produced by his uncle Harry Kessler. The Kessler hammer inspired Rupe to start collecting hammers many years ago.

Returning home, Dave’s unusually heavy but small pack aroused the suspicion of the TSA in Hong Kong. After a short delay, The Kessler hammer and the Pahl’s were cleared for take-off back home to Alaska. The Kessler hammer is now on display at the Hammer Museum here in Haines.