

LIC NEWS



WEBSITE: www.longbranchimprovementclub.org

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OPENING DAY BREAKFAST

Whet your appetite, snuggle into a jacket just in case it is a bit chilly, and head down to the LIC Club's Marina for the best darn outdoor breakfast anywhere on the planet!

- Fresh Strawberries
- Scrumptious Muffins
- Scrambled Eggs
- Hotcakes (or pancakes, if you prefer)
- Sausages
- Orange Juice
- Regular Coffee & Tea

(if you are a decaffan, this is a perfect time to expand your horizons & sample the real stuff. That's not a taste bias - merely an acknowledgement that the supply of power outlets is a tad limited).

Two small bits of advice.

The tide will be down to 0 feet in late mid-morning, so expect the ramp to be pitched a little on the steep side. Also, parking can be a little cramped. Carpooling works pretty well, and some folks like to park at the LIC building and carpool that last little bit down to the marina dock.

May 3rd

Breakfast at the Marina



It's the time (8 a.m. until noon) for all the shellbacks that have been cocooned all winter and the snowbirds returning from desert hideaways to relish our traditional LIC Opening Day Breakfast. Sure, it is a month away, but now's the time to mark this on your calendar as a must-do event.

Doug Sylvers and his crew of skilled volunteers are sticking (by wild popular demand) to the menu proven so popular over the past few years:

This is an event for LIC members AND their guests, Sylvers insists. It is a perfect opportunity to bring your neighbor along to see just what the LIC offers its members and the community. For that matter, bring your kids and cousins and make it an extended breakfast for the whole clan. Those on the dock between about 9:30 and 10 a.m. are in for a photo opportunity and a visual treat. *The starting gun for the annual spring Regatta will fire at 10 a.m. and a fleet of sailboats will head out on a 12-mile race to a buoy south of Anderson Island and return.* Cost you ask? If you had to pay for the great food/entertainment/scenic vista/fun, you'd have to take out another mortgage. As it is, there's a donation jar in the cabana with the top off just waiting for what you drop in!

OPENING DAY REGATTA

Oh what a great time of year with so much promise of warm weather and fair wind and seas.



We'll start off with one of the best breakfasts you can enjoy with all of our friends and acquaintances on the beautiful bay of Filucy. Then at 10:00 a.m. we start the joyous, yet challenging Opening Day Race for members and guests. After the courageous sailors return, with spinnakers flying, from their magnificent race there will be a fine meal of Polish Dogs with all the fixings plus chips and salad for members of our unique club and their guests. BYO Beverage.

Continued on Page 5...

General Meeting Minutes

MINUTES 3-19-2008

7:00 p.m. potluck

Attending:

Dennis Stuhaug, president

Tim Heitzman, treasurer

Dean Latshaw, Dock chair

Sue Stuhaug, Membership chair

Meeting was called to order at 7 p.m.

Old Business:

The outstanding architectural drawings by member Jim Olson for grounds improvements to the Longbranch Improvement Club grounds were reexamined. The 4 areas of potential improvements involved: landscaping and pavers to the patio area between the LIC Building and the south fence; construction of a "bridal bridge" and photo location over the stream just to the west of the building proper; construction of a deck and viewing platform at the pond in the forest (upon the foundation of a now demolished pump house; and construction of an amphitheatre and seating just to the north of the existing building, facing the north entrance which could be used as a stage.

The amphitheatre/seating segment of work excited much interest, but members feared that the location and the size would be insufficient for LIC activities. The stage would be limited to the existing entryway and seating would be limited. A larger facility, to the north and facing the copse of trees, would allow for more seating and a larger stage. Questions were raised as to the amount of materials needed for each project, as well as costs: as the planning is still preliminary these are not available. Timbers for the bridge and viewing platform, as well as for amphitheatre seating, would be milled from donated logs (at least a beginning in hand) and work would be by volunteers other than the portable sawmill for the milling. Members wanted a feeling for costs and a start date for the work.

Ann Deering questioned going ahead with any of the work until ivy infestations throughout the forest were eradicated. Pat Thompson, a noted gardener, said that the ivy while unattractive did not pose an immediate threat to the trees. He said the ivy trunks could be severed at ground level, thus killing the ivy. Phil Ingram commented that the ivy stalks could also be cut and the ends immersed in Roundup to kill the roots. Several members questioned using chemical eradication along the stream. Deering wanted to know if Building Chair Mike Hays or trails chair Rich Hildahl were scheduling a work party to begin stripping away the ivy. Neither were in attendance, and the membership was told that the two would be queried. Pat Thompson will offer his expertise in planning the ivy cutback.

New Business:

The Nominating Committee for the mid-year election (for the posts of president, treasurer, dock chair and membership chair) was announced. Chairman is Joe Barrow, with the committee comprised of John Biggs, Rich Hildahl, Mark Jones and Mike Hays. Barrow, Biggs, Hildahl and Jones are past presidents, Hays is a sitting board member as well as past member of a nominating committee.

Pat Thompson reported on the upcoming Regatta, slated May 3. A 12-mile course is planned, from the LIC Marina south to the Green #3 Buoy on the Nisqually Flats and return. It is a fun race, without handicapping or classes. Cost is \$12 to enter. The Skipper's meeting will be at 9 a.m., with the race starting at 10 a.m.

Mark Jones reported on the upcoming courtesy vessel inspections being offered at the Marina April 26. Any boat owner requesting such an inspection will have the vessel inspected for proper safety equipment by the U.S. Power Squadron. "It is a good reminder to have all your equipment in good order," he said.

Minutes Continued . . . Page 3

Jones also informed the membership that a work party is slated at the Marina March 29, with a number of tasks such as painting, cleaning and maintenance on the agenda. The actual items to be accomplished will depend on the skills of those volunteering their time.

Debbie Ehrhardt and Traci Michel reported that everything was set to go for the first Longbranch Improvement Club Easter Egg Hunt, on the calendar March 22 from 1 to 2 p.m. The hunt is divided by age groups, so that all the kids will have a fair chance at finding treasures.

Membership Report:

Welcome to Mike Runyon, at the first meeting he has attended since joining. The hostesses were thanked: Pat Latshaw, Ann Deering, Eloise Colbert and Maryann McDonald.

Events Report:

Suds & Spuds was a great success, with about 100 people enjoying Irish music, learning to do Irish dances, supping on baked potatoes (with trimmings) and desserts, and quaffing a few drops of the good stuff as dispensed by the tender of the bar Don Davies. For a fun, social event the books balanced amazingly well, with costs well under the \$750 budgeted and income doubling the \$1000 optimistically proposed.

Dock Report:

The major items on the dock are the upcoming work party March 29, and the courtesy vessel inspections calendared April 26. Totem Yacht Club was here in March, kicking off the spring boating season. Other yacht clubs are starting to book space.

Building Report:

All repair and maintenance items on the to-do list for the LIC Building have been completed and are up to date, with two exceptions; there is still a small but nagging leak in the main hall but

while needing to be repaired this has been a low priority item pending any possible block grant funding through Pierce County for roof replacement; and the replacement of several cracked window panes.

Treasurer Report:

The club is in good financial health, with the figures through March 12 all on the healthy side. Annual payments for member moorage and for memberships make a bulge in income at the first of the year, money that will tide the club over until the income from the summer boating program comes in and carries it through the rest of the year. The club, from Jan. 1 through March 12, brought in \$2742.62 in building rental, \$28,489.11 in member, guest and winter moorage (and electrical service; \$2,029 from Suds & Spuds (St. Patrick's Day); \$276.23 in interest income; and \$1858.18 in member dues. Total income (including \$36 for the scholarship fund) was \$35,431.15. On the expense side, building costs for the period came to \$7,229.93, with the largest single item being fuel at \$4,631.80. Dock expenses totaled \$7,006.72, including \$1,369.26 for the DNR lease and \$1,559.42 for electricity. The club spent \$272.91 on events, most completing payments for 2007 events. Miscellaneous items added \$271.54 to the total, to bring expenses to \$14,781.10. The result was a net income of \$20,650.06.

LIC TOTAL ASSETS:

\$116,194.61 including \$30,985.69 in non-depreciated assets

LIC TOTAL LIABILITIES:

\$31,652.86 (money earmarked for special uses or deposits)

LIC TOTAL EQUITY:

\$84,541.75 (bringing total liabilities and equity to \$116,194.61)

*Respectfully submitted,
Connie Hildahl, Secretary*

Presidents Letter . . .



TIME has a different tick here on the Key Peninsula. It is less mechanical, and somehow more organic. Rather than a day sliced and diced into minutes and seconds, many here resonate to the ebbs and flow of tides, to the pattern of wildlife and to the color of our foliage.

The tides determine what beaches we may explore, establish the techniques in a boat race, even affects what time we plan on arriving for the LIC's traditional Opening Day breakfast. As the tide ebbs and the water level recedes, the pitch of the ramp from solid land to our floating docks becomes steeper.

Winter arrives, not as a date on the calendar but on the wings of the scoters, the goldeneye and bufflehead ducks. It is affirmed when the loons hang up their vivid plumage and splash down in drab colors. The winter birds. And winter leaves, not with the absoluteness of a specific number but with the sight of salamanders squirming across a roadway as their migrations begin. I know more than a few folks who patrol the roadways, seeking to save a few of the torpid little beasts - even though if you asked them there would be no way they would touch "one of those slimy little things".

Spring is when the bear cubs surface, when short-tailed raccoon kits play in the mud. Spring segues into **summer** as a glittering green feisty hummingbird defends his chosen sugar water feeder from all comers. We warn visitors to watch for deer in the twilight. Some call it the **end of summer** - here it is called blackberry season & fresh pies for breakfast become the norm.

That's not to say that the Peninsula develops a strain of folks more laid back. **Our time is far more rigid than the mechanical tick-tock heard in urban Seattle.** You CAN apologize for the white lie of being late because of the traffic, or the problems of parking. You CANT stand at the edge of the incoming tide line screeching at the water to go away. Well, not with any positive results.

Commuter hour gridlock might send your blood pressure skyrocketing and put your schedule in the wastebasket, but a six-point buck bounding onto the Key Pen Highway at the wrong instant will totally ruin your day.

Good businesses, good technicians, give a window of when they hope to arrive, and then call if that window shuts on them. Sometimes they make it on their first time, sometimes they don't. Less experienced ones pencil in an arrival time to the minute and are surprised when there is no way on earth for them to adhere to it. We can learn to live with the best, with EQUANIMITY, or we can rail at the injustices of Nature's time...that's our choice! That's why we came to 884 country, and that's why we stay. The scale is more human, and instead of counting seconds, we can hear our heartbeat.

Submitted by Stu Stuhaug, PRESIDENT LIC

Another "884 Story"

Pleased with having completed the April LIC Newsletter formatting, I was drawn to REALLY READ (*instead of just place arranging and text formatting into a tidy layout*) the words and thought behind the President's Letter that Stu devotedly crafts month-after-month . . . I too have become one of the many who looks forward to these writings - Stu's pen to paper "884 country style".

Reading these words shifted my gears (*winding down from a Friday schedule of minutes and seconds, deliberately sliced and diced and yet laughingly still full of surprises*) & then that "thing" came into focus - that "thing" that now reveals itself frequently as I, a 2-year resident of Longbranch have *with some mechanical resistance* been adjusting to . . . EQUANIMITY (*admittedly, I had to peek in the dictionary*) accepting a gift of balance that over time can develop with organic living. **I had thought that MAYBE this "thing" was simply a keynote of what happens as one journey's through their "50's"?** Better yet, I can name that "thing" (*now fondly claimed*) a gift of "884 country living". Communing with a natural tempo - nature and our own heartbeat, Lub Dup, Lub Dup . . . Why WE came here and why WE stay! *Submitted by Norma-Jean Gibson, LIC Newsletter*

Membership Report . . .

As of March 2008 the LIC has 106 paid renewal memberships; 3 new memberships.

31 member volunteers put in 208.5 hours for the month of March. It included such things as road clean up, Spuds and Suds, dock work, newsletter and its mailing, hostessing, building projects, and the Easter Egg Hunt. Thank you volunteers and event chairs . . .

Submitted by Sue Stuhaug, Membership Chair



2nd Annual Spuds 'n Suds

Geoff Baillie put on a great party for guests and members of the LIC. About 90 people were there to enjoy the Irish music of Dale Russ and Mike Saunders. It

seemed that the ones who enjoyed the evening the most were the kids. Especially the dancing ones. All were stunned by the eloquence of the limerick authors--unfortunately some were hard to hear. A few of us tried the Irish step dancing directed by Kathleen O'Grady & Michael Graham. Shorter ones (age 8 and under) danced the night away to the delight of grandparents, parents and casual observers. Others enjoyed the games especially those competitive dart throwing rowdies. So, thanks to all of you who came, who brought friends, and made it an evening of fun! Thanks to Geoff's terrific work crew: Lynn Larson & Tim Heitzman (ticket sales - money management); Phil Ingram (showed up for set-up but decided to improve the ambiance with St. Pat's decor in the great hall!); Mark Runions (thanks for getting that terrific duo!); Peg Bingham & Norma Iverson (baked scrumptious Gingerbread and Oatmeal Cake and handling all food planning & prep.); Mike and Sandy Maroney (headed up kitchen clean-up), Don Davies (Bartending), Others who pitched in 'where and when' they were needed: Barb Copley, David Dahl, Virgil Iverson, (the master of fetch 'N carry), Maudie Lucas, Edie Morgan, Sue and Stu Stuhaug. I, for one, am looking forward to the 3rd Annual Spuds 'n Suds-St. Paddy's Day Prelims in 2009. *Carolyn Wiley*

Applause! Applause! Applause!

The Egg-ceptional success of the Egg-stravaganza was due to the Egg-stra effort Eggs-erted by Traci & Debbie. Thanks from all of us! Carolyn Wiley



Another wonderful family event by the LIC . . .

Saturday March 22nd was the LIC's first ever Easter egg Hunt. I was fortunate enough to be a part of a wonderful event. Thanks to the efforts of Traci Michel, her daughter, Theresa Smith and family, Stu & Sue Stuhaug, Sandy & Cindy Black we had about 55 happy egg hunters and let me tell you the joy on there faces when we yelled "go" was priceless. We served juice, coffee, cider & cookies before and after the event. Due to the beautiful weather that day all the hunting was done outside. Our nature trail isn't just for walking anymore! The most wonderful part of the day was when it was all over and I had many children, young and old come up to me and say "Thank You!"

Submitted by Debbie Ehrhardt



Regatta, Continued from Page 1...

10:00 AM Race Starts

9:00 AM Skippers Meeting

Come join us for a wonderful day of fun with our clubhouse friends,

We will race from Filucy Bay around Green #3 at Nisqually Flats (two fathoms of water), and back to Filucy Bay. The race is 12 miles. The three winners will receive a fine plaque to mount in their boat and the first place winner will have their name engraved on the perpetual plaque in the Dock Masters office with all the other great and formidable winning sailors of the past. NOTE: Those of you that need some brushing up (most of us) on your sailing, contact Sandy Black (884-1309) for a free sailing lesson. Call Pat Thompson (884-5286) or Dylan Lippert (884-2290) to register for the race or register at the event. The entry fee is \$12.00. Thanks, see ya there.

April Calendar of events:

- 2 Dock Committee Mtg. 7 pm
- 9 Board Mtg 7 pm
- 16 General "Potluck" Mtg. 6:30
- 19 Evergreen Elementary School
After Hours Drama Club presents - 0 cost...
"Monkey Magic" A Chinese story theater.
6 pm (LIC members invited to see play).
- 23-24 Reni Moriarity Watercolor Workshop
10 am - 3 pm; Cost \$150 does not include
materials. Contact Carolyn Wiley 884-9157

May Calendar of Events:

- 3 Dock Breakfast 8 am - 12. Bring friends/family
- low tides may be a problem for those with
mobility difficulties.
Regatta 9 am Skippers meeting. 10 am race
begins. 12 mile loop to Nisqually Flats and
back. Cost: \$12. Picnic following. Bring your
own beverage. Contact people; Pat Thompson
884-5286 or Dylan Lippert 884-2290.
- 7 Dock Committee Mtg. 7 pm
- 14 Board Mtg. 7 pm
- 22 General "Dessert" Mtg. 7 pm
- 24 Memorial Day Dance: 8 pm - "Peaceable Lane"
rock band. \$12 per person

More Upcoming Events . . .

Events Planning Meeting at 7:00 on April 8th.

Seeking people who want to be part of the planning & production process of Events to enlighten and entertain LIC members. Looking for people interested in chairing specific Events or specific tasks associated with events, publicity, food service or decoration. Call Carolyn 884-9157 or <c.wiley@mac.com> to assure that here is a cookie for you then Please show up and share ANY/ALL of your ideas for improving our events:

- ◆ those that were done over the last 6 months
- ◆ those that have traditionally been held for years
- ◆ those that are coming up
- ◆ those that should be considered as future events

Sumi and Watercolor Mixed Media Workshop with Reni Moriarity

April 23 - April 24
10 - 3 with lunch break at the LIC
\$140 for 2 days (\$70 per person per day)
Space is limited so pre-registration is required
Register with Carolyn Wiley 884-9157

Reni will demonstrate several different watercolor background techniques which she uses in her paintings and you will learn how to mount paper on board and some sumi painting techniques and suminagashi. Bring a hake brush, Japanese sumi brushes, scrap handmade paper for collage, Daniel Smith watercolors, and /or Japanese or Chinese watercolors. There is a \$10 materials fee for the papers used in the class, and if you do not have a good lightweight board for mounting & stretching the papers gatorboard can be pre-ordered for about \$7 each. Additional paper will be available for sale and Reni brings lots of hake brushes, other brushes and some collage paper & other materials to use. Contact Reni @ 884-4807 if you have questions about materials.

Artist's statement:

In using the traditional tools of sumi-e, watercolor and often mixed media collage I have tried to capture the essence of nature and everyday objects. I am intrigued by the shapes and colors of shells, fruit, and flowers and try to convey a sense of the light and mystery of the "the still lifes" I see around me.

A little about Reni:

Reni moved to the Northwest in her late teens and studied painting and ceramics at the University of Washington. She was influenced by Japanese pottery while studying under Robert Sperry, Marie Woo, and Howard Koettler and studied drawing with Norman Lundin. She was a potter for 20 years and studied sumi painting with Fumiko Kimura, Michi Osaka and Betty Ling. She has exhibited throughout the Puget sound area, France, and Japan. She has won awards at the Sumi-e Society of America National Exhibit and is member of Puget Sound Sumi Artists and Women Painters of Washington.

ALL - CALL

Dock Master Mark Jones has issued a call to LIC members for some volunteer time on the Docks. Remember, "Opening Day" is fast approaching and the old place needs a little sprucing up. What is being called for?:

Porta Potty area - *painting the lattice fence around it.*
Staining the wharf
Hanging signs
Clean out storage facilities
Move the freezer
Check electrical plugs

When: March 29 **Time:** 11 AM

Give Mark a call or send an email to let him know you will be showing up.

Mark 253.884.5653 at lmjones@centurytel.net

LIC Boater's Special -It's FREE

On Saturday, April 26th I will set up my portable sewing machine in the pavilion for small repairs . . .

Do you have small repairs necessary for sails or canvas? A ripped seam or a wear point which needs a reinforced patch? Maybe a missing snap, turn fastener, or grommet? These kinds of repairs are the kind you typically put off having done because they are so small -15-20 minutes. Please, **CLEAN FABRIC ONLY** as Dirt damages my machine. Your choice of white or black thread. Nominal fee for hardware installed.

Questions? Call Robin Gould at 884-3030

NOTE To ALL: Carolyn Wiley and Marlies Van Cise are trying very hard to keep the large calendar on the left side of the office current, so **PLEASE DO NOT REMOVE THE STRING AND THE PENCIL.**

Does anyone have a pair of 6 - 6 1/2 foot oars that I may buy for my son?
Thank you, Marlies Van Cise
884-5608

L I C C O N T A C T S

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Longbranch Classifieds

To place your ad here . . .

Longbranch classifieds are free for members, low-cost for the community. Call Norma-Jean 253.884.6556 or send your ad copy to normajeangibson@remax.net



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