

July 2010



Member Newsletter

Longbranch Improvement Club

For the Betterment of the Community



ENJOY the SUNSHINE . . .

President's Letter . . .

AS SOME OF YOU MAY ALREADY KNOW . . . we lost a valuable and distinguished member of the Longbranch Improvement Club recently. John Glennan passed away on Thursday, June 17, 2010. Our Sunshine Lady, Linda LeBlanc had sent him flowers when we first heard of his illness, and, unfortunately, he passed away before we could determine whether or not he was up to having visitors, etc. The LIC Board unanimously offered the family the use of the Club House for his Memorial, but they had already made arrangements at the Eagle's Club after the service on Friday, June 25th at 11:00 a.m. John gave a great deal of himself in all the volunteer activities he provided for the Club. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family as they suffer through this loss.

As one of my last responsibilities as President, I want you all to know how much I enjoyed working with you and all the support you gave over the past year and a half. The best part was having the opportunity to meet so many of you and share your caring, concerns and accomplishments we were to have, thanks to all the hard work by you. I tried to tell the Board of Directors how very much I appreciated their hard work, support and all that they helped me learn over our time together. Every one of them, including Connie Hildahl, Harry Faas and Carolyn Wiley who were on the Board when I first came on in December of 2008, were truly an inspiration of what the mission is, the goals we were trying to accomplish and it is amazing how much enthusiasm and work we accomplished. I have said many times that they are like family....all a little different from each other, but dedicated to the same goals you, the Membership, have help us set. There will always be more to do, new challenges to be met and best of all, so many old and new friends to help make it all come together. **To say thank you some how just never seems enough; please know that I truly mean it.** The thing that drew me to the Longbranch Improvement Club initially was how much you care about all who live here, the more "senior" residents, the children, anyone in need. The list goes on and on. This is the way we are supposed to be and treat and care for each other, but I have never been anywhere where it was so obvious and that there is an entire organization that carries that out. I'll always remember what one of you told me after I expressed that feeling; "well, out here, we have to take care of each other; there's no one else to do it for us". Don't you wonder what the world would be like if everyone felt and lived their lives like that!!

Now, there is the future of the Marina, the wharf and the County that will take up much of my time and interest. I know that with Geoff and everyone else working together, this too shall be accomplished. Hopefully, while we're still young enough and "with it" to remember what it's all about. I do look forward to continue working with and for you in what ever we can do together.

Submitted by Pat Muchmore, President LIC, 884.3890, patroon9047@aol.com

General Membership Meeting Minutes

Call to Order. Pat Muchmore called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM.

Speaker Edie Morgan talked about The Mustard Seed and services the organization provides so senior residents can “age in place” on the Key Peninsula. There was a short slide show presentation. The Mustard Seed provides information & resources to approximately 30 people per month providing assistance in many ways, like transportation. Tim Heitzman talked about the upcoming Croquet Tournament, to be held on LIC grounds on July 18th. Proceeds from the tournament will benefit The Mustard Seed.

President’s Report: Wharf update: Sitts and Hill has been hired for an initial assessment of the wharf. The company has already looked at the wharf & will issue a written report by 7/6/2010.

“Paint the Block” contest: Designs to paint the ecology block in front of the wharf can be submitted to Dave Wickland (or any other Board Member). The winner get a cash prize and rights to paint their design on the block. Also being considered are planter boxes for the top of the block, and signs reading “Welcome” and “Thank You for Coming”.

Other announcements: Pat also mentioned the Croquet Tournament, and noted that materials like sign-up and info sheets are available in the Clubhouse. Also, a road clean-up will be held on June 18th, from 9:00am to 12:00pm.

Pat asked for a motion to accept the minutes from the May General Meeting as presented. A motion was made, seconded, and passed.

Nomination Committee: Lisa Bryan, Mark Runions, and Gene Brown. Lisa presented candidates to the membership for the following positions on the Board:

President :
Geoff Baillie

Treasurer :
Francie Carr

Membership Chair:
Jan Pritchard

Dock Chair:
Pat Muchmore

No additional nominations came from the floor-all candidates were voted on/accepted by the membership.

Announcements: Lisa Bryan also spoke about the Croquet Tournament and mentioned several different ways to support the event. Carolyn Wiley pointed out that the position for Events Chair is still vacant. Mark Runions is lining up a band for the Labor Day Dance. Pat Muchmore presented a gift to Tim Heitzman, thanking him for serving 5 years as Treasurer.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

**LIC Meeting
Minutes from the
General Membership
Meeting June 16, 2010,
6:30 PM BBQ**

Attendance: Board Members in attendance were Pat Muchmore, Dave Wickland, Gretchen Lippert, Jan Pritchard, Lynn Carr,



**President - Geoff Baillie;
Treasurer - Francie Carr;
Membership Chair - Jan
Pritchard; Dock Chair -
Pat Muchmore.**

*Respectfully submitted by Gretchen Lippert, Vice President
884.2290/gmlippert@yahoo.com*

Membership Survey finds few surprises, many NEW ideas . . .

New solutions to old problems

Our members have lots of ideas to make the LIC better. Here are a few:

Organize carpools for members who don't drive at night • make activities "green" • invite neighbors to events • set up marina blog on website • put more details in newsletter on upcoming events • reach out to and participate in events of other community groups like Civic Center • more event advertising • reader board signs by highway for events • show more respect to older members • start mentor program for new members • better lighting and sound in building • reduce building rental rates • increase building rental rates and eliminate individual item charges • raise moorage fees to keep dock in good repair • fix marina gate (again).

Thank you all for sharing your valuable time, ideas and opinions. Even though our personalities, styles and experiences are all very different, it is abundantly clear we all care about and value the LIC and our Longbranch community. **You are appreciated! Jan Prichard**

P.S. If you were not part of the survey, we still want to hear from you. Please call me at 884-2030.

P.P.S Many thanks to surveyors
Judy Riggs, Sharon Gearhart,
Gretchen Lippert, Jeanne Weston,
Lisa Bryan, and Trish and
Dale Goodvin.

A devoted eight-member research team called every LIC member this spring. Over half of us completed the survey. Questions included evaluating events, activities and ways to make LIC even more involved in bettering our community. Here's a summary of the findings – are your comments and ideas represented?

Keep the volunteers happy

Most members are happy to volunteer, but suggested ways we can make their time better spent. (a) Call back if someone offers to volunteer, (b) make sure there's work to do and (c) provide written task lists and set-up diagrams for tables and chairs.

Favorite events

The Opening Day dock breakfast is your #1 favorite. Other most-loved events were Beyond the Borders, Christmas dinner, Fiber Arts Show and June BBQ meeting. Sixty-five members responded. Advice was given to drop Spuds and Suds for the future.

"We'd love it if the LIC had more..."

Dinner theater • aerobics classes • kids events • teen events • interesting speakers • tour of McNeil Island • dog park with disposal bags • teatime dances with non-rock music • ballroom dance lessons • "take a landlubber to sea" boating events • daytime meeting space for crafters/seniors • boat races

"Make the meetings more interesting" was heard often

Comments were constructive, do-able and practical: *Build fun into each meeting. Add non-boring speakers, entertainment, more social time. Invite other community organizations to tell us what they are doing. Have short musical performances, comedy, film or dramatic presentation. Stick to Roberts Rules of Order to stay on track. More wags, less barks. Bring back raffles – split winnings with the scholarship fund. Identify new members and visitors to make them feel welcome. Have two greeters-one at the door and one at sign in.*

Topics of interest and ideas for speakers included:

Two Waters Arts Alliance, Mustard Seed Hero's Program, St. Anthony Hospital, emergency preparedness, Dale Loy on gardening, local zoning and land use, county executives, seismologist, local history with members and residents on a panel.

Special areas of interest, highlights and lowlights

Big winners: **Road cleanup and newsletter.**

Thanks to those who make it happen!

Over half of you offered to help build a new **Phone Tree.**

Thank you in advance!

We're in this together. The relationship between all members (*boaters or not*) and the board needs to continue to improve. "If we take care of each other, reaching out to the community will take care of itself."

*Jan Prichard, Membership Chair LIC, 884.2030,
jan@pacinfo.com*

Jim and Norma have known one another since high school though they didn't start dating until Jim was in college and Norma in nurses' training. In the first years of their acquaintance they were in the same "gang" – in those days something to be proud of as it indicated a close-knit group of friends, almost like a clique, a respectable group to associate with. They went on many outings and to many activities with these friends until graduation when distance split up the group. Their first official date was to a work party at the CPS ski lodge (now UPS) near Mt. Rainier. They soon became regulars together and spent much of their free time as a couple. The hospital where Norma was in training would not permit marriage of students until the last six months of schooling so that was out of the question. It was at the time of the Korean war and Jim, as well as other student nurse's beaus, were expecting draft notices momentarily, so Norma and others pressured the school to change the ruling to allow marriage the senior year. There were three weddings that weekend and as many the weekend following. Much to their delight, married men weren't being drafted at that time. Soon after the family came along so Jim was never in the military.

They were a typical, down-home family living the American dream of house, car, a daughter and son, with Jim working for the City of Tacoma's traffic signal crew and Norma working at Tacoma General Hospital. Norma's dream was to be an office nurse and that dream came true when she was hired by Dr. Hazelrigg in Brown's Point, a position she held for 26 years.

Boating soon became the center of their lives around which they built many lasting friendships and memories. There were very few land vacations, most were boating trips to the San Juan's, Gulf Islands and beyond. After retirement they purchased their home in Taylor Bay to be near the Sound and the Longbranch Marina, and to be able to offer shoreline adventures to their four grandchildren.

At the age of 18 Jim had acquired his first boat, a do-it-yourself 8 ft. dinghy made of canvas stretched over a frame. The love of being on the water was soon deeply embedded and he was never without some type of boat from that time on.

In 1973 with the encouragement of friends Jim decided to build a small yacht in his back yard. He purchased a 28ft. Modutech hull and did the construction and designing himself. It took four long years from delivery of the hull until the launching, but just four weeks later they took off for Alaska on a six week adventure. **Jim said "we made the trip because we didn't know any better"!** The friends they traveled with had a larger boat which offered some protection as well as moral support and nautical knowledge. There were lots of adventures and tall tales to relate when they returned.

In 1984 using saved vacation weeks they again went to Alaska with the same friends in their respective boats and this time they were gone 3 ½ months. The memories from that trip will always remain as one of the best adventures of their lives.

Last year when they realized their age was making it difficult to do the maintenance they sold their boat and for the first time in their married lives they no longer have a means of being on the water.



In celebration of
their 60th wedding
anniversary . . .

**Jim & Norma Larsen are
having a gathering at LIC
on Aug. 14th, 4-7:00 pm
and all members are
invited to join in."**



*Jim said "we made the trip
because we didn't know any
better" (see story)*

Dock Report . . .

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the membership for allowing me to be the Dock Chair for the past year. I'd also like to thank all of those on the dock committee during my stint: Harry Fass, Judy Riggs, Mike Maroney, Ernie Evans, Dick Van Cise, Bruce Jeglum and to Lynn Carr and Mark Jones for their support and attendance at most all of the committee meetings. I feel that the committee accomplished some major tasks over the past year and the dock is better now than when we started, even though we still have lots to do.

In addition, a big thanks to each of the members that consistently showed up to help at the dock work parties, even when the jobs were not much fun. I really appreciate your hard work.

I will continue to be involved with the dock of course, and on the dock committee if the new dock chair needs my help. Let's all work together and get involved more at the dock, it's a wonderful place to enjoy. Thanks again, Dave

Respectfully submitted by Dave Wickland, Dock Chair
884.3163/dwick@pacifictrade.com

Wharf Replacement / Repair Status Update

Sitts and Hill Engineers made a field visit to the LIC Marina Wharf on Friday, June 11th as part of their assignment to design and cost a repair option and a replacement option for the existing wharf. They are scheduled to submit their report to the LIC by July 6th, at which time the new LIC Board of Directors will consider options for going forward. The Board will meet on July 7th and the issue will be on the Agenda for the General Membership meeting on July 14th. All members are urged to attend.

LIC Announcements . . .

SECRETARY APPOINTED POSITION OPEN FOR THE NEXT 5 MONTHS: Geoff Baillie was recently elected President of the LIC and takes over the responsibilities of that office as of July. His position as Secretary is now vacated and, according to our By Laws, the Board of Directors can appoint someone to fill the position of Secretary until the elections for that office in November. If anyone is interested in assuming that role for the next five (5) months, please contact any Board member and we shall be happy to place them for Board approval.

EVENTS CHAIR: We still have the office of Events Chair open as well. The only Event that does not have a Chairperson in charge is the Labor Day Dance. We have a file of lists of what needs to be done to accomplish that great and wonderful function, whom to contact, etc. Mark Runions has another terrific band ready to perform for us and I am sure it will be as enjoyable and successful as our Memorial Day Dance was. Don't be shy.....we have many waiting in the wings to assist you as you become a most successful and contributing member of the Board!

LIC Volunteer Needed : we need filing & continued organization of the current system in the Club House office. *Experience would be beneficial!* Please contact Pat Muchmore if interested.

Submitted by Pat Muchmore, President LIC, 884.3890, patroon9047@aol.com

FIRST ANNUAL LONGBRANCH COMMUNITY

CROQUET TOURNAMENT



Sunday July 18
2-6 pm
LIC Field

*Prizes for best team
theme, spirit, costumes,
strokes, jokes and scores.*

Food, drink & very,
very friendly judges

Your team could win!

Call 884-2030

4-person team \$60

Proceeds benefit
The Mustard Seed Project

*Family fun, free admission
Food Bank donations welcome*

www.longbranchimprovementclub.org

In the interest of community, charity and a pleasant Sunday afternoon diversion, the LIC proudly sponsors the **First Annual Croquet Tournament**. Everyone is invited, teams play for prizes, with friendly well-known locals adjudicating. (You can't lose.)

Teams of four, \$60, sign up now
at **884-2030** or LIC website.

There'll be a field full of watchers and players, discussing whether **croquet** is a noun or verb, sport or art, silly or sound. Your participation will be welcome.

Please join us July 18, Sunday afternoon at 2

Dates to Remember and & Events to Enjoy . . .

RIDES AND DRIVES . . .

Our Member Survey pointed up a need for rides for members who might like to attend a meeting or an event, but are no longer wanting to drive, or would rather not attend alone. These great folks are our neighbors!

Could you offer a lift? Would you like to have a ride? We'd like to offer a match-up service of riders and drivers for our membership.

**Please give Lisa Bryan a call at 884-5297
if you are interested.**

July 18th 2-6 PM . . .

Croquet Tournament at the LIC

August 7th 1-6 PM . . .

Beyond the Borders Music Festival LIC

August 21st . . .

Old Timers Day at the LIC

August 27th-28th . . .

Keyfest 2010 at Volunteer Park

September 4th . . .

Labor Day Dance at the LIC



LIC Membership

The JUNE General "Annual Membership BBQ Potluck" Meeting . . .

The Potluck/B-B-Q on June 16th was delicious and well attended. It was wonderful to meet members whose names I recognize, but whom I'd never met in person. And, yes, I'm still introducing myself to members I've already met. Please forgive me!
Jan Prichard

Mark you calendars for July 21, General "Dessert" meeting at 7:00 p.m.

We need one more host or hostess for the July dessert meeting to help out Bob and Becky Knudson. Do give me a call if you would like to volunteer for July or at a meeting in the future. We'll be off sailing in September, so getting my host and hostess "ducks-in-a-row" ahead of time would really "float my boat." (More clichés, anyone?)

The Potluck/B-B-Q on June 16th was delicious and well attended. Thanks to Lynn Carr and Mike Maroney for grilling all those burgers and dogs, Sharon Gearhart for doing the lion's share of the kitchen duties, and Mary Mazur for jumping in at the last minute to be greeter. She kept me hopping signing up new and renewing members. Thanks also to Mark Jones, Skip Cook and Karen Johnson for arriving early to help the Board set up. What a team!

Happy Summer!

*Jan Prichard, Membership Chair LIC,
884.2030, jan@pacinfo.com*

LIC Contacts

PRESIDENT: Pat Muchmore/884.3890/patroom9047@aol.com

HOSPITALITY/GREETER: Trish Goodvin/884.4270/tgoodvin@yahoo.com

TRUSTEE-AT LARGE: Phil Johnson/884.3784/kpjohn0425@yahoo.com

KITCHEN SERVICES: Peg Bingham/884.1124/larrypegbingham@centurytel.net

VICE PRESIDENT: Gretchen Lippert/884.2290/gmlippert@yahoo.com

LIC ADOPT-A-ROAD: Bob McFarlane/884.1314/robertmcfarlane1@mac.com

SECRETARY: Geoffrey Baillie/884.3951/gbaillie@msn.com

SCHOLARSHIP: Lynn Larson/884.3951/llarson@laaslt.com

TREASURER: Tim Heitzman/884.0577/timheitzman@earthlink.net

NATURE TRAIL: Michael Runyan/884.4100/annrunyon@yahoo.com

BLDG./GROUNDS CHAIR: Lynn Carr/884.1384/carr44@centurytel.net

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS: Debbie Ehrhardt/884.6382/debbie@harvest-timber.com

DOCK CHAIR: Dave Wickland/884.3163/dwick@pacificttrade.com

OFFICE VOLUNTEER: Gretchen Lippert/884/2290/gmlippert@yahoo.com

EVENTS CHAIR: [OPEN POSITION](#) (*contact one of the board members*)

LIC HISTORIAN: Lynn Larson/884.3951/llarson@llaalt.com

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR: Jan Prichard/884.2030/jan@pacinfo.com

LIC "SUNSHINE LADY": Linda LeBlanc/l8161@hotmail.com/884.1499

DOCK MASTER: Mark Jones/884.5653/Lmjones@centurytel.net

LIC NEWSLETTER: Norma-Jean Gibson/884.6556/normajeangibson@remax.net

LIC BLDG. RENTALS: LYNN DALRING/884.6022/penstretcher@dalsing.com

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION: Sharon Gearhart/884.3890/wolf9047@aol.com

LIC BLDG. CLEANING: Landsbergers/255.2768/LZ_services@msn.com

LIC WEBMASTER: Peter Ballasiotes/253-230-7021/pballasiotes@yahoo.com

LIC RECYCLED CANS: SPRING & ROBERT JOHNSON/

LIC GROCERY RECEIPTS:






LIC WEBSITE: WWW.LONGBRANCHIMPROVEMENTCLUB.ORG **EMAIL:** lic@longbranchimprovementclub.org

Longbranch Improvement Club
 PO Box 111
 Lakebay WA 98349

Place your ad here . . .

LIC Ads run on a "rotation basis" and are FREE for members, LOW-COST to the community. **Classified ads will run for 1 month** unless you re-submit your ad copy to normajeangibson@remax.net no later than the 25th day of each month.

LIC Display and Classified Ads

 <p>Lake Bay Nautical <i>Nautical · Tropical · Beach Décor · Home Beach · Gifts · Nautical Instruments</i> www.lakebayproducts.com Olympic Village Shopping Center 5500 Olympic Drive NW, Gig Harbor WA 98335, 253.851.3366</p>	<p><i>Marlies Van Cise</i> TRAVEL HOUSE </p> <p>253.884.5608</p> <p>Licensed for 24 Years Specializing in International Travel, Cruises and Groups</p>	 <p>Right Brain Creations Pat Thompson Landscape Design</p> <p>(253) 884-5286 sailinghorse@comcast.net</p>
<p>Home Excavating and Dozing LLC</p> <p>Site Clearing & Prep. Drainage Systems Gravel Deliveries Road Grading Rock Walls Demolition Logging Stump Hauling And MORE!</p> <p>Dan Lutz 253.884.5798 HOMEED952PU</p>	 <p>robin designs custom sewing & canvas works robindesigns@hotmail.com 253.884.3030</p>	 <p>Norma Jean Gibson BROKER Associate, SRES, ABR</p>  <p>TOWN AND COUNTRY, 7201 Pioneer Way A-101 FAX: 253.857.6655</p> <p>DIRECT: 253.857.1857 (direct # forwards to mobile and laptop) normajeangibson@remax.net www.Soundneighbourhoods.com</p> <p><small>Equal Opportunity, Gender & Disabled</small></p>
<p>Key Peninsula Carpenter Saw Mill . . . Will Travel Owner-Steve Stemhagen stevestem@gmail.com</p>	 <p>PENINSULA MARINE POWERBOAT SPECIALIST</p> <p>Tim Shirley 253 884-5217</p>	<p>Filucy Bay Vacation Rental <i>Ideal for Families, Couples, Groups, Sunrise/Sundown on the Bay, Mt. Rainier in View. Kayaker's Haven. Private Buoy, close to Longbranch Marina & Public Launch.</i> www.filucybay.com</p>