

September 2013



Member Newsletter

Longbranch Improvement Club

For the Betterment of the Community



Labor Day Dance Saturday, August 31, 8:00—Midnight

President's Message

Septic system replacement. It has been a busy month since we learned our septic system has failed and must be replaced. To recap briefly, we hired Larry Purdum of Acme Septic to evaluate our needs and design a proper modern system that will handle the larger crowds that are attending our own events and rental events. The design was put out to bid and the winning installer is Josh Peterson of KatTrax. As you already know, septic work is not inexpensive. In our case the design, permits, inspections, installation, electrical work and tax will come to approximately \$33,000. The question of how to pay for this was discussed in depth by the Board and the available options were presented to the Membership at the August meeting (yesterday, as I write this). After considering various options, it was decided by the Membership to pay for the work out of existing funds. This could cramp us if additional unexpected expenses arise before the end of the year, but if things return to a normal, non-crisis mode we will be OK. Please note that funds designated for roof replacement or other designated causes will NOT be used to pay for the septic.

The installation work will be starting soon. In the coming weeks you will see equipment and materials starting to show up on site and eventually a flurry of activity. While not guaranteed, we are hopeful that the new system may be online by the time of our big Spaghetti Social on September 21.

Get out on the water! If you have not yet participated in one the LIC boat outings organized by Kurt Anderson, you should consider it. All boaters are welcome and Kurt always manages to find rides for the non-boaters. The next outing is September 12th. Contact Kurt for details.

"Big, Beautiful and Bizarre in Puget Sound". This is the title of the program that will be presented at the September meeting by Harbor Wildwatch. It will showcase some of the largest animals of their kind, the most beautiful, and the strangest animals that call Puget Sound home. Thanks to Marlise Van Cise for lining up this program.

Gayle Brewer Contacts: 884-0787 phone gbrewer123@yahoo.com email

LONGBRANCH IMPROVEMENT CLUB
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
August 21, 2013

Board Members present: Gayle Brewer, Clark Van Bogart, Francie Carr, Tim Heitzman, Denny Prichard, Doug Lewis, Eloise Colbert, Peg Bingham

Meeting called to order by President Gayle Brewer at 7:05 p.m.

Contractors Present: Kim Chaney

Rental Agent Kim Chaney reported a couple rentals in August to round out the month. She also reported that building rental income was ahead of YTD budget.

Secretary Peg Bingham asked to have the minutes of the last meeting approved. Motion made, seconded and approved.

Treasurer Francie Carr reported building rentals have increased this year and have already met and exceeded the budget for income. Guest moorage has also exceeded the YTD budget. There have been many nice comments written on the moorage envelopes about the marina. The person who slipped coming off the wharf has been back and used the gift certificate for an overnight. They wrote that they were happy to see the swift action taken to remedy the problem. Building expense remains below budget.

Francie, Clark, Denny and Gayle met with the insurance agent. The good news is that the D&O insurance has been reduced by more than half. The agent noticed that we had paid for Employment Practices insurance in the past but that we have no employees so that portion of the policy was deleted. However the increase to two million in LIC liability coverage that we requested cannot be done because our revenue does not warrant the increase.

Events Chair Tim Heitzman reported that the members who attended the drum fest enjoyed a wonderful day of fun. We had a full day of music and over 350 people attended and enjoyed our club. The generosity of our sponsors, Key Pen Parks and the Angel Guild, the hard work of the kitchen staff and other volunteers made for a successful day. As a money maker we broke even but as a community builder it was highly successful. The morning started with a dozen little kids who had attended camp the previous week performing. The chairs were filled with their parents, friends, neighbors and on-lookers. It was an excellent start to the day.

We thanked the Angel Guild for their past four years of support for the Croquet Tournament with an original trophy created by Jeff Tritt, naming the Angel Guild as Community Champions. It was presented to them at their monthly meeting. Tim asked for ten volunteers for the Labor Day Dance, which is one of our big fundraisers. The Brother Sun concert is expected to be a sell-out. There could possibly be a change in date for the Spaghetti Social. You will be updated as the scheduled day approaches.

Membership Chair Eloise Colbert reported that our membership numbers stayed at 108 memberships. She introduced tonight's hostesses and host, Dorothy Gagham and Christine and Jeff Tritt. She also asked for volunteers for next month.

Marina Chair Denny Prichard reported we have been fairly busy at the marina. He also reported on the status of our application for the restroom/pump-out station that would be paid for by the state. We did not have our application accepted as the state did not have quite as much money as they had hoped at this time. They did encourage us to re-apply after the first of the year as they expect to have more funds available for pump-outs and restrooms. They are eager to have a pump-out in Filucy Bay.

We have a hearing with the Board of Equalization on the value of the marina. We think we have a pretty good chance of receiving a reduction in this value thus reducing our tax bill.

We had a boat owner pick up his dinghy and pay his bill of \$389. There is another boat with delinquent moorage that is about ready to go to auction. The auctioneer in Port Orchard will set a date for the auction, it will be sold as is and picked up here within three days of the sale.

Old Business

Barb Van Bogart gave an update on the cookbook project. Five hundred books have been ordered. This week the proof of the book was received for final editing. Shipping is expected the week of September 16th and the first sales event will be October 5th at the Fiber Arts Show and three farm venues, Creviston Farm, Gentle Giant and Gateway Park. Pre-orders for 160 books have been received to date and a total of 237 need to be sold to break even. Barb recommended in order to avoid missing out on this great cookbook you place your pre-order now. This can be done by calling a committee member, or e-mail to recipes4lic@yahoo.com to reserve your copies now. The price is still \$20.

Denny reported on the status of the Otto Water Co. system. The system, which supplies the marina, is in remarkably good condition thanks to Mike Hays. We have a two year old waterline, a 3000 gallon storage tank which has just been cleaned and is in mint condition. Bill Bingham, a resident in one of the homes on the line, will assume management of the system, which includes monthly testing of the water to insure we have safe water at the marina. Mike has been managing the system for the last few years. Denny is looking for a volunteer to do about half of the testing and Bill Bingham will do the other half. Our half will include the ones taken at the marina. Bill is a new member of the LIC and is very pleased about that, but he was unable to attend tonight's meeting. A first joint water sampling was done this morning. Samples are taken monthly at rotating locations on the line and the sampling is on a strict schedule. The sample is taken and must be at the fire station in Key Center by 10:00 a.m. on Wednesdays. Dorothy Gagham volunteered to do the LIC's share of the sampling.

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GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
August 21, 2013
(continued)

New Business

Gayle gave an update on the status of our septic system. The day after the last General Meeting on July 17th, we learned we had reached the point of system failure. By the 19th we had contacted a system designer and met with him at the LIC to evaluate it and basically the diagnosis was our system drain field was basically shot. We are down to about 30 – 35 feet of functioning drain field line due to broken pipes, tree root encroachment and other factors. The solution is to abandon that system and replace it with new drain field and tanks. That same day Francie ordered porta-potties and they were on site the next day. Kim Chaney started notifying upcoming renters about our situation and to ask for their cooperation with this problem. On the 23rd of July perk tests were performed and we found that we have extremely good soil in the proposed new area, which will simplify the job a bit. We gave the septic designer, Larry Purdum, the go-ahead to proceed with the septic design. He was hoping to have this out about the 7th of August, but he was delayed a bit and on August 12th the design was sent out for bid to four installers. Larry had worked with all four and they had a high rating. They were all notified that we had a time pressure requirement to get the bid back and start the job if they were awarded the bid. As of the Board Meeting last week, two bids had been received. One bidder was unable to respond until this week and he contacted Gayle today and the other bidder did not respond. We have two bids and after much discussion at the Board Meeting, a company called Kat Trax was selected. Their bid includes electrical, materials and in addition, placing some three-man rocks around the site where the drain field will be situated to prevent vehicles from intruding on the area. The Board asked Gayle, Doug and Clark to be a sub-committee to pursue the selection of the installer and to facilitate moving things along. They had a meeting the day before yesterday with the designer and the installer on site at the LIC to go over any last minutes concerns or problems. We explained we could not give them the green light until we presented all this information to the General Membership and received approval to spend the money. The installer is basically ready to begin the process as soon as he receives your approval. That does not mean things will begin tomorrow, but will be very soon. The design includes six 1500 gallon tanks that will have to be manufactured and they can make one per day so they will start that process and work on other areas until they are ready. Larry Purdum's bid for the design includes fees to the county, health department, etc. Larry is in the process of moving to Home. He was asked if he was interested in some moorage but he does not plan to moor his boat. He offered to reduce his fee by \$800 in exchange for five years of LIC membership. This was strictly due to generosity on Larry's part, not shrewd negotiating on our part.

At this point Gayle turned the mike over to Francie to explain the financial options available to us. She explained that the Board explored the option of allowing the membership the opportunity to make donations and if anyone wishes to do so, they may. Another option was continuing the membership loan program with 5% interest as we did for the wharf or paying for the entire project with LIC funds including the funds currently in the Building Improvement Fund or borrowing all or part of the required amount from the bank. Francie has placed calls to America West, where we have the loan for the wharf and to Sound Credit Union where we do our banking. Christine Anderson and Carolyn Wiley are researching grant sources and lastly a combination of any or all of these options. When Francie e-mailed these options to the Board they were pretty clear their first choice was to self-fund it. If the membership approves this payment method we will have to begin re-building the Building Improvement Fund in 2014. We cannot let this slide as we put no money into this fund this year. It will be a tight budget period this coming year. In answer to a question Francie explained money will not be taken from any of the designated funds, such as the Roof Fund. All monies will come from Operating funds. After a good discussion a motion was made to have the LIC pay outright for the installation of the new septic system out of operating funds. Motion seconded. After a little more discussion the question was called. Motion passed.

Gayle asked Tim if he had anything more to say about the Labor Day Dance. Tim requested that if anyone had one of the blue "improver" shirts at home for laundering, to please return them as they are needed for the dance volunteers.

Next month we will have a program presented by Harbor Wild Watch. Marlies Van Cise has arranged for this speaker and it should be very interesting.

Pat Muchmore announced the next road pick-up would be the second Saturday September 14th. Volunteers are needed and please let Pat know ahead of time to ensure we have enough workers. If you have any questions please call her.

In Nancy Carr's absence Pat reminded members that articles for the newsletter need to be sent to Nancy by the 25th.

Kurt Anderson announced that the next boating lunch for the Longbranch Navy will be September 12th and the group will be going to Boathouse 19 at the Narrows Marina.

Francie reminded members to turn in receipts from the Market at Key Center.

The raffle was won by Jan Prichard.

Meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Peg Bingham
Secretary



Upcoming Events

Mon. Sept 2—Labor Day

Wed. Sept 4—Marina Committee Meeting, 9:00 am, LIC Clubhouse

Thu. Sept 5—Events Committee Meeting, 7:00 pm , LIC Marina

Sun. Sept 8—Grandparents Day

Thu. Sept 12—Second Boaters Outing to Boathouse 19, leave Marina 10:00 am

Wed. Aug 21—'Dessert' General Meeting, LIC Clubhouse, 7:00 pm

Sun. Sept 22—First day of autumn

Sat. Sept 28—Fall Sailboat Race, Marina, 10:00 skippers meeting, 11:00 am, race time

Sat. Oct 5—Fiber Arts, LIC Clubhouse,

Fall Sailboat Race

Well, we haven't had a Fall race for several years, so I think it would be a great idea to have one this year. It will be on Sep. 28th with skipper meeting at 10AM and race start at 11AM. This race will be a little different with no flying sails. This should even the playing field hopefully. There will be trophies for the first three places. The proceeds of this race will go to the LIC's financial needs. Remember every dollar helps.

Thanks,
Pat Thompson

New at the Marina.....

Thanks to Bruce Jeglum, the Marina Office door now has a mail slot for messages for the dockmaster or the Marina Committee. It can be used for interesting information like invitations to lunch or who is taking their boat out for a few days (or weeks) and when they will return.

Thanks, Lynn

Savories and Sweets -

Savories and Sweets - South Sound Treats (our soon-to-be-famous cookbook) is now in the printing process and we will have them in hand in time for the Farm Tour and Fiber Arts.

We have upwards of 160 reservations, so don't delay, put your order in NOW and avoid disappointment if they sell out immediately! Our target price is \$20 - one of the better deals around. Reserve yours now by emailing recipes4lic@yahoo.com. Include the number of cookbooks you would like and your name will go on our reservation list.

All profits from this cookbook go back to the LIC so please support this effort. It is an amazing cookbook and benefits an amazing organization - our LIC!!!!

Barb VanBogart

Events News.....

Drum Fest a booming success.

Saturday August 9 was our first Drum Fest, and over 350 people enjoyed a day in the sun listening to seven musical acts, every hour a new style, performer and reason to smile. Produced with the support of Key Pen Parks and the Angel Guild who underwrote the cost of 6 bands, the Drum Fest was a free event for our community. We met neighbors, newbies, drive-bys and old friends – all enjoying the live music, grilled sausages and beer garden. Made new friends, signed up a few new members, and told lots of new people about the LIC.

The event was a lot of work to organize, produce and present and it would not have been possible without the tireless enthusiasm of Lynn Lloyd. She had a lot of help—over 200 volunteer hours donated by LIC members. Please join me in thanking these volunteers for helping their community, their club and the continued success of the LIC: Kathy Bailey, Phil Bauer, Vicki Biggs, Peg Bingham, Bill "Buck" Buckner, Eloise Colbert, Connie Copeland, Anne Dearing, Paul & Kim Fisher, Barb Floyd, Sharon Gearhart, Rich & Connie Hildahl, Zoey Humphrey, Sam Ingram, Jeanne Jiang, Jim & Norma Larsen, Doug Lewis, Bill Lloyd, Denny and Jan Prichard, Judy Riggs, Mark Runions, Merri Sutton, Jeff & Christine Tritt, Barb VanBogart, and Michael Xu. Solid gold Improvers, each and every one. (And if you're not on the list, you should have signed in!)

Coming up: Labor Day Dance featuring Chris Friel Orchestra; Fiber Arts Festival October 5 and returning by popular demand on October 19, Brother Sun. The Spaghetti Social scheduled for Sept 21 is on hold, pending completion of our new septic system. Seems the kitchen can't work without drains.

Your support makes everything possible. That's how the LIC works. See you there.

Tim Heitzman



Exhibits Demonstrations Vendors

Sixth Annual
Fiber Arts
Threads through Time
*Artistic to Utilitarian
Traditional to Modern*

Free Admission
Saturday October 5
10am to 4pm

Longbranch Improvement Club
*4312 Key Peninsula Hwy S,
30 minutes from Gig Harbor*
call 253 884 9157
Presented by LIC and friends



WATERMARK WRITERS AND LIC PRESENT

Beautiful harmonies in folk fusion
Joe Jenks, Greg Greenway and Pat Wictor

**BROTHER
SUN**

Saturday, Oct 19 Concert 8pm
No-Host Social Hour 7pm
Longbranch Improvement Club
4312 Key Peninsula Highway South, Longbranch

\$15 advance/\$18 door

All ages, family-friendly concert. Advance tickets at Sunnycrest Nursery, Blend Wine Shop and www.licweb.org (253) 884-6022

The Mist Busters Have a Bair of an Outing!

On the morning of August 15, the LIC boaters group, forevermore known as The Mist Busters, woke up to a foggy and misty South Puget Sound day. Although there was some question as to our ability to make it to our Steilacoom destination, the combination of a sacrificial lead boat (Ranger Tug), five brave boat captains, more than a half dozen GPS units, and a deep gnawing hunger got us through! When to the restaurant owners' great surprise, all of the boaters arrived at Bair Drug & Hardware, Lynn Carr and Larry Bingham, both competing for the Husband of the Year Award, were already there with their wives by their sides. You see, they had driven all the way around by auto because both of their wives were temporarily unable to do the uphill walk from the dock to the restaurant. Beat that!

Once again, Sarah and her crew provided us with some truly scrumptious meals, served at a truly amazing pace considering our group of 22 took up about 90% of the indoor seating. And as usual, our very long table was full of friendly talk, broad smiles, and lots of laughing.

Then after breakfast, due to the kindness of a city maintenance worker, and the even greater kindness of someone further up his chain of command, our group was allowed "covert entry" into the empty chambers of the Steilacoom City Council. There we were privileged to see the collection of super-sized black & white historical photos attached to the chamber walls. And in addition to the photos, we got to see the city's historical quilt, which is a truly amazing piece of work.

Then, after turning off all the lights, we counted heads to make sure we hadn't left anyone behind, locked the front door of the City Hall (we actually deny ever being there), and headed back to the Steilacoom dock in order to set out toward home. But, we soon discovered we had one small problem. We were no longer facing light fog and mist, but instead moderate fog and light rain. No problem! The leader, who had a "well thought out" three-step plan, pulled all the captains together and laid it all out. First step: Proceed directly north for one-half mile and turn west in order to parallel, but stay out of, the Anderson Island Ferry lane. First problem: Some of our captains interpreted "on-half mile" to mean "anywhere between one and three miles, or whenever the spirit moves." Step two: We will all follow the lead boat, which has "multi-million dollar high tech navigation capability." Problem number two: The lead boat's heading indicator on its GPS display decided to take a vacation, so our course line on our moving maps looked like the track of a drunken sailor heading back to the dock after about ten too many! And the captains' of the following boats, which all had operating heading indicators, had no idea what was going on with the lead guy. Step three: Stay tightly grouped in order to increase the size of our radar target on the scopes of the big boys out there. Problem number three: The term "tightly grouped" has obviously not been clearly defined in the Boater's Instruction Manual, and whatever its unit of measure may be, we were all backing off from the zig-zagging lead guy, who was appearing to be quite unpredictable! – Regardless, after a few long minutes of "partial doubt," and a few brief sightings of the ghostly outlines of the ferry, we were right where we wanted to be (Balch Passage), heading in the right direction (west), still able to be considered "one group" (along with five other boats that suddenly appeared), and with the fog suddenly all but totally gone. From there it was a quick and easy trip back into the LIC marina.

This one was not just an outing, but a little bit of an adventure. Nothing really dangerous, but just enough uncertainty and confusion to keep everyone alert and on their toes. The one thing that was consistent across the board was the two questions repeatedly asked after we tied up our boats back at Longbranch: When do we go again? And, where are we going? – Maybe you should join us.

Check out the photos. Can you spot the ferry?

Kurt Anderson



The September LIC Boaters Group Outing

The next LIC boaters group outing will be on Thursday, September 12. We will leave the LIC Marina at 10:00 am, and head to Boathouse 19 at the Narrows Marina, just south of the Tacoma Narrows Bridge. Boathouse 19 is one of the Lobster Shop family of restaurants. It's much larger than our usual destinations, so we will not be overwhelming their capabilities. This is really good food (I recommend the calamari with sweet onions and jalapeno slices; all fried up nice and crisp – Yum!).

After lunch we will go next door to the Narrows Brewing Company, where Joe Walts, the Head Brewer, will give our group a personal tour of the brewery facilities.

We will not be taking the direct route to Narrows Marina, but instead will be going up Pitt Passage, north of Fox Island, and then east just south of the Tacoma Narrows Airport. A truly scenic route. Due to the fact that that this is not a straight forward direct route, if we have foggy weather, like during the August trip, we will drive over to the restaurant instead. It's exactly one hour from the LIC Clubhouse.

Call me soon if you want to go as a passenger, as I have already received a couple of calls, and the extra seats are filling up fast.

Kurt
253 350-0309
Hound356@gmail.com

LIC Marine Emergency Response Team to the Rescue

Fairly late on the evening of August 21, two young men who had motored their sailboat down from Seattle to the Key Peninsula's Sound View Camp, anchored their boat on the sand/mud bar just offshore to the east of the camp. They were there for a retreat, and planned to stay in the lodging at the camp until the weekend retreat was over. But, when they awoke on the morning of August 22, their boat was no longer where they had anchored it, nor was it anywhere in sight. They therefore reported the situation to the camp staff, and the staff contacted one of the members of the local Longbranch community. That individual then contacted one of our active LIC boaters, who, from his home, had a good view in the direction the boat should have gone (based on winds and tidal currents). He therefore put his eye to his telescope, and sure enough soon spotted what appeared to be a crewless sailboat on the west edge of Balch Passage, and either near or on the shoreline at the south end of McNeal Island (not a good place for a wayward sailboat to be). This LIC boater then contacted another LIC boater, whom he knew had a boat that could respond much quicker than his. The second LIC boater, who had just finished his morning workout and was taking his shower, was soon on his way to the marina to get his boat and navigational equipment started and ready to go. While about half way to the marina, the second LIC boater had advised the first LIC boater that he was only minutes from being ready to go. Therefore, just after the second LIC boater got the boat motor running and the GPS fired up, he looked up and saw the first LIC boater coming across the Geoff Baillie Wharf with the boat owner and his friend in tow. About two or three minutes later, the boat was pulling away from the marina and heading out of Filucy Bay. By the time the boat was passing the Coast Guard buoy the sailboat could be seen in the distance. About five minutes later the LIC Response Team was alongside the sailboat, which had re-anchored itself just offshore of McNeal Island (we are claiming it was just outside of the 100 yard do-not-enter limit). Soon thereafter the owner had the motor started up and the anchored pulled, and the undamaged boat was heading for moorage at the LIC Marina, which probably would have been a better choice in the first place.

Once again your ever vigilant, always on alert, LIC Marine Emergency Response Team has saved the day (or at least played a role in it)!

Response Captain 1



LIC Membership Report

The year is over half over but we still have many events if you need hours. I am looking for one more volunteer to Host/Hostess in September, please let me know if you are interested by e-mail to: eacolbert@msn.com.

Check the calendar for upcoming events, there are still plenty of opportunities to get your volunteer hours.

Thank you,

Eloise Colbert
Membership Chair

Mark your calendars for the September 'Dessert' General Meeting on Wednesday, September 18th at 7:00 pm

LIC Contacts

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