December 201



Longbranch Improvement Club

For the Betterment of the Community

ANNUAL HOLIDAY DINNER, December 21, 2011, 6:30 p.m.

President's Letter . . .

By the time you read this, the Holiday Season will be in full swing, with Thanksgiving over and Christmas fast approaching. Please plan on helping and attending Kids Christmas and the social get together at the Marina in December (information is in this newsletter). Thanks to the members attending the November membership meeting. Adoption of the annual 2012 budget is one of the most important things your board and the membership do each year. Although 2011 was a dismal year, financially, I am optimistic that the LIC has bottomed out and will recover in years to come.

Remember that we are paying back \$106,000 in loans for the wharf, \$100k to the bank and \$206k to members and supporters that stepped forward to lend the LIC funds to complete the project. Despite the need to pay these off, the 2012 budget includes some much needed improvements for the LIC kitchen, including a new counter with drawers instead of shelves, and a new stove and range. These should help with building rental, as will the bulbs that were planted for blooming next spring. Thanks to all involved.

The budget for 2011, unfortunately, does not include Beyond the Borders, as both the LIC and Two Waters are strapped financially, but we hope to resurrect that event in 2013. Nonetheless, there will be ample opportunity for volunteering and a huge swap meet is planned for next summer, and we want to promote Labor Day weekend activities much more than in the past. Stay tuned for details.

The Marina Committee has reached out to the DNR regarding what may lie ahead for the marina and boathouses when the DNR lease needs to be renewed in 2017. See information in this newsletter for details.

Submitted by Geoff Baillie, President LIC, 884.3951, gbaillie@msn.com





DECORATION DAY! SAT., DECEMBER 3RD 10 A.M. TO <u>???</u>

Come "Deck the Halls" of the LIC on Saturday, December 3rd. Put on your elf shoes and join in the fun with your friends and neighbors. No experience is necessary and latecomers are always welcome. If you have tools (gardens nippers, wire cutters, extension cords, hammers, staple guns, etc.) be sure to put your name on them. Also needed are lots of evergreens and holly.

The lights, huge tree, ornaments, music, fellowship and elf treats (yes, we feed our helpers!) make this a really jolly occasion.

Hope to see you there!

LIC Marina DNR Lease Update

(Randy Babich and Geoff Baillie)

The LIC Marina Committee, in anticipation of renewal of the Marina lease with DNR in 2017, has reached out to the DNR for their input on what the marina and boathouse owners may need to do to stay in compliance with lease requirements. The simple answer is that the DNR is pushing for aquatic habitat improvement for marinas when they renew their leases. In general, this means more light into the water (by reducing the amount of opaque surface area). This is usually accomplished by the use of skylights in roofs (boathouses and the pavilion) and grating on floats (boathouses and marina floats). We don't have specifics because a lot can change (with DNR) between now and 2016 when negotiations would take place, but boathouse owners, marina moorage holders, and the membership should be aware that capital improvements will likely be needed to boathouses (at boathouse owners expense) and the marina (at the LIC's expense). We do not know what the timeframe for any possible improvements will be. It could be after the useful life of the marina and boathouses is reached, it could be earlier. Time will tell.

If there is enough interest, we will schedule a special meeting to discuss this subject. Please address questions and comments to Randy Babich or Geoff Baillie.

FUN TIME - 12/3 & 12/18

If you are interested in volunteering for fun duty, join me at the LIC on one or both of these dates. I am looking for kitchen help with the pot luck and hot dogs for the club decorators on the 3rd and cookie servers for Kids and Christmas on the 18th. Not difficult work watching the club transformed into a winter wonderland on decoration day. The joy on the faces of the children attending Kids and Christmas is reward enough for the time spent on that day. If you can help send me an e-mail at larrypegbingham@centurytel.net or call me at 884-1124. Thank you.

General Membership Meeting Minutes

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Geoff Baillie, Kurt Anderson, Francie Carr, Jan Prichard, "CC" Williams, Randy Babich, Phil Johnson

The meeting was called to order by President Geoff Baillie at 7:25 p.m. CC introduced our hostesses, Barb Van Bogart, Theresa Gano, Laura Anderson and Connie Wick.

Secretary: A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve last month's General Meeting minutes. Jan Prichard, Secretary, made a correction to the printed calendar. The December General Member Potluck Meeting is Wed., December 21st at 6:30 p.m.

Treasurer: Francie Carr, treasurer, reported that our revenue continues in the same pattern with building revenue over budget expectations and marina revenue below expectations. The Fiber Arts weekend netted about \$500 for the LIC. The Halloween Dance netted about \$350. Seven quarterly moorage payment reminders have been sent out to delinquent account holders. Marina, Events and Building chairs are continuing to watch expenses keeping them below budget. At the end of the calendar year we should be very close to the 2011 budget. The LIC checking account balance at 10/31/11 is \$47,085.45.

Francie presented the proposed 2012 operating budget and described some of the monetary challenges facing the LIC in order to sustain it as a viable organization into the future. i.e. moorage and dance revenues did not meet expectations in 2011; insurance premiums for the dock and the building have increased dramatically for 2012; electricity will be increasing 6% in March; we have our obligation to pay off the wharf loans.

In order to sustain the needed cash flow and have a balanced budget, the Board decided that the largest revenue item, moorage revenue, needed to be increased. Therefore, in the proposed budget the Marina guest and permanent moorage revenue was increased to reflect a \$1.00 increase per foot for permanent moorage and a 10 cent per foot increase in transient moorage. A motion was made, seconded and passed to include a \$1.00 increase per foot for temporary and permanent moorage to begin Jan. 1, 2012. A motion to increase transient moorage did not pass, so a discussion ensued to find ways to make up the approximate \$2,000 shortfall in order to balance the budget. A motion was made, seconded and passed to have a Garage Sale fundraiser in 2012. The proceeds from items sold by members at the event would be split 50/50 between the seller and the LIC. Robin Gould passed around a sign up sheet for people to volunteer to help plan the event, and Denny Prichard will chair it. It was suggested that we advertise the sale at the marina for visiting boaters and that we call it something other than a "garage sale". A motion was made, seconded and approved to adopt the 2012 budget as amended.

Francie presented the Capital Budget for 2012. The Building Designated Fund had a balance of \$27,100.52 at the end of October and the Board recommends that a capital budget expense of \$12,750 be approved to install new gutters (\$2,300), replace the stove (\$5,100) and replace the kitchen counter (\$5,350). A motion was made, seconded and passed to adopt the Capital Budget.

Membership: "CC" Williams, Membership Chair, reported that we have 113 memberships equaling 196 members. She is looking for help for the December General Membership meeting for set up, clean up, roasting turkeys and baking hams, hostessing and program. If you would like to help, please contact her. She also reminded us that raffle tickets for the night's prizes of a case of beer, a book or a basket of teas are only \$1.00 or 6 for \$5.00.

Building and Grounds: Sharon Gearhart, Building and Grounds Chair, thanked Carolyn Wiley for procuring 300 tulip and daffodil bulbs and said they were planted by Shirley Brewer, Judy Riggs, Jan Prichard and herself. She thanked Gayle Brewer for winterizing the watering system and Lynn Carr for fixing the hinge that was pulling out of the front door closer. She asked members to use a rock to prop open the front door if needed, rather than opening it all the way. Sharon also thanked Lynn for installing the bat repellers. Our bat problem seems to have been cured. Dick and Dee Schaff received a round of applause for painting the office. It looks great. A building cleanup will be scheduled for sometime after the first of the year. Sharon would like to get rid of the broken piano, the antique ringer washer in the men's room and the propeller in front of the building. If anyone wants the piano, it is free. We'll be getting more rocks from Michael Runyon to keep cars off the lawn to the left of the building. There are already five or six rentals scheduled for 2012. The building is off limits when rented and she asks members to please respect renters' rights to have the building to themselves. Please contact Sharon if you have an emergency need to get into the building when it's rented. Dave Dahl brought up the issue of a fire lane and Sharon said they would consult the fire department before placing more rocks.

Marina: Randy Babich, Marina Committee Chair, reported that the Tacoma Power Squadron did a great job painting bull rails, power washing the dock , installing new hardware for the curtains in the pavilion , cleaning up the parking area, and many other jobs that have been on the "to do" list for months. Geoff sent them a thank you email and we will be sending them a newsletter. Lynn Carr, the Michelangelo of Welding, is continuing the welding and grating installation on the wharf ramp. Dave Wickland, Denny Prichard, Lynn Carr, Randy Babich and Dick Van Cise all worked to get the last piece of the ramp grating in place. Harry Faas made a report to the Marina Committee on what the DNR will possibly be requiring for boat houses when the LIC marina lease renewal comes up in 2017. Randy Babich said the Marina Committee will inform the

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General Membership Meeting November 16, 2011

(continued)

boat house owners as to what the DNR has shared with the LIC so that they will have an idea what *may be required* in 2017. Issues of non-compliance by boat owners, i.e. no insurance,etc are being dealt with. The ice machine runs constantly and Sharoin will have it serviced. The leftover ice is available for free to anyone who wants it. Some is stored in the LIC freezer and the rest is still at the dock.

Events: In Sandy Black's absence, Carolyn Wiley reported that Kids and Christmas is coming Sunday, December 18th from 1 to 4 pm. Nine scout groups help the kids to make gifts, Santa hands out gifts and we take pictures of the kids with Santa. We get the gifts on Monday the 12th and we'll be wrapping gifts Tuesday and Wednesday Dec. 13 and 14 starting at 10 a.m. She proposed that we buy the scout troops a skate party at the Civic Center for \$80.00 and that was approved. Weaving workshops will be held January 16, 17 & 18 and January 20, 21 & 22. The library will be having the weaver give a presentation on the 19th. The Taiko Drummers will be performing at the LIC on March 3lst. They are being sponsored by the Key Peninsula Library. Decoration Day is Saturday, Dec. 3rd at 10 a.m. We have a tree and plenty decorations for it. It's always a lot of fun to "deck the halls" and everyone is encouraged to participate.

Emergency Preparedness: Kurt Anderson encouraged everyone to fill out their Key Peninsula Emergency Preparedness Survey and turn it into the KPFD. If there is a disaster that isolates us on the Key the Fire Department will use the information to see what help is available from the residents. Peninsula Light has an emergency kit available for \$40 to keep in your car. He also suggested getting a small hand crank radio/flashlight/usb port w/solar panel. They are available at Radio Shack and elsewhere. Also helpful are the little thermal handwarmers.

Old Business: The Board has had two long-range planning sessions. The next one will be at 2 p.m. on January 10th at the Clubhouse.. Everyone is welcome to come and "CC" will send out an email informing everyone of the date and time. We're on track to bring the information to the General Meetings in January and February and make decisions in March or April.

New Business: The Board proposes that in December if members don't have enough hours, they can purchase them in December for \$50/hr. It will take a by-laws change, but we're asking for a one time exemption so that option would be available for this year. A motion was made seconded and passed to allow any member who is short of hours this December to buy them at \$50 each.

Peg Bingham and Sharon Gearhart volunteered to bake hams. Barb Van Bogart, Kurt Anderson, and Lynn Lloyd volunteered to roast turkeys.

Theresa Gano announced a casual holiday gathering to be held December 10th, 4:30 p.m. at the dock. Invite your neighbors and friends to share hors d'oeuvres. There will be hot buttered rum and hot cider, holiday lights and a heated pavilion. It will just be a fun holiday get together. "CC" will send out an email and Theresa will get a notice to Nancy Carr for the newsletter.

Sharon Gearhart, Pat Muchmore and Dave Wick won the raffle prizes. The meeting was adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Jan Prichard, Secretary

Road Pickup:

Our last road pickup of the year was held Wednesday, November 9th. It was a good day for a healthy walk! Kudos to the intrepid treasure hunters - Pat Muchmore, Sharon Gearhart (support crew - ask her about her delicious apple crisp!), Jan & Denny Pritchard and yours truly. ~ Bob McFarlane

Come one, come all to a casual get together on the dock.

The date is December 10, starting at 4:30 pm until ?. Please bring an appetitzer to share and a white elephant gift \$5.00 or under. There will be hot butter rum, and hot cider. You may want to bring your own beverage. The cabana will be warm and in holiday cheer!

Theresa Gano

November 2011 Building and Grounds Chat Room :

I want to express my extreme gratitude to the membership for approving the budget for next year which included some important building upgrades. Thank you so much for beginning some much needed renovation. In addition there are several members who deserve thanks for work they have done for the Longbranch Improvement Club; Carolyn Wiley for thinking ahead and ordering tulip and daffy bulbs for the spring and Jan Prichard, Shirley Brewer and Judy Riggs for planting all 300 of them. The side gardens should sparkle with color, come next spring. Lynn Carr for mounting the bat repeller 400 feet up in the main room (it seems to be working as the last bat was seen leaving town about 2 weeks after he installed it.) Also he fixed the front door hinge which was about to give up the ghost (if you want to keep the front door open please prop it open with a rock.) Gayle Brewer drained and winterized the automatic watering system. And a special thanks to Dee and Dick Scharf for painting the office-it looks splendid and clean.

Although I was hoping to have another building clean up day in November I had to delay it due to holidays, events and weather. I am hoping to have one in January 2012 so keep an eye on your e-mails and the newsletter for date and time. I will be posting a list of things that need to be done (mainly inside work) to include but not limited to: clean and organize the sound room, pull out chairs and tables and sweep under the stage and fix the blip in the flooring that causes the trolleys to hang up when they are pulled out from the far back, paint the cabinet under the kitchen sink and perhaps add a shelf for storage there and dismantle the storage cabinet in the storeroom. I am still trying to find someone who has electrical skills that can help us get a light in the mop closet. It is DARK, SCARY and smelly in there. If you have this talent and would like to assist please call me.

Hopefully we will be saying goodbye to a few odd, old and sick friends. The propeller will be moved from its current spot in front of the building to a more appropriate one- somewhere, we will be getting rid of the piano which is not fixable. If anyone wants it please let me know and it is yours. And we will be selling or auctioning off the pink washing machine in the men's bathroom, proceeds to go to the building.

Lastly I have two requests; 1) please do not unplug the refrigerator. I know it is annoying during meetings but the plug is not meant to be used as an on/off switch and using it as such is stressing the compressor. We need it to last for awhile. 2) When the building is rented for a non club function it is off limits to entry by club members. In the same light if a club member is attending a seminar they should not be bothered while they are in class. If you need to speak with them, call them at home in the evening. Please do not interrupt their class. If you have an urgent need to get into the building during one of these times please call me and I will see what I can do to assist you but individual parties renting the building do so with the anticipation of privacy. I will post a sign on the door when there are private functions as a reminder that the building is off limits during the event.

Once again thank you to everyone for your support and hard work. You are a wonderful group, I am proud to know you and I hope that you each have a special Thanksgiving.

Sharon Gearhart-Building and Grounds Chair. 884-3890

Trunk or Treat News:

A huge Thank you goes out to the LIC and all the lovely volunteers, inside the building and out.

The children had a wonderful and safe Halloween thanks to all who participated. I would love to name and thank everyone personally but that list is to0 long. You all know who you are and although a thank you isn't enough, I am hoping that all the smiles and giggles were enough to fill your hearts with joy.

We hope you all have a wonderful holiday season.

Debbie Ehrhardt



Trunk or Treat "Trunk" photo -by Debbie Ehrhardt

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The following is reprinted from the December 2011 Tacoma Power Squadron newsletter 'Wake Astern'.

Visual Distress Demonstration

Follow-up

By P/C Pat Lemagie, AP

As a result of our Longbranch VDS demonstration with rather surprising results, a letter was sent to Olin Marine safety Products regarding the less than satisfactory product performance. I believe it's important for everyone to know that earlier this week I received an email from the Plant Manager at Olin explaining that our letter has received much attention and, "was the main topic of discussion during a meeting this morning involving the top Orion management officials". He indicated further that they are looking into the problem and that we, TPS, would be hearing back from them.

There is a lesson to be learned here by all power squadron members and fellow boaters. Visual Distress Signals are an important part of the safety equipment carried aboard every boat cruising on Puget Sound. Skippers do so believing that these devices will never be needed but also believing that should the worst ever occur, these safety devices will function as designed and summon necessary rescue personnel. It's indeed unfortunate when any product fails to work as advertised but for an item that is intended to be stored unused and untested till needed only then to discover that it's defective is unacceptable. Olin Marine Safety Products is one of the best known names in the marine safety products field and from reading their email I'm confident they will address this problem accordingly. In the meantime, this incident brings to light

an important message. Never rely on a single method when safety is concerned. Redundancy is the key to safety. Federal law requires that we carry three day and night devices aboard our vessels. There is nothing said prohibiting us carrying several times more than the minimum. I mentioned during my presentation the advantages of SOLAS grade signals and had hoped to convince observers of this by way of their performance. I never expected that the multiple failures of the consumer grade devices would serve to do just that. Remember, any safety device made by man can and will fail eventually, so it's important to have multiple types of devices aboard your vessel. Keep them up to date and know how to use them. When it comes to safety, it's worth it!

From the Dock Master -

Well it's that time of year again, where most of the marine excursions our only in our dreams. The winds are great for sailing, but it is so darn cold and often to rough for the power boating crowd. What happened to the days when we didn't seem to mind getting out in the winter weather, have we really changed that much?

We have just a few boats for winter moorage, but have quite a few recent inquiries. Please keep putting the word out and remember that winter moorage can be started anytime from now to the end of March. The water is off right now but it will be on (with weather permitting) from Thanksgiving thru November 27th, then the water will be turned off for the Winter.

The transient traffic has almost come to a stop with only 4 boats so far this month. Fircrest Yacht Club is coming in this Thanksgiving weekend so that will help to boost our numbers. Although, this will be the last club of the year. I love the quiet solitude at the marina and the winter is so beautiful there on the water. but in the summer the marina has a tropical feel with the boating clubs partying in such harmony. They love our marina; often considered the best destination in South Sound!!!

Hope everyone has a wonderful holiday, your dock master, Pat Thompson

Are you ready for a natural disaster (Part 2)?

Over the last few months we have taken a few minutes in each of our General Membership Meetings to briefly share information about the need to begin preparing for the natural disaster (most likely an earthquake) that all the experts predict for the Pacific Northwest. Although the LIC Board will eventually put together a proposed plan for the Club as a unit, the time has come for each of us to decide whether we, as individuals, are going to take this information seriously, or if we are going to treat it as just interesting entertainment. Have you taken the time to do at least the following?

- 1. Create a disaster response plan of action that takes into account that not all members of the family will be in the same location when disaster strikes.
- 2. Arranged for an agreed upon out of state point of contact for all members of the family to communicate through.
- 3. Put together or purchased two separate family size survival kits; one for use at home (check out the one at Costco), and one for use in a rapid departure from the Peninsula (check out the one at Peninsula Light).
- 4. Signed up for the Pierce County Alert System (see October Newsletter).
- 5. Completed and submitted the Key Peninsula Emergency Preparedness Survey (available from Kurt Anderson via email).
- 6. Made sure that you have at least a two week alternate source of heat, power, and drinking water.

Hopefully you can answer yes to all of the above, or at least you are working on it. Please take the time to get yourself prepared. And remember, the more prepared you are, the more you are freed up to help those who are not!

Kurt

Kids and Christmas is coming! We hope you be there to enjoy the day! Sunday, December 18, 1:00-4:00 the LIC will be filled with elves, tots, and toys. Santa delivery duties will be handled by the volunteers from Key Peninsula Fire Fighters Association Girl Scouts will be on hand to help children make gifts for family members. Santa will be in his most wonderful chair (Thanks, Robin Gould!) Photographers will be on hand to take Santa Pictures. (Thanks, Dale Goodvin & Denny Prichard) Kitchen helpers will be serving cocoa & cookies. Thanks, Peg Bingham & crew) The glorious tree will be surrounded by gifts. (Thanks, Nancy and Lynn Carr) ñ Gift wrappers are needed on Tuesday and Wednesday Dec 13 and 14. Many hands on deck help make this day go smoothly! Sunday, Dec. 13 volunteers should arrive by 12:00 to be ready to go when the kids arrive. Jobs to be covered: sign-in & nametags, Santa helpers, Photo helpers, and guides. Clean up starts at 4:00. Call Sandy Black(884-1309), or Carolyn Wiley (884-9157) to volunteer.

Mark your calendars for the December General Membership Christmas Potluck, Wed., Dec. 21st at 6:30 p.m.

LIC Contacts

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