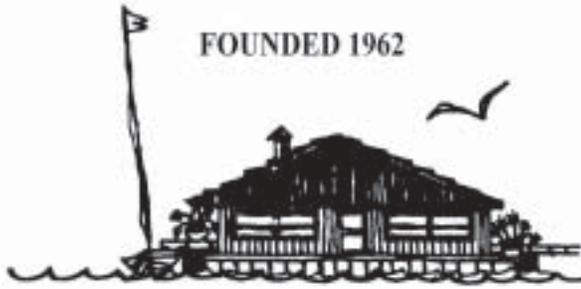


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FLOATING HOMES
ASSOCIATION



NUMBER 143

Newsletter

FALL 2003

Cruise Party !

Historic Steamship Virginia V Hosts Houseboat Revellers

Inside:

City Settles Lake Union Crew

Public Left Out of Private Agreement

SPD Burglary Alert

12 Breakins Since 9/24

Dock Denizens

Hazel Nigh: Queen of 2019

Winterize Your Dock

Waterlog



FHA uber-organizers Melissa Ahlers and Emily Hine gloat over yet another fabulous event while Tom and Susan Susor find a moment on the dance floor



*Floating
Homes
Association's*

Holiday Sale!



T Shirts!



The Floating Homes Association has several gift ideas for your holiday shopping.

Special edition T-shirts sporting the 40-year anniversary of the Floating Homes Association are for sale for \$15.00 and make nice gifts to fellow floaters, friends and family.

We will also have some new colors/styles for sweatshirts and new white long sleeve T-shirts. FHA mugs, note cards and cookbooks are also available and make great gifts.



And Mugs !



And Cookbooks ! Oh, My !

The FHA office at 2329 Fairview Avenue East will be open three weekends this season. Holiday office hours are Sundays, December 7th, 14th and 21st from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm
Phone: 206 325-1132

The Floating Homes Association

2329 Fairview E
Seattle, WA 98102

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Vice President: **Marty Greer
(2466 WL)**

Treas: **Ed Waddington / Julia
Forbes (2339 FV)**

Secretary: **Sally Weems
(933 N NL)**

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Sheri Greaves (3110 PBPL)

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Giff & Mary Jones (2600 FV)

Jo Seel (2460 WL)

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Now and Then

Newsletter: **Jann, Emily, Jan,**

Bill, Marilyn Robertson,

Marty Wall, Arminda Phillips

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Fall 2003



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Association Standing Committee Reports



Legislative & Legal

Sheri Greaves, Chair

City Cuts Private Settlement With Lake Union Crew

*Allows current operations if "vessel" status maintained.
But public left out of enforcement.*

The city has settled with Lake Union Crew. This probably ends a five-year struggle over whether Lake Union Crew can beach a 20,000 sq ft commercial facility on the Seattle waterfront and commence operations without obtaining a permit.

Apparently, they can.

In spite of the fact that our coalition (including the FHA, the Eastlake Community Council and the 3100 Fairview Condo Association) has participated in the case from the beginning, we were not privy to either the negotiations or the agreement itself. In fact, it took a Public Disclosure Act request to get a copy.

The agreement provides that if Lake Union Crew meets certain conditions 75 days after the agreement was signed, they are authorized to "the use of a yacht, boat and beach club with non-water dependant uses over water on the barges Unity and Inspiration." It goes on to specifically allow most Lake Union Crew's current operations. The current Notice of Violation is dropped.

In return, number one, Lake Union Crew will drop its own claims against the city. It must also lecture its clients (in writing) about parking plus provide 19 spaces in a building 800 feet away, 50 feet up-hill and across a major arte-

rial. Other provisions include required valet parking for events over 50 people and a picnic table. They must provide facilities for "human powered craft." They have to do a little landscaping.

The only real catch is that Lake Union Crew must maintain their vessel status to keep the deal. This has been a problem for them lately, compounded, we suppose, by the fact that they aren't really vessels. Tiff McNamara has looked into this a bit and has found they are probably already violating the "quarterly cruise" requirement.

Unfortunately, since the settlement is a private deal, if we spot a violation, all we can do is whine to the city. If the city decides to do nothing, we have no recourse under the agreement as we would with a permit violation. — **Bill Keasler**

1409 Boat Street Dock: Following through on the Legislature's recent directive to come up with a plan to equitably deal with the floating homes on its moorage, the first meeting of the UW Real Estate Office, 1409 Boat Street floating home owners and representatives from the FHA (Sheri and Mike Ryherd, lobbyist) was held on Tuesday evening, October 14. Everyone seems to be on the same page as far as getting a plan together that will be agreeable to all parties as soon as possible. However, there are a lot of issues to be worked through. The UW has retained an appraiser to come up with several options, including (but certainly not limited to) outright purchase of the floating home, relocation, reverse mortgages, as well as other creative solutions. We stressed to the UW staff that the first, and preferred, option of the floating home owners is to stay right where they are for as long as they can, and to exercise these other avenues only as a last resort, if and when the UW does decide to change the use of this property. The UW is now talking about the possibility of a 10-year lease for the houseboats. We'll keep you updated as we progress, the goal being to have some general report to the legislators in January which will list areas of agreement and steps for coming to a final resolution. — **Sheri Greaves**

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Association Standing Committee Reports

DNR Re-examination of Condominiums: The FHA has been contacted by Lance Davisson, Land Manager for the Shoreline District Aquatics Region of the DNR, regarding DNR reexamining the issue of condominiumization on State lands (including water). He wanted to give us a heads-up that DNR will be holding a series of public meetings sometime in the future (projected to be no sooner than 2005) to determine their course of action, and wants our help in working through the issues and potential impacts. In the meantime, DNR will not grant permanent leases with condominium docks, but will continue the temporary leases that were granted in the late 1990's. Letters to this effect have apparently gone out to some of the condominium docks, but do not panic. Our lobbyist, Mike Ryherd, has a meeting set up with DNR to find out more about what is motivating this, and he will provide us with more information soon. We have plenty of time to work with DNR on this issue. If you have received a letter, could you please let me know so we can keep track (e-mail: sgreaves@fhcrc.org)...thanks. — **Sheri Greaves**

guests, and poor parking jobs taking up two spots.”

“We could create a parking zone solely for houseboaters which protects stalls directly in front of our docks, encourage alternative means of transportation like Flexcar, and establish parking spots with stripes or ropes.”

From Westlake Avenue: “Our parking situation is usually fine, however, we have a problem on Sundays and festival weekends. It seems Fremont festival goers see our stalls as their ‘little secret’ spots two blocks from the ‘center of the universe.’ I’m afraid to move my car during these times without bringing my walking shoes for the return trip. This is only going to get worse as Fremont grows!”

“Zoned parking, effective only on the weekend, might reduce or eliminate this problem. I wonder how my neighbors would feel about that.”

From Boyer Avenue: “Parking has not been *much* of a problem, though we have public parking in front of our dock many have ‘personalized’ a stall with their last name. It seems to work, but parking is definitely coveted. I am concerned about the future; maybe it would be a good idea to get these spots legally designated.”

Are you correctly represented by the above conversation?

We need YOUR input! We want to know: **What is your dock address (not boat number or name)? What is your present parking situation? Where is it heading? What could help your situation?**

e-mail your *Parking* Problems and Solutions to:
fhaparking@hotmail.com

The Parking Committee is a subcommittee of the FHA Safety Committee. A small group has been meeting monthly to discuss broad issues related to parking around the floating homes. If you would like to become a part of the committee please e-mail us at fhaparking@hotmail.com and we will gladly inform you of future meetings. — **Chad Lorenz, Parking Committee Chair**



Security & Safety

Giff Jones
Tiffany McNamara
Co-Chairs

Overheard at a Recent Parking Meeting...

From Fairview Avenue: “I used to think it was the employees of the businesses in the neighborhood that were using all our parking. Then I noticed that there is plenty of parking during the day but nothing when we come home past 8 p.m. Maybe the problem is us! There are many households with multiple cars, nearby apartments with too many tenants or

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1/4 page	4 1/4" x 5 1/2"	\$100 + tax

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Winterize !

2019 FV Work Party Winterizes the Dock



By Jan Carlson

Imitating the ants in the parable of the grasshopper and the ants, the community at 2019 in the Log Foundation held possibly the most important party of the year in October, a Winterizing and Clean-Up Work Party. After some explanation of things to look for and do from knowledgeable Mark Sanderson, everyone agreed that the best strategy would be to split up into four groups.

Water Lines

One group checked water lines looking for bulging, corrosion, cracking, and leaking in both the lines and fittings. They found a couple of spots where the line running along the dock was not properly supported. Pipe hangers and screws easily fixed the problem and prevented further sagging and a possible broken line in the future.

One neighbor, Alan Shaw, explained to a new dock resident that insulation of the flexible water line connection between the dock and floating home could be an important part of a good freezing prevention program. A disadvantage of using insulation includes not being able to see what's going on under the insulation. Also, insulating just the flexible line will not prevent freezing during a hard freeze. A burst water line would likely interrupt water service to everyone on the dock and possibly ruin everything in the house. Alan also explained that if winter weather brings freezing temperatures, it's important to let a tap in the house run just a little as an added precaution to prevent the water from freezing in the pipes. The stream of water should be big enough that it doesn't stop when neighbors turn their water on. One water tap running should be enough unless the house has another tap in a place that is unheated or far away (like a second story) and might freeze inside the house. Everyone should know where the water shut off is on their home, and where the shutoff to the dock is. Frozen pipes can be thawed

before they rupture by wrapping them in cloths and pouring boiling lake water over them.

Some floating homers have tried wrapping their water pipes with electrically heated tape to prevent freezing. The tape has caused fires on two occasions in recent years because the thermostat in the tape malfunctioned. In one case, the tape was wrapped around the flexible connection to the house and then insulation put over that. The tape overheated melting through the insulation, and then the dock began to burn. Fire fighters used chain saws on the dock to get to the fire and put it out. In another note of precaution about water pipes, city engineers warn that they should never be allowed to hang or sag into the lake. This could cause leakage to go undetected. It could also allow seepage of lake water into the line, thus contaminating it.

Sewer

Another group lead by Tim Carlander (who earned the man-of-the-day award for his intrepid efforts) and Bill Vandeventer tackled an equally important inspection – sewer lines. Tim and Bill instructed group members to make sure that lines have slack and flexibility so that as the lake level rises and falls, the flexible sewer pipe doesn't get stretched too tightly. They looked for cracks in pipes and made sure all fittings and connections were secure. The group made a valiant effort to replaced sections of cracked, worn, leaking and disconnected lines. Neighbors donned rubber gloves and worked together stretched out on their bellies on a deck cutting out damaged sections of flexible pipe with outstretched arms wielding a utility knife. They then used soap to facilitate connecting replacement flexible pipe with the existing pipe being careful to make sure everything was still flowing down hill toward the dock sewer line. Sewage doesn't run up hill very well!

There are many different pump systems around the lake and Portage Bay. Each dock has its own unique system that connects it to the city sewer system. Constructing these systems in the late 1960s was an important part of cleaning up Lake Union and did much to save houseboats on the lake.



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Chains

A third group checked the mooring chains for corrosion, also a critical yearly inspection. The parts of the chains that hang in the water had the worst corrosion. Most chains looked like they still had plenty of thickness left, but knocking the rust off with a hammer showed spots where the corrosion had reduced the thickness and weakened the chains. Galvanized chains offer the best value in terms of resisting corrosion. They can last for up to 10 years but should be checked religiously after seven years. Stainless steel chains would be prohibitively expensive because of the length needed.

Cleanup

A fourth group of neighbors gave the head of the dock a general sprucing up by picking up trash, weeding, and using a pressure washer to wash slippery moss off of the ramp, stairs, railings and pier. The overhead lights were checked and got a much needed cleaning, while noting the need for new bulbs to have on hand.

Community members had a good time as they worked together, got to know each other better and grew closer. Everyone took pride in the necessary contribution each gave to the effort to make their pier safe from disaster during the coming winter weather.

An additional bonus came from working together when, like schooling fishes, they all surrounded and stopped a very surprised bicycle thief who tried to make a getaway down the pier. The police quickly responded to several simultaneous 911 calls and lead the dismayed purloiner away in hand cuffs (see sidebar)

Sid 'n' Jann's Winter List

Sid McFarland and his wife, Jann, long time residents of the Log Foundation, have a checklist of suggestions for winterizing individual houseboats. Sid's business is to fix problems that house boaters run into with their chains, sewer or water pipes, etc.

— Broken chains occur most often during high winds. Everyone should have a sturdy coiled rope on his or her dock that could be used in an emergency to temporarily tie up the house until help and replacement chains arrive. Neighbors should know where the line is. When replacing chains be sure to have it done by someone qualified. A loose houseboat can damage the dock, camel logs and other people's property.

— During high winds, deck furniture, flower pots and other things can blow around and end up damaging things or they could end up on the bottom of the lake.

— Snow, because it is so heavy could sink a floating home if it is allowed to accumulate. Shoveling docks, decks and roofs is sometimes necessary. House boaters shouldn't wait until the snowstorm hits to procure a snow shovel. Canoe or kayak paddles will work in a pinch.

— Flower pots, especially if they are not draining, can break during a freeze.

— Houseboaters who are planning to be absent during winter months should ask a neighbor to keep an eye out for freezing water lines. In a longer absence, water lines should be drained. Leaving a tap running for a long period of time is wasteful and expensive. Asking someone who lives on land to shovel their deck and roof in case of snow will save dock members from having to shovel six or seven empty houses. A houseboater who leaves for the winter should have a caretaker designated to check on things regularly.

— During a freeze, sand should not be used on icy docks as the grit can ruin wood floors.

— Clean wood stove chimneys. The floating home community has seen a lot of chimney fires. Burning green wood or garbage such as waxed cartons causes unnecessary smoke. It also adds to the soot and creosote buildup in the chimney. This is what catches on fire during a chimney fire.

— Check smoke alarm batteries and personal fire extinguishers to make sure they are in good working order. Every houseboat should have a fire extinguisher or two.

— Clean gutters and check for bad spots on the roof.

Docksters Nab Bicycle Thief

Some of the folks from dock 2019 FV were amazed to capture a bicycle thief right on their dock on a recent Sunday morning.

They were doing dock repairs and fall cleanup when the perp rode the stolen bike from Daly's hamburger joint down the hill and along Fairview and then down the dock ramp, out to the end of the dock and onto one of the end houseboats. He then ran with the bike back towards the street on foot along the channel side jumping from houseboat to houseboat.

An aproned Daly's employee, owner of the bike, was hot on his heels in his car all the way. And soon he joined the others on the dock surrounding the man.

The police were called and a whole fleet of squad cars cars responded and took the "villain" away.



FHA EXHIBIT NOW AT HISTORY HOUSE

By Betty Swift

History House, the museum of Seattle neighborhoods, is featuring North Seattle Neighborhoods in a special exhibit for the months of November and December. As a valid neighborhood of our own, the floating homes community has been invited to present a display showing our history and contributions to the City of Seattle.

The exhibit runs from November 1st through the end of the year. History House can be found behind the fanciful wrought-iron fence at 790 North 34th Street, a short block east of Fremont. Hours of the exhibit are noon to 5 pm Wednesdays through Sundays.

Our exhibit was planned and assembled by FHA board member and Portage Bay houseboater, Betty Swift with some input on history highlights by FHA president, Bill Keasler.



It's best to be ready for nature's little calamities

Make sure your chains and lines (Spring arms) are secured to the dock
Have fenders available to put between you and that unexpected approaching boat

Do you have extra lines that are easily accessible

Do you have cleats that are accessible and could hold your home to the dock

Is your dock/deck nonskid prepared? Rock Salt/Sand available?

Are items on decks secure so they won't blow away. (I wonder how many BB-Q's are at the bottom of the lake)

Always keep a steady stream of water running in your home if it gets below freezing. If you are going to be out of town drain your lines. If you do freeze up you can always flush your toilets with lake water. (Have a bucket and line available.)

Have a warm and festive season!



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STAYING AFLOAT IN TOUGH TIMES

By Marty Wall

Today marks the anniversary of 9-11-01, a horrific event that turned us all upside down. The Northwest seemed pretty stable before that tragic day; however, in the aftermath of 9-11 the nation's economy began to sputter. Our region was hit particularly hard because of our close association with the commercial airline industry and how it ties in with our local economy. Within months following 9-11, Boeing issued layoff warnings to several thousand employees. We had not yet recovered from the dot.com fallout when news arrived that the area's largest employer was cutting as many as 30,000 jobs—several of those right here in our community. The ripple effect resulted in the loss of other manufacturing jobs and soon we were faced with one of our highest unemployment rates in years.

Those ripples washed me out of a job I had held for three years, a near six-figure position that allowed me to live comfortably and without concern. In the days following, I did much soul searching and counseling with friends and family. I decided that what's important was to try and keep what I care about the most—my house, my friends in the floating home community, and my love of The Lake.

I struck a deal with my neighbor Burt, another single guy, that if I agreed to cook we would split the cost of food. This has worked out extremely well

I set out to find new employment in the most unconventional of ways—calling everyone I knew. Fortunately I landed almost immediately at a local radio station, which offered a good salary, stability and an opportunity for growth. Most importantly, I could hold on to my floating home. Within days of settling in to my new job, my father, without warning, fell severely ill and suddenly my focus shifted. Daily updates from my mother and brother were filled with nothing but bad news. My thoughts kept turning to my father's health and I was unable to fully concentrate on my job, a position that required my full attention. As my dad's health continued to decline, my stress level increased. In fairness to my employer, and for my own state of mind, I decided to resign my position. So, once again I found myself unemployed.

Fortunately, I'm working again in a job that offers hope and opportunity, however I must learn to live on less than a third of what I was previously earning. I've had to make some adjustments and so far it seems to be working.

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My first thought was to turn to my family for help, but intensity and determination prevented me from doing that. I knew there had to be a better way. As interest rates fell I looked in to the possibility of refinancing my home. My note was just under 8% and I kept watching rates in the paper to see if I could do better. My neighbor Jack, an attorney and mortgage broker, was very helpful in offering me advice on the market and loan options. I was able to refinance when rates hit a 30-year low and I readjusted my note reducing my house payment close to \$300 per month. With equity in the house, I was able to secure a loan and purchase a much more reliable and economical vehicle. I was on my way to recovery.

My search for ways to save didn't end there. I still had to find a way to cut expenses in order to stay afloat. I struck a deal with my neighbor Burt, another single guy, that if I agreed to cook we would split the cost of food. This has worked out extremely well and in the end we both save money. We share shopping duties with him picking up the bulk of the cost in exchange for my preparing the meals. My cell phone has always been the primary way for friends and family to reach me, so I discontinued my home phone for another significant savings. Cable TV was another easy way to cut back. By reducing my service from premium to basic, I save over \$40 per month. I do miss ESPN, but it's a small sacrifice! My neighbor August and I split the cost of firewood which saves on heating bills and my neighbor David helps me with small projects around the hose which saves me from having to hire expensive contractors.

I continue to look for ways to save money and can only hope that my situation is temporary. It's been a learning, albeit humbling experience. It is, however, comforting to live in a community where people share and care about each other. All of my friends at Westlake Cove continue to offer kind words of encouragement as I struggle with a tough situation. I continue to hope that with perseverance and prayer, my situation will change, but in the interim, it's comforting to know that I live in a great community and I'm lucky to be a part of it.



Houseboat / Dock Watch Seattle Police Department Burglary Alert

There have been over 12 residential burglaries in floating homes in your area since 9/24/03.

Over 90% of the entries were made via **open or unlocked** doors or windows and residents were home during all but one of the residential burglaries.

What do you need to do to help safe guard your home and your family?

1. **LOCK ALL YOUR DOORS AND WINDOWS!** Lock up even if you are at home and always at night or when sleeping! Also lock storage sheds and gates. Times have changed, so **LOCK UP!**
 2. If you have had a burglary, **RE KEY YOUR LOCKS!** You don't want a 2nd burglary!
 3. **ALWAYS PUT VALUABLES OUT OF SIGHT!** Purses, backpacks, small items of value, laptops, cameras and cash that can be seen from out side make your home a good target. Don't let this happen to you.
 4. Use **INTERIOR LIGHT TIMERS SO YOUR HOME ALWAYS LOOKS OCCUPIED!** Also set them so a room is lit at odd times during the night to give the appearance that some one is up and about. Add movement-activated lights outside to pathways, stairs or the back of your home.
 5. **MARK YOUR PROPERTY** with your Washington State Drivers License number. That includes tools, boat motors, bicycles, computers and TV's. Remember to down load and save computer files so that if your computer is stolen you will have copies of needed computer or lap top files.
 6. **CHECK FOR IDENTITY THEFT!** If your purse or other records have been stolen, be on the alert for any evidence of identity theft.
-

If you have or learn of any suspect information call

SPD Detective W.L. Schorsch at 684-5712!

Remember: Always lock up your home, call 911 to report all suspicious activity and call SPD Crime Prevention, Sonja Richter, at 684-7717 if you have questions.



Cruise Party!

SUMMER FUN ON THE VIRGINIA V



Photo from Mary Jones

Party Pushers L to R: Sally Weems, Mary Jones, Jann McFarland, Melissa Ahlers, Giff Jones and Emily Hine.

By Emily Hine and Jann McFarland

On Thursday evening, August 21st, the Floating Homes Association held a cruising party aboard the Virginia V, the restored historic steamship moored in south Lake Union. 145 houseboaters and guests boarded the vessel to the sold out event at 6 pm on a gorgeous summer evening and for the next four hours were treated to live music, food, drinks, and a tour of our floating homes community. Several people without tickets showed up in hopes of obtaining one due to a cancellation, and lucky for them, all got to come aboard as the Virginia V crew punched their passenger counters to make sure we stuck to their quota. One couple had gone to eat nearby and were called on their cell phone to say there was room and they jumped up and left the restaurant to join the revelry.

Food for the event was generously donated by the Outback Steakhouse, the newest restaurant addition to southwest Lake Union. A full dinner buffet was set up on long serving tables



Photo by Emily Hine

Outback caterers kept the food coming. L to R: David Leischner, Lindsey Sheer, Michael Frederico (Manager), Eddie Shaw.

outside the glassed in engine room on the lower level near the galley. The menu included barbequed chicken, sirloin so tender you didn't need a knife, luscious lamb chops, sautéed burgundy mushrooms, and Caesar salad. Hospitable restaurant manager, Michael Frederico, mingled with the group and those of us who spent time talking with him and taking a solemn oath to visit the restaurant were rewarded with his business card and the promise of a free "Bloomin' Onion appetizer. The Outback catering staff was friendly and efficient as they kept the food coming. Some of



Photo by Sid McFarland

The "Acme Blues Band". Bob West: trumpet, piano, vocals; Heather Banks, guitar, vocals; Jack Cook: guitar, vocals; Clare Conrad: violin; Shannon Raynolds: drums.

the volunteers who were working earlier figured there probably wouldn't be much food left, but were pleasantly surprised to find the table being replenished for them. Have you ever been to an event where there was all you can eat lamb chops? It was a carnivore's heaven. One person was overheard commenting that they only took one chop the first time through the line being afraid there wouldn't be enough for everyone. That happy person, who shall remain nameless, later was seen with five piled on their plate ready to devour! Many houseboaters who hadn't dined at the Outback vowed to do so in the future. "I have never been to the Outback Steakhouse before, but after this meal, now I'll definitely go," said Jan Carlson, FHA Board member and a former vegetarian.

Bob West and his band played a perfect mixture of blues, ragtime, and other old time music that was great for both listening and dancing. There was some pretty fancy footwork going on from Coco Hess, new member of The Lake Union dock and her partner. Her long hair was flying as they performed on the makeshift dance floor. One of the musicians, Chris Allan, sat in with the band the whole evening. He is a member of an informal jam session that gets together on the Wandesforde dock now and then, instigated by maestro, Bob West.

After dinner was served, Captain Dale took us on a cruise of Lake Union and Portage Bay. Our houseboat neighbors stood at the ends of the docks and on rooftop decks to wave to us, and as



Photo by Sid McFarland

Left: Gawking the sights. Below: Sid McFarland and Charlie Weems.

Photo by Emily



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Below: Marty and Gerry Greer.



Photo by Emily Hine



Photo by Sid

Photo by Emily



Left: "Canivore's Heaven" Outback's incredible buffet. Above: Lee Redden & Susie Jenkins. Below: Tanya & Gerry Seligman. Bottom: Gawking the guests.



Photo by Emily

we passed one of the Log Foundation docks an enthusiastic group on a rooftop performed an impromptu cancan. Adding to the general excitement of the cruise, guests who were up in the wheelhouse with Captain Dale, including Shirley Lashua from DOX, took turns blowing the steam whistle that announced our arrival as we went by. The conversation was lively as people pointed out their homes and shared little known facts about a particular dock. It was terrific to see so many people trading stories with one another showing the pride of being part of our unique and special community.

Everyone agreed the party was a great success and requested an encore in the near future. In addition to our heartfelt thanks to the Outback Steakhouse, we acknowledge the Floating Homes Association for hosting the cruise and providing the drinks and the music. Further thanks to Bob West and his band for giving us a super discount on their outstanding performance. Kudos to Klaudia Keller of Choice Linens and her impeccable taste for providing the gorgeous patterned table cloths that contributed to the ambiance in the cabin as well as for being there to help us set them up. And finally, we give a round of applause to the party planning committee including Giff & Mary Jones, Melissa Ahlers, Jann McFarland, Emily Hine, Sally Weems, and Sheri Greaves and all the volunteers who jumped in to help the night of the event.



Photo by Sid

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Dock Denizens

Hazel Nigh: Queen of the Dock



Photo from Hazel's collection

Hazel on her houseboat moored on Westlake with the east side of Lake Union in the background, 1952

By Jann McFarland

Hazel Nigh, who celebrated her 95th birthday this past August, is the crown jewel of the Log Foundation Houseboat Co-op.

Hazel grew up on a farm in South Dakota with 8 brothers and sisters. During the Depression the family migrated to different parts of Oregon and Washington. In 1936 Hazel, then a single mother, moved to Seattle with her young son, Ronnie. She has lived in the houseboat community since 1948. She worked as a waitress at the private CAPO Club in Lake City to earn the \$2500 to buy her houseboat which was owned by City Light. The house was tied up to one of the pilings in front of the old power plant in southeast Lake Union. They neglected to tell her there was no moorage for it and 2 days after she bought it she got an eviction notice.

Hazel recalls, a moorage space on a dock owned by Mr. Solid, just north of the old Elks Club in the 2000 (maybe 2024) block of Westlake was available and she and Ronnie moved there for two years. The dock was "T" shaped — where the main dock was perpendicular to the shore and then branched out in a long dock parallel to the shore. She was again evicted to make way for a "boatel" and the Elks Club and this time wound up on the moorage at 2351 Fairview East owned by Cora Adamec, now the Phoenix dock. She didn't get along with Cora and soon moved back to Westlake to another moorage that was mostly pleasure and live-aboard boats.

It was after this move that Hazel remembers meeting movie

star, Sterling Hayden. He was living on a huge sailboat moored near her houseboat. They really hit it off and had some great times together before he and his wife got in a fight and he took the kids and sailed off to Hawaii.

In the mid 1950s she finally found moorage space at 2019 Fairview East which was owned by Freeman, Gibson, & McCrary at that time.

Hazel was not sure if she had been married 5 or 6 times, but when the dust settled she came up with 5, the first 4 being rather unmemorable – or at least not necessarily in the way you would want to remember someone. She still hadn't met "Mr. Right" until she took up with husband-to-be number 5, Clarence "Doughbelly" Nigh, a longshoreman who was her neighbor in the houseboat kitty-cornered across the dock from her. They dated for several years and got married in 1962. They consolidated their households and he moved into her houseboat. "Nigh" passed away in 1974.

Hazel is affectionately referred to as "the Queen of the dock" by her neighbors. She cares deeply about other people, but is quick to "tell it like it is" and with a twinkle in her eye she can cut you down to size when you need it. She is sweet, but not a "sweet little old lady" who bakes cookies. Instead, when you visit her & long time – since 1985 — significant other, Richard "Scotty" Scott, the first thing she will ask you is "Would you like a glass of brandy?" She loves to go to the race track and bet on the horses, and sometimes even wins – well, at least usually breaks even. Over the years, Hazel has come to the rescue of neighbors numerous times jumping in to help in life's crises or hard times – now we hope she will relax and enjoy being the recipient of the respect and sometimes a little assistance from the neighbors she has helped in the past.

HAPPY 95TH BIRTHDAY, HAZEL!!!

Log Foundation houseboaters' birthdays are almost always celebrated on the dock with a big potluck party and for Queen Hazel's landmark, 95th that was what she requested. Her loyal subjects, Jamie Thurner and Mary Sue Galvin headed the party committee decorating the dock with streamers and flowers and neighbors brought potluck dishes to share, covering long tables set up along the dock. Friend, Ruthie, who is from Brazil, brought musicians who played music from South America on the harp, guitar, and violin. At the end they came over to Hazel and serenaded her with the beautiful ballad, Los Mananitas, their song of celebration. Another neighbor presented Hazel with a decorated Viking hat with

horns and an equally funny hat for Scotty amidst much pomp and houseboat wit. Then champagne was passed around and toasts were made, presents opened



Photo by Dave Galvin

Hazel at her 95th birthday celebration.

Dock Wedding



Photo from their wedding album

Yumiko Fujimori-Pozzo and Enrico Pozzo.

By Enrico Pozzo

"I DO!"

As with so many couples with families scattered across the globe, choosing a location for our wedding was a predicament that delayed the event for quite sometime. We knew that not all family members would be able to join us, yet we wanted to exchange our vows surrounded by people close to us.

As each day is a little vacation in the community and in the home where we live, it seemed natural to ask our friends and family to join us for this special occasion at the place we enjoy most. Our neighbors on the dock welcomed the event with open arms.

Houses were painted, the dock was tidied, lanterns were hung, flowers were arranged, tables were set, food was prepared, and drinks were served. Mary Sue Galvin and Jamie Thurner helped rally the troops on the dock. Sally Crew, a neighbor and very talented wedding dress designer, made Yumiko a most elegant dress. Robert Fulghum, a neighbor and Unitarian Minister, was our master of ceremonies.

Yumiko and I were married on our dock in the Log Foundation on August 30, 2003 with Robert's blessing: "As you live your life, may you always remember this most glorious day at the end of August..."

"WE WILL!"

A big Thank You to our neighbors for this unforgettable day.

Baby On Board

By Arminda Phillips

Scout was born December 15. On the eighteenth of December we walked out of the hospital doors with our baby girl. I couldn't believe they were just letting us go. As the hospital automatic doors swished closed behind us a chill ran up my spine. How was I going to do this? Jon and I looked at each other, and walked towards the car.

We drove home in silence. It was six pm, cold, and dark. We only had to drive around the bay to get from the University of Washington hospital to our 730 square foot floating home on Portage Bay.

We pulled into our parking spot at the end of the dock. Looking down the waterway that fronts our home, I remember thinking, "Are we crazy? An infant on a houseboat!" We grabbed our bag, the baby, and started walking down the dock. As we walked, neighbors peeked out of their doors and quietly welcomed us home. Smiles, well wishes, the entire way down.

We walked into our house, put down our bags, folded some blankets into a little bed, put it on the couch and laid our new born daughter a top it. We relaxed. We were home. We could do this. We looked across our waterway and in one of our neighbors window was a big sign reading "Welcome home Scout!" Everything was going to be O.K.

That first night home is a blur. My milk came in, the complete exhaustion, the excitement. Daylight was a sweet blessing. We made it through the first night.

As we were up and about, we noticed neighbors lingering outside their decks. This is the middle of December, raining, and everyone in view seemed to be outside; inspecting hoses, checking planter boxes that had been emptied months earlier, even washing windows, all with very serious looks upon their faces. We finally got the not so subtle hint. We walked out onto the deck into the cool air and introduced our daughter. Smiles, tears, love, came from each person's eyes as they welcomed our new addition.

This community was going to love and support our family. Another wave of relief rushed over me. Later that afternoon we felt footsteps on our float. Then nothing. No one came to the door. Jon went out, and found a bag. It was dinner. "Just heat it up and return the dishes when you have time." Each night for the next two weeks, we heard footsteps mid day, and knew another community member was lending their support to us.

That first month at home, I think I truly appreciated for the first time what a remarkable situation we live in. Living so close to one another we have come to know our neighbors well. Houseboat dwellers are people that are understanding and

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Apologies to Beth Means

respectful of privacy and quiet time, and are people who offer great support.

Each dock has its rhythm. We have changed that on our dock by bringing a child into the mix. Without exception, we have gotten only excitement and support of our growing family.

A wonderful surprise to me was the reserved involvement of the bachelors that surround us. At least every few weeks, I come home to a little box or package with Scout's name written on it. Inside, a little animal, picture frame, drum or toy from one of these bachelors. Knowing that when they are out doing their daily chores or errands, they take the time to think of Scout and pick her up a little gift is extraordinary to me.

Scout is now five months old (as this is written). She laughs like a truck driver snorts and all, rolls over, recognizes family, and is the center of our lives. Soon she will be sitting up on her own, and before we know it crawling. Living in the water creates some special concerns with our oh too soon to be toddler. But I've realized every home creates challenges.

Even with all the challenges being surrounded by water presents, we have only solidified the fact that this is our home. A place we love to be, the water we enjoy and the people around us that have become our extended family. Scout will grow up surrounded by a community of unique individuals that lead wonderfully diverse and full lives. Soon as she becomes mobile and we face new challenges, I have thirty people within earshot that will give me advice, baby-sit, attend birthday parties and build me a fence if we find it necessary. This community will provide whatever it takes to keep the littlest member of our dock safe and happy.



Photo by Christine Card

Scout: Wet, but floating.



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Photo by Claire Tangvald



Jim Mason

1921 - 2003

When researching for this article I asked Claire Tangvald for a favorite story about her husband, Jim, that exhibits his kindness and caring of his fellow men. This was one she especially remembers:

“Every day, to keep in shape, Jim walked up the hill to work at Group Health. Soon he realized he wasn't getting any upper body exercise, so he bought a rowing shell, and began rowing in the pre-dawn darkness before going to work. One morning, Jim returned from his early morning row boasting a two foot long salmon. ‘Where did you get that?’ I asked him in shock. ‘It just jumped into my boat’, he chided me trying to keep a straight face. I examined it for hook marks and found none. Finally, he confessed that, curious, he had stopped to talk to an American Indian who was gathering fish from his net in the middle of Lake Union. Inquiring if he could buy a fish, the man told him he would trade him a salmon for a hot cup of coffee. So Jim proceeded to make a thermos of hot coffee and rowed it back out to the chilled fisherman before going to work. This happened several more times during fishing season.”

Log Foundation neighbors and friends are saddened by the death of Jim Mason, a houseboat resident for 31 years. Jim died peacefully in his sleep on October 8, 2003 at the age of 82 after a long struggle with Alzheimer's disease.

Jim was born and raised in Trinidad, Colorado. After graduating from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1944, he immediately was sent to serve time in WWII on a destroyer that was severely damaged in the battle of Iwo Jima. The effects of that traumatic experience led Jim to devote his life to repairing lives. After graduating cum laude from Medical School at Washington University in St. Louis, Jim practiced Pediatrics in Bellingham for 15 years. In 1968 he relocated to Seattle where he did a four year residency at the U of W in General and Child Psychiatry and practiced at Group Health until his retirement in 1989.

Jim will always be remembered by his family and friends as a very kind and caring man. When Jim bought his houseboat in 1971 for the outrageous price of \$15,000 – an outside moorage facing downtown Seattle – the Dock was still privately owned by Freeman, Gibson & Jeffrey. Moorage was paid on a month to month basis and rates were governed solely by the owners. When these rates began escalating out of control, Jim with his friend, then City Council member, Paul Kraabel, helped gain support in the passing of the Equity Ordinance which among other things, limited rent increases on houseboat docks. Following the adoption of the Ordinance, some dock owners threatened to evict entire moorages and change the property usage to increase their return on their investment. In 1984 the Log Foundation was formed and Jim was again one of the biggest proponents as the three docks banded together and negotiated to purchase the moorage thus insuring the security of the 52 families who lived there.

Jim loved both the water and the mountains. He was an avid backpacker and loved to canoe and kayak at sea as well as around Lake Union. For those who have walked his dock, you know you always recognized his and Claire's houseboat by the canoe and two kayaks that are stored on the deck. The wooden kayak was hand made by Jim when he retired. Jim is survived by his wife, Claire Tangvald, sons, Don and Dave, 3 grandchildren, and 2 great grandchildren. A third son, Douglas died in a mountain climbing accident in 1979.

A memorial celebration of Jim's life will be held on November 8th at 1 pm at the University Friends Meeting, 4001 9th Ave. N.E. located just northwest of the University Bridge. Everyone is welcome. Remembrances may be made to the Washington Wilderness Coalition, 4649 Sunnyside Ave. N., #520, Seattle, WA 98103.

Jim, we will miss you a lot and are fortunate to have had the opportunity to know you for these many years.— **Jim Goetz**



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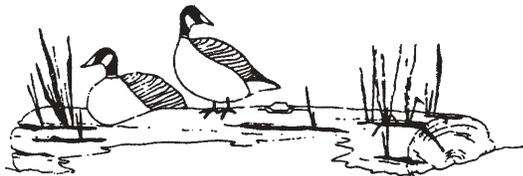
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Waterlog

By Marilyn Robertson
With Jo Seel and Marty Greer

Atlantic Coast

I am spending another autumn at the family cottage in southern Maine. Here, the fall season doesn't wait for the Equinox but arrives with Labor Day Weekend. That's when the summer people pack kids and dogs into SUVs and depart. The locals sigh with relief. By mid September most seasonal cottages are boarded up. Seafood shacks and ice cream parlors post CLOSED signs. NO VACANCY flaps outside the deserted motel. Only the farm stand remains open selling squash, pumpkins and the last of the tomatoes. Autumn. Idyllic but not always peaceful. There's noisy work for the locals: new construction and repairs to old cottages. Spectacular colored leaves drop to the harsh hum of leaf blowers. Distant gun shots crack the crisp autumn air. October means frosty mornings, jackets and warm caps on the beach. If the evening sky is clear, we watch the Hunter moon rise in an arc above the pond and ocean. And when the inevitable northeaster blows, we hunker down for a few days in front of the fireplace. Winter is just around the corner.

Around the Lake & Portage Bay

Here in Seattle, the houseboat community readies docks and floating homes for winter. But there's plenty of time to reflect on the summer of dock parties and boating on the

Lake. A great summer. Some of our neighbors enjoyed travels abroad. Others were content to sit back and relish a city without rain.

North End of Lake Union

Russ and Gemma Daggatt, at **Lees Moorings** on Northlake Way, welcomed baby girl Kaya, born in July. New houseboater, Steve Kersch and his college student daughter, Emily, now reside at the head of the dock. Sally and Charlie Weems have returned from a vacation in France.

Westlake

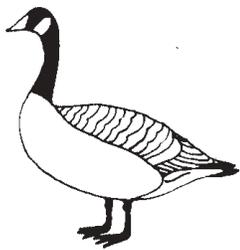
A Good Cause: Emily Hine, **Westlake Cove** reports a houseboat dinner for four was auctioned at the benefit for Senior Services, a nonprofit organization supporting independence of seniors. On 25 August the lucky bidder and three guests enjoyed a progressive dinner that began with champagne and elk meat appetizers at Jan Knutson's houseboat **On Tenas Chuck**. Tim Ahlers, **Mallard Cove** arrived to ferry the guests through Portage Bay to Norman Turgeon's floating home at **Boyer on the Bay**. As the sun set, the four guests dined on barbecue salmon and vegetables from Norman's Vashon Island farm. The evening ended with a boat trip along the north end of Lake Union to 2766 Westlake where Emily served a dessert of chocolate crepes.

Marty Greer, **Nesika Chuck**, spent September in France. In Vichy at the FISA World Masters Rowing Regatta, Marty and Penny Lewis (1213 E Shelby) from the Interlochen Rowing Club joined 2800 rowers. Penny came



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home with a gold medal in the mixed 8 event. Marty returned with a great story. During the competition, women rowers admired a brawny Brazilian rower. On the final day, an Australian woman gloated to the Interlochen rowers. 'You may have the gold medals, but ...', she pulled down her sweat pants, 'I got the Brazilian's shorts.' She had convinced him to trade his shorts for a T shirt. Marty says, 'I doubt she'll ever take them off!' A few days later, Marty and Penny began a two week watercolor painting tour of the Languedoc with seven other watercolorists. Perfect weather, a congenial group, great food and wine made this one of the best tours Marty has done.

Along Fairview

Jann McFarland reports on the doings at **Log Foundation**. Brigitte and Peter Erickson (2025 FVE) hosted a well attended summer potluck. A big hit was Tina's Tiramisu made with 1/2 bottle of rum — recipe, puleez! Gio

Nguyen, new at 2025 FVE, threw a bash for all of Log Foundation. A band in her living room and lots of beer, what more could you ask. Also at 2025, Steve and Ellen Hansen's daughter, Jennifer, who grew up on the dock, married sweetheart, Scott Schill in October. They met while in line to buy Mariner tickets so following the traditional Jewish wedding the couple exited down the aisle to 'Take Me Out to the Ball game.' Jan and Tim Carlson moved to 2019 FVE in early August. On 4 October they held a house blessing with old and new friends. Jan is already a FHA board member and writes for the FHA newsletter.

Jim and Barbara Donnette of **Tenas Chuck** spent part of September in France. Val Burgess organized twice-weekly outings this summer for anyone wishing to join in. On Tuesdays it was a visit to a regional park, and on Fridays, a hike in the mountains. Val finds her walks in the countryside therapeutic as well as scenic. She also rides her bike, and is looking for people who want to ski and snowshoe this coming winter. Proposed November walks include Interlaken Avenue to the Arboretum; Lake Washington Blvd. to Seward Park; and the Lake Union Loop. Friday hikes are Cougar Mountain from the Top; and Mount Si. For complete schedule and times call Val at 206-324-8473 or e-mail her at <coachval@comcast.net>

Gene Morris at **Phoenix Dock** promotes our houseboat community in a big way. In late May, the Chicago Architec-



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tural Institute met in Seattle. They toured city landmarks like the City Hall, the Public Library and the Floating Homes Community, which included a visit to Heinz Strobl's house on **Log Foundation**. On 25 June, educators involved with a program to assist low income, disadvantaged students to succeed in higher education 'GEAR UP', also visited Heinz Strobl's house. The University of Washington was involved in this project and responded with a thank you donation to FHA. Gene continued to be busy. On July 19 he lectured the American Institute of Building Designers who were here to study architecture unique to Seattle and the Northwest.

On Aug. 15 Giff and Mary Jones **Mallard Cove**, took Val Burgess's organized hike to Dorothy Lake in the Cascades. "Floating Tasters" Scribe Bruce Lippke started another wine tasting club, a more serious group of "Traditional Tasters". Mallard Cove "Floating Tasters" group will continue. The dock welcomes: Mark Guy and Diann Barry and their sons, Conner & Andrew. The Barrys bought their houseboat from Alene Morris. We're finally 100% owner-occupied, reports Giff Jones. The Cove's resident sculptor, Gus Schairer has two pieces in the Northwest Stone Sculptors show at Kirsten Gallery on Roosevelt. Mike Swofford bicycled and toured Cape Cod in September, while Tim and Melissa Ahlers traipsed around Tuscany. Al Hendrickson, one of the dock's few original owners, was honored with a surprise 85th birthday party. Al still gets out and walks several miles along the Lake each day.

Portage Bay

Katherine Hanson and Michael Schick **2920 E Fuhrman** visited Newfoundland in July. They camped in the spectacular Gros Morne National Park on the western coast of the island and visited the Viking settlement at L'anse aux Meadows. The Viking settlement, a six hour drive north of Gros Morne, was discovered in the early 1960s by Norwegians, Helge Ingstad and his wife, Anne Stine, an archeologist. For many years a team of researchers investigated the site believed by Ingstad to be the 'Vineland' of Norse sagas. Today the Canadian government manages the site, a museum and several reconstructed buildings. During their visit to this remote spot, Katherine and Michael spent three nights at the Quirpond Lighthouse B and B. From this northern most lighthouse in Newfoundland, located on Quirpond Island, the couple could see whales and in the distance, icebergs. Near the end of the trip they stayed at Cape Anguille lighthouse at the SW tip of the province. Katherine said she was touched by the warmth of the local people and came away awed by the solitude and the unspoiled beauty of Newfoundland's west coast.

For information on Lighthouse B and Bs check <www.linkumtours.co>

Betty Swift sends news from **1213 E Shelby**. Kirvil Skinnarland and Alan Hunt spent a month in East Africa.

This past July, Bob and Diane Forman spent several weeks in Scotland, in the River Spey region and on the Isle of Skye. They were in pursuit of single malts. It is along the River Spey where about half of Scotland's whisky distilleries are located. While visiting seven of those distilleries Bob and Diane stayed at a B and B that is a working farm. Bob reports almost every distillery relies on some materials from abroad: sherry casks are imported from Spain and Portugal and many vats now are made from Oregon white pine. Frequently, used American bourbon casks are chosen to age whisky, 10, 20 and 30 years. When a cask is finally broken up, the aromatic wood is used for smoking fish. Bob was disappointed so few distilleries use traditional methods. Late in the trip he learned that on the Island of Islay, there are seven distilleries still using old methods and equipment. So now, Bob is content to sip a dram of 15 year old Glendronach and dream of his next visit to Scotland.

The Lunstead dock at 2822 Boyer Street went condo 2 July and is now known as **Boyer on the Bay**. The Phillips family, Arminda, Jon and Scout spent the month of September in the south of France.

2828 1/2 Boyer Ave. Jeanette Corkery spent seven weeks at Middlebury College, Vermont in a Spanish immersion course.

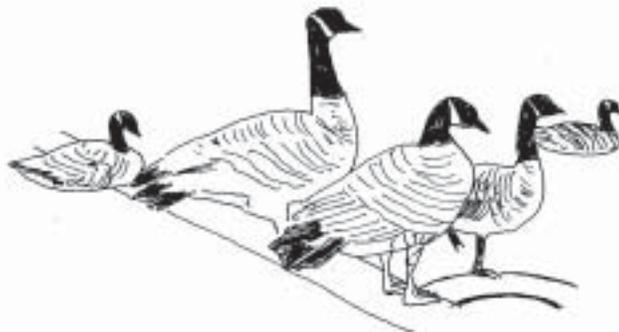
Send your dock news to

Marilyn Robertson

<jweyand@u.washington.edu>

Jo Seel <joseel@prodigy.net>

Marty Greer <marty@water-color.com>



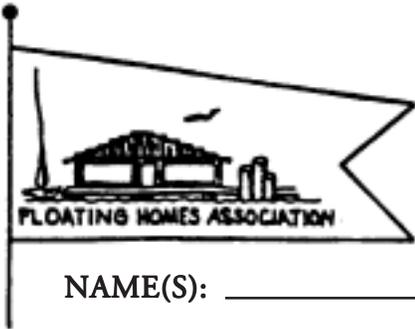
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