

FLOATING TIMES

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August/September 2003

Get Ready for the Tour!

By Larry Clinton

On Sunday, October 5, 13 homes will be open to the public from 11 AM to 4 PM at Kappas, A Dock and Issaquah for the 18th annual Floating Homes Tour.

About 200 volunteers are needed to stage the FHA's largest event of the year. Volunteers may take the tour free either before or after their 3-hour shifts. Often, a few extra volunteers can be added at the last minute. If you're interested, call Katherine Boschetto, 331-2881 come to the volunteer party September 28 (5:00 PM at the Sausalito Cruising Club), or check at the volunteer table on the Kappas Green the morning of the tour.

This year's tour will be limited to 800 visitors. Many will come in busses from Northern California community organiza-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

Call for Volunteers

We need Volunteers for the Tour on October 5. If you can donate three hours of your time, sign up to help your friends and neighbors. Not only is this a great way to meet new friends, but, as our president says, "**The real bonus is getting into those houseboats you've been dying to see.** Do your time, and the balance of the day is free to visit those intriguing boats."

Volunteer Party September 28

There will be a party for volunteers for the FHA Tour at the Sausalito Cruising Club at 5 p.m. on Sept. 28.

President's Message

by Suki Sennett

The arrival of Labor Day means that the 2003 Annual Floating Homes Tour is a bit over a month away - Sunday, October 5. The Tour Committee has once again planned a terrific tour for the public and a fun day for all of us who volunteer to participate. Having volunteered in various capacities for the past 16 years without exception, I have had a ball sharing our unique community with the public. "Marin's best kept secret", according to one attendee.

The FHA Board and the 2002 Tour Committee did a lot of soul searching with regard to this year's tour. Over the past 18 years the annual tour has become increasingly more complex to put on, requiring an almost year long commitment on the part of the Tour Committee and resulting in some instances a burn-out problem. For the past few years, the tour has included an average of 20-24 houseboats and increased

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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First time on the tour is the stunning home at 1 Kappas East.

PHOTO BY LARRY CLINTON

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WPH Community Development Plan (CDP) at Crossroads

by Ric Miller

After six long years of working on the WPH CDP, we are at the point where our plan will either be approved as is, or modified to the point where we have to fight another unworkable plan that unfairly compromises residents' views, quality of life, and property values.

On September 24, the BCDC Design Review Board (DRB) will make recommendations to the BCDC commissioners on acceptance of our plan as is or modifications to our plan. It appears evident that DRB members will not seek community input or explanation of the CDP prior to making recommendations on our plan. So far, they appear to be willing to rely on comments from 5 people who are opposed to the plan.

A prior meeting of the DRB on August 11 consisted of uninformed criticism as a result of consideration of the plan, absent any presentation, as well as striking from the minutes comments made by your representatives concerning the fact that the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) found the CDP to be the environmentally superior plan offering the best views for the public of any plan.

This appears to be a repeat of BCDC behavior seen at a prior meeting over six years ago when the BCDC staff shut off public comment in order to promote their favored plan.

FLOATING HOMES TOUR

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

tions. Busses and cars will park across the freeway at the Gateway Center, with free shuttle busses to the marinas. So the only impact on residents should be from people strolling the docks.

On the Kappas green, food and soft drinks will be available, and live music will be performed throughout the day.

Entertainment coordinator Katy Bridges has lined up plenty of talent, including the South 40 String Band (featuring Kenny Blacklock and Katy playing Irish & American fiddle tunes, old standards, and cowboy music), the Goodman/Schuster quintet (instrumental and vocal jazz standards featuring Dan Goodman of Yellow Ferry Harbor)

Your presence at two meetings is critical to show support and shine the spotlight on a fundamentally flawed process that will allow appointed staff to arbitrarily determine your future.

September 24 is the BCDC Design Review Board meeting. October 16 or November 6 will be the BCDC commission meeting.

“Your future will be permanently and irrevocably be determined by the outcome of these two meetings.”

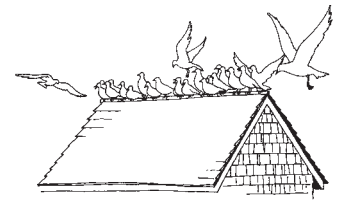
Your future will be permanently and irrevocably be determined by the outcome of these two meetings. We have requested that the meetings be held at the Bay Model, but in the past, the BCDC has held meetings concerning our future in either Oakland or San Francisco, and they may be in either the daytime or evening, which makes it difficult for many to attend. Regardless, we need a large turnout at both of these meetings.

Your representatives will prepare a fact sheet for your review and will make public statements. As in the past, you will probably not need to speak, but will need to show your support with your presence. Please contact your dock representative for more information.

and the Keepers (also featuring Kenny Blacklock, playing original acoustic rock).

Pat Coleman has enlisted an impressive array of sponsors to help defray the costs of the tour. A complete list will appear in the Tour Program and the next *Floating Times*.

A limited number of walk-in ticket buyers will be accommodated, so please suggest the tour to your interested friends. Admission donations (\$25 per person with advance reservations, \$30 at the door) will partially benefit the Friends of the Marin City Library and the Willow Creek Academy. As always, the tour is also the chief fund-raiser for the Floating Homes Association.



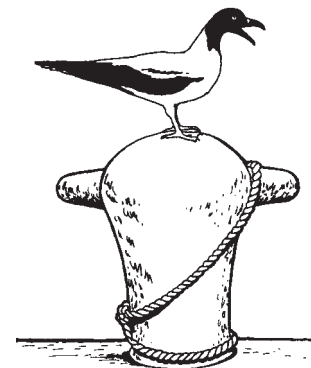
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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attendance has required both a north and south tour. Close to 200 volunteers are needed in order to ensure a safe and pleasant experience. The FHA Board and tour committee re-examined the original goals of the tour; i.e. to develop support for our community on the part of the public at large, and specifically local and state regulatory agency decision-makers; to augment income for the FHA (so membership dues can be maintained at the \$20 level); and to promote and enhance the sense of community among our residents. To see if we could reduce demands on the time and energy of the tour committee, the Board decided to keep the number of houseboats to no more than 15, to focus the tour this year on Gate 6 1/2, Issaquah, East and West Kappas, Yellow Ferry and A docks, to keep attendance to 800-1000, and to initiate a tiered pricing of \$30 at the door and advance tickets at \$25.

One thing I can guarantee to all of you considering volunteering for the tour - the real bonus is getting to go inside some of those houseboats you've been dying to see. You do your time, and the balance of the day is yours to visit those intriguing boats - free of charge, a perk for volunteers.

See you at the Annual Floating Homes Tour!



Water You Doing Here?

by the Dinghy Dame

I once had a cat named Doris. She was long haired and blond. Perhaps she was on my mind the day I strolled down West Pier searching for someone to interview. There was an open house at number three, so I decided to check it out, and lo and behold, the real estate agent's name was....you guessed it....Dorris!!! Rachelle Dorris, that is. And not only did she have long blond hair, she told me she lived on Issaquah and she was willing to let me put her under the microscope!! I couldn't have been happier.

Rachelle hails from Martinez. Three generations of her Sicilian family grew up in that town. At one time she was a Society Page feature writer for the Contra Costa Times. After that she owned and operated Rachelle's, a dress shop for the working woman. At the same time she owned Rachelle's Other Store, which during those hippy days featured leather fringed bags and jewelry created by the local artisans. She owned a shoe store to boot!! This was not a passing fancy as she continued to own and manage the stores for 27 years.

Around 1975 Rachelle decided it was time to move. She and her husband were interested in the houseboat community, but "that was the time of the houseboat wars" and they had a three year old, so they set-

"She kicks off the good weather with a party, welcoming all dock residents, and closes the season with another margarita party in the Autumn. That's one way tequila pitcher of drinks!"

tled in Mill Valley which they considered a more kid- friendly place.

After thirteen years in Mill Valley, Rachelle was lured back to the floating home community and took a two month summer rental on Yellow Ferry. "This is where I needed to be," said she. After that she lived on Gate 6 1/2 for a year before



The Bare Essentials.

finally buying the first of the three homes she has lived in on Issaquah. If you haven't already guessed it, Rachelle is a very busy woman. She did catering and her family owned a restaurant, so finding a home with the right kitchen was important. After one year on Issaquah she moved back to Yellow Ferry, and then subsequently back to Issaquah, where she has lived for 16 years.

Each of her Issaquah homes has had an official Margarita Deck. She kicks off the good weather with a party, welcoming all dock residents, and closes the season with another margarita party in the Autumn. That's one way tequila pitcher of drinks!

Rachelle loves her neighbors and can't say enough about the camaraderie. When El Nino swept through several years ago, one of her flotation devices got hooked under the finger pier and a hole was torn in the side of the boat. She came home at night to find the hold and three feet of the living space under water. She says that all our piers have a sense of community, but she feels that Issaquah is exceptional. Because the tide was in, the fire department was not able to pump it out, so when the tide went out, the neighbors formed a buck-

et brigade and took every soaked object out of the hold so it could float once again. One neighbor took all Rachelle's clothes to the laundry, another who had only been on the dock one week pitched in for two hours, and yet another chilled a bottle of Tanqueray in the freezer.

Rachelle loves to cook, camp and canoe. (You might say she loves the seas.) She adores the tropics, her favorite places being Trinidad, Tobago, and Yelapa, Mexico. "Wherever in my life I'm going to be, it is going to be near water!" she exclaims with enthusiasm.

Ms. Dorris told me she was once known as the "weenie queenie" and of course my mind conjured up all sorts of scenarios. Truth is, she was a hot dog vendor in the East Bay and for several years brought her hot dog cart to the floating homes tour. She is currently in charge of food for that event with Friends of the Marin City Library.

From weenie queenie to houseboat diva, this wonderfully vital woman says..."You can look at jewels all over the world, but this has all the components of a place to live in....not vacation in." Don'tcha agree?

Sausalito Fireboat Proposal

by Dan Goodman

What's 28 feet long, draws 19 inches, costs over \$200,000 dollars, and may be arriving in Sausalito in the near future? If you guessed the proposed Sausalito Fire Department Fire boat, you guessed right. Lieutenant Bob DeLong of the SFD has been spearheading the project, and hopes to obtain the final funding and to order the vessel from Metalcraft Marine in Canada. The FHA Board has conditionally agreed to contribute \$10,000 to the boat's budget, and has already donated \$1000 towards the fund.

The boat's design is based upon two others working in fire departments in the Midwest and the East coast. It will carry two jet engines, be equipped with modern high pressure water pumps, and is capable of swift cruising speed. DeLong envisions manning the boat with a couple of two person crews drawn from the existing fire fighting staff.

Although the proposed vessel is vastly scaled down from the original concept, and likely better suited to serving the Floating Home Community, there are still several fundamental questions. Among the concerns expressed by FHA members and residents, is the tidal data DeLong and his staff used to arrive at the vessel's functionality. Kappas East and West Piers, as well as Yellow Ferry Harbor are in mud a good deal of the time, and the mean tidal data drawn from the tide book doesn't address that fact. The fireboat will likely float at an actual depth of 3 feet when carrying all its equipment and crew, and needs a minimal water height for its watering system to function. Still, the boat promises to be a strong waterfront firefighting source for anchored vessels, floating homes, yacht

harbors and piers located in deeper water.

Another issue being addressed is the fact that the Marin County Fire Department hasn't been fully apprised during the boat's planning phase. The MCFD – being the first to respond should a fire break out in the floating home community – will likely rely on its land based gear plus the dock hose systems built into the marinas' systems. This would especially hold true for those piers located in the muddier areas of the community. As of this writing, MCFD's Captain Bill Roberts is reported to be planning on consulting with the Sausalito FD regarding the fireboat project.

Finally, there's the issue of redundancy; we've learned that Tiburon has recently purchased a fireboat and plans to deploy it in a few months. The Marin Sheriff's Rescue One vessel is equipped with a fire pump, and is permanently berthed at the Richardson Bay Marina. And Greg Baker – a waterfront veteran, Good Samaritan, and owner of the Tug Kent Fireboat, is constantly on duty at Schoonmaker Point, and has several waterborne firefighting incidents to his credit. The U.S. Coast Guard's Golden Gate Group can't be discounted either; they'd likely respond to any serious fire regardless of where in the waterfront it's located.

Sausalito Fire Department is very close to meeting its \$225,000 goal to purchase the boat due in large part to the fund raising efforts of local floating home resident Ryan Phelan. Certainly another firefighting resource is a good thing for the waterfront. But will this particular vessel be a viable fire fighting tool for all the waterfront residents? And if not, is the proposed vessel the best solution available?

Time will tell



DRAWING BY
PHIL FRANK

The Marching Kazoo Band Takes the Prize

Our Humming Toadfish Marching Kazoo Band got off to a rousing start on the 4th of July, assembling at 2nd and Main, outfitted in matching T shirts, led by our high stepping majorette Alex Spivak. Under the guidance of Malia and Murray Dailey, only a few practices were needed to get the group into award winning form. Belting out such patriotic songs as "Yankee Doodle Dandy" and "God Bless America," they marched down Bridgeway and Caledonia, preceded by the Floating Homes Association Banner carried by three of our younger dock members, Robert, Mariah, and Marley. The band was followed by Dan & Donna Goodman in their vintage red MG sports car. The judges in front of Smitty's must've been impressed with the snappy turn of the band as it faced them while rendering a rousing version of "Grand Old Flag," and by the cartwheels performed by Alex. Once again, we took home the 1st prize. Thanks to all you band members for a job well done!

Malia and Murry Dailey



(Left) The Marching Kazoo Band in its stride. (Above) Malia and Alex show off First Prize

PHOTOS BY LARRY CLINTON



David Lane of Yellow Ferry recently purchased *Halcyon* – a 34 foot Jeffries express cruiser, and is launching his charter biz: “Sausalito Yacht Charters.” David plans to offer Bay cruises and outings on the beautifully restored classic boat. On August 28, the *Halcyon* crew performed a passenger transfer from the disabled and drifting amphibious boat, *Splash*. Twelve happy passengers were taken to Sausalito Yacht Harbor for land transit. Vessel Assist towed the *Splash*, which lost its propellor about a half mile east of Schoonmaker Point.

★ ★ ★

Speaking of charters, Capt Dan Goodman has been busy skippering charter vessels under his H2O Tour Co. banner, as well as on Pier 39’s *Emerald Lady*. Among the many international passengers aboard recently, was Mohammed Rehaief and his family. Mohammed – now residing in Washington D.C. – is the brave Iraqi who helped the Marines rescue Jessica Lynch in Baghdad.

★ ★ ★

This year the traditional Issaquah Summer Dock Party had an added theme, a birthday party on August 24th for Muriel Kifer who turns 80 this year. The party started at 4PM, and as always, wine flowed, hors d’oeuvres were elegant and abundant, and this year, champagne bubbled as friends and dock residents honored Muriel.

Muriel’s response:

The **P**eople **A**re **R**eally **T**errific **Y**es! **DOCK** outdid itself. I was totally blown away by the celebration of my 80th, and have been basking in its warm glow ever since. I don’t believe I’ve had such attention since my shorts caught fire during a mixed doubles final, the result of a cigarette butt flipped from the grandstand at the exact moment I ran back to return a lob. You might say his butt became attached to mine. Make of that what you will. A most heartfelt Thank You! and love to all. You are my extended family.

Another dock resident celebrated her 80th in September ... Mimi Tellis of Yellow Ferry Harbor took time out from her busy travel schedule snorkeling and visiting such places as Mexico, Thailand and India to enjoy her birthday with family and friends.

★ ★ ★

Our community may be the best-kept secret in Marin, but not to the prestigious Chicago-based Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy. Thirty five attendees from the Annual Conference of the F L W Building Conservancy toured our docks September 3.



Muriel Celebrates her 80th birthday.

PHOTO BY RIC MILLER

The non-profit Conservancy’s mission is to rescue and preserve the remaining structures designed by Frank Lloyd Wright. Participants in the tour included Wright building owners, Wright scholars, preservationists, architects, historians and architecture buffs. Thanks to Renee and Henry Baer, Eric Altree, Sim van der Ryn and Lou Lee for generously opening their boats to the group. Thanks too to tour guides Rodger March and Howard Myers. – Suki Sennett

★ ★ ★

Pals forever... Have you seen the pair of ducks who hang out together? One’s black and one’s white, and they’re always swimming around the houseboats, never apart. Rumor has it that they have produced a brood of grey and white ducklings, a little of both parents in the coloring.

★ ★ ★

Purple legs... Mark Williams has organized a grape stomping group – about 15 Issaquahans will bus up to the Amphora Winery near Healdsburg, and, in celebration of “a bountiful summer’s end,” will actually get into the vats and crush grapes the old fashioned way. Malia Dailey wonders if it will wash off, or will everyone return with purple legs???

Emergency Preparedness Update

by Marling Mast

Pumps to Save Your Boat

Two pumps now are available at the Marin City Fire Department if your boat is sinking! As most of you know, the FHA bought one. Thanks and appreciation go to Mays Harbor residents, who recently donated the second pump. The fire department will bring one if they aren't out on a call, but if they are, we can pick one up there. Sixteen CERT personnel who took the recent CERT refresher course were trained in their use. But anyone who can start an outboard motor or chain saw can run the pump.

Emergency Communication Radios

The FHA has recently purchased 21 family communication radios for use on our docks in case of emergency. CERT dock captains will be in charge of them. We will be able to use them on our yearly tours too and as needed for special events.

Southern Marin Disaster Preparedness Moves Forward

Marin City's disaster plan, which includes us, is in operation thanks to the work of fire captain Bill Roberts and Julian Klugman, Marin City disaster council chairman.

Call for Emergency Personnel and Ham Radio Operators

Captain Roberts is seeking medical personnel from our docks - MDs, RNs, EMTs and other trained persons who are willing to be called upon in case of disaster emergencies. He also wants to identify all ham radio operators. In a disaster environment, ham radio communication may be the only functional way to communicate. If you will volunteer your skills, please contact Bill Roberts at the Marin City Fire Department, 446-4463.

Disaster Housing Center Established

Manzanita Recreation Center, 630 Drake, 332-1490 is the designated emergency housing location. They recently received \$50,000 from the Marin Community Foundation, part of the Buck Center, to make necessary repairs and purchase equipment. A large container will hold 100 cots, blankets, emergency food and equipment. Manzanita Center can provide showers, 2 class rooms, a large meeting room, and a main area as "big as a basketball court" allowing family style living, according to Klugman. As a result of the recent disaster center management class, thirteen people are now trained to manage the center. No one from our community attended the class. The center will hold a disaster drill sometime in October. Look for notices to be posted on dock bulletin boards.

"Newfoundland!"

That's what we answered to the repeated question "Where are you going this summer in your motor home? We picked Newfoundland because it was the most distant point. We didn't think how far we'd have to drive, 8200 miles, or how long it would take, 91 days. (Or about 89 miles a day.)

We departed from Sausalito the day after the Issaquah Dock Art show in April. Our route took us through Nevada,



Being dwarfed by Mount Rushmore.

PHOTO BY EMILY RIDDELL



Stuart and Emily straddling the Mississippi River at its headwaters at Lake Itasca, Minnesota.

PHOTO BY EMILY RIDDELL

Colorado, Wyoming, South Dakota, Minnesota, over the top of Lake Superior, Sault St. Marie, to Ottawa, Ontario. We visited Québec City, circled the Gaspé Peninsula, around the north coast of New Brunswick. Then we circumnavigated Prince Edward Island, and Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia. Along the way we visited friends, museums, historical sites and enjoyed great camping.

On July 28, we boarded the ferry for the 15-hour trip to Newfoundland, planning on two weeks to travel the 600 miles from the south east to the south west, with side trips up the various northern roads. We ended up driving 2800 miles, staying a month, and were very sorry to leave. We found the inhabitants the most friendly, open, happy, helpful people we've ever met. They are very musical; almost everyone seems to play guitar or accordion. The songs reflect histories and stories of the Island, or "The Rock" as they call it.

An added surprise was to discover the French Islands of St. Pierre et Miquelon, 25 miles south of Newfoundland. So we took a two-day vacation there, staying in a hotel, consuming French wine, pâte, cheese and real french fries, (pommes frites).

We are now in Lunenburg, Nova Scotia, parked along a cove's edge, catching up on life. We will ferry from Yarmouth N.S. to Bar Harbor, Me, and visit friends and family as we head south toward Boston. We will store the motor home somewhere in the east, and fly home about 16 October.

"And long may your big jib draw, me old cock."

Stuart and Emily Riddell

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SERVICES

RBRA Harbor Administrator	Bill Price	289-4143
		Pager: 458-0833
San Francisco Baykeeper	Hot Line	567-4401
Marin County Fire Dept.	Non-emergency	446-4463
Marin County Sheriff	Non-emergency	332-5422
Marin County Sheriff	Cellular Emergency Line	472-0911
Kappas Homeowners Assoc.	Ron Moreland	332-2429
Harbor Equity Group	Pam Bousquet	331-3614

DOCK REPS and ALTERNATES

A Dock	Davia Lehn	332-7573	lboatcic@cs.com
- Alternate	Jo Ann Ponek	331-5702	jponek@webtv.net
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- Alternate	Larry Clinton	332-6196	click@dipsymusic.com
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- Alternate	Gigi Sims	331-5740	gigi005@earthlink.net
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- Alternate	Carey Chenoweth	332-2265	rowboat@well.com

GOVERNMENT

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Assemblymember	Joe Nation	479-4920
San Francisco BCDC		352-3600
FEMA		800-462-9029
Army Corps of Engineers		332-0334
Sausalito Post Office		332-0258

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