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FLOATING HOMES ASSOCIATION



NUMBER 140

Newsletter

WINTER 2002

Terriffic Tour!

Crowds and Cash flood the Neighborhood For a Spectacular Tour Day in September



We have the woodcut - but it's sort of old news. We have the numbers from the Exec meeting. But no juice!

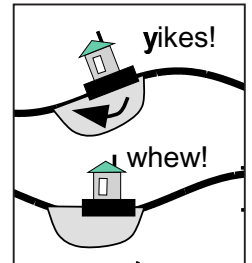
Inside



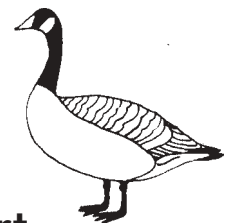
Holiday Sale !!

New T-Shirts! Buy them at the FHA Office. Details Page 2.

Wha' Happened ??



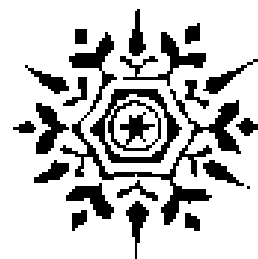
Why did the recent Alaska earthquake hit us and not the uplanders? Prof. Ed Waddington asks us to imagine a sloshing bathtub in the new *Science Corner* on Page 8.



The Latest Dirt ...

Get the lowdown on your neighbors, Page 11.

Waterlog



The Floating Homes Association

2329 Fairview E
Seattle, WA 98102

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Bob Martin (2351 FV)

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Now and Then

Newsletter: Emily, Jann, Bill

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Members of the FHA Board model the new T-Shirts at the November meeting in Sheri Greaves Portage Bay floating home. Our T-Shirts can even make a Board meeting fun!



**Buy your Holiday Gifts and Support
the Floating Homes Association!**

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.

FHA Sweatshirts, note cards and cookbooks are also available and make great gifts.

Stop by the FHA office at 2329 Fairview Avenue East to pick up yours today. Holiday office hours are from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 15th and Sunday, December 22nd. Phone: 206-325-1132.

Special 40 year anniversary T-shirts are available for \$15. Front of shirt reads: "The Floating Homes Association 40th Anniversary." Back of shirt reads: "Seattle Houseboats, A neighborhood, An attitude, A way of life."



Association Standing Committee Reports



Environmental

By Betty Swift

Folks interested in environmental issues relating to our waters met recently (and others emailed) and we came up with long lists of things we want to know and longer lists of things to do.

First, we wanted to know about the (more than twenty five) governmental agencies concerned with various aspects of Lake Union and Portage Bay and what they do and don't do to work together. There are almost half that number of NGOs (non-governmental organizations) who care about these waters and we want to find out about their programs.

People also want to understand more about the various critters who live around us, about the naturally-occurring plants and the exotic newcomers and how other lakes are handling them. Houseboaters want to know more about CSOs, those occasional combined sewage overflows that run into our lakes, how the city is progressing in constructing new overflow tanks and monitoring systems, and how ordinary street runoff is routed and handled. We want to know more about keeping our flower pots full of thriving plants without sluicing nasty chemicals into the lakes.

Finding out about the history of our lakes to help get a sense of their environmental history is a priority, partly because our history is being quickly eclipsed by the future. So, for those of you with information, stories, suggestions, or a wish to join in on some aspect of the environmental part of the houseboat community, please call or email. I'd love to hear from you. Betty Swift 206-323-3879 or bswift@u.washington.edu.



Fundraising

By Melissa Ahlers

What a fantastic day we had at the 2002 Houseboat tour on Sunday September 8th! It was full of fun opportunities to meet other houseboaters, share stories, and renew our appreciation of life on the water. Thank you to each and every one of the volunteers who came out and made this day so special.

What a fantastic day we had at the 2002 Houseboat tour on Sunday September 8th! It was full of fun opportunities to meet other houseboaters, share stories, and renew our appreciation of life on the water. Thank you to each and every one of the volunteers who came out and made this day so special. We couldn't have done it without your support. Financially speaking, this was the most successful tour ever!

The tour consisted of many homes showing unique features of our life on the water. We all heard a number of wonderful comments about the beautiful floating homes. (But no matter how many years we do the tour, many visitors still want to know why we're willing to carry our groceries so far!) As always, it's fun to see how people react to life on the water. This year's tour was a success thanks to the hard work of the other committee members who helped orchestrate the event: Steve Nielson, Cathy Major, Marty Alexander and of course, the irreplaceable Jann McFarland.

Please thank and support our sponsors; we couldn't have done it without them! Thanks again for being such wonderful neighbors--we should all feel fortunate to live in such a fabulous community!



Legislative

By Sheri Greaves

Well, this is really a pretty quiet time of year. With the Legislature out of session, there's not too much worry about bad things happening to us, but it is a time of opportunity to talk with our Legislators about any issues that need to be addressed in the next session.

As I write this article, it looks like the Washington State Legislature will remain split with the Democrats controlling the House and the Republicans controlling the Senate. The fact that all of our Legislators in this district were re-elected helps the Floating Homes Association tremendously, as Representatives Frank Chopp and Ed Murray and Senator Pat Thibaudeau have always been great friends of the FHA.

This also means that we maintain our Legislators' support on the **1409 Boat Street Dock** issue since they are still in office and still in power in the House. Our Legislators, headed by Rep. Murray (Chair of the House Capital Budget Committee), wrote a joint letter to President McCormick asking for the University to work with the floating home owners on the 1409 Boat Street dock to come up with a plan for either purchasing the homes or paying for relocation expenses at such time that the UW were to decide

Association Standing Committee Reports

Legislative Committee (cont.)

not to renew their lease. (Remember from past articles that the UW Real Estate Office had informed one owner that they did not intend to renew the dock's lease when it expires in 2006.) The UW's response was less than favorable in that they did not feel it was in their best interests to purchase the homes, and until they completed their long-term planning for the marina and waterfront area, they would not be able to make any decisions regarding the floating home moorage after 2006. The floating home owners on the 1409 Boat Street dock are suffering because, without a guarantee of a lease or some type of agreement with the UW for financial support, they are basically hampered from selling, or remodeling, their homes. We are continuing to work with the legislators on further discussions with the UW.

The Final Environmental Impact Statement on **residential uses on state-owned aquatic lands** has been published. This action will add a new section to the Washington Administrative Code 332-30 entitled "Residential uses on state-owned aquatic lands" and six existing WAC sections will be amended with regard to residential use. Our lobbyist, Mike Ryherd, has been watching this action closely and believes that it will provide more assurance that floating homes will continue to be treated as water-dependent, meaning a continuance of our discounted DNR lease rates. This new rule will define the differences between floating homes and liveaboard vessels, and will give local municipalities the ability to make rules for liveaboards and to set limits as to where they can be located and how many there can be. One of the interesting parts of this new rule may be that other

municipalities, such as Kirkland or Bainbridge Island, may decide to allow more liveaboards or even floating home moorages within their jurisdiction. If you'd like to review this document, it is available on <http://www.dnr.wa.gov>. The final action was to have been taken on October 1, 2002.

I am still holding to the "no meeting unless necessary" philosophy, but I am very interested in setting up an e-mail list of all those interested in being involved in the Legislative Committee so that I can keep you updated and can put out a call to action quickly should the need arise. Please send your e-mail address (or fax # if you don't have e-mail) to me at sgreaves@seattlecca.org or fax to me at 206-329-4952.

Late news on **Lake Union Crew**: The Association and Eastlake Community Council have again joined the city in defense of its recent Notice of Violation (NOV) against the massive structures on the Lake Union Crew (LUC) site. The NOV requires that LUC cease all non-water dependant operations. LUC, however, continues to advertise and deliver a wide range of services, including banquets, catering and retreats, which have little to do with rowing but do attract large crowds. LUC has appealed the city's NOV to Superior Court. -- Bill

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Association Standing Committee Reports



Security & Safety

By Tiffany McNamara

Automobile wheel theft is a chronic city wide problem. This crime has been going on for many years in the floating homes community. The prime target seems to be a newer model of luxury car particularly BMWs and Audis. One gentleman I interviewed says even two years after having his wheels stolen he still wonders if they will be there every morning as he walks up to his car.

The probable method of the burglars is to loosen the lug nuts, place wooden blocks under the body of the car, let the air out of the tires and remove the entire wheel. The success of the entire operation relies on speed.

The most effective defensive method of deterring these thieves is to install locking lug nuts. These lug nuts cannot be removed without the appropriate key. They come in a set of four nuts and one to two keys. To install them remove one

lug nut from each of your wheels and put a locking lug nut in its place. Hide a key in your car or keep it on your key chain. They are available at either a car parts store for around \$20 per set or at your local car dealer for \$30 to \$40 dollars. Locking lug nuts are not a standard feature.

As a further safe guard you may consider etching the VIN number of your car or your drivers license number on the inside of your wheel rims. The police frequently find the stolen property but have no way to determine who the rightful owner is or how to contact them.



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Major Miracles for the Miners in 2002!

Joyce's stem cell transplant has made her "cancer free" and Rick got his ducks in a row scoring 11 houseboat sales in 2002 plus many other land home sales.

Thank you for your thoughts and support.



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Association Standing Committee Reports

Security & Safety Committee (cont.)

As a community, we will benefit from taking a more active role in deterring crime. If you observe suspicious activity, take action. Do not wait until a crime is in progress. Call the Seattle Police at the non-emergency number which is 206-625-5011.

In discussing this specific theft problem with my neighbors the larger subject of security comes up. Possible improvements to the safety of the floating homes community could include a Block Watch program, self funded guards from 11 PM to 6AM or security cameras. The Floating Homes Association is interested in your thoughts on the implementation of such measures. If you have input or would like to join the security committee of FHA please email Tiffany McNamara at tiffmcnamara1@netscape.net.

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Membership & Communications

By Emily Hine

Thank you to those people who advertised in our newsletter last summer and again for the winter edition. The ads were very helpful in offsetting the cost of producing and distributing our newsletter to our Floating Homes Association members and friends.

If you want to advertise in the next edition of the FHA Newsletter, please contact the FHA Office at 206-325-1132. For rates, see our ad on the next page.

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ARTHUR HEMENWAY

3/10/15 to 10/24/02

My dad grew up on a ranch in Arizona where he became an excellent horseman and played the violin in the Tucson Symphony. In college he played guitar and sang in a mariachi band in Nogales, Mexico and earned an Engineering degree. After graduation, he and my mom, Joharrie, worked in a mining

camp in Morenci, Arizona before moving to Seattle in the late 1930s where Art began his long career with Boeing, working on various airplane design projects. In his spare time he got a Masters in English Literature from the U of W and taught there part time. He learned to play the concertina and then piano and could

just as easily pound out Maple Leaf Rag as a Bach fugue. In the 1950s he began his life time love of sailing and taught Celestial Navigation for the U. S. Power Squadron and wrote numerous articles for yachting magazines.

After retiring from Boeing in 1971, Art and 3rd wife, Pat moved into the houseboat community to their home in Log Foundation. They became interested in Greek and Balkan dancing and there was always a party on their houseboat with interesting people, a lot of food & drink and music & dancing. He formed a Greek dance group with several women and they danced at the Greek clubs and entertained at Folklife as well as at private parties – both performing and teaching the dances. After Pat died, he married one more time, but for about the last 20 years he was single, though never lacking female companionship. He learned Portuguese and went to Rio with 3 women friends for Carnival. He renewed a life long interest in the Tango and taught the dance in his houseboat “studio” to many eager students.

My father lived his life with great passion and appreciation of each day as an adventure waiting to be experienced. Following his wishes when he died, one last big party was held in his honor on the houseboat to celebrate his life. Everyone danced, ate Mexican food, toasted with champagne and rang his ship’s bell. He leaves behind many family members and friends and an unfinished novel about life in an Arizona mining camp.

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Earthquake Lesson Learned

Lees's Moorings, had damage from the Alaska earthquake. They suffered a broken sewer connection, broken water line, and leaking gas line connection (all repaired, but the fire dept. had to be called for the gas line.) The dock residents were disappointed that their automatic gas turn-off valve (especially installed in case of earthquake) did not work. Evidently, the earthquake turn off valve is located on the gas meter up at the street level. The ground apparently did not move so there was no way for an automatic turnoff. The turn off valve should probably be located on or near the water.

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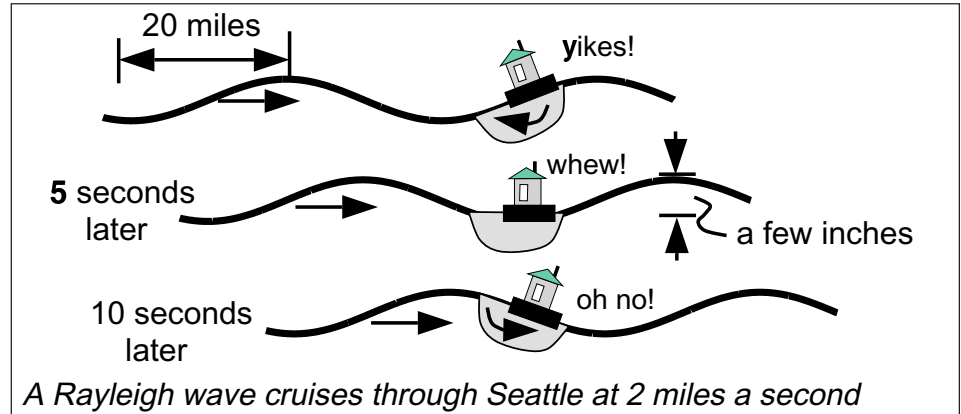


Science Corner

Earthquakes and Houseboats

Professor Edwin D. Waddington is a member of the the Earth Sciences Department at the University of Washington. He has also been FHA Co-Treasurer (with his wife, Juila Forbes) since before anybody can remember.

We hope to make the Science Corner a regular feature of the Newsletter. Ed, in fact, promises another article for the next issue. If you are at all inspired to contribute to the Science Corner yourself, please let us know.



By Ed Waddington

“So what was it like on your houseboat during the earthquake?” Most of us have been asked this question. Many of us were a bit surprised to discover that our community sustained more damage on November 3, from the magnitude 7.9 Denali quake in Alaska, whose epicenter was over 1,500 miles away, than we did on February 28 last year, in our very own magnitude 6.8 Nisqually quake. Our neighbors on land didn’t even *feel* the Denali quake. What was going on?

In an earthquake, several different types of waves radiate from the rupture, carrying the energy that was released. The so-called *body waves* travel through the body of the Earth. These waves come in two forms called “p” (or compressional) and “s” (for shear). Imagine a slinky-toy. When it’s stretched, you give it a sharp push along its axis, and watch a wave of compressed coils run along the slinky. All the motion of the toy is in the direction that the wave travels. That’s a p-wave. Now imagine shaking the slinky side-to-side and watching the wiggle run along its length. This time, all the motion of the toy is at right angles to the direction that the wave travels. That’s an s-wave. S-waves can’t travel through water, because water can’t wiggle in shear – it just flows.

These body waves are called *short-period* waves, because each cycle takes just a second, or even a fraction of a second. These waves caused the “whump whump

At long distances away from an earthquake , another type of wave develops. These waves are called surface waves, or “ground roll”.

whump” motion that you felt if you were standing on land last year during the Nisqually quake. Because the epicenter of the quake was deep (35 miles down) and relatively close to us (about 40 miles away), the waves arrived in Seattle traveling predominantly upward. The p-waves pushed the ground up and down (the direction the wave was traveling), which probably caused little damage on land, because buildings are designed to support up-and-down forces (like gravity). These p-waves hit our floats from below, trying to lift us up and down. However, because our floats are really heavy, and floating in water, they have too much inertia to move rapidly. The water just gushed up and down around our floats, instead of making them move rapidly like the dry ground.

The s-waves caused damage because they jerk building foundations, tree roots, and the bases of power poles (and dock pilings) rapidly back and forth sideways. Recall that s-waves cannot travel through the water so they can’t shake our floats directly; the bashes and crashes that we felt were caused by our pilings and docks being jerked away from our floats, or slammed into our floats, as the s-waves moved the lake bottom rapidly back and forth under us. A floating home that was floating free, unattached to anything, would

have felt very little during the Nisqually quake, while our upland neighbors suffered. Not that I advocate that we cut loose all our attachments. I expect that solid attachments between floats and docks with shock-absorbing arms and fairly tight cross-chains should minimize the damaging sharp jerks and the crashes that happened when there was enough slack for a dock to “get a good run” at a floating home.

In the recent Denali quake, the situation was different. At long distances away from an earthquake (compared to its depth), another type of wave develops. These waves are called surface waves, or “ground roll”. Rather than traveling through the body of the Earth, they travel along the Earth’s surface, much as a boat wake travels across the surface of Lake Union. The surface waves arrived in Seattle from north by northwest, about 15 minutes after the quake, and they persisted for about 5 minutes. There are 2 types of surface waves. A Love wave moves the ground back and forth horizontally and sideways as the wave travels away from the earthquake epicenter. A Rayleigh wave is a bit more complicated; it moves the ground up and down, and also back and forth in the direction that the wave travels. Being restricted to the Earth’s surface, they have only 2 dimensions into which they can spread out (as opposed to 3 dimensions for body waves), so surface waves continue to cause large ground motions at long distances from the epicenter. However, surface waves have relatively long periods, so those motions are slow. Instead of one or several rapid “thumps” every second, it

takes typically 20 seconds for one cycle of ground motion (up and down, or side to side). On November 3, the Rayleigh waves moved Seattle smoothly up and down by a few inches, and north and south by a few inches every 20 seconds, while the Love waves moved us east and west by about a foot. That was too slow to be felt by our upland neighbors. However, Lake Union and Portage Bay could "feel" it.

These waves travel about 2 miles each second, and a high point on a Rayleigh wave is about 10 seconds, or 20 miles behind each low point. That means that the ground under Seattle was tilted first to the north, and then to the south, and then back to the north again as each Rayleigh wave passed through. As an incoming low point on the wave approached from the north, the north sides of Lake Union and Portage Bay would be a fraction of an inch lower than their south sides for about 10 seconds (see the figure). Then, 10 seconds later, after the low point moved through, the north shores would be higher than the south shores, and so on. If you slowly raised one side of your bathtub and then the other, you would cause a similar effect; the water in the lake

On November 3, the Rayleigh waves moved Seattle smoothly up and down and south by a few inches every 20 seconds, while the Love waves moved us east and west by about a foot.

moved to try to maintain a level surface. This unusual water-flow pattern is very different from the flow pattern from boat wakes, even large ones, and it made our docks creak and move in odd ways that broke pipes and floating-home attachments. To put this into perspective, the lower Mississippi River has a slope of about 4 inches per mile, and that slope drives a tremendous water flow.

Many of us noticed that the water was muddy after the waves had passed. This was caused primarily by the Love waves, which dragged the lake bottom back and forth underneath water that wanted to stay where it was. This is just like a diver shaking a saucer of mud in the bottom of a swimming pool – the mud gets stirred up, and the water above it is stirred into motion.

So where does that leave us? During our local Nisqually quake, the water protected us from the worst of the rapid ground shaking caused by the body waves. Most issues were related to how appropriately our floating homes were attached to the shaking pilings and docks. For large but distant quakes that send surfaces waves our way, the water is not necessarily our friend.

The November 3 Denali quake happened a long way off, the surface waves were relatively small by the time they got to Seattle, and the tilts that they caused to the beds of Lake Union and Portage Bay were very small, yet they still caused damage. A comparable-sized quake a few hundred miles away or less, in Oregon, or B.C., or off the Washington coast, could cause much more severe lake-tilt and water turbulence, and could slam our homes and docks into each other much harder. We need to be thinking of this when designing piers and when attaching floating homes. Finally, with all that tipping of the lake, did we have a tsunami or a seiche? No. Those are additional hazards that have to be faced by water residents and those who live near shorelines. What are they? Stay tuned for the next FHA Science Corner on tsunamis and seiches!



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LAKE UNION
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This Craftsman floating home was designed by Perquist & Morris and is one of the premier homes on the lake. Built by artist with attention to detail, bamboo & maple floors, exposed beams, custom stained wooden hot tub, moorage for small boat and co-op owned moorage. Don Hines. 206-369-0984/527-5445.

Shown by appointment.

Don Hines
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Windermere



Waterlog

by Jo Seel & Marty Alexander

With this issue we'll try and revive the "Waterlog" column steadfastly written over many years by Sheri Lockwood. We've missed the local chatter and gossip, who's coming, who's going, since Sheri retired, so here goes our inaugural effort. It's a bit incomplete because we don't have the old list of "dock contacts", so if you would like to have news from your dock included in the next Waterlog column, please email it to Jo Seel (joseel@prodigy.net) or Marty Alexander (marty@water-color.com).

Love Boats

"The Lake Union" dock (2031 FV) should consider calling itself "The Love Dock." There were three weddings in rapid succession this summer and one more rumored to be coming up. On August 3rd, Wendy Jo Moch and Chad Aaron Lorentz were married in Minneapolis. On August 17th, Tiffany Ann Campbell and Bradley William McNamara were married at the Seattle Yacht Club. On October 12, 2002 Shawn Roseman and Isaac Hernandez Ruiz were married at Golden Gardens in Seattle. The love bug is catching, as the newest member, Nicole Hess, who joined the dock in May of this year, is rumored to be engaged. Nicole and Tom Salvo are considering a date of July 4, 2004.

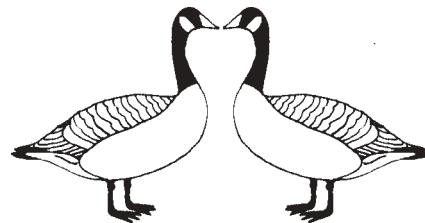
Speaking of the love bug, newlyweds Bill and Carol Munro moved into Houseboat 17 at Roanoke Reef and can be frequently seen putting around the lake in their lovely electric launch.

And more love bug bites on 2466 WL as Marty Alexander and Gerry Greer were married at houseboat #3 on October 25th. But she and Gerry will keep both of their houses – his in Lake City — due to Gerry's large collection of old cars and thus his need for a garage and workshop, not to mention parking spaces. 2460 WL dock welcomes several new members. Ingrid Rasch will soon be moving into Houseboat F, and Tony Jones (formerly of the Dox docks) and Stacy Maenner now reside in Houseboat H. Both of those houses were previously owned by Bill and Karen Evenden, who sold everything and jumped aboard their beautiful sailboat to see the world (currently in Croatia). The Nesika Chuck side of the 2466 WL dock welcomes Kristina Moris to houseboat #10. She's the daughter of Alene Moris of Mallard Cove, so already familiar with houseboat ways.

Speaking of Mallard Cove, there's always lots to report.

On the sailing scene: Steve and Laura Strockbine (HB3) successfully represented the dock at all of the Tuesday night Duck Doges this summer with their "All Cove Crew". Mary and Giff Jones brought home a First in Class trophy from the SYC NORPAC Regatta in Barkely Sound. Three days after returning, Giff crewed on the Seattle to San Francisco leg of the Tall Ships Pacific Challenge race aboard the 132' schooner Zodiac. Mike Massa (HB 16) and Rick Werner (HB 14) have been in a remodel race. Rumor has it that Rick might have actually moved in after a two plus year long major renovation, and Mike, having started a year ago, was to have been finished in August but is now hoping for Thanksgiving ... or perhaps Christmas.

Mallard Cove was well-represented in the volunteer department for FHA's 40th anniversary houseboat tour. Gus Schairer (HB 20) designed and produced the tickets; Melissa Ahlers (HB 15) was the tour's prime mover and shaker. She was assisted by Giff and Mary Jones, Bruce and Barb Lippke and Bob Berman. Also helping out were Jack and Joan Leversee from the Roanoke Reef side of the Cove.



Mike Swofford (HB 13) had to postpone his boat de-naming and re-naming ceremony due to a broken ankle – apparently the necessary ritual can't be performed on crutches. Ed Buchwald (HB 14) went to the Senior Olympics with the Washington Athletic Club and came home with a GOLD Medal in basketball – Congratulations!

Revelers

How many revelers can a houseboat hold? Doug Hanel (HB 18) counted 90 fans helping wife Peggy ease past the Big Five-Oh hurdle on the last Saturday of October with live band, barmaids and beauteous foods.

For your holiday shopping pleasure, Gus Schairer will be showing his bronze sculptures as part of the Vashon Allied Artists Studio Tour the first two weekends of December at the old hardware store near downtown Vashon's only traffic light.

Long time houseboater Robert ("Rain") af Sandeburg, who, with his late wife Surain, lived at Mallard Cove and most recently at Flo Villa, has sold their Flo Villa home and is moving back to Europe. Two sad losses for our community.

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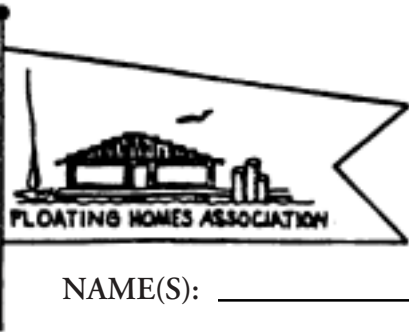
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