

November 2011



Member Newsletter

Longbranch Improvement Club

For the Betterment of the Community



Halloween Fundraiser Dance October 29, 8 PM

President's Letter . . .

October was an active month for the LIC with several events at the clubhouse, the Tacoma Power Squadron at the marina, and an increase in transient moorage. Much was accomplished thanks to all who volunteered. And thanks to Lynn Carr and Denny Pritchard for their work on the wharf ramp. Winter moorage spaces are available and reasonably priced, so contact Pat Thompson to make arrangements.

The 2011 year to date for the LIC has been a very poor one financially. Transient moorage revenue is down considerably from 2010 due to the economy and the uncertainty about the wharf in late 2010. Building revenue is up, but income from fund raisers and other sources is down. Fortunately, we have kept expenses low and been able to make payments on the bank loan for the wharf. Insurance costs increased considerably for the marina and clubhouse. Your board is considering the 2012 budget and will present it to the membership in November.

The Board held a planning mini-retreat in October and, based on earlier planning efforts and new input, developed a laundry list of possible elements for the LIC long range plan. Another mini-retreat will be held on November 8th at 2 PM at the clubhouse. All are invited to attend. The goal is to have a sustainable, long range plan in place in March 2012.

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

Coming Events -

- Sat, Oct 30—LIC Halloween Dance, 8:00 PM
- Mon, Oct 31—Quarterly moorage payments due
- Mon, Oct 31—Trunk or Treat at LIC, 6:00 PM. More info Page 4
- Wed, Nov 2—Dock Meeting, 7:00 PM
- Sun, Nov 6—Daylight Savings time ends
- Tue, Nov 8—Election Day
- Tue, Nov 8—LIC long range planning meeting, LIC clubhouse, 2:00 PM
- Fri, Nov 11—Veteran's Day
- Wed, Nov 16—General membership "Dessert" Meeting at LIC, 7:00 PM
- Thu, Nov 24—Thanksgiving Day
- Fri, Nov 25—Black Friday

General Membership Meeting

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Kurt Anderson, Francie Carr, Jan Prichard, "CC" Williams, Sandy Black, Phil Johnson

Kurt Anderson, vice-president, called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. The agenda was approved as presented.

Nancy Carr reported that the LIC caps have plastic in the rims, so are machine washable but should not be put in the dryer.

Secretary: Jan Prichard asked for approval of the minutes from the previous meeting. Peg Bingham made a correction that it was the Knudson's boat house sold to the Marra's, not the Van Cise's boathouse. A motion was then made, seconded and passed to approve the minutes as amended.

Treasurer: Francie Carr referred the members to the single sheet Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Statement on the tables. The Checking account balance is \$53,947 as of the end of September. She will let a \$30,000 CD mature and be deposited back into the checking account in November so we have some options at the end of the year if we want to make a larger payment on our bank loan for the wharf. She also pointed out that the money for the "Raise the Roof" fund is still there on the Balance Sheet. Some folks have been under the mistaken assumption that the money had been used, but that is not the case. The funds, totaling \$16,184.92, is restricted and can only be used for repairing or fixing the roof.

Francie thanked Rick Carr for his help in getting the retained earnings and equity section corrected to be in balance with LIC's last year's tax return. Our income is in line with what was expected at this point in the year, and our expenses are way below what was expected, and she thanked the committee chairs for helping to keep expenses down. She is starting to prepare the budget for next year and will be working on it next week. Anyone with suggestions for budget line items should send her an email or give her a call. The final quarterly payment for boat moorage is due October 31st.

Membership: "CC" Williams reported that we have 113 memberships, 80 of which are couples for a total of 193 members.

Building and Grounds: In Sharon Gearhart's absence, Francie Carr reported that we have cones in the front of the building to denote handicapped parking and she asked that people not park in the area by the front drive to the left of the door so that we can get the grass to grow there. Mike Runions and Sharon will be getting more large rocks to outline that area.

Marina Committee: In Randy Babich's absence, Jan Prichard reported that the Power Squadron completed quite a list of jobs Saturday before last and that the day went very smoothly. They "adopted" us and presented us with a very nice plaque that's been posted in the meeting area at the dock. They painted the permanent moorage area rails brown and repainted the transient areas bright yellow. Signs will be made by Don Allard to designate the separate areas. The gangway is being redone with a high grade, nonslip grating material. The grating has been installed and the ramp is usable with just a bit more work to do to totally finish the job. They are working on the Marina budget. They gave the Fircrest Yacht Club an auction gift of 50' of moorage for two days and Pat Thompson sent them a gift certificate. The committee has agreed that, if other interventions fail, they will go through the legal procedures required to evict boats not in compliance with rental payments or proof of insurance. They also agreed to ask the Board to make it a rule that all workers on the dock be licensed and as is already the case at the clubhouse. The Board agreed. A credit card will be used to buy the ice for the marina and the member who goes to get it will receive one hour of volunteer credit.

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General Membership Meeting.....(continued)

There are only 75% payback deals for pumpouts, so the committee will be looking into grants to make up the 25% difference. They will be receiving information from the DNR about what will be needed to bring the boathouses up to code by 2017 when the DNR lease is up.

Denny Prichard is working on getting updated insurance records for each boat and boathouse. Please send him your current proof of insurance. He will be calling owners who need to update their records.

Events: Sandy Black reported that **Trunk or Treat** is happening on Halloween night. Debbie Ehrhardt is in charge and is looking for helpers for the games and crafts. This is a great event for the kids on the Peninsula. It's a safe and fun way to "trick or treat" and there are games, crafts and hot drinks inside when the little goblins are done making their rounds.

Peg Bingham said there was a drop in cars participating last year and Debbie is really hoping more folks will bring their cars and join in the fun. Feel free to decorate your car and dress up if you wish, but most importantly....bring treats! Normally we get around 100 kids.

If you can volunteer to help with the crafts or games please call Debbie at 884-6382.

Cars should arrive between 5:15 and 5:45 to set up. We turn the kids loose at 6 p.m. Craft and game helpers should arrive at 5:30.

The **Halloween Dance** is taking place on Saturday Oct 29th at 8 p.m. Everyone is encouraged to buy tickets as it will be a lot of fun and is a fund raiser for the LIC Wharf. Peg Bingham is looking for volunteers to help with the food or with cashiering. The cost is \$10.00. Go online to our website at www.longbranchimprovementclub.org for additional information.

Peg announced that the Civic Center had a dance planned for the same night as ours and moved it to this coming Saturday so as not to conflict. We are encouraged to attend their "Monster Bash". It's \$20 and includes dinner.

Emergency Preparedness: Kurt Anderson asked how many people in the room had received a "PC Alert" recently. Only 3 or 4 folks had and Kurt pointed out that if we had signed up for the *Pierce County Alert System* we would have received an alert about three lanes of I-5 and I-405 being shut down for emergency repairs. Brochures about the "PC Alert System" have now been available at two meetings and more are available. You can also sign up online at www.piercecountywa.gov. If two or more folks in your household want to receive these alerts, they must sign up individually. Alerts will be sent by whatever method you choose, i.e. email, home phone, cell phone, text message, etc. Also available are brochures from FEMA.

As part of the process to put together a system to make it more likely that residents of the Key Peninsula will survive a natural or man-made disaster, the Key Pen Fire Department is updating their Emergency Preparedness Manual. Part of that process involves households filling out the *Key Peninsula Emergency Preparedness Survey*, copies of which were handed out. More copies are available from Kurt. He encouraged everyone to take some time to go through the form and fill out what information he or she is comfortable giving. The Fire Department will securely store the information and use it only if an emergency occurs. They are looking for abilities, skills, assets, equipment, i.e. things a person might be willing to contribute in the event of an emergency. Kurt pointed out that if both the Herron and Home bridges go out we are on our own at this end of the Peninsula, and the Fire Department needs to know who they can call on for everything from pet-sitting to owning and being able to run heavy equipment. On page two, please circle "LIC" under memberships. You can mail the surveys to the address on the first page or drop them off at the Key Peninsula Fire Station.

Old Business: A draft of the long range planning ideas generated by the Board and other attendees at the recent meeting was passed out to members, and all members are encouraged to read them and add to them. Any and all ideas are encouraged and can be emailed to Geoff Baillie at gbaillie@msn.com, given to any Board member, brought to the next General Meeting, or brought to the next planning meeting which will take place on November 8th at 2 p.m. at the LIC building. These planning sessions are building

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General Membership Meeting.....(continued from page 3)

on the planning sessions carried out at the beginning of last year. Copies of the brainstorming list are available from Geoff or any Board member. One of the things emphasized at the planning meeting was that neither the marina nor the building will maintain themselves, so planning to take care of our assets is a high priority. The DNR lease is up in 2017 and at that time the dock will have to be brought up to new and costly specifications. The possibility of raising rates at the marina will just be one of the ideas discussed for insuring the future well-being of the marina. "CC" Williams will send out an email to the membership about the next planning meeting.

Other Business: Nancy Carr asked for submissions for the newsletter. Also hats and fleeces can still be ordered. We are still collecting Key Peninsula Market receipts from which we receive a 1% rebate that goes to our scholarship fund. Mail the receipts to the clubhouse, give them to Jan Prichard or any Board member or bring them to a meeting.

Pat Thompson reported that Brian Combs had his dinghy stolen from the marina and recommended that people chain up their dinghies. It wasn't tied to the dinghy dock where there is a surveillance camera. Also we have had mixed reviews on our WiFi. Some people love it and some don't. We were also sorry to hear from Pat Thompson that Bruce Jeglum's mother passed away. Our Sunshine Lady Linda Le Blanc will send our condolences.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Prichard
Secretary

BUILDING AND GROUNDS CHAT ROOM:

We are officially into fall and rapidly approaching winter. I would like to get another building work party together before winter truly does hit but it will have to wait until November and probably mostly involve inside projects (of which there are many.) The small shed does need to have some of its shingles replaced and we do have the materials so if anyone is interested in taking on that project let me know. The building now has a bat repeller to try and help with the bat problem although I think the bats have been leaving on their own. We are asking that people not park on the grass in the area in front of the building by the dumpsters. We are trying to develop some nice grassy areas around the building that are protected from parking. I don't have a lot this month so will sign off early, however, if you have any suggestions or recommendations for the building or grounds please let me know at wolf9047@aol.com or 884-3890. I will be happy for any help and I appreciate the help that has been given so far this year. Hope to see you at the Halloween dance this Saturday or at Trunk or Treat on Monday.

Sharon

TRUNK-OR-TREAT

Halloween is rapidly approaching and for all of you who were wondering, yes the LIC and Evergreen PTA will once again host Trunk or Treat. A fun and safe way for our local children to celebrate a traditional favorite. There are many volunteering opportunities for this event. (Costumes are optional)

When: Monday October 31st

Where: Longbranch Improvement Club

Time: 5:45 to 8pm

(We let the kids loose at 6)

If you would like to participate, donate or have



Longbranch Work Party Rendezvous Oct 7-9, 2011

By PC Pat Lemagie, AP, Tacoma Power Squadron

Thank you, Thank you, and Thank you! What a wonderful turn out for our first "Work Party" rendezvous at our favorite South Sound cruising destination. Who would have thought a year ago when a group of us were standing around on the docks at Longbranch discussing the possibilities for such a venture that we would be able to get thirteen member boats and a guest boat plus eight drive-over's together to work. Wow! Not only did we manage to get everyone together, we actually accomplished most everything we set out to do plus some tasks that came about because of the fantastic weather.

Lt/C Todd Mackey, P and his crew did a great job re-hanging all the drop-down curtains that enclose the community area. The new pulleys and cleats make the area more user friendly and comfortable for the upcoming off season cruising. Cdr Larry Warren, AP and crew with their two pressure washers and support people, removed a season's accumulation of moss and slime that had developed on the floats. Prior to that, they pressure washed the tie-rails in preparation for another crew that put a new coat of yellow and/or gray paint designating transient or permanent moorage. For all of you that worked in the parking area clearing out brush, moving the porta -potties, painting the electrical panels, and general clean-up, a big thank you! Geoff Baillie, the president of the Longbranch Improvement Club, said that he has never seen the parking area so clean. It gives a whole new first impression to the marina. However, of all the work crews, the "right hand man" so to speak, was Tim Craig, P, and his hammering crew that spent hours adding a single nail between the two nails already in place in each and every board on the dock! There were a lot of tired and sore right-arms Saturday evening.

Following the work party we all enjoyed a wonderful barbecue and potluck dinner with fantastic ribs supplied by the LIC and masterfully prepared by their member, Lynn Carr. Immediately following dinner, Geoff Baillie spoke briefly about how appreciative he was for all that we had accomplished and spoke of a continued partnership. He was followed by our Commander who further commented about working together with the community to further the goals of both organizations. They then uncovered the plaque that had been prepared to commemorate the joint agreement and all agreed that we look forward to continuing this relationship.

Shortly after dark, a presentation and demonstration of Visual Distress Signals was conducted followed by an opportunity for members to practice with some of their own expired supply of VDS's.

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Photo's of Cdr Larry Warren, AP, Tacoma Power Squadron and Geoff Baillie, President, LIC.

Photo's provided by Geoff Baillie

Visual Distress Signals Demonstration

By PC Pat Lemagie, AP, Tacoma Power Squadron

During our weekend rendezvous and work party recently at the Longbranch Marina, our members along with other boaters from a local sailing club, had an opportunity to participate in a demonstration of various Visual Distress Signals. Most of these VDS's were typical of the consumer grade flares and hand held devices found in marine stores throughout the country. What made this different was the inclusion of several SOLAS grade signals that are required on commercial vessels. Following a brief description of what was to take place, two members went to the far side of the bay which just so happened to be exactly one nautical mile from the end of the marina docks. First to be demonstrated was an emergency strobe light attached to a reflective material on a PFD. To almost everyone's surprise, it was almost impossible to see even though the evening was clear and the moon was mostly obscured. Following that came several Skyblazer flares with none actually functioning. It should be noted that all the flares were either expired or soon to expire but in all cases, they were in good to new condition. Next came the common hand held device that is found in popular VDS kits. Although visible from one mile, they were not impressive. This was followed by the common Orion 12 gauge, low base pistol fired aerial flare. Even though some were fifteen years old they all worked but again, from one mile out, their brief and low altitude display left several wondering just how effective they would be. The big surprise came with the new, higher base, all plastic 12 gauge flares. With an expiration date of "Oct. 2011" and in "like new" condition, two of the three failed to ignite following their launch. A member experienced an even worse failure rate with the same product during the following practice period.

From this point we moved on to less common products including the 25mm pistol launched flares which were significantly better than anything previous. The most impressive signals without a doubt were the two SOLAS grade devices; a hand held and aerial signal, both over ten years old. With enough candle power to cause near blindness and an elevation of over a thousand feet, it was agreed that the added expense of SOLAS devices was well worth their expense. Especially when you can remain Coast Guard legal by purchasing the cheapest, readily available VDS re-loads while having good, commercial quality emergency devices that can be depended upon to attract attention should an emergency ever present itself. As to the abnormally high failure rate of the smaller devices, I plan on sending a letter to the manufacturers along with a copy to the Coast Guard, Office of Boating Safety regarding this. When you consider that the minimum carry requirement for these invaluable safety devices is only three, a two out of three failure rate is unacceptable!

In conclusion, our members as well as our guests, were excited about the demonstration and both the positive and the negatives of the results. Either way, it was an educational opportunity that will cause some members to re-think their supply of Visual Distress Signals.

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Dave Dahl has a boathouse for sale.
For more information, please call
253-884-4511.





LIC Membership Report

Membership needs help with the next two meetings volunteers in the kitchen. They should be at the Kitchen at 5:30 to make coffee and help set up.

Membership Chair

CC Williams

ccwilliams@centurytel.net or 253 884-3332

Mark your
calendars for the
General
Membership
Dessert Meeting,
Wed., Nov. 16th
at 7:00 PM
Look for
Upcoming
Events.

LIC Contacts

PRESIDENT: Geoffrey Baillie/884.3951/gbaillie@msn.com

TRUSTEE-AT LARGE: Phil Johnson/884.3784/kpjoh0425@yahoo.com

VICE PRESIDENT: Kurt Anderson/253.350.0309/hound356@gmail.com

SECRETARY: Jan Prichard/884.2030/jan@pacinfo.com

TREASURER: Francie Carr/ 884.6141 /253.564.4065/francie68@gmail.com

BLDG./GROUNDS CHAIR: Sharon Gearhart/884.3890/wolf9047@aol.com

DOCK CHAIR: Randy Babich/.884.4855/traderbay@centurytel.net

EVENTS CHAIR: Sandy Black/884.1309/swblack1216@centurytel.net

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR: CC Williams/884.3332/ccwilliams@centurytel.net

DOCK MASTER: Pat Thompson/884.5286/bloominfools@gmail.com

LIC BLDG. RENTALS: Sharon Gearhart/884.3890/wolf9047@aol.com

LIC BLDG. CLEANING: MRS. CLEAN—VIVIAN BLANCHARD/253.740.3946

LIC GROCERY RECEIPTS: OPEN—VOLUNTEER NEEDED

HOSPITALITY/GREETER: Trish Goodvin/884.4270/tgoodvin@yahoo.com

KITCHEN SERVICES: Peg Bingham/884.1124/larrypegbingham@centurytel.net

LIC ADOPT-A-ROAD: Bob McFarlane/884.1314/robertmcfarlane1@mac.com

SCHOLARSHIP: Lynn Larson/884.3951/llarson@llaaltd.com

NATURE TRAIL: Michael Runyon/884.4100/ annrunyon@yahoo.com

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS: Debbie Ehrhardt/884.6382/debbie@harvest-timber.com

OFFICE VOLUNTEER: Open—volunteer needed

LIC HISTORIAN: Lynn Larson/884.3951/llarson@llaaltd.com

LIC "SUNSHINE LADY": Linda LeBlanc/884.1499/l18161@hotmail.com

LIC NEWSLETTER: Nancy Carr/884.1384/ncarr44@centurytel.net

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION: Sharon Gearhart/884.3890/wolf9047@aol.com

LIC WEBMASTER: Sean Bonsell/253.225.7986/sb@twelveoaksconsulting.com

LIC RECYCLED CANS: Eloise & Larry Colbert/253-225-5115/
eacolbert@msn.com

LIC WEBSITE: WWW.LONGBRANCHIMPROVEMENTCLUB.ORG **EMAIL:** lic@longbranchimprovementclub.org

Dock Phone #: 884.5137 **LIC Building Phone #:** 884.6022

Lakebay WA 98349
 Po Box 111
 Longbranch Improvement Club

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