

2329 Fairview East

Seattle, Washington 98102

Phone: 325-1132

Number 116

Newsletter

Spring 1991

Floating Homes Association's
29th Annual
MEMBERSHIP MEETING

7:00 pm, Tuesday
April 9, 1991

All year the Floating Homes Association has been very involved in issues that affect our houseboat community. Progress reports will be made on issues of Perpetual Right of First Refusal, Harbor Patrol Cutbacks, State Leases and the Portage Bay Shoreline Expansion Plan. You will have the opportunity to nominate and vote for this year's Executive Board Members. All nominations are welcome. Also, we have invited Seattle City Council members to join us. All are welcome, both members and non-members. Come meet your neighbors, enjoy the refreshments and take advantage of the chance to purchase Floating Homes sweatshirts, t-shirts, posters and other unique merchandise.

Tyee Yacht Club
3229 Fairview Avenue East

Pick-A-Pound

**Lake Union
Spring Cleanup**

by Kathy Sherman

Saturday, April 13, 1991, from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm, the Floating Homes Association is joining with Fremont, Wallingford, City of Seattle and the State of Washington in a major effort to clean up Lake Union. The goal is to not only pick up litter, but to dispose of millfoil and large shoreline debris.

The entire lake has been divided into sections and we need a leader for each area to organize volunteers. We need people on land and boaters and kayakers to cover the shoreline and the lake, as well.

Houseboat docks are responsible for the areas around their houses and along the adjoining shorelines. At this time we have commitments from six docks, and we look forward to hearing from the rest of you.

Lake shore merchants have been contacted to clean up their shores as part of the Pick-A-Pound Project.

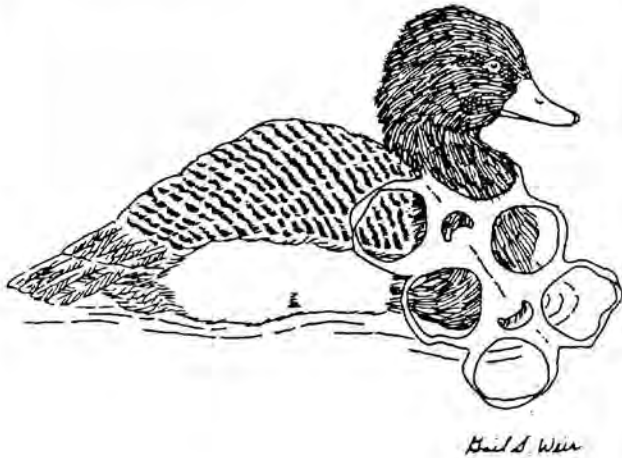
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Pick-A-Pound

City of Seattle will be providing dumpsters at strategic locations around the lake for the clean up efforts. State of Washington is providing trash bags. Fremont District will be the location of a bank of dumpsters. Fremont Tug will supply a tug boat to assist with litter transportation from those who are working from their boats.

Volunteers for Pick-A-Pound should contact Chris and Kathy Sherman at 328-4523 or Marty Alexander at 281-0927. We need a representative from each dock, leaders for areas around the lake, boats for lake litter pick up and trucks to haul shore litter to the dumpsters. We need your help. Please call!!



Street Sinks Medallion

by Bill Keasler

It now appears unlikely that the city will license floating homes. The Association's Legislative Committee proposed a "medallion" system last summer as a method of preserving the value of an evicted houseboat. City Councilman Jim Street, who was considering the proposal, now says that the idea is probably dead.

During discussions about the concept, two major problems surfaced. The first was the difficulty of predicting just what effect the law might have on the prices of both houseboats and moorages. Experts predicted that medallions might be worth a little or a lot, depending on the availability of

Equity Ordinance Reprint Available

With the passage of the Right of First Refusal amendment last October, the Equity Ordinance has now changed significantly twice since being completely revised in 1984. The other substantial amendment, passed in 1986, was a revision of Section 10, which governs moorage fees for rental houseboats. Because of the confusion induced by trying to weave together three separate reprints to get the actual language of the law, the Association has copied the Equity Ordinance sections from the city's current Municipal Code and has printed them for distribution as a service to its membership and other interested parties.

This issue of the Newsletter should have a copy as an insert. If you don't find one, or if you need more copies, please contact the Association office at 325-1132.

Eastlake Home, Business & Boat Tour

Sunday, April 28, noon-5 p.m.
Tickets: \$15; \$10 for seniors

Tour sites include the oldest remaining house in Eastlake (1893); Victorian farm house of Marjorie Nelson Steinbrueck; three floating homes on the Log Foundation; the Lake Union Drydock; Schooner Zodiac; Ross Laboratories and its 75-foot research vessel; architectural studio of George Suyama; the Traffic Systems Management Center, just east of I-5, operated by the State Department of Transportation and the inner sanctum of the University Bridge. Proceeds benefit the programs of the Eastlake Community Council (ECC) in their efforts to preserve Eastlake as a diverse neighborhood. For advance tickets, send check to ECC Eastlake Tour, 117 E. Louisa #1, Seattle 98102. For info call 322-5463.

moorage. Council staffer Frank Kirk remarked at the time that such uncertainty was "a poor basis for making law."

The other problem was based on the city's Law Department's assumption that a medallion scheme would transfer wealth from moorage owners to houseboaters. In that event, they said, the law would probably be unconstitutional because it would allow a unreasonable taking of the moorage owner's property, among other things.

Street and other council members do still recognize the need to preserve the value of an evicted floating home. One of the alternative ideas being considered is one requiring the buyer of a site to also buy the houseboat at fair market value. This proposal would solve the uncertainty problem with the medallion plan, and, according to a preliminary reading by the Law Department, is "no worse" constitutionally.



Lilly Pad

by Bob Lilly

Ed. Note: With this issue, houseboater Bob Lilly begins a column on gardening tips for houseboat gardeners. Bob is a graduate of WSU in art and has worked for Wells Medina Nursery and the Herbfarm. Most importantly, he's lived on his houseboat on the Tenas Chuck Moorage for 20 years and knows what works in a garden afloat and what doesn't. Send your questions or comments on this subject to "Lilly Pad" at 2331 Fairview, #0.

It's almost spring and time for the early season check-up out there in "Oh, I've just got a few pots on the deck" land. Any obvious dead growth

on shrubs can be pruned now. If new growth buds have swollen or turned a good green, prune to just above those buds. Be sure to weed — you can catch a lot of young ones now and they are easy to pull. If you have slugs, a little bait where the cats can't get to it — or a police action. I have great results searching under every pot. One wonderful pleasure comes from a great advantage Houseboaters have: Slugs SINK. Just a quick toss & no mess! Clean up old leaves on the soil now. There are lots of baby slugs hiding in the litter.

There should be good primroses and pansies in the nurseries and they can be planted anytime after March 1st. It's too early for annuals— wait until Mother's Day for geraniums, fuchsias and other tender annuals. Some of the hardy herbs that do well in pots and planted early are lemon balm, oregano, parsley, chives, thyme, French tarragon, fennel, mint and winter savory. I find the best perenni-

als for pots are dianthus (pinks), edelweiss, ornamental grasses, perennial geraniums, violas and violets, lavender, thrift, yarrows, astilbe and perstenons; and for shade, hostas, Japanese anemones and lady's mantle.

There are also a few biennials that can be kept going in pots: dusty miller, foxgloves and sweet william. Just keep the old flowers picked and don't let them go to seed. And don't forget to plant a few sweet peas (or edible peas) by the middle of March.

Need a vine? Try hops, grapes and clematis but don't put in the full sun. The roots will get too hot. With the weather warming up, keep an eye out for watering. Nothing sets a plant in a pot back like drying out in early spring. So as spring comes along, a little attention makes for a better summer.

FAREWELL TO YNEMA

One of the best things that happened to the Floating Homes Association the past year was Ynema Reeves. Even though she had never been on a houseboat and had never heard of George Johnston much less a stringer, Ynema rose to the occasion. "I'm looking for an alternative work environment that fits with my kids' schedule (and the baseball season) and my own small business", she wrote in her original job application. It sounded like a good fit but we didn't know how good until she came aboard. Ynema (and her kids, Seth & Cory) made the FHA office a home. From painting the premises to inventoring merchandise to bringing us into the computer age, Ynema & gang did it with enthusiasm. Now, they must leave and begin a new chapter of their lives in Oregon. Our best wishes go with them and — our thanks.

HOUSEBOAT IN GERMANY

This houseboat (currently unoccupied) floats on the Spree River which runs through East and West Berlin. It is actually in East Berlin. Sandy Pappas, a friend of Jann McFarland (2025 FV) was there when the Wall came down and took this photo for us.



Save Portage Bay As Is

Neighbors Say Jensen Motorboat Co, Six Floating Homes, Public Access, and a Quarter Mile of Working Waterfront Too High a Price for University's Grandiose Development Scheme.

So much for the "Working Lake:" no houseboats, no Jensen's, no marinas, no streets. Under the University of Washington's latest "General Physical Development Plan," the neighborhood along the north shore of Portage bay also loses over 100 parking spaces, gains a boat ramp half as large as the one it has, and may acquire a wall of buildings 85 feet high along the shoreline. Ultimately, since public automobile access will be funnelled through a campus police guardhouse, the area will cease to be a neighborhood at all.



A view of the street side of Jensen Motorboat Co. Next door to the right is the University floating home moorage with six houseboats. The University's plan would eliminate both facilities.

Admittedly, the University already owns much of the property between the hospital and I-5. Most people are even fairly sympathetic with the need for the University to grow. However, the nearly universal opinion of the surrounding community groups and businesses is that the University's plan goes too far. To proceed with their development, they need the city to vacate the entire network of streets serving the area.

Led by the Jensen family, this street vacation proposal has encountered fierce opposition from a broad coalition of organizations, businesses and individuals.

Meanwhile, the Jensens and the Floating Homes Association have rallied support for a lobbying campaign to the State Legislature. A lobbyist, Michael Doctor, has been retained to represent us in Olympia. He says he is encouraged by the sympathetic response he has received, especially from the local delegation. Meetings have been scheduled between legislators and community representatives to discuss the situation. We are not opposing the University's expansion, per se, but simply demanding answers to why it should be so invasive and destructive.

You can help. Below are the names and addresses of local legislators. If nothing else, call them on the Hotline (1-800-562-6000) NOW and leave the message that you oppose the University's plan. This will help more than you think. Most legislators are hungry for the opinions of their constituents. Even better would be a short note or postcard with the same message. These are the people you should contact:

Senator Janice Niemi, 786-7628
Rep. Cal Anderson, 786-7920
Senator Nita Rinehart, 786-7690
Rep. Helen Sommers, 786-7814
Rep. Jesse Wineberry, 786-7944
Washington State Legislature
Olympia, WA 98504

Judge Denies Portage Bay Office Appeal

The Floating Homes / Eastlake Community Council appeal of the city's permit to allow a non-water dependant office building on the southern Portage Bay shoreline becomes ever more bizarre. It now looks like the case will end up before the State Supreme Court.

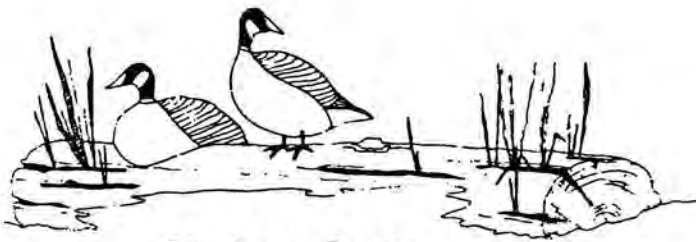
First, the Department of Construction and Land Use issued a permit for the four storey development between the University and Freeway bridges without requiring either a water dependant use or a binding arrangement for adequate parking. Appalled, the FHA and ECC joined together to appeal the decision to the State Shorelines Board. The Board reversed 15 years of its own precedent and ruled in favor of the permit.

We then took the case to Thurston County Superior court. Visibly gritting his teeth against exhaustive evidence that the City Council's intent when it passed the Shorelines Master Program in 1987 was to disallow such developments, the judge

also ruled in favor of the permit. This trial featured city Law Department attorney Miriam Reed's passionate, and successful, argument in opposition to requiring the developer, Dally Development, to post a bond against any damage caused to the site by going ahead with the building before the case is finally settled.

Legal maneuvering for the next level of appeal is now underway. The State Supreme Court has scheduled a hearing to determine whether they should grant accelerated "expedited review" of the case.

At city hall, Councilmembers Jim Street and Paul Kraabel are pondering an elaborately polite letter from the FHA and ECC explaining the situation, asking how we got into this mess given their assurances in 1987 it would never happen, and demanding to know what they are going to do about it.



Waterlog

by Sheri Lockwood

by guest columnist Peggy Stockley

For the first time in Floating Homes newsletter history, Sheri Lockwood (2235 FV) was not available to do "Waterlog." Can you believe it? The nerve. She actually planned a personal vacation right when she should have been home on her houseboat digging up gossip. Her itinerary did sound nice — absorbing the sun in the Bahamas with friend and fellow houseboater, Leslie Rubicam (2025 FV) who was visiting friends in Treasure Key, and time with her father in picturesque Solvang, California.

Theme of this "Waterlog" is how we survived the winter. It was a rough one. Houseboatland always goes inside during the winter. Typically, sitting in front of the stove, reading, knitting and other projects replace such spring and summer pursuits as gardening, socializing dockside, swimming or boating around the lake. This year, winter meant hardship — frozen pipes, frozen toilets, icy docks and broken chains; not to forget the war situation. But now, spring is upon us and, hopefully, a lasting peace. May the environmental damage be repaired. The ducks and geese have made their "nest reservations" and the forsythia, camellias and spring-time blossoms lift our spirits. It's time to open our doors and come out of our cocoons.

WINTRY TALES

Lynda Caine was at a holiday dock party with her Log Foundation neighbors on the night of the first big snowstorm. Someone burst in to say her houseboat was loose. Outside, a 6-foot geyser of water was shooting up (and we're a long way from Yellowstone National Park.) There was 8 inches of snow on the dock. Mary's houseboat ramp was in the water. "Can you believe it?" says Lynda. "I didn't have any lines." A sailboater neighbor saved the day in that respect. It was four hours before things were secured with friends slipping and sliding precariously as they grappled with icy conditions and hose clips. Talk about breaking up a party. But the hot cider, buttered rums and cookies sure tasted good when the hatches were battened down ... 2025 FV had an assortment of broken pipes — worst was probably George Johnston's houseboat. The pipes broke inside the house and ruined the carpeting ... George saved the day for Jann & Sid McFarland on the same dock when he and his diver came to the rescue of McFarland's vintage (1934) Chris Craft runabout which sank

a total of 3 times during the snow and cold ... Ann Bassetti & Gene Nutt (2420 WL) have a winter story off the Lake. Aboard Amtrak and heading for L.A., the rails cracked from the cold. The pipes in the dining car froze. Stymied in southern Oregon, Amtrak brought in 500 Kentucky fried chicken dinners. The trip ran 13 hours late ... Northwest Outdoor Center's 4th annual Kayak Benefit for the Seattle Children's Home got off to a great start on December 17. In spite of the adverse weather, director Bill Stewart reports \$1068 was raised. His thanks go to Marty Alexander, Cathy Major, Rich Patton, Chris & Kathy Sherman who rounded up audiences for the 40 serenading kayakers that cold Monday. Tuesday and Wednesday was blown away by the Arctic Blast.

WELCOME ABOARD

New on Lee's Moorage at 933 Northlake are Bruce & Laura Westmiller, Jan Loeken and Bob Bowman & Teri Hall who bought and remodeled #4 ... New to 2822 Boyer on Portage Bay are Betty & Jeff Brown ... It was a houseboat switch that brought Gwen & Fred Bassetti to 3146 PBPL and Owen Haselton to 2420 WL. During the big move, Fred's back went out. Kudos go to Sid Thomas, son of neighbors' Paul & Shirley Thomas, for saving the day. The Bassetti's big old-fashioned piano traveled to Portage Bay on George Johnston's raft. (Did anyone get a picture?) ... New in recent months to 2420 WL is Paulette Brunner who works in microbiology ... Settled into 2460 WL are the Edwards family — Tom, Zimmy & son Frazier ... In case we missed it, Bill & Natalie Handy are relative newcomers to Roanoke Reef. They had a houseboat christening for dockmates around New Year's.



Ray Wood (2025 FV) checks out his crop of giant icicles.



2019 Fairview

GET WELL WISHES

Neighborhood community activist and Floating Homes Association trustee Beth Means (3125 FV) is recovering from surgery. There have been a couple of setbacks but now it's beginning to look like a "lovely spring" says Beth. "I can even walk up to the mailbox." Nothing like coming back from a health crisis to make you appreciate the little things of life ... Also recovering from heart surgery is Marie Johnson (2466 WL).

BIRTHDAYS OF NOTE

Alfa McClung (2331 FV) turned 92 on January 18 and shared the occasion with neighbors on the Tenas Chuck Moorage ... Hellen Nelson on the Jeffrey dock (2031 FV) celebrated her 80th birthday with a party at her houseboat on January 20th. Ex-houseboaters Mike & Sherre Roberts and Ann LeVasseur were among the many friends, neighbors and family there.

MAROONED

Carol & Allen McInnis have left Jean Lundsted's moorage at 2822 Boyer to live in a house that has been in Allen's family for 50 years. Built in 1939, the house is located on 3/4 acre in Meadowbrook between Wedgewood and Lake City. The property has fruit trees, a creek and (wouldn't you know?) ducks and geese. Only such a sentimental gem

could have made them budge. "I once said nothing could blast us out of houseboat life," recalls Carol. They've been on Portage Bay for 15 years.

WILDLIFE

It's been a fascinating winter for birdwatching. Peg Boley documents the following on Portage Bay: Common Loon, Scaup (greater & lesser), Hooded Merganser, Barrow's Goldeneye (most vain), Western Grebes, Buffleheads, American Widgeon, Coots, Shovelers (huge bill), Ruddy Duck, plus Mallards, Canadian Ducks, Gadwalls ... Jeri Callahan & Betsy Williams (2331 FV) observed a harbor seal as they kayaked on Lake Union.

KNOTS TIED OR TO BE TIED

Bill Parks & Beth Struckhoff (1213 E. Shelby) were married last fall and spent a month afterwards in Mexico ... Martha Lane, daughter of Bob & Polly Lane (Roanoke Reef) has married Michael Walsh, an Irish bike racer from Dublin who once was on the Irish National Bicycle Team. There will be a wedding celebration in Dublin this June. What a way to see the Emerald Isle! ... Marcia Tobin (2420 WL) is engaged to Kris Salzer, art director for an ad agency.

ANCHORS AWAY

Tom Susor (Boat St.) made a ski trip to Whistler ... Meanwhile, Susan Susor (Boat St.) will attend a convention of the American Operating Room Nurses Association in Atlanta, Georgia. Susan works at Valley General Hospital ...



2025 Fairview

...more Waterlog

The name Tom seems synonymous with travel. Tom Stockley (2331 FV) visited the wine industry of Chile in January ... K. & Theresa Jones of Mallard Cove and David & Jana Maxwell (Roanoke Reef) spent a few weeks in New Zealand this month as part of a "yacht club switch" between the Seattle Yacht Club and counterparts in the Down Under ... Marty & Dave Gardner (ex-houseboaters from 2460 WL) made an automobile trip (with many asides) to Dave's hometown of San Antonio, Texas. One item on his personal itinerary was to check for bargains at Costco stores across the country ... Steve, Ellen & Jennifer Hansen (2025 FV) spent the holidays in Hawaii (Jennifer was home from college which in her case is University of California at Santa Cruz) ... Chris Knight (2025 FV) was home for Christmas and spring break from Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, NY where he is a freshman ... Jann & Sid McFarland (2025 FV) made their annual trip to Mazatlan in December and arrived home the night before the big snow ... Tim Easton & Andrea Wieland (2025 FV) spent 3 weeks in Central America ... Kirvil Skinnarland & her husband Alan Hunt (1213 E. Shelby) traveled to the Yucatan in Mexico. They spent time on the island of Cozumel, then rented a car and visited some of the famous ruins in that part of the world ... Mischa Halvarsson Jackson (2219 FV) made a business trip to Sri Lanka. She is a consultant with SouthAsia Resources, Inc. ... Pam Stevens (3146 PBPL) was in Yemen in July prior to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. There was no hint of what lay ahead but Pam got a fascinating glimpse of the psychology of the Moslem world. Although she had been in other Moslem countries, this was the most primitive and isolated ... Charlotte Macmillan & Ray Woodling (2017 FV) are back from a 4-month driving trip through Europe. They visited many countries — Austria, Luxembourg, Portugal, Spain, etc... it was their first time in Turkey and Greece ... Also traveling from 2017 FV were Fred McCulloch & Mary Guy who spent sun time in Ixtapa, Mexico ... Shirley & Paul Thomas (2420 WL) made their January escape to an elder hostel in New Mexico and Janeel Eddie & Tom Carlson (2420 WL) traveled to Belize (British Honduras).

FLOTSAM AND JETSAM

New president of the Portage Bay Condominium Association is Dennis Hough. He immediately took off on a R&R before the fact to Mexico ... Ron Krause (2420 WL) has a great new toy. It's a 2-foot radio remote-controlled sailboat with switches to control the tiller and sails ... Margaret Bullitt (2420 WL) was gifted with a life-ring from the old ferryboat Kalakala by her dad ... Nancy & Roger Johnson (2017 FV) are into graduation ceremonies this spring. Their twin sons, Mark & Erik, are graduating from college: Mark from the University of Washington in history, Erik from Stanford University in political science. The twins spent their grade school years at Seward School right here in Eastlake and are confirmed urbanites ... Tom Susor (Boat St.) has bought an



George Johnston poses with "catch of the day"

airplane "kit", all he needs is a hanger — maybe in his neighbor Anchor Jensen's space which is the birthplace of the Slo Mo IV unlimited hydroplane. How's that for an act to follow? ... Free houseboat accommodations (no meals) are still needed in the Fairview/Westlake area for delegates to the Museum Small Craft Association Conference October 4-6, 1991. Houseboat guests will have the use of a classic rowboat to commute to the Center. If you wish to participate, please contact Dick Wagner at 382-2628 ... Peg Boley (2818 Boyer) has lived on a houseboat on Portage Bay for 7 years. An associate buyer at REI and outdoor enthusiast, she regularly shares her talent with this FHA newsletter. If you'd like to commission her to sketch your houseboat (or dock), call Peg at 329-9631 ... More thanks go to Marv Brost and George Johnston, who donated equipment and labor to power wash the decks and building of the FHA office. Do we hear any volunteer offers to paint it?

Make sure your dock or moorage is represented in the next Waterlog. Call Sheri Lockwood with the news and views. Her number is 322-4536.

