



# FLOATING HOMES ASSOCIATION

Number 153

## Newsletter

Spring 2008

### FLOATING HOMES ASSOCIATION

#### 46TH ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

TUESDAY, APRIL 22, 2008

NAVAL RESERVE ARMORY  
South Lake Union

**FREE PARKING**  
NEXT TO ARMORY and  
on WESTLAKE N  
(Use new footbridge  
to & from Westlake N)

**6:30 TO 7:30 pm**  
SOCIAL HOUR  
COMPLIMENTARY REFRESHMENTS

**7:30 TO 9:30 pm**  
MEETING

#### AGENDA

Lake Union Trail  
David Graves, Parks Dept.  
Fire Chief Gregory Dean  
Shoreline Master Program  
New FHA Web Site  
Standing Committees  
Executive Board Elections

HOUSEBOATIQUE  
ITEMS FOR SALE

MINGLE WITH OTHER  
HOUSEBOATERS!!

**FUN!!  
INFORMATION!!  
REFRESHMENTS!!**



Photos by Rick Miner

#### The 3rd Biennial FLOATING HOMES CRUISE Aboard the Virginia V

The weather was perfect on the evening of August 16th as we cruised Lake Union, Portage Bay and Lake Washington.

More photos next page.



Above: Revelers crowd the bow.  
Left: Captain Dale

### Notice Something?

The editors are trying on some design ideas in an attempt to make the *Newsletter* look more compatible with the new web site.

See "New Web Site," page 9.

Or visit [seattlefloatinghomes.org](http://seattlefloatinghomes.org)

# THE 3RD BIENNIAL CRUISE ABOARD THE VIRGINIA V

*Sheri Greaves was chair of this popular event for 2007. She & her crew deserve a round of applause for putting on a memorable party.*



**THE LAKE UNION HOME WRECKERS** entertained party goers at the 3rd biennial Floating Homes Association cruise aboard the Virginia V. Band members are from left to right: Chris Allan (guitar), Jack Cook (guitar), houseboater: Bob West (trumpet, drums & jug), Ray Skjelbred (piano), and Bonnie Reid (violin). Not pictured are Heather Banker (vocals & guitar) and Bruce Reid (6 string banjo).

All photos this page by Marilyn Robertson.



**LEFT:** Catering was by **THE LAKE UNION CAFÉ**. Throughout the evening, delicious hot hors d'oeuvres were passed by wait staff. Tables with beautiful arrangements of fruit, vegetables, cheeses and crackers awaited guests in the main salon.



**ABOVE:** Larry Logue, Ethan Lowry, Nicole Halabisky and Tiffany McNamara, from **THE LAKE UNION DOCK** enjoy the food and good company.

Find these photos (and more), in **color**, on the FHA website at [seattlefloatinghomes.org](http://seattlefloatinghomes.org)

**BELOW:** After the guests departed, our 'clean up' crew picked up everything brought on board. This group of revelers lucked out. They got to clean up the bar! L to R: Jim Weyand, Steve & Sheri Greaves, and Sid McFarland.

**BELOW:** Rick Miner surrounds himself with (L to R) Teagan Densmore, Melissa Ahlers, and Emily Hine.



Spring 2008



## The Floating Homes Association

2329 Fairview E  
Seattle, WA 98102

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**Now and Then**

*Newsletter:* **Marilyn,  
Jann, Bill**

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**Please visit [seattlefloatinghomes.org](http://seattlefloatinghomes.org)**

Most of the photos in the *Newsletter* are in **color**. See the originals online on our website. Our archives include this issue and go back to 2002.

This issue also features an extra on-line album with more photos of the cruise.

**Note:** Advertisers represented in this *Newsletter* are not endorsed by the Floating Homes Association.

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# Association Standing Committee Reports



## Legislative & Legal Sheri Greaves, Chair

### Floating Homes Appraisals

This article is revised and updated from one that appeared in the Winter 2006 newsletter. If you will recall, Mike Ryherd, our Floating Homes Association lobbyist, Melissa Ahlers (FHA Board), and I met with Michelle Hagen, Director of Commercial/Business Division, and Joe Arnold, Commercial Appraiser, in September 2005 to have them explain how they appraise the floating homes community, both personal property (houseboat) and the land (slip) portion. The main thing we all agreed on is appraising floating homes is a very difficult job. There are so many different scenarios and dock ownership models that having black-and-white procedures is really impossible, but they are making every attempt to be fair and equitable in their appraisals across the floating homes community.

### Personal Property

All floating homes are given a grade of 1-5 based on 3 elements:

- Quality of construction
- Condition (how the structure has been maintained)
- Square footage

That's it. They do not take anything else into account. So, if you want to appeal your floating home appraisal, you must be able to prove them wrong about one of those three things.

### Land

Land is valued as if it is vacant. The land parcel values (that portion of land or mud that the dock may own) are simply a total of the individual slip values. We are NOT taxed on DNR or City leased land. The appraiser uses the same method for calculating the total value of the land as noted below (a value per site that increases from \$250,000 to \$750,000 according to the location of the site), but when he has the total, he then looks at what is DNR land and takes that portion of the value and assigns it to the DNR parcel, not to the floating home parcel. It is true that DNR doesn't have to pay taxes on it, but neither do we. The above also applies to slips on City street leases.

This year there were changes in the assessor's approach to the allocation of the value between the land parcels and the floating homes. The slip values were increased and the inside slips were generally valued at \$250,000 and the end slips were valued as high as \$750,000 in some but not all cases. Because of these slip value increases, the dock owned land value in general had substantial in-

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# Association Standing Committee Reports

creases. This year, the views, open water, easiness of lake access, etc. were taken into account in valuing the individual slips. Because of this, there is not necessarily a proportionate increase in value as one goes from the inside slip to the outside slip, even though the values do increase in that process. In many, but not all cases, this land value increase allowed the floating home value to decrease.

## Appeals

So, what does this mean to you regarding appealing your assessment?

First, keep in mind that the appraiser is only the appraiser. He comes up with the value of the land and of the floating home, but the King County Assessor's Office has nothing to do with what that translates to in taxes. The County decides on the tax levy, and what special levies might be passed by the voters (schools, parks, etc.), to determine the tax rate. Your taxes can go up even if your appraised value does not.

When looking at whether to appeal or not, take into account the three things (quality of construction, condition, and square footage) for the personal property, then look at your location on the dock and estimate what the land value for your site is. Add those two together and ask yourself this question: Can I sell my houseboat for this?

Also, note that appraisals are based on values from at least 1-2 years in arrears. The Appraiser is required to actually look at our homes every six years, but Joe Arnold says that he will have looked at all of the floating homes by the end of this year (which will be his fourth year appraising floating homes). Sales that have occurred in the previous three years are used for comparables.

Joe Arnold informed us that the successful houseboat appeals have uncovered issues of 'Quality' or 'Condition' that the assessor did not take into account. The successful land or 'slip' appeals have brought to light issues that are unique to the location that were not considered at the time of valuation.

Joe is very willing to talk with us so feel free to contact him directly with questions, 206.205.5534 or e-mail me at [sgreaves@fhcrc.org](mailto:sgreaves@fhcrc.org) and I will do my best to get answers for you.

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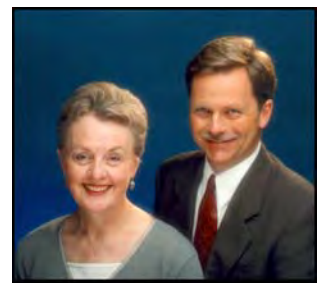
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# Association Standing Committee Reports



## Environmental

Bob Bowman, Chair

The 6th Annual Lake Union/Portage Bay Sweep organized by Puget Soundkeeper Alliance will be held on Saturday, May 10th. Once again, FHA is one of the event sponsors. Last year 39 houseboat folks participated in the Sweep - 23 at South

Lake Union and 16 at Portage Bay. In addition to that, we had six docks sign up for debris removal from houseboat waterways and shorelines. Please volunteer for this year's Sweep. It is a great opportunity for the floating home community to get actively involved in cleaning up Lake Union and Portage Bay. Also, if there is enough interest by houseboat docks, we will again come by and pick up debris from houseboat waterways and shorelines. Let me know if your dock is interested. You can contact me at the email address below.

At the January Environmental Committee meeting, Karen Huber from King County Water Treatment Division gave a presentation on the County's Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO)

Control Program. In older cities such as Seattle, sewage and storm water are managed together. During large rainstorms, the pipes are not large enough to handle the increased flow; so, diluted wastewater overflows into Portage Bay, Lake Union, the Ship Canal and other waterways. These events are called Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs). The goal of CSO Control programs is to reduce sewage overflow events or treat the overflow so that water quality standards will be met. In Seattle, the city and county have responsibility to manage CSOs, with King County managing fewer but mainly larger CSOs. King County is now developing a schedule for four CSO Control Programs that will start in 2010 and be completed in 2030. Currently the East Ship Canal project (University/Montlake) is priority #2 and scheduled to start predesign work in 2009. However, the

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# Association Standing Committee Reports

Duwamish project, priority #3 may be moved ahead of University/Montlake. The County would welcome comments from the community on project priorities. You can get more information on CSO projects and overflow events from the King County Metro website: <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/WTD/cso/>.

The Environmental Committee currently has six members: Diana Forman, Pat Sampson, Susan Susor, Jan Carlson, Sheryl Landon and Bob Bowman. Please let me know if you would be interested in joining the Committee or would like to be a dock representative for environmental issues. You can contact me at [bobbowman2@msn.com](mailto:bobbowman2@msn.com).



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## The Sweep 2008

Lake Union, Portage Bay Cleanup

**Saturday May 10, 2008**

8:15 am - 8:45 am: Volunteer Check-in  
9:00 am - 12:00 am: On-Water Cleanup Event  
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm: Celebration & Lunch

### Event Description:

Volunteers in kayaks & other small boats pick up & transfer trash to larger craft for collection by Seattle Public Utilities. Shore cleanup will be done around Lake Union and Portage Bay involving non-boaters.

### Event Contact:

If you or your group is interested in participating in this event, please contact: Chris Wilke at Puget Soundkeeper Alliance: 206-297-7002 or [volunteer@pugetsoundkeeper.org](mailto:volunteer@pugetsoundkeeper.org)



## UPDATING OF SHORELINE REGULATIONS MAY IMPACT EXISTING HOUSEBOATS

by Bob Bowman

The Washington State Shoreline Management Act required local governments to establish a Shoreline Master Program (SMP). Seattle is now in the process of updating its SMP. The revised SMP will establish shoreline goals and policies for: 1) preferred shoreline uses, 2) environmental protection and 3) public access. This will result in new regulations and standards for shoreline uses including floating homes. Revised regulations and building codes for over water structures could have a major impact on how we maintain existing houseboats, flotation and docks, and how new houseboats are built. Seattle is establishing a 14-18 member SMP Citizen Advisory Committee. The FHA is one of many organizations and individuals who have applied for participation on the Advisory Committee. We should know by the end of March if the FHA will be represented on the Committee. Stay tuned for more information.

Additionally, the city is hosting seven community meetings to get input on the new shoreline policies. The Lake Union/Ship Canal Meeting was on Tuesday, March 25th at B.F. Day Elementary School, 3921 Linden Ave N, 98103.

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# Association Standing Committee Reports

## Fundraising Melissa Ahlers, Chair

### FLOATING HOMES TOUR 2008

The Floating Home Tour committee is already hard at work planning the 2008 tour. Mark your calendar for Sunday, September 7th from noon to 5 pm and get ready for some fun! This year we are looking at putting some new twists to the event -- even thinking about changing a location or two: Portage Bay, Fairview, Northlake, Westlake...which one? Come to the annual meeting to find out!

A big thanks to Wong Doody who will again be working on our marketing materials! And, an excited thank you to the amazing tour team who are working on this wonderful community event. We are always looking for new talent and new ideas so come to a committee meeting or volunteer to be a host for tour day. Interested? Please, contact Melissa Ahlers at melissa@lakere.com or 206-356-2262.



## Security & Safety

Giff Jones  
Tiffany McNamara  
Co-Chairs

**From Tiff:** In January the Seattle Police Department changed the boundaries of its precincts. For the houseboat community the most significant change is that south of Lynn Street will now be the West Precinct, no longer the East. This divides the Eastlake community into two precincts. Each SPD Precinct conducts monthly meetings to encourage ongoing communication with the neighborhoods they serve. Susan Jenkins has stepped up to represent the FHA at the East Precinct meetings, Kathy Kimball has volunteered to represent us at the North Precinct meetings and I will do my best to cover the West Precinct meetings. Thank you to Susan and Kathy for doing this for the good of our entire neighborhood. All are welcome at these meetings so if you are ever inspired to go get a hold of one of us and we will give you the date, time and place of the next meeting for your precinct.

**From Giff:** Your Safety and Security Committee had lunch with Fire Chief Gregory Dean last fall, thanks to the generosity of auction winners Tom and Susan Susor. Our meaningful conversation ranged from marine fires to fireboats to fire prevention. Chief Dean will be a featured guest speaker at our April 22 Annual Meeting, and will expand on these and other topics.

Meanwhile, here are a few miscellaneous offerings from our conversation: SFD will staff at least one person inside the locks on a fireboat 24/7. Firefighters need at least a five-foot wide pathway to the outer end of each houseboat dock. It will help them to have reflective tape or other obvious identification at utility shut-off locations. If possible, in an evacuation, close all windows and doors before leaving. It helps emergency responders to be able to easily spot address numbers. Clear offending shrubbery from street-side number signs and place bold, reflective numbers on the outermost float of each dock. Keep all address signs clear and clean.

By ANONY MOUSE



Group with the Fire Chief; LR: Jim Donnette, FHA liason to SFD, Tiff McNamara, Chief Gregory Dean, Asst. Chief Bill Hepburn, Giff Jones.



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# Association Standing Committee Reports

## Communications

Marilyn Robertson, Chair

### FHA WEB SITE

by Bill Keasler

The new Floating Homes Association web site is finally shaping up. We're hoping it will be presentable by the time you're reading this. Give it a try at

[seattlefloatinghomes.org](http://seattlefloatinghomes.org)

Frustration over the difficulty navigating the old site has driven an effort over the past few years to design a new site in which it would not only be easier to get around, but also provide a more interactive platform for exchanging ideas.

Most of the components of the old site are still there: the Houseboatique, *Newsletter* archives, Dockwatch, the Tour, photo galleries and other information about floating homes.

In addition, the new site is designed so that the most recent or interesting features and events may be highlighted and can even bubble up to the front page, if we want. This should make current stories easier to find. In fact, the "News and Events" menu item is just a list of the most recent posts from the entire site.

Our *Newsletter* columnists each now have their own page and archive - much like a blog - where they can post information about their individual areas of interest. These pages include the stories you see right here under "Standing Committee Reports," plus others, such as the "Lilly Pad".

If you register (under "Log In") you can join us in the conversation by posting to forums and making comments on stories.

The site fires off a couple of mailing lists so far. The existing Dockwatch continues.

But now there's a digest of the the "News and Events" page which is sent out at least when the *Newsletter* is published, but also sometimes when something else interesting happens. Most of the digest pages are "RSS feeds," so you can also be notified whenever anything changes at all.

So give it a try at

[seattlefloatinghomes.org](http://seattlefloatinghomes.org)

## Houseboatique

Mary and Giff Jones, Co-Chairs

by Mary Jones

We had the best-ever festive and profitable annual Holiday Sale at the FHA office. The one room cottage was decorated with lights and a candy cane swag of evergreens was hung outside. All proceeds directly benefit the FHA, so your support is always appreciated. We try very hard to keep the ideas and items we offer for sale fun, interesting, and community related; items you want for yourselves and as gifts for relatives and friends. Our newest item is a lightweight folding umbrella to be introduced at the Floating Homes Tour this fall, but which we will pre-sell at the April 22 Annual Meeting. We strive to offer an image or feeling that adds to what the houseboat community is all about: a willingness to help and support each other through rain or shine. We are an eclectic group of folks who have this remarkable way of smiling and saying hello as we pass each other on our country lanes.

### GRAB, SNAP, and SEND!

## PHOTO CONTEST!

**GRAB** a camera and your **Seattle houseboats hat**. **SNAP** a photo, and **SEND** it in to enter the FHA Houseboatique "Our Hats Travel" photo contest!

**Where have our hats been?** Some will talk about it, others will not.

**Does what happens in our hats stay under our hats?** We'd like to see where you have traveled and spread the word about the infamous Seattle Houseboat Community. Take a photo on vacation, during a favorite activity, hanging out with your pet goldfish, whatever makes it interesting.

**We'll publish** the most unique entries and the winner gets a prize from the Houseboatique. Only rules are hat & logo must be discernable, and we

can print it in the FHA Newsletter. Email your entries, with photographer name, who's in the photo, where taken, and background or human interest info to: [mej@raincity.com](mailto:mej@raincity.com)  
Good Luck!



## PERMIT DECISION RAISES QUESTIONS ABOUT STATUS OF HOUSEBOAT FLOATS

by **Bill Keasler**

The Floating Homes Association board learned of a troubling development on the 2466 Westlake dock at their meeting in January. The Seattle Department of Planning and Development (DPD) had denied a permit to rebuild a houseboat. The homeowners wanted to build on a cement float with a larger second story and an underwater basement. So what were the issues?

Wanting more space after their daughter Lucy arrived last year, Mark and Heather Lakefish hired an architect and a well-known and oft used environmental consultant. The analysis by their environmental consultant was that since the existing log float already extended about 15 feet down, a design of cement extending 12 feet underwater would not affect the environmental footprint of the structure, and might arguably improve it in that the new float would be shallower and provide less habitat for predators of migrating salmon.

DPD, however, ruled that the basement must be unheated and limited to a maximum of six feet deep. Given that projects like this have been approved around the lake for years, the Lakefishes appealed.

Marty Greer, a neighbor of the Lakefishes and Vice President

of the FHA, suggested they come to the February Board meeting. They did so, and brought their attorney, Pat Schneider, to help explain their situation.

Schneider pointed out a number of issues. There was the apparent departure from policy, which was alarming enough, but there were other oddities as well. Without citation, DPD assumes a typical float depth of 4 to 6 feet.

The FHA's attorney, Peter Eglick, was asked to look at the decision. He agreed it raised a lot of questions. He, too, was struck by the lack of supporting evidence or law for some of the conditions imposed on the project. In addition, he pointed out that if the State Shorelines Hearing Board denied the Lakefish appeal, then the decision would become precedent, applying subsequently to similar projects.

A call to Seattle City Council Land Use Chair Sally Clark's office about this did not turn up any pending legislation on the issue, except to note that the city's Shorelines Master Program (SMP) was due to be revised in the next few years. When Sally Clark's legislative aide called DPD, he was reminded that most of our existing floats are exempt from needing a Shoreline Development permit, because the project costs for installing flotation is usually under the \$2,500 threshold currently given in the SMP.

Peter Eglick said he needed more information. So about a week after the board meeting, he and several board members met around coffee at Louisa's on Eastlake with three of the people responsible for most of the flotation work on houseboats, contractor Sid McFarland, Greg Johnston and diver Chuck Murray. Chuck works with both Sid and Greg from time to time, and says he's been under maybe 85%-90% of the houseboats on the lake. Chuck and Greg, in fact, did the survey for the Lakefish permit application. Overall, they said, our floats extend much deeper than the "typical" 4 to 6 feet cited in the decision. What with some floats having two layers of logs or more and with barrels and Styrofoam accumulated over many years, a more usual depth is probably twice that, or 8 to 12 feet. Sometimes, they agreed, the floats go down much deeper.

At the very least, then, there is some dispute over the facts upon which the decision is based. This, and the decision's lack of citation, gives the Lakefishes hope that DPD will simply withdraw the decision and try again. This would be highly unusual, though. The more likely result is that the decision will land in front of the State Shorelines Hearings Board on June 4.

As of this writing, with the situation still evolving, the FHA is waiting on events.



Photo by Bill Keasler

**Mark Lakefish has been around Lake Union & Portage Bay his entire life. His grandparents lived in Houseboat Harbor for many years. Thirteen years ago Mark moved onto Flo Villa as a renter, then in 2000 bought his own place on Westlake. He and Heather married in 2002, and they set up housekeeping together in his houseboat.**

**Mark has worked for Microsoft and is now with an ad agency on lower Queen Anne. Until she got pregnant, Heather was a pastry chef at the Blue Ribbon cooking school on Fairview and used a paddle boat to commute across the lake. "I loved doing that. We're committed to staying on the lake. But we only have 850 square feet," she says. "If we can't do something soon, we'll have to move."**

# Proposed LAKE UNION TRAIL

by Amalia Walton

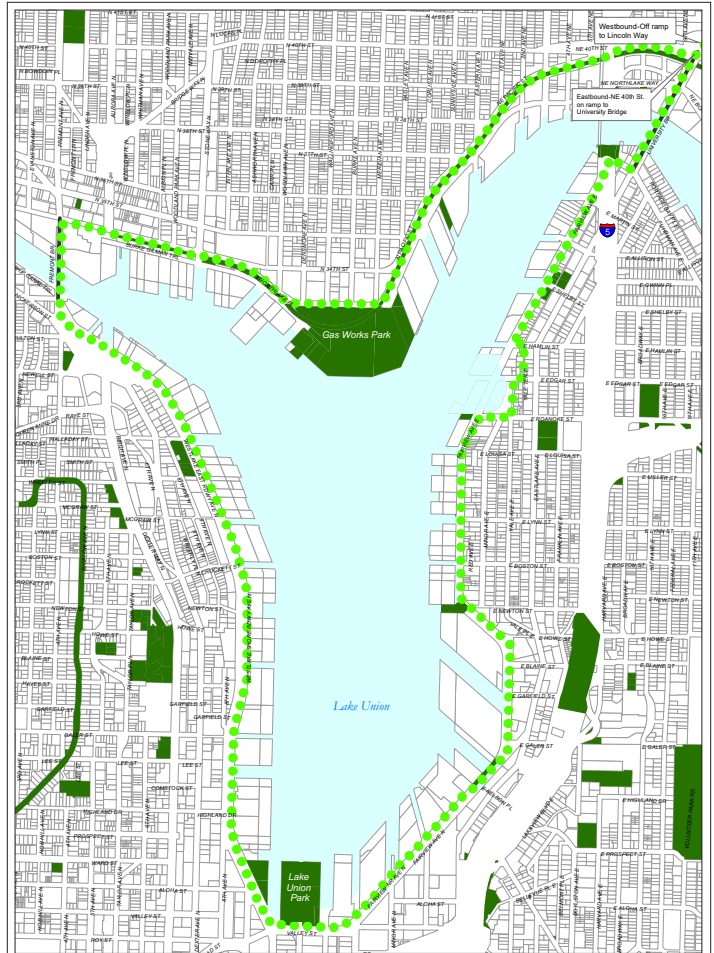
It's an idea many longtime houseboaters have heard of before and for some it is an exciting thought, filled with possibility and room to dream. Others may break out in sweats when they imagine bottlenecks on their street or loss of parking. For all of these reasons and more, your board members thought it would be important to get involved in the new Lake Union Trail project from the very beginning.

We first heard about the trail proposal in Mayor Greg Nickels' budget speech last fall. In the speech, Mayor Nickels celebrated the history of our lake, saying, "in many ways, Seattle grew up around Lake Union," and that in the trail, "we have a tremendous opportunity to celebrate our heritage and create a bit of history ourselves." The trail will be a place for recreation, remembering Seattle's past, and enjoying the beautiful views of our backyard.

Since first hearing of the trail project, we have had a successful meeting with Woody Wheeler of the Seattle Parks Foundation and Marshall Foster of the City's Office of Policy and Management. The two representatives were eager to meet with the Floating Homes Association Board and embraced the idea of houseboaters being involved in the process of planning the trail. We spoke with Woody and Marshall at great length about our community and the connections that houseboaters have over the water, as well as the unique aspects of Westlake, Eastlake, Portage Bay and Fremont. Board members spoke about the need for parking preservation, traffic calming, and water access points to the trail. By the end of the two hour meeting, our guests were intimately familiar with everything from the Fairview Green Street plan to the history of the "walking fish."

David Graves of the Seattle Parks Department will speak at the FHA Annual Meeting on April 22. David is managing the Lake Union Loop Trail project for Parks Department.

If you are inspired by this project and would like to work with us, please contact Amalia Walton at [amaliawalton@gmail.com](mailto:amaliawalton@gmail.com). The more the Lake Union Trail reflects our community, the better it will be.



The seven mile Lake Union Trail will connect the Westlake, Fremont, Northlake, Eastlake, and South Lake Union neighborhoods. Parts of this trail already exist and the City currently owns much of the property as well as right-of-ways along the proposed route. The trail will be for walkers, bikers, runners, sightseers and a place to exercise while enjoying water related sights such as the sea planes, kayaks, sailboats, and the downtown skyline. In addition people will be able to see the contrasts between maritime businesses, offices, residences, the larger Gasworks and South Lake Union Parks as well as the smaller "pocket parks" around the lake.

There is a lot of Seattle history connected with the Lake and the Lake Union Trail will help people to learn about it first hand. The Mayor also sees the opportunity for teachers in Seattle to use the trail as a project in classes to study the history of Lake Union and possibly hold a contest to name the Trail by the students.

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# TRAINS, PLANES, BUSES AND AUTOMOBILES

*Glimpses from a fall vacation*

by Giff and Mary Jones  
Photos by Mary & Giff Jones

Mary and Giff decided on a less used mode of travel for their Fall 2007 vacation. They purchased two, off-season North American Rail passes. These passes were good for 30 days of travel on US AMTRAK and Canadian VIA Rail. Their plan was to fly to the east coast and, after a few side excursions make their way across Canada by rail to Seattle. The trip would then extend to California, Denver and return to Seattle.

**Sat, Oct 13** The couple flew to the east coast via Minneapolis. After a visit with Giff's family, they enjoyed fall colors on the coast of Maine.

**Sun, Oct 28** Quebec City. "We initiated our rail pass by departing North America's only walled fortress city in a sleek, modern, aluminium, steel & glass,



Aboard VIA Rail's "CANADIAN" approaching Jasper. View of snow dusted valley, rail tracks in distance. 11/12/07.

high speed train. We're bound for Halifax, Nova Scotia and the Maritimes on VIA Rail's 'Ocean' line. For nearly 800 miles we reached speeds up to 90 mph along the south shore of the St. Lawrence, through the Matapedia Valley, then past the Bay of Fundy."

**Thu, Nov 1** Cape Breton, Nova Scotia... "Although cold and windy, today's weather is crystal clear... nearly clear enough to see Newfoundland as we hike the headlands looking over the Gulf of St. Lawrence. ... If we stay into the weekend of Nov 3 & 4, we expect winds of around 80 miles per hour from Hurricane Noel, which has us in its path. We aren't going anywhere: we're staying put and batten down the hatches."

**Sat, Nov 3** "We chicken out. Mere hours after we turn in our rental car and hop the overnight train to Montreal, the storm hits Halifax, Cape Breton, Prince

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Edward Island and then the Gaspé Peninsula Saturday night." Giff and Mary had cancelled plans, including a bus/train trip to the seacoast village of Gaspé. "Later, we learned our intended bus had careened off the road in the violent weather and 30 passengers had been injured."

**Tue, Nov 6** The change of plans allowed Giff and Mary to take an unexpected side trip. "AMTRAK's 'Adirondack' train winds south from Montreal, tracing the west shoreline of Lake Champlain, seldom more than a few yards from the water's edge. It heads ultimately for the Big Apple via the Hudson River Valley... the brilliant

a red fox dash under the stopped train and run down the slope before us. It is a beauty, with a sunset-colored tail that nearly matches its body in size. We are happy to be admiring this gorgeous creature... then recall the hunter who startled us, standing at eye level on a knoll of woods next to the track as we sped by. ...He was menacing, his rifle at the ready, waiting to resume stalking a prey momentarily advantaged by our interruption."

**Sun, Nov 11** Giff and Mary passed by many great waterways and there were still more to go. "But now, the infinitely numerous remote lakes and bogs of Manitoba."

**Mon, Nov 12** "We're in the observation car approaching Jasper, deep in the Canadian Rockies under falling snow, when we spot a couple of Bighorn sheep guarding a bluff. A young couple ... tell us they had seen a pack of wolves just two days earlier."

**Thu, Nov 15** "We get to sleep in our own bed tonight! It's dark on the 'Cascade' line Vancouver to Seattle. We sit, out of habit, on the waterside. This is one of our favorite scenic routes..... We're home for a couple of days before I continue south while Mary stays behind to 'take care of stuff', choosing to meet me in Denver on Thanksgiving Eve for the last two legs of our rail adventure."

**Sat, Nov 18** "Returning to my seat on the Coast Starlight, Seattle to Santa



Mary in the Adirondacks.

*continued on page 14 ...*

sunlight is rendering first the Adirondacks, then the Catskills, in splashes of red, orange and gold against coniferous green background. ... we feel unexpectedly rewarded, as if nature's autumnal act is being replayed in a spectacular encore."

The couple made the return trip to Montreal and headed west.

**Sat, Nov 10** "We are on VIA Rail's famous 'CANADIAN' train from Toronto to Vancouver: gleaming, preserved 1955 stainless steel, luxury passenger cars and we are being pampered by their famous First Class 'Silver and Blue' service. This is a 4-day, 3-night trip spanning 2800 miles through Winnipeg, Saskatoon, Edmonton and Jasper. Still in Ontario Province, we stop briefly for a station-side stretch just west of Parry Sound on Lake Huron. We spot

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## Mary and Giff Take the Train

... from Page 13

Barbara, my trained impulse is to fasten my seat belt. It is not there, nor is it needed. 'How relaxingly civilized,' I muse. Conspiring to reinforce my delight at traveling by rail are the crowded skies, planes and airports, plus the fear-induced intrusiveness of Homeland Security and airport TSAs, not to mention the



Aboard VIARail's "CANADIAN" approaching Jasper. 11/12/07.

### *Floating Homes* 2007 Market Review

Address	Sales Price
2019 Fairview Ave E #1	1,225,000
2031 Fairview Ave E #C	555,000
2031 Fairview Ave E #N	575,000
2031 Fairview Ave E #K	635,000
2031 Fairview Ave E #P	665,000
2219 Fairview Ave E #10	787,000
2235 Fairview Ave E #10	1,010,000
2339 Fairview Ave E #M	1,080,900
2339 E Fairview Ave #N	1,350,000
2600 Fairview Ave E #2	898,000
2600 Fairview Ave E #11	865,000
3125 Fairview Ave E #B	568,400
10 E Roanoke St #2	2,395,000
10 E Roanoke St #4	2,341,500
1213 E Shelby St #5	929,500
1214 E Hamlin #8	1,200,000
3110 Portage Bay Pl. E #F	797,770
2466 Westlake Ave N #5	1,400,000
933 N Northlake Way #1	820,000

I helped many of our fellow houseboaters buy & sell real estate in 2007 (*italics above*); let me help **you** in 2008!



*Melissa Ahlers*, Realtor  
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extravagant consumption of fuel per passenger air mile...I further indulge my train traveling pleasure with the fact that one rail line moves as much cargo as 6 lanes of freeway."

**Tue, Nov. 20** "On AMTRAK's California commuter to L.A. The Pacific Ocean is speeding past the window, just yards from the train. I'll have a couple of hours at historic Union Station before boarding the overnight 'Southwestern Chief' to Chicago. But ... to meet Mary in Denver, I make an AMTRAK provided bus connection at Albuquerque... I'm on a broken, every seat taken 'coach' operated by a surly driver intent on making time. We're conquering the narrow, mountainous Raton Pass in the snowy dark, careening from lane to lane. Can't see if we interfere with other traffic because all the windows are frosted over except the driver's. His 8-year-old daughter occupies the four front seats... And on his command she attacks the frosted panes with energetic back and forth swipes of a paper towel. When a patch of darkness shows...it's enough to alarm me... I like it better when the little girl leaves it alone and I can't see. I reach Denver nine hours later, intact."

**Thu, Nov 22** "Thanksgiving on AMTRAK's California Zephyr: Boarding at Denver's Union Station we meet another couple at breakfast and share Thanksgiving with them. We lack an oven roasted, hand carved turkey with all the trimmings. We opt instead, for a shank of lamb."

**Fri, Nov.23** "We wander into the dining car for lunch as we begin our 3% grade descent from Donner Pass towards the San Joaquin Valley, and are soon engaged in a conversation with a sharp-witted 86 year old. Oranamamu is dressed in a ceremonial robe, a vibrantly colored shawl (rescued from the trash), and her head is covered by a multi-tasselled, flop eared, belled jester's hat. She has a graduate degree in psychology and is returning from an Atlanta conference of storytellers. She has also just attended a peace demonstration against the war in Iraq."

**Sat, Nov 24** " ....At 10:30 pm in Emeryville in the Bay Area, we connect with the northbound 'Coast Starlight' and find our cosy 'roomette' with freshly made up bunks awaiting us. We sleep through California's upper Central Valley as we climb into the Siskiyou



**Aboard AMTRAK California Zephyr , following the Upper Colorado River on Thanksgiving Day.**

Mountains. At dawn it's 24 degrees and the high desert sparkles with frost in the rising sun. 12 hours from now we'll be near Portland."

Giff ends his story with anticipation. "Knowing the destination can also be a place to begin the next adventure."

## WHERE'S BOB LILLY?

by Marilyn Robertson

You won't find Bob Lilly's popular column, "The Lilly Pad", in this issue. For some time the *Newsletter* staff has been aware of the timing of *Newsletter* editions are often out of sync with garden activities. In an attempt to enhance Bob's garden advice we began to include photos, but found black and white photos don't do justice to the lush vegetables or the rare and unusual plants Bob grows on Tenas Chuck. We have been wondering, how can Bob better communicate with houseboat gardeners?

We are excited to report our new FHA web site seems to be the perfect vehicle to provide houseboat community gardeners with seasonal gardening advice. Also, using the web site should allow you to view any accompanying color photos in a larger format. In the near future the site will be interactive, so gardeners can send Bob gardening questions and receive timely answers.

So, where is Bob Lilly? He is probably at one of the spring plant sales. Yes, it's again the time of year when you will find well-priced plants for your houseboat garden. To locate a list of plant sales in the Seattle area, Google: The Elisabeth Miller Horticultural Library (please note the spelling).

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# Eastlake

# Eastlake

## NEWS FROM THE ECC

by Chris Leman

**Eastlake Neighborhood Plan.** ECC jointly produced with FHA and other Eastlake groups the Eastlake Neighborhood Plan (1998; available at [www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/npi/plans/elake](http://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/npi/plans/elake), along with the 1999 "approval and adoption matrix" that implemented it). Adopted by City Council resolution and ordinance, and much-praised for its substance and unexcelled outreach, this plan works to reduce noise from I-5, revitalize Eastlake Avenue as our "main street," and make Fairview Avenue E. safer for walking. One result is the Fairview Green Street guidelines, expected to receive a City Council public hearing in the coming months; there will be plenty of public notice. The plan also works to keep the neighborhood diverse, affordable, and well-designed, and has helped bring many City funds to the neighborhood.

**Corridors project.** For a mid-April application for city Neighborhood Matching Funds, ECC is proposing some improvements for corridors such as Eastlake Ave. and Fairview Ave. as called for in the neighborhood plan. We are deciding now which parts of Fairview most need shoreline and pedestrian safety improvements, so sugges-

tions and volunteer offers are welcome, to President Matthew Stubbs, [info@eastlakeseattle.org](mailto:info@eastlakeseattle.org).

**I-5 noise funds partially lost in legislature.** A superhuman effort by neighborhood residents and businesses in early March prevented the state legislature from knocking out most of the funding for I-5 noise wall construction. But it looks like, despite high-level assurances we had received, the funds were indeed knocked out for retrofitting the I-5 Ship Canal Bridge with sound-absorbing panels. For the latest, contact ECC's I-5 noise volunteer, Jae Easterbrooks, [Jeasterbrooks3@comcast.net](mailto:Jeasterbrooks3@comcast.net).

**Hamlin Street-end Park.** Thanks to houseboaters Mary Lou Pederson and Yvonne Jones and uplanders Barbara and William McPherson for watch dogging a recent City foul up. Back in 1992-95, donated labor and materials, with leadership by ECC and the Hamlin Shores Homeowners Association, turned an inaccessible dump into this much-used street-end park. This January, we became aware that, without consulting ECC as the park's permit-holder or HSHA as the City's designated maintainer of the park, and contrary to the Fairview Green Street guidelines and the City's own priority for a beautiful, continuous shoreline walking route, City agencies had required nearby developer, Wards Cove to dig up the park for a new



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# Eastlake

drainage structure with a poorly located manhole and an unsafe and incomplete-looking sidewalk. ECC is waiting for City action on the following proposals we made in response: (1) Move the crash barrier to the street (east) side of the sidewalk; (2) Extend the sidewalk to the south half of the Hamlin street-end in a winding design that follows the contour of the park; (3) Replace the crash barrier, now a corrugated metal highway-type, with a rustic wooden type as seen a block north; and (4) Create one pedestrian opening (and possibly two) about four feet wide in the crash barrier. For more detail, see the article on page 12 of the March/April 2008 Eastlake News.

**Topiaries.** Thank goodness the charming pyracantha in the shape of a violinist survived the Hamlin Park debacle. Ken Meyer, a Hamlin Pier resident, in 1999 first thought the shrub had possibilities as a ballet dancer, but after some pruning and further growth, he decided it was meant to be a violinist. Just south in the parking lot is a much larger shrub that Ken has pruned into a plump bullfrog (appropriately green). He encourages others to invent additional topiaries elsewhere.

**Daly's.** Thanks for a wonderful 46 years of unmatched burgers, halibut and chips, thick shakes, and other delicacies. Displaced by construction in January, owners Maureen and Everett Waters are looking for a new location. If you can help, call them at (206) 232-6141. And is there anyone who could donate the removal and storage of the historic Daly's sign?

**Volunteer needs.** ECC needs you to distribute the Eastlake News to doorsteps of the following blocks of Fairview: Lynn to Boston; Boston to Newton; and Newton to Eastlake Avenue. It is fun and great exercise. Also, the neighborhood needs a volunteer to attend the monthly meetings of the TOPS Site Council, an advisory body to the alternative school that is located in the Seward School building. For either opportunity, call (206) 322-5463 or e-mail to cleman@oo.net.

### Upcoming events:

*April 19 (Saturday)* City Neighborhood Council's public workshop on neighborhood planning, 8:30 am to 1 pm in the Bertha Knight Landes Room of City Hall, 601 Fifth Avenue. The City is considering some changes that could undermine or enhance our neighborhood plan. Speakers include City Council member Sally Clark, the Department of Neighborhoods' current director (Stella Chao) and former director (Jim Diers), and many neighborhood leaders. For background: [seattle.gov/neighborhoodcouncil](http://seattle.gov/neighborhoodcouncil) or call Chris Leman (see below).

*April 22 (Tuesday)* ECC's Earth Day event, 7 pm, TOPS-Seward School, 2500 Franklin Ave. Share your ideas on how we can all live more lightly.

**LivableSeattleMovement.org** Neighborhood advocates around the city have established the Livable Seattle Movement. Their recently unveiled web site which spotlights ugly, overbuilt development, how City proposals would make it worse, and what to do about it.

**EastlakeSeattle.org** is ECC's web site and blog. Or write to us at ECC, 117 E. Louisa Street #1, Seattle 98102, [info@eastlakeseattle.org](mailto:info@eastlakeseattle.org).

Questions or comments: contact ECC Vice President Chris Leman, [cleman@oo.net](mailto:cleman@oo.net), (206) 322-5463.

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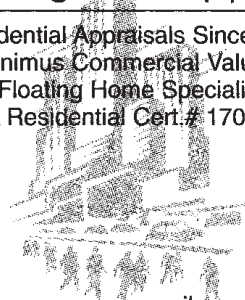
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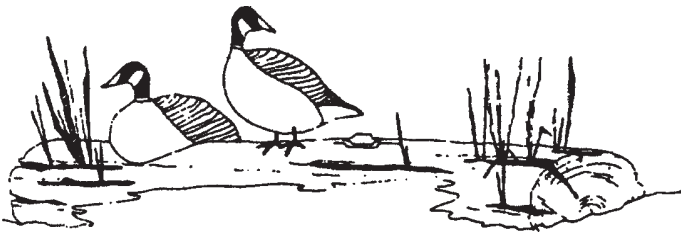
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## Waterlog

by Marilyn Robertson

**LOG FOUNDATION** news report from **Jann McFarland**: On a sunny day this past October, **General Robert E. (Bob) Lee** and his wife, **Evelyn** wandered down to the Log Foundation docks to look for the houseboat his parents owned many years ago at 2021 Fairview Avenue North. They ran into **Stan & Barb Lorenson** who live on 2019 and they offered to give Bob & Evelyn a tour to look for the houseboat. General Lee joined the Air Force in 1941 and his parents purchased the houseboat later that year. Bob explained, "It was a one story rectangular houseboat, tethered to the shore. You went down a gentle slope to the house and crossed a gang plank." He remembers visiting his parents there over the years as his family grew. When the couple walked down the dock at 2017, Bob saw what he is sure is his family's old houseboat -- now known as the Rarey houseboat. Unfortunately it is in a bad state of disrepair and is scheduled to be torn down this year. Bob & Evelyn currently live in Port Ludlow.

**2420 WESTLAKE COOP** is down in the dumps, says **Ann Bassetti**, because **Bob & Joan Bailey** are moving away. "Our spirits will be lightened by getting to know the new moorage owners **Kevin & Jessica Vanderzanden**. Appar-

ently Jessica's daughter, **Lianna Hall**, will test the waters for the first year or two. They all have some clues what they're getting into, as Jessica is the sister of another owner, **Perrin Kaplan**." **Mark Koenig** reports from Burlington Vermont, that he and **Erin Roche** survived last summer's cross country car-camping trip. They have been in Vermont since late August 2007 while Erin studies for another degree at U Vermont. The severe winter weather hasn't depressed their spirits. And, they are delighted to report Erin is pregnant! Now they are worried about the due date. Mark says, "The baby should arrive in early August. The timing works on one hand because Erin plans to complete her thesis in July. However, the timing isn't so great since our Burlington lease ends July 31. At least it will be summer, so we can just camp outside the hospital for a few days." No one in the houseboat community knows whether Mark, Erin and baby, will return to Seattle. Ann Bassetti expresses what many houseboaters feel. "We just hope they think raising a floating child will be the best option." Last October, Waterlog learned **Lesley Hazleton** had a new book, *Jezebel: the Untold Story of the Bible's Harlot Queen*. lh@jezebelbook.com published. Congratulations, Lesley.

**Emily Hine (2766 WESTLAKE)** has been busy for most of a year working on Seeds of Compassion [www.seedsofcompassion.net](http://www.seedsofcompassion.net) a five-day gathering in Seattle April 11-15. "Anchored by the deep wisdom of His Holiness, the Dalai Lama, this community-focused event will celebrate and explore the relationships, programs and tools that nurture and empower children, families and communities to be compassionate members of society." Besides a visit from the Dalai Lama, there are various activities: workshops, lectures, children's events and a benefit concert. **Gemma Daggatt** and **David Whitlock**, from **LEE'S MOORINGS** (Northlake) are two other houseboaters involved in planning this special occasion.

**Robby Rudine (TUI TUI DOCK)** writes: "I'm in Brazil with my Dad (91) and Mom (87). Tui Tui's sad news was the sudden passing of our beloved 14 year old Keeshond, Saba. She had a great life! Toward the end she was a regular visitor to Le Fournil restaurant where she amused the staff and clientele. Upper Skagit elder, Vi Hilbert took us (Robby and **Janet Yoder**) to Hawaii for a visit to Maui where we saw humpback whale breaching, spouting, pectoral and fluke splashing, and spyhopping. We came back to Seattle and Vi stayed on. Janet has been publishing various essays about Vi and her culture!"

**MALLARD COVE** news by **Giff Jones**:

"Twiggy", the Strockbine's pet Whippet loves the daily outings now that BioMed researcher Laura Strockbine has retired from Amgen. Hubby Steve is the dock's new prez. **Ed Buchwald**



Photo from Lorensons

Gen. Bob Lee and his wife Evelyn beside the family houseboat.

comes home long enough for fresh clothes before heading off on yet another diving holiday. **Giff and Mary Jones**, after their rail trip (see related article), took a six-week winter driving vacation to most of the California National Parks. **Lisa Berman** is sequestered at their ranch in eastern WA and **Bob** takes care of his dental patients while their houseboat gets a major renovation from top to bottom and inside to out. In between vacations to Australia and Hawaii, **Marsh & Sue Bugge** are doing much of their own work remodeling their houseboat, living in the completed downstairs while moving walls and reconfiguring the new kitchen upstairs. They spent the better part of two months this fall traveling in Australia: Perth and the surrounding area, Cairns including the Great Barrier Reef, the Tablelands, and Thala Lodge, Sydney, Canberra, Melbourne, Adelaide and driving the Princess Highway and the Great Ocean Road. B & B highlights included a home south of Sydney, an alpaca ranch, and a winery near Melbourne. **Al Hendrickson**, still gets out every day for his neighborhood walks, and will celebrate his 90th birthday on June 6. Opera diva-neo voice teacher **Linda Ellingson**, the dock's Social Chair, has arranged a Mallard Cove dinner on April 10 at Fare Start, the culinary training institute for the homeless. Half the dock has signed up. **Tim & Melissa Ahlers** continue to share their time with the community by serving on the ECC Board while Tim wears the Mallard Cove treasurer hat. Melissa is again organizing the FHA Floating Homes Tour this year. **Mike Massa** has enjoyed not being dock president this year. Mike reluctantly spends his spare time instead, sailing his new Jeneau 37. **Mark Guy & Diann Barry**, with sons **Conner & Andrew**, have finished their remodel. They're first on the



Photo from Mike Naylor

### Commemoration: an art installation.

dock to use architectural metal for siding on the first floor. Looks really sharp! **Gus & Janet Schairer** have their new Vashon home roofed and sealed up. Gus still squeezes in time to work on his increasingly prominent sculpture art. Check out [www.gschairer.com](http://www.gschairer.com)

News from **WILLOW DOCK**: **Mike Naylor** reported: I just got word that my installation of 2006 called "Commemoration" has been selected to be in the "Compassion" at Art Xchange at 512 1st Avenue South to coincide with Dalai Lama visit. The show goes April 3 to May 31." Some of you may remember Mike Naylor is the artist who made the woodcut featured and sold for 2004 Houseboat Tour and the design is featured on note cards available from the Houseboatique.

**THE LAKE UNION**: **Tiff McNamara** reports 2031 Fairview is ecstatic with the arrival of **Paia Sophia Lowry** who was born on February 12 to **Ethan & Nicole**. The proud parents report that her dock neighbors have warmly welcomed Paia and she looks forward to meeting the rest of the houseboat community. Several years ago beloved Rosie the cat blazed a trail by relocating from 2025 to 2031. It is our collective good fortune that **Mike Linus & Sandi McQuirk** have also moved from 2025 FVE to join us. They took a holiday to Puerto Vallarta in March and pledged to can some sunshine and bring it back for us. So far so good on that mission.

The *Newsletter* is pleased to print stories, news and events from the docks in the column, Waterlog. Contact Marilyn or your dock representative if you have news you wish to share with the houseboat community.

**NOTE:** To reach Marilyn, use her **new** email address [isobel.rob44@gmail.com](mailto:isobel.rob44@gmail.com)



Photo from the Lowry family

**Paia Sophia Lowry**

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11/02

*The Floating Homes Association*

## MEMBERSHIP FORM

Help Preserve and Protect Seattle's Colorful Houseboat Colony.  
Join the Floating Homes Association Today!



NAME(S): \_\_\_\_\_

HOUSEBOAT ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

### ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD DUES:

REGULAR - \$50

65 AND OVER - \$40

NEW  RENEW

	Rent Own	Condo/Coop	
	House <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Name: _____
	Moorage <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____

*The Association's Legal Fund needs your support, also. Donations of \$50 or more are tax deductible! Make your separate check payable to SCCF/FHA.*

I have enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for the FHA Legal Fund.