



FLOATING HOMES ASSOCIATION



2329 Fairview Avenue East

Seattle, Washington 98102

Phone: 325-1132

Number 121

Newsletter

Spring 1993

The Floating Homes Association's 31st Annual

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Thursday, April 29, 1993 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Tyee Yacht Club

3229 Fairview Avenue East

Fun! Information! Refreshments!

Seattle Commons: A panel will discuss its impact on the Lake, our neighborhood and the region. Hear the latest on the State Lease Mess. *Are you ready for the Big One?* Find out what you can do from a presentation about Disaster Preparedness for Lake Dwellers. *Spring Cleanup.* How you can help. The Cookbook Project. Executive Board Election. *Complimentary Refreshments.*

Be There!

GROWTH AND CHANGE AT 2460

by Frank Koterba

Growth and Change?! They impact all of us. The fit of your clothes isn't what it used to be. It takes longer to get where you want to go. Three people are at your favorite hiking spot, every time you go there. And the neighborhood is no longer what it used to be.

This issue has become a major topic for members of 2460, Inc. As described in a previous newsletter, our docks (2460 and 2466 Westlake Avenue North) have seen a lot of change in the last several years, and the end is not yet in sight. When all the work is complete, 8 of 14 sites will be remodeled or rebuilt. And one other will have an addition. On 2466, one site has been completely rebuilt. It seems that every co-op meeting has had some portion spent reviewing the latest set of construction proposals and plans.

The consequences for everyone will be varied. Great homes will be built. Some views and the general appearance of the dock will be altered. And several open sunny areas will be eliminated. The evolution of our community has been an intrusive one. Even with our existing design review bylaws, several projects have left severely ruffled feathers and thin skins. We decided it was time to look at the

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2460 Westlake Rises To the Challenge of Getting Along During Remodels

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direction we were going...It's become obvious that we are getting there fast.

The first order of business was to get back to the basics regarding design review. What is it we intended to accomplish? Who is involved and what do they want? How far are we willing to go to get the job done? And what changes, if any, do we want to make?

Our current review process requires 75% approval of the Trustees to pass. The review of finished plans usually occurs at scheduled meetings, although special meetings have been called. And plans have been circulated individually as well. All the projects in 2460 Inc. have been reviewed and approved. And yet there was a real concern for the overall results. We did not seem to grasp the impact a proposed plan would have when it was built. Or, if we did, there was a reluctance to voice it and a resistance to make changes. The primary reason being that once a plan had progressed to final drawings, the site owner was quite unwilling to go through the trouble and expense. What was submitted was usually built. To put it simply, our review process was in some way out of balance.

The fundamental key to resolving the issues was restoring the relationship between the individual site owners and the community. Each of us came to this community, drawn by its unique character, a character that has evolved with the people. Something changes with each new resident, and with us all, over time. We have no interest in eliminating this change. The question was how to allow renewal while maintaining or enhancing the community. When the relationship is strong on both sides, each contributes to the outcome.

A series of meetings were held with the expressed purpose of reestablishing our community. We took the time to hear from every member of the co-op. We reviewed the attributes and qualities that uniquely identify 2460, Inc. A list was compiled containing all the general characteristics. We also examined the existing inventory of "floating home" resources currently in the co-op - the homes themselves. Anyone considering a new houseboat design would do well to review the collective wealth of ideas. We discovered that most of us had not been in every house on the docks. So we

set up a co-op-wide open house tour. It was also a chance to set up a community party! A final outcome was our renewed sense of community. Things that made each site special. There were new reasons to work for each other in maintaining the community.

There is now a partnership available between those involved in the design process. The result can be a type of synergy. In my own case, there were ideas available from other houses that solved some design problems I had. In addition, my current design includes specific aspects to enhance the appearance of the dock. This is the second iteration and the increased scope of concern has resulted in a superior design.

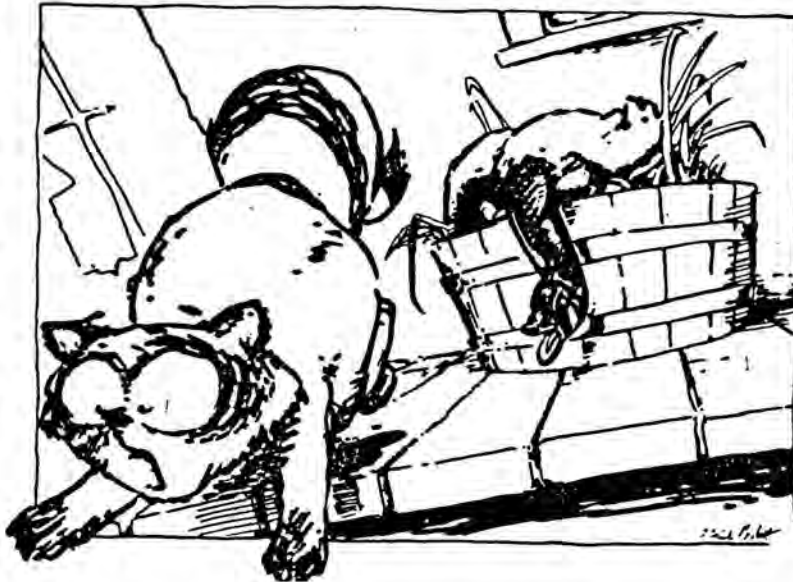
This working partnership is not the easy way to go. There are trade-offs between the individual and community perspectives. An individual must trust that by accepting certain restrictions he will benefit over the long term. In

addition, a certain reciprocity regarding these interests is assumed. The vehicle for accomplishing success is communication. The individual and community must begin early and often. The quality of the communication correlates with success. This even extends to potential new members of the co-op. They must understand the pro-active nature of the process we have undertaken.

Implementing these new perspectives again involved choices. We

considered several avenues to express the community's views - design review boards, extra rules, or other changes. Our choice was a relatively simple one. We wanted all the members involved. We wanted to ensure that all members felt the power to express themselves. And we wanted to give both the individual and the community the opportunity to work together over a period of time.

We will be providing a community framework early enough in the process to resolve conflicts with a minimum of time and expense. It is our intention to incorporate the changes that must come into a community that recognizes what makes it unique. It may all change in 50 years, that will be the prerogative of those living at that time. We will give it our best shot, and pass it on.



Association Announcements

People are always calling the Floating Homes office to ask if there are any **Rentals** available. Our office manager, Sheri, keeps an informal list of those requests. Call her at 325-1132 if you need help in securing a renter.

If you would like to run for a position on the **Floating Homes Association Board**, leave your name and phone number with the office at 325-1132. Terms are for one year and it's a great way to get involved in Seattle's colorful houseboat community.

Volunteers are always needed on a project basis. Examples:

- * Someone to take charge of our **inventory** of houseboat merchandise -- sweatshirts, t-shirts, note paper, tote bags, etc. Sell out what remains or re-order and give some thought to new items that might enliven our "cottage industry" closet.

- * New people to help us with the **issues** of the day that affect our houseboat lifestyle. Issues like state leases, condo conversion, shoreline development, zoning, water quality and all the environmental concerns.

- * Someone to work with Northwest Charter Boats who want to sponsor a **Holiday-Houseboat Decorating Contest** with celebrity judges and big prizes.

- * Our houseboat colony has been contacted about a possible **houseboat exchange** with other floating communities, like Sausalito. Would someone like to explore this idea?

If you are interested in any of these opportunities, please call the FHA office at 325-1132. Or speak up at the annual meeting on April 29th.

FLOATING HOMES ASSOCIATION

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

President: Bill Keasler (2037 FV)

Vice President: Chris Sherman
(2321 FV)

Treasurers: Ed Waddington /
Julia Forbes (2339 FV)

Secretary: June Fauchald
(2466 WL)

TRUSTEES:

Marty Alexander (2466 WL)
Peggy Stockley (2331 FV)
Phil Webber (2466 WL)

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE:

Ann Bassetti (2420 WL)
Caroline Cropp (2235 FV)
Frank Koterba (2466 WL)
Nancy Macdonald (2600 FV)
Kirvil Skinnerland (1213 E Shelby)
Susan Susor (1409 NE Boat St)

OFFICE MANAGER: Sheri Gotay

NEWSLETTER STAFF: Peggy
Stockley, editor, 329-7973 John
Nelson, production.

OFFICE HOURS: 1-5 Mondays
and Wednesdays (The Floating
Homes Association office is located
at 2329 FV at the south end of the
Tenas Chuck Moorage parking lot,
roughly half a block north of Lynn
Street.) Phone 325-1132.

HELP WANTED: Someone in the
houseboat community to
occasionally help with *Newsletter*
layout using Mac Page-Maker. Call
Peggy at 329-7973.

Spring Cleanup May 8

It's baaaack! This year's Spring Clean will be occurring on Saturday, May 8. It's time to get organized and put together a clean-up project.

Arrangements can be made for all types of material -- yard waste, trees, wood, and just plain trash. Setting up specific instructions for each will require contact with Frank Koterba at 281-8139. Full instructions will be available at the Annual Meeting or from Frank. The earlier you contact him, the better.



DOES YOUR DOCK HAVE YARD WASTE PICKUP?

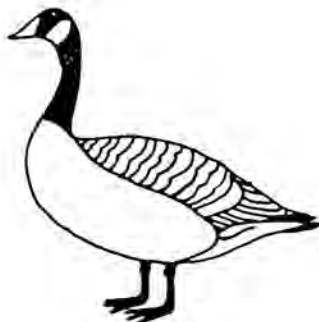
Now is a great time to sign-up for the Clean Green Yard Waste program through the Solid Waste Department - phone 684-7600. It's spring and we're clearing out our planter boxes or pruning our houseplants. During the year we have plant clippings, dead blossoms, prunings, branches and leaves. Then there's Christmas trees in December. All these "yard" waste items belong in the Yard Waste program, not in the dumpsters and definitely not in the recycling bins. (Yard Waste does not include food waste or "garbage". Residents might look into worm bins or other compost systems for this waste and use the resulting compost in your planter boxes.)

Yard Waste costs \$3/month payable with the dock's combined utility bill, with a one year minimum commitment. Pickup is once a week, March through October, and once a month, November to February. You can put out up to five containers, maximum weight of 60# each, per pick up. Buy one or two re-useable 30-40 gallon plastic refuse cans; add more later if you need them or have residents put out additional Yard Waste in kraft paper bags.

Between signing up for the free city recycling program (once a month pick-up) and the Clean Green Yard Waste program, your dock could very well save money on your dumpster fee by qualifying for a smaller (or fewer) dumpster(s). Ask about this and any other questions when you call 684-7600 to sign up for Clean Green. Complete the cycle by purchasing Cedar Grove Compost for your plant boxes from your garden center - ASK for it.

- Julia Forbes

Julia Forbes (2339 FV) is a "Friend of Recycling" volunteer - a program sponsored by the Seattle Solid Waste Utility to promote greater recycling through neighbor-to-neighbor contact and education. Being a houseboater, she is aware of some of our special needs and problems. Julia is available to answer any questions on the phone or in person. If you wish to organize a dock group meeting, she will come and discuss your recycling issues. She can sign you up for recycling pickup or help you get started in the Clean Green program. She has many informative brochures on a whole range of topics put out by Seattle Solid Waste. Call her at 322-5054.



PROGRESS ON STATE LEASES

The Floating Homes Association has appointed a committee to work with the Department of Natural Resources and the dock owners to resolve concerns over the new state lease process. Moorages in which a portion of the property lies on state land (waterward of the Pierhead Line) were originally given only a twelve-year lease by DNR because they expected houseboats to be long gone before the leases would expire. But...we're still here!!...and plan to be here for a long time!

So, as the current leases are beginning to expire and dock owners are trying to renew, some of the rules have changed. First, the lease has gotten considerably larger (about 15 pages), and some of the language regarding public access and pollution testing is causing concern. FHA has talked with DNR and was assured that they will work with dock owners to negotiate language that both sides can live with. FHA is currently working with the Association's attorney, Peter Eglick, to suggest revised language to replace some of the more objectionable sections. When approved by DNR, FHA will recommend that the boilerplate contract be changed so that all leases for floating homes moorage are the same.

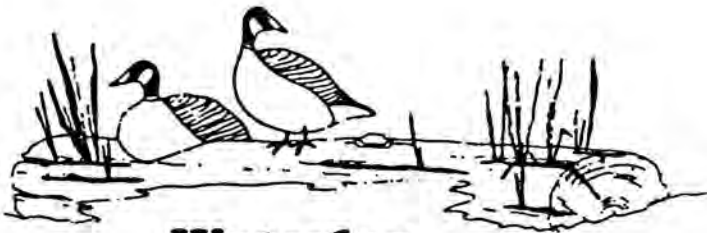
Secondly, DNR is requiring a survey signed by a licensed land surveyor, which shows not only the leased land, but also the tide or shorelands abutting the leased land. This will be helpful in identifying the correct upland parcel to be used for calculating rent per Washington State law, RCW 79.90. FHA is currently seeking bids from surveyors and will be able to recommend a firm soon.

Third, a "debris clean-up" bond in the amount of two times the lease rate is required, as well as liability insurance in the amount of \$1 million per occurrence and \$2 million annual aggregate. Both the bond and insurance are available through Allison Agencies. Call Don Hart at 634-0600.

If your lease has expired, or will soon, call Darryl Johnson at DNR, (206) 902-1100, to get an application for re-lease sent out to you. If you have never had a lease, but think that you might be on state land, call DNR. Those who wait may be charged rent on a retroactive basis when DNR eventually catches up with you, so it's much better to bite the bullet now. Any time a houseboat requests a permit for remodeling, DNR is in the approval chain. If you are on state land and do not have a lease, you will not be granted a permit until you obtain a lease.

Houseboats (or residential use of the water in general) are low on the preferred list of water-dependent uses of state waters. Because the City of Seattle appreciates that floating homes are an important (and colorful) part of the City's heritage and character, and has expressed its commitment for their continued existence, the state has allowed the lease of the water for floating homes moorages. Cooperation and goodwill should continue to be the goal of houseboaters when working with the Department of Natural Resources.

If you have any questions regarding the state lease process or need assistance in obtaining a lease, call the Floating Homes Association office at 325-1132. We will be more than happy to help where we can.



Waterlog

by Sheri Lockwood

It's finally spring, time to replant the planter boxes, enjoy our outside decks, watch for new ducklings and goslings, and catch up with our neighbors on the dock. . . . and after our January 20th surprise be glad we're all still afloat and in one piece.

STORM LOG '93

I was at work watching the breakers roll over the 520 bridge (Surf's up!) when I decided that perhaps I should forgo listening to our new president get inaugurated and drive home to check on my house. I arrived to see my porch askew as it had crashed into the dock and all my dock attachments broken off and my house held to the dock by my water line, electric line and the TV cable hook-up. While five wonderful neighbors helped me pull it in and find line to secure it (we even used my bicycle chain and padlock which can't be removed now as I've forgotten the combination). Meanwhile another neighbor's (Barb and Dave Lefebre) sail had unfurled from their sailboat and was thrashing itself to shreds while tearing tiles off their roof, and another neighbor's (Merle and Dan Conway) glass table top on the roof had lifted off and crashed through their skylight. We struggled to secure thrashing houseboats and as we finished, so did the storm. We didn't even have to suffer the power outages so many others in the Seattle area had to live with for so many days.

Janet Yoder and Bob Rudine (3235 FV) snagged a galvanized chain mooring line that ran over their NW piling snapping it off at the mud line. (It looks as if their insurance company will pull through for them). In honor of the occasion they issued a postage stamp. (More about stamps later). As I've talked with docksters all over the

lake it seems that Fairview was the hardest hit. The Boat Street Dock had just had repairs and handled the storm well. If it hadn't it could have been very bad. A couple of houses broke loose but were quickly secured. Some Shelby Street houseboats lost power and water. On Portage Bay Don Brownlee and Paula's hot tub cover took flight nearly smacking into their neighbors' roof. Sheltered behind Queen Anne Hill, Westlake houseboaters had little trouble. Lynn and Janet Snapp on 2035-37 FV had some roof damage, a couple of houses broke loose on 2019 FV and were apprehended post haste. They lost water and power temporarily. Small boats and parts of roofs and porches went sailing by in the wind and water currents. Most of us had some kind of storm damage even if it was only losing our favorite planter over the side, but it was also a time to be thankful we still live in a community where our neighbors will look out for us and try to help when we're in trouble. (A special thank you to Mike Tutty, Butch Smith, Linda Knudsen and George Yeannakis who helped me, and the rest of my neighbors who were pitching in to help each other.) I know the rest of the docks have similar stories, give each other a hug or a smile. You're great!

WET BUT FLOATING

On 3138 PBPI Monty Cawker and Mary McCrae welcome their new baby girl, Natalie, born February 17, 1993, 7 lbs. 4 oz and on Mallard Cove, Lee and Barbara Bordeau have a new baby girl, Monique.

KNOTS TIED

On 2035-2037 FV Judy Shaw and Scott Maier were married March 20. Their friend Bill Hirshman wrote a

song to commemorate the joyous event called "The Union on Lake Union". . . . Bruce Dietz and Pam Hsu 2064 WL were also married on March 20th, in a big meadow on Big Mountain in Montana, one of their favorite places to ski. They had to meet their Justice of the Peace in a bar and said they would probably take their skis off for the ceremony. Pam's daughter Jessica and Bruce's sons Eric and Matthew were special participants. . . . Del Langston (2231 FV) was married 12/30/92 in Pacific Grove, CA to Lauri Schults. Lauri's son attended as well as many family members in California. They met at the Melody Tavern in Ballard enjoying a mutual enthusiasm for contra dancing.

POSTAGE STAMPS

Perhaps you didn't know that Janet Yoder and Robert Rudine's dock (3235 FV) acts as a sovereign nation under the title of the "Archipelago and Greater Tui Tui of the Joyous Lake" or simply Tui Tui. They've been independent since December 16, 1985 and are the 15th member state of the International Council of Independent States headquartered in Dunedin Aotearoa (New Zealand). So they issue beautiful stamps, coins, banknotes and tourist and trade diplomatic relations (and hilarious press releases from their Ministry of Propaganda). Their Philatelic Announcements commemorate parties, anniversaries . . . and Inauguration Day Storms. EX:

In a ceremony that took place on Grande Tui, Tui Tui at exactly 2:22 PM. Tuesday, February 2, 1993, The two Co-Tyees (Robert and Janet) arrayed in their tribal doublets, lit 22 Roman candles each spouting 22 fiery orbs in celebration of 22 years of the union of the tribes. This years theme is "Twosday". Le Bureau des Emissions de Timbres-Poste of the Ministry of Posts releases a pair of Jaro 22 commemorative stamps along with three definitives. (There are lots more 2s and technical details and very pretty stamps). Send a diplomatic dispatch, the storm stamp announcement is fun

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NEWSLETTER 6

... *Waterlog continued*

to read. Congratulations on your anniversary, Janet and Robert.

ANCHORS AWEIGH

Herbie Bean and Sally George, 2035-37 FV, are in Paris. They left last fall for a year. They took the Queen Elizabeth II from New York so they could take their bulldog Butchie along. They missed the QE II grounding, but had to postpone their departure until it was repaired. The same dock welcomes Steve and Cristy Overfelt and their dog Winston, no he's not a bulldog, he's just replacing one. . . . David Jones 1214 Hamlin certified in scuba and went diving for a week off the coast of Honduras. Yvonne Jones toured Tuscany visiting boarding schools as part of her work but also got to visit many small hill towns where it snowed, which is an unusual occurrence. . . . Don Smith (2460 WL) left Seattle a few weeks ago for the Gulf Coast of Florida, fleeing what is usually a very gray, wet time around here. He ended up having to weather the recent storm that swept the East Coast. They were terrified, fearing for their lives, and freezing cold -- while we in Seattle basked in the sun Jonelle Johnson (Portage Bay) and Marty Alexander (2466 WL) are taking another group to France for a 2-week watercolor tour/workshop on June 1-15. From there Jonelle, her sister, and Marty are going on to Turkey to scout out another tour itinerary in that country. "The only people we know who have been to Turkey were there 15 and 20 years ago -- they have us taking long skirts and scarves for our heads. I am taking some comfort in the fact that both Jonelle and her sister are very tall and blond to an intimidating degree." Susan Susor also took a business/vacation at the Nursing Convention. 8,000 nurses and their families got the run of Disneyland--No lines. She is also celebrating the removal of her leg brace after 8 months and 28 days. Shake a leg, Susan. She and Tom will attend

the International Nursing Convention in the fall, in Australia. . . . Jean Butler, 2331 FV, spent 6 weeks in Mexico and Guatemala this winter, she rendezvoused with her Tenas Chuck dock neighbor Jeri Callahan for sun and relaxation in Puerto Vallarta. . . . Sheri Lockwood (2235 FV) visited Cozumel on the Yucatan in early March where they too had a big wind storm. Sheri may be the reigning Armadillo Queen, but she returned to find her neighbors George Yeannakis and Debbie Boyer and small daughter Thea had followed what they laughingly called armadillo tracks in Florida. Imagine their shock (and the armadillo's) when they found they were right. The armadillo didn't stick around to socialize. . . Robert and Suraine auf Sandeberg (Roanoke Reef) visited France in March.

WELCOME ABOARD

Shelley and Dan Hightower are welcomed to 3138 PBPI. They moved up from San Francisco in September. The dock also welcomes back Ellyn and August Sevanson. . . . New neighbors on 2207 FV are John and Shelley Herron. . . . and 2231 FV welcomes Hal and Phyllis Leskinen.

FLOTSAM AND JETSAM

Cathy Major and Rich Patton (2460 WL) have a very unusual addition to their family, an African Gray parrot named Felix, who is 9 months old. Cathy has raised Felix "from the egg" as she puts it, meaning she got the bird at about one month old and had to feed it baby food out of a syringe four times a day (including the middle of the night!) and then had to wean it just like a baby. African Grays are real talkers--they can do perfect imitations of individual human voices, and Felix will eventually have a huge vocabulary. For right now he is learning by imitating the sounds we refer to as "dock noises"--those squeaks, bumps and grunts that are the constant background of houseboat living. This past weekend Felix "tested the waters" of another houseboat activity, swimming in Lake Union.

Cathy figures he just got curious about what that shiny stuff outside the window was and dove in. The other possibility is that Felix was mimicking Don Mohlman (2460 WL) who took an unanticipated dive on one of those cold days while walking down the dock and carrying a big sack and talking to his daughter. Rumor has it that Don has performed this Polar Bear Club ritual at least once before. Well, some of us have been in more than once. (Not our fault.) As I was stepping from my dock to my house hauling in armloads of junk from our annual garage sale, the board beneath me disappeared and I was awash along with paper back books, ski boots, T-shirts, fondue pots, etc. My neighbor Barb chuckled as she helped me out and said, "How many times have you fallen in now, Sheri?" Sometimes neighbors can be cruel. . . . The houseboat community was featured in a short story in "Esquire" magazine in February '93. It featured a nice drawing of a Mallard Cove houseboat. . . . Cathy and Chris Sherman (2321 FV) have started a new business chartering three 27-foot Corsair trimarans to bareboaters this summer. Their phone # is 328-8017. They suspect most of the boats will be off to the San Juans -- so if you don't have a boat but want to go Marilyn Perry's (2812 WL) excavation project continues. What began as a project to clean up the beach has become an archeological dig. Marilyn has found a plate with a 1911 calendar on it, an old iron that you used to heat on the stove, spoons, bottle caps, a teeny bottle from the long-gone Leary Way Pharmacy, lots of "boy things" such as nails, clamps and spark plugs. She's also found slag metal so thinks there may have been a blacksmith shop or a foundry. She wants to look up some old photos to see if she can find out what was there. She's thinking of using some of the found objects in something for their garden, stepping stones or a pond liner, maybe. And the geese are back in Dixie and Bob Pintler's planter. When some black and white plastic blew off the Aurora Bridge above the tiny dock it stuck high up in the trees. The crows disappeared. The snagged bags did look a lot like an

eagle. But now the bags are gone and the crows are back. I guess after all these years scarecrows could use a new look. We're not in Kansas anymore.

Tom Susor's (Boat Street) plane building inside his house is coming along fine. He is organizing a builders group of the 48 people in the area who are also building the Kit Fox airplane. Tom is also working on a 1993 goal through the Experimental Aircraft Association. It is called the Young Eagles Program and was initiated in May 1992. They want to have 1 million kids from the ages of 8 to 17 introduced to aviation by the year 2003 (the 100th anniversary of the 1st powered flight). Tom is putting together a group of pilots (and planes) who would be willing to participate in taking the kids up. Their goal is 1000 flights for 1993. . . Our Dox (2219-2235 FV) Board meeting came up with some advice

that should be shared. Some docks have been having trouble with their sewer pumps due to dental floss, tampons, and grease. Remember most of the pumps are 20+ years old now and costly to repair. . . A burglary suspect was chased down the dock on 2219 FV after trying to rob some uphill apartments (in the daytime). He was caught hiding under the end houseboat. A reminder: the Harbor Patrol can find you easier, if your dock number is painted prominently somewhere on the water end of your dock. Your Waterlog reporter entered the Annual Spam-o-Rama Spam Carving Contest during the Fat Tuesday doings in Pioneer Square. Proceeds go to the Food Bank and left over carvings go to the Zoo. I'm happy to report that I was chosen as one of the ten finalists for my lovely rendition of Traffic Spam, only to be disqualified because the charcoal dust I used to make the tire tread

really stand out was considered (by jealous competitors) a foreign object. When you enter you're given two rubber gloves, a plastic knife, and a paper plate. . . when you're done there should only be Spam on the plate. Well I was booted for "cheating", when actually I was only expanding the envelope of Spam art. . . There is a certain distinction to being the only person disqualified from a Spam carving contest through. Don't you think?

Spring's here, summer's coming, happy lake lounging. Remember to write me (2235 Fairview, 98102) or call me (322-4536) with the news about your docks and your neighbors and neighborhood wildlife (that would include the nesting blue heron AND the 4th of July bash). TA!

8/91



MEMBERSHIP FORM

Help preserve and protect Seattle's colorful houseboat colony.
Join the Floating Homes Association today!

NAME(S): _____

ADDRESS: _____ HB#: _____

PHONE: _____ Condo/CoOp Name: _____

Houseboat: Own Rent Regular Household \$36 New
Moorage: Own Rent Retired Household \$24 Renewal

The Association's Legal Fund Needs your support also. Donations of \$50 or more are tax deductible! Make your SEPARATE check payable to SCCCF/FHA and mail today!

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

Floating Homes Association Inc. 2329 Fairview Avenue East Seattle, WA 98102 Telephone 325-1132

Floating Homes Association
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Seattle, WA 98102

