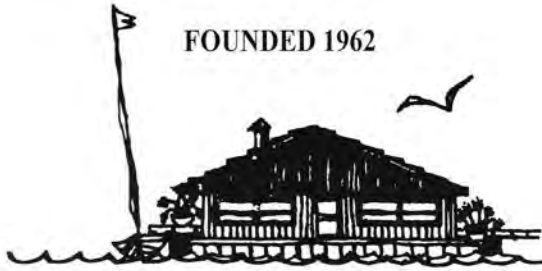


FOUNDED 1962



# FLOATING HOMES ASSOCIATION



2329 Fairview Avenue East

Seattle, Washington 98102

Phone: 325-1132

Number 139

## Newsletter

Summer 2002

### Tall Ships Dazzle Lake Union

By MartyWall

As a veteran of the U.S. Coast Guard, I can say with some conviction that I have a love for the water and in particular ships and boats. Having been out of town the week of August 12<sup>th</sup>, what a thrill it was for me to learn upon my return that the tall ships were coming back to Seattle after a 20-year hiatus. What a greater thrill to learn that they would be passing right past my houseboat on

*Continued on Page 2 ...*



Photo by Marty Wall

“majestic barque”



## Tour 2002 !

**Sunday  
September 8  
Noon — 5:00 PM**

This year's Floating Homes Association's Tour of Homes features both Fairview and Westlake houseboats and a shuttle boat between the neighborhoods.

*Read All About it on Page 3*

## Inside

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## FAIRVIEW GREEN STREET PUBLIC MEETING

*Celebrate our accomplishments!*

By Martia Denniston

The Fairview Green Street committee will celebrate its accomplishments and one-year anniversary with a public meeting on Tuesday, October 15 from 7:00 to 9:00 PM. Look for posters announcing the meeting location in October, or contact the Green Street coordinator listed below. *Everyone* is invited to learn about our experience (the fun we're having!), review proposed guidelines for Hamlin to Fuhrman, organize a committee to design guidelines for Newton to Roanoke, and discover opportunities for volunteers.

Fairview Avenue East, from Newton to Roanoke and Hamlin to Fuhrman, was designated a Type III Green Street by the City of Seattle in 1998. The Fairview Green Street committee is a group of community residents and business owners committed to creating a Green Street Design Concept that will define guidelines to ensure safe public circulation and open space opportunities, as well as respect the diversity and existing mixed-use character of the street and neighborhood.

All committee meetings are open to anyone who wants to participate. Come to the public meeting in October to obtain information on the current progress of the committee or, if you cannot attend, contact the Fairview Green Street coordinator listed below. Your talents for facilitating meetings, project management, document writing, and fostering collaborative participation are needed. Whatever your skills or suggestions, your participation will be welcomed!

Contact Martia Denniston, Fairview Green Street c/o ECC, Lake Union Mail, 117 E. Louisa #1, Seattle WA 98102; mdenniston@effectnet.com; 720-5519.

... continued from Page 1

## More Tall Ships



Photo by Sid McFarland

### Mock battle between the Hawaiian Chieftain (left) and the Lady Washington.

their way to moorage at South Lake Union.

I got back in to town on Wednesday afternoon, prepared to go back to work Thursday morning. However, once I learned of this rare and special event, I decided that one more day off from work was needed.

Looking through the paper Thursday morning, I checked the schedule for the ships' arrival. I learned they were to pass through the Ballard Locks around 1:00 in the afternoon which I guessed would put them at or near the Fremont Bridge around 2:00, just west of our dock at 2764 Westlake Ave. My neighbor, Burt Bervar, called me around 1:00 to say he was going to take the afternoon off from work and join me at the end of our dock for a front row seat. The former owner of my house, Steve Mason, was visiting from Los Angeles, as was his son, Keno, from Boston. The four of us joined our other neighbor, Marilyn Evans and waited in anticipation for the show.

2:00 came and went with no ships. Around 2:30, I jumped in the water, swam out about 50 yards, and looked down the canal for any signs. Still nothing. Another hour passed and still no ships. We began to get a little impatient until finally, around 4:00 in the afternoon, a large flotilla of pleasure boats began to gather around the Fremont Bridge. The bridge opened up and the first and largest of these magnificent barques, The Europa, passed through. The Lady Washington, the Hawaiian Chieftain, the Nina, the Lavengro and other tall-masted vessels closely followed her through the canal. As they passed, we were treated to mock cannon fire from two of the vessels that shook us out of our seats. The fireboat Alki provided a traditional maritime salute by firing her water cannons into the air as the ships turned south to their berthing at South Lake Union.

It was a beautiful, sunny August afternoon and our dock proved to be the perfect viewing spot for this excellent event, as it has for other special events on the Lake such as Fourth of July and Opening Day. I guess that's just another reason we live where we do.

*Mark your calendars –*

## Sunday September 8<sup>th</sup> is Houseboat Tour Day!

By Melissa Ahlers

The Floating Homes Association is excited to be hosting our biennial Floating Homes Tour, set for Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup> from noon to 5:00 pm. This year's houseboat tour will feature fifteen homes, ten on east Lake Union and five on west Lake Union. Please come out and join the community as we show our homes and share stories of our unique life on the water.

The selection of homes on the 2002 Floating Homes Tour reflects the houseboat history; participants will experience the old and new, upscale living, and down home charm. The tour features two homes on the Tenas Chuck co-op, which has been designated a National Heritage Historical District because of the abundance of classic old-style houseboats located there. Viewers will see the extensive art collection of a Fairview Avenue East houseboat, and the house-as-art, cobalt blue, mango-yellow and Mediterranean orange of an extraordinary, modern Log Foundation home. One home features a calla lily stained-glass window from a church, another sports a dragon sculpture over the sink, another's front deck is adorned with an almost life-sized metal horse sculpture and totem pole. Viewers will be delighted to see innovative and interesting uses of space, and to find whimsical nooks, surprising vistas, secret gardens, and of course, the always-present, wonderful access to the water.

Tickets can be purchased in advance by sending a check for \$20 per ticket to the Floating Homes Association office at 2329 Fairview Ave. E., Seattle, WA 98102. Tickets will also be for sale the

day of the tour, starting at 11:30 AM at the starting point of the tour, Terry Pettus Park (east Lake Union) at the foot of Newton Street, on Fairview Avenue East. Tickets will be limited; advance purchase will guarantee viewing. The admission price includes shuttle transportation via boat or bus from the east to west shores of Lake Union. Participants will walk from dock to dock and will be asked to remove their shoes at each house: Comfortable, slip-on shoes are strongly recommended. The tour will take place rain or shine. An espresso bar and restroom facilities will be provided.

We still need volunteers! Volunteers are given a post along the tour route for 3 hours and are then able to tour for free. Please contact Melissa at (206) 709-9376 to volunteer for the day.



Ticket Logo: Woodcut by Mike Naylor

### Tour Sponsors

We have had amazing support from our sponsors for the houseboat tour this year. Please support these docks/businesses and thank them for helping us!

#### Floating Home Docks

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Roanoke Reef  
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Flo-Villa  
Westlake Cove Association  
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**Thank you  
for your support!**



## Association Standing Committee Reports

### Environmental

#### *At the Beach*

Betty Swift is our Environmental Committee Chair. She is out of town for the summer.



### Fundraising

#### *Doing the Tour*

Melissa Ahlers is our Fundraising Committee Chair. Her committee is busy organizing the Tour. Melissa's Tour Report is on Page 3.

### Legislative

#### *We Need Help*

By Sheri Greaves, Chair

At the annual meeting back in April, I had several people express interest in working on legislative issues. If you are like me, you don't like to have meetings unless there is a real need, so I have opted to not call a meeting so far since there really isn't any major issue for us to delve into. If you are interested in being part of the Legislative Committee, please let me know. It would be nice to have an e-mail address, so I can send you updates on a regular basis of on-going issues, or call for action quickly if necessary. A fax would also work.

My email address is [sgreaves@seattlecca.org](mailto:sgreaves@seattlecca.org) and fax is 206-329-4952. I'd love to hear from you.

Thanks!

#### *1409 Boat Street*

By Sheri Greaves, Chair

The 1409 Boat Street dock is comprised of six floating homes located at the end of Brooklyn Avenue, between Jensen's Boat Company and the Aqua Verde restaurant. This dock is owned by the University of Washington and leased to the floating homes owners. Some of the owners have lived there for at least 30 years and have been on a month-to-month lease for some time. This dock was finally given a 5-year lease commencing in February 2001. Along with granting the 5 years, the UW also put in a "right of first refusal" clause for owners selling their floating homes. Sometime last year, one of the owners was planning to sell her house, so gave the UW notice to exercise their right of first refusal should they so choose. The UW responded that they would not exercise their right to purchase the home, but also informed the floating home owner that the UW did not intend to renew the moorage lease when it expires on January 31, 2006.

In light of the UW's new 10-year plan, it is probably not feasible to think that we can halt the UW's progress if they intend to change the land use at 1409 Boat Street; however, we will work to find an equitable resolution for the floating home owners on that dock.

In that regard, Mike Ryherd, the FHA lobbyist, and I met with Representative Frank Chopp (Speaker of the House), Representative Ed Murray (Chair of the House Capital Budget Committee), and Senator Pat Thibaudeau (Chair of the Senate Health Care Committee) a couple of weeks ago. We asked the legislators to propose to the UW that they devise a plan to either purchase the floating homes over the next few years, or to pay relocation expenses if the owners can find a place to relocate their homes.

We have some time since the University's 10-year plan has not even been approved yet and the lease doesn't expire for four more years, but we want to move now to assure the University can obtain the necessary capital appropriation.

The legislators were totally cooperative and are planning to assist us in working

toward this goal. I personally want to thank them for their time and their assistance, as always, in protecting and promoting our floating homes community.

#### *Right of First Refusal Repeal*

By Bill Keasler

Last fall, the Association believed that it had headed off the city's repeal of the Equity Ordinance's Right of First Refusal provision. The City Attorney's office eventually had second thoughts, however, and decided they had to go through with it after all.

Since we have been unable to stop the repeal after a year of trying, we've decided to work with the city on alternative legislation. The Association and Assistant City Attorney Bryan Glinn have drafted language which includes a requirement that moorage residents be notified of a pending moorage sale. It also includes a provision protecting against using sham moorage sales to jack up rents.

The draft has been submitted to the City Council and will be considered at the same time the action on repeal is taken in the fall.

#### *Liveaboard Law*

By Sheri Greaves, Chair

Since last summer, the Department of Natural Resources has been working on revising the rules as to how DNR should manage live-aboard boats and floating homes on state-owned aquatic lands. The Aquatic Lands Act directs DNR, when managing state-owned aquatic lands, to ensure protection of the environment, foster water-dependent uses, and promote public access. The revisions will define live-aboard boats and categorize them as a water-dependent use, promote local government decision-making regarding live-aboards and floating homes, restrict live-aboards from residential anchoring in open water (not in a marina or at a leased site), and enforce existing clean water laws and protections. There have been several public forums held around the State and representatives from the FHA have attended,

## Association Standing Committee Reports

and our lobbyist, Mike Ryherd, has been following the progress very closely. Basically, it does not appear that there is anything for us to worry about. The City of Seattle already has adequate regulations in place so there should be no surprises for us. It could be that other municipalities (Kirkland, Bainbridge Island, etc.) might allow more liveaboards or floating homes under this new arrangement, but we will have to wait and see.

### Lake Union Crew

By Bill Keasler

The city finally issued a new Notice of Violation (NOV) to Lake Union Crew (LUC) in July, requiring that all its non-water dependant activities be shut down.

While a federal court awarded us attorney's fees in the case last year, promoting a warm feeling and a sense that we'd won, it also declined to rule on whether LUC had actually violated city law. It said the city's courts had to decide first.

The new NOV is the first step in the process of getting a decision from the lower courts. The FHA is again supporting the city in their effort.

Meanwhile, LUC ignores the city's poor NOV and continues its full-scale operations at the north end of the lake.

## Membership and Communication

### Ads in the Newsletter

By Emily Hine, Chair

The Communication Committee met this quarter to set objectives for the fiscal year. Our biggest realization was that it takes resources to communicate in an effective and timely way with such a diverse association.

In reviewing the FHA survey results, we realized that 75% of our respondents would use the Web site to get updates and 64% would use email updates. These are two tools that we hadn't utilized fully yet. People also rely heavily on the newsletter for information. In order for us to maintain effective communication tools without draining the limited resources of the Association, we quickly realized we needed an additional revenue stream.

So, for the first time, you will notice some limited advertising in this newsletter which will offset our printing, postage and communication tool updates. Thank you to the merchants who are supporting FHA.

The Communication committee is still looking for volunteers who can help with newsletter editing and layout or with submitting articles. If you are interested or want to join the communications committee, please call Emily Hine at 206-284-9527.

## Security and Safety

By Giff Jones, Chair

The Security and Safety Committee is comprised of the following volunteers: Gifford Jones & Tiffany Campbell, co-chairs, and members Chad Lorentz, Dick Patterson, Jack Lerversee, and James Burnell.

At our July meeting, we discussed our primary focus which is on fire, theft, parking, and traffic problems, with fire prevention being the current most pressing need. After much brain dumping and free thinking, the meeting produced the list on the following page of general ideas and suggestions, any one of which might prove useful in helping members protect themselves and their homes from the threat of fire.

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# Security and Safety Committee

## HOUSEBOAT AND DOCK FIRE SUPPRESSION IDEAS

### PROJECTS THAT CAN BE DONE BY AN INDIVIDUAL HOMEOWNER:

- \* Install smoke and heat detectors and change batteries annually
- \* Install a monitored alarm system
- \* Provide adequate fire extinguishers
- \* Replace fuse boxes with circuit breaker panels
- \* Survey entire wiring and outlet systems, appliances, and all plug-ins
- \* Reduce extension cord use and toss frayed and cracked cords
- \* Clean interior and exterior of flammable clutter
- \* Thoroughly survey home for common fire hazards such as poorly ventilated solvent/paint storage areas, wood stove/fireplace surrounds and flues, heating system risks, light bulbs with wattage that exceeds UL fixture limits, candle locations, etc.
- \* Ensure that sudden, massive boat wakes cannot tip over heating, lighting, electrical devices, or cause other fire hazards
- \* Keep garden hoses with quality spray nozzles fully charged at all times (except during deep freezes)
- \* Make sure chimneys have adequate liners, caps, and spark arrestors
- \* Create and practice a fire-escape plan with your family
- \* Encourage others to follow your example

### PROJECTS THAT COULD BE DONE AS A DOCK OR ASSOCIATION.

- \* Have a "GET RID OF THE JUNK DAY". Clean off porches, sheds: everywhere clutter accumulates.
- \* Survey your dock's electrical system and FIX potential problems.
- \* Install individual, high-temperature, fire-sensitive heat detectors in every houseboat and wire them together into a common alarm system which includes several dock-mounted horns. These sensors are designed to go off ONLY UNDER EXTREME HEAT and would serve as an effective early warning alarm to the community. Could be ideal for homes unoccupied during the workday, evening outings, or vacation times.
- \* Pass by-law amendments that require fire-preventive upgrades during all significant houseboat renovations. Such measures might include fire-resistant roof coverings and/or sidings and fire-resistant exterior paints on all building faces in close proximity to a neighbor (fireproofing paints are now available and affordable). Also, window openings and eave overhangs could be restricted on near-proximity walls. Perhaps monitored fire alarms and added exterior hose bibs could also be required for these significant upgrade projects.
- \* Install a dedicated, large capacity water line (3" recommended) with heavy commercial hoses placed in cabinets at regular intervals along the dock.
- \* Provide portable submersible electric water pump with attached fire hose and wired to dedicated circuit (ref: George Johnston prototype).
- \* Ensure all adjacent waterways allow for unimpeded access by emergency fire and police boats.
- \* Determine whether a fixed and fire-proof, or a fully-detachable boat mooring system is best for your needs ( a tricky puzzle).
- \* Create and practice a dock emergency fire plan.
- \* Encourage your neighboring docks to do the same, or more!
- \* Help put pressure on the city to install a real fire boat on Lake Union. and to keep Harbor Patrol #4 staffed with fire-fighters until they do.
- \* Solicit help from local fire and police departments with any or all of the above. They are eager to provide assistance, to and including on-site surveys and group presentations.

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## *Alki* Struts Her Stuff

Seattle's antique fireboat, *Alki*, shows off for the Tall Ships.

The *Alki* was recently assigned duty protecting the freshwater channels in the city behind the locks.

No question that she looks good.

Photo by Sid McFarland

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## Fortieth Anniversary Meeting

By Emily Hine

This year's annual meeting was a great success! On Tuesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, over 100 FHA members came ashore to celebrate the 40 year anniversary of the Floating Homes Association. The meeting was held for the first time ever at the Fremont UNConventional Center, a new event space in Fremont that caters primarily to the needs of non-profit organizations.

FHA Board President, Bill Keasler called the meeting to order and kept the meeting moving, entertaining & on time! FHA Board member Emily Hine gave a PowerPoint presentation that summarized the spring floating home survey results and how those results are shaping FHA activities moving forward. Board members reported on the 5 key focus areas of the FHA. Steve Nielsen reported on the progress of the Floating Homes tour, scheduled this year for Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup>. Board members, Giff Jones, Mark Koenig & Bill Keasler gave updates on various issues including Harbor Patrol, Liveaboard Laws, Right of First Refusal and Lake Union Crew.

The annual meeting celebration opened & closed with entertainment by the **The Portage Bay Midnight Ramblers**. A big thanks to the band for donating their time and for everyone who attended. By far, one of the best Floating Homes Annual meetings yet!!



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\$725,000

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Shown by appointment.

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*Yarn spinning ...*

## Where Were You In '62?

*Bill wasn't actually there, was he?*

By Bill Keasler

We had to practice before we got it right. Houseboaters live just far enough outside the mainstream to consistently offend the delicate sensibilities of our upland neighbors. Repeated attempts to banish us from the shores of the city finally forced us to create a permanent organization to defend ourselves. Before that, we created three separate groups to respond to threats, but disbanded them all after they'd accomplished their goals. After the third time, we learned our lesson, because we almost lost everything before we could organize again.

In 1922 there were probably about 5,000 houseboaters in Seattle. The city's neighborhoods were also forming, however, and their respectable residents began to take umbrage at the messy scene down on the waterfront. The North Broadway Improvement Club called upon the City Council to eliminate the "virtual cesspool" and "fire hazard" of the houseboat colonies, deploring their "depressing influence on the value of abutting property." The **Houseboat and Home Protective League** was formed to represent us in City Hall. Pointing out that 95% of the raw sewage being dumped into the lake was, in fact, from the uplanders themselves appeared to defuse the situation and the League disbanded soon after the battle was won.

1939 saw the first major cleanup of Lake Washington. Over 200 houseboats were banished from its shores and they became refuges looking for moorage in Lake Union and Portage Bay. The Portage Bay Improvement Club decried the emerging "houseboat menace" and demanded they be eliminated. Once again, the sewers became the issue. Once again, the houseboaters organized. The new **Waterfront Improvement Club** pointed out that requiring that they hook up to the sewers when there were no sewers didn't make sense. The crisis dissipated, and the Club disbanded.

The uplanders' Montlake Community Club was at it again in 1952. Led by Councilwoman Myrtle Edwards, they vowed to ban the "shantytowns along the waterfront which obstructed upland views." The newly formed **Houseboat Owners Association**, led by moorage owner Bob Cadranell, concocted a strategy of achieving legitimacy by embracing regulation. They pushed the first Houseboat Ordinance through the Council, in spite of Myrtle Edward's best efforts, and the crisis passed. The new Ordinance regulated water and electrical hook-ups, specified 10 feet between adjacent houseboats and required a permit to move a houseboat. Having accomplished their goals, the third Association disbanded, too.

That turned out to be a very big mistake.

For the next five years, while the houseboaters were idling away their time on the water, the city was busy with its most comprehensive rezoning since 1923. Among its provisions were designation of 85% of Lake Union "Manufacturing", making houseboats illegal, and, incidentally, requiring 40 feet between adjacent houseboats.

Soon, moorages began disappearing. The Highway Department condemned 53 houseboats for the Portage Bay viaduct. Then 23 more disappeared for the AGC building on Westlake. Another 73 were eliminated when NOAA went in. By 1961, the 1100 or so houseboats that were in the city in 1953 were down to less than 700 and falling fast.

Led by George Neale and Terry Pettus, the houseboaters finally organized themselves into the **Floating Homes Association** in 1962. Their first order of business was to gain permission to extend the docks on Fairview to take some of the displaced houseboats floating around the lake. They did this in spite of the onerous zoning and density regulation. They then went on to address the perennial sewer issue by creating a Local Improvement District and taxing themselves to build the sewer along the shoreline.

Having learned what happens when they're not paying attention, the Association didn't disband this time. A little under 500 houseboats and holding, we celebrate our 40th anniversary this year.

*40 Years and Floating ...*

## Where Will We Be In 2003?

*Emily reports on the Board's Retreat*

By Emily Hine

The Board of Trustees of the Floating Home Association is made up of 15 volunteers who are concerned enough about the issues to volunteer their time and direct the activities of the FHA. While we are all volunteers who happen to have floating homes, we don't pretend to know all of the answers. That is why in the Spring of 2002, we decided to do a reality check and ask our fellow floating home owners what they were concerned about. The Floating Homes Association Survey was sent out to all known floating home owners and interested supporters. We gathered all of the data from the 180 polls that were returned, dissected the data & spent a Saturday in April reviewing where we were today and where we wanted to be in 2003.

We were fortunate enough to have Alene Morris, an experienced trainer & floating home owner, volunteer as our facilitator for the day. Our goals for the retreat were to: Review the results of the survey; understand what floating home owners care about today; find a way to narrow our focus; clarify the mission, vision & objectives of the FHA; organize the board to effectively accomplish our new objectives.

We believe we accomplished all of our objectives and presented the following updates to the entire association at the annual meeting in April.

**Refreshed FHA Mission:** *To protect, preserve and promote the vitality of Seattle's unique floating homes community through education, advocacy and collaboration.*

**To best serve this mission, we have established the following FHA Guiding Principles:**

To honor and preserve the history, culture and diversity of the floating homes community.

To monitor, educate and advocate on issues of concern to the floating homes community.

To work together with our neighbors to strengthen our sense of community.

To encourage active participation within the membership of the Floating Homes Association.

In order to organize all of the work that goes with running the association and acting on behalf of Seattle's Floating Home community, we have created 5 focus areas with Board of Trustees' volunteer leadership. Volunteers from the community are encouraged to join any of these working committees:

1. **Legislative Committee:** This committee focuses on shoreline issues, illegal construction, 520 & transit issues, over the water/uplands issues. To become a volunteer for the legislative committee, please contact volunteer co-chair, Sheri Greaves at 206-323-1262.

2. **Environmental Committee:** This committee focuses on Watershed issues, Pollution, Air/Noise, traffic etc. To join this committee, please call Betty Swift at 206-323-3879.

3. **Security and Safety Committee:** This committee is concerned with fireboat accessibility, theft, parking, traffic etc. To join this committee, please contact Giff Jones at 206-860-9293.

4. **Membership and Communication:** This committee works to expand membership in the Floating Home Association and works on effectively communicating with members via the web site and the newsletter etc. To join this committee, please contact Emily Hine at 206-284-9527.

5. **Fundraising and Volunteerism:** This committee helps bring in revenue for the FHA through fundraisers such as the FHA tour and the sale of FHA merchandise. This committee also recruits volunteers for major events. To join this committee, please call Melissa Ahlers at 206-709-9376.

# The Fremont Avenue Ferry

By Larry Kezner

Emily Hine called the other day and asked if I could put together the story of the M/V Fremont Avenue and the Sunday Ice Cream Tours of Lake Union. Well, stories are my specialty and they all start and finish with bits of the facts.

A few years ago I was looking out of my cubical at an Eastside electronics company and starting to think about what I was going to do for the next 15 years of life. The next 15 years had to be fun, no matter what. Looking back, my best times had been going to sea. I had taken jobs on merchant ships as the radio officer during the late sixties. This was fun however, the technology had changed and telegraph operators (dit dah dit) had been replaced with SAT terminals operated by the Captain and Mates.

So I dug in, established my sea time and took night classes to obtain my Captains license. It's actually a U.S. Coast Guard, Merchant Marine, Master's license. In the eyes of the Coast Guard I am a Master of motor, steam and sailing vessels. The title is Captain and between Captains we might call each other Skipper. To our crew (behind our backs), the Old Man.

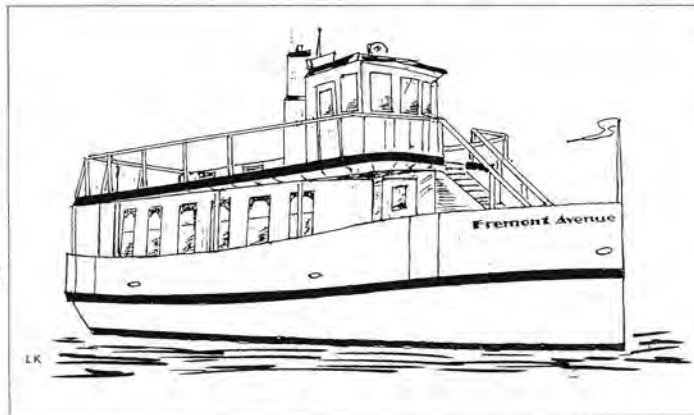
The summer of 1998 I got lucky and picked up my first job running one of the shifts on the Elliott Bay Water Taxi. It was great fun, the M/V Admiral Pete carried 80 passenger at over 20 knots. It was like driving a giant jet ski. I had so much fun that I decided that I had to get one of these.

The business plan evolved to finding the right boat for Lake Union. The steel construction, 50', 25 ton Baytowne Eagle was for sale in Cleveland. I made the deal, took two weeks to disassemble enough of the vessel to ship via truck and trailer to Seattle. On the way to Seattle the pilot house got arrested in Illinois. The Illinois State Patrol told the driver that he was over weight,

over wide and had EXTRA cargo strapped to the deck of the tractor. The driver found a fertilizer factory with a fork lift to remove the pilot house and left it in Illinois. He then finished the trip without the pilot house. It took almost a month to find a flat bed with space to pick up the pilot house and deliver it to Seattle.

The vessel was reassembled at the Canal and PMC shipyards, renamed the M/V Fremont Avenue 4 months later.

I had wonderful help from the Fremont business community. However, when I first presented the plan to operate the vessel as a tour, charter and special event ferry out of Fremont, the Fremont Chamber of Commerce was quiet and at first a little hesitant. My final comment was that the vessel was to be named the Fremont Avenue. Suzie Burke said...of course you can park it (the Fremont Avenue) here, where else would you park it.



The Sunday Ice Cream Cruise high-lighting our bustling Lake Union and your colorful houseboats and the stories about their history have made this a fun business. I like to tell my guests that as a teenager, 40 years ago I sailed on Lake Union when there were only tiny cottages floating on old logs. Now they have grown and have been built into beautiful and artistic structures. However, as many

of them have grown and many of the log floats have settled, I have found that many lean or list a bit. But... I have done a very careful survey over the years and it seems that more of the house boats on Fairview side lean to the left.

The Sunday Ice Cream Cruise sails from Fremont (under the Aurora Bridge) every Sunday, on the hour from 11 AM to 5 PM. The fare is \$7 for adults, \$6 for seniors, \$4 kids 5-13 and under 5 free. Ice cream bars \$2 and \$3 and chocolate root beer floats \$3. CELL anytime 206-713-8446, email [seattleferrysvc@cs.com](mailto:seattleferrysvc@cs.com) or [www.SeattleFerryService.com](http://www.SeattleFerryService.com)

## THE FLOATING HOMES ASSOCIATION

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## Member Poll Results

# Frank Floaters Speak Up

By Emily Hine

Many things are unpredictable when living life on the water, but one thing is always for certain, if you ask a floating home owner their honest opinion, you'll get exactly what you ask for!! Thank you to the over 180 floaters who filled out the FHA survey! Below is a summary of the survey.

**General information:** Over 1/3 responded to poll!! (180 polls returned out of 487 houseboats). 50% of those who responded have lived here 10 years or more; 50% less than 10 years. 93% own their home; 6% rent. 70% own their moorage; 28% rent. 14% had residents over 65; 8% under 18. Most respondents favor a limit on houseboats, mostly for environmental impact and maintenance of waterways.

**Regarding being a Floating Homes Association Member:** 79% of respondents were FHA members, 18% were not, 3% didn't know??

**Top general concerns of respondents by percent of responses:**

- Challenges to the Equity Ordinance – 50%
- Environmental – 42%
- Changes in legislation e.g. water dependent language – 42%
- Security – 39%
- Illegal Construction over the water or next to shore – 38%
- Pollution – 38%

**Additional specific concerns:**

- Pollution:
  - Oil Spills: Pleasure boats
  - Deck gardens: “Goose pollution”
- Car Speed on Fairview; Yacht speed on lake!
- PARKING!
- Sound Transit impact
- Pre 7 AM Rowing Crew Noise!
- Lack of Fireboat on the lake
- Preserve historic aspects of FH community
- Education of DCLU personnel re: FH remodeling/building issues

- Can't buy dock – at mercy of dock owner!

**Other Takeaways:**

- Like the newsletter! Good job Jann McFarland!
- Want more news about Portage Bay...
- Like the annual mtg discussion of issues, socializing with FH Community; but need to tighten agenda and watch time.
- 75% would use the Web site to get updates; 64% would use email updates...

Thank you again for taking the time to complete the survey. More comprehensive survey results can be obtained by visiting our web site at <http://www.seattlefloatinghomes.org/>; (or emailing Bill Keasler at

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Contact the FHA office at 206-325-1132, if interested. 10% discount for FHA members or if commit to four issues. 1/2 page ads offered on limited basis only.

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Floating Homes Association  
2329 Fairview Avenue East  
Seattle, WA 98102



*The Floating Homes Association*

3/02

# MEMBERSHIP FORM

Help Preserve and Protect Seattle's Colorful Houseboat Colony.  
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NAME(S): \_\_\_\_\_

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HOUSEBOAT \_\_\_\_\_

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