

The Floating Times

VOL. XXVIII No. 6

The Floating Homes Association Newsletter

November/December 2011



Photo by Julie Kahn

Main Dock residents (L-R) Suki Sennet, Robin Sweeny, visitor Nicola Clay, Nicole Levine, Julie Kahn, Janet Thuesen, Rusty Hendley and Barbara Jaffe enjoy an evening together, hosted by Tina Spring (standing in the back with the green shirt).

WMDs FOUND ON MAIN DOCK!!!

by Janet Thuesen

Yes, indeed, the women of Main Dock, lovingly known as “WMDs,” have been found and we are in fine form! Pictured are just a few of the group attending our last gathering at Tina Spring’s newly remodeled houseboat. We are such a diverse and interesting group of individuals, coming from all parts of the country, and with varied experiences. There is always much to talk about, share and learn from each other. It was amazing to see that we have almost every kind profession represented here -- doctors, lawyers, nurses, a toxicologist, an architect, authors, business owners, a videographer, consultants and even a former mayor, just to name a few! We try to gather monthly in one of our homes for drinks and finger food.

Main Dock is one of the smallest docks, yet, I think we take the prize for the most children -- 9 of them, ranging from 4 months to 10 years, which makes for interesting chalk drawings and miniature wheeled vehicles lining our wide dock. They add such an element of fun, particularly as they did on Halloween! As I am sure is true with all of you, we believe we are so lucky to live on the best dock!

Online readers can click on the table of contents to view an article.

by Ray Dunaway, President

What is the Floating Homes Association and why should I join? I frequently hear this question from people new to the floating home community and occasionally from long time residents. I’ve developed a set of answers that address the visible and measureable aspects of what the FHA members do for the community, all on an unpaid basis except for one part time administrative assistant.

The FHA provides a constant review and monitoring of the many governmental bodies who frequently propose legislation that would adversely impact the entire floating home community. The FHA members who participate in this effort spend countless hours in meetings and reviewing meeting agendas, being alert for subjects that would adversely affect the entire community. When issues arise they are brought to the FHA board for action.

Another benefit of the FHA is the sponsorship of fund-raising activities to support community-wide needs. The chief of these is the Floating Homes Tour which ultimately involves 18 - 20 open
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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Water you doing here?

By the Dinghy Dame

Meet Catherine Carmody and Bill Snyder! A-Dock has seen some changes this past year with the addition of two new owner-occupied homes, and Catherine and Bill's purchase of "Alpha" is their new nest on the water!

Catherine was born an Army brat and lived in Rome and Naples, Italy before relocating to Hawaii when her father, Captain Cornelius Carmody was appointed Navy attaché in Saigon during the Vietnam War. In fact, he was the one who orchestrated the evacuation of many civilians to safety, and he himself was on the last of those three helicopters getting out of Saigon all those years ago. Catherine finished college in Hawaii and lived there until she headed for San Diego in 1985. In the meantime, Bill, who went to college in Albany, in upstate New York, (There is also a Rome and a Naples in upstate New York,) went to the Atlantic to be a lobster fisherman. He also worked in sea camps on Cape Cod before he took off to join a friend in Colorado to become a ski bum for a year or so. He loved that until another friend called him and told him he was living the life of Riley in Ocean Beach, California. Adventure called again, so Bill set out for the Pacific in his little burnt orange '72 VW Bug. This time he settled in San Diego, where he stayed for the next 35 years working as a painting contractor.

In 1992, at 42 and still single, Bill left the Blarney Stone tavern in the Gas Lamp district in downtown San Diego late one night, and literally ran into Catherine and a friend of hers right in front of the place. He impulsively asked Catherine if she wanted a nightcap. She felt safe with her friend, so they took him up on it, and they fell into a blooming romance. At the time, Catherine had retired as a flight attendant with a charter line, and was fulfilling her passion for sailing by delivering sail boats from Florida to the Bahamas. She left for one of those trips soon after meeting Bill, and found herself with time to ruminate. "He's the most intelligent man I've met. He's hysterically funny, and he's cute!" He was thinking the same thing, and the rest is history. They like to tell funny stories about themselves, and related one I've condensed, lest it be "R" rated. Let's just say that when they made the decision to seal the intimate part of the relationship, they felt the earth move! Turns out it was the 7.5 magnitude Big Bear earthquake. Scared the romance right outta them, and they decided to leave her highrise apartment and go to his place, which they felt was safer. Well, one thing led to another, and lo and behold, when the earth began to move again for them, they realized it was an aftershock! At 6.5 it was enough to shake Bill up and make him believe it was an omen.



Photo: Dinghy Dame

Catherine Carmody and Bill Snyder with Hula.

Bill is a tad superstitious by nature. Makes me wonder how they ever progressed to marriage. But, marry they did, on the top of Heavenly Valley on skis, with the minister on skis, Catherine in a veil, and the camera man skiing backwards down the slope! Bill said the wedding almost didn't come to fruition because on Feb. 26, 1993, two days before the planned event, the World Trade Center was hit for the first time. Chewing his nails, he wondered if this was yet another omen. First the earthquakes and now this! But, he shook that off, and they headed to the mountains where they encountered.....a blizzard! And he found himself tickling his worry bone again. But the weather cleared, they proceeded with the ceremony, and he has never looked back. Bill told me they have been married 18 wonderful years now; 10 for her and 8 for him.

During the years they have been together they have gone from San Diego to Palm Springs to Hawaii, then Napa and finally here. They went through a period where they would "buy, fix and flip," says Bill. They still have a place they love in Calistoga, but hope to make this floating dream their permanent home along with one in Hawaii.

While they lived in Hawaii, Catherine always wanted a set of Menehunes, the little folks who inhabit the islands. Legend has it that these little people live deep in the forests and hidden valleys of the Hawaiian isles, far from the eyes of normal humans. Their favorite food is bananas, but they also like fish. Legends say that the Menehunes built temples, fish ponds, roads, canoes and houses. They are said to have lived in Hawaii before the settlers arrived from Polynesia many centuries ago. They related a funny story about their

continued next page

Menehunes. They received an email photo of what looked to be one of their little men in Europe. Turns out friends of theirs had kidnapped him and taken him on a trip with them, then surprised Bill and Catherine with the photo. Apparently they did it more than once.

The dream to live here was Catherine's, not Bill's, but he was amenable to it. So one day when Catherine and Bill were driving by our neck of the woods, she cajoled him into checking out our living situation. They parked, walked straight onto A-Dock and immediately stopped in their tracks. There on their right, directly under a "For Sale" sign on a floating home, were their very Menehunes -- with a few broken limbs, but exactly like their own. And it sealed it for them. They made a bid on the house, bought it, and are making it theirs. They have a wonderful bearded collie named Hula who makes their family complete.

Catherine worked in real estate and was a mortgage broker for 25 years in San Diego and is considering hanging her shingle in this neck of the water. Bill keeps busy golfing, and putting around the house as well. They each love their kayak and their little outboard aluminum boat. They both ski, play tennis, and play doubles with others on the dock. Bill has gone diving with Larry Clinton, and Larry accompanied Bill in the dinghy when they recently guided a film crew around the docks for an upcoming TV show about the community, which will premier in January. You might just recognize and welcome Bill and Catherine if you see them out walking Hula if Bill is wearing his Nauti-Buoy T shirt and she, her Boating Chick Tee. They clearly love it here on the water. They love people and love to party. They're wine aficionados, and have found themselves welcome on Issaquah attending their parties, and they have joined the Cruising Club. They fit right into our community and are a welcome addition to A-Dock.

Presidents Message - Continued from page 1

homes, over 225 volunteers and hundreds of hours of effort in organizing all the aspects of the tour. The money raised is funneled back into the community through such projects as the Disaster Services Trailer, paying for CERT training upon successful completion of the course and the most recent item: approval of an automated emergency warning system that will be available to FHA members. These projects do not happen by themselves. They require dedicated volunteers to execute them and raise the money.

Because the FHA is a community-wide organization, it has a long established a policy of not becoming involved in individual dock or houseboat owner is-

issues. After a great deal of discussion about the subject of short term rentals the FHA Board decided that this subject is a houseboat owner – harbor management issue and the FHA has no position. Individual members are obviously free to take their own positions, but they are acting as individuals not as FHA representatives.

A related item - the question of using the Floating Times as a platform for expressing opinions about this subject – has been discussed and a variety of options considered. After lengthy debate the Board determined that, since this is a houseboat owner – harbor management issue much more than it is a community issue, it is not appropriate to print letters on this subject. To prevent this from happening in the future the Board has established an editorial review policy to review future articles.

I am sure that some will not be pleased with these decisions. All I can do is ask you to remember that the people involved in this process are giving up their days and evenings for the benefit of the entire community.

If you wish to add further input to this discussion, feel free to write to your dock rep or any member of the FHA board.

Upcoming Events of Interest

By Larry Clinton

The Bay Model is presenting an art show and historic walking tours that should be of interest to our community.

Art Show

From November 15 through January 7, oil paintings of shipyards, docks, coves, and beaches will be exhibited in the Gallery (scene of our annual membership party). On the Waterfront features 100 Views of San Francisco Bay and Environs by Judy Molyneux. Judy has painted Bay Area landscapes for 40 years. She has shown at SFMOMA Artists Gallery, the Alan Stone Gallery in New York City, and many other distinguished venues.

Marinship Walking Tours

Interested in the history of Marinship area? Guided tours of the historic waterfront are available to small groups on weekday mornings. I've taken this tour and learned a lot about the wartime history of our waterfront. Reservations should be requested a minimum of two weeks in advance. Call (415) 332- 3871 to make arrangements.

FHA Emergency Notification System

By Stan Barbarich

FHA Board of Directors has authorized the implementation of a proven emergency-notification system called Rapid Reach that is being used by emergency responders, corporations and cities across North America and Europe. When implemented over the next couple of months, FHA members will be able to receive emergency notification of predicted and on-going events that pose a risk to our community. Notifications can go to our members via home phone, cell phone and text message. When the designated FHA Emergency Notification System Committee members receive credible threat information on tsunamis, fire, flood, etc., the information can be quickly forwarded to those members who have chosen to receive it. It would also have valuable use as a health-and-welfare information system after an event occurs. It will not be used for any non-emergency purpose.

The system is now in the implementation and testing phase, with a committee working hard to make sure it's working as well as possible before making it available to members. This is an opt-in system that is only available to FHA members who choose to be included.

Once it is up and tested, FHA members will receive a letter asking if they wish to receive these notices and which contact methods they wish to be used. If you don't wish to receive notices, you can decline to participate. This benefit will be provided to FHA members only, at no cost in addition to your regular dues. In accordance with FHA policy regarding all member information, what you provide will be 100% confidential and will not be available to anyone other than the authorized FHA board members.

Your board is very excited to be able to offer this new benefit to our members and we hope that it will enhance your life in our community.

Plans for Nearby Community Garden

By Larry Clinton

A group of Sausalito residents is spearheading efforts to establish a community garden on a 40,000-square-foot swath of land at Martin Luther King Jr. Park (off Ebbtide, next to the Remington Dog Park in northern Sausalito).

The Friends of the Sausalito Community Gardens (FSCG) is a local organization dedicated to establishing public garden spaces similar to established gardens in Mill Valley, Larkspur and Novato. The organization touts a list of benefits provided by community gardening, such as:

1) Cultivating and strengthening community relationships through the shared experience of gardening together for community benefit.

2) Teaching Sausalito residents how to grow their own organic produce, herbs and flowers, and to learn ecological principles.

3) Offering a new source of organic produce to share with each other and donate to local food banks.

4) Developing a community space to display local garden art.

5) Helping other local groups develop their own thriving gardens to support a strong network of community based gardens.

6) Creating a garden space that influences young gardeners to grow and eat healthy food and learn about the environment through partnership with Sausalito schools.

7) Partnering with a variety of nonprofit organizations, schools, and faith-based groups to empower people through gardening.

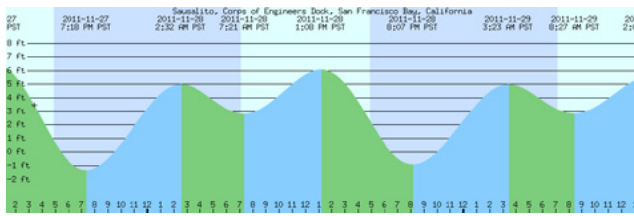
8) Offering technical assistance to individuals and groups working to establish sustainable community gardens through local workshops, training and networking.



photo: Scott Stoneback

A small, existing garden near the proposed site

In January, the project received the unanimous backing of Sausalito's Parks and Recreation Commission. However, the City has not taken further action since then, and the project may be put up for a public vote. If you'd like to know more about this effort, FSCG holds open monthly meetings on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm in the Edgewater Room, located downstairs in Sausalito City Hall. You can also check out their website: <http://sausalitocommunitygardens.org>



2012 Tide Calendars and Pocket Tide Logs are Available!

Colorful tide calendars and pocket tide logs are available through the FHA. Both show the tides and times at the Golden Gate for 2012.

Wall calendars are 8-1/2"x11" flip-style with great photos for \$10, and the pocket logs are 3"x4" for \$1. Contact Lewis Shireman: LewisShireman@gmail.com.



East Pier Raccoons

By Ron Moreland

Recently many East Pier residents have been plagued by an influx of raccoons. Residents without concrete hulls have been awakened during the night by horse-play (so to speak) and fights on the mud under their homes. Other residents report raccoons entering their homes at night through open windows, even second floor windows! In addition to causing huge messes, raccoons in the home can be dangerous to pets and their human companions.

One desperate homeowner hired a trapping service to get rid of the critters. The service humanely traps the raccoons and releases them in rural Marin public lands. However, this turned out to be an expensive endeavor. Accordingly, John O'Dea, East Pier Dock Rep, met with Ken Watsey, Kappas Marina Harbor Master, and got a promise for further trapping on a limited basis. So far, complaints seem to be down. But keep alert at night, especially while walking the dock and entering your home.

Private Tours: A delightful 90 minutes

by Katherine Boschetto

Have you seen groups of 10 people walking down your dock and wondered who they were? They are part of our Private Tours - a group of 20 to 40 maximum, touring four homes on two docks over the course of approximately 90 minutes. The groups are divided into 4 groups of 10 making the experience truly friendly and easy to see the individual homes. These tours benefit the Floating Homes Association via payment of a flat fee for the organizing and hosting of the groups.

We have hosted groups from Sacramento, Palo Alto, Danville and various areas of the Bay Area. Spousal groups from the Moscone conventions have brought people from the entire globe, including Amsterdam, Japan, Africa, Boston, and Austin.

These tours are loved by all who participate. The attendees take in every word from how our toilets work, to bringing in our groceries, to DSL access; they are totally fascinated. The homeowners enjoy sharing why they chose to live here and the guides enjoy answering the dozens of questions put to them. If you are interested in joining us for a delightful 90 minutes, by opening your home or guiding a group, please contact Katherine Boschetto at: kbbb@mindspring.com



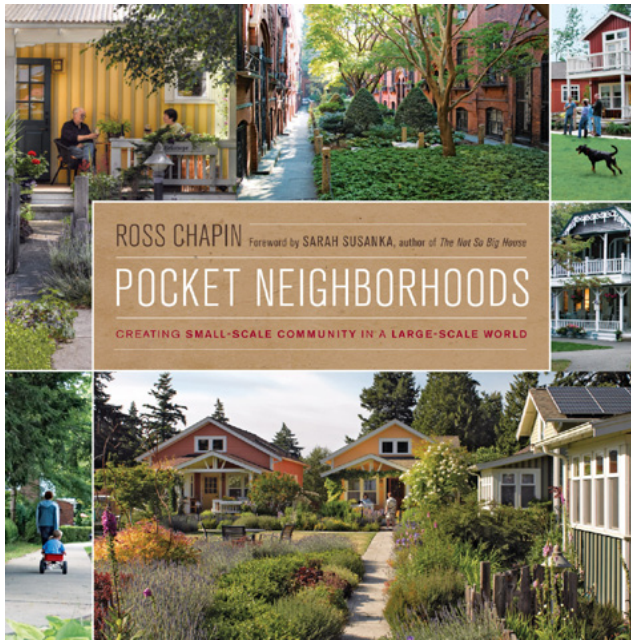
image courtesy Google Earth

Articles Wanted

by Scott Stoneback, Editor

Do you have a story to tell? The Floating Times is always looking for article submissions and story ideas related to the floating homes community. Do you know of an event that your neighbors might want to attend? How about a new baby born on your dock? Let us know what is happening in your neighborhood. If it seems interesting, write about it, or, let us know and we will write about it! Photos are encouraged, too.

Please send all of your submissions to Court Mast: court@mastphotography.com.



courtesy: The Taunton Press

New Book Profiles Floating Homes

by Larry Clinton

A recently-published book, “Pocket Neighborhoods, Creating Small-Scale Community in a Large-Scale World,” documents a broad array of compact communities across the USA, from urban neighborhoods to suburban and rural areas. One chapter is devoted to the Sausalito floating homes community, and features interviews with Larry Clinton of Gate 6-1/2 and Jim Woessner of Issaquah Dock, along with numerous color photos.

The author is architect Ross Chapin, who designed one of the pocket neighborhoods described in the book. Chapin also did most of the illustrations for the 220-page volume. Published by The Taunton Press, the book retails for \$30. For more information, including how to buy the book, go to: www.pocket-neighborhoods.net.

Flooring Recommendation

by Karin Mortensen

Living on a houseboat, my downstairs floor posed a stymieing problem for me for many years. Laminate was too vulnerable to water, hardwood would wrack and would not accommodate the irregularities of my floor. Paint had a damaged and defiant surface to adhere to. Ceramic tile would be too heavy and inflexible. Linoleum would be impossible to fit both because of the many nooks, crannies and angles and because the cramped space was filled with furniture (and no outside area for temporary placement). I had two hatches, as well.

Last winter I walked by a carpet store in San Rafael, and was drawn in by the beautiful examples of flooring laid out on their floor. I chose Karndean vinyl boards and tiles for the four areas, giving me an overall Mission color palette of umber, prussian, wheat and white. I could not be happier with the results. The installation team was meticulous, helpful and kindly.

I consider Karndean the best option for houseboats, both for beauty and pragmatics. This is an unsolicited testimonial from a very satisfied customer.



credit: Planet Solar

World’s largest solar-powered boat

submitted by Stan Barbarich

PlanetSolar's TÚRANOR - the world’s largest solar-powered boat - has been making waves in every corner of the globe. The Swiss-designed, German-built ship is powered by 5,380 square feet of solar panels, and it hopes to inspire the fuel-guzzling shipping industry by promoting renewable energy.

The deck of the catamaran is lined with solar paneling that extends over each side of the ship. Measuring around 101 feet long and 49 feet wide, PlanetSolar can comfortably transport 50 passengers to their desired ports of call. Since departing from Monaco on September 27, 2010, the ship has been circling the globe, from Miami to the Panama Canal, to the Philippines and now Hong Kong.

The solar sucking ship cost around \$26 million. This may seem hefty, but its reliance on solar power alone saves the vessel exponentially. The solar panels on PlanetSolar power two electric motors, which can reach 15 miles per hour. Combined with other renewable sources (wind) it could move even faster. The panels can also soak up enough stored energy to power the boat in cloudy weather for three days. The excess energy is stored in a giant lithium-ion battery.

PlanetSolar is keenly aware that the shipping industry alone is responsible for 4.5% of the world’s greenhouse gas emissions, according to the United Nations. Its world tour hopes to enlighten people around the world of the actual capabilities of solar power, that a renewable energy-run commercial vessel is not only possible, but extremely capable.

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Vice President	Flo Hoylman	332-1043	flohoy@gmail.com
Secretary	Hillair Bell	577-7220	hillair_michael@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Ron Moreland	332-2429	ron@morelandonline.com
Director at Large	Stan Barbarich	332-7225	stan@floatinghouse.net
Admin. Coordinator	Lewis Shireman	331-8325	LJShireman@sbcglobal.net

COMMITTEES

Emergency Services	Ray Dunaway	332-5548	rdunaw@attglobal.net
Environmental	Suki Sennett	331-6375	sennett24@comcast.net
Legal	Pam Bousquet	331-3614	pamafloat@earthlink.net
Membership	Jarl Forsman	(510) 866-5275	jarlforsman@hotmail.com
	Claudia Duncan	272-5002	duncanclaudia@sbcglobal.net
Newsletter Editor	Scott Stoneback	806-6083	scott@stonebackvp.com
Newsletter Submissions	Court Mast	302-5649	court@mastphotography.com
Classified Ads	Bonnie Hunter	302-5649	bonnieskip.hunter@comcast.net
Tour Directors	Ray & JoAnn Dunaway		joannunaway@e-msii.com
Webmaster	Ric Miller	331-6116	rick@floatinghome.com

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Kappas Residents (KHA) Liaison	Ron Moreland	332-2429 ron@morelandonline.com
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	(24 Hour Nightline)	300-6359
The Marine Mammal Center		289-7325

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Commodore	Felicity Kirsch	888-3919	felicity_kirsch@comcast.net
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Website: www.floatinghomes.org

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Liberty	David West	331-8188	dhw429@gmail.com
Alternate	Marti Roush	332-4398	martimarth@earthlink.net
Main Dock	Tony Williams	332-6296	tony@wolfisland.net
Alternate	Peter Huson	332-6240	peterhuson@att.net
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South Forty	Craig Merrilees	331-3558	craig@ilwu.org
Alternate	Susan Neri	332-8482	sneri@yahoo.com
West Kappas	Court Mast	331-1953	court@mastphotography.com
Alternate	Maggie Knibbs	324-7200	maggielknibbs@aol.com
Yellow Ferry	Craig Meyer	408-1421	linmeyer@juno.com
Alternate	Debra Levy	332-1803	cemginc@earthlink.net
Alternate	Jill Stephens	289-0410	jillstephens@gmail.com

GOVERNMENT

District 3 Supervisor	Kate Sears	473-7331
Assemblymember	Jared Huffman	479-4920
San Francisco	BCDC	352-3600
FEMA		800-462-9029
Army Corps of Engineers		332-0334
Sausalito Post Office		332-0258

Floating Homes Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 3054
Sausalito, CA 94966