President’s Message

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

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Vice President Marnie Tattersall 331-9629
Secretary Larry Clinton 332-4196
Treasurer (Temporary) Joan Marchal 332-4135
Directors at Large Ron Moreland 332-2429
Henry Baer 331-9220
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COMMITTEES

Emergency Services Marling Mast 331-1953
Environmental Sharon Reachof 332-5265
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Membership Committee Bev Clarke 331-8654
Newsletter Editor Larry Clinton 332-6196
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Tour Directors Jim/Eve Lubalin 332-4626
Web Site Ric Miller 331-4116
WPH Residents Stan Barbauch 332-7225

SERVICES

RRBA Harbor Administrator Bill Price 289-4143
Pager: 458-0833
San Francisco Baykeeper Hot Line 567-4401
Marin County Fire Dept.—Non Emergency 446-4463
Waldo Point Harbor Residents’ Committee met with WPH’s planner, Scott Hochstrasser and WPH’s newly hired parking consultant to provide feedback on parking. We are awaiting a follow-up meeting to learn more about the parking plan.

DOCK REPS

A Dock

—Alternate JoAnn Ponek 331-5702
—Commodore Sally Champa 331-1958
—Secretary Sue Hans 332-2602

Gate 6

—Alternate Tony Adams 332-5428
—Commodore Roy Grekin 332-6861
—Secretary Ian Lund 332-3844

Kappas East

—Alternate Ted Sempliner 331-7228
—Commodore Ron Moreland 332-2429

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—Secretary Lance Belville 289-0862

Issaquah

—Alternate Richard Mickley 332-4135
—Commodore Stephanie Burns 338-9081

Liberty

—Alternate Amy Perschuck 331-6324
—Secretary Nancy Noblett 332-7672

Mains

—Alternate Tony Williams 332-6296

Mays Harbor

—Alternate Pierre Vaillant 331-5483
—Commodore Gary Richardson 332-9050

South Forty

—Alternate Richard Holstein 331-5152
—Secretary Katie Danielson 331-3424

Yellow Ferry

—Alternate Jack Davis 332-5387
—Secretary Michael Korman 331-8926

GOVERNMENT

District 3 Supervisor

Annette Rose 499-7351

Assemblymember

Joe Nation 479-4290

SF BCDC

145-352-3600

FEMA

100-462-9029

Howard White Sausalito Post Office 332-0258

Website: www.floatinghomes.org

DOCK REPS

Kappas Marina

BCDC Permit Update

—Ron Moreland

While many of you have been following the trials and tribulations of WPH obtaining its BCDC permit renewal, you may have forgotten that Kappas Marina and Yellow Ferry Harbor must also obtain permit renewals.

We can report that Kappas has been working hard to obtain this permit. The first step in this process is filing a complete permit application. Unfortunately, filing an application that is acceptable to the BCDC can be extremely difficult. In fact, just listing all of the procedures, signatures and documentation necessary for a “complete” application would use up every square inch of the Floating Times. This can be attested to by the fact that Kappas has been working on this since 1992 to get everything done so the application can be filed.

In March of this year the BCDC advised WPH, Kappas and Yellow Ferry Harbors that they must have a complete application filed no later than September 1, 2001. Shortly thereafter Kappas and their attorneys met with BCDC staff to ensure they knew exactly what the BCDC wanted for the application to be complete. Kappas felt that meeting satisfied the BCDC’s requirements.

President’s Message

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CERT Training

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Summer Time and the Livin’ Ain’t Easy

—Suki Sennett

Your Floating Homes Association has been actively working on behalf of our community throughout the traditional vacation month of July and August. A whopping 76% of our residents are FHA members. Am I all time high, I believe.

The Ward Point Harbor Residents’ Committee met with WPH’s planner, Scott Hochstrasser and WPH’s newly hired parking consultant to provide feedback on parking. We are awaiting a follow-up meeting to learn more about the parking plan.

Good Crowds, Lots of Fun Expected for Tour

—Larry Clinton

As we went to press, about 1,100 tickets had been pre-sold for the September 30 Open Homes Tour, indicating that the turnout will be even greater than last year.

Tour directors Jim and Eve Lubalin of East Kappas have plans in place to manage both vehicle and foot traffic, and will limit the number of walkup tickets sold in any given hour to assure a smooth flow through-out the day.

Guided by maps and descriptive materi-

als, visitors will tour boats on seven docks, from Gate 6-1/2 to South Forty. As in the past, the boats have been split into North and South tours of 10 homes each. For those with walking difficulties, mini-tours will be available.

This year Kappas green will become the refreshment and entertainment center of the tour.

Friends of Marin City Library will sell hot dogs, sausages, and chips. The Sausalito Sausages Foundation will sell pastries and coffee. The Sausalito Cruising Club will sell soft drinks and water at Kappas, South 40, and Gate 6-1/2.

Live music will be performed through-out the day by the James Moseley Band.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)
A DRAWING OF YOUR HOUSEBOAT
Use it on your Christmas card and on invitations to your parties. This will be a real work of art by a published fine artist, Jane Chamberlin, who also lives on a Sausalito houseboat. Call 415-332-5999.

AMERICAN GENERAL FINANCE can provide loans for the purchase of floating homes, home improvements, travel or other purposes. Loans made pursuant to Calif. Dept. of Corporations Finance Lender’s License. Call Renee at 415-897-9522.

FREEBOARD OR STABILITY PROBLEMS???? County requires 15-18” between top of barge and water line. House not level? We install high density, hidden ballast and non-styrofoam sponsons. Subsea Coating Systems (415) 331-6333.

FREEBOARD SURVEY. Written report with repair recommendations for your concrete hull, mooring lines and mooring fixtures. Hull cleaning most homes $175. Subsea Coating Systems (415) 331-6333.

BUILD YOUR OWN HOME???
Details of the Community Development Plan, berth in local boatyard for new-build or remodeling projects. Excellent location. Rent by week or month. Crane available on site. Contact Wayne Licina @ 415-331-6333.

FINANCIAL BENEFITS CREDIT UNION.
The floating home lender, where Directors are floating home owners too! Purchase or refinances! Contact: Gail 510-433-9200 or visit our web site www.fincu.com.

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MAY 3-5, 1999
The Marina is the Place to Be
The Fairfield Room, SF Yacht Club, 1000 Hyde St.

TO PLACE A CLASSIFIED AD
To place an ad in this section, contact one of our classified sales representatives.

TUGTAPPERS quality meets online shopping convenience. Easy to use, and delivered directly to you. New specials every month. Visit us at mytugtappars.com or mytugtappars.com.

TO VIEW A CLASSIFIED AD
Call Renee Jahneke, Classified Manager at (415) 331-1677. To view an ad, give the number and section of the ad. Lines. Cost is $30 for six issues.

SOUTH FORTY
PROBLEMS???
County requires 15-18” between top of barge and water line. House not level? We install high density, hidden ballast and non-styrofoam sponsons. Subsea Coating Systems (415) 331-6333.

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When The Sky Falls In You’d Better Be Prepared

Did you know that in a disaster like the Loma Prieta earthquake, or the Oakland fire that destroyed 5000 homes, or the Innocence Floods of 1982—and we are on our only fire department? The local fire and rescue services can't handle it. Did you know that during the summer months, Marin City has only five fire engines available to put out fires, and in the winter just three? Or that there are no emergency shelters or emergency food available to aid the newly homeless in our area?

Although every city is required by law to have an Emergency Preparedness Committee and an emergency plan in place, the county has only a plan for police and fire personnel. It is to assess the damage and make appropriate calls for assistance. The reason is the local emergency plan must have community involvement. Our Marin City fire department has tried for the last ten years to muster community involvement — without success. So, if there’s an area wide disaster, and you’re stuck under a collapsed beam in your sinking boat, you’re on your own. You can only hope someone will rescue you soon.

An Unparalleled Opportunity in CERT

You can help yourself and our community. We have an unparalleled opportunity to take part in CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) training offered by the County of Marin and Marin City. The CERT program is the brainchild of the City of San Francisco. It was designed by Southern Marin fire departments. A few dock residents are already taking classes that focus on building skills for community emergency situations.

Each trainee will receive a comprehensive CERT manual, a helmet and a vest identifying him or her as CERT trained, plus a certificate. (We could proudly wear it while we protect our family and our neighbors in case of the emergency we all wish would never happen. That’s what community is all about. Check with your local CERT group to see if they are offering classes this fall.)

Check with us to see if your neighborhood is covered.

Earthquake

Fire prevention, suppression, home preparedness

Emergency actions

Tiurge (who to care for first)

First aid

Emergency team action

Disaster simulation

There will be lots of hands-on training, and for those of you who are squeamish it doesn't require much mouth to mouth resuscitation. The next session is scheduled for this Fall. If you miss a session, you can make it up in future courses. These 10 hour courses are given four times a year, January, March, June and October.

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Commodore Marina Gets New Piling

Commodore Marina, with its eleven floating homes, dates back to at least the 1960s before the days when the Grateful Dead used the marina buildings as a studio. Apparently, many of the pilings were there even then. A number of them were very rotten with daylights showing through and others with sizable gaps in holes. In recent years some have broken at the waterfront in storms, necessitating temporary mooring to alternative pilings. In one case the jury-rigged mooring meant tying the lines around and over the dock itself.

The marina owner, Steve Price, hired Les Shorter Jr. to replace more than a dozen pilings before winter weather arrives. Les, former of Western Dock and now Mas Agua, was able to secure the use of a giant barge and crane to move the crane close enough, one boat, belonging to Phil Holt, needed to be pushed out – and promptly ran aground. It remained out of its berth two days until the crane was finally moved away. From that berth the pile driver could not reach the piling to replace it. This left the residents with nowhere to moor their boats. Residents of the dock brought chains to sit and watch as “dockside superintendents”——damn, nobody brought margaritas.

Some homeowners replaced lines or re-tied old ones in good shape while others hired experienced help in re-mooring their boats. Brandon Tire in San Rafael had a major run on junked tires and various ways are being used to keep them floating around pilings. Most of us use styrofoam or sprayed insulation foam. Because styrofoam eventually breaks down, Ernie Hubbard is planning to use a partially inflated truck inner tube inside the tire.

As of this writing only two of the less deteriorated pilings are still on the to-be-replaced list. and we, at Commodore, are feeling much safer about our mooring and future storms.

— Melia Daily

Kotan piling about to be pulled out of the mud. Photo: Melia Daily

Getting New Piling for the pilot. Photo: Noel Keys

Safep Check

List: Winter Preparation

We’ve had easier winters the last three years, but you knows if mild weather will come without preparing for wind, rain, high tides and lots to do. Living on water requires more vigilance against water expense, living on land.

Check your attachments. First look at the steel plate bolted into your barge that attaches collars or eye bolts for lines. If the bolts are rusty, scrape and paint them. This is especially important if you have lines that attach to a single eyebolt. Rust and metal fatigue are often hard to spot and can result in line breakage during a heavy storm.

Check where the collar is attached to your boat and, if it is attached to the side of your boat, reinforce it. A bad storm can rip collars out from wood attachments and the boat will sink. It happens.

Check your lines. Black polypropylene line has better protection from U.V. light and, therefore, lasts longer than the yellow polypropylene line. Check for fraying, especially at attachment points. A hairy appearance indicates fiber breakdown.

Check where the collar is attached to your boat and, if it is attached to the side of your boat, reinforce it. A bad storm can rip collars out from wood attachments and the boat will sink. It happens.

Check the length of your lines. Floats and small boats attached to movable moorings can have fairly short lines, but be sure they are secure. In the big 1996 storm, Richardson Bay was filled with floats and small boats. Check that lines attached to stationary pilings are long enough that they float your boat under water at very high tides. Check your knot. If you need help, consult the ads in the Floating Times classified section.

Check your pilings at the lowest possible tide. Little bugs eat pilings at their bases. It may be no problem yet, but a big storm will pull the boat out of the water.

Check siding for cracks and open joint spaces. Re-Crack or re-side where necessary. Check for windows leaks for broken putty, cracked wood.

Check your roof for leaks around flashings.

Check roof jacks, air and sewer vents. Be sure the area is clear of any leaking.

Check planter boxes, hanging plants etc. Re-varnish outside wood to keep it safe from rotting.

— Melia Daily

Kotan piling about to be pulled out of the mud. Photo: Melia Daily

Getting New Piling for the pilot. Photo: Noel Keys

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Trailer piling with the new crane. Photo: Noel Keys

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Getting New Piling for the pilot. Photo: Noel Keys
A wonderful large tile mermaid beckoned us to A Dock where we met Bill and Judy Caetano. The mural which graces the side of their home is in the likeness of Judy and was a surprise gift from her adoring hubby.

Bill is a local boy destined to come home to Marin and the water. “All my planets are in Earth,” he says. “I needed a view of the water.” He had been away for years and had come back to settle down and buy a place. His memory of the houseboat community was a bunch of mud flats, but his rector convinced him to look at a float- ing home. When he saw it, he said, “It’s half as charming on the inside as it is on the outside. I’ll take it! And to be on top of the water and not just have a view of it... well, I bought it. And he says he’s here to stay. “Bag me and tag me. That’s the only way I’m leaving.” And we believe him.

Their home is wonderful. They are a delight. And what story tellers they are! Unfortunately we can’t print any of the stories they told us!!

As we looked around at all the stunning rich colors and tasty designs, Bill told us that he attributes it all to Judy. “When I moved here in 1989 the previous owner had run out of heart and money at the same time. I left it like it was. Then Judy came into my life.”

It seems Bill and Judy were destined to meet. Judy is a Hollywood gal... born and brought up there and used to the good life. Bill is from San Rafael, but lived in Sport Beach for a while (only three blocks from Judy at the time, but their paths never crossed). He moved to Malibu, and Judy used to drive past his home and wonder who lived there, she admired it. She was managing a men’s clothing store at the time, and had a knack for helping her female clients pick out nice things for their men... (Imagine the surprise when the first time she peeked into Bill’s clos- et she spotted the burnt orange velour hip huggers she had picked out for one of her client’s boyfriends!)

Yes, it was meant to be... Judy had been single for many years before she found her way to the bay area and decided to make a mil- lion bartending. It was then that Bill discovered his mermaid. He had been fishing for just as many years and wasn’t about to let this beauty get away.

Judy was new on the job when Bill spotted her behind the bar in a local restaurant. Even though she had been to bartending school, she wasn’t familiar with their computerized system and was really rattled. She was running back and forth, charming the customers, and she said that she kept hearing this annoying adding machine noise and couldn’t figure out what it was. Then she looked up and saw about six servers standing there. “Hi guys!” she said, only to be greeted by silent faces. That’s when it dawned on her that the noise had been the computer sending her their orders! As Bill sat at his table and watched her antics, he decided that she was the girl for him. So he went to the bar and talked to her for an hour. She thought he was a nice guy, but figured he was way too fluffy for her as he was a banker. Then he threw out one of his best lines. “I’m your guy,” he said. “I’m where the rubber meets the road.” “And you know what?” she says. “He was right!” She fell for him hook line and sinker.

Judy was at a low tide in her life. So when he asked her out, she agreed. Bill figured that even if you’re an ax murderer, as long as you know someone that a Hollywood gal would date, you’re OK. When Judy told Bill she was worried about her next career, Bill said to her, “When you get used to the salary, you’ll get used to the lifestyle.” Judy told him she had $500 worth of clothes and a great personality. “But, that’s all she needed. And it was bankers aweigh!”

Most policies have a co-insurance clause so if you are underinsured, you need help deciding values, or have recently lost her beloved golden retriever, Remington. His final days cost her a great deal of money, so friends are gathering contributions to help Dianne defray some of the costs. If you’d like to contribute, contact Bev Clarke at 331-8654.

Since replacement cost of floating homes has increased considerably over the past few years, we recommend that you review your insurance policy. You don’t have to wait until renewal to update your protection, as the additional premium would be provided. Depending upon quality of con- structation, the estimated replacement cost for floating homes is $175 to $250 per square foot. The high end would be a houseboat with custom kitchen and baths, Corian, slate, or marble counters, special windows, custom wall coverings, hardboard or tile floors, skylights, custom fireplaces, built-in custom cabinets, etc.

To arrive at an approximate replacement cost figure, take the square footage of living space times the approximate price per square foot to replace the houseboat. Then take the square footage of your deck, multiply by $125 per square foot and add these figures together for a replacement estimate.

How Much Insurance Is Enough?

By any other name: Kappas Marin has changed the name of its yacht har- bor to Richardson Bay Marina. Harbormaster Ken Watsky assures us that noth- ing will change relative to the floating homes marina. When toads fly: If you didn’t hear humming toadfish this summer, consider- yourself lucky. As proof they’re around, a blue heron dropped one on Gate 6- 1/2 recently, and I got a shot of the little devil before throwing him back in the water (hope he didn’t attach himself to your bulk?!) Annie does Big Pink: Five whimsical watercolors by Issaquah resident Annie Sutter are on display at Supervisor Annette Rose’s office in the Marin County Civic Center... Annie also writes a regular column for MarinScope on the Sausalito waterfront. Topping Mt. Tam: Carl Lunsford of Gate 6-1/2 looked out his window one day recently to see the Goodyear Blimp cruising over Mt. Tam. Here’s his shot of the historic occasion.

Winning kazoo band carries Floating Homes banner, just behind an old Plymouth coupe owned by Donna McConnell of Yellow Ferry Harbor. Photo: DONNA MCCONNELL

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