



CBCA

Chuckanut Bay Community Association

Summer 2021

chuckanut news



CHUCKANUT BAY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



THIS

JULY 31ST

WITH THE PENNY STINKERS

..... CICHITTI'S PIZZA

***** CHUCKANUT FIREHALL PARKING LOT • 4 TO 7 PM *****

Washington State Covid policy at the time of the event will apply. We expect that attendees who have not been vaccinated will be asked to wear a mask, unless they are seated at a table eating.

Save The Date: October 6, 2021

As part of our return to pre-Covid normalcy, CBCA is planning to hold its fall general membership meeting at the Firehall on Wednesday, 6 October from 5.30 to 7 pm. At this point we also plan to have our annual Chili Cook-

off that night. And, we will be electing CBCA officers and Board members for next year.

Check the CBCA web page for details as we get closer to October: <http://chuckanutcommunity.org>

Expect the Unexpected

By Brian Orlick

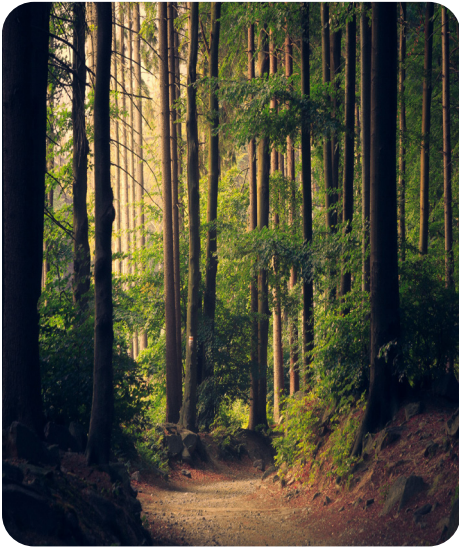
We live in a beautiful and geologically unique part of the state and country with heavily-forested hillsides and beautiful views of the Salish Sea and the peak of the Mt Baker volcano from the top of Chuckanut Mountain. However, limited road access north and south, combined with aging bridges and steep hillsides, could isolate our community from vital services for a long time after a large Cascadia earthquake. Old bridges could collapse, landslides could block Chuckanut Drive, and tsunami inundation could swamp the Skagit Flats. Furthermore, Whatcom County's Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan categorizes our community as having a medium-to-high Wildland Urban Interface — also known as houses in heavily wooded areas.

Such a large natural disaster could profoundly affect our community, and thus we must to be prepared for such an event. It is recommended that households have food, water, and vital supplies on hand to get them through at least two weeks of isolation. Neighbors should help out neighbors. Our small Chuckanut Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) will respond to the best of its ability, but could quickly get overwhelmed. We are always looking for new team members!

For further reading on any of these subjects, visit the websites of the Whatcom County Sheriff's Office, to include the 2021 Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan, Whatcomready.org/cert, the Washington State Division of Natural Resources Geologic Hazards section, and Firewise USA at nfpa.org. To learn about the Cascadia Subduction Zone, try the fascinating 2011 book, *Cascadia's Fault: The Coming Earthquake and Tsunami that Could Devastate North America*, by Jerry Thompson.

Take a Hike

By Michelle Terney



We are truly blessed to live in such a beautiful place. The Chuckanut area offers an extensive network of trails and scenic places to explore. Most of us live within walking distance or a short drive to these popular trails in our community.

Interurban Trail

The Interurban Trail connects Fairhaven with Larrabee State Park, running adjacent to Chuckanut Drive most of the way. The multi-use trail can be accessed at multiple locations. The old railroad corridor offers a wide, mostly level trail enjoyed by dog walkers, hikers, joggers, bicyclists and horse riders.

Fragrance Lake

Directly across from Larrabee State Park entrance, you'll find the trailhead to Fragrance Lake. The Fragrance Lake trail is relatively steep and takes you through beautiful forest as switchbacks zig and zag uphill. Eventually, you will reach a small junction with a smaller trail that leads to a view looking over Samish Bay and the San Juan Islands. Keep walking to find a quick downhill section before arriving at Fragrance Lake. Enjoy the mirror views of the lake. As you walk around the lake, you'll see plenty of small bridges and fascinating rock formations to admire.

Larrabee State Park

Larrabee State Park is Washington's first state park. Larrabee is a camp-

ing park with saltwater shoreline on Samish Bay. The park offers hiking-only trails, biking-only trails, and multi-user trails (hiker/biker/horse).

Clayton Beach

A nice short trail to the beach just south of the Larrabee Park entrance. Parking at the Lost Lake parking lot.

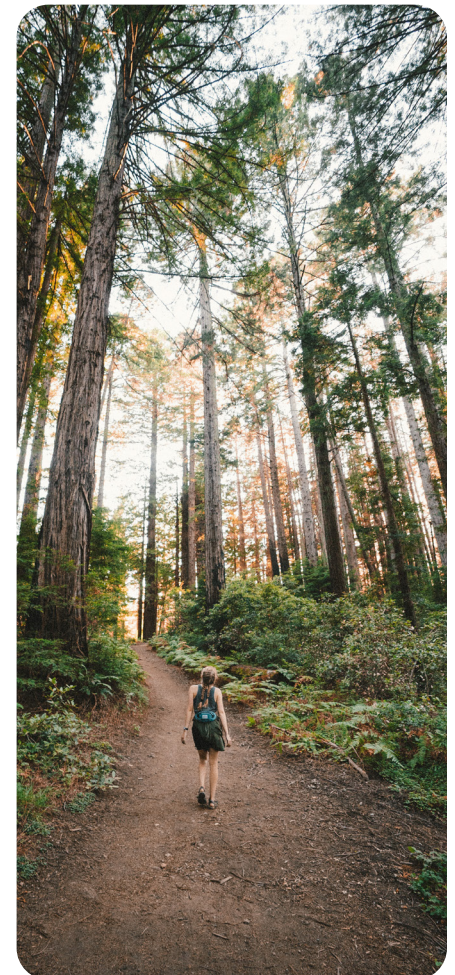
A few trail etiquette reminders:

1. Keep dogs on leash and under control
2. Use waste bags to remove your dog's poop
3. When dog and owner meet other trail users, dog and owner must yield the right-of-way to allow other users to pass without worrying about "getting sniffed"
4. When dog meets horse, the dog owner must make sure the dog is under control and stays calm as so not to "spook" the horse
5. When hikers meet other trail users, it's easier for the hikers to move slightly off the trail to allow bicyclists, joggers or horse riders to pass
6. When hikers meet other hikers, the group heading uphill has the right-of-way
7. If you approach a trail user from behind, as a courtesy let them know you are there by saying "to your right" or "to your left"
8. Pick up litter. Pack it in, pack it out

9. Stay on trails, obey rules specific to the trail you're visiting, and practice minimum impact

10. Avoid disturbing wildlife, leave all natural creatures, objects or features as you found them for others to enjoy

Happy trails!



It's Never Too Late By Rob Scofido

Time sure flies, doesn't it? I was just reminded of an old Facebook post where I hiked the Oyster Dome trail with my sons and one of their friends a few years back and now one son is working for Penta Construction as a Construction Engineer, another son graduated from Sehome HS last month, and my older son's friend is getting married this summer! As we look back at our lives and perhaps think 'what might have been' or the events never tried, we may think it's too late for anything new.

But that's not necessarily true. Scientists are saying that people are living longer, healthier lives, and if we are fortunate enough to retain our health, we may benefit! While I'm not trying to 'toot my own horn,' as my mother would say, here are some of the things I've recently done or, good Lord willing, plan to do in the next several months.

Although originally from Buffalo, NY, I had never, ever skied — although it looked fun. We later lived near Big Bear,

CA, and its ski resorts in the early 2000's, but I never thought to learn. The lure of skiing was never far away, and moving to Bellingham in '14 under the shadow of Mount Baker rekindled my desire to learn. My sons had learned to snowboard and ski, and finally, at the age of 58, I thought, now is the time. Nearly four years later, after some lessons, the help of patient friends, and some time on the hill, I've finally graduated to some of Baker's black diamond runs. I'll never be a great (or even good) skier, but now feel comfortable on most runs on the mountain. Sure, I spent a lot of time careening into various snow banks at what I thought was high speed, but eventually got the hang of controlling my skis.

Next, if all goes well, I'll summit Mount Baker at the end of July (right during the summer CBCA social!) with the help of a local touring agency. I love seeing majestic Mount Baker on the horizon, and being able to say 'I've been up to the top' will be a nice feeling. The climb is rated 'Easy to Moderate,' so almost anyone

with the desire and drive to get in shape can do the same. Of course, I'll never summit Everest (or the rest of the summits) like local climber David J. Mauro, but just reaching the top of Mount Baker will be a thrill.

What do you think? We are blessed to live in a place that has an abundance of outdoor activities you can learn to do. We have an ocean, lakes, and mountains on which to learn a new craft. Examples include kayaking, canoeing, hiking, golf — you name it. Perhaps you want to try your hand at mountain biking, sky diving, snow shoeing, rock wall climbing, or hang gliding. Now is the time. Local facilities and instructors can ensure you safely get off on the right foot. If you have the desire to try something new, don't let your age stop you. Pickle Ball, now that is something I want to try. See you out on the courts!



A Paddleboarder's Perspective By Ava Larson

Editor's Note: Ava is a young Chuckanut resident who has started her own business, Wildcat Cove Paddle.

Paddling along the shoreline in Chuckanut Bay provides many beautiful views. The geology of our area is rich in history, from sandstone formations with fossils to wind and sea-swept rocks. The intertidal zone between land and sea features things like barnacles, limpets, mussels, and crabs. Other paddling wildlife sightings include schools of fish, seals, Dall's porpoises, and many bird species.

Stand-up paddling enables one to stand high above the water and have a unique underwater vista. I've recently noticed a resurgence of sea stars clinging to rocks underwater this way.

When the water quality is good, it is easy to get a great view of the diverse ecosystem right below the surface.

My favorite paddling route leaves the Larrabee State Park Boat Launch in Wildcat Cove. It follows the shoreline north, passing

the soon-to-be-developed Governors Point and heads toward and around Chuckanut Island. It is worth a paddle trip out to the point soon to soak in this untouched peninsula before building begins one day before we know it.

The Cyrus Gates Memorial Preserve on Chuckanut Island is a heaven for spotting nesting birds like our beloved eagles. Seals often sun themselves atop rocks near the shore. This is an excellent spot to get out and stretch your legs before your paddling journey back. Please follow all posted rules and leave no trace as you depart.

It's a lovely time of year to get out into the bay, no matter the chosen vessel. Remember to carry or wear a personal floatation device and whistle, and add a white light if you go out after dark.

Happy Paddling!

CBCA Assessment of the One-Year Trial of the Flock Camera System

By Bob Earl

In March 2020, the membership of CBCA voted to approve a one-year trial of a neighborhood security camera system to help calm traffic on Chuckanut Drive (vehicles passing illegally and speeding dangerously – i.e., more than 20 mph over the 40 mph speed limit). The Flock Camera system, which has a license plate reader, was installed along Chuckanut and became operational on July 13, 2020.

The camera itself is not able to determine the speed of a vehicle. Instead, our system relies on reports from residents of illegal passing or dangerous speeding. With the time and location of the observed infraction, the camera footage (initiated by a motion detector on the camera) can be searched for the offending vehicle. If unambiguous correlation to a vehicle is found and the camera is able to read the license plate, a report of the incident is forwarded to the Washington State Patrol. Although the State Patrol is unable to use our information for a citation, they send a letter to the owner of the vehicle, reporting what was observed, and, in effect, telling them to “knock it off.”

During the first five months of camera op-

eration, residents observed and reported 42 vehicles that were speeding and/or passing. Of these, 10 vehicles (24%) were reported to the State Patrol. Some vehi-



cles had no license plates, front or rear. Motorcycles only have license plates on the rear, and they are considerably smaller than car license plates (harder to capture legibly in a photo). And, changing lighting conditions can affect the ability to decipher a license plate in a photograph. Thus, we were not always able to identify a license plate number, which the State Patrol needed in order to identify the owner of the vehicle.

Initially, we were quite conservative in what we reported to the State Patrol. We were experimenting with various camera parameters and learning the strengths

and weaknesses of the system. With this experience we were able to improve effectiveness. During the second five months of camera operation, residents observed and reported 46 vehicles that were speeding and/or passing. Of these, 35 vehicles (76%) were reported to the State Patrol.

To summarize, during the first 10 months of the 12-month trial, residents observed and reported 88 speeding and/or passing vehicles, and 45 of them (51%) were reported to the State Patrol. More than 30 State Patrol letters have been sent to the owners of these vehicles. The State Patrol has been very cooperative and helpful during this period, increasing their presence along Chuckanut and keeping a lookout for vehicles that were described, but license plate information was not available.

In addition to the vehicle speeding / passing problem, the Flock Camera system has at times been helpful in other community security applications. For example, several months ago we were able to help the FBI and local law enforcement when they were trying to identify vehicles that they suspected were associated with efforts to short circuit (and possibly derail trains on) the County’s railroad tracks. We have supported other law enforcement efforts by the Whatcom County Sheriff’s Department. And, we even supported a local resident with a missing person event.

As we come to the end of the one-year trial, the question we now have is whether it is worth continuing the effort for a second year, or whether we should merely return the camera system to the manufacturer. It is hard to know whether the 30+ State Patrol letters have been effective as a deterrent against dangerous driving on Chuckanut. Some of those vehicles were from



out of our local area, and may be unlikely to return to Chuckanut in any case. But, we have not seen any repeat offenders (whether local or from out of town) receiving a State Patrol letter. Thus, the camera system arguably has had some deterrent value.

Whether this deterrent value is “cost effective” is even harder to assess. The cost of the one-year trial was \$2,900 (including initial installation). The company has offered us a second year for \$1,500 since they would not have to install a new system, but would simply continue supporting the current system.

The CBCA Board considered the issue at a Zoom meeting on 25 May. Board members expressed support for continuing the Flock camera system for a second year. But, instead of using CBCA funds for the second year, the Board felt that “crowd funding” would be the appropriate funding mechanism — the same way that CBCA funded the Quiet Zone at Yacht Club Road a few years ago.

Thus, residents who are interested in supporting the continuation of the Flock Camera system for a second year are encouraged to send a voluntary contribution of \$100 to CBCA (PO Box 4403, Bellingham, WA 98227), marked for the Flock Camera system. If we receive more than the \$1,500 plus tax needed, we will prorate the unneeded funds back to contributors. Alternatively, contributors may opt to donate the difference to CBCA as a charitable contribution. **Please send your contribution by 12 July** so that we have time to arrange continuation with the camera company. (Alternatively, an email or text of your pledge by that date would be appreciated.)

If you have any questions about the camera system or the funding plan, please call, text, or email Bob Earl at 360-393-3415 or bobearl@aol.com.

Got IT Experience?

CBCA is looking for resident volunteers with IT experience who would be willing to help maintain and upgrade the CBCA Web Site.

If interested, please call, email, or text Bob Earl at 360-393-3415 or bobearl@aol.com.

No Matter How Difficult Life May Seem, There Can Be Hope, Part Two, 2021

By Steve Webber-Plank

(Let's) Bring back that loving feeling, is a line in the lyrics from the 1964 pop number, “You’ve Lost That Loving Feeling,” written by Phill Spector, Barry Mann and Cynthia Well and recorded that year by the Righteous Brothers in December, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uOnYY9Mw2Fg> using Spector’s “Wrecking Crew” and his “Wall of Sound” technique.

Many other famous singers -- Folk, Pop, Country -- have had their turn at interpreting the lyrics, and a big favorite of mine is a later Daryl Hall & John Oates 1980 recording. During Elvis Presley’s Comeback period beginning in 1968, he included his version in the 1970 10-track LP Album, “That’s the way it is.” The King passed in 1977.

Now, I know it’s quite possible that many of the gentle readers of this newsletter were not born yet or were of too tender an age to remember. Don’t fret, this thread will be made clear soon. Though I’m betting that there are a lot of CBCA residents who do remember this post-war period of the great transitional music of the early ’50’s thru the ’60’s.

It might be possible, if you weren’t listening by the early ’70’s, you might have seen the 1986 movie Top Gun, when this iconic song about the consequences of feelings lost played a big part in the catch of Kelly McGillis by Tom Cruise in that Navy bar in San Diego.

Tom’s tonality was slightly off key when compared to another big favorite of mine, Joan Baez, who sang with Phill Spector on the piano in the 1966 Big TNT show. Baez was way out of her element, but she had no trouble hitting all the high notes, and just a few nights ago Baez accepted her Kennedy Honors, along with country singer Garth Brooks, among other talented artists.

Last year, you may remember I wrote about Andrea Bocelli: Music For Hope. This year I’ve toned it down and I’m



counting on additional hope for 2021.

“Bring back that lovin’ feelin’
‘Cause it’s gone, gone, gone”

Sometime in March of ’20 we lost it and after a long 14 months of confinement many of us wonder, can it return? I missed our impromptu card games with friends and neighbors, a spur of the moment dash to the grocery and trips to the hardware store, my barber, movie theaters and packed restaurants. No trips to Canada to visit the in-laws. No Christmas or Thanksgiving with my kids in Bend and Pittsburgh. Last year our CBCA did not have a Summer Social. No Winter soup exchange or Fall Chili Cook-off.

I was busy, however. Doubled down on the exercise, walked 1200 miles, skied 30 days, participated in 50 hours of intense indoor biking and in May finally took the mountain bike outdoors. Lots of zooming, both personal, business and health. It wasn’t a total washout. An early vaccine completed by February allowed a three-week ski trip to Colorado with a warmup week in Arizona on the way home. Close, vaccinated neighbors began to slowly expand their bubble, and warmer early spring weather made it possible to get together with others who were vaccinated. There’s a promise

that the Washington State economy will fully open by June 30 and talk about a Canadian reopening by the 4th!

The question for us is, can we do more? Can we Bring it (on) Back? How do we transition from the rigors of the strict social distancing requirements to a pre-Covid social calendar? This is not an easy task in my opinion, but we can start by coming to the CBCA's summer social at the Firehouse on July 31.

vGenerally we mail out over 380 newsletters to local residents of the Bay. Typically we have between 150 - 190 paid members. If you have not renewed or if CBCA has not been on your donation list in the past few years, please consider meeting you neighbors at the Firehall this July and if you want, as your CBCA Treasurer, I can enroll you for the 2021 season at the event's sign-in desk. I look forward to seeing all of you there.

“So bring it on back, so bring it on back
Bring it on back, bring it on back
Bring back that lovin' feelin'
Whoa, that lovin' feelin'”

CERT Reactivation By Bob Earl

Now that we're emerging from our year-long Covid hibernation, CBCA is "reactivating" our CERT (Community Emergency Response Team). In early August — tentatively Saturday, 7 August at 2 pm — the Chuckanut CERT will meet at the FireHall for a couple of hours of refresher training.

The Chuckanut CERT is intended to protect our community during a disaster, such as a major earthquake. We plan for "self sufficiency" in a worst-case scenario where Chuckanut Drive may be closed by landslides both north and south of us, completely isolating us by road for days or even weeks. The team has stockpiled food, water, and medical supplies at the

FireHall, which would become our community "triage center" in such an emergency. We also have a HAM radio there that could be our communications link to the "outside world" if power, phone lines, and cell phone towers are all down in a major earthquake.

If you are interested in supporting our CERT volunteers, please join us during this training session to learn more about CERT and how you might help (whether you enroll in the County CERT training course or not). The more familiar and experienced members of our community can become, the better off we will be if faced with a natural or manmade disaster.



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