

CHUCKANUT NEWS



CBCA Summer Social

Saturday, 16 July 2022 4 to 7 pm
 Chuckanut Firehall parking lot
 The Penny Stinkers Band
 Cicchitti's Pizza Ice Cream Fun

All Chuckanut residents welcome!

“Lucky We Live Chuckanut”

by Chet Richardson

Six years ago, I retired from my job in Hawaii and moved to Chuckanut Bay. Residents of Hawaii have long had a saying: “lucky we live Hawaii.” Well, the same saying applies to us here.

Although I have only lived here full time for six years, I have been visiting the area frequently for over 22 years. My cousin is a longtime resident of Chuckanut and in the past I used

her home as a base camp from which I embarked on a number of backpacking trips. After spending 20 years in Hawaii, I knew that I wanted to retire on the mainland in a place just as beautiful as Hawaii and with easy access to outdoor activities. The choice was easy – Bellingham, and the best part of Bellingham is right here on Chuckanut Bay.

I don't have to convince you of the wonder and beauty of Chuckanut – you see it every day. But do you realize that the magic of Chuckanut is not just its beauty? A significant part of it is the friendliness and sense of community of the people here, which has as much impact as the physical beauty. I was recently reminded of this the other day when I was walking my dog along Chuckanut Shore Road. A car stopped next to me and the couple inside mentioned that they had just moved to Bellingham from Everett and were exploring the area for the first time. Unsolicited, they commented that the biggest (pleasant) surprise was how friendly people were in Fairhaven and along Chuckanut Drive. This friendly atmosphere convinced them that relocating to this area was the right choice for them.

This example is a reminder that we need to be goodwill ambassadors of our neighborhood and recognize that how we interact with other people can have a real impact. Not everyone can move to and live in Chuckanut – nor would we want our beautiful spot in the world to become overcrowded – but we can still share the joy and wonder of Chuckanut with those who happen to cross our paths.

CBCA Web Site:

Chuckanutcommunity.org

“Seismophobia” by Steve Webber-Plank

Living along the Cascadia Fault zone might cause some of us a sleepless night or two. Maybe even create a phobia.

I'm sleeping just fine because of my experience with earthquakes. They are embedded in my family tree as well as my personal experiences in the Southland. But I will admit to having a bout or two of Lilapsophobia....

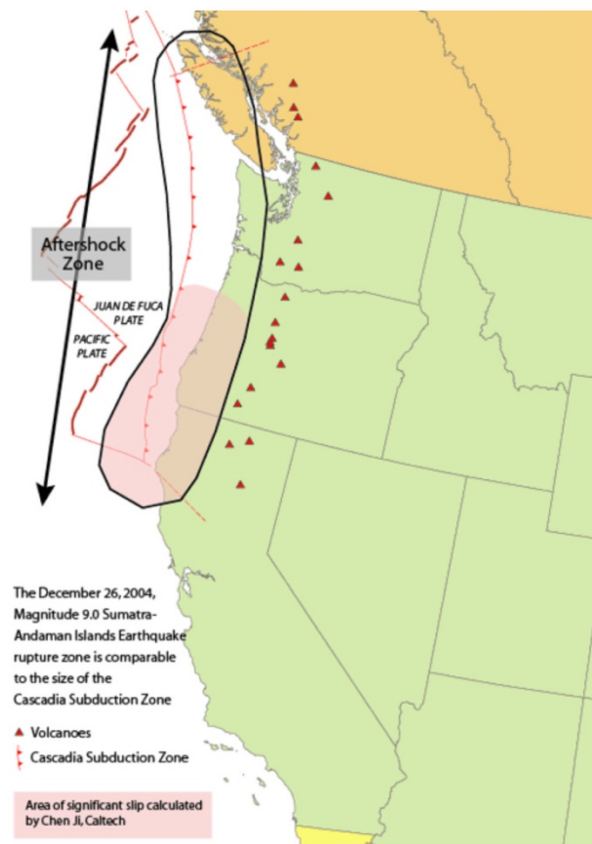
On March 10, 1933, the Inglewood fault ruptured with a Magnitude of 6.4 resulting in a death toll of 120 souls in Long Beach, CA. My Mom and her sister, who were both at home, were terrified when the fault let go at 5:54 PM. But each had a different reaction that affected her future. My Aunt left So Cal as a WAC in WWII. When the WAC program was disbanded, she transferred to the US Navy and thence to Japan during the American post-war Occupation. I often wondered how she reconciled that with her fear of quakes. She never returned to the US except for brief periods, as she worked in the Arabian Peninsula and Vietnam until retirement in S. Carolina in the mid '70's – far, far away from any active fault zone.

As my Mom stayed in So Cal, I experienced many rollers and became inured to the earth's movement. Although I was getting worried when the Landers Quake, a 7.6 M, went through the house like a freight train in 1992 at five in the morning. It was followed by the 6.5 M Big Bear rip at 8 AM which actually was closer and more violent. Fun morning. But I stayed on and didn't leave till 2005.

My point here is that very large earthquakes are infrequent in the lower 48 and the damage has a lot to do with our geology, depth of rupture, and building codes. Of the 30 largest US quakes since the 1800s ranging from 7.3 M to 9.2 M, all the 8.0 and above have been in Alaska. None in Washington or Oregon. The Last Cascadia Fault rupture was in the year

1700. Within the last 10,000 years, quakes at the level of 9.0 M have occurred every 526 years or 19 times. There have been 19 additional quakes of 8.0 M in the Southern CSZ (Cascadia Subduction Zone), Nor Cal and Oregon. I am not purchasing any beachfront property in Oregon.

So, these are statistics and they don't necessarily mean there won't be an impact on our property or lifestyle. A USGS simulation of a 9.0 CSZ rupture indicated that Bellingham could experience the equivalent of a 7.0 M shake and depending on your geology within Puget Sound, there could be some real damage. Chuckanut Bay folks live in a zone where the Cascades reach the Sound, and generally we are on a sandstone base, not granite. I have no idea how the sandstone will weather The Big One! So, trust but verify, as they say.



Cascadia subduction zone

Make a plan, be prepared.

CBCA has a plan, members of the community work our plan thru bi-annual CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) drills.

Get to know your neighbors.

In the event of the big one, you should expect landslides on Chuckanut Dr, disruption of water, power, phones (both landline and cell) and cable TV. Trees could fall damaging real property. The 911 emergency call system may be inaccessible / inoperative. Depending on breadth of damage County and State wide, first responders may not be able to get to Chuckanut for days or even weeks.



Our immediate responsibility will be to ourselves, family and neighbors in that general order. Once our houses are secured, we are planning for a community response at the firehouse where some first aid supplies, water and food are stored.

Need a Plan: You can sign up for free with *LA Times* for “UNSHAKEN”, no pay wall. I have found this to be a great resource.

https://membership.latimes.com/newsletters/?utm_id=30734 or contact me and I'll send you a copy.

Our CERT link can get you started as well:
<https://www.ready.gov/plan>

Linda's Hearty Chicken Vegetable Soup

by Linda Earl

Ingredients

Yellow Onion, Chopped
2 Tblsp. Olive oil
Water, 6 cups or more as needed
5 Carrots, sliced in rounds
1 Zucchini, sliced lengthwise, then in slices
3 Celery Stalks, sliced
3 Garlic Cloves, diced
2" Ginger, peeled and sliced thin
Great Northern Beans, 2 cans, rinsed & drained
2 Lemons, juiced and pulp
2 Cups Orange Juice or 4 juiced oranges w/ pulp
White Corn, either frozen or canned
Kale, several leaves torn into bite-sized pieces
Rotisserie chicken or sautéed chicken breasts (three breasts, sliced into small pieces)

Sauté onion in olive oil in a large pot. Add water, juices, beans, and ginger. Steam celery, carrots, and zucchini in the microwave, three minutes for each vegetable, and add to pot without draining. Add corn. Add kale. Remove rotisserie chicken from bone and add to pot, or sauté breasts in olive oil with the onion and add to pot. Taste for flavor. No need to add salt or pepper, but sometimes I add 2 tablespoons of Sweet Sriracha Miso Sauce and 2 tablespoons of Thai premium fish sauce if I want a bit of Thai flavor.



Flock Camera Renewal by Bob Earl

Two years ago CBCA initiated a trial program to help reduce the illegal passing and speeding that occurs all too frequently on Chuckanut Drive: the Flock Safety camera system, which is a license plate reader along Chuckanut. When a resident observes a vehicle passing illegally or speeding egregiously (say, 60+ mph) anywhere on Chuckanut, the time/date and location of the event can be emailed, messaged, or phoned to me. If we can correlate this information to a particular vehicle's picture on the Flock camera system, we send a report of the infraction and a picture of the vehicle to the State Patrol for action.



While it is impossible to determine exactly how much of an effect the camera actually has on reducing speeding and passing on Chuckanut, the data we are able to collect suggest the camera is helping to increase safety along Chuckanut Drive. Since January 1st we have forwarded 104 reports to the State Patrol. Moreover, with the increase of crime in our neighborhood (break-ins, mail theft, prowling, etc.), the camera is occasionally helpful in identifying suspect vehicles.

As we did with last year's renewal of the Flock contract, we are relying on "crowd funding" to continue the camera system for another year. If you are interested in supporting this effort,

please contribute \$100 by sending a check to CBCA. PO Box 4403, Bellingham, WA 98227. And, whether you contribute or not, if you observe dangerous driving on Chuckanut, please report the incident to me by email, text message, or phone call: bobearl@aol.com or 571-296-0184.

Ideas for Securing your Home

by Michele Terney

Unfortunately, crime, prowling, and break-ins seem to be on the increase in our neighborhood. In addition to participating in our informal "neighborhood watch," here are a few ideas to consider:

Secure all exterior doors and keep them locked

- Install a deadbolt; upgrade to a cipher or smart lock
- Consider a video doorbell
- Reinforce sliding glass doors with bar or dowel in the track

Lock windows

- Add window bars or aftermarket window locks
- Install window or glass break sensors

Light up outdoor areas of your home with motion-activated lights

Set up a home security system & cameras

Keep garage secure

- Make it a habit to lock all exterior and interior doors to the garage
 - Cover windows to hide what is inside your garage
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Want to Volunteer?

CBCA sells a few historical publications, such as *Chuckanut Memories*, as listed on our web site. We are seeking a volunteer to maintain and sell these. Please call if interested: Bob Earl, 571-296-0184

The Dunlin of Skagit Valley

by Nick Earl

Many people are familiar with the amazing variety of birds in Skagit Valley. Photographers and birdwatchers often gather along the roadsides to see hawks, eagles, falcons, and owls as they chase down their prey. Skagit Valley is also famous for its enormous flocks of snow geese, foraging and marching in the fields as they bulk up for their annual migration to their nesting grounds in the Arctic.

I like to go to the valley to watch all of these birds, but in particular I enjoy watching the dunlin. These are small, sandpiper-like shorebirds that gather in flocks of many thousands.



They usually arrive in the autumn, and like the snow geese they head north in the spring. Normally they are out over the bay or on the beaches, but when the fields are flooded after heavy rain, they often come inland to feed. They eat earthworms, insects, snails, and seeds.

What make the dunlin so spectacular is how they react when a falcon tries to catch them. They all take off at once, fly in formation, and quickly dip and swerve in perfect unison – a behavior called **murmuration**.

The entire flock shimmers as they do this. They seem to vanish in thin air when their dark backs are facing you, then they flash bright silver when their white bellies catch the sun.

The sight and sound of so many birds making perfect maneuvers together to outwit a falcon on the hunt is thrilling, and always keeps me coming back for more.



To see the amazing dunlins in flight, take a look at this YouTube video, filmed in the Skagit Valley:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n1Wq9WkAwRQ>

Speaking of snow geese, here's a great shot from Skagit Valley with Mt Baker in the background:



Chuckanut (Origins of the Name)

A long beach far from a narrow entrance
(Chinook)

The beach or the tide goes way out (Nooksack
Salish)

Majestic Mount Baker

by Rob Scofidio

I was gassed. The peak ahead of me, currently out of sight through the morning mist, looked unreachable although I could see a small mass of climbers up ahead in a queue. I was at nearly 7,500 feet looking over at Colfax Peak with the end goal of 10,781 feet – Mount Baker's summit height – about 3,300 feet still above me.

Heart pumping, cold wind quickly evaporating evidence of my exhaled breath, I realized it was time to turn around. There would be no summit for me this day. What a disappointment! Months of planning, preparation and workouts were not able to get me to the summit.



But before we get into the details, let's go back about 12 months to when I was playing golf at the pristine North Bellingham Golf Course on a clear day and admiring the view of majestic Mount Baker from the teeing ground of the 7th hole. I had admired the snow-capped peak of Baker from various spots about town; and from where I was standing, it looked like a relatively simple climb. Snow (actually a lot of ice) covered with a flat top, Mount Baker seemed easily scalable.

My conclusions were supported by my soon-to-be-91-year-old neighbor, Dick McClure as he regaled me with the tale of his successful

summit bid as a younger man while climbing with a Western Washington University group years ago. His recounting of the group descent, including temporarily losing a member who slid into a crevasse, was especially interesting, but I wasn't really worried.

My confidence was bolstered by a similar conversation with a fellow Master Gardener, David, who summarized his exciting ascent. Finally, our realtor, Heather, told me that she and several of her college buddies scaled Baker as well. Sure, she was an outstanding athlete having participated in Ski to Sea several times and an avid hiker and mountain biker - but I thought 'why not me?'

The deal was sealed when my good friend Tim said he and his wife were thinking about taking the Bellingham-based American Alpine Institute (AAI) three-day Mount Baker summit course. The course difficulty level was advertised as beginner to moderate. I thought I was in reasonable shape and with a year to prep, should be no problem.

So I signed up and began my workout regimen of a combination of Stairmaster, Cleator Road and Pine and Cedar trail workouts. I loaded a backpack with books for weight to help add realism for hikes and lifted weights. Nearing our class date in late July 21, Tim and I tackled the Heliotrope Ridge Trail, which is a popular route to take when climbing the mountain. I wore my backpack and the trail was reasonable. We identified the cutoff for the popular Coleman-Deming ascent route and headed up to the Castle Rock base camp.

I got my first wakeup call working my way up the winding, fairly steep trail, but it was doable. We reached the base camp and even spoke with an AAI guide who had led some hikers down who had turned back below the summit. I should have paid more attention to his warning, but after a few moments, Tim and I headed back down. We were set.

However, some changes were coming. First, we would not be taking the Heliotrope trail to Castle Rock base camp for the Coleman-Deming route. That route was impassable at this point of the climbing season. Our approach would be on the other side of the mountain via the Railroad Grade Trail to Sandy Camp where we would ascend via the Easton Glade route. Three capable guides would accompany our six-person class, which included Tim's 18-year-old son Nathan.

Packing my gear that morning was the next wakeup call. Filling a large pack with all the required clothing layers, tent, sleeping bag and mat, food, climbing gear and other sundries resulted in a nearly 50 pound bag to carry. Putting the pack on and off turned out to be a real exercise, but I managed it. Barely. We arrived at the trailhead late morning and began our ascent to Sandy Camp. Hot and humid, I was sweating up a storm and found the trail to be difficult. I thought I was in good shape but ended up at the end of the group. By the time I caught up to where the first folks were resting, it was time to go!

The Railroad Grade was beautiful with steep slopes to the right and Mount Baker up ahead, the day was a good one but I arrived at camp tired and beat. We set up camp in the rocky landscape and later that day took our first class on traversing snow without crampons. Day 2 saw us learning to walk with crampons with self-arrest exercises via ice axe if you slipped and began sliding down the slope. Later that day we roped up with our guides and navigated part of the glacier with our crampons. Looking down into the deep recesses of some of the crevasses was awesome!

Our ascent was planned for early the next morning. I had a better understanding of the difficulty when we had a pre-ascent group discussion where our guides said the ascent was two - three times as difficult as getting to base camp the previous day. We had 7-8 hours to make it to the summit, spend 15 minutes on top, and make our way down

because we had to break camp and descend back to the trailhead.

Finally, summit day was here. We awoke at 3:30 AM to begin, assembled and headed up the rocky slope to where we would reach the glacier. Working my way over the rocky landscape up the hill following the headlamps in front of me was a challenge given the nature of the trail.

We finally reached the glacier where we stopped to put on our crampons and roped up into our teams. I could see up ahead of us small lights from the headlamps of hikers standing out in the stygian darkness up where stars normally reside. We were to hike way up there???

We started up and you already know where I ended up. Overall, two of our six classmates made it to the summit including Nathan. Tim and I worked our way back to base camp with one of the guides and awaited the return of the successful hikers. It was a fantastic experience that I thoroughly enjoyed. However, I'm not done. I think I realize where my training was inadequate, and what I'm up against I've started working to get in better shape. Good Lord willing, Tim and I are going to try it again in 2023. This time I know what to expect and will be ready for the mountain.



CHUCKANUT NEWS

Chuckanut Bay Community Association
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CERT Update by Bob Earl

On Sunday, June 12th, the Chuckanut CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) conducted a semi-annual training exercise at the Firehouse. A dozen members participated.

We exercised our “worst case” scenario – an eruption of the Cascadia Fault, causing a magnitude 9 earthquake. In that scenario, we assume that landslides have completely closed Chuckanut Drive both north and south of us, and that all power and phone service is out. Thus, we believe we would have to have the capability to survive and take care of our own for an extended period (perhaps weeks) before state or local emergency units would be able to get to us.

The first thing that happens after the shaking stops is that CERT members with handheld radios check in with each other from their homes. We share an initial damage

assessment of what we can see from our homes. Then, once CERT members have assured the safety of their families and homes, we rendezvous at the Firehouse.

There we set up our ACS (Auxiliary Communications Station), so that we can report our situation to the Whatcom County Emergency Operations Center. We send out two-member reconnaissance teams (with handheld radios) to survey damage and identify / assist casualties. Finally, we set up a casualty reception center at the Firehouse, using the emergency stockpiles of medical supplies, cots, blankets, food, and water that we have stored there.

If you would like to assist with the Chuckanut CERT, please contact Bob Earl at bobearl@aol.com