



**CBCA**

Chuckanut Bay Community Association

Summer 2020

# chuckanut news

The Covid pandemic has certainly changed all of our lives. And, it has also curtailed the regular activities of our association. Because the Fire Hall was closed to the public—and as a simple matter of prudence—we were not able to have our regular spring general meeting nor our usual Summer Social, with a live band and pizza and ice cream.

We hope you are all “hunkered down” safely and doing well. There are certainly worse places in the world to have to self-quarantine than our beautiful Chuckanut Bay area.

The Board continues to meet periodically through email and Zoom conferences. We decided that one thing we CAN do during the Covid siege is publish our regular summer Chuckanut Newsletter.

In this issue we provide a status report on the Flock Safety camera system that we have been discussing for more than a year. In that report we provide information on how you can help “calm” traffic along Chuckanut if you are so inclined. The effectiveness of the system depends on input from residents.

We also provide a status report from the Whatcom Land Trust on the Governors Point development project. If you are interested in providing comments on the project to the Whatcom County Planning Department, you can do so by sending an email to Amy Keenan at: AKeenan@co.whatcom.wa.us.

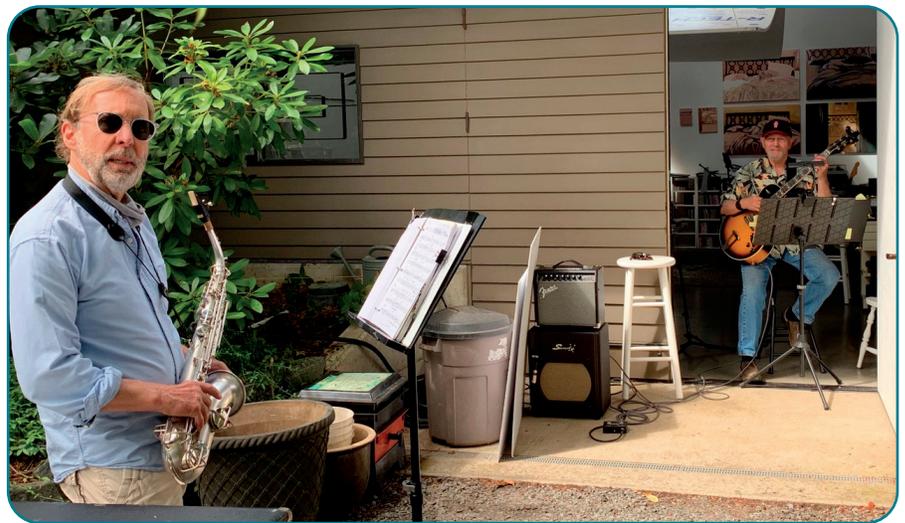
Finally, the newsletter includes some additional articles and pictures that we hope will be of interest.

Your CBCA Board,

Bob Earl  
Rob Scofidio  
Karen Ekdahl  
Gale Gropp

Brian Orlick  
Chris Kreager  
Steve Webber-Plank

## Musicians Give Chuckanut Neighbors a Treat by Karen Ekdahl



J. Michael Newlight (right) and Mike Knutson (left) are a jazz duo who perform as “Dry Martini.” Beginning at the end of May, they moved their rehearsals outside to Michael’s driveway where there was plenty of fresh air and room for social distancing. Neighbors have been invited to bring a chair and relax while listening to the soft sounds of guitar and alto sax.

If you happen to be outside or are strolling down Chuckanut Shore Road in the mid to late afternoon, Dry Martini may be just the thing you need to help you maintain a level of relative sanity during these strange and trying times.

**Check out their music online: [www.drymartinimusic.com](http://www.drymartinimusic.com)**



**CBCA Web Site:**  
[chuckanutcommunity.org](http://chuckanutcommunity.org)

Keep track of community events and neighborhood news by checking the CBCA website regularly.

# Lockdown Hobbies

By Rob Scofidio



A One-ninetieth Scale Model of Horatio Nelson's Sailing Warship the H.M.S. *Victory*



Over the 60-some-odd years I've been walking this earth, I've been blessed to amass a non-zero number of "projects" that I always thought I would get to sometime. For me, we're talking about a bunch of books, puzzles, models, and TV series... and on the list goes. For instance, I have dozens of unread books in my library and, with the nearly unlimited resources of the Bellingham Public Library, many more in the queue. Our family loves puzzles and I found a 5,000-piece naval battle picture – though no table big enough to put it together on! Additionally, I've been an avid model builder since my early teens and came across some of the iconic spaceships I've known from watching TV, including the *Lost in Space* Jupiter 2 and *Star Trek Enterprise*.

Since my early 20s I've been a lover of those majestic late 18th century sailing warships from the era of Horatio Nelson (hero of the battle of Trafalgar and namesake of the famous square in London). Nearly 25 years ago I purchased a 1/90th-scale, wooden model of his flagship during Trafalgar, the 104-gun, three-decker HMS *Victory*. These items, from books to models, I've always thought would be a staple of retirement life. Of course, one never knows for sure how much time you have remaining, and I now realize I need to get going on these.

I've been retired since last April and got an initial start on the above list. However, early this year, when word came out about some type of "bug" originating out of China, little did I know what the impact would be to our world! Lockdowns everywhere. The "flatten the curve" order to stay home in early March resulted in an increase in TV binge-watching, reading, puzzle assembly, and long-abandoned hobbies. This was a perfect storm of conditions for putting some extra time into these hobbies: retirement, a member of the "at risk" Covid age group, forced quarantine, and the rainy conditions of spring in Bellingham.

Having originally started building my model of the *Victory* in May of 2019, the last three months have allowed me to spend more time than usual in "the shipyard" (outside work closet – replete with bench, vice, tools, power, lights... the perfect place to work on a wood model). A key and time-consuming task was shaping brittle walnut planks and putting them on the curved hull. Unfortunately, my daughter, a Physics major, was not directly available day and night to help me calculate the hull surface area. I've also learned that model wood does not necessarily keep well over the many years I've carried this kit around.

Fortunately, there is this fantastic model forum—Model Ship World (MSW) sponsored by the Nautical Research Guild—where novices like me can describe their build and obtain expert guidance and advice on how to build the model, including planking the hull. Of course, the first bit of advice provided by these wise modelers was, in essence: "whatever you do, don't start with the *Victory* as your first wooden ship build..." Oops, looks like I started on the wrong foot. That said, model ship, Italian instructions and abundant ship building resources in hand, I embarked on the journey and haven't looked back.

While I've made some mistakes along the way, I've also made several friends in the forum from Germany, Australia, the US and Wales. They have provided good advice and hints—I hope Nelson would approve! And I hope that you, too, have been able to jump into some of those activities you had put off for later, have learned something new, and ultimately are better off for it!

**If interested, you can follow my model-building journal on the MSW site:**

<https://modelshipworld.com/topic/20831-hms-victory-by-rob-s-mamoli-190th-scale-first-timer/>

# Letter on Governors Point From Dean Brett

I am a grandfather, a neighbor, a lawyer, and a realist.

The previous owner of Governors Point had a plan to get city water and build 141 houses on the peninsula and construct a huge yacht moorage facility in Pleasant Bay. This would have been devastating to Governors Point and to the Chuckanut Bay community.

In 2009, the previous owner sued the City of Bellingham claiming a grandfathered right to city water based on 40-year-old sketchy documents. I intervened in the lawsuit to represent the interest of the community and stop the plunder. Courts rejected the attempt to compel the city to extend water to Governors Point.

After unsuccessful efforts to sell the waterless property, a bankruptcy court ordered it sold at auction. Before that could happen, Randy Bishop appeared on the scene, a Canadian from White Rock who had lived in the Chuckanuts for five years and fallen in love with Governors Point.

Randy had a very different vision for the property than the prior owner—16 architecturally designed, modestly sized homes clustered together and nestled into the landscape on small lots on the west side of Governors Point; protecting the exquisite natural environment of the peninsula; and setting aside a majority of the land as a public access nature reserve.

When we first met, Randy wanted to take pictures of the property from the water, and I offered him and some friends a boat tour. When we returned to my home, Ran-



dy proposed making cheese sandwiches for lunch. From his backpack, he spread the ingredients on my kitchen counter—bread from the Bread Farm in Edison, local artisan cheese, crab, shrimp, hot sauce, capers, and fresh fennel. He brushed the bread with special olive oil so it wouldn't burn on the griddle while the cheese was melting. I thought to myself, "if he is as good at designing homes that organically grow out of the natural environment as he is at making cheese sandwiches, we are in for a real treat." And so we are.

Early on, Randy followed good advice to get in touch with Whatcom Land Trust. His and their hopes and dreams for Governors Point so coincided that they quickly became partners in how to make the future of this special piece of Washington coast work for everyone—conservation, recreation and the sensitive, aesthetic vision of the property owner. For this reason, the Land Trust went

with Randy to the City Council to ask for an exception to the city's Growth Management Act policy not to extend water service beyond its anticipated growth boundaries. The Council voted unanimously to make an exception and extend city water to Governors Point because of the extraordinary public benefit of a 98-acre nature reserve of mature coastal forest with a 3-mile loop trail giving access to two beaches and the marine views at the northern tip of the Point.

I am a realist. This is private property that could have been developed to death. Randy Bishop has presented a foresighted and generous gift, a gift far beyond anything I dared to hope for or even dream of when we litigated 11 years ago. We cannot risk this opportunity slipping away.

**\*See Whatcom Land Trust's Support Letter on the Following Pages**

---

## Marine Magic in Chuckanut Bay By Jennie & Steve Tuckermann

The phenomenon called bioluminescence is the production and emission of light by a living organism. We are so lucky to be able to see this natural phenomenon locally in what some describe as "fireflies in the water" and "underwater shooting stars." Microscopic plankton are the most frequently encountered organisms that are responsible for the vibrant blue sparkles in Chuckanut and Bellingham Bays. The plankton live here year-round, but you only find them in critical

concentrations after long, warm days with abundant sunlight usually from mid-July through mid-September. The best conditions for observing the bioluminescence occur on a clear, dark night (no moon or clouds to reflect light) and in areas with no urban lights.

Bioluminescence is a chemical reaction that is believed to serve as a defense mechanism for the plankton. The plankton emits a blue light when the water is disturbed by any object including your

hand, a paddle, a boat. But to see a really dazzling show you need the help of marine creatures. Darting fish look like blue streaks, feeding barnacles look like sparkling diamonds and if you are lucky enough to have a seal pop up, his face and whiskers will be outlined in blue droplets of water. Bioluminescence is yet another magical aspect of the place we are so fortunate to call "home."



July 16, 2020

We are writing to express the strong support of Whatcom Land Trust for Randy Bishop's plan for Governors Point.

Whatcom Land Trust has been conserving special places in Whatcom county for 36 years. To date, often in partnership with others, we have protected over 24,300 acres and have acquired land for 15 county parks.

Over the last 30 years, the Land Trust has tried to find a way to conserve a significant portion of Governors Point. The possibility of doing that is now finally at hand. We support Randy Bishop's plan for Governors Point for two reasons. It leaves the ecology of three quarters of the 126-acre property largely intact, and it creates a tremendous amenity for the people of Whatcom County. When we first met Bishop, he said that he would respect the community and the natural environment. He has been true to his word.

On lots of about one acre, the residential development will consist of 16 homes clustered on one side of the property, rather than the 25 residences (covering the entire property) allowed by current zoning or the 141 houses proposed by a previous owner. An architect chosen by Bishop will design each house to be sited so as to minimize interruption of the natural landscape. Homes will be smaller than 2,900 square feet, and exteriors will be constructed of natural materials to limit visibility from the water. No structures will be seen from Chuckanut Drive. Unlike the usual practice of development dominating nature, Bishop will accommodate development to the natural environment.

As a complement to the residential development, Bishop has committed to giving 98 acres of Governors Point to Whatcom Land Trust for establishment of a public access nature reserve. The reserve will protect the mature coastal forest, some of which was left standing when parts of Governors Point was logged in the 1950's. A pedestrian loop trail of three plus miles will weave through the forest and access the two prime beaches on the property, one of which will be included in the donated property. The public will also have access to both beaches by non-motorized watercraft such as kayaks and paddleboards. The trail will minimize intrusion on the forest ecology while maximizing people's experience of this beautiful place.

Originally, Bishop planned for a residential lot to occupy the northern tip of the peninsula. When the Land Trust suggested that the public should have access to the expansive marine and island views from the northern tip, Bishop readily agreed and moved the residential lot down the coast to the west side. This spirit of generosity and cooperation characterized our 2 ½ years of dealing with Randy Bishop.

Impressed with the extraordinary public benefit created by the nature reserve, the Bellingham City Council in 2018 made an exception to its established policy and voted unanimously to extend city water beyond its Urban Growth Boundary to the sixteen residences to be built on Governors Point.

Bishop has an integrated aesthetic vision for Governors Point. While the homes will be custom built and nestled into the landscape, he retains the right to design all structures in the nature reserve - signs, handrails, benches, etc. To the comment that it seemed-like Governors Point was a place for his artistic expression, Bishop replied, "that sounds about right."

Whatcom Land Trust supports and has worked with Randy Bishop on this project because it provides the opportunity to set the future of Governors Point in a way that substantially benefits the natural environment and the community, an opportunity a long time in coming and that will not come again.

Sincerely,



Gabe Epperson, Executive Director



Chris Moench, Board President

## The Flock Safety Security Camera System

As most of you will recall, in our January 2020 CBCA dues mailing, the Board included a ballot on the issue of a security camera to help us "calm" traffic along Chuckanut Drive. The proposal to conduct a one-year trial of the camera system passed by a vote of 67 households in favor out of 118 households that voted.

The company, Flock Safety of Atlanta, Georgia, installed the camera on 20 July and we are now "operational." The way the system works is as follows:

Members of the community who observe a vehicle speeding egregiously (by which we mean more than 60 mph) and/or passing illegally on Chuckanut Drive are invited to report what they observe. The "report" should include as much of the following information as the resident is able to observe:

1. Date & time of the infraction
2. Where along Chuckanut this occurred, and the direction of travel (southbound or northbound)
3. Nature of the infraction (speeding and/or passing)
4. Brief description of the vehicle – e.g. vehicle type (car, pickup, motorcycle), color and/or make of the vehicle. The license plate number helps enormously, but is not necessary.

Whenever it is convenient, send this information to CBCA President Bob Earl by text, phone call (571-296-0184) or email (bobe-arl@aol.com) who will correlate to camera footage.

If we have unambiguous information on a repeat offender, CBCA will share our information with the State Patrol. The State Patrol obviously cannot use our information in a citation, but they have agreed to send an official letter to the owner of the vehicle to tell

him or her that they have been observed speeding (or passing) on Chuckanut and that they should "knock it off" (or words to that effect). While some people will probably continue to race on Chuckanut in spite of any such official admonition, we believe that many drivers will change their behavior appropriately. Any reduction in the dangerous speeding and passing will increase safety along Chuckanut.

Please note that we are not attempting to identify vehicles that are maybe five or ten mph over the posted 40 mph speed limit. First, it is difficult to determine such speeds by simple observation. Second, we are focusing on the particularly dangerous speeders who are hitting 60 or 70+ mph on our narrow, shoulder-less road. Such egregious speeders are quite obvious to the casual observer and are a "clear and present" danger to our community.

The effectiveness of our system depends entirely on the participation / observation by members of the Chuckanut community. The camera footage is worthless unless we can correlate it to an observation by a resident. The more "eyes and ears" that are out there, the more likely it is that we can identify some of the egregious offenders and report them to the State Patrol. Participation is entirely voluntary, of course. We recognize that many of our members did not vote for the one-year trial. But, the system is basically equivalent to a case where a resident gets passed on Chuckanut and then calls the State Patrol to report the incident. The State Patrol have been very cooperative and helpful; they have welcomed reports of such dangerous activity on Chuckanut.

If you have any questions or suggestions about the system, feel free to call or email Bob any time.

# Maintaining Fitness in our Covid World and Music for Hope

## No Matter How Difficult Life May Seem, There Can Be Hope.

By Steve Webber-Plank

Our local Chuckanut Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) asked me a few years ago if I would participate in a couple of their training exercises as a casualty / victim. I'm a fairly fit guy with backboard experience, so I said yes and lent my body to our CERT's caregivers to be examined and then evacuated. Little did I know that those two exercises would prepare me for several future rides in a real Medic One.

Easter Sunday, April, 2020, I went downstairs to tune in the 10 am Easter performance by Andrea Bocelli's, Music For Hope - Direct and Live from Duomo di Milano. I was really excited about the Milan venue. Back in 2012, my wife and I had climbed to the top of the Duomo and explored its view and Gothic wonders. The Cathedral was built over the course of five centuries, beginning in the 1300s. It is the second largest cathedral in the world and one of the few Gothic cathedrals where you can explore its great spires, flying buttresses, and gargoyles up close.

Picking up my tuner control to watch the program, I suddenly fell to the floor gasping for breath. With no phone, I was able to get a call out on my iPad to Bob Earl, a couple doors north of me. He correctly evaluated the medical emergency and called it in. Four days later, Karen, another neighbor, arrived at St Joe's to take me home from the hospital after my treatment for a (non-Covid) respiratory problem. With no keys, no shoes, having gained entry thru the garage, I tried to climb those 14 stairs to my living area. It took me 30 minutes - 20 to struggle up and ten to recover my breath. The question then was what could I do in our Covid environment to recover my fitness?

We are so fortunate that our Chuckanut neighborhood has tons of outdoor recreational opportunities in which we can exercise and recover. Walking, hiking, biking, rowing, sailing or jogging, there are plenty of local trails and sidewalks in the city, with water close by that provides us the healthy opportunity to MOVE.

I chose walking. Starting out very slowly over several weeks, I was able to steadily increase my daily distance and repetition counts. Walking provides enough exercise to push up your pulse and can put you into the required aerobic zone. Later I enrolled in a live-streaming strength and stretching class three days a week for an hour via Zoom. The body conditioning course introduces a supervised, professional measure of anaerobic exercise and combines yoga type stretch moves with some additional tension and a few light weights.

Recommendations from the American Heart Association call for 30 minutes of moderate intensity five days per week or three days of vigorous 30-minute exercise. Additionally, the AHA suggests adding anaerobic exercise for an additional two days per week.

"Get your doctor's approval before adding anaerobic workouts to your routine. Work with a certified fitness professional who can help you create an anaerobic program based on your medical history and goals...(and) can also demonstrate the correct exercise techniques...important for preventing an injury."

There are many good yoga studios in town, and I can tell you that yoga really helped me to rehabilitate after a vehicle accident in 2015. Today, most fitness centers and yoga studios offer classes on Zoom.

Currently, I'm walking 5-8 miles four days a week, coupled with the stretch and strength class. If you want to talk for encouragement, give me a call, text, or email. I'm a consumer, not a salesperson; I'll be happy to share my experiences.

Now on to a little Music for Hope:

Andrea Bocelli: Music For Hope - a performance from Duomo di Milano:

<https://youtu.be/huTUOek4LgU>



Duomo di Milano in Milan, Italy

## Ladder Fuels Around the Home By Brian Orlick

### Resources for Maintaining Your Fitness

**Online Yoga Classes:**  
<https://www.yogajournal.com/poses/is-yoga-enough-to-keep-you-fit>

**AARP Top Fitness Videos and News Stories for 50+**  
<https://videos.aarp.org/category/videos/fitness>

**Differences Between Aerobic and Anaerobic: Benefits and Risks**  
<https://www.healthline.com/health/fitness-exercise/difference-between-aerobic-and-anaerobic>

At a Chuckanut Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) meeting a couple years ago I came across a Firewise ([www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org)) brochure that showed strategies for protecting one's home and property from wildland fire. It described ladder fuels as vegetation that "builds up" a fire – similar to starting a campfire with the smallest dry pieces followed by larger woody debris. This was shortly after the deadly fires in Paradise, CA. While the risk of wildland fire is lower here on the west side of the Cascades, it is not zero – especially in the warm, dry summer months. (And, as of this writing, we have a statewide burn ban in effect.)

All this made me assess our own wooded property. I found many downed fir and cedar branches that have since been relocated to the dump. I removed at least ten dead trees, mostly evergreens, and I cleaned out many pounds of dead undergrowth. I also ensure pine needles and leaves don't accumulate on or around the house. Finally, I am in the process of moving firewood away from the house, where it had been nice and dry under an overhang. We love the birdlife in our yard and I would never remove a dead tree that showed active nesting. The birds don't seem to mind the altered habitat, as they are eating seed like crazy.



CBCA Stretcher Services



Linda's Peach Blackberry Crisp is the Perfect Summer Treat!

### PEACH BLACKBERRY CRISP

*from Linda's kitchen*

3 or 4 large peaches, peeled and sliced  
4 cups of fresh, rinsed blackberries  
1/3 to 1/2 cup sugar  
1/2 tsp. coarse salt  
4 Tbsp. Flour  
Cooking spray  
1 cup flour  
2 cups rolled oats  
1 cup brown sugar  
1/2 cup butter

Combine peaches and blackberries with sugar, salt, and flour. Spoon into greased 9x13 baking dish. Spoon flour into a bowl and combine with oats, sugar, and butter, stirring with a fork until crumbly. Sprinkle over fruit mixture. Bake 40 minutes in a 350 degree oven. Serve with Whipped Cream (recipe below) or a tablespoon or two of Half n' Half.

#### Whipped Cream

1/2 Pint of cold Heavy Whipping Cream  
4 to 6 Tbsp. Powdered Sugar  
1 tsp. Vanilla Extract

Whip cream, starting on low and gradually increasing to high, add powdered sugar midway through, then vanilla. Whip until Cream forms peaks.



# chuckanut news

Chuckanut Bay Community Association  
PO Box 4403  
Bellingham, WA 98227-4403

## A Comet's Tale By Comet NEOWISE



I am a visitor from outer space. Not from a galaxy far, far away, but from far, far away in this galaxy – indeed, in this solar system. You see, I am a three-mile long chunk of ice, dust, and small rocky particles in an elliptical orbit around the Sun. I became visible in the northern sky there along Chuckanut

in June, and many of you have seen me. I came the closest to the Sun on July 3rd and was within the orbit of the planet Mercury. During my closest point of approach to the Earth on July 22nd – 64 million miles away – I was as bright as the North Star (Polaris). Now, however, I am no longer visible from Chuckanut. But, I plan to return in about 6800 years. So, tell your grandchildren to tell their grandchildren to tell their grandchildren..., etc. to mark their calendars for the year 8863.

I am one of more than 6,000 comets known to your scientists. But, I'll tell you a secret: there are more than a trillion of us in the Oort cloud, which lies beyond the orbit of the planet Neptune, extends half way to the nearest star beyond our Sun, and surrounds our Solar System. My most famous feature is my long white tail. It consists of dust blown out from my nucleus by the Sun's light pressure and by what is known to scientists as outstreaming solar wind plasma.

This tail differentiates me from the common asteroid. I have a very thin atmosphere that the solar wind burns off to become my tail.

Asteroids have no atmosphere and thus no tail. My dust tail extends some 13 million miles behind me, in a slightly curved path. It is what most people think of when they observe or talk about comets. But, many people don't know that I have a second tail. This is an ion tail, which is shorter and consists of gases. It always points directly



ly away from the Sun because the gas is more directly affected by the solar wind than is the dust. If you closely examine my picture, taken by one of your sharp-eyed Chuckanauters, you can see my large white dust tail on the right and a fainter, shorter blue ion tail to the left of it.

And that's the tale of my tail(s).