

CHUCKANUT

NEWS



CBCA Summer Social

Sunday, 21 July 2024

4 to 7 pm

Chuckanut Firehall parking lot

The "Penny Stinkers" Band

"Street Dogz" hotdogs Ice Cream

All Chuckanut residents welcome!

CERT Update

by Bob Earl

The Chuckanut CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) conducted a training drill at the firehouse on Saturday, 22 June. Fourteen residents attended. We practiced our radio communications, inspected medical supplies, and rotated water stocks. If you are interested in supporting our CERT, please contact me at 571-296-0184 or bobearl@aol.com

Ode to Chuckanut Bay by Rick Hann

A new day dawns with gentile mist
 A floating whisper; mysterious
 I greet the homes as families rise
 As shades unclose, I see their eyes

A time long past two hundred years
 Juan Franciso Eliza, a captain, appeared
 "Puerto Del Socorro," I heard him say
 As Eliza's ship sailed into my bay

Half a century; a blink of an eye
 When Henry Roeder's ship passed by
 "Long beach far from a narrow entrance"
 Henry proclaimed in one long sentence
 He seemed to hear me ask him, "what?"
 And he answered, "Your name will now be
 Chuckanut."

My northern shore, mud turns to sand
 Where men docked boats to work on land
 My sandy beach in years long-passed
 Where crews built ships of three or four masts

East shore sandstone; sheer rockface
 Holds a sea monster's spine in place
 Sandstone hardened in time's long story
 Became a rich stone-building quarry

More logs and stone than boats before
 The Great Northern Railroad ran the shore
 Then century twenty plus sixteen
 Chuckanut Drive would first be seen

Prohibition stills began to grow
 Turning Chuckanut Drive to liquor run road
 Rum runners from Canada moved with
 purpose
 With the fifty-knot Pearl skimming my surface

Around the point which is now Edgemoor
A homeless camp along the shore
Depression-born "Hooverville;" the place to be
To get help from the great Mrs. Larrabee



The depression and war brought times of dark
Then the Shell was built on the point called
Clark
Mrs. Knauf was a legend with seafood and
drink
The laughter lifting spirits as glasses clinked
Till one sad night in nineteen fifty-one
When fire raged and the Shell was done

The sixties took homes from twelve ten-fold
They became three hundred as the nineties
took hold
And to help our firefighters keep all homes safe
The community formed the CBCA

I hope through windows you enjoy my view
And know I'll be always here for you



CBCA Chili Cookoff from the Board

The fall meeting of CBCA members on
Wednesday, October 2nd, will see the return
of our annual chili cookoff. Bring a crock pot of
your favorite homemade chili to share!

A European Tale, Past & Future

by Steve Webber-Plank

European travel has always been a soft spot in
my heart. One of my first trips there was a
1958 tour with the American Red Cross. We
visited European Red Cross facilities in Italy,
Switzerland, Germany, Belgium and Spain for
five weeks.

One of those facilities was in Bad Godesberg,
south of Bonn on the Rhine. Bonn at the time
was the former West German capital.
Godesberg earned some distinction by having
a medieval 13th-century castle built on a
volcanic hill with surrounding spas bubbling
below. Thus, it's now called Bad Godesberg.

The town hosted most foreign embassies that
supported West Germany's Bonn government
and still has a few today, even after the
government moved to Berlin in the 1990's.

I revisited Bad Godesberg in 1961 with a high
school buddy. We began a 2,370-mile biking
road trip thru Germany, Austria, Italy and
France. We returned to Godesberg by hitching
a ride on a family operated Rhine River coal
barge from Strasbourg, loaded with coal on its
way to Holland.

Our last 1150 trip miles were split between
biking and riding a train we caught out of Gap
taking us north toward the upper Rhine
headwaters. We learned a valuable lesson:
an old Michelin Map was not enough; invest in
topographic maps. Ignorance is not bliss.

While traveling to Gibraltar to embark on my return voyage to New York, I stopped in Madrid, Spain and toured the famous Prado National Museum. There were many Spanish artists featured such as Goya, Dali, Picasso and Velazquez.

The one painting that stood out for me at the time was Picasso's **Guernica**. It's a mammoth canvas, 25 ft by 11 ft portraying the effects of the April 26, 1937 aerial bombing by German and Italian Fascist aircraft on this small town in the Basque region of northern Spain.

The painting became the poster child that brought attention to the 3-year Spanish Civil War and atrocities of warfare. Let's see ... 1937 to 2024 is 87 years. Unfortunately, today the bombs keep falling throughout the globe.



Later this summer my biking buddy and I will repeat our 1961 trip with an 8-day barge and bike trip. We will reprise our joy of biking without the agony of those dreadful hills of Southern France as our new route is a bit west of the heavy terrain experienced in '61.

We will take the route we might have chosen, biking the Rhône valley and points in between from Avignon to the Camargue. It is a river Delta formed by Great Rhône and the Little Rhone.

Our final destination is Aigues-Mortes, founded in 102 BC by the Roman General Gaius Marius. I found that the old walled city ranks right up with its **fresh Paella**. Surprisingly, we can get the same quality Paella at Slough Foods here in Edison.



Paella – from Aigues-Mortes or Edison?

After Aigues-Mortes I'll solo to Bilbao, to visit the Frank Gehry-designed Guggenheim Museum and, of course, a visit to Guernica, the city, as it's very close. After sampling northern Spain's Basque Rioja grapes, Alavesa, Txakoli de Alva and Txakoli de Getaria, the plan is to go to the City of Tarragona and meet my kids for a few days to wind down and try a few of Catalan's Cava-blended grapes, such as Macabeo, Parellada and Garnacha Blanca.

Finally, on to Barcelona to see the **Basilica de la Sagrada Familia**, the Picasso Museum, Tapa's, and maybe a Flamenco dancer. Then, it's time to catch four connecting flights in a single day: Barcelona to Frankfurt, to Minneapolis, to Seattle, and then to Bellingham. **Now, what could go wrong!**



Learning About Nature

By Terry Lehn

I'm a hobbyist nature photographer. My hobby gives me the opportunity to learn more about my subjects – through modern technology.

Birds are my favorite subject. There are such a variety of shapes, sizes, colors, patterns and behaviors. When I'm on a mission to get a picture of a certain bird, I turn to the **eBird website**. It identifies "hot spots" in any given area and lists birds seen there. If I take a picture of a bird that I do not recognize, I might use **Google's image search** capability (drag a picture to its search box). Just as likely, I might use the **"All About Birds" website**.

Once I've identified the bird, "All About Birds" offers so much more. For example, the Western Tanager is especially common in the forests of Douglas Fir. The male and female pair tend to hang out together which explains why I often see both at our feeder. "All About Birds" tells me that the Spotted Towhee can be a short-distance migrant but is a year-round resident in Bellingham. It also says that the grey and fluffy owl is a juvenile Barred Owl



Male Western Tanager & Juvenile Barred Owl

When I cannot see a bird that is calling or singing, I use the **Merlin app** on my phone to listen and identify it so I know what to look for. This app is similar to the song-identifying apps, Shazam and Sound Hound. Merlin works remarkably well and has a great interface. Using it might take you a step closer to becoming a birder. This from a funny article by Bob Duchesne on the website Maine Woodland Owners: "If you can identify a

warbler by sight, you're a birdwatcher. If you can recognize it by sound, you're a birder. By behavior or habitat – definitely a birder."

My photography is not limited to birds. Other subjects include wildflowers, mushrooms, insects (macro photography), marine life, wildlife, trees, reptiles and more. When I need help identifying one of these and Google image search turns up nothing usable, I often go to the **iNaturalist website**. You can narrow down its search to a locale.

Once identified, I do **Google text searches** to learn more. For example, I thought I had taken a picture of a bee but learned that it was a Hover Fly. It has two wings instead of four. I used iNaturalist to determine that the mushrooms are the Aspen Oyster variety. A Google search brought me to the Nature.org website that stated that red fox kits start playing outside of the den when they are about a month old.



Hover Fly & Aspen Oyster Mushrooms



Red Fox Kits

Perhaps one or more of these information resources were unfamiliar to you. Get out there, take a picture of something unfamiliar or listen to that singing bird, use these technologies, learn and have fun!

Flock Camera Update by Bob Earl

The Flock camera has served our community's safety purposes reasonably well over the past three years. Unfortunately, in about December 2023, the company (in Atlanta, Georgia) was apparently notified by the state of Washington that it had not followed state procedures when it first began providing its products in Washington several years ago. All new installs as well as any maintenance on existing cameras were stopped by the state until the company completed a "re-permitting" process.

Unfortunately, our camera was awaiting Flock maintenance at the time: installation of a new camera was scheduled for 2 January 2024. Thus, we were caught up in this stand down and have not had operational service of the camera for the past six months.

The company has not provided a complete explanation nor a schedule when service might be resumed. If service is restored, we expect to receive camera service for the months on the existing contract that were not provided (camera not operational). Our estimate is that this will be another six months of service that we will receive.

In the past, the company has tacked on extra time to our annual contract to compensate for any downtime that we experienced (waiting for repairs, etc.). Thus, we have always (eventually) received our full year of operational service. If, however, the company never does receive approval from the state to resume service, we will expect a refund for the months of service not provided.

The CBCA Board will continue to explore our options. If Flock doesn't resume service, we could simply refund the pro-rated portion of the "crowd-funded" donations that we received from residents for the camera service not provided by the company. Alternatively, we are exploring the possibility of an alternate supplier of a similar (or better) camera

capability, and we could apply the unexpended / refunded money that we have to that alternative solution.

In the interim, residents can still call the State Patrol directly (thru 911) to report any dangerous situation that they observe on Chuckanut. The State Patrol has always been most cooperative and supportive of our effort to improve safety along Chuckanut.

Chuckanut Aurora by Anastro N Omer

On the nights of 10 and 11 May, Chuckanut residents were treated to a rare celestial event: a strong aurora directly overhead. Normally, auroras are much farther north, and usually hard to see because of Bellingham light pollution. This time the aurora was strong enough to be seen throughout the United States, in many places that don't see auroras.



So what caused this spectacular aurora? Auroras are generated by solar storms or "sunspots," where geysers of solar material are ejected into space from the surface of the sun. These ejections are either solar flares of radiation or coronal mass ejections (CMEs). The CMEs are the most effective producers of auroras seen on earth. When a CME ejection from the sun is aimed toward the Earth, ionized material travels the 94 million miles in a day or two. The ions hit the magnetic field of the

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earth, and are funneled toward the poles. There, they hit nitrogen and oxygen atoms in our atmosphere, energizing the gas atoms. As the atoms of gas release this excess energy, they glow brightly in vivid color – creating what we know as the northern lights – an aurora. The solar storm in May was unusually strong.

The various colors of the aurora are best seen through the lens of a camera, since the color night vision of the human eye is so weak that an aurora generally appears to be in black and white when viewed by the naked eye. The shimmering colors shift and move, often as “curtains” of color.

At times the May auroras here appeared to emanate from a spot directly overhead, with beams of color radiating 360 degrees to all points of the compass. The picture on page 5 was taken at about 1 am on 11 May with an Apple I-Phone 15 Pro camera from the Skagit valley – a dazzling projection of pinks and greens.

CBCA Website Down

The company that provides our website, DreamHost, upgraded its services in mid-June. Unfortunately, it crashed our website, making it impossible for us to log in. We hope the outage doesn't inconvenience members too much, but such is life in the internet age....

Suggestions

Thanks for the valuable suggestions and ideas many of you provided on the Annual Membership Questionnaire. For example, speaker topics of interest for future CBCA meetings were: history, geology, and geography of the Chuckanut area; emergency preparedness & neighborhood safety; wildlife habitat in the area; invasive plants & species. Additional ideas and suggestions can be shared with any Board member or emailed to: admin2@chuckanutcommunity.org.