



LONGBOAT HARBOUR

4310-4454

THE INFO

VOL. XXXIV No. 3

Feb.—Mar. 2008

BUILDING COMMUNITY THROUGH COMMUNICATIONS

Board Matters

Treasurer's Report

The most recent two meetings of the Board of Directors were concerned principally with the issue of the Association's cash flow and the two-fold need to improve liquidity and provide for a safety net for unanticipated cash demands. On March 19th **Mike McNeil**, Association Treasurer, presented a sparsely attended Board Meeting with a review of the variability in cash requirements by the Association and the need for an increase in the Association's borrowing limit.

Like many businesses, Longboat Harbour Owners Association has certain periods during the year when cash expenditures and cash receipts do not match. Two periods stand out: December to February and May to July. This should not be surprising because, while the inflow of monies during the year from monthly fees is steady (based on assumptions made the prior October), some expenditures come in lumps. McNeil has instituted a carefully managed program of accumulating funds that can meet these spikes in cash needs that can reasonably be projected and quantified.

McNeil candidly acknowledged his "disappointment" that the amendment to increase the Association's authorized borrowing capacity did not meet with the approval of the members in January, which he attributed to his apparent failure to explain its necessity adequately. For that reason he made a concerted effort to explain clearly the reasons for the measure and its impact on the Association's affairs.

He pointed out that there have been a few occasions in recent years when a crisis occurred because of

events that could not be anticipated. In 2007, for example, following a disastrous hurricane season, the cost wind of insurance jumped \$100,000 – after the maintenance fees for the year had been established. In addition, the company modified the terms of payment. The Association did not have sufficient cash or authorized borrowing capacity to meet this change. If a revised installment payment plan had not been accepted, the Association's insurance coverage would have lapsed. This placed considerable stress on the Board (and its Treasurer, in particular) to meet this sudden unplanned demand.

What is more, our aging buildings sometimes present us with surprises such as unexpected water leaks and consequent building repairs. This occurred in 2006 with a resulting \$30,000 of unexpected costs in the first three months of the year. Once again the Association's ability to meet its obligations was severely strained.

"The current borrowing limit," he said, "is clearly inadequate for these times. The economic environment is simply more variable than in the past; the obligations are larger and more flexibility is needed."

McNeil took pains to recognize that, while the sum of \$200,000 is a significant sum of money in absolute terms, it constitutes only 13% of the annual total budget, an amount he considers to be modest in the context of normal business practice.

Treasurer McNeil summarized his presentation of the need for the \$200,000 borrowing capacity and noted that its availability:

- Will not result in any immediate borrowing as there is no foreseeable need at this time
- Will establish a safety net to address unex-

pected short term cash needs in the future and manage situations such as those occurring in 2006 and 2007.

- Will provide a necessary tool normally used by businesses to manage short term cash flow disparities.
- Will permit the Board to borrow from sources other than financial institutions if the cost is more favorable.

McNeil made clear that the terms of any “Line of Credit” arrangement would be approved by the Board before a commitment was signed. Moreover, during a lively question and answer period, the suggestion was made (and the Board agreed) that any draws or borrowing against an established line of credit would also require the prior approval of the Board.

OPERATING COMMITTEE

Elevators

There have been a few elevator failures recently. Repairs are made as soon as possible. During the summer there will be an upgrade made to all elevators. The work on each elevator is expected to take several hours to complete. Owners in residence will be advised and your patience while the work is being done will be appreciated.



If the alarm should be pushed by accident, which has happened several times in the past few weeks, **DO NOT LEAVE** the elevator cab. The trigger of an alarm automatically phones an emergency command post. An

operator will be on the line momentarily. If there is no response from the elevator, it is assumed that a person has collapsed and requires help. In this case, an emergency team will be dispatched to the scene.

False alarms are expensive, and a waste of time for the EMS team. Please wait for the emergency operator to answer and just tell the person the button was pushed by accident. You could be saving another person’s life elsewhere by not having the EMS team arrive at a false alarm. Please advise your

guests, children and grandchildren what to do if the emergency button is pushed by mistake.

Water Heaters

Frequently in the last few years The INFO has cautioned owners regarding the need to replace water heaters. Those experienced in Florida living warns newcomers of the corrosive effect of the water here. Most agree that the useful life of water heaters is in the order of five to seven years. Some say eight to ten years if the use is seasonal. They CANNOT LAST 27 years. A water tank that leaked recently had been installed in 1981! PUHLEEZE! Don’t put yourself through the stress and mess that is caused by a leaking water tank. Also, think of others. The water from a tank that cracks rarely remains only in the source apartment. Check the tank and replace as needed.

While we are on that subject, toilets get old and fail as well. Examine the tanks and bowls for hairline cracks that can (and surely will) rupture. If you have an original toilet, many of which are yellow or pink, you can be sure it needs replacement.

Garbage Removal

Our cost of garbage removal is generally higher than it needs to be. Why? In part it is because shipping cartons and boxes are placed in the dumpsters as received. We pay based on volume – not weight.

Please break down cardboard boxes and any other containers than can be reduced in size before putting them in the dumpster.

Washers and Dryers

The cost of water and energy has forced the Operating Committee to raise the costs of washer and dryer use. Each will cost an additional 25 cents beginning May 1st. The washer will now cost \$1.00 and the dryers \$.75

Please remember, it is important that **ONLY liquid forms of detergent, bleach and softeners be used.** It has been found that powdered substances do not fully dissolve and later leach into subsequent loads. This has resulted in bleach stains on the clothing of other users.

Sarasota Bayfront Traffic Planning

The Federation of Longboat Key Condominiums will be meeting in our Rec. Hall Saturday morning April 19th. In attendance will be elected officials, including the Deputy Mayor of Sarasota and state and local planners. All are welcome to attend.

This issue of "INFO" as well as past issues for the last five years are available for viewing on our web site: www.longboatharbour.net Click on "The INFO" in the left column.

RECREATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Maggie Edger, this year's co-chair with Barbara Shelton, noted that the most recent parties were terrific affairs. She thanked all those who brought food to the Sweetheart Brunch. Maggie also expressed the thanks of the committee and all those in attendance for the efforts of **Barb and Sandy Watson and John and Mary Bock** who co-chaired the St. Patrick's party.

She noted that the Ballroom Dancing classes have started and Euchre is being played Sunday evenings.

Announcement:

Joe Longtin and Joe Callahan will be the new co-chairs for the 2008-2009 season. **Barbara Shelton**

Lounge Lobbyists Final Report

With the addition of two new prints to the lounge area, it is now 99% finished. One final Thank You to all of you that helped to make this improvement to LbH. Enjoy!!!!

Board Meeting Rescheduled

Because a number of persons have asked if Board Meetings can be held in the afternoon, rather than the evening, a test of such a change will be tried.

NOTE: the October Board meeting will be held on the 27th at 2:00P.M. with the Agenda Meeting altered to the previous Friday. This is a trial only.

This Season's Remaining Social Events

Owners Party – Scheduled for April 10th, this party is strictly for owners only – **no family, no guests.**

Pizza Party – April 24th at the Beach House

Derby Party – May 3rd. As this is a new event and it will be difficult to plan as there is no history. Maggie asks that anyone who expects to attend sign up as soon as the sign-up lists are available. It promises to be a splendid affair.

2008-2009 Calendar

Longboat Harbour Recreation Committee

DAY	Time	Event
Fri Oct 31	6:00pm	Halloween/Oktoberfest
TBA	TBA	Golf Outing
Thur Nov. 13	7:00pm	Executive Committee Meeting
Mon Nov 17.	11:30am	Yacht Club Rendezvous
Sat Nov 29	10:00am	Deck The Hall
Wed Dec 10	6:00pm	Lighting of the Docks & Reception
Thur Dec 11	7:00pm	Executive Committee Meeting
Wed Dec 31	TBA	New Years Eve
Thur Jan 9	5:00pm	Meet Your Neighbors Party
Sat Jan 17	6:00pm	"Change of Watch" Dinner Dance
TBA	TBA	Casino Trip
Wed Feb 4	Noon	Fashion Show
Sun Feb 8	8:30am	Sweet heart Breakfast
Tue Feb 10	Noon	Sweet heart Luncheon
Thur Feb 12	7:00pm	Executive Committee Meeting
Thur Feb 19	TBA	Yacht Club Rendezvous
Sun Feb 22	5:00pm	Pot Luck Dinner
Thur Mar 12	7:00pm	Executive Committee Meeting
Sat Mar 14	6:00pm	St. Patrick's Day Party
Thur Mar 19	TBA	Review of the Fleet
TBA	TBA	Tennis Club Social
Mon Mar 23	7:30pm	Play Reader's Party
Tue Mar 24	7:30pm	Bingo Party
Wed Apr 8	7:00pm	Executive Committee Meeting
Thur Apr 9	6:00pm	Owner's Party
TBA	TBA	Golf Outing
Thur Apr 23	6:00pm	Pizza Party
Board Meetings every third Wednesday		
Play Readers Mondays (Jan 5 - Mar 23) Bingo Tuesdays (Jan 6 - Mar 23)		
WATCH CHANNEL 57 for changes and updates		

LBH Men's Club News

Seventeen attended the first meeting of 2008 and welcomed new member **John McNulty** from Ireland recently by way of New York. Kudos were extended to members who helped those who decorated the park entrance for Christmas. Once again they outdid themselves. Winners of the trivia contest were **Joe Hamer** and **Dave Kee**. On Jan. 15th there were 19 present. **Bob Ray**, a new member was inducted. The football trivia contest was won by **Warren Conrad** and **Vince Falcone**. New member **Jerry Roberts** was welcomed into the fellowship on Jan. 22. There were 23 members present. Trivia winners were **Vince Falcone**, **George Brumbeck**, **Dave Kee**, and **Warren Conrad**. Lunch included a great meatloaf dish provided by **Pat Warner**. Member **Joe Hamer** gave a talk on alternate fuels. He supplied two pages of notes to go along with his message. Bottom line: Ethanol is NOT the answer that people have been led to believe it is, and it is not the solution to fuel needs. My thanks to **Dave Kee** who kept notes of these three meetings.

On Jan. 29th, there were 27 present and we welcomed **Don Seymour** as a new member. Vice president, **Joe Callahan** arranged the lunch and conducted the meeting for President **Bill Holland** who was out of town this week. **Warren Conrad** acted as emcee and created the trivia contest about the human body. Four men did well, but the winner was **Milt Harr**. On Feb. 5th there were 27 (again) present. We welcomed new member **Walter Kaplan**. The trivia's topic about the NFL authored by emcee **Warren Conrad**. No one got them all correct, but a good number did well otherwise. Warren shared some interesting information about Jim Thorpe, sports hero in the 1920's. **Pat Warner** was presented with a token of our appreciation for the meatloaf dinner in January. **Bill Holland** shared his adventures at a five star luxury resort in the otherwise destitute Dominican Republic. He was asked many questions after his little talk.

Attendance was 28 two days before Valentine's Day. Last week the members were urged to wear red this day ... with mixed results. Each one "in red" received a small treat. We welcomed new members **Doug Farra** (N.J) and **Bob Vitale** (Long Island, NY). There was a contest to guess how many M & M's were in a jar. The actual count was 391 and **Len Trudell** guessed 395. His prize was the jar of candy. The trivia contest regarding the NFL (again) was won by **Joe Callahan** and new member, **Bob Vitale**. The Club's NFL final-score contest was won by **Hank Gibson**. **Ed Davin** shared a couple of jokes and **Bill**

Coughlin talked on the topic of "athletic speed training." Twenty-six attended on Feb. 19th. This being the day after Presidents' Day, **Warren Conrad** devised trivia questions about past U.S. presidents. The questions, he admitted, were pretty tough. **Fred Filmore** and **Milt Harr** had the best responses. Warren continued with other interesting facts and, yes, trivia, related to the questions. Announcements were made regarding coming events before the drawing for the door prizes. There were 30 men who attended the last meeting in February. **Bill Holland**, president and food-fetcher, announced the menu and sent us off to fill our plates. **Warren Conrad**, emcee, started the meeting with the results of his trivia contest. Five others did well, but **Fred Filmore** had the top score. The questions regarded states and their capitals, etc. Warren added some interesting other topic-related trivia-style comments. **Ernie Giordano**, vice president of the LbH Board and operating committee chair, spoke briefly about committee matters concerning Longboat Harbour. He took questions from the members. Several questions regarded the installation of hot-wired fire alarms.

Twenty-eight men attended the first meeting on March 4th. President **Bill Holland** led the members in a moment of silence in memory of **Louie Falcone**, who was active in the club a number of years ago. After lunch **Warren Conrad** made a number of announcements and introduced new member, **George Crocco**. Then he announced winners of the trivia and a triangle puzzle. The trivia contest about real first names of famous sportsmen was won by new member **George Croccio** and **Charlie Schnell**. The triangle puzzle was won by **Harris Barber**, **Fred Filmore**, and **Bart Wassmansdorf**. Member **Leo Hutton**, an official for three sports, talked about several aspects in sports. Two of these were sports during his (and our) childhoods, i.e., they were kid-organized and kid-officiated. This led up to Leo's remarks regarding cheating in today's sports world. The March 11th meeting was opened by president **Bill Holland** leading a moment of silence for the passing of past member, **Joe Tiritia**. After lunch **Warren Conrad**, emcee, shared lots of interesting information about the comics, old and new, the topic of the day's trivia contest. Many of the other 23 members present added to the discussion. No one got all 5 trivia questions correct, but **Dick Dilgard** and **Milt Harr** managed to get 4. Watch for future Men's Club news in the next issue of INFO. The Men's club meets on Tuesdays at 11:30 in the club house.

Dick Dilgard, reporter.

Harbourettes Fashion Show & Luncheon—February 13th

On Feb. 13th it was "Hat's Off!" or maybe we should say "Hat's On!" to **Alice Jorgensen** and her daughter, **Ann Armstrong** for a most delightful afternoon Tea, Luncheon and Fashion Show. The ladies enjoyed a delicious punch while socializing amid the palms and potted plants and then were seated at tables decorated with a printed program adorned with a colourful teapot along with a real tea pot. The menu consisted of tea sandwiches made by **Margaret Demey, Pat Marschke, Rosie Stieber, Jean Wassmansdorf, and Ann Armstrong**, an orange ambrosia salad made by **Edith Morse and Ann Armstrong** and desserts which included cream puffs

made by **Judy Kolbert and Marcy Henrikson**, chocolate, carmel delights made by **Donna Birnbaum**, shortbread cookies made by **Alice Jorgensen** and mini Dove ice-cream bars topped off a delightful Tea. A special treat was the



Chairman, Alice Jorgensen, with her models: Helen Ackermann, Elvina Avalone, Donna Della Peruta, Hazel Lenobel, Ruth Malone, Donna Greer, Barb Shelton and Janet Atkinson.

lovely music provided by **Sue Carole Devale**, Harp-ist! The guests then settled back to ogle the lovely fashions presented by Irene's Resort Wear which were modeled by our own **Helen Ackerman, Janet Atkinson, Elvina Avalone, Donna Greer, Hazel Lenobel, Ruth Malone, Diane Della Peruta and Barbara Shelton**. Draws were then made for prizes which included not only lovely items created and donated by our talented members but also donations from 31 local merchants and restaurants. Each lady was given their tea cup to take home and one lucky lady from each table also became the owner of a lovely tea pot. Assisting Alice and Ann were 37 la-

dies who volunteered their services to whom Alice says thank you. The Tea was our Social Event Extraordinaire of the Season. The afternoon concluded with our usual games.

Pat Warner



LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE NEWS

During the last couple of months, the Landscape Committee headed by Bob Adamsky with the able assistance of Christina Filkins, David Noyes and Charlie Rizzo have been making a considerable number of improvements on our grounds.

Five coconut palms and two Areca Palms were planted at the beach property along the La Playa border. Ixora shrubs were added to the planting along the north portion of Gulf of Mexico Drive, and Croton at the eastern end of B Building. An Adonidia palm was planted in the median strip between J and L Buildings to replace a Carissa plant which had considerable dieback.

Pruning was carried out on the Ficus trees at the Condo entrance to remove low-hanging branches that were encroaching on and shading the shrubs and flowers along the street and Exeter Drive. The Condo has purchased a power pole saw which enabled this work to be carried out by committee members, and Condo staff.

Two Adonidia Palms were transplanted from an area along the Sutton place border to new locations. One was planted in the lawn near G Building, and the other near the pool service enclosure near the west side of L Building. These palms had been planted to provide screening of Sutton Place's utility building which became very visible after they removed a giant Brazilian Pepper tree. When Sea Grape and other trees had grown to provide screening, the palms were no longer needed in this location, and hence were relocated.

Diseased Oleanders were removed from the planting along the La Playa border at the beach property and replaced with Silver Buttonwood.

Dipladenia were planted in a bed around a palm near the walk in front of the gym.

Cape Honeysuckle were used at pool # 2 to replace diseased Pittosporum which had been previously removed.

Mulching of the plantings along Gulf of Mexico Drive is in process, and should be completed shortly.

Because there has been considerable interest among Condo residents for citrus and other fruit grown on the premises, the committee has received approval to establish two small groves of fruit trees. One will be located in the median strip between J and L Buildings, and the other near the tennis court. Each will contain about six trees - varieties of sweet orange, tangerine, grapefruit, Myer's lemons and limes. Each tree will be labeled to indicate its variety. Fifteen trees are on site now and will be planted soon.



At present, we have many citrus and other fruit trees planted by residents, some in inappropriate locations, and some of poor varieties, possibly grown from seed. Those trees which enhance the landscape and are not intrusive would be allowed to remain, but some may have to be removed. We have avocado and papaya trees at K Bldg., two citrus trees at L and one at I, a grapefruit tree at M, grapefruit, orange and tangerine at G, a calamondin and lime at F, a Persian lime between D and E, a mystery citrus near the office, an orange tree at B, and an avocado and guava tree at pool #3. The guava was planted as an ornamental, rather than for fruit. There are also two mature Mango trees on the grounds.

By having Condo sanctioned fruit groves, we would hope to make various fruits available throughout the year. We would welcome the input of anyone as to varieties we should consider for the groves.

*Bob Adamsky,
Chairman*

*Committee Members
Dave Noyes
Charlie Rizzo
Christina Filkins*

Cell Phones

The Operating Committee had asked us to remind everyone that using cell phones at the pool area can annoy others who are trying to read or just relax and their use should be limited to **emergencies only**. And who would have thought that it would be necessary to include the gym as a "restricted" area as well. We certainly wouldn't want to share our private conversations with others who are only inches away and others really do not want to listen to your conversation.

Harbourettes St. Patrick's Day Lunch

On March 12th the 71 Harbourettes attended a St. Patrick's Day Luncheon.

The fun began after Bingo on Tuesday night as **Lou Longo, Marcy and Hal Henrikson, Margaret Demey, Nancy Damm, Helen Ackerman and Pat Warner** gathered together to set up!

The "Wearing of the Green" was much in evidence on Wednesday as the ladies enjoyed "Green Grog Punch" made and served by **Nancy Damm and Marianne Baeckstrom** while **Pat Warner** played Irish Tunes. It appeared everyone enjoyed the



very delicious Spring Garden Salad with chunks of grilled chicken and fruit, catered by "A Movable Feast." Homemade zucchini bread made by **Ann Sweet** and **Marg Aubry** was a special treat. A favorite dessert of most, mint chocolate chip ice cream garnished with chocolate cookie sticks topped off the meal.

The table centerpieces of green shamrock plants were enhanced by **Helen Ackerman** who added white mini carnations to each plant. The plants were donated by **Alice Jorgensen** and her daughter, Ann as were the gifts on each table. What would we have done with out them! Also included on each table was a printed card with a lovely St. Patrick's Day Poem made by our Chairman, **Ann Sweet**. In addition, Ann provided the materials for hamrock necklaces which were assembled by **Ann, Lou Longo, Helen Ackerman and Eva Huber**.



The servers were **Marcy Henrikson, Elvina Avallone, Barbara Hulyk, Ruth Malone, Alice Jorgensen and Lou Longo**.



The afternoon concluded with our usual games.

Pat Warner

YACHT CLUB



Two important events were held by the Yacht Club since the last publication of the INFO. First there was the Rendezvous on February 21st. at the Lido Beach Holiday Inn. The 59 attendees enjoyed the beautiful view, an excellent lunch, and delightful entertainment.

Anyone wishing to order clothing [e.g. shirts, caps, wind-shirts and burgees] should contact Dick Damm, purser.

Vice Commodore Fred Schwing told a number of very funny stories, altered somewhat to fit those present. Door prize drawings were then held, distributing 6 bottles of wine, a hair styling to **Phyllis Kee**, and a very large attractive book on Fish to **Karen O'Malley**.

Then, at 1:00 P.M. on March 13th curious inhabitants of Longboat Harbour began to congregate on the sea walls of the LBH inner harbor with hopes of seeing the annual fleet review. And lo, at 1:18 the fleet appeared led by Vice Commodore **Fred Schwing's** "Catnip" with Harbormaster **Mark Longo** and Purser **Dick Damm** as crew. The Catnip was followed by a fleet of twelve sail and motor vessels as well as two kayaks - a magnificent display of local sea power.

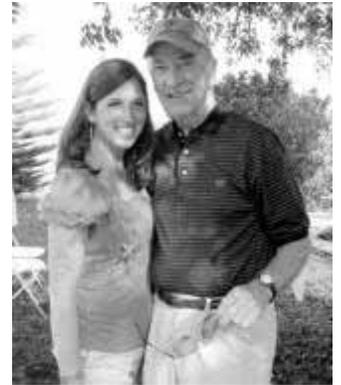


The party that the fleet so well deserved followed. It was organized by Vice Commodore Fred Schwing. It opened with Rev. Dr. Bruce Porter of Christ Church of LBK giving his blessing to the fleet and food.

Next beer, wine, and even (ugh) soft drinks were offered in such abundance that even this rapacious crowd of nearly 100 could not deplete..



Then the "Hot dog Man" from Sarasota offered his succulent dogs, sausages, and brats to all right off the barbeque. What a feast!



An unbelievable array of prizes, many donated by local merchants such as; **The Blue Dolphin Café, Cannon's Marina, The Dry Dock Grill, Exit Art, West Marine, Write-On Stationary and Leather Goods** were dispensed. The Yacht Club and its members appreciate the generosity of these businesses.



And then the lively music began, played by Bill Milner and his trio. Songs were sung and dances danced. Wow! Well, maybe the bowls of Margaritas that magically appeared helped some.



Even the mergansers dropped by to join in the celebration. What a display that was!

Pretty good for a free party. Sure hope nobody complains about their \$20.00 annual Associate Membership dues for awhile.

*An Observant Gecko, with contributor
Vice Commodore, Fred Schwing*

Happy Vernal Equinox Day
By The Midnight Writer

The first day of Spring starts a joyous time of year. Ancients celebrated it in lands far and near. Myths abound with weird stories too hard to relate, Like Eostre's* friend Rabbit laid eggs on this date. The strange customs we've adopted are no mystery. We could find them all if we'd read our history.

We folks in the Florida have come a strange way, Mixing old with new to commemorate this day. We've added more days making a brand new season, Welcoming the hordes who come here, cold the reason. Soon full-timers look forward to rest, peace, and order, Wave "bye" to spring breakers headin' for the boarder.

* Writers note: The goddess Eostre's name starts with the long E sound. (EE uh struh)

Thank You

Again, I wish to thank all my friends and relatives for your cards, well wishes and phone calls during my recent period of convalescence.. It was also so nice to be welcomed back with hugs and genuine happiness. Thanks to you all.

Rose Hall

IN MEMORIAM

Louis Falcone, age 91, long time owner, died February 26, 2008. Condolences to his whole family in particular his wife **Barbara** and sisters, **Rose Hall and Eleanor Carnese**, and brother **Vincent Falcone**.

Joe Tirita had been an owner in E-Building since 1982. An active fisherman and Men's Club regular for many years, he had been ailing for a long time. He succumbed to his illness on March 5, 2008.

The "Sweetheart Brunch."

The Recreation Committee and the Men's Club joined forces in sponsoring a new event this year – the "**Sweetheart Brunch.**" Approximately 90 people, most decked out in red and white attire, were in attendance. **Jan Davin, John Bock and Susan Kornhauser** were awarded prizes for the best (most appropriately) dressed.



Red hearts and long-stemmed roses decorated the tables which were also covered with lots of Valentine candies as favors for all. Mimosa and Bloody Marys were served as people arrived. After guests selected their tables they then proceeded to one of two buffet tables and discovered them to be laden with an incredible number of wonderful brunch dishes

prepared by the attendees. Everyone stayed to the very end enjoying not only the delicious food but mainly enjoying each other. There was no question - a good time was had by everyone!

A special thanks to all of you who helped in making this a special few hours.

*Recreation Committee
Co-chairs: Barbara Shelton
& Maggie Edger
and Men's Club
President Bill Holland*



Additional photos of this and other events are available for viewing on our web site:

www.longboatharbour.net

Click on "Photo Album" in the left column.

A VISIT to the SEMINOLE HARD ROCK CASINO

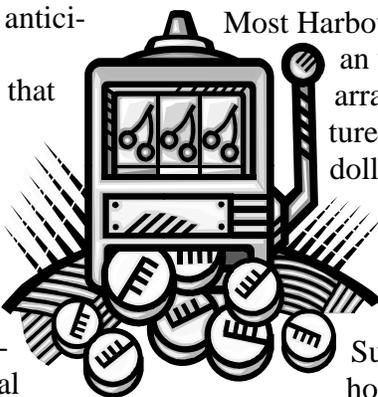
Super organizer Joe Longtin, and his trusty aides, Joe Callahan & Bob Winter carried out a well-planned bus trip to Tampa and the Seminole Hard Rock Casino, Thursday, January 31st. It all began when forty-four sleepy-eyed "ites" straggled into the Rec. Hall for a pre-trip continental breakfast at 8:45 a.m. They noshed on an array of goodies consisting of assorted, life-lengthening, oat bran muffins to be washed down by cool O.J. or aromatic hot coffee. At 9:30 (a.m. of course) the luxurious bus pulled out of our parking lot with all registrants contentedly aboard. Thankfully, no frantic telephone calls were needed to rouse late sleepers. The allure: anticipated monetary—winnings or, perhaps, a jackpot fortune that was lying in wait to pounce on a lucky claimant.

After an uneventful sixty-five mile journey, the bus pulled into an underground parking stall and a bubbly casino greeter jumped aboard. She indoctrinated the riders with the proper mandatory and optional procedures and answered giddy questions as coupons and ID's were distributed to all. Minor confusion reigned as many struggled with a beaded necklace attached to a coiled plastic cord hooked to the ID card. This contraption, dangling like an elongated umbilicus, was necessary to play the casino games of chance.

Up one escalator and down another traipsed the eager throng bursting upon a humongous room with a spectacular display of the famous "slots," over a thousand strong. Formerly, slot machines were called "one-armed bandits." Currently, there were no "arms" to pull; just a button to push. However, they still deserved the moniker: bandit. Also, there were no slots for coins which were likewise obsolete. A horizontal slot accepted paper money (bills) or casino vouchers. At the entrance, everyone had received four of the latter: thirty dollars worth of monopoly money; two tens and a five for the bandit and a fiver for a lunch discount. Each machine read the voucher and, with the ID card hooked-in, the colorful gadget welcomed the player by name. Suppos-

edly, losing money in such a personal way was heartening.

Guests could keep pushing the button until the machine indicated the player was out of loot...in which case, all buttons, lights and messages went into lock-down and turned dark as night. In case you wish to duplicate this experience, be aware that on a "5-cent machine," each time the button is pushed, nine nickels are spent. The ante can be upped to eighteen or twenty-seven which exposes the player to greater rewards while hastily depleting reserves. When flashing lights and arrows indicated a winner, often eight "points," it was cheering to know that only five cents was lost in that lucky encounter.



Most Harbourites lunched at the Fresh Harvest, an upstairs restaurant with a spectacular arrangement of buffet tables, and featured "all you can eat" dining at fifteen dollars per. By using the five dollar discount coupon and, happily, another five as a busing perk, the net was reduced to a bargain price.

Subsequently, the 4:00 p.m. witching hour arrived. Joe Longtin's "all aboard" chant spurred the laggards and, significantly, everyone clambered aboard wearing the same shirt worn upon arrival and no barrels were needed. Losers joined winners in laughter and jokes...undoubtedly ecstatic over the anticipation of munching on the traditional baloney sandwiches on the homeward trek

Event chair Joe Longtin, plus able aides Joe Callahan and Bob Winter, are to be commended for organizing and conducting an all-day, enjoyable recreational activity.

P.S. This writer searched high and low for a Seminole to spice the visit and, perhaps, shmooze with a squaw or brave, but failed to see any...unless they had abandoned their feathered headdresses. Maybe, they were busily counting their mega-profits and making bank deposits prior to conducting a feast-laden pow wow.

*Warren Conrad,
Recreation Committee
Chairman Emeritus*

EARLY EASTER FACTS

Easter is always the 1st Sunday after the 1st full moon after the Spring Equinox, (which is March 20). This dating of Easter is based on the lunar calendar that Hebrew people used to identify Passover, which is why it moves around on our Roman calendar.

Based on the above, Easter can actually be one day earlier (March 22) but that is pretty rare.

Here's the interesting info: This year is the earliest Easter any of us will ever see the rest of our lives! And

only the most elderly of our population have ever seen it this early. (One would need to be at least 95 years old.) And none of us have ever, or will ever, see it a day earlier! Here's the facts:

1) The next time Easter will be this early (March 23) will be the year 2228 (220 years from now). The last time it was this early was 1913 (so if you're 95 or older, you are the only ones that were around for that!).

2) The next time it will be a day earlier, March 22, will be in the year 2285 (277 years from now). The last time it was on March 22 was 1818. So, no one alive today has or will ever see it any earlier than this year!

GYM COMMITTEE

There are a number of new people using the gym and in an effort to help them, as well as other users get the most out of their exercise experience the Gym Committee respectfully submits the following:

1. Use of the gym equipment is limited to persons over the age of 18 with the exception of ping pong.

2. Enter and leave the gym only through the locker rooms. The door in the gym that exits to the outside is for emergency use only.

3. Please bring your reading glasses to the gym, at least during your first few visits. If you have never used the gym or taken the time to read the precautionary information and operating instructions for the equipment it is most important for your safety that you do so.

4. Simple courtesies to others in the gym goes a long way to enhance the gym experience. If someone is in the gym upon your arrival and the lights or air conditioning settings are not to your liking, discussing the matter with those already there would surely result in a satisfactory accommodation for both.

5. If someone is waiting for the piece of equipment you are using, limit your total time to a maximum of 30 minutes.

6. Clean the piece of equipment, when finished, with the materials that are mounted on the wall adja-



cent to the men's locker room door.

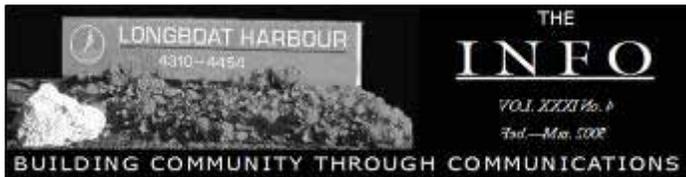
7. If you shower after your exercise, remember to take any soap, shampoo, or other personal things with when you leave and be sure the shower door is left open in order to dry it out.

8. If you are the last one to leave either the gym or locker room areas, please turn off anything that is "ON" including the air

conditioning, lights, heat, and sauna.

9. Do not overextend yourself. Be sure you are fit enough to use the gym - get a clearance from your doctor if you are in doubt.

10. In an emergency, there are two emergency red "PANIC" buttons located just above the floor adjacent to the locker room doors. Upon depressing either button, a loud horn will sound alerting anyone in the area of the office/gym/rec. hall complex that there is an emergency in the gym. During normal business hours the office will investigate and take appropriate action. At other times, anyone hearing the alarm should investigate to see if there is an actual emergency and if needed call the fast acting 316-1977 emergency number. If you accidentally activate the alarm, simply pull out the red button to turn off the alarm. **DO NOT** leave the area of the gym until everyone is aware that it was an accidental alert to insure that emergency services are not called.



Your editors are indebted to the many individuals who contribute articles for the INFO. We, as editors, are compilers; most of the stories that appear are created by others.

More individuals are needed to report on events held in this very active community. We urge those who are responsible and chair any event to appoint someone as a reporter for the occasion. We will appreciate submissions, if possible, via email at jmwass@rogers.com . The INFO depends on the contributions of others.

As well, we would be happy to receive creative writing efforts.

To all those who helped make this issue possible we extend our thanks and the appreciation of all who own here.

*Bart & Jean Wassmansdorf
Editors*

UPDATE: Digital TV and You

The good news is that you will NOT have to buy a new TV to watch your regular shows. If the article in the AARP Magazine January-February issue is accurate, the change-over to digital TV just got easier. If you are hooked up to cable TV service, the cable company is required to convert digital signals into non-digital (analog.) signals. Analog TV's connected to cable outlets will NOT need a converter starting February 17, 2009. There is a good chance your analog TV will have a better picture than now, and better sound, too. Now, that's the good news.

If you should have a TV getting signals off air, then you will need a converter box. A no-frills version costs about \$50.00 or so. The federal government will provide a free coupon worth up to \$40 (limit – 2 coupons per household). To get the coupon you may apply by calling 1-888-388-2009 or by going on the Internet to www.mydtv2009.gov. You have until March 31, 2009, to apply for coupons. Apply early.

Dick Dilgard

www.longboatharbour.net



LONGBOAT HARBOUR OWNERS ASSOCIATION
4454 Gulf of Mexico Drive
Longboat Key, FL 34228

FIRST CLASS