



THE KEYS BREEZE

Issue Number 3

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NEW BOARD FOR 1983

The Ventura Keys Board of Directors is comprised of 12 people who serve two-year terms. Each year half of the positions come up for election at the January Annual Meeting. This year, for some reason, we have seven returning Board members who will be serving the second year of their terms and five newly elected members. The Directors for 1983 will be:

Chuck Withers, President
Dennis Trenten, Vice President
*Terry Towner, Secretary
Harvey Mylander, Treasurer
Shirley Donovan, Membership
Dixie Cramolini
*Pat Gallegos
Bob Hanson
*Ray Loehr
*Bill Schultze
*Corrine Styles
Arlene Virtue

*New Directors

A number of other people have agreed to serve as alternates, either to fill potential vacancies on the Board or because they are involved in ongoing projects. The 1983 alternates are:

Joe Reynolds, Past President
Harrison Fischer
John Gray
Bette Hawk, Art Jury Member
Dennis Kane
Byron Lawler
Lou Liserani
Sue Liserani, Newsletter Editor

ANNUAL MEETING - DREDGING AGAIN!

Following a brief summary of last year's activities and the election of the 1983 Board of Directors (reported on p. 1), President Joe Reynolds introduced the major topic of the night - the reactivation of the Portobello Maintenance District. Joe and Byron Lawler explained the background of the issue, and then Joe introduced the guest speaker, Assistant City Manager Dan Pincetich, who graciously fielded questions and even accusations from the sometimes hostile crowd.

Prior to the passage of Proposition 13, waterfront homeowners were assessed a fee to fund the Portobello Maintenance District, and this money was used to dredge the channels as necessary. Special assessment districts were then done away with by Proposition 13, but current legal opinion is that under certain circumstances it is possible to set up an assessment district in which the money is collected in advance and held in reserve.

The ballot recently sent to waterfront owners by the city is an informal vote to get an idea whether enough of the waterfront owners want the city to pursue this solution to the dredging problem. If the majority is in favor, then the city will go ahead and examine the legal ramifications and hold the public hearings which would be required before such an assessment could take place.

Everyone, Keys residents and city management alike, is obviously tired of arguing about dredging year after year. According to Mr. Pincetich, collecting this reserve fund is the most realistic solution to getting the Keys dredged on a regular basis, since we certainly cannot continue to count on disaster funds or any other windfalls. Most of the Keys residents present, while agreeing that this may be the only short run solution, feel that a concerted effort should be made at the same time to find a permanent way to keep the Arundel Barranca, the cause of the problem, from continually dumping into the Keys. Possibly the new Board should appoint a committee to examine the problem and attempt to get some cooperation from the city, county, Flood Control District, Port District, or any other group that might be involved. Some of you who were the most vocal at the meeting might want to participate if such a committee is formed.

In a related matter, at the end of the meeting Jim Clark mentioned that a coalition is being formed of groups concerned with the beach and harbor areas, and that members already include the Harbor Merchants Association, the Pierpont Bay Association, and the Ventura Marina Mobile Home Park. If the Keys Board decides to participate, all the property owners on the beach side of Harbor Boulevard would then be represented and could work together on mutually beneficial issues and constitute a considerable block of voters to get the attention of our elected officials.

LIGHTS BUT NO BOATS

The Keys waterfront was spectacular, as usual, this past holiday season, and, thanks to the many waterfront owners who also decorated the street sides of their homes, the neighborhood really looked festive. Next year, how about more participation from the off-water homes? Let's show the waterfront people and all of our holiday visitors we care, too. A few duplexes and condos were decorated this year, and it might be nice to have a special prize for them in the contest next year.

The winners of the 1982 Home Decoration Contest in the waterfront category were the Kanés at 2800 Sailor for their display of animated figures. Second prize went to the Riegers at 3098 Seahorse for their magnificent poinsettia made of red and white lights. The Gendrons at 3035 Seaview won third prize for their lovely use of miniature lights. A special honorable mention went to the Hauks at 3033 Seahorse for their humorous Santa relaxing on the dock.

Judging was extremely difficult. The representatives of the harbor and the Keys Association who cruised up and down all the channels on the Bay Queen had a terrible time choosing among all the beautiful homes. Also, it was almost impossible to figure out whose homes we were looking at. You would be surprised how different things look at night, from the water, and surrounded by all those dazzling lights. Maybe next year we should have those who wish to be in the contest hang out a sign with their address on it or identify themselves in some other way.

The winners in the off-water category were the Dyes and the Stouts at 1338 and 1346 Beachmont who will have to figure out how to share the trophy. Second prize was won by the Stiles family at 1250 Beachmont who lined their front walk with luminarias. The Whiting family at 1319 Seafarer won third prize for their display using miniature white and red lights. Honorable mention went to the Draganchuks at 1204 Seafarer.

The Parade of Lights turned out to be a huge disappointment to all those waiting in the empty lots and at the many large parties along the channels. We understand from talking to the people who ran the event for the first time this year that the judging in the harbor took much longer than anticipated, and they did not realize how important the evening traditionally has been in the Keys. Also, the tide was very low that night, so, of the close to 30 boats entered in the Parade, only a few braved the entrance and finally came into the Keys long after many of the spectators had given up and gone home.

We are certain that with cooperation between the event organizers in the harbor and the Keys Association these problems can be worked out, and next year the Parade of Lights will again be the fabulous event it has been in the past.

OOPS!

- In the first issue of this newsletter we mistakenly listed Dennis Trenten as the author of "The Keys Duck" when the credit should have gone to his wife, Vicki. Sorry, Vicki, but I pictured Dennis as the "wine drinking scribe."
- Art Jury member Bette Hawk's phone number was incorrectly listed in the last issue. Bette's actual number is 642-6631.
- We neglected to mention that the boat drawing we are using as our logo was designed by Joan Shugar. You may have recognized it as the one which originally appeared on her terrific banners advertising the barbeque last summer.

THE KEYS BREEZE is the bimonthly newsletter of the Ventura Keys Association. Direct news items, comments, and questions to: Newsletter, Ventura Keys Association, Box 1086, Ventura, CA 93002. Editor: Sue Liserani (642-6867).

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