

BONNET SHORES BEACH CLUB

BONNET BEACON

Issue 3

June / July, 2008

FROM THE OVAL CABANA . . .

It gives me great pleasure to report that at the Development Rights Budget Meeting on June 18, 2008, the budget to fund the buy-out of the Development Rights was approved. Including Board Members, there were just 91 weighted votes in attendance. In my memory, and I go back quite a few years in my involvement with Beach Club business, it was by far the most sparsely attended meeting I can recall. The lack of attendance is a clear indication of the overwhelming support for the buy-out. There are many, many members who have contributed over the years to making this day possible and I want to thank each of them for their help. I know I have said this before, but this is the single most important event in the 20 year history of this Condominium Association. No doubt, the future of the Bonnet Shores Beach Club just became a little brighter for all of us.

This edition of the Beacon is usually our longest and is filled with information about our plans for the month ahead. Please read on so you can take full advantage of everything that is happening at the Club this coming month. I wish a Happy Fourth of July to everyone. Independence Day has just taken on a new meaning at the BSBC. Now, for the first time, we can truly say that it is time to turn our attention to the summer ahead at **OUR** treasure by the sea.

John A. Coletti, BSBCCA President

ANNUAL MEETING . . .

The Annual Meeting took place on June 3rd with 35 members in attendance and 949 weighted votes (all but 99.5 by proxy). The entire slate of Board members was re-elected; in addition, the Board re-elected the slate of officers at the June 10 Board meeting. The officers are President --- John Coletti, Vice President --- Kerry Rafanelli, Treasurer --- Mike Favicchio, and Secretary --- Vin Nugent. The remaining Board members are Steve Brown, Tim Magill Jr., and Jerry Zito. We are very lucky that this group of owners is willing to devote so much of their own time to the BSBCCA business. Indeed, together they represent a total of 33 years of volunteering to serve the Beach Club in this capacity.

BUDGET MEETING . . .

As a result of the passage of the Development Rights Budget, the Development Rights Assessment is due on July 20th. It is imperative that you pay this assessment on time because we must make the initial \$100,000 payment by July 30th. If you choose to pay the entire four-year assessment rather than just this year's portion, you certainly may do so. We are setting up an escrow account into which all of these monies will be deposited.

REGISTRATION . . .

It has been our policy to give members relatively easy access to the facility for the purpose of registration through the third Sunday of June each year; the gate staff allows members to pass through the gate with a minimum of inquiry. However, at the time of publication of this Beacon, fewer members have registered this year as compared with the same time last year. Accordingly, we are extending that period of easy access until the last Sunday of June in order to give our members ample time to process their registration. But please take note --- the Board has instructed the staff that effective June 30th, any member without a member pass is to be stopped at the gate and escorted directly to the office for the purpose of registering.

It has also come to the Board's attention that many members have not requested parking stickers. Perhaps you are unaware that a member is allowed a parking sticker not just for one vehicle, but for as many vehicles as are registered or leased to him. If, for example, a member has a family car, a sports car, and a pick-up truck, and if that member can demonstrate that all three are registered or leased to him, he is entitled to get a parking sticker for each vehicle. Please be advised that any vehicle without a parking sticker --- regardless of whether or not it belongs to a member --- will be expected to pay the parking fee on weekends and holidays. That means that if you obtain a parking sticker for your first vehicle but not for your second and if you then come to the facility on a weekend or holiday in that second vehicle, you will have to pay the parking fee. That would be ludicrous, so be sure to go to the office with either your vehicle registration or your vehicle lease agreement to obtain a parking sticker for each of your vehicles. You must also have the vehicle with you so that the security staff can affix the sticker to the windshield.

And remember --- while these rules may seem cumbersome, the intent is to insure the privacy of the Beach Club.

BOARD MEETINGS . . .

Remember that Board Meetings are held here at the Beach Club during the summer months in order to offer the owners an easy way to directly address the Board. Each meeting begins with an Open Discussion Session during which any owner may speak about the issue of his choice. Historically, many more owners attend summer Board Meetings than those of the off-season; for this reason, an owner will have a time limit of ten minutes to address the Board. Meeting dates and times are posted on the website and here at the Beach Club 48 hours prior to the meeting in accordance with the Documents of Condominium.

ENTERTAINMENT . . .

Entertainment for the season will begin with a bang on the Fourth of July weekend. **The Robert Black Band** will perform on Friday, July 4th from 8pm until midnight, **Tribeca** on Saturday, July 5th also from 8pm until midnight, and **Triad** on Sunday, July 6th from 4pm to 8pm. Carol O'Donnell has booked great bands for every Saturday and Sunday throughout the season. Some of the Beach Club favorites will be returning for your enjoyment --- **Steve Smith & The Naked**s on August 2nd, **Steve Anthony & Persuasion** on July 19th and on August 10th, and **World Premiere** on July 13th and on August 3rd and 24th. The list of headliners is too long to write here, so be sure to check the entire entertainment schedule either on the website or at the information center outside the Office. Thank God for summer nights, great music, and Carol.

JULY 4TH WEEKEND . . .

Keeping in mind that this is our busiest weekend of the year, please remember that the guest fee and the parking fee are increased throughout the July 4th weekend. The guest fee is \$18 on all three days of the weekend with no After-4 guest passes available on July 4th only. The parking fee is \$15 per car on all three days, but there is no parking fee at all after 4pm on July 5th and 6th. These increased fees have proven very effective in limiting the guest population throughout the holiday weekend so that our members can enjoy the holiday without the stress of an over-crowded beach and parking lot. And, of course, car-pooling goes a long way in relieving the over-crowded condition of the parking lot. Remember when the Beach Club was so crowded during the holiday weekend that cars were parked on the causeway and were towed by the Town of Narragansett? We certainly wouldn't ever want a return to that nightmare.

SUNDAY GUESTS . . .

And this leads to a discussion of the second busiest time at the Beach Club --- the Sundays in July. Although this is not a new policy, we do want to remind you that the guest fee is \$18 on all the Sundays of July. As you look around and find plenty of room to set up on the beach, you can clearly see the result of the higher guest fee on these busy days.

FIREWORKS . . .

Do you remember what took place on July 6th, 2003 when a child was reported missing and thought to be in the sea? The lifeguards instantaneously activated an emergency operation. In addition, everyone on the beach was immediately on his/her feet and tens of people formed a chain in the water to search the ocean floor with their feet. The entire beach population mobilized to find and save that child. And everyone breathed a collective sigh of relief and erupted into applause when that little boy was found. That's because here at the Beach Club we are indeed a family, not because we share blood but because we share so many years of cherished memories. And that's precisely why personal fireworks have no place here ---- because we could not bear to even think of endangering one of our own. So if you're considering bringing some fireworks to shoot off here on the beach, please put that thought out of your mind.

MOVIE NIGHT . . .

Our popular Movie Night will return on Friday, July 11th with a presentation of *Pirates of the Caribbean 3: At World's End*. The movie will begin at dusk (about 8pm) and the Snack Bar will remain open later than usual on this night. So grab your chairs, a blanket, and some snacks and spend a great evening with us for this seaside movie event.

NEW YEAR'S EVE . . .

Our annual New Year's Eve celebration will take place on Saturday, July 19th with Steve Anthony and Persuasion. There is a champagne toast at midnight for everyone in attendance. So come join us for a night of great fun.

RESTAURANT . . .

There is much that is excitingly new in the restaurant this year. First of all, it looks beautiful; it has been painted in muted colors that give it an air of tranquil elegance. In keeping with that theme, we have returned to white cotton tablecloths. Secondly, you will find that the service is outstanding; restaurant manager Gene has trained the wait staff to pay attention to every detail of your dining experience. And lastly, chef Michael has demonstrated that he can work miracles with food. There is really no way to describe his culinary masterpieces other than to give you a few descriptions from the menu itself. Of course, this is not the complete menu, but rather just a sampling from appetizers to desserts.

“Clams Zuppa --- eight Narragansett Bay littleneck clams sautéed with sweet Vidalia onion, capers, olives, and garlic in a white wine-basil butter sauce, served with grilled crostini; Baby Spinach Salad --- gorgonzola, walnuts, oranges, raspberry vinaigrette; Seafood Casserole --- shrimp, scallops, tilapia, lobster meat, and Yukon gold potato in a saffron lobster sauce with a puff pastry crust; Grilled Beef Tenderloin --- in a cabernet demi-glaze with caramelized onions, served with scalloped potatoes and sautéed garlic rabe; Sweet Chili Glazed BBQ Ribs --- slow cooked baby back ribs finished with sweet and spicy chili glaze, served with scalloped potatoes and sautéed garlic rabe (available in full or half racks); Chicken and Wild Mushroom Marsala --- sautéed boneless chicken breasts with mixed wild mushrooms in a marsala wine sauce, served with rice pilaf and mixed summer vegetables; Linguini with Shrimp --- five jumbo shrimp sautéed scampi style in a garlic butter and white wine sauce, with roasted tomatoes and baby spinach over linguini pasta; Forrest Berry Tart --- a medley of European wild berries floating on a cream filling in an all-butter shortbread crust; Warm Chocolate Lava Cake --- cinnamon crème anglaise, raspberry coulis; Banana “Scallops” --- caramelized banana slices with homemade vanilla bean gelato and hazelnut chocolate ganache.”

You'll really want to try the restaurant; it's a much different experience than that of years past. Don't miss out.

MORE RESTAURANT NEWS . . .

This year the restaurant will be open four nights a week. In addition to our Thursday Pasta Night, we will be serving from the regular menu on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday evenings. We think the new chef and the new menu will entice so many members to frequent the restaurant that we just wouldn't be able to accommodate everyone on only two evenings a week, so we decided to open the restaurant on Wednesday evenings too. Call 783-3739 for reservations.

PASTA NIGHT . . .

Our most popular event is back every Thursday evening from 5 to 9pm. However, it has changed somewhat. You still have a choice of three pastas, six sauces, and some 20 ingredients, but your pasta dish will be prepared in the kitchen. So you don't have to leave your table at all. The price is \$15.95 for adults, \$8.95 for children under the age of 12. We serve in two places --- in the restaurant and also under the tent; it's your choice. This event is usually crowded and reservations are not accepted, so you may have to wait a while before you are seated. But it's truly worth the wait.

LUNCH IN THE RESTAURANT AND UNDER THE TENT . . .

This year we are offering lunch either under the tent or in the restaurant Monday through Friday from noon to 3pm. Some of the menu selections are chowder or bisque, calamari, Caesar salad with chicken or shrimp, 8 oz. angus burger, tuna or chicken salad or roasted veggie wraps, lobster salad roll or plate, vegetable or lobster ravioli, linguine with shrimp, chicken parmesan, sesame chicken pizza. You can enjoy your meal in a relaxed atmosphere away from the sun of the beach.

SNACK BAR . . .

The Snack Bar menu has some new offerings this season. We now have a lobster salad plate in addition to the lobster roll. We also have a meatball sub, a sausage / peppers / onions sub, and an Italian sub. We also have chili, a veggie burger, an 8 ounce Angus burger, and even calamari. Why bring your own lunch when you can get a delicious one here?

SAND BAR GRILLE . . .

You probably noticed that the Sand Bar Grille did not open on June 14th as promised. That's because the grill malfunctioned and we had to order a new one at a cost of \$3,300. (That's where your restaurant assessment goes.) But it will be up and running by June 28th. Some of the menu selections are chowder, chili, Caesar salad with chicken or shrimp, watermelon and feta salad, angus burger, hot dog, meatball sub, baby back ribs, roasted veggie wrap, chicken sandwich, swordfish, petit filet. As you know, the tent is the place to be on Saturday and Sunday afternoons.

WEATHER PERMITTING . . .

Please remember that the Snack Bar, the Sand Bar Grille, and our new Lunch in the Restaurant or Under the Tent are all open on a weather permitting basis. Dinner in the restaurant and Pasta Night are served regardless of the weather.

COOKING ON THE BEACH . . .

Cooking on the beach is allowed after 5pm on weekdays but not until after 6pm on weekends and holidays. In addition, remember to stay at least 10 feet from any wooden structure. Please use special care when using your grill: you don't need me to caution you that a stray spark or ember could have drastic results vis-a-vis this wooden facility. And more important than the building is the myriad of youngsters enjoying their summer vacation. Extra caution is needed to insure the safety of our younger members. Please stay with your grills and tend to them carefully.

HOUSE ACCOUNTS . . .

Perhaps this two-year-old idea needs a bit of review. Every owner automatically has an Office Account which can be used to charge guest passes, work order fees, and Logo Loft purchases. Please remember that only owners have these particular charging rights. In addition to the Office Account, an owner can open a Restaurant Account. In order to do so, the owner must go to the restaurant to initiate the process. At that time, the owner can assign charging privileges to whomever he chooses. Two invoices (one for each account) will be generated and mailed at the end of each month.

WINDOWS . . .

Our window replacement program continues this season. We're happy to announce that a replacement window has finally been found for the outside window on the double bathhouses. This window will fit into the existing opening without the need for any additional construction. Moreover, we can report that more than half of the cabana windows have been replaced already through the cooperation of our owners. The window prices are: cabana crank-out back window --- \$325, cabana double crank-out front window --- \$395, double bathhouse window --- \$235. With everyone's cooperation, 100% uniformity of all the windows throughout the facility is within our reach in the near future. If you would like to order a new window because it's in disrepair or simply because you want a new one, just go to the office.

PASSES AND UNITS FOR SALE . . .

It appears that the list which the office maintains of owners who have passes for sale has somehow developed into a much larger and more complicated brokerage for passes and units. What started out as a simple list of passes for sale has mushroomed into six different lists ---- a list of passes for sale, a list of people interested in buying passes, a list of units for sale, a list of people interested in buying a unit, a list of units for rent, and a list of people interested in renting a unit. It was never the intention of the Board that providing this service would become so complicated and time-consuming. Therefore, the Board has instructed the office to bring the system back to its originally intended purpose --- to provide an easy way for owners who are in need of additional passes to purchase them from owners who have extra passes. Accordingly, the office will henceforth accept listings for passes only. This may change at some time in the future, but the Board has directed the office to adhere to this new policy until further notice.

COMMON QUESTIONS . . .

The title of this paragraph suggests that you will see questions here; however, you will find nothing but answers. Chances are very good that you can guess the questions. If you had been eavesdropping on the conversations that took place in the office during the busy registration process of the past month, you would have heard one of the ever-so-patient girls in the office give one of the following responses not just once, but over and over again: "Even though you pay \$80 in restaurant assessment, you only get back \$70 in Bonnet Bucks." --- "No, the restaurant assessment did not increase; it has been the same for over 10 years." --- "We need to actually see your vehicle registration to verify that it is valid for this year with your name and license plate number." --- "No, staying with you is not the same as permanent residency. That pass will cost \$500." --- "No, we don't change the locks to every unit during the winter. Perhaps your door is just sticking." --- "I know that the miles would be awesome, but State law does not allow you to pay your assessment with a credit card." --- "The fact that you checked off that you would use last year's photo does not mean that you can use last year's ID pass." ---- "Telling me that you bought passes from a guy named Jim doesn't help me. I need a unit number." -- -- "Only unit owners can purchase guest passes. No, a note or a phone call is not sufficient." Please be kind to the young ladies in the office; they've been swimming up-stream.

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