



The GRASS STRIP!

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Blue Ribbon Farms Newsletter

January 6, 2003



Meet the Youngs

Ken and Mary Young love living in Blue Ribbon Farms. The friendly neighborhood was just what they wanted for their "retirement" home. Their search began in 1992 when they decided to explore the northwest with retirement in mind. A four-day stay at Discovery Bay introduced them to the Sequim area. Future vacations brought them back and in 1995 they began to seriously look for property in the area. They purchased a lot on Bell Hill in 1996 but it lacked the neighborly feel they were looking for. Their search finally ended in early 1998 when they fell in love with the Blue Ribbon Farms area and bought property on Greywolf Rd.

Ken had retired in 1996 from California Youth Authority (a division of the California Department of Corrections incarcerating young offenders) as Youth Counselor working with sex and substance abuse offenders. Mary was still working in the commercial sales of police cars for a Ford dealership in Sacramento when they moved into their shop building on the Greywolf property in November of 1999. Ken began construction on the main house at that time while Mary started commuting weekly, flying between Sequim and Sacramento. In October of 2000 she quit her job and took time off as they worked to move into the new house and make it their "home". They are both back to work now. Ken is store manager for the Sequim Sears and Mary is office assistant for Bay Timber just off of Kitchen-Dick Road.

Ken and Mary have been married for 17 years and have three children and two grandchildren. Ken's daughter, Lora, is in the process of relocating from Monterey, Ca. along with her army husband and son, Michael. Ken's son, Cameron, is currently living in Sacramento. Mary's son, Garland, lives in Wisconsin with his wife and daughter, Elyssa. Other members of the family include their bunny, Oishi (Japanese for Yummy), their pugs, Morticia and Pugsley, and their Oripei, Opie.

When Ken has free time he enjoys golf, yard work, and woodworking. He is also a commercially-rated pilot with a flight instructor ground license and advanced ground license. Mary loves gardening and we all enjoy the "pot people" that adorn their yard. She is a very "crafty" lady

and spends time painting, stenciling, and decorating their home which has a very cozy, warm, and comfortable feeling from top to bottom. They both do a lot of collecting...frogs, carousel horses, cow salt and pepper shakers, bears, old toys and country mementos for their home...but if you really want to see a smile on Mary's face ask her about her M&M collection! WOW! One hint - it fills a WHOLE room in their house and makes you feel like a kid again the minute you walk in.

Both Ken and Mary are active in the Blue Ribbon Farms Owners Association. Mary is our treasurer and tracks the budget, expenditures, and collection of dues which is all computerized now. Ken is chairman of our association board. As anyone knows who has chaired any board or committee, the hours of work, planning, record keeping and meeting preparation can be very time consuming. Ken has poured lots of new ideas into the board and is very active in training future board members. He firmly believes in the concept of bringing in new people who will work closely with the current committee officers (especially chairman, secretary and treasurer) while being trained to take over the position smoothly when the new term rolls around. If anyone would be interested in working a few hours a month to help with the workload of the board officers, and then willing to be trained to take over these positions in the future, please contact Ken.

To Ken and Mary, a BIG thank you for all your work on the board, and for being active members in our association. You help to make the community that friendly, welcome place you were looking for when you moved here.

Upcoming Annual Meeting

Put a reminder on your calendar for the February 1st annual Blue Ribbon Farms homeowners meeting to be held at the Old Dungeness School House.

One of the main agenda items at this year's meeting will be airstrip maintenance and renovation costs.

There will be 3 board member positions open, so please consider if the time is right for you to take a turn serving the association.

Blue Ribbon Farms Association Board Members

Chairman: Ken Young

Co-Chair: Jim Cone

Secretary: Terry Everts

Treasurer: Mary Young

Board Member: Glen McFaul

Board Member and Airport Committee: Ralph Trefney

Contact **The GRASS STRIP!**

You can contact The Grass Strip by mail at

P.O. Box 3141; Sequim, WA. 98382

or send email to patti@switched-on-networks.com

Introducingwww.blueribbonfarmsassoc.com**That's 'blue ribbon farms assoc'**

We would like to know what you want to see on our web site. The possibilities are nearly endless! For now you will find this, and previous Grass Strip newsletters inside the member login. The member login will maintain our privacy, and make the site a secure place to post announcements. Use the following information to login:

username is grass-strip, password is vol5

This is everyone's opportunity to help our Association save on the cost of mailings. We just need to hear from you to make it work. All comments and suggestions are welcome, and it's easy... send email from the site or to patti@switched-on-networks.com

Let us know if you would like to access the newsletter and other announcements from the web site, and we'll send you an email notice when there are new postings.

2002 Picnic Success

Jim and Bev Cone spared no effort to host a perfect picnic. The tables were beautifully decorated with a red, white, and blue patriotic theme, and everything required to insure a good time was provided - even the fog cleared to add good weather to the event! All of the food brought to share was delicious, and there was plenty to go around.

Thanks to everyone who helped make our annual picnic a success, with extra THANKS to the Cones.

**Activities in the Dungeness Recreational Area**

Our adjoining county park and national wildlife refuge offers wonderful opportunities year around. The miles of hiking trails take one through forests and meadows of seasonal colors, past duck ponds, and along the bluff overlooking the strait. The boundary trail makes a nice loop, is well maintained, and basically circles the county park. It can be walked in under an hour. We share the trails with the occasional horseback rider and bicyclist, so be alert.

From October through January, the county park hosts hunters as well. The game is pheasants and then ducks. Hunting hours are 8:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M. weekends, Wednesdays, and holidays. During these hours the southern portions of the park are designated to the hunters and the area seems to be fairly popular. Pheasants are trucked in each morning and released before shooting hours. Hunters and dogs then roam the hunting area with shotguns ready. Hikers should refrain from using the trails during shooting hours as safety areas are not always clearly marked.

The county campground is closed now and will remain so until early February. However, access to the Dungeness Wildlife Refuge is still available every day though visiting hours are becoming shorter. No hunting is allowed there. The trail to the spit closes *just before* sunset and the front gate is locked *at* sunset. Access to the county park is free, but there is a \$3.00 charge per family for entering the national wildlife area. The money is used to maintain and expand services right there. Of course, seniors can use their golden age passports to enter without charge.

Our wildlife refuge gained some notoriety with a mention in the November issue of *Sunset Magazine* as a desirable birding area. By fall most of the summer tourist traffic is over and the spit area is less congested. You will still be greeted warmly by national park ranger, Colleen Irvine, or resident volunteer, Kathy Wagoner, both of whom are friendly, outgoing, and knowledgeable about the area.

Take advantage of one of the benefits of living in Blue Ribbon Farms - our county park - it's close, it's gorgeous, it's free, and you will, no doubt, run into a neighbor or two out exploring, exercising or just enjoying the fresh air, scenery and wildlife.



The Grass is Greener!

Year 2002 was quite a learning curve for runway maintenance. We had a reliable group of volunteers to help maintain the runway by donating their time and machinery to cut the runway grass during the early periods of growth. But early into the summer the runway condition deteriorated. Due to the lack of maintenance for almost 10 years the runway was in sore need of aeration, fertilizer, and surface smoothing by the application of sand. This wasn't as necessary in the past because, quite frankly, there were not as many pilots using the runway as there is now. With the increase of pilots using the runway surface there is also an increase in the need for maintenance.

Jim Cone volunteered his time, equipment and paid for the 800 pounds of fertilizer that was applied to the runway, after the aeration, early in the season. Following the aeration was a reseeding effort and fertilizer application. Jim worked very hard to also have the runway sanded, which turned into a very large task. Because none of us are expert in the responsibilities of runway maintenance, the sanding did not go as well as planned. The amount of sand, and the way to handle its distribution was a totally new experience. Unfortunately the application was not as evenly distributed as hoped. This created a lot of hand-work and dragging operations that Jim single handedly tried to correct. Finally the rest of the Pilot volunteers came to the rescue. Bob McCrorie volunteered a hired hand who he had working for him to apply his muscle to the effort to redistribute the sand by raking. Terry Everts, Ralph Trefney, Jay Sakas, John Cuny, Bob McCrorie, Jim Cone, and Don Gillette, all huddled to try and see what approach would bring resolve to the dilemma. Special recognition to Jack Waud for consulting on the proper care and feeding of the runway. Without Jack much indecision and additional effort would have occurred.

The resolution agreed upon in the Pilot consensus was that a regular maintenance program had to be established to keep the runway serviceable. This included Irrigation, Aeration, Fertilization, Cutting, and Sanding as required on a year-to-year basis. Decided was that the runway value to the rest of The Blue Ribbon Farms Association was an asset to the valuation of the Association Properties. Pilots are willing to pay a bit more for runway access and this increases the Real Estate values for all of us, raising the values in the immediate area of Blue Ribbon Farms.

The very first issue is with irrigation. We need a reliable, renewable resource of WATER. This summer was very dry with only 5.2 inches total by July. Total rainfall for the year, as of 12/21/02, is 12.36 inches measured on an electronic computerized rain gauge mounted on the Trefney hangar roof. The Association does have 2 membership shares, at an annual cost of \$50.00, in the so-called irrigation Ditch Company that perimeters our airport. This should provide a source of water for irrigation. Whether this source, or the amount allotted to us will be adequate

is another question. Hopefully we will know more after the Ditch Company meeting in January 2003.

Grass is an easily renewable runway surface. But water is the key ingredient for its survival. John Cuny, Bob McCrorie, and Ralph Trefney shared the cost of purchasing a 5 HP water pump to irrigate the runway this summer. The pump cost \$750.00 delivered. Additional donations for pipe and fittings required to build a temporary irrigation piping system were also collected which amounted to \$250.00. In addition Mickey Sexton donated the temporary use of his irrigation pipe to build a 1000 ft long irrigation system. The water source was taken from the Pond near Mr. Susongs property at the east end of the runway. We managed to improve the runway conditions using this volunteer resource for this summer at a great expense and effort to the few folks that were involved. We need to make this a permanent budgetary item for the Blue Ribbon Farms Association for it to be of lasting value.

The Plan is to trench and place pipe on the entire north edge of the 2200-foot runway to allow for a properly managed irrigation system to be put in place without disrupting the use of the runway or creating any runway hazards. The system will be zoned with manual control valves placed to do sections of the runway, as required, to conserve water and assure proper resource management. Estimated cost to accomplish the trenching and the purchase of the pipe is approximately \$3000.00 for the first phase. In addition to the pipe would be the cost of control cable so that eventually we could automate the system.

The **second phase** would include installation of all the zone electrical control valves, power, and the timer installation. Should there be a water resource problem with the Ditch Company then additional budgetary cost would be involved to establish a well to provide for irrigation requirements.

In Recognition of Outstanding Meritorious Duty:

The following folks have extended themselves in a selfless act of service in maintaining the runway. They are: Jim Cone, John Cuny, James Duff, Terry & Deb Everts, George Franchini, Don Gillette, Bob & Mickey McCrorie, John Payne, Jay Sakas, Ralph Trefney, Jack Waud, and John Wilson.

In Recognition of Monetary Donations

The following folks have donated cash to the runway fund. They Are: Jim Cone, John Cuny, George Franchini, Don Gillette, Kenneth Horwitz, Jay Sakas, Corby Somerville, and Ralph Trefney.

We are proud of our runway and surroundings. We hope that the pride in our Blue Ribbon area will be the most talked about in Clallam County. We ask for everyone's support.

We have made every effort to include the names of all those who participated in the runway maintenance during 2002. Please accept our apologies if we have missed anyone, and let us know so that we can correct the oversight in the next issue of The Grass Strip.

NEW TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD



Bill & Carol Follmer, 413 Buckhorn

Bill & Carol are retired and come from Redmond, Wa. Folks find Sequim in the funniest ways! Bill & Carol came to Sequim years back to purchase a gift for friends living in Sunland. While here, they fell in love with the area and now, here they are, ready to join our neighborhood! Bill is retired after 33 years with Xerox, and Carol is retired after 25 years as a professional nanny... (Bill says Carol will get him for saying that...hmmmm). They have one daughter who is currently attending Gonzaga Law School.



Dave & Conradine Holz, 443 Buckhorn

Dave says he's semi-retired, but in talking with him, you'll find anything but!

Meet 2 ex-Disney employees who are moving in from Lafayette, California. Conradine works as an "interior designer" for theme parks and restaurants (with Dave as a helper) – most recently returning from Tokyo, where they worked on a theme park for Hong Kong. They have 3 children and 2 grandchildren – their daughter lives on Bainbridge Island and 2 sons live in California. How did they find Sequim? Well, friends gave them a book of the top 50 places to retire, and they decided to check out #49 on the list.. Sequim! The Holz' house is almost complete and they hope to move in mid January.

Margie Crofoot, Deb Everts, Patti Minor and Ralph Trefney produced this issue of
The GRASS STRIP!



Roland & Marie Lohner, 62 Greywolf Road

Roland & Marie are living in their travel trailer during the construction of their new home.

Roland & Marie were introduced to the Sequim area by friends in Port Ludlow, who thought the Peninsula would be a great place for Roland's love of water and boating. Roland (originally from Switzerland) and Marie (originally from Mexico), made their way to Sequim from Yuba City, California. The Lohner's have 2 daughters – one a chiropractor in Kennewick, WA, and the other stationed in San Diego while serving in the Navy. They anxiously await the completion of their new home so their baby granddaughter has a place to visit!

Nancy & Glenn Powell, 70 Greywolf Air Court

Glenn & Nancy moved into the "Cotton" home in October. The Powells are retired – Glenn from teaching biology and anatomy at the college level, and Nancy as a computer analyst with Boeing. The Powells have two daughters and six grandchildren; and Nancy's sister lives in Port Angeles. Glenn & Nancy didn't really have any plans of moving to Sequim from their home in Bellevue, where they had lived since 1965... but they toured the home on Greywolf Air Court, thinking their daughter and son-in-law would like it! I guess you can see who got the house! Glenn learned to fly in a Luscombe and holds a commercial rating. He hopes to have a plane in his new hangar soon. The Powells also bring music to the neighborhood – Nancy on piano and Glenn on tuba!

Neighborhood Watch



This damage was done to the newly restored runway in August. A Sheriff's report was filed, and the Sheriff determined it was a wide track 4 wheel drive vehicle, but little could be done without more information from a witness. Please report any suspicious activity on the runway. A simple call to 911 with information will help.