



The GRASS STRIP!

Volume 6, Issue 1

Blue Ribbon Farms Newsletter

January 14, 2004

Meet the Cones



Jim and Bev Cone built their home at 165 Tyler View Place and moved here from St. Louis three years ago. After reviewing an article on "Fifty Fabulous Places to Retire" they chose Sequim and the Blue Ribbon Farms area. They liked the idea of the famous "Blue Hole" and the nearby wildlife area. It was by accident that they discovered the property is adjacent to an airport.

Jim is retired as a Lt. Colonel from the military after flying AC-47's and C-141's in Viet Nam. He is also retired from flying 767's for TWA. Jim has been interested in airplanes and flying for many years. However, he admits that his first flight, when he was just eight years old, ended in a crash landing and a broken arm when he attempted to take flight by jumping from a two foot high launch site.

While he was a student at Fresno State University, Jim joined a flying club and learned to fly in an Aeronca 7AC. He graduated from Fresno in 1963 with a degree in Experimental Psychology. His interest in flying and aircraft construction led to a career in aviation.

Jim lost the first airplane he built, a Seahawk, in a flood in St. Louis. However, that didn't dampen his spirit and he has built two RV-6A's, one of which he lost in a tornado in St. Louis. He now has an RV-7A underway, seen in the picture. He hopes to have the RV-7A flying early this summer.

Jim is very active with the EAA as a technical counselor and teacher of aircraft construction. Both Jim and Bev spend considerable time as Coordinators of the Young Eagles effort to give airplane rides to a million kids and enter their names in a world record log book that is to be displayed at Oshkosh, Wisconsin in 2004. Jim says he enjoys the flights as much as, or more than the kids do. Bev works as Ground Coordinator, running the ground crew and making sure that all of the paperwork is completed and processed properly.

Bev is a graduate of Ohio State and an avid football fan. At times Jim is a football widower. Her degree is in speech and hearing therapy, and she is a retired TWA flight attendant. When Bev isn't busy with the EAA Young Eagles, she is involved in stitchery, arts and crafts, and reading.

Don't be alarmed if you see a lawn mower tractor pulling an RV-6A along Tyler View Place or Jim and Bev taxiing down the road. They are on their way to the airstrip to take off for a Young Eagles Activity at some airport, headed out for a day of flying fun, or just exploring the country.

Annual Meeting

Mark your calendars!

The annual Blue Ribbon Farms Property Owners Association meeting will be held:

Saturday, February 7th at 1 p.m.

at the

Old Dungeness Schoolhouse

located on the corner of
Marine Drive & Towne Road

Agenda items include:

- Fill one open Board Member position
- Budget for 2004
- Dues adjustment

Your proxy voucher is enclosed

Proxy votes will be validated prior to the meeting

Mail your voucher to:

**Blue Ribbon Farms
P.O. Box 3141
Sequim, WA 98382**

Retiring Board Member

Ken Young

Served as Chair for one year and Co-Chair for two years.

Thank you for your dedication to our community!

Contact **The GRASS STRIP!**

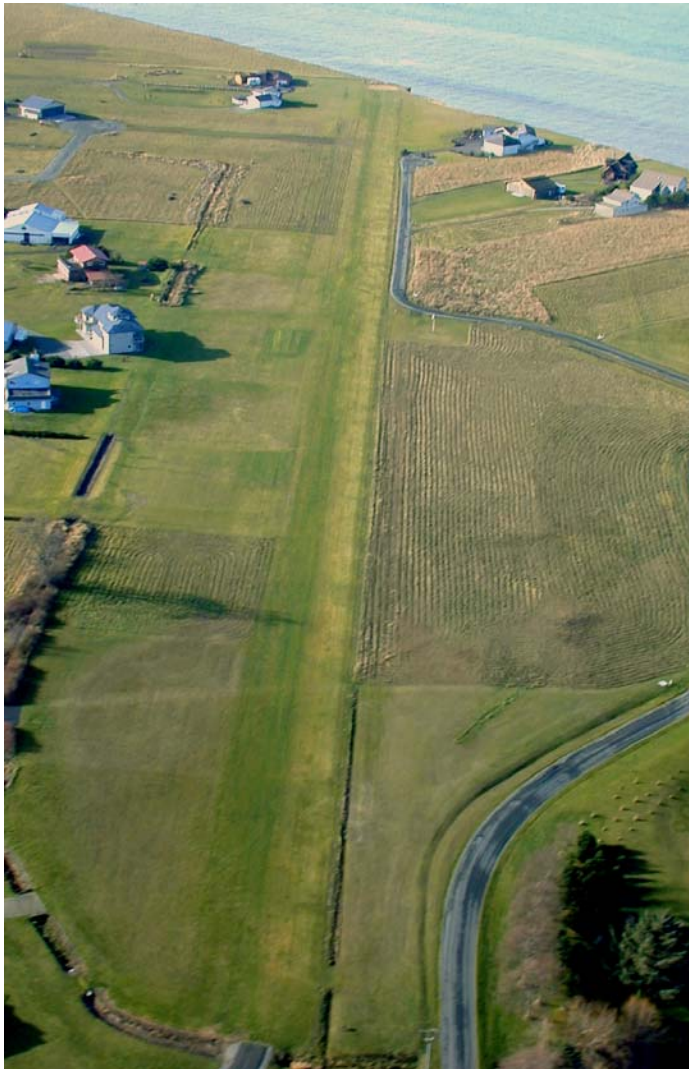
Contact The Grass Strip by mail at

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

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

Current Board of Directors

Chair: Jim Cone
 Co-Chair: Ken Young
 Secretary: Jay Sakas
 Treasurer: Patti Minor
 Co-Treasurer: Mary Young
 Member: John Cuny
 Member and Pilot Committee: Ralph Trefney

Irrigation Project Update

We can all take pride in Blue Ribbon Farms' grass runway. It is turning into one of the nicest grass strips in the Northwest. Not only does it look good, it is safer and has likely added to our property values.

Special thanks and appreciation is due to those who supported the runway improvement effort with concern, cooperation, time, energy, and generous donations totaling \$3,315.00.

The funds dedicated to the runway were used to improve conditions and purchase the items needed to install the irrigation system. Sand was applied to fill in low areas and encourage grass growth. The runway was rolled to remove moguls and make take-offs and landings safer. A trench was dug and irrigation pipe and sprinkler heads were installed, tested, and adjusted. A borrowed gasoline pump was installed to direct water into the system, but it didn't generate enough pressure to water the entire width of the runway. A more powerful electric pump has been purchased and will be installed this spring.

All of the work was accomplished by volunteers who followed up by manning and servicing the pump, switching the irrigation segments on and off, backfilling the trench as the soil settled, applying noxious weed control, and fertilizing and mowing the runway.

Plans for 2004 include installing PUD power to the new electric pump at an estimated cost of \$2,200, marking sprinkler head locations to prevent damage, filling the trench as needed, mole abatement, and the regular maintenance of seeding, fertilizing, controlling weeds and mowing.

Additional funding and volunteers are needed. All help is welcome! If you would like to assist, send your email address or phone number to John Cuny at j.b.cuny@worldnet.att.net or call John at 683-9292, or cell number 817-875-5909. Donations may be mailed to Blue Ribbon Farms, P.O. Box 3141, Sequim, WA 98382 or given to Jim Cone, John Cuny, or Ralph Trefney. Make your check payable to Blue Ribbon Farms and write "runway improvements" in the memo area.

We hope more folks will get involved to finish the irrigation project and help with maintenance.

Wildlife Preserve In Your Backyard

Okay, maybe it's not in "your" backyard, but it's in Dunbar & Alice Susong's backyard! The Susongs live on the sharp corner combining Kitchen-Dick Road and Lotzgesell Road. If you're not sure of the location, just follow the birds! In case you've had questions about the wildlife preserve on the corner, maybe you'll find some of the answers in the following article about one of the most-loved properties in Blue Ribbon Farms.

The Susongs own 10 acres of land boarding the Dungeness Recreation Area and Maynard Road. Approximately 8-9 acres of their land is dedicated to a private wildlife sanctuary, with an emphasis on waterfowl. The main portion of the sanctuary is comprised of two ponds. Dunbar relates that when they first purchased the property, the original pond had a very large pump with a 6-inch line, used to irrigate the

surrounding farmland. That pump was removed and the Susongs redeveloped and rebuilt the original irrigation pond to attract waterfowl. By installing a dike and diverting water from the original pond, a depression in the land to the north of the original pond became a second, smaller pond. In turn, the area below the dike became a swamp, extending to the county recreation area. The irrigation ditch that runs through various properties in Blue Ribbon feeds both ponds.

In 1989 fish were introduced into the reservoir pond to further draw waterfowl. Dunbar and Alice's efforts have paid off, as the water and surrounding area play host to Trumpeter Swans, herons, osprey, American bitterns, Northern Harrier (also known as marsh hawks), barn owls, short-eared owls and numerous other birds. Bald eagles have been known to frequent the area, and Dunbar says they even saw a bald eagle take a fish out of the water! The refuge has also drawn an otter, muskrat, deer, fox, and coyote.

After attending a seminar one year, Dunbar put up a nesting box for barn owls. Lo and behold, the following year barn owls nested in the box! (Unfortunately that was the only year.) On the same pole as the nesting box is a platform that was put up in hopes of attracting osprey to nest. To date, no osprey have taken the offer, but the platform does serve as a popular landing post for birds! Wood ducks attempted to nest on the platform, and even went so far as to lay eggs; but those ever-present starlings moved in and managed to build a nest on top of the eggs. Obviously wood duck nesting hasn't progressed as hoped.

The Susongs further developed the area by planting hundreds of trees on the property. Dunbar says they've had as many failures as successes in the tree arena, but they finally managed to secure a wind block on the west side. A more recent venture has been to plant showy lupine along the east side of the reservoir pond and along the road, but the lupine has not spread as they had hoped. What a beautiful addition if the lupine cooperates!



Have you ever hiked the trail from Lotzgesell Road, along the boundary of the recreation area, and up to the bluff? Ever wondered who built the trail? Who maintains the trail? Yes, that would be Dunbar also. They started with the trail on just their property, but

later Dunbar became daring and opened the trail all the way to the bluff. (He says he has since talked with all property owners and/or property representatives, who haven't objected to the trail!) For those of us who hike that trail to the bluff, how thankful we are to the property

owners who allow us to share their property and trek through gorgeous land to get to a spectacular view! You can also thank Dunbar for the timbers that cross the irrigation ditch so your feet don't get wet! For those of you who have wondered about the pile of timbers part way up the trail on the west side, no, it's not an oversized bird condo or anything so elaborate... it's just a pile of fence posts that haven't been used!

Although you may see trails leading from the bluff trail to the Susong's property, these trails are not for visitors. Visitors are encouraged to keep to the trail that borders the Dungeness recreation area. In early days, the Susongs had problems with hunters from the recreation area chasing pheasant onto their property, but signage has helped curtail that problem.

Dunbar relates the following story as one of the unusual happenings at the sanctuary: Trumpeter Swans were resting in the sanctuary one fall season. As Dunbar watched the swans in the early morning, pheasant shooting began at the recreation area. The shots startled the swans, and the swans took off flying. The swans flew directly over ponds at the recreation area, ponds that are designated as no-hunt zones. Dunbar heard a shot, and through his scope, saw a swan fall to the ground. Also in sight was a ranger, who was notified of the illegal shot. The ranger confronted the hunter, who was subsequently apprehended and fined. The swan was found alive, but with injuries. The swan was sent to the veterinary department at Washington State University in Pullman, where treatment was unsuccessful and the swan eventually died.

What is the biggest problem facing the sanctuary? WATER. The sanctuary is at the north end of the irrigation flow, and that means the end of the flow. In the past it wasn't so much of a problem filling the ponds with water, but in more recent years the water flow has become scarce. This past year the water flow was at times almost nonexistent by the time it reached the north end. The loss of water obviously means less waterfowl inhabiting the sanctuary. Dunbar understands water flow to his end is a low priority, as the water must first serve those with irrigation purposes; but he does believe the water at the north end serves a purpose – it attracts, feeds, shelters, and provides a home to wildlife of all kind. Dunbar hopes that irrigation of the airstrip will provide a positive solution to the water shortage problem of the ponds – if water is needed to irrigate the airstrip, possibly the irrigation company will allow more water flow to the north end!

Thank you Dunbar and Alice, for providing a beautiful landscape, wildlife sanctuary for all to enjoy, and for maintaining the bluff trail for friends and neighbors to share. We hope water for your ponds is plentiful this coming year.

New to the Neighborhood

Bernard and Eloise Jensen

The Jensen's purchased an undeveloped lot on Buckhorn late in July, 2003.



Thomas Marple and Cynthia Chamberlain

Tom Marple and Cindy Chamberlain retired to Sequim last fall after spending nearly thirty six years in the San Francisco Bay area.

Approximately seven years ago, Cindy read a "Where to Retire" magazine which featured Sequim as a great place to retire. Friends moved to the San Juan Islands and visits to the area (including Sequim) provided an opportunity to explore the countryside. Tom & Cindy were impressed with the slower pace of life, the friendliness of the people, and the beautiful Olympic Mountains. With the open space, they look forward to spring as gardening has always been a part of their life.

Michael and Nancy Phelan

The Phelan's purchased an undeveloped lot on Buckhorn in July, 2003. Construction on their new home started recently. Look for a picture update and interview in our next issue.

Larry and Gail St. Peter

Larry and Gail purchased their home from Jim and Margie Crofoot in July of 2003.

Native to Washington State, they moved here from Lake Cavanaugh and are semi-retired from their Industrial Electronics business in Everett. Gail is an artist and discovered Sequim when she attended a watercolor workshop in June of 2002. A few more visits to the area convinced them to settle here. Larry and Gail share their interest in amateur photography and driftwood carving. Larry also enjoys playing golf at the nearby Dungeness Golf Club course.

Thomas Schlosser and Marilyn Loveness

These folks purchased an undeveloped lot on Lands End in early August, 2003.

The Wells Family

The Wells Family purchased 2 undeveloped lots on Tyler View Place in November, 2003.



David and Margie Woodcock

The Woodcock's new house is well underway now.



Ways to be involved and make a difference in our community

- Attend the annual meeting in February or mail in your proxy vote.
- Become a Board Member. There is 1 position open this year and 3 positions that will open next year.
- Join the newsletter staff. Our staff is down to only 3 contributors.
- Host the annual picnic next year.
- Volunteer to help with runway maintenance.
- Donate money to the Association and designate your choice of purpose.
- Help maintain our private roads.
- Control the spread of weeds with regular mowing and applying noxious weed killer.
- Ask your contractors to observe our speed limits.
- Clean up what your dog leaves in common areas.



www dot Blue Ribbon Farms

Our hosting on the world wide web, donated by Patti Minor, has expired. Our web site is no longer on-line.

The GRASS STRIP!

This issue produced by Deb Everts, Patti Minor, and Glenn Powell

2003 Picnic



Once again we had great weather for the annual picnic and Jim and Bev Cone hosted and made everyone feel welcome. Their hangar was decorated with an aeronautical theme to go along with the free airplane rides being offered by Jim Cone and John Cuny. We even got a bit of an air show when Jim Cone performed some aerobatics!

The food brought to share was delicious and plentiful, and the BBQ grills were put to good use.

Everyone enjoyed meeting a few of our new neighbors and the time to chat with friends.

A great big THANK YOU! to Jim and Bev Cone and John Cuny for making the picnic such a success and a fun time for all.

Remember those delicious peanut butter cups? Here's the recipe from Jean Heessels-Petit.

Peanut Butter Pie

Crust: Mix together and press into springform or pie pan (paper baking cups make it easier and not so messy for a potluck)

- 3/4 cup graham cracker crumbs
- 3/4 cup chocolate wafer crumbs
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1/4 tsp cinnamon
- 1/8 tsp nutmeg
- 1/4 cup melted butter
- 1 Tbsp vanilla

Filling: Mix together

- 8 oz cream cheese
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup peanut butter

Whip and then add to filling:

- 1 cup whipping cream
- Spread filling into the crust. Chill.

Topping: Melt and then smooth on top

- 4 oz semi-sweet chocolate
- 2 Tbsp butter or margarine
- 2 Tbsp vegetable oil

Chill until served.



Host needed for the 2004 picnic

This is your opportunity to support a social event that is neighborly and rewarding!

Jim and Bev Cone have hosted the last two picnics. It's time for a change of venue!

Contact any Board Member to volunteer.