



THE BLUEBILL

FLYER

**A monthly Publication of the Olympic Peninsula Bluebills
Bluebills is a Boeing-supported Volunteer Program**

September 2007

Editor: Cynthia Ann Joyner

DAN'S DRIVE-IN

A PROJECT DONE BY DAN NORDMARK



This project started out as a simple pole to help Don out of his wheelchair and onto the toilet. Don has only one leg and standing is a bit of an issue for him. While I was there installing the pole, he asked if the Bluebills could convert his bathtub to a shower unit. Misinterpreting what he wanted, I said, of course we could, and thus began a project that stretched out over four months. Here are the details.



This is where the scope of the job hit me. Don didn't want a shower stall where you would stand up to take a shower or even a sit down shower stall – he wanted a **drive-in** shower area for his wheelchair. Therefore, I first built a wall to enclose the area.



After moving the plumbing out of the way, I needed to slope the floor toward the drain hole, but not so steep that he couldn't maneuver his chair in and out. I used cedar siding all around the inside and to form a ramp to exit. The inside dimensions of the "stall" are 40" by 72".



I then covered the area with a rubber shower pan liner and ran it up the sides 12" to form a watertight floor and hopefully prevent dry rot (wet rot?).



I then covered the walls and floor with cement board which I then taped and grouted. I then added shut off valves to keep from crawling under the house several times. I then added the mixing valve and the shower head.



The next task was to cover the area with 2" square tiles (in a 12" square mesh), grout the tiles, and then seal the whole thing.. All that was left was to place a cap on the wall and on the ends, button up the exposed wall, and try it out.



Dan is out trying to find a shower curtain as the splashing was a little more than he was expecting. At least it drains into the proper place and not out onto the floor!



Altogether, I spent 140 hours on the project. There was a fair amount of time spent in Home Depot and at home just trying to figure out how this was going to go together. I had never designed and built one of these before and several trial construction principles were tried right there on the floor of Home Depot with many of their clerks down on their knees with me making sure we had the right parts and enough of them. There was also a fair amount of time spent driving back and forth between Don's house and mine when a coat of something was applied and then had to dry. The job is done now and it seems to work. The Bluebills usually like to have a picture of the project in use, but this time that just didn't seem quite appropriate.

VOLUNTEER HOURS

**For July we had 31
volunteers report
716 hours, for a total
of 5,330 year to date.**

– Jack Hawker



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CONTACT:**

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A note from the Editor:

I have a **GREAT** new photo editing computer program, and am doing all of the photo editing for the **FLYER**. Hopefully we will have photos with better lighting correction, more sharpness (no more fuzzies) and the correct resolution for publication. Please send me your Bluebill project or social gathering photos – don't worry about the shape they are in. I can handle just about anything, as long they are applicable to our **FLYER**, and I have room for them. I can't wait to see them and work on them!

- cyndyann

Letters to the Editor

HI Cyndyann,

A big thank you to **Joe Kelly, Margo Elton, Steve Failla, Mike Graham, Helen Schaible, Kathy Snider, Ed Hughes, and Barbara Berthiaume** for volunteering to send the Bluebill Flyer out monthly to a member who does not have access to e-mail and thus could not receive the newsletter. These members can now read the Flyer and keep up to date on Bluebill activities.

- Barbara Berthiaume

Dear Myron & Val,

Thanks for the generous gift-in-kind distribution of five wheelchairs to ECHHO! It came at a time when our supply of functional wheelchairs is low. We lent one out the very day after it arrived.

Requests to ECHHO for medical equipment have increased sharply over the past year -- a 23% increase. Our population in east Jefferson County is aging and one in every six persons is disabled. The continued support of Bluebills with repairs and distributions of medical equipment is vital.

Thank you, Bluebills, for making a difference in the quality of the lives of our Jefferson County residents.

Gratefully,
Art Carpenter
ECHHO Equipment Manager

HOW THE BLUEBILLS GOT STARTED CHAPTER 6



June 15, 1998, UGN, Habitat for Humanity and Skookum sent a letter to Dale Smith of Boeing stating that they were partnering with the Olympic Peninsula Bluebill (OPB) and submitted a budget of \$1,280 for surplus office equipment. Skookum would provide office space and telephone service.

Negotiations continued in July regarding surplus office equipment and the database.

July 23rd, OPB was finally approved as an 'official' chapter at the Central Leadership meeting. We received a copy of a 24x30 picture of the 'Bluebill Airplane' with the inscription, "To Jack Randall in appreciation for your services as Chair of the Olympic Peninsula Chapter of the Bluebills, 1998. This picture hangs in my office. The original was dedicated, recently, to hang in the Museum of Flight.

In appreciation for Skookum providing office space for us we established an annual landscape 'clean-up' at Skookum. Those involved in the clean-up were: Edith and Jack Randall; Bert Goldstein; Barbara West; Myron Vogt; Larry and Margo Elton; George and Jane Ansley; Chuck and Wanda Sherred; Don Marginson; Ruth and Howard Schaible; Mike Graham; Tom Moore; Forest and Anna Lou Faulkner and Jim McKay. Mike Graham cooked lunch for us.

As the OPB Historian, I will continue to highlight projects that have been accomplished and other information about OPB.



IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY !!!

DAVE DITZLER
SEPTEMBER 1ST

WILLIS ADKINS
SEPTEMBER 4TH

JOHN HUMPHREY
SEPTEMBER 8TH

LARRY ELTON
SEPTEMBER 13TH

BARBARA HAWKER
SEPTEMBER 16TH



JUST ANOTHER RAMP

This month we replaced a deck and build a new ramp for a client in Quilcene. The client was referred to us by Olympic Area Agency on Aging (OAAA). We were covered with insurance for the job by Catholic Community Services. Funding for material was provided by OAAA.

The project consisted of removing an old landing and replacing it with an eight foot by ten foot deck. We then build a 28 foot ramp off the deck down to a 4 by 5 foot landing for making a 90 degree turn and then an eight foot ramp off that to the ground. We added a cement threshold at the bottom of the ramp to transition from the ground onto the ramp.

Since this job required considerable work we had a larger-than-normal crew. The fellows worked with their usual speed and efficiency.

The job was completed by 3:30 and the client had a chance to try it out while we were still there.

Myron



SEE THE PHOTOS ON THE NEXT PAGE



the client is on the left. Our Bluebill crew: Ken Winter, Bill Shain, Ken Snider, Myron Vogt, Jack Hawker, Howard Schaible and Chuck Sherred. Seated is Larry Elton.



Larry Elton puts on finishing touches with the sander.

LOOKING DOWN THE RAMP FROM THE NEW DECK 



THE CALENDAR

Tuesday, Sep 4
GIK/SSD pick up at Kent.

Monday, Sep 10
Leadership Team Meeting. Bay Club,
9:00 to 10:00

Tuesday, Sep 11
Central Leadership Council meeting
Seattle 10:00 - 11:00

Tuesday, Sep 11
Unload food bank truck- Tri-Area
Community Center-Chimacum.
8:00 - 9:00

Friday, Sep 28
GIK delivery-Kitsap County.
Meet at warehouse at 9:00

Hi, folks. A number of people have asked about our backpack program for this year. Here is the status.

BLUEBILLS BACKPACKS FOR KIDS

Last school year Bluebills had over 120 new backpacks donated by Boeing employees and distributed by World Vision. Residents of our communities filled these backpacks with school supplies and they were given to teachers in selected schools to distribute as they saw fit.

This year Bluebills will again be getting new backpacks, however, so that they can be provide to schools shortly after the school year starts, the plan is to collect school supplies ahead of time and have them on hand by time the backpacks arrive. Residents of the community are again being asked to provide the following school supplies. The list is typical of the supplies teachers request for students in the elementary grades.

- 1 set water-based fine felt tipped markers
- 4 wide-ruled 8 1/2 x 11 inch spiral notebooks
- 3 Pee-Chee type folders
- 1 box #2 pencils with erasers
- 1 large pink eraser
- 1 ruler-metric and English
- 1 pair pointed sissors
- 2 glue sticks
- 1 set colored pencils
- 1 box crayons

THE PICTURE SHOWS THE SUPPLIES NEEDED



Quilcene and Brinnon residents can turn the supplies into their Community Centers . Port Ludlow area residents can turn things in to the Beach Club or Bay Club. Please include your name as a contributor and we will put it in the back pack with the supplies.

Bluebills distribute the backpacks and other supplies to schools in our area who have 70% or more of the students on the free or reduced-price lunch programs. The names of the schools are provided by the Washington State Superintendent of Schools. Bluebills would like to have all contributions by October 1 so we can distribute early in the school year. If there are any questions contact Myron Vogt at 437-4055.

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