

Bluebill FLYER May 2020



Olympic Peninsula Boeing Bluebill Newsletter Serving Clallam, Jefferson, and Kitsap Counties



Chair Barbara
Berthiaume

From the Chair

By Barbara Berthiaume



Co-Chair Clint Web

It seems forever that our lives have been consumed with Covid-19 and it's only been 2 months! Nothing is normal and we are not quite sure what the new normal will look like nor how we will get there. Two months ago, we were getting ready for the new year with programs, planning and looking forward to a new year. All that has been tossed by the wayside as the effects of Covid-19 has limited so much of the way we do business. We have had to modify, postpone, and cancel many programs that we normally do. Essential Supplies has been suspended which included work on wheel chair ramps and installing grab bars. The March quarterly meeting was cancelled due to Shelter in Place. We are still planning the July Bluebill Golf Tournament on Monday, July 13, barring any new developments. The Cash for Gold event sponsored by our partners, the Peninsula Support Organization (PSO) which raises money for the STEM program on the Peninsula, has been postponed until Saturday, September 9 at the Beach Club.

continued

We are at this time still planning the 9th Annual Dove House Golf Tournament scheduled for Friday, Aug. 21. While we are not active in many of our programs at the moment, many Bluebill volunteers have kept the volunteering spirit alive by shopping for groceries for those who cannot shop, making cloth masks for medical personnel and nursing homes, cooking dinners for those who are unable to do so and supporting small businesses in the community. When we arrive at the “new normal,” we will be ready to resume volunteer activities to make our community even stronger!



BLUEBILLS
Serving Jefferson, Kitsap and Clallam Counties



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DAVID GOUDIE

Long-time Bluebill and former Membership Chair, David Goudie, passed away on April 17. David had been ailing for some time and resigned as Membership Chair last December when he came down with a case of bronchial fibrosis and some heart problems. We are going to miss his wry humor and practical outlook.

Due to COVID-19, any memorial service has been postponed.

Myron



Fond Farewells

Clint and Pat Webb are moving to an independent living apartment in Des Moines, Wa. in June. The Webbs have been very active in Port Ludlow community life and were avid golfers and Bluebills for the past 18 years. Clint has most recently served as co-chair of the Bluebills and has organized a very successful used book sale as well as organizing games at the Annual Dove House Golf Tournament. He helped to create a new program called Independent Living that has been featured in many parts of Jefferson County. Pat was a volunteer you could count on to help with anything at anytime. She helped at the Dove House Benefit each year and worked behind the scenes at many of our socials. Both she and Clint organized the Summer Feeding Program volunteers for a week in the summer. Pat and Clint will be missed in our community, and we wish them the best in their new transition!

Bob Reasoner was the driving force behind the Peninsula Support Organization (PSO) Education Program. He found major sponsors in the community to help bring STEM programs to the Peninsula and was a liaison between the Museum of Flight and the local schools. All 8th graders in Jefferson County spent a day at the Museum of Flight last year and students K - 12 benefited from programs brought to them by the Museum of Flight and other local resources. In a previous life, Bob had a very successful career as an international author, educator, and speaker on building self-esteem. Bob is moving to Crista Shores in Silverdale and has promised to be a board member of the PSO. His wife, Nancy, passed away in 2018 after years of being an active Bluebill member as well. Bob created a program that will live on and thrive due to his foundation. We wish Bob the best of luck in his new transition!

Another long-time volunteer couple making a transition is Michael and Mea Graham. Michael has been famous for his barbecuing and bartending skills. He is a skillful builder and rises to any occasion where there is a need. Both he and Mea have been involved in the Dove House Golf Tournament, and it was their brainchild to have the first one 9 years ago. Michael was so optimistic, he decided to call it the 1st Annual Dove House Golf Benefit and it has been going from strength to strength since. Mea and Michael organized the Homer Smith Golf Tournament that was so popular for many years, and Mea was involved in the Rally for a Cure Golf Tournament. Both are avid golfers and dedicated Bluebill volunteers who will be missed. Michael and Mea are moving to the East Coast to be closer to their children. We wish them well on their new adventure!

Barbara Berthiaume

Time to Go

By Clint Webb

Folks (as Myron says),

It is with heavy heart that I must tell you that our house sold earlier than we had hoped, and we have to move out June 2. The closing date is actually June 18, but the woman that will be doing an estate sale says she needs us gone June 3 to give her time to set things up.

We sold the house to the first and only person to tour the house. We had hundreds of hits on our virtual tour, but after three weeks on the market, and only one visitor, we thought it too risky to decline this buyer. We had to give up some ground on price but OK, considering the environment.

We are moving to Des Moines (WA), about 5 miles south of SeaTac. We'll be moving into an independent living apartment, still under construction. It's called Wesley Homes. On the grounds are all the medical facilities one would ever need, if one's health were to decline to the point where you need assisted living or more. We're both in our mid-eighties, and want to be done with the big house, and ready for what may come in the next phase of our life.

So, I'm a bit choked up as I write this. It has been such a joy and privilege to serve with all of you and help the Bluebill mission. It's been, I think, 18 years since I started with the Bluebills. A lot of fond memories from working with many amazing Bluebills on a great variety of programs and projects. I'm saddened that it all ends with us shut down with this horrible virus. I don't get the opportunity to see everyone again in a meeting or two. Still around for a month, so I do hope will see some of you before June 2 arrives.

So, Pat and I both wish you all the best, including good health, as you continue doing the amazing things that Bluebills do. We will miss you!

Warm regards,

Clint and Pat

May Calendar

Note: There are no World Vision Essential Supplies activities scheduled for May.

May 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						



From the Wayback Machine

I've been sifting through back Issues of the Flyer in all its iterations. As a member of only 4 years, it is interesting to me to see how the Bluebills on the Olympic Peninsula got to where it is today. Here are two clips from Flyers of yore.

-Editor

March-April 2000, the beginnings of the Bluebills on the Kitsap Peninsula.



BLUEBILLS EXPAND INTO KITSAP COUNTY

One of our goals for 2000 is a 10 percent increase in membership. Looking to find new members and serve a larger area, it was decided to expand into Kitsap Co, focusing on the north end first. Jack Randall and George Ansley undertook the project to find and contact Boeing retirees in that area and set up a meeting time and place. Over 30 retirees from the Poulsbo/Silverdale area were contacted. Our first meeting was held on March 29 in Poulsbo. Seven from the area attended and filled out the Bluebill questionnaire.

Welcome to: Al Benson
Robert Condon
Bonnie Ingwersen
Bob LaBounty
Joe Neff
Nancy Neff
Melvin Prather

Also attending were Bill Tracey from Catholic Community Services, Barbara Stephenson from United Way and Julie Pound from Chuck Wagon. Al Benson and Bob LaBounty accepted responsibility for setting the time and place for our next meeting when we hope to discuss some specific projects.

June 2010, when the Tri Area Food Bank was located at what is now the Tri-Area Community Center. The food bank has since moved to the old mattress store in Chimacum.

Bluebills unload the truck that brings in the monthly supply of goods for the Tri-Area food bank in Chimacum. It seemed apparent that some additional shelving could be used so under the guidance of **Connie Johnson, food bank manager**, Bluebills built and installed some shelving. The units were built at the Bay Club in Port Ludlow and installed on-site. **Special thanks to Dan Holtz** who built a shelving unit for the food bank break room/office. (Not shown)



Myron Vogt, Ken Winter, Connie Johnson and Jack Hawker in front of one of the shelving units. Ken Snider took the picture.

Bluebill's Warehouse in Chimacum Benefits World Vision and Three County Area for Over 14 Years

In 2004 we had a meeting with World Vision and they proposed we be a distributor for them in our area. We were willing but didn't have a warehouse. Hearing of our problems, one of our members offered his RV storage unit so that got us started. In 2006 this member sold his property and we needed another warehouse. I asked Ed Hughes to find one and he came up with the one we are still using. For a while we got Boeing to pay the rent but that changed when we got transferred to a new Boeing support group.

Then we had Catholic Community Services (CCS) write a grant request to Jefferson UGN for the rental (about \$2400 per year) and that went on until 2020, when CCS transferred that money to support the Kitsap Bluebill builders.

At the end of 2019, I found that the Bluebill budget still had several thousand dollars in it so paid the rent on our unit until Sep 2020. As noted in last month's Flyer, Boeing is not giving us anymore money.

The rent is now \$220 per month and when September comes we will have to figure out a way to keep paying that. -Myron



Here is our new Gifts in Kind (GIK) warehouse. On the left wall is the inventory remaining after our last distribution. Empty shelves are ready for our August 1 trip to World Vision in Kent.

Note the lights hanging from the 2x4's, these were installed by Ed Hughes and Myron Vogt with help from Valeria Vogt."

From the August, 2006 Bluebill Flyer. Many of you will recognize this space. Gifts in Kind has evolved into the Essential Supplies Program.



From a photo taken in 2018, This shows a full to bursting warehouse after a "pick" where goods are organized by agency and ready to be delivered, in this case to Kitsap County.

Builders Pages

Since we are closed down at the moment, here are some images from ten years ago, March and April Flyers from 2010. To view the articles click [here](#).

We had an excellent crew, helped along by a member of the **US NAVY**, and were able to finish a relatively large ramp in **FOUR HOURS**.

Nine o'clock start --
One o'clock
the job is finished.
Crew members are:
Standing;
Myron Vogt,
Dan Nordmark,
Ken Winter,
Davis Steelquist
and George Grant
(US Navy). Kneeling
are Jack Hawker
and Jim Irvin.
Michael Graham



Port Orchard Ramp Build, March, 2010.



The job was organized by Larry Elton. The client was referred to us by Catholic Community Services, who also provided insurance coverage for the job. Work crew members were Larry Elton, Jack Hawker, Ken Snider, Ken Winter, Bill Shain, Michael Graham and Myron Vogt.

From the April Flyer, another Port Orchard Ramp.

Kitsap Builders

Home Projects

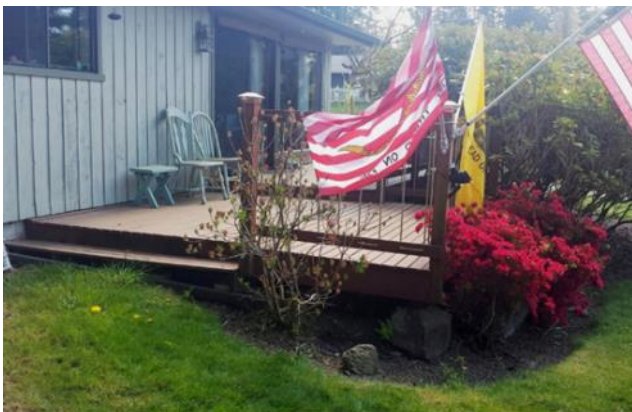
Kitsap Builders were facing an ever increasing workload. In 2016 they provided services to 44 clients, and by 2019 that number had risen to 204. In 2020 the demands were continuing to increase, and the Builders were being pressed ever harder into service. And it came to pass that when the Builders murmured, it was hard on the ears of Bluebills management. "We have no time for our home projects," they cried, and Bluebills management heard it. But then the Covid-19 lockdown brought the Builders work to a halt, and there was time for the home projects to receive some much needed attention.



Greg DeVault working on kitchen remodel



The cabinetry was hand-crafted in his woodworking shop.



Richard Knapp rebuilt their deck, and got the garden ready to plant



continued

Kitsap Builders



Bob Keever pruned & cultivated the home orchard and cleaned up the tropical greenhouse.



John White installed gutter filters and got the garden and yard clean and green (and fence white)



Kevin & Jim McGonigle planing down a door to fit.



Leonard Hale built this table for the house

BUILDERS AND WORLD VISION PROGRAMS

Builders:

All our builder activities have been on hold since late March. Catholic Community Services provides our insurance coverage and when they are ready to start that again is unknown. In the meantime I am logging in requests and when we can work again, I will see if the service is still needed.

World Vision:

World Vision is closed for pickups. Unknown when they will start again. Even then, we will have to see if our members are ready to work in relatively close quarters to do the jobs necessary to run the program. Also, the agencies we deliver to will have to be open. Due to the way the schedule worked out, we picked up at WV but because of lock-downs did not make normal deliveries to agencies in March.

I want to thank Erika and Charlie Mayfield who contacted the Jefferson Co. Food Banks with the offer to open our Chimacum warehouse and let them take whatever they wanted. Over half our inventory was taken, including a lot of diapers.

As both of the above programs involve members working closely together in most cases, even if things “open up” it will be up to individual members to decide if they are ready to start working together again. But, someday we will get back to normal, more or less, so hang in there.

Thanks, Myron

Bluebill – it's the name of a duck

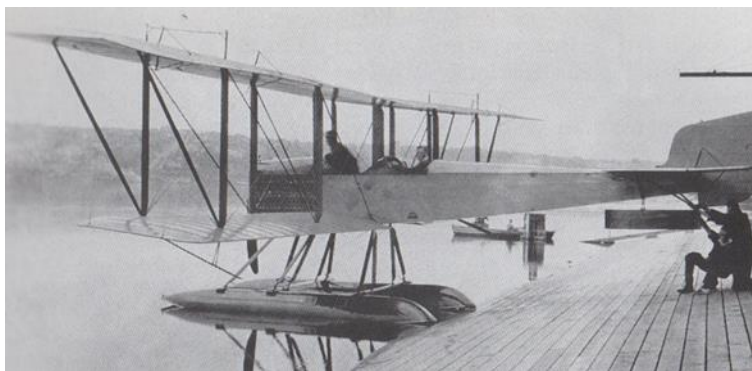
Bluebills? What's so hard about that? I recently received a voice message from someone requesting help from the "Buffalo Bills." More often I hear it as two separate words, "Blue Bills." Second to that is being called the "Bluebells," and on one occasion the "i" in Bluebills was replaced with an "a."

Bluebill is the name of a duck! The greater scaup (*Aythya marila*), or "bluebill" is a mid-sized diving duck, which resides on Lake Washington. It was chosen by Bill Boeing, the founder of the Boeing Company, as the name of the first airplane built by Boeing (the second was named Mallard).

Bluebills as a volunteer organization www.bluebills.org came into being in 1995. "We don't work for paychecks these days, except the kind of payoff that rewards us with a warm glow of satisfaction. We are at work on projects that are making our communities better places to live."



The greater scaup, or "Bluebill."



The Bluebill aircraft took its maiden flight June 15, 1916.

We continue to inform people that we are "Bluebills," and that the objectives of our Olympic Peninsula chapter are to improve the lives of the people in the communities we serve and to provide volunteer and social opportunities for retirees in Jefferson, Kitsap and Clallam counties. Our chapter has a number of programs that serve the communities, as described on our website www.bluebills.org/olympic.html

HAVE YOU REPORTED YOUR VOLUNTEER HOURS?



**REMEMBER: YOU CAN REPORT ANY
VOLUNTEER HOURS! NOT JUST THE
HOURS YOU WORK FOR BLUEBILLS.
CHURCH, SCHOOL, COMMUNITY~ ALL OF
THESE HOURS COUNT TOO!**

EMAIL YOUR HOURS TO Judy McCay:
jimmccay@cablespeed.com

Volunteer hours for March, 2020

**49 volunteers reported 865 hours. That
is 24.62% of the Bluebill membership
reporting hours for March.**

May Birthdays

MARK WITTE	05/01
JAY GILMOUR	05/05
LARRY BOMKE	05/06
KEN MCCONNELL	05/11
RUTH DUNHAM	05/19
MICHAEL GRAHAM	05/20
TWYLA JACKSON	05/21
CYNDYANN JOYNER	05/27
ERIKA MAYFIELD	05/27



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World Vision Essential Supplies

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Kitsap Co. Calvin Williams willica05@gmail.com

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Quilcene & Brinnon Bonnie Douglass lbouglass@wildblue.com

Sequim Schools Charlie Johnson racer6j@hotmail.com

Fall Prevention Dave Parrish parrishdav@aol.com

Regional Coordinators

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