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LARC

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Change is a Good Thing . . .

President's Message

LARC has experienced significant change since it's beginnings. Who would have ever thought a wooded swampy piece of land could end up being the beautiful park we now have. If you have had the opportunity to look at the old photos of what LARC looked like years ago you will see what I mean. It is almost unbelievable. It has taken a great amount of vision, planning and commitment by many to make LARC what it is today. To all of you who had a hand in this development, thank you. I think it's important for all of us to recognize and appreciate the changes that have occurred over the years and even still all the hard work that takes place almost daily to maintain the beauty of LARC. It can be so easy to take for granted the special place that LARC really is. I'm sure that many of us, as we travel through the front gates, can't help but feel a sense of immediate relaxation, peacefulness and serenity that our little place in the woods provides. Almost without exception, visitors that I talk to say they cannot believe that such a beautiful place with such friendly people ever existed in Washington. It is hard to imagine that these once swampy lands could be such a utopia for us to

recreate in harmony with nature like it does today. Yes, we are lucky to have it and be able to share it with such a great group of people. The message that I would like to share with all of you is simply this, change is a good thing. Never fear change even when it may appear daunting or overpowering. Change takes patience, dedication, commitment, perseverance and lots of times just plain hard work. Change is always progress, regardless of the direction. Change in our lives, in our jobs, in our relationships, in our environments and even in our approach to life is always good. It stops us from becoming stagnant in our thinking and in our everyday lives. I believe that there is always something good at the end of every path we pursue in our life. Each morning provides us a new opportunity to experience something different or new. This is change. I encourage each of you to sometime very soon take a quiet walk around LARC and observe the subtle splendors and beauty that appear in almost any direction you look. Feel the harmony and peacefulness within this vast naturalness of nature. You are experiencing change at it's finest. It is a good thing.

-Keith Scott



Utopia, here I come!

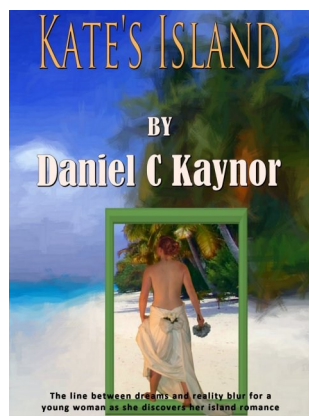
2011 Progressive Dinner



This year's Progressive Dinner was a huge success with the weather cooperating and scrumptious food and drink served at the six "stations". The event started at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 20 in the "South LARC" area. The members residing in South LARC served cheese plates, chicken wings, shrimp skewers and salad. We hung out in this area until 2:45, then made our way to Don and Diane's place for beef, chicken and shrimp kabobs and Mai Tai's – yummy! At Dennis & Peri's lot, we were served pork sliders and corn on the cob, and then waddled our way to Keith & Tammy's lot for tasty grilled pizzas. At Ken & Cheryl's place we imbibed in refreshing peach Bellinis, peach cheesecake and peach upside down cake – oh what a lovely choice of desserts! At 7:00 we headed to the main tent to partake in cigars and liqueur shots supplied by Mike & Astrid. Outside karaoke was the evening's entertainment, with lots of members serenading us with their choice of songs. I think this had to have been one of our best Progressive Dinners we have had, so it will be interesting to see what transpires next year!

Exploding Meet & Greet Friday Nights

Our Friday night Meet & Greets by the fire sure have become one of the highlights of our weekends at LARC. We have seen an increase in attendance as the weeks have gone by, and each occasion brings new stories and a new race between Steve, Keith and Lori to be the first person to build the fire! Now, there is another contender in the race to build that fire – it's the other Lauri! But my question is: Why does everyone holler at me (Lori) to stoke the fire? It's real easy, and anyone can do it! It's not just MY fire. Anyway, this is such a great way to get to know our members better, and to meet new visitors to LARC in a warm, comfortable and inviting atmosphere. And let's not forget the wine and snacks that are brought to these parties – yummy! It's bad for any diet, but good on the taste buds! It will be a shame to have to end the parties once the weather turns cold and wet, so we better enjoy them to the max while we still can!



"Kate's Island" Book Signing at LARC!!

On October 7 and 8 author Daniel Kaynor will be having a book signing to promote his new book named "Kate's Island". It's 228 pages long and involves Romance, Nudists, Dreams, Naturism and Sci-Fi/Fantasy. The story takes place mainly in Cork, Ireland, also in and around London and in Bordeaux France. Synopsis: Though she never thought it would, romance finally finds young Kate McGregor, who is torn between her conservative Catholic family background and the free spirited lifestyle of her newfound love. Soon, her dreams start to blur with reality as she begins to explore her island romance. Her concerns eventually lead to conflict and then to the agony of her very soul.

LARC YARD SALE

On Saturday, September 24 we are going to have our third yard sale, and let's make it a fun, profitable and friendly sale! If you want to purchase a table for your stuff, the price is \$10.00, and if you pay by check, please make it out to LARC, and give your payment to Bob, our Treasurer. He will then tell Lori D, who is the planner/instigator of this yard sale, so you will be assured of your spot. Or, if you want, send a quick email to Lori at larcnews@gmail.com, and your name will be put on the list. The yard sale has been advertised in four online yard sale sites and Craigslist, and will also be advertised in the Skagit Valley Herald. There will also be signs on Hwy 9 and at Big Rock directing people to the sale. The sale starts at 9:00 a.m. and YOU MUST have your items priced and placed on your table before the gates open!! This is very important, as the buyers do not want to wait for you to get your stuff prepared! Here are a few pointers that everyone should consider:

Have lots of coins and small bills available to make change. If you don't, your first customer may be a little old lady trying to buy .50 worth of stuff with a \$20 bill! A good rule of thumb is to have \$100 in small denominations and coins for change. **DO NOT LEAVE YOUR MONEY LYING AROUND IN A BOX!!** Wear a fanny pack or carpenter's apron because you will always have your money with you. Having a calculator handy is helpful in totaling up purchases. Make it easy for yourself to total items – price things evenly: .25, .50 and \$1, as an example.

Have plastic and paper grocery bags available to put sold items in. If you are selling breakable things, have newspaper available to wrap fragile items.

Items that seem to be in big demand at yard sales are baseball cards, lawn mowers, camping and fishing articles, guns, tools, coins, old books, aprons, needlework, jewelry and dishes. There are a lot of crafty people out there, so if you have scrapbooking, embroidery, needlepoint or other craft items you don't want or use anymore, put them in the sale!

Men are hard to keep interested in a yard sale if there is nothing for them to look at, so we need to make sure there are tools, screws, nails, electronic parts and power tools in plain view. This will keep the man occupied so the woman he is accompanying can take more time to find more bargains!

Price your items in bright, easy to read stickers or tags. Make sure your writing is legible! Always be open to dickering with the customer over an item, because bargain hunting is the whole reason buyers stop for a yard sale!

We will have a "free" area at the sale, and anyone can put items in there that you just want to give away. It's an easy way to lighten up the atmosphere and it will often enhance sales.

We will have an electrical cord handy for anyone who will have electrical things for sale. Do not tell a buyer something works, prove it!

Place items at hand-reachable levels, at table height, not on the ground. A lot of buyers are elderly, and find it hard to bend to pick up items for consideration.

We can have a relaxing, fun and profitable time on September 24 if we prepare ourselves in advance, have a good attitude and are willing to bargain!



LARC Chili Cook-Off and White Elephant Auction

Besides being Labor Day, this weekend was our 21st LARC Birthday, so Happy Birthday to us! In celebration of this auspicious occasion we had a chili cook-off and white elephant auction on Sunday, and it was a huge success! The chili cook-off had 11 contestants serving chili flavors ranging from fiery hot to mild with a lingering cinnamon taste. All the chili's were very flavorful, but only three could win the contest, so congratulations to Alice A. for winning 1st Place, Claudia L. for winning 2nd Place and Lori D. for winning 3rd Place this year! Next year we will have Dennis W. be the organizer of this event since Keith and Tammy are going to be on a cruise thru the Panama Canal! After the chili was eaten and judged and the medals were handed out, it was time for the white elephant auction. We actually had a real-live auctioneer named Robert from Louisiana perform the auction and he was a kick in the pants to listen to and watch! He had us all laughing, cheering and spending lots of money – as Jess can testify to that! Almost everything that was donated for the auction was sold, with only a few items being passed over. Robert let us know he would be very happy to do an auction again next year, so we better put our thinking caps on and figure out what special “white elephant” treasures we want to put in! Thank you to everyone who set up the event and cooked the chili and contributed to the luncheon. It was a lot of fun!

September General Meeting & Elections Highlights

September Birthdays

Jerry A.-09/03
 Don K.-09/06
 Wendy W.-09/08
 Jerry S.-09/10
 Judy T.-09/10
 Ian H.-09/14
 Lucy M.-09/14
 Renee W.-09/16
 Steve T.-09/17
 Astrid K.-09/19
 Dennis T.-09/19
 Robert L.-09/22
 Jack B.-09/23
 Kenzie R.-09/25
 John H.-09/27

**HAPPY
 BIRTHDAY
 TO YOU ALL!**

Newly Elected: Keith Scott, President
 Officers: Dennis Whitney, 2nd Vice President
 Steve Thurber, Secretary
 Cheryl Smith, 1st Alternate
 Phil Camire, 2nd Alternate

Bare Images Show	\$101 profit
Rock 'n the Park:	\$3,395 income, \$3,250 expense = \$145.00 profit
White Elephant Auction	\$609.00 profit

Over \$4,000 profit to the club so far this year
 Membership: 137 total members—17 new members so far this year!

New area on lower road is now an off-leash dog park. **YOU MUST STILL PICK UP FIDO'S POO!**
 Flatten your stuff before putting it in the recycle bin or dumpster! An overflowing dumpster means extra charge.

Have your cell phone with you if you are at the hot tub for emergencies. Tell 911 dispatch you are at LARC—Lake McMurray fire department recognizes the name more than the address.

The firewood behind the kitchen is for the LARC fire pit only! If you need firewood for your own personal lot, you must cut it yourself!

The windows at the shower house must be closed after showering. It's getting colder in the evening, and the heaters don't need to be trying to warm the outside plus the shower house!

Fall boards are being held at LARC on October 1 & 2. We will have a potluck Friday night instead of our usual meet & greet, and breakfast, lunch & dinner will be served on Saturday and breakfast and lunch on Sunday. Everyone is welcome to sit in on the meetings and voice opinions or ideas or just listen to what is happening in the region.

A defibrillator will be purchased for the club but a storage place has not been decided yet.

Highway clean-up on Saturday, September 17 with a LARC breakfast before the clean-up. Volunteers are needed for the kitchen and highway clean-up.

The yearly Halloween party will be on Saturday, October 29 so start figuring out your costume!

Volunteers are needed for decorating and clean-up. The tent will be coming down the next day, Sunday October 30. A FREE LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED FOR THOSE VOLUNTEERS TEARING DOWN THE TENT.