

**Island Manager Report**  
**February 12, 2011**

**Administration:**

**CenturyLink Service:** Mike Davis, Curt Lint, HMC Office and others have been corresponding with CenturyLink regarding poor service and the broken cable. The UTC has informed us via Mr. Lint that unreliable internet service is not within their jurisdiction. The office has been contacted by Doug Culbert of Century Link, Gig Harbor and at his request we sent him a list of our issues. Last week he informed us that a system upgrade had been completed, which should solve some of the High Speed Internet dropping issues from Herron Island. If residents are still having issues with poor Internet service, they should contact Culbert at [Doug.Culbert@centurylink.com](mailto:Doug.Culbert@centurylink.com) or 253-851-1321.

Thanks to the volunteers, Sabra Duback and Al Moren who cleared the collected driftwood away from the cable splice. The cable material is apparently no longer made and CenturyLink is looking for replacement material.

**Other Volunteers:** Don Greinke, for making repairs to the Community Building; Karl Schafer, Phil Foster and Doug Kammerer, for taking photos of the CenturyLink splice surrounded by 1) small boats and 2) driftwood. These photos were convincing to the Utilities and Transportation Commission when we made our complaint. Also Mike Shettlesworth, for helping with the replacement of the Community Building lockbox.

**Backup Office Manager:** Shortly after Chris Rushmeier joined our staff, the management changed at her other place of employment and she found she would be without the flexibility that would previously have allowed her to fulfill the HMC position. Chris offered to continue as a volunteer at the office when time allowed, and the backup office manager position was subsequently offered to Sharon Stone, who has accepted. Please offer Sharon your congratulations when you see her at the office.

**2010 Audit Report:** The auditor's final report on 2010 financial activities should be available within a week.

**Standby Deck Hand:** The job description and position announcement for Standby Deckhand will be posted Tuesday, February 15 at the office, on the web site and in Craig's List.

**Standby Captain:** Eric Helpenstell of Gig Harbor has qualified as a standby captain. Terry Kraft, HMC member also of Gig Harbor, is training as standby captain (already qualified as deck hand), and we are happy to have them aboard

**HMC Mainland Parking Lot:** Every time the issue of our mainland boundaries arises, we are at a loss to prove where they begin and end. This has hampered us in discussions with our mainland neighbors and with consideration of parking area security or other improvements. As requested by the Board, we have obtained a bid to conduct a survey, stake the corners with rebar, and record the survey with Pierce County, at a cost of \$1245. The surveyor is Gene Thornton of

Thornton Land Survey, in Gig Harbor. The contract is submitted for your approval, with this report.

**Mainland County Park Property:** Members need to be cautious about use of the Parks Department property, for either launching, mooring or parking cars. It is okay to launch kayaks and canoes, but not any other watercraft (according to my discussions with Parks); cars parked on the Parks property may be towed away.

**Derelict Vehicles:** Removal of vehicles on West Herron seems to have stalled, and we are in touch with Pierce County Code Enforcement regarding when it will resume. We will begin another round of contacting members about derelict vehicles later this month.

#### **Water System:**

**Replacement/Upgrade:** Information gathered on behalf of the membership will be in the Island Manager report, in the Beachcomber, or on [www.herronisland.org](http://www.herronisland.org), the community's official web site. If members have questions regarding the project, we urge them to contact the Board at [memberinput@herronisland.org](mailto:memberinput@herronisland.org) or Island Manager at [hmcmanager@herronisland.org](mailto:hmcmanager@herronisland.org).

**USDA Application:** We continue to provide "checklist" information to USDA in support of the application. They have asked us to confirm our interest in applying for funds and indicated that they may see some funding come through soon. USDA has given our project a very favorable review.

**Water Committee Report:** Steve Chapin will report for the Committee on the Water Ballot and the Voter's Pamphlet.

#### **Water Maintenance and Operation:**

This most recent coliform test was taken December 20 at 1306 E. Herron Blvd. Results are satisfactory.

Sunrise Pest Control has been setting traps around the well house after rat droppings were reported. We'll continue to do this for another month or two, and explore preventative measures to reduce rodent access to the well house.

**Fire Department Liaison:** I met with Chief Tom Lique and Deputy Chief of Operations Guy Allen on Thursday, January 13 to discuss transport procedures during ferry out of service periods. The meeting was easier than anticipated, because the Pierce County Terrorism Early Warning Group has decided to authorize purchase of a boat for joint use by first districts with waterfront exposures in the rural area. We'll continue to follow this purchase and work with FD #16.

**Land Use:** No report.

**Emergency Preparedness:** Mike Davis will report.

**Legal Liaison:** Three delinquencies are being resolved by the island's collection attorneys : Marcinko, Ruckstein, and Tchochiev. There are six others: Jez, McNally, Smith, Vogel, Wiebe and Worden.

### **Parks:**

Additionally, the Committee requests that the Board mandate small boats stored along the bulkhead at North Beach be removed to members' property ASAP until the phone cable has been repaired, or until April 1, whichever comes later. Boats have interfered with the cable at high tide, and there may still be spring storms which would move boats.

**North Beach Marina:** At the conclusion of their survey of marine facilities, we requested engineering estimates from KPFF for this project, which will now be reported under "Parks". The estimate of \$63,770 includes project administration, underwater site survey, geotechnical engineering, design drawings, permit assistance, assistance with contractor selection and construction management and support. This proposal has been reviewed by members of the Dolphin Task Force who drafted the original RFP and sat on the selection panel. The members approved going ahead with this project with 54% approval. The project will begin mid-February and conclude in early 2012; summer use of the North Beach Marina should be only slightly disrupted during the design and permit period. When rebuilt, the Marina steel piles should have a life of 50 years. The KPFF agreement is ready for Board action today. A draft schedule is attached to this report.

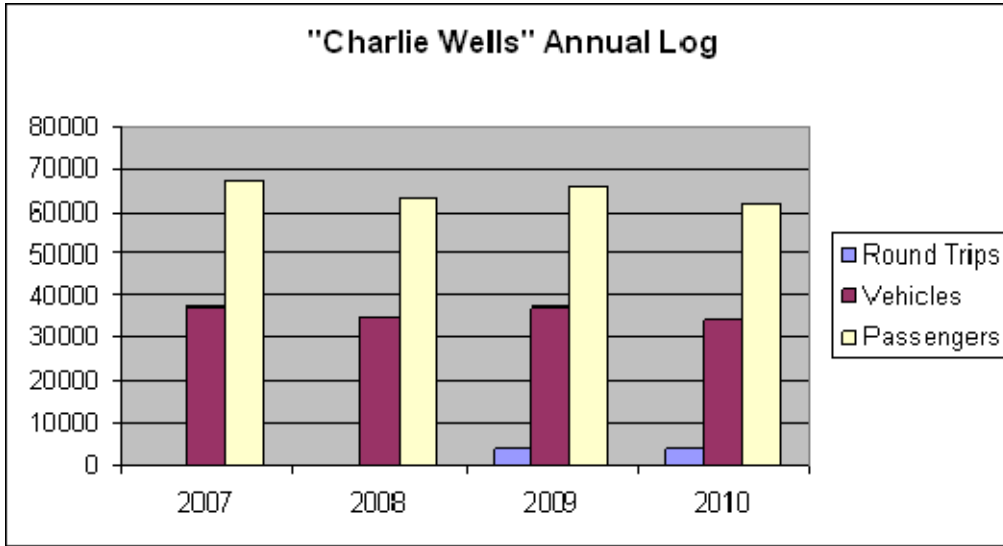
**Roads:** Committee Report.

**Rules:** There are no open complaints. A Rules subcommittee has been working on a rules revision and, so far, has met with the Parks and Transportation Committees. By the end of the month, the subcommittee will be ready to start meeting with small groups of members for further review, comments, and possible additional changes.

### **Transportation:**

A new Coast Guard rule regarding Passenger Weight and Vessel Stability goes into effect December 1, 2011, which could cause minor inconvenience for members during future busy summer weekends and holidays. We need to tell the Coast Guard by March 14, 2011 how we are meeting this new requirement, and have requested our original weight and stability test from the ferry's builders, Nichols Bros. The Coast Guard has recognized that the average weight of Americans has increased from the average passenger weight of 160 lbs. to 195 lbs. and has directed that passenger vessels adjust their passenger/crew loads accordingly. For the Charlie Wells, this means that the passenger load could be reduced to 42, from the current 49. The crew count will remain the same at 2.

The Charlie Wells log for 2010 shows that the ferry carried 61,796 passengers and 34,549 vehicles on 3,662 round trips. We charted this information for the past four years, below:



Traffic in 2010 was down 7.5% from the preceding year; 2007 was the busiest during the four year period. Traffic can be affected by construction activity, as well as weather and other factors.

**Technology:** Eric Bergson plans to call a meeting of this committee soon to bring the various options together. The manager of the Guemes Island ferry has indicated an interest in possibly partnering in development costs.