

DHBA NEWSLETTER

Dec 2020/Jan 2021

Notes from the BOT

Wow 2021 is here!

Committees have been meeting and are projected to make recommendations to the BOT early to mid-year.

The cabin rules and reservations committee has been working diligently to unearth all the policies that have been adopted thru the years. They will be providing their results to the BOT this month which will allow us to provide an update to the membership in early February.



Currently we have Cabins 5,7, and 8 mothballed but as we look beyond the threats of pipes freezing and more visitor interest in the Head, we will be opening those back up.

Covid rules are still in place until further notice. The BOT will revisit our Covid procedures closer to the primetime draw. Hopefully this will give time for more vaccinations and updated guidance from the medical experts.

As you will see in the notes below, though a slower time of year for visitors to the Head, the caretakers have been busy. When you visit the island please take a minute to thank Shawn and Heather for their efforts.

Please reach out to the BOT if you have any questions or concerns.

Happy New Year!

Notes From the Caretakers

Happy New Year everyone!
Here's to a hopefully healthier and more social 2021!

We were very fortunate to have beautiful sunshine and clear skies for both Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve – a big treat this time of year. The clear days brought cooler morning temperatures which made for an almost white Christmas Eve morning with thick layers of frost on the roofs and grass.

With the official start of winter we are happy to be on the slow climb back to longer daylight hours and the approach of spring. In mid-January, we will be taking our first vacation. Beginning the evening of January 11th through to the morning of January 21st we will be enjoying a staycation in wonderful Anacortes.

We wish you all a happy and healthy start to the New Year!



Maintenance Updates

The dredge project is now complete. 250 cubic yards were removed from the lagoon entrance. As per the permit, the dredge material was allowed to drain prior to being transported off the property. While the permit did not allow deepening of the channel, the span of the entrance is now wider which makes moving the dock sections much easier and somewhat less tide dependent.



At the start of December, we began winterizing cabins 5, 7, and 8. Water tanks were drained, lines were blown with an air compressor, toilets drained, RV antifreeze added to toilets and p-traps, fridges unplugged, window screens removed, outdoor furniture and BBQ's were moved inside, and all linens washed and stored in plastic contractor bags. Depending on need, cabin 6 may also be winterized in early January.

To further winterize the water system, all water lines coming into the cabins as well as all exterior faucets have been wrapped with new heated wire in an effort to protect the pipes from any possible freezing that may occur over the winter months. Foam pipe wrap and Reflectix was then wrapped over the wire to help insulate the heated wire. We also crawled under each cabin to check the condition of the plumbing. Torn and old pipe wrap was removed, spray foam added to any holes to keep mice out, and new foam pipe wrap installed to most of the exposed PVC pipes as well.



With the approach of another north wind system at the end of December, we decided to move the remaining sections of the dock into the lagoon in an effort to protect the life span of the dock sections. Northeast winds that funnel down Rosario Strait create large waves in Davis Bay and put tremendous strain and cause possible damage on the dock and hardware connecting the sections. As we have collected three floats out of the bay so far that have come lose during recent weather systems, we wanted to error on the side of caution and move the dock into the protection of the lagoon.



Photo by Chris White

For the remainder of the winter season, we will be picking up visitors to the Head arriving by water taxi at the county ramp. Please let us know as far in advance of your arrival and departure times so that we can coordinate transportation.

As reported in the Oct/Nov newsletter, an alder split during a storm and fell onto the southwest corner of the tennis court fence. Using come-alongs and the power of the truck, we have been able to safely drop the remainder of the tree that was hanging, remove the tree and debris, and temporarily pull the fence post and chain link back into position.

Unfortunately, the weight and impact of the fallen tree caused all of the 12-foot fence posts on the south side to split and will need to be replaced in the coming months.





Cabin 8 has a new staircase on the north side of the deck. The old stair treads and stringers had severe rot creating wobbly and potentially dangerous steps. During the board retreat, it was decided to shorten the span of the steps in an effort to help users avoid bumping their heads on the overhanging rafter. We installed the new treads with both cleats underneath the treads and horizontal Timberlock screws through the stringers to avoid future rot issues from water running down screws installed from the top of the treads. A new driftwood rail and handrail were installed on the deck to prevent falls from the shorted span of the new steps.

While using the truck to haul freshly bucked firewood rounds, one of the rounds took an unfortunate bounce during the loading and nicked the edge of the truck's rear window. The small nick quickly spider webbed through the safety glass. We were able to apply tape to both sides of the window before any small bits of glass fell out. We ordered a new rear window, removed the old, and installed the new window which has improved visibility immensely!



In December we packed the chainsaw, weed eater, fuel, and loppers up the hillside to tackle the perimeter trail around the Head. We trimmed back the underbrush, removed fallen trees and debris, and tied red flagging tape to mark the trail. The deer seem quite happy with the improvement given the amount of droppings we now see on the trail.



Cabin 6 suffered damage during a north wind blow. The privacy screen was blown off along with a number of shingles. We replaced missing or broken shingles and will be constructing a new screen in the coming months.



Cabin 1's smaller fridge was replaced with a brand new 20.4 cubic foot full-sized fridge. The above cabinets were rehung to accommodate the new height of the fridge and a fresh coat of paint was applied to the back wall. The old fridge is being stored in the shop as a spare. We have two fridges and one stove in the shop for spares to quickly replace any broken down appliances that may occur during prime time season.

For the DHBA tennis players, you may remember a temporary fix this past summer using duct tape to mend the torn headband on the tennis court net. A new, bright white headband has now been installed fixing the sag between the net and the net cable.

For a full list of completed maintenance and repair projects happening at DHBA, please visit the Member Information tab on the Decatur Head website:

<https://www.decatourhead.org/updatesfags/>

DHBA Tips

Due to high tides and possible winter storms, it is important for those with dinghies to store the boat as high up the beach as possible and to make sure that the boat is securely tied to the anchor line.



Decatur Island Updates

In early January a high tide, combined with storm surge, brought a lot of water to Decatur and the Head. A breach in the lagoon and two from Davis Bay flooded much of the area in front of the cabins, parts of the docks were either underwater or raised above land, and driftwood was thoroughly rearranged on the south beach.



Beginning in the fall, a number of island volunteers began working on a new mail shack at the airstrip. With increased online ordering, especially over this past year, the old mail shack was no longer able to accommodate the mountain of packages arriving on the island. Over the summer months, outdoor tents were placed near the airstrip to hold the overflow of packages. The new mail shack is taking shape and looks like it will be by far the nicest mail shack in the islands.

