

Jekyll Island Citizens Association NEWSLETTER

--- June, 2008 ---

Thoughts from the JICA Presidents

By Norman Haft and Bob Lelli

Co-Presidents for 2008-09 Year

Happy New Year! This is in fact the beginning of a new year for JICA. Bob Lelli and I have been elected co-presidents, probably unprecedented, and we will serve with a superb Board of Directors all of whom have resided on Jekyll for longer than we have.

We realize the position we have assumed should provide leadership in the basic quest of all of us, to keep Jekyll Island the very special place that it is with the necessary upgrading and replacement of facilities and with the assurance of stability for the future. With the latter in mind our principal project for the coming year is to come to an understanding with the Jekyll Island Authority relative to the extension of our residential leases. All of us who reside here, own our homes and lease our lots from the JIA are stakeholders in this effort. Although 2049 is still a long way off, it is painfully short and critical when financing, buying and selling of leaseholds are concerned. Any suggestions or questions are always welcome. I look forward to working with you.

Norman Haft

As Co-President, I concur with Norman regarding our thrust for this year. This is not to say that we will forget about other pertinent issues concerning Jekyll Island. The hotels that have to be replaced and we hope will start construction soon and the vacant property where the Georgia Coast Hotel once stood. The LLC village and surrounding area revisions and plans for future development will continue to be of concern to residents, business owners and visitors to Jekyll.

Norman and I both look forward to working with the JIA and the JIA board. I also look forward to hearing from members and other interested parties regarding any issues that may be of a concern.

Bob Lelli

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*Enjoy your summer!
Thank you all for providing thoughtful
input as we work through the critical
issues that face Jekyll Island, "The
Peoples Island", today and for the
foreseeable future.*

Jekyll Island Citizens Association

P.O. Box 13101
Jekyll Island, Georgia 31527

JICA meetings are normally held on the first Monday of the month unless it is a holiday, then it will be held on the second Monday. Meetings are held at the Convention Center, Beachside Hall at 2:00 P.M.

A newsletter is published on the 1st of October, December, February and April. The annual meeting and election of Officers is held in May.

Officers

Norman Haft and Bob Lelli, Co-Presidents
Mindy Egan, Vice President
Steve Newell, Secretary
Dawn Zenkert, Treasurer
Frank Mirasola, Immediate Past President

Executive Committee

Richard Van Iderstyne
Mindy Egan
Norman Haft

Directors Terms End

2009: Steve Newell; Lee Willnow; Dawn Zenkert

2010: Mindy Egan; Rick Hoffman; Bob Lelli

2011: Norman Haft; Richard Van Iderstyne; Larry Waldhauer

Standing Committees - Chairs/Alternates

Communications

Darrell Davidson; Bob Lelli; Richard Van Iderstyne; Ron Willnow (web site)

Logistics

C.J. Jefferies; Dawn Zenkert

Quality of Life on Jekyll

Lee Willnow

Membership

Megan Jeffries

From the Editor's Desk

By Bob Lelli

This is the last issue of the 2007/2008 calendar year. I hope you have found the issues interesting and informative. I have tried to cover material that I thought everyone might be interested in whether you are a long time JICA member or a recent one. There are so many things that happen on this island that you can't help but be fascinated by the caliber of people, their efforts and just what is available to both residents and guests.

We will continue information about our island hotels in the first issue in the fall, along with the interesting people of Jekyll Island column as well. Hopefully, I will be able to report about the progress of our new hotels on the south end of the island in September as well as information regarding the LLC development.

Have a wonderful summer, stay well and be safe and I'll see you in the fall issue.



A Loggerhead turtle's tracks head from the Sea to the dunes where she will lay her eggs. We can all help protect these wonderful animals by keeping lights off the beach during the June through September nesting season.

Two of Jekyll Island's Very Interesting Residents

By Bob Lelli

In 1972 – after returning from a year of great Tuscan living in Siena, Italy – Len and Jean Poleszak were lucky enough to find Jekyll Island,



Len and Jean Poleszak

GA and it became their annual vacation spot until 1983. In 1983, Len retired from his job as Professor and Chair of the Dept. of Humanistic Studies at the State University College at Buffalo, New York, and Jean retired from teaching kindergarten in North Tonawanda NY. They sold their lovely home in the good old village of Kenmore –left the SNOW – and headed south.

Once settled into their very nice little Jekyll Island house with its wonderful view of the river, they started to look for things to do. They joined Audubon, St. Richard's Episcopal Church, the Jekyll Island Arts Association, the Garden Club, and the Friends of the Library. They helped organize the "San Ricardo Bike Group" – which is still rolling today. They worked with Ed Brophy and Sheila Duncan and brought Elderhostel to Jekyll Island – and, although the programs have become less constant, they still come to Jekyll Island frequently. In 1984, Len decided to become a potter (he always says he "retired and went to pot"). Jean took some University of Georgia courses and became one of a few nature guides for the Jekyll Island Authority. The program she worked with is now administered by Tidelands Nature Center.

They were very fortunate in coming to Jekyll Island when they did because they met such interesting people. Most of those folks were the founders of the Arts Assoc., Garden Club, golf and card groups, etc. Some of them founded the Jekyll Island Citizens Association, too – and of course, they joined that organization. Len is very active in tennis, plays golf, and was treasurer of the Arts Assoc. for a while. Both Len and Jean have served in various volunteer jobs for their church. General Kjellstrom somehow talked Jean into being on the JICA Board and she ended up fighting the good fight (along with then President Joe Iannicelli and the JICA Board) over "65/35", the current law that protects two-thirds of Jekyll Island from being developed.

In 1984-85, some meetings were held in the Poleszak's living room with Pam Meister (then asst. director of the JI Museum) and the San Ricardo Bike Group. The JI Club Hotel was being restored and the Museum Division of the JIA had just been formed. A 501-c-3 group was needed to help facilitate the beginnings of restoration for the historic district. So – lo and behold – the Jekyll Island Museum Associates was born. That group became The Friends of Historic Jekyll Island with a larger mission which now includes all historic sites on the island. Len is still chairing the committee to look after the Fiore Sculpture Gallery – which merits a whole article of its own. Len and Jean continue to volunteer a bit here and there – although they have been winding down a bit after almost 26 very busy years on Jekyll Island.

Len and Jean want everyone to know that they still really love where they live and enjoy the good and interesting people who share this island. Who could ask for more?!!

You can still expect to find Len and Jean at the monthly JICA meetings lending some sage advice to board members and the general membership.

Red Bug Motors – Rent or Buy

By Bob Lelli

Red Bug Motors is co-owned by Richard Van Iderstyne and Clayton Porter, with Scott Farace handling the repair projects such as welding and fixing bumpers that appear to be one of the major repair items. The business was started in April 2006 and has become a major source of visitor traffic on the island. In addition many residents have taken advantage of being able to purchase the vehicle for their own use.

There is also another Red Bug Motor business, but is not part of the airport

facility. This facility is at the Jekyll Oceanfront Hotel and is operated by Danny and Randy Simpson. The airport has 18 cars available on a daily basis ranging in size from 2, 4, and 6 passengers. There are also vehicles with storage flat beds in the rear. The facility is generally busy with most of the activity in the spring, summer, fall and Christmas. January and February is generally the slow time for the business.

Some basic information that all potential renters of the vehicles should know is that regular car insurance covers basic liability, drives must be 21 years of age and have a valid drivers license.

(See Red Bug on Page 6)



**Richard Van Iderstyne, Co-Owner of Red Bug Motors
and Co-Operator of the Jekyll Island Airport**

The Jekyll Island Airport

By Bob Lelli

I recently had the pleasure to speak with Richard Van Iderstyn concerning the Jekyll Island airport. He was generous with his time and information. The airport is co-managed by Richard and Clayton Porter who operate the facility.

The following is information I hope you will find interesting. The runway is 3,715' long and 75' wide with a hard surface as opposed to a grass surface. It is also lighted for night operations and has two instrument approaches for landing in bad weather. It is a public airport open to anyone who wishes to use the facility.

(See Jekyll Island Airport on page 6)



**Clayton Porter, Co-Owner of Red Bug Motors
and Co-Operator of the Jekyll Island Airport**

Red Bug Motors – Rent or Buy and the Jekyll Island Airport

Stories continued from pages 4 and 5

Red Bug Motors (continued from page 4)

The facility at the airport is open 365 days a year with the very busy times from Easter weekend through Labor Day weekend in September. Generally during this period all vehicles will be rented out on a daily basis.

Rental rates are as follows:

2-Hour Rental:

2 Passenger - \$50.00
4 Passenger - \$70.00
6 Passenger - \$95.00

Daily Rental:

2 Passenger - \$75.00
4 Passenger - \$95.00
6 Passenger - \$150.00

5-Day Rental:

2 Passenger - \$225.00 4 Passenger - \$255.00
6 Passenger - \$400.00

After 5 days the rate is \$50.00 per day.

7% sales tax will be added to rates.

You can also purchase a Red Bug at the following rates: A 2 passenger vehicle costs \$9,000 new or \$6,500 used. A 4 passenger costs \$11,000 new or \$8,500 used. A 6 passenger Red Bug can be purchased for \$14,000. Used 6 passenger vehicles are not available at this time. Vehicles that have been in use for a year in the fall are eligible to be sold as used Red Bug Motor vehicles. The fleet is then replenished up to its maximum.

For reservations or information about renting or purchasing a Red Bug you can call:

Jekyll Airport Location: 912-635-9330 or
Jekyll Oceanfront Clarion Resort: 912-635-2531,
ext. 407

So if you feel the urge to explore the island without a car and not spend money on gas, just get in an open Red Bug vehicle and explore beautiful Jekyll.

Jekyll Island Airport (continued from page 5)

There is no charge to fly in or out or stay and there are parking spaces for 24 airplanes. The heaviest traffic is on weekends, especially for the buffet at the club hotel. The majority of the people that fly into the airport are from South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida.

The airport facility can handle medium to small jet's and any of the single engine planes and medium to small multi engine planes. One major safety feature that Richard stressed is that there are no trees or buildings to deal with in landing or taking off, which pilots appreciate.

Also, if a plane should have engine failure they can land in the water or marsh, which is a major safety feature. The average activity runs about 20 airplanes per week, which keeps Richard and Clayton rather busy.

In addition to the regular activity of flights the airport is home for Navy helicopter pilot training for National Defense. Many of the residents of Jekyll and guests can attest to the activity and they should feel comfortable that they are training for the safety of all of us. The Navy helicopter pilots home base is Mayport in Jacksonville, Fl.

I want to thank Richard Van Iderstynne for a very informative interview and giving some insight into the operation of the Jekyll Island Airport.

Items from the June Board Meeting

Submitted By Steven Y. Newell

2:00 pm, Monday, June 2, 2008, Convention Center Beachside Hall

Co-President Norman Haft opened the meeting at 2:00 PM. Board members present were Rick Hoffman, Bob Lelli, Richard Van Iderstyne, Lee Willnow, and Dawn Zenkert, along with Website Managing Editor Ron Willnow, and Membership Chairperson Megan Jefferies. Approximately 30 citizens of Jekyll Island State Park were also present.

Six Candidates Speak

Six candidates running for various offices including State Senate, at large seat on the County Commission and Glynn County Board of Education gave 5 minute presentations during the meeting.

THE CO-PRESIDENCY

President Haft explained that the JICA Board at its organizational meeting had decided to name Co-Presidents, himself, and former Vice-President Bob Lelli. This was done on the basis of the fact that the JICA Presidency has become a very time-consuming job. Also, there are two new Board members, Rick Hoffman and Larry Waldhauer. Haft stated that he is looking forward to a softer and kinder year, with an absence of fights of any kind. When he was a mayor of a fairly contentious city, he tried to make sure that disagreements did not escalate greatly, and he would like to hold to that principle. President Lelli agreed with this position; he feels that the JICA Board should work with the Park Authority Board for the betterment of the Park. He assured the audience that he and Haft will work hard to preserve the Park as the membership and the total visitorship would want it.

President Haft commented upon criticisms that he has heard since he came onto the JICA Board, criticisms of the transparency of the Board's decision-making policies. Haft felt that the JICA Board is as transparent as any agency with which he has been involved. He called for members to

call him personally if they have complaints about JICA activities.

President Haft reminded the audience that there had been a letter published in the Golden Islander's last issue (the "Open Plea to the JICA Board" letter). He stated that there is little that is factually correct in that outrageous letter, and the Board will not dignify the letter with a response (though one Board member has submitted a response on his own behalf, attempting to correct the misinformation in the "Plea" letter).

Help Wanted -- No Pay & No Benefits

OK, the headline is just a come-on. Actually, while there is no pay with the position we are seeking to fill, it is loaded with the psychic rewards of being the first (or nearly the first) to know the hot news from Jekyll Island.

As reported in the minutes of the JICA meeting above, your JICANet Editor is looking to surrender the position after a stint of over three years and the search is on for a replacement. Since the whole process involves electronic input and is internet based, it can be done by anyone from anywhere in the world. So, it is a niche that could be filled by one of you absentee members wherever you may be.

As a JICANet subscriber you are familiar with the product -- JICANet Updates. They are compiled and issued as material meeting publication guidelines is received. In recent years about 90 Updates have been issued although with only 30 to date this year, the volume is down. The major task is copying, pasting and "tweaking" the various inputs and formatting them to conform to the webmail program used by our web host. Actual transmission is a short process with high speed internet access that should be considered a requirement.

If you are interested in taking on this position or would like more information, please email jicanet@jekyllcitizens.org or jica@jekyllcitizens.org. A detailed description of the process is available. --- and that's the news from Jekyll Island where history lives, nature abounds and I'm lookin' for a replacement! --- Darrell Davidson, JICANet Editor

Jekyll Island Citizens Association
P.O. Box 13101
Jekyll Island, Georgia 31527



*A Loggerhead Sea Turtle hatchling
Heads for the Sea at the North
beach on Jekyll Island.*

From the JICA MEMBERSHIP desk...

Those of us who are JICA Board members take pride in the fact that our membership is growing yearly and that you, the members, seem ever more interested in the growth and direction of our Island.

A yearly membership runs from June 1 to May 31 and the cost is going up in the light of expected needs to address critical issues the JICA is facing. At the special board meeting on March 21, the group voted to make annual dues \$40 for family, \$25 for an individual. If you have a question about the status of your membership, please don't hesitate to call me. I may not be able to give you an immediate answer, but I will get back to you ASAP.

If I am not available, please leave a message with your telephone number and I'll get back to you. You can reach me during the day at (912) 635-3301, or in the evening at (912) 635-3357.

Many thanks for your continued support and input.

Megan Jefferies

Jekyll Island Citizens Association Membership Form

My check for \$ _____ is enclosed for my 2007–2008 membership in the Jekyll Island Citizens Association. (Family - \$40; Individual - \$25)

Member

Email Address

Jekyll Address

Street

- 8 -

Phone Number

Other Address

Street

Phone Number

City

State

Zip

Return this form with your dues to: Megan Jefferies, Membership Chairwoman, Jekyll Island Citizens Association, P.O. Box 13101, Jekyll Is., GA 31527

