

The NEWCOMER

Lake Barcroft Newcomers' Club Newsletter



January-February 2006

February 26	Chili Cookoff	2:00-5:00 pm
March 24	Happy Hour	6:30-8:30 pm
April 22	Deck Cocktail Party	TBA
May 13	Sandy Day Weenie Roast	Rain Date May 14

Weather Forecast: Chili February

Newcomers' Club's 2006 Chili Cookoff

When: February 26, 2:00 – 5:00 pm
Where: Home of David Feld
6405 Lakeview Dr.
Cost: \$8 per person members
\$10 per person nonmembers
Bring: 6-pack of interesting beer, chips, or corn bread
RSVP: Lisa Levine, llevineny@hotmail.com
703-642-0924

The Newcomers' chili cookoff is always a hot time! In past years, chili entries have featured ingredients as diverse as duck, buffalo, pork, and, of course, purely vegetarian specialties.

Entrants to the chili competition receive complimentary admission for *one* person. A limited number of chili entries will be accepted, so RSVP ASAP to Lisa if you plan to enter. Chefs should bring their own fixings and serving ladles. A profile of this year's host, David Feld, appears on page 2. (Note: This is meant to be an adult-oriented event.)

Club Events and Activities 2006

The Newcomers' Club typically hosts a social event each month. If we're not hosting an event, we're usually supplying a contingent of volunteers to support other Lake Barcroft community activities.

We still need coordinators for many events, and additional volunteers are always welcome; contact the event coordinator if you can help out. If you'd like to coordinate or host an event, please contact Lisa Levine, llevineny@hotmail.com, or 703-642-0904.

Year Round Project: Gift Bags

The Newcomer's Club's signature project is delivery of gift bags, loaded with goodies and information about the community, to new neighbors. Deliver a bag, and be the first to meet someone new! To help, contact Sandy Chiong, 703-941-4790, or sandythebeachbum@yahoo.com.

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Santa (Joe Pisciotta) and Elf (Matt Friedman) play "Ogle the Bogle" – or whatever brand of wine that is.

Holiday gift exchange: A good time...

About 90 people turned out for the Newcomers' Club's annual holiday party, hosted this year by David and Joann Dale on Ridgeway Terrace. White Elephant gifts ranged from "I'll take that home" to "I can't wait for someone to steal this!" There's also some rumor about migrating lawn flamingoes spotted near Section 4 in the days following the party. Thanks to all who helped out: coordinator Colleen Coyle, hosts David and Joann, and the committee: Sam West, Lisa Levine, Joe Pisciotta, Matt Friedman, Suzanne Friedman, Trish Gomersall, Chris Lyons, Anne Simon, and Andrew Cambern.

... No ifs, ands, or butts!



Warren Russell of Whispering Lane shows off a classy White Elephant gift. (Photos by Andrew Cambern.)



Chili Cookoff

*Meet your
host:
David Feld*

David Feld is a former vice president of the Newcomers' Club and editor of the newsletter. For that matter, he's also a former president of the Lake Barcroft Association, and currently serves as president of the Baileys Crossroads Revitalization Corporation. But that has nothing to do with chili.

Tell us why you're qualified to host the chili cookoff.

I've had a long time fascination with chili after I discovered one can take any left-over, add some chili powder and there you go ... chili! Even I could do it.

It began when I started my career with Martin Marietta as an aerospace engineer. Chili was the favorite leftover solution in the cafeteria. Most other cafeterias made soup. After two years I had tried just about every combination of ingredients for chili (or so I thought) and went off to graduate school at Catholic University of America to study mathematics and water resources engineering.

Then I went to Kenya to build water systems for the Peace Corps and discovered that Tusker beer was the perfect drink for chili. Unfortunately, Tusker beer is not sold in the US. My hope is that someone finds a source for Tusker beer and brings it to the cookoff.

When I returned to the states I began my new career with the US Department of Agriculture. They were the experts in chili ingredients. For me, this was a major fringe benefit, but I never told anyone about my infatuation with chili because it would probably seem weird. My first position was State Engineer in Virginia, which took me to every small town in Virginia, where I tried every local chili recipe. Then one day I invited my boss over for chili, and he liked the dish so much I was transferred to DC to be the Energy Systems Coordinator. (Methane gas is a by-product of chili.)

Then I created a new position for operations research and systems development from leftover staff during a reorganization of my agency. This gave me the opportunity to develop an algorithm to generate an infinite number of chili recipes. The technique was later used by IBM to build their chess super machine. One recipe was placed in the time capsule at the Seattle world fair. It was chosen at random.

Now I run a non-profit that helps communities solve wildlife problems, like geese. So every time I visit a new community,

we talk about geese then eat chili. I think I'll write a book, *Love Geese (and Beavers), Eat Chili*.

Have you ever had goose chili? Funny you should ask. That was the recipe in the time capsule.

OK, now for the "stock" questions we ask any event host. First, when and why did you move to Lake Barcroft? I moved here in the late 1980s because it's an urban forest with a lake environment. And I found a house that did not have any grass, which was my ultimate goal.

Most memorable experience on the lake? The most memorable event was clearly the 50th Anniversary black tie dinner. Next most memorable was a sing-along at Ron Martinson's house, where I introduced the song "Abba-Dabba-Dabba Said the Monkey to the Chimp" to the community.

Favorite local restaurant? Daks. (Oops ... It just closed!)

Favorite cocktail (recipe)? 40-year-old port. Pour into a very small glass and sip very slowly.

Newcomers' Board

The Newcomers' Club elected the following board members at the December Holiday Party. Board members now serve staggered terms; the year in which the current term expires is in parentheses.

President (2006)	Lisa Levine 703-642-0904 llevineny@hotmail.com
Vice President (2007)	Sam West 703-257-8777 toddnsam@earthlink.net
Treasurer (2006)	Anne Simon SimonAW@State.gov
Secretary (2007)	Matt Friedman friedman.matt@gmail.com
Membership Database (2007)	Heather Thomas Heather@Wydlerbrothers.com
Welcome Bags (2007)	Sandy Chiong 703-941-4790 sandythebeachbum@yahoo.com
Hospitality (2006)	Andrew Cambern Andrew@yourbesthomes.com
Newsletter (2007)	Jerry Ellig/Sandy Chiong 703-941-4790 jellig@yahoo.com

In addition to these posts, the board can include an unlimited number of at-large members who coordinate specific events or undertake other projects for the benefit of the membership. At-large members thus far for 2006 include Colleen Coyle, Trish Gomersall, Joe Pisciotta, and Bill Wasyluk. Plan a party, and your name could be here!

Newest Newcomers

Welcome our newest neighbors!

Linda and Frank Leone 6211 Waterway Dr.

Justin McAdam and Andy Hardy 3417 Rusticway Dr.

Joaquin and Stephanie Perez-Arrieta 3311 Potterton Dr.

Newcomers' Events and Activities

(Continued from page 1)

March 24: Happy Hour

Several times a year, neighbors open their homes (and, in good weather, their yards) for drinks and casual conversation. In March, our hosts will be Colleen Coyle and Chris Lyons, 3504 Rusticway Ln. Event lasts from 6:30-8:30 pm.

April 22: Cocktails on the Deck

Carolyn Coldren has agreed to host an upscale cocktail party at her home on 3428 Greentree Dr. Watch Lakelink and future newsletters for details!

May 13: Sand Day

Sand Day is a day of competitive events for kids, planned by kids. The Newcomers Club supports the event by providing grilled hot dogs, brats, and trimmings. (Rain date is Sunday, May 14. That would make Sand Day the most affordable Mothers' Day brunch in town, and no need to dress up!)

June: Day at the Dam

Since so much community activity centers on the Lake, the Newcomers' Club and the Lake Barcroft Watershed Improvement District (WID) collaborate on a day of tours and presentations to help residents learn more about the operation of our dam and other WID efforts that maintain our lake.

July 4th Fireworks

The Newcomers' Club traditionally turns out a contingent of volunteers to help set up – and set off! – the fireworks. If you enjoy digging in the dirt and lighting things that blow up, this one's for you! Coordinator: Amon Nixson, 703-575-9404

Receiving This Newsletter

E-mail distribution allows the Newcomers' Club to provide a more timely, higher-quality newsletter at lower cost. If you need to add or update your email address, please notify us at lbnewcomers@gmail.com.

July: Dinner Out

The Newcomers' Club periodically arranges dinner out at a local restaurant – sometimes for adults, sometimes for the whole family. We plan one such dinner in July, date TBD.

August: Community BBQ and Family Beach Party

Join Lake Barcroft residents for a traditional beach party, games, and BBQ at Beach 5. The entire family is welcome. Coordinator: Trish Gomersall, 703-941-3322.

Labor Day Games

The Labor Day Games feature competitive events for the whole family, including swimming competitions, a fishing contest, and a variety of games for landlubbers as well. About 24 people are needed to help set up, referee, and judge. Coordinator: Joe Pisciotta, 703-914-1453.

September: Newcomers' Barge Party

Partygoers enjoy cocktails and a sunset cruise around the lake, followed by dinner under the stars. We still need a host and an event coordinator. Hosts volunteer their homes; coordinators organize barge flotilla, catering, setup, and cleanup.

November 4: Cocktail Party

Eva Kozstarab and Ken Kastner, 6327 Waterway Dr., will host. Watch Lakelink and future newsletters for details!

December: Holiday Gift Exchange

A traditional holiday party that includes the famous White Elephant "gift stealing" game.

Lake Barcroft Newcomers' Club Membership Form

Dues for the fiscal year are \$15 per household, for Sept. 2005-Sept. 2006. Members receive discounted admission to most Club events.

Mail to Heather Thomas, 3319 Stoneybrae Dr., 22041. Make checks (in \$US) payable to LB Newcomers.

Names of Household Members:

Street Address _____

Falls Church, VA Zip Code _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Is this a new membership? Yes No

New Member Move-in Date: _____

I want to pitch in to help make the Newcomers' Club go! Please contact me about:

- _____ Helping with drop-off of gift bags and greeting new neighbors
- _____ Hosting an event in our home (Club brings all supplies and provides setup/clean-up)
- _____ Coordinating an event
- _____ Assisting with setup/cleanup and/or other logistics involved with an event
- _____ Writing, photography, or other work on the Newcomer's Club's newsletter
- _____ Other (Be creative! How can you help?)
