

## News

#### shelter bay community, inc. ™

**August 2025** 



Shelter Bay Office Hours: Monday—Friday, 8 a.m.—5 p.m. | Closed on Monday, September 1

#### Ways to Pay Your Shelter Bay Bills

- ACH Debit Automated Clearing House is an electronic funds transfer system that allows Shelter Bay to automatically withdraw funds from your bank account on the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month to pay your monthly account balance. There is no cost to you for this service. ACH is Shelter Bay's preferred payment method as it is the least costly to both you and the community. Please contact the office for an authorization form if you are interested in this "set it and forget it" option. Additionally, it is the safest of all of the choices to pay your bills.
- PayLease This feature can be accessed via your online account through the Pilera Communications Portal by clicking "Make a Payment" under the Financials tab. You can choose to pay by E-Check, where your bank sends an electronic check on the same day from your bank account. A \$2.95 fee applies to this payment method. You can also choose to pay using a debit/credit card by initiating the payment either as a one-time payment or scheduling recurring payments. There is a \$2.95 fee plus a 3.5% transaction charge for this payment method. If you have not signed up for access, contact the office for instructions. It's easy!
- Online Bill Pay This option is available through your bank's online account. This is not an electronic payment; it is a paper check issued by your bank. Please be aware that bank processing times vary with this method, and it may take up to 10 days for the payment to reach your Shelter Bay account. Plan accordingly!
- Personal Check Shelter Bay will also accept your personal check for bill payment. Manually processing checks is a time-consuming process for staff, whether sent by the member or the member's bank. Remember that increased operating costs impact every member's dues. Personal checks are not a secure method of payment as they contain your bank routing and account number information, as well as your name, address, and sometimes even phone number and driver's license information. With incidents of mail theft increasing, putting a personal check in an envelope, then into your mailbox, then lifting the red flag for the postal carrier, provides an opportunity for someone to use your personal information for nefarious purposes. Payment by personal check is Shelter Bay's least preferred payment method.

For those who need help creating an account or selecting a payment method, please contact Kendra Emerson at 360-466-3805 Ext. 1 or email <u>kemerson@shelterbay.net</u> for assistance.

To sign up for ACH, follow the link below to fill out the form and return the form with a voided check to the Shelter Bay Office at 1000 Shoshone Drive, La Conner, WA 98257. https://shelterbay.net/wp-content/ uploads/2023/02/ACH-recurring-payments.pdf

#### Martha's Beach Hours

(Note change of seasonal hours.) April 1 – September 30 The beach gate hours are 7 a.m. - 10 p.m.

#### Here's What's Inside

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#### **Community Town Hall**

There will be no Community Town Hall in August due to the cancellation of the board meetings. Send questions to board@shelterbay.net

## **Safety Committee Members**

Watch for website reminders.

The Safety Committee seeks new members for the year 2025/2026 and beyond. The mission of the Safety Committee is to identify public safety and security issues in the community and make recommendations to the Board of Directors regarding those issues; working with the Manager and Compliance Officer, support the enforcement of the governing documents of Shelter Bay Community, Inc. as they pertain to safety issues; recommend cost effective solutions to safety and security issues as approved by the board; and provide community safety education and prevention awareness. If you are interested in serving on this committee, contact the Committee Secretary, Renata McCauley, at 360-466-3805 Ext 8 or via email at rmccauley@shelterbay.net

#### **Advance Notice**

The Shelter Bay Office will be **closed** on Monday, September 1, for Labor Day.

#### Community Manager's Message



<u>Pool Update</u> – The pool has been open for a few months, and everything is going well. The sidewalks have now been completed, and we are working on the surrounding bare areas that will be seeded. We will also be upgrading the stairs and installing a wheelchair-accessible ramp. We would like to remind everyone that wristbands are required for each member of your family to use the pool. We have also determined that a few of the umbrellas are not functioning as well as we had hoped, and we are in the process of replacing them. We have also had a couple of instances where some individuals have made a mess in the men's restroom. If you notice the area in

disarray, please report it to the pool attendants or the front office so we can address the issue promptly. Thanks in advance for your assistance and enjoy your summer around the pool.

**Playground** — We had an on-site meeting with the Swinomish Planning Department in late June to discuss the project, hoping to get it started. Unfortunately, due to the enlarged wetland buffer, we are still working towards a final solution. We are currently developing a plan that will enable us to install the new equipment in a section of the playground located outside the enlarged buffer area. We are working diligently to complete this task as soon as possible.

**Courts** — The tennis court refresh has been completed and turned out very nicely. The courts were reopened for play on Monday, July 21.

Marina – Occupancy remains extremely high, enabling strong financial performance. Derek and Steve continue to tackle various jobs in and around the marina to ensure everything is kept in the best possible condition. The board recently approved the purchase of a new boat to replace our aging and less user-friendly current model. The time from placing the order to completion of the boat is approximately 2 years. Updates will be provided as this moves forward.

Maintenance Department – We are pleased to announce that we have hired another staff member, who started on July 21. This new staff member joins us with a water certification, bringing our team to three members who hold this certification. We also have another staff member taking the test to obtain his sewer certification. In addition to the necessary hours required to address both water and sewer issues daily, the maintenance team remains busy working on various issues throughout the community. In late July, the team worked on replacing the waterline anode on the waterline that crosses to Shelter Bay under the channel.

**Roads/Pavement**— We will be sweeping the roads sometime in August and will also be repainting the lines at that time. We will strive to do this more frequently as needed. We are also gearing up for various asphalt repairs now that we are in the new fiscal year. It was brought to our attention that there are a couple of potholes on the outbound side of the main entrance. Our maintenance staff will fix one, and the other is being handled by the Swinomish Planning Department and one of their vendors. We hope to have both addressed very soon.

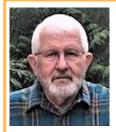
**Coquille Park Building -** The remodel of the old pool building at Coquille Park is nearly complete, and we are currently working on the grounds area surrounding the building. SRC is looking to sponsor a grand opening sometime in late September. Additional information will be shared as plans are finalized.

**Volunteers** - We genuinely appreciate all they do for the community. If you are interested in volunteering on any of the SBC Committees or on other community projects, please contact our Committee Secretary, Renata McCauley at 360-466-3805, Ext. 8, or via email at <a href="maccauley@shelterbay.net">mmccauley@shelterbay.net</a>

As always, my sincere thanks to all our diligent Shelter Bay staff members.

Bill Palmer

## **Board President's Message**



The board started Fiscal Year '26 on July 1 with a Special Meeting to elect officers and approve volunteers to committees. The board voted to elect the same officers as were previously serving: Monte Hicks as President, Rick Parnell as Vice President, Wendy Poulton as Secretary, and Lois Watson as Treasurer. Nancy Shimeall was appointed as Secretary Pro Tem for a third term. I would like to thank the board for all their work, not just at the board level, but also at the committee level. Many of our directors put in more hours as committee representatives than they do as directors, and I don't want to miss this opportunity to thank them. The same gratitude goes out to all our volunteers on the committees. Almost

100% re-upped for this next year, and that says a lot about how dedicated they are to keeping Shelter Bay running so well.

This last year, the board approved an additional \$78,235 for capital projects: sewer plant roof, lift station transfer switches, EV charging stations in the marina tenant parking area, marina rescue ladders, and the Coquille Park remodel. These additional projects continue to add value and maintain our infrastructure as is required by our Master Lease. We have an extensive list of projects for this fiscal year. One of the top priority projects is relocating the water main at Rainbow Park away from the channel to protect our water supply.

The board also established a procedure and guidelines for all bank stabilization and dredging projects, which will be reviewed by the Facilities and Amenities Committee with input from the Harbor Committee as needed. This action will formalize this process, which will be important as Shelter Bay ages, and repairs become more necessary along the waterfront properties.

Lastly, I would like to thank the Lease Negotiating Team for their diligent work toward obtaining a new Master Lease. With their dedication, we are closer than ever to a new lease, and although the process can be painstakingly slow, it is thanks to their weekly commitment over the past four years that we are where we are today. To clarify, we do not yet have a final agreement on the proposed lease structure, but we are close, and hopeful that we will be able to secure a new lease that is in the best interest of all parties.

The board will not convene in August, but we will resume our activities in September with a work session, our annual retreat, and regular meetings.

Enjoy August! Monte Hicks, President

## **Garden Club News**







All of that spring weeding and planting is paying off in gorgeous blooms and color. Be sure to check out the beautiful pots, garden beds, and hanging pots around the clubhouse, entrance, and marina areas!

July 11: Weeding and trimming were done most of the day at the front of the clubhouse. Thanks, Berit, Linda, Diane, Jana, Kim, Dave, and Kati.

Hot Weather Tip: In this hotter weather, it is best to water in the evenings and mornings to conserve water usage. Mulching also helps keep the soil moist. For delicate blooms and plants, be sure to offer them some daytime shade to protect against the high heat.



#### shelter bay community, inc. ™ Board of Directors - Action Items

#### Regular Board Meeting July 16, 2025

- 1) Approved Facilities Committee Request to move forward with obtaining permits for, and putting out to bid, the Shoreline Water Main Replacement Plan as submitted by Gray & Osborne Engineering.
- 2) Approved moving forward with the implementation of Chapter 40 Code of Conduct as approved in 2024, into the Rules and Regulations, while continuing to await legal review.
- 3) Authorized Facilities Committee request for \$9,000 of project funds to be reallocated to the project as a carryover from the FY25 Budget to the FY26 Budget, and additional funds for the completion of the Coquille Park Project not to exceed an additional \$25,000.
- 4) Accepted the proposal from Lally Consulting Services to develop solutions for the northern channel-side shoreline at Rainbow Park that may also serve as a foundation for remedying other sites within the Community.
- 5) Adopted Resolution 25-15 Safety Committee Guidelines Amendments General Updates.
- 6) Adopted Resolution 25-16 Architectural Compliance Guidelines Amendment updating the Appeal Process, so it aligns with Chapter 20 of the Rules and Regulations.
- 7) Adopt Resolution 25-17 Organizational Chart Updates.
- 8) Approved Social & Rec Committee request to provide New Members Welcome Packets and Gifts and to expense the cost to Operating Supplies.
- 9) Approved Request to Sponsor a Team for the Fire District #13 Annual Golf Tournament Fundraiser.
- 10) Authorized Facilities Committee request for funds to establish a Disc Golf Course within the current Golf Course at a cost not to exceed \$10,000.
- 11) Authorized Harbor Committee to proceed with contracting Munson Boats for a replacement Harbor Boat as recommended (Option 1), for a total of \$181,304, which includes additional allocation of Capital funds for \$1,304.
- 12) Approved Cancellation of the August Board Meeting.
- 13) Approved moving forward with the Termination of Sublease for lots 486 & 498 per the Sublease Agreement through legal.
- 14) Approved new member of the Communications Committee.

shelter bay company ™
Company Board Meeting July 16, 2025
No Business

#### **Compliance Corner**

Hey Shelter Bay! It's your local Compliance Officer back with a couple of topics for discussion.

First, I would like to remind the community that we offer Greenbelt Maintenance Permits for those interested. With this permit, you will be allowed to do work in the greenbelts that surround, or are adjacent to, your home. There are some restrictions on what can be done, but I encourage anyone interested to reach out to me or grab an application in the office. These permits are great if you would like to do a little bit of upkeep. For example, many folks mow a greenbelt near their home or use this permit to maintain the work Precision Tree Services completes in the greenbelt.

I have had to request to levy many more fines than usual lately. This is another friendly reminder to familiarize yourself with our Rules & Regulations, so you stay in compliance. I currently receive complaints almost weekly about dogs being offleash in the neighborhood. This is another reminder that dogs must be leashed and under control at all times in the Community. This is for the safety of yourself, your dog, and other residents around you. Dog-related violations have been abundant this summer, so I would also like to remind the community to minimize their dogs' barking when possible. That said, I'd also like to remind those who complain about dog barking that many dogs bark in reaction to construction and other noisy projects taking place in the community during the day. We all need to do our best to be respectful, understanding, and accommodating neighbors.

Lastly, I thought the community would be interested in the different fines I have levied recently, so I have decided to share them in the newsletters in the future. This month, I have requested fines for dogs being off-leash and not picked up after, trees being cut without permits, and short-term Airbnb listings I have found online.

Riley Reynolds | rkovalcheck@shelterbay.net | 360-466-3805 ext. 7

#### **Dock Notes**



Communication, communication, communication. With all the low tides we've been experiencing this summer, the boat launch has been unusable at times. Please take it upon yourselves to check the tides and plan your launching and loading accordingly. Do not use the boat launch on low tides. We have sandbags placed at the bottom of the ramp to prevent erosion. When you launch or load on low tides, it damages the sandbags and accelerates the problem. If you need a spot to park

your boat while waiting for the tide to return, please contact the harbormaster at (360) 333-2952. We will be happy to assist you. Communication is key. We thank you for cooperating with us!

#### **Parking Lot Reminders**

- Vehicles parked overnight at the marina shall display a parking permit decal. Marina parking includes these areas:
  - -near the boat launch & A Dock
  - -at C/D/E Docks
  - -along Shoshone Drive at F-J Docks
- Parking in any shoreside spot at the marina is limited to 72 hours. This includes the shoreside area along Shoshone Drive at F–J Docks. Vehicles that will not be moved for over 72 hours shall be parked in the long-term parking spots at the main marina basin. This area is in the middle of the parking lot, encompassing the garden beds. If you are unsure where this area is, please visit the harbormaster for reference.
- **Tenants with boat trailers** who use the parking area near the boat launch should have a trailer parking permit decal. Trailers cannot be left unattached to a vehicle.
- Parking permit decals can be picked up from the office. Any questions? See our staff.

Marina Restroom Roof Replacement: Starting in early August, Savage Roofing will be replacing the roof of the marina restrooms. Restrooms will remain open during the roof replacement. This is the first stage of renovations for the marina restrooms, and we will continue with interior restoration in the fall.

**Pool Access for Marina Tenants:** Did you know that if you're a tenant of Shelter Bay Marina, you have access to the pool and golf course? Please visit the main office to obtain a wristband and program your SALTO key fob to unlock the pool gate.

**2026 Vessel Registration Stickers**: If you haven't updated your boat registration and attached the new 2026 registration sticker, please do so. We will be conducting an audit this month, and you will receive a reminder. After that, fines will be applied.

**Shelter Bay Yacht Club Friday BBQ:** Friday, August 29, 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. is our final summer barbecue of 2025. Registration is not required; show up at the Shelter Bay Pavilion, rain or shine. BYOB Happy Hour kicks off at 5:00 p.m.

We wish you a memorable and enjoyable boating season!

Your Marina Team: Kendra Emerson, Derek Woods, and Steve Shipley



#### Rainbow Bridge Lighting Update July 2025 - Still Working on It!

Rainbow Bridge is the most significant feature of the visual character of the communities of Shelter Bay and the Town of La Conner. For those of us who are privileged to live here, the lighted bridge signifies "Home". The Shelter Bay "Light Brigade" has been formed to fund the permitting, installation, and maintenance of lights on the south side of the bridge in partnership with the Town of La Conner.

A BIG THANK YOU to all our pledge partners! We have exceeded our target of \$13,000. These pledges demonstrate Shelter Bay support in our negotiations with partnering agencies. There may be some minor adjustments to the final contribution as budgets are updated and other conditions discovered. Remember, this project was started 3 years ago! Stay tuned!

NEXT STEPS: I am now working with Skagit County (owner of the bridge) to get the permissions and permits required for the project. This will take some time, as agreements with other stakeholders must be negotiated.

I will also be presenting this to the Shelter Bay Board for discussion in the community regarding maintenance cost and "dark sky" issues to hopefully get community approval for the project.

Updates will appear in the Shelter Bay Newsletter. Additional information is available at: https://shelterbay.net/rainbow-bridge-lighting/

By: Ken Olsen

## **Shelter Bay Happenings**

#### Music on the Green



Music by BroHamm - back by popular demand!
Great live music and dancing! Come enjoy a fun community evening!

Saturday, August 16 from 4 to 6 p.m.

At the BBQ pavilion next to the clubhouse.
Bring your delicious items to BBQ, a dish to share,
your favorite beverages, and a chair!
Charcoal for BBQ, plates, and utensils provided.

Sponsored by Shelter Bay Social & Recreation Committee

#### Shelter Bay Men's Fireside Gathering

At Rainbow Park (end of Chinook Place). Enjoy an evening of meeting other men in your community!

Thursday, August 7 at 4 p.m.

Light snacks provided. BYOB and a lawn chair.

Sponsored by the Shelter Bay Social & Recreation Committee

#### Shelter Bay Women's Monthly Breakfast

It's a wonderful time meeting and connecting with fellow neighbors. Please feel free to bring a dish to share, if you'd like (but not required). Coffee, tea, cocoa, paper supplies, and utensils provided.

> When: Second Tuesday of each month (August 12) Time: 9-10:30 a.m.

> > Where: Shelter Bay Clubhouse

Sponsored by the Shelter Bay Social & Recreation Committee

#### **Shelter Bay Pickleball Fest**



You're invited to join in the pickleball fun for a round robin tournament!

Saturday, August 9 from 10 a.m. until 12 p.m.

Intermediate division and social division (Shelter Bay and Swinomish residents only)
Players will get at least 5 games with 5 different partners and

different opponents. Prizes, snacks, and beverages provided. Spectators are welcome!

Sign up in the Shelter Bay office, via WhatsApp, or email <a href="mailto:echertc@outlook.com">echertc@outlook.com</a>.

Signup deadline is August 6!

Sponsored by Shelter Bay Social & Recreation Committee

## Communiversity – The Magnificent Pacific Ocean: 2 Continents – 25,000+ Islands – 1,200+ Languages



When: Tuesdays, September 23 and September 30, 2025

Where: Clubhouse (In-person only)

**Time:** 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Course Instructor: Don Newby, Shelter Bay Community

The Pacific Ocean is crucial for the United States due to its trade routes, valuable natural resources, environmental significance, geopolitical influences, cultural ties, diverse ecosystems, and defense facilities.

A two-evening presentation will give attendees a past and present introduction to this vast body of water, its climate, geography, cultures, economy, people, and more, including:

- The White Shark Café The Spacecraft Cemetery
- Fiber Optic Cables Space Surveillance
- The Ticking Ecological Time Bombs
- Marine Life of the Deep Nuclear Testing

This is a free class open to Swinomish tribal members and residents of Shelter Bay. Registration is required so we can provide adequate refreshments. You can register online at the community website under Resources/Communiversity, or you can click here for a registration link.

#### Save the Dates

#### SBSCC September 14 Car Tour + Show

The Shelter Bay Sports Car Club will host a Tour and Car Show in conjunction with the Shelter Bay Social & Recreation Committee on **September 14, 2025.** 

SB members with collectible and special interest cars are invited to a Tour of Lake Samish and Chuckanut Drive. We will meet at the clubhouse at 2:45 and depart at 3:00. We will return to the clubhouse at 5:00 to set up for the Car Show. Our friends and neighbors will arrive around 5:30 to enjoy the cars, some food, and beverages.

It will be fun to get everyone together. Please RSVP to <u>ken@olsenassociates.net</u> to reserve your place. There are no fees.



## Show Up & Show Off!!! Shelter Bay Happy Hour Car Show!

Join your neighbors for a fun evening of seeing our community members' fun and interesting cars! Bring an appetizer to share and your favorite beverages!

Sunday, September 14, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at our Community Clubhouse and in the marina parking lot.

Sponsored by Shelter Bay Social & Recreation Committee

#### **Grand Opening at Coquille Park - HAPPY HOUR!**

Join your community in celebrating a BIG opening! **Sunday, September 28 from 3 to 4:30 p.m.** More details to follow in the September newsletter... *Sponsored by Shelter Bay Social & Recreation Committee* 

#### **Tennis Courts Refurbished**





Shelter Bay's tennis players enjoy the newly refurbished courts. If you are a tennis player or would like to start, check out the Tennis page on Shelter Bay's website in the "Resources/Clubs & Groups" section.

#### **Area Happenings**

<u>La Conner Swinomish Library</u>, Wednesday, August 6, 10:30-11:20 a.m., Pegasus Puppet Theatre presents <u>Stellaluna</u>. https://www.laconnerswinomishlibrary.org/

<u>Shakespeare NW presents Much Ado About Nothing</u>, Rexville Grange Amphitheatre, August 1-3 and 8-9. https://shakesnw.org/calendar

<u>Skagit County Fair</u>, 501 Taylor Street, Mount Vernon, August 7 – 10, Thurs, Fri, Sat: 10a.m. – 10 p.m., Sun: 10 a.m. – 9 p.m. <a href="https://www.skagitcounty.net/Departments/Fair/main.htm">https://www.skagitcounty.net/Departments/Fair/main.htm</a>

Free Summer Concert Series – Just come and listen, or join in the dancing!

- <u>La Conner Free Concert Series</u>, Gilkey Square, Sundays through Labor Day weekend, 1-4 p.m.
   o https://www.facebook.com/LaConnerLive/photos/2025-music-schedule-revised/1197860575459978/
- Mount Vernon Riverwalk Summer Concert Series, Thursdays through August, 6-8 p.m. on the Skagit Riverwalk Plaza o https://www.mountvernonchamber.com/riverwalk-concert-series/
- Port of Anacortes Summer Concert Series, 6-8 p.m. at Seafarers' Memorial Park, on Fridays in August o https://www.portofanacortes.com/news/2025-free-summer-concert-series-lineup/
- <u>Heart of Anacortes Summer Concert Series</u>, Saturdays through August 30, 6-8 p.m. at corner of 4<sup>th</sup> and O. o http://www.theheartofanacortes.com/
- <u>American Roots Concert Series</u>, Saturdays through August 23, 7-9 p.m. in Deception Pass Park amphitheater. o <a href="https://deceptionpassfoundation.org/calendar/month/">https://deceptionpassfoundation.org/calendar/month/</a>

**Interested in wildlife viewing?** Visit Skagit Valley gives suggestions for ways to discover watchable wildlife. <a href="https://www.visitskagitvalley.com/discover/wildlife">https://www.visitskagitvalley.com/discover/wildlife</a>



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#### **DOWNSIZING? Uplift our Community!**

Donate your unwanted treasures and let us turn the proceeds back into our community. Bring 'em by! Corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> & Morris

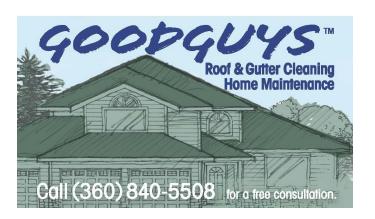
New (Longer!) Donation Hours: Mondays 1 - 6pm

Shopping: Fri-Sat-Sun 11am – 5pm

New Arrivals posted Thursdays on Facebook









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#### Pete Wedin

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Thinking of selling your powerboat? La Conner Yacht Sales is busy with buyers and would like to talk with you about listing your vessel. Give us a call or stop by our office located in the La Conner Marina.

360.466.3300 Art, Marcie & Tony





## August 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY		
					1	2		
3	4 3 p.m. Canceled— Safety Committee Meeting	5 9 a.m. Architectural Compliance Committee Meeting 2 p.m. Canceled—Rules Committee Meeting	6 Pickleball Tournament Sign-Up Deadline 2 p.m. Canceled— Finance Committee	7 9 a.m. Facilities and Amenities Committee Meeting 4 p.m. Men's Fireside Gathering	8	9 10 a.m. SRC Pickleball Tournament		
10	11 10 a.m. Canceled— CERT Annex	12 9 a.m. SRC SB Women's Breakfast 3 p.m. Canceled— Harbor Committee Meeting	13 2 p.m. Canceled— Social & Recreation Committee Meeting	14 1:30 p.m. Canceled— Communications Committee Meeting	15	16 4 p.m. Music on the Green		
17	18 4 p.m. Canceled— Communiversity Committee Meeting	19 9 a.m. Architectural Compliance Committee Meeting	20 4 p.m. Canceled— Shelter Bay Board of Directors Meetings	21	22	23		
24 7 p.m. Canceled— Town Hall	25	26	27	28	29	30		

Clubs, Groups (classes), and agendas are posted at the Website. Shelter Bay residents are encouraged to attend.



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#### shelter bay community, inc.

Shelter Bay Community Manager
Bill Palmer

#### **Board of Directors**

President - Monte Hicks
Vice President - Rick Parnell
Secretary - Wendy Poulton
Treasurer - Lois Watson
Secretary Pro Tem - Nancy Shimeall
Directors - Jack Galbraith, Julie Peddy,
Rod Proctor, and Mike Shannon
Executive Secretary - Ann Serwold

#### Committee Chairpersons:

Architectural Compliance: Mike Shannon Rules: Don Moore
Harbor: Phil Attneave
Communications: Jim Barrett
Green: Julie Peddy
Facilities: Jack Galbraith
Finance: Lois Watson, Treasurer
Safety: Brad Reading
Social & Recreation: Katie Reading

Committee Secretary: Renata McCauley