

“All the
News that’s
Fit to Hint”

The Rainbow Times

Weather: mild,
highs in the 80s.
Forecast: fair,
windy and dry.

Voice of the Rainbow Bay Property Owners Association, Eleuthera, Bahamas • Number 3 • Spring 2007



DRIFTWOOD AT HIDDEN BEACH: Photo by Ian W.D. Langworth (Canon Powershot S230, .003 sec., f/8, FL 6.7mm)

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Voice of the Rainbow Bay
Property Owners Association
Number 3 • Spring 2007

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MARCH 3RD. FRESH NEWS ABOUT CONDOS, FEES, PARK SITES AND ROADWORK

BY R. PERRY PINDER • rppinder@hotmail.com • (242) 335-0630

Dear Friends,

Spring is in the air and it's only February! Ever wonder what goes through the minds of Bahamas residents during talk of global warming? Looks like we're in for quite a year! So let's get started, beginning with the date (actual) for this year's Annual General Meeting: Saturday, March 3rd at the Association Building next to the Rainbow Inn.

Condominium Update

The new condo project, "Sunset Cove Condominiums," has hit a dead end. The Association board of directors was presented with revised plans last October that deviated substantially from the original approved plans from a year earlier. The degree of deviation was considered large enough that the board declined the said plans. However, the board has encouraged the developer and his architects to submit further revised plans resembling the earlier approved plans. We are awaiting such submission. Hopefully this issue shall be resolved in time for the Annual General Meeting on March 3rd.

Increased Fees

Last year's board decision to implement a revised fee scale with higher fees for developed residential and commercial lots is expected to generate close to \$15,000 in additional revenue during the 2007 fiscal year. The increase was deemed necessary as the costs of road materials is seriously affected by fuel prices, which have risen substantially over the past few years. Increased revenues will also enable the board to perform more extensive roadwork. Accordingly, the board has revised its roadwork plan to allow for more extensive improvements on the quarry roads, and to consider extending the sealing of tarred roads. A detailed plan will be presented in the annual meeting which will outline how the extra funds will be applied to these road projects.

Continued Park Site Improvement

During the course of last year, several park sites were notably embellished with careful landscaping and through donations of plants from various members. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who were involved with this effort, particularly Alan and Barbara Fischl for their generous donations of plants for these projects.

Ongoing Member Contributions

I would like once again to thank all of you members who have donated time and support over the years, making Rainbow Bay such an outstanding success. I encourage newer members to become involved with the Association, either by becoming board members or through simply joining one of the many committees. There is something for everyone.

Theresa Ferguson

Her many Rainbow Bay friends note with sorrow the passing of Theresa, beloved wife of Freddie Ferguson, on February 1st. Anyone wishing to memorialize Theresa should please send their thoughts to the editor for our next issue.

Perry



WANDERING SHORE DRIVE: from Angelfish Point (Little Bluff), looking west to Lobster (Prickly) Point, Rainbow Cay on the horizon: a fine venue for sunsets.

ON WANDERING SHORE

We received *The Rainbow Times* 2 and were pleasantly surprised. We had no idea that changes were going to be made. We attribute our change of address to the fact that we did not receive RBT 1. The new format is a welcome improvement; keep up the good work.

We discovered Eleuthera quite by accident about eight years ago. In 1998 for our joint vacation, two Canadian friends found a house rental on Spanish Wells. Pauline and I had never heard of Spanish Wells, or Eleuthera, for that matter.

Using one of our days to visit Eleuthera, we rented a car and headed south. The Rainbow Inn wasn't open but Rainbow Bay provided food for thought. We traveled as far as Rock Sound and saw nothing nicer. After we returned home, we contacted an estate agent and purchased our lot on Wandering Shore Drive.

We visited Eleuthera two more times and wanted to build. Costs were a problem, but we finally found a design that we could afford, and we should be ready for occupancy in 2007. We named our home "Serendipity," because of the circumstances under which we accidentally discovered this gem of an island and Rainbow Bay.

ANTHONY CHUNG, SUN CITY CENTER, FLA.

Welcome and thanks for the kind words, always hard to come by. We've sent you a copy of Number 1, and look forward to seeing you this winter. Many years ago, we looked at the lot right next to you. It's a nice stretch of shoreline where the trade winds help to keep the sand flies away. Good luck!

DREAMING THE DREAM

I am a lot owner thinking of building in the next couple of years. I was hoping you could provide some input as to island lifestyle and the building process.

My wife thinks we should spend a year (or at least the cold part) to see if we like it enough. You wrote an article a few years ago (about bringing in a car) that led me to think our circumstances are similar. Any input on building, including local designers and builders, would be appreciated.

RICK TREVELONI, TUCSON, ARIZONA
(ricktreveloni@prodigy.net)

Rick, Mrs. Treveloni is right — it's wise to spend some serious time here for several years to see if the investment of a house is right for you. About that lifestyle: the best advice we know is a note we found in the Rainbow Inn back in 1981: "Relax, slow down, and be patient — words to live by on the island." Building is not cheap, so you need to be sure. For the cost of a house, you could have perhaps twenty three-week vacations

here and go home each time with no obligations. Yet there's something about a house that makes you feel like part of the community, especially on a welcoming and friendly island. Every time we return it's like coming home, and many who have traveled all over the Caribbean say there's nothing quite like Eleuthera.

The Association doesn't make recommendations on contractors but you can gain a lot of knowledge by word of mouth; seek out residents and talk. Most often you will get good advice. Some residents worry over "impulse buyers" who arrive, dream the dream, and quickly put up a house, live in it brand new for a few weeks, then disappearing and relying on renters to support it.

Believe us, this is no stateside situation. Even without renters, fastidious maintenance is essential if you want your investment to last. The salt air, so vigorous and bracing, is also corrosive, especially to anything made of metal. Hurricanes are no longer oddities in The Bahamas. Obviously, those of us who own homes are quite prepared to put up with the responsibility, and the lack of Home Depot around the corner, for the many joys of living here. But everyone has to make this decision for themselves. Come down for a couple of years, rent a house, or a Rainbow Inn villa, mosey around, and keep your eyes and ears open.

SPACE STATION SIGHTINGS

Loved Barbara's article about the winter sky (RBT 2, page 10) but I'm unable to access the website www.spaceflight1.nasa.gov.

BARBARA FISCHL, SPYGLASS ROAD

Sorry, Barbara, NASA websites are sometimes temporary. For information on Space Station Sightings, "google" those words on your browser, or enter this link, which is Metamark shorthand for the current NASA website: <http://xrl.us/t52j>.

Letters may be emailed to the editor. ❖

WHAT'S HAPPENING

POLICE BALL SUCCESS

The First Annual Police Banquet was held at Guinep Tree Ballroom (Workers' House) Governor's Harbour, on January 26th. Cocktails, dinner and dance music by the Police Band augmented this formal event in support of the Eleuthera District, Royal Bahamas Police Force. Rainbow residents attended in good numbers to express appreciation for the increased police vigilance in our neighborhood, which resulted in several arrests and ended the spate of burglaries that had occurred during late 2005.

VEHICLE SHIPPING

Escalating prices with traditional shippers out of Port Everglades have been accompanied by a supposed "new rule" in which you are no longer allowed to pack personal belongings in a car you are shipping. Now they want you to put all of a vehicle's contents on a pallet—a little matter of \$185 extra. One shipper tells clients that this is required by Bahamas Customs, but we are assured by reliable authorities that Customs has no such regulation. All they care about is that you declare what you bring in.

The Rainbow Times searched the web for alternative car shippers and found the Palm Beach Steamship Agency (www.palm-beachsteamship.com), 158-B East Port Road, Riviera Beach, Florida 33404, telephone (561) 844-5387, fax (561) 844-8664. Administrator Maria Moro told us:

"We currently ship to Marsh Harbour, Green Turtle Cay, Spanish Wells and Harbour Island. Our ship leaves West Palm



BRIEF REST: Dragonfly photo by Ian Langworth.

Beach for Spanish Wells and Harbour Island every Wednesday and arrives in Spanish Wells on Thursday and Harbour Island on Friday. We do ship vehicles with cargo inside, but we must have all documentation for customs. Total charges are about \$500 plus insurance, which is less than 2% of the value on vehicles newer than 1999. (Insurance is not required for older vehicles.) Freight for vehicles with cargo adds \$20.60, which is the minimum for cargo."

The car ferry from Spanish Wells to Eleuthera costs well under \$100, so the saving is substantial. Customs can be handled by Paul Simmons or other brokers on Eleuthera. We would appreciate the comments of any reader who has used or plans to use the Palm Beach Steamship Agency.

Another alternative is Abaco Shipping Company, which handles paperwork for the M/V *Trident*. This ship offers service between Riviera Beach and Spanish Wells, but also goes to Bluff on occasion, which would eliminate the car ferry.

Abaco told us they charge \$800-850 for a car worth \$5000, considerably more than Palm Beach Steamship. They allow shippers to pack belongings in the

vehicle for a small extra charge. Contact Abaco Shipping at (242) 367-2091. If you need to coordinate a delivery to Bluff, the man to call is Abner Pinder in Spanish Wells: (242) 333-4890.

Before shipping, have your car undercoated or oil-sprayed, pack spare belts and hoses, and wax well. Cars are shipped on-deck, and always need a thorough cleaning to remove salt spray after arrival.

"BALI HAI": CAN'T GET THERE FROM HERE?

*Bali Hai will whisper,
on the winds of the sea;
If you try, you'll hear it call you:
"Come to me, come to me."
—Bloody Mary in South Pacific*

Cat Island, our nearest major island neighbor, beckons like "Bali Hai," thirty miles across the sea from the southern tip of Eleuthera. Someone told us that on a clear day you can actually see its low outline from Lighthouse Point, but we think they meant "Little San Salvador," an islet about ten miles out.

It has long been our ambition to tour Cat Island on bicycles, with our partner driving a rented "sag wagon," meeting us at interesting stops along the way, and investigating the fabled "endless pink sand beaches" that stretch along the island's mostly deserted Atlantic coastline. For most of that coast, there are no roads, except access tracks leading east from the more populated west coast.

Visitors say Cat is like Eleuthera thirty years ago. (It only received electricity in 1992.) Amenities are few, but the beaches are pristine and deserted, and



CAT ISLAND: Thirty miles off the southernmost tip of Eleuthera, but so far it might as well be 3000, our nearest major island neighbor can be reached, but not cheaply from here!

If two adventurous readers would like to spend three nights on Cat Island in February or March, we would be glad to have help amortizing the transportation bill. Contact the editor at (242) 335-0615 (malakand@batelnet.bs).

TOPSOIL REVISITED

Rainbow residents have been looking for a supply of quality sifted loam since Bill Burrows' supply dried up last year. Clifford Sands of Palmetto Point, who supplies "Island Farm" and other businesses, delivers loads of good, dark brown topsoil to private residents at \$30 per yard.

Cliff has to come a long way and likes to get decent use out of his huge truck, which holds 20 yards. Frank the driver is happy to divvy up large loads at various locations, in precisely measured piles. The soil is dry and powdery, but a little water stiffens it up, and it is good quality. Cliff Sands' business number is 332-0022, or you can leave a message on his cell phone, 464-0812.

CABLE STILL COMING

Following up last issue's plea for anyone interested in Coral Wave Cable to contact Freddie Ferguson of Rainbow Bay, Freddie turned in the names of forty-two people willing to consider the service, which could be used for both television and internet access. He also gave the representative of the company a map of the Rainbow subdivision, showing where those interested lived. Freddie says the company will probably run cables to the most populated areas, but not cover all areas due to the cost of the cable installation.

Representatives have assured us that the service *will* be coming, although no time frame was mentioned. Nor has he been told the cost of the service, though he

assured the representative that those interested would pay a yearly fee, whether or not they use the service year-round. Anyone with questions, or who would like to be added to the list (no obligation at this point), can reach Freddie at (242) 335-0460.

McCARDY BICYCLES

Arrington McCurdy of Alice Town, the "Lance

Armstrong of Eleuthera," is president of "Eleuthera Long Riders," a bike club whose members qualify by riding fifty miles in a day on our hilly, challenging roads.



Fellow bikers have encouraged Arrington to open a shop to sell, rent and service bicycles for residents and tourists, and he has now laid in a small "fleet" of bikes for that purpose. Mountain bikes rent for \$10 a day, hybrids with cable shifters \$15. Anyone in need of bicycle expertise should visit Arrington at his home + guest cottages, "Seven Gables" (ask anyone in Alice Town for directions), or telephone him at 335-0070.

FROM THE EDITOR

For 2007, the Board of Directors has provided a budget of \$3500 for two issues of *The Rainbow Times*, inclusive of postage. This will allow two twelve-page issues, printed on coated stock, mailed as usual in the late autumn and late winter.

The budget will pay for one color cover but not two (hence the black and white cover on this issue). Your board did not wish to encourage donated color, which makes sense: there are far more important things for donors to support. Thanks to the increasing number of letters—we appreciate the feedback. And thanks to all members for their encouragement and kind words about the publication. **RML** ❖

there are rumors of beachfront lots selling for four figures. Interesting sights include a historic plantation, "The Hermitage," and Mount Alvernia, highest point in The Bahamas (210 feet, about 30 feet higher than the highest point on Eleuthera). Despite Alvernia, Cat is relatively flat, not rolling and hilly like Eleuthera. Just 45 miles long, it can be biked end to end in a day. It is the boyhood home of actor Sidney Poitier, and there are still many Poitiers in the phone book.

Although we found attractive rates by the Bridge Inn, halfway down the island, transport from Eleuthera proved a formidable challenge. We spoke with two charter pilots capable of flying three people and two bicycles from Governor's Harbour to New Bight: \$750-1300 each way. Ouch! We contacted a charter boat who quoted \$1400 each way. Arrgh!

Unfortunately, neither Bahamasair nor Continental offer connecting flights from Eleuthera to Cat. Flying to Nassau to Cat and back involves airfares of \$1000 per couple and takes time. We're still looking for transport at a price we can afford.

Rescue at Glass Window

By Roger Patterson



PHOTOGRAPHY BY STATICO

Driving back from Spanish Wells one day, I was approaching the Glass Window Bridge, set in its fascinating lunar landscape between Upper Bogue and Gregory Town. I was feeling good, drinking a cold Coke while reggae played on the radio. To my left, the Atlantic threw itself against the cliffs in frustrated combers. To my right, the Caribbean was her usual calm, introspective self.

Ahead a car was pulled off the road and a man was waving frantically. Car trouble, I thought, and pulled up. He cried out words so alien to my happy state that I did not immediately comprehend: "Two people fell in the water. A man and a woman. Help me!" He pointed towards the cliffs and spray on the Atlantic side.

"This is not happening." I thought. I wanted to escape but was caught. I grabbed a clothesline from my trunk—it seemed pitifully thin and weak—and headed across the pitted rock. I felt a dull surprise to notice I was alone; the man had run back to flag more cars. One stopped, listened, then drove on.

Reaching the crest of the rock I found a sight that would normally have invited exploration—the urge, perhaps, that had caused these people to be washed into the sea. An arch of stone stretched over a churning ocean. Almost a cave, it was maybe forty feet wide, fifteen high, and deep enough that I could only see the light and waves coming in from the open ocean on the far end. A series of ledges led invitingly down towards the water. The last one extended into the cave. I imagined a couple standing

there watching the waves, an extra big one catching them, the water hard white, dashing and chewing against the coral knives that lined the cave. Looking out I could see no people, no bodies. "They are surely dead." I thought.

The man reappeared: "You can see them from the cliff." I climbed up. Far out in the cold blue waves were two heads between the whitecaps. They were alive! But huge waves, crashing against the undercut cliffs lining the coast, combined with a strong current, were pushing them away from shore with no hope of getting out. My stomach churned as I imagined their helpless fear.

In halting English the man said he was Asian and needed help using his cell phone. Whom could I call?

I telephoned my wife Margie at home in Rainbow. As the gravity of my message struck me I could hardly speak clearly: "I am at Glass Window bridge. I need the police emergency number. Two people have fallen in the water." Sensing my fear, Margie found the number in seconds. I called the police. Still tongue-tied, I blurted out a cry for help.

The man explained he was a hitchhiker, who did not know the couple. One minute they had stopped to watch the dramatic waves; then he'd watched in horror as they were swept away. When I approached the edge of the cliff he would cry out, "Don't go! The waves will grab you!"

To my relief a police car appeared within minutes. I spilled out my story and they talked on their cell phones. A boat would have to come from Harbour Island, but the seas were high. It would take time. More calls: "The boat has left; it's on its way." I

could hardly see the two heads now. At any moment I expected to see just one, or none. They had been in the water almost an hour. The policeman said that if they got chilled they would get cramps and drown. He recalled a young woman who had fallen in here years ago and was never found—not reassuring! We watched as the heads drifted farther out. At least, I thought, they can see us and the police uniforms. Maybe they will realize we have called for a boat.

But where was the boat? I gestured dramatically towards Harbour Island, hoping they would see and understand that I was pointing at a boat and gain hope to stay alive, even though the boat was not yet in sight.

Then against the whitecaps I could see another whitecap, rising and falling, not transient like the others. The boat! It seemed to take hours but then it was there and the couple in the water were waving. A ring was thrown and we saw them pulled from the deadly sea. Tears filled my eyes. I walked back to my car and drove back to my warm, safe house. Days later we learned from the police that they had been exhausted and near drowning. The boat had barely made it in time—all credit to the Eleuthera Police force.

There are three lessons to be learned from this story: Always carry a cell phone; pick up hitchhikers; but most important, don't stand *anywhere near* the edge of a shoreline when the surf is up. ❖



BOOK REVIEW

You Won't Believe What Goes on in Spanish Wells

By Max Hertwig

Malice in Pinderland: A Story of Love and Intrigue in Spanish Wells and Harbour Island, by Derek Hawkins. 1st books, 2003, 278pp, softbound, \$15.95.

Here's an odd little novel about an amiable English thief named David (think Hugh Grant, the author suggests to his readers). David, as usual, is on the lam, and ends up in Spanish Wells. En route he meets a pretty Brilander named Melanie (Halle Berry in the author's proposed movie cast), and they fall desperately in love.

It takes a thief: David, who loves Spanish Wells but can't resist the call of his shady profession, relieves the local bank of a large pile of payroll cash for the Spanish Wells fishermen. He cleverly converts eight million Bahamian dollars to a readily disposable asset that ends up in his Swiss bank account; then, like Saul on the road to Damascus, he sees the error of his ways, and acts to rectify his errors.

Readers may wonder if English is the author's second lan-

guage. Repeatedly we stumble over things like: "full proof" for "fool-proof," "they're" instead of "their," "conform" for "confirm," and so on. Conform this if you want, but we're sure Toyota makes a Camry not a "Camary," and we *know* that the best wine in the world is a bordeaux called Chateau Lafite Rothschild, not "Lafitte burgundy." Stuff like this pops up increasingly as you move to the final chapters, making one wonder if it was edited by a mad-cap printer's reader with a deadline looming. But it's probably just a self-published work lacking the normal editorial process.

The book moves the action along, from Spanish Wells to Harbour Island to Nassau to Las Vegas to Bermuda to London and back. There's a dearth of background (just how he robs the bank is unclear; how he converts local cash into U.S. dollars requires a serious stretch of imagination). At every turn you expect the shoe to drop and David to lose big-time, like his girlfriend turning out to be a Bahamian police agent. But somehow it all ends happily for

everyone involved except a truly ungodly character, who get what's coming to him.

Author Hawkins really does know the Queen's English because he was born and raised in London, though it's plain from his descriptions of it that he now lives in and loves Spanish Wells:

We drove around town in the buggy from one end of the island to the other. We acknowledged the gestures of friendship from passing motorists with a wave and I marveled at the way everyone took time to be friendly... Life in Spanish Wells would seem to be boring to many people, but for me it offered a way of life that in most parts of the world had disappeared, with the advent of terrorism, violence, hysteria, dishonesty and disenchantment.

He gets that one right! *Malice in Pinderland* is dedicated to "the people of Spanish Wells who have been generous with their friendship and unselfish in their acceptance of an outsider into their community." Forget the countless nits. Hawkins has written a book you will enjoy reading, and has described the island scene in words you'll appreciate.

• *Reviews of other books about Eleuthera are most welcome.* ❖

Death and Taxes on Eleuthera: “Not Etched in Quarry”

By Matt Hoopes

Even in our Bahamian paradise there's no escape from death—but oddly enough, the inevitability of property taxes is, well, not as definite. Most residents are happy to pay what's asked, yet often they're *not* asked, at least not for years, despite their pleas for bills. When a bill eventually *does* arrive, it's often accompanied with a list of penalties and assorted fines for unpaid back taxes.

Sometimes, even after a property owner is assured that last year's errors have been corrected, the following year's tax information is again incorrect and the task of untangling confusing errors begins all over again.

Widespread rumors concerning changes in property taxes caused me to look into the situation and provide the facts. I researched “official” information of the website of Bahamas Real Estate, telephoned Mr. Moss of the Valuation Section of the Public Treasury in Nassau, and met with Derek Elden, the government tax assessor for Harbour Island, Spanish Wells and Eleuthera.

While the results are summarized below, readers should realize that there are still a number of “ifs” that are not yet worked out. Also, the Commonwealth of The Bahamas will be holding an election within the next seven months, and new government might mean that everything now etched in quarry could easily change again.

It is important to note that none of the problems mentioned above are the result of hardworking Derek Elden. He and his “staff of one” continue tirelessly striving

to solve everyone's problems, but with little help, it appears, from Nassau. The main problem seems to be one of communication between the Out Island offices and the central office in New Providence. At this time there is no computer link to the data needed to check the records. Mr. Elden must operate by letter, fax, phone, or in person, making frequent trips to Nassau. He has been promised for well over a year that he will receive the direct link he requires.

Improved communication is highly desired. Property values on Eleuthera have risen over the past two years, and properties are due for reassessments. Mr. Elden is supposed to be receiving additional personnel to help with the huge task of reassessing properties on Harbour Island, Spanish Wells and Eleuthera. This work is supposed to be complete by the next billing period, approximately a year from now.

The following are the major changes made recently in the property tax structure:

1. The tax exemption on 100% owner-occupied (never rented) houses has increased from \$150,000 to \$250,000. The requirement that the owner must be in residence for at least eight months a year to receive this exemption has been dropped.

2. To qualify for the exemption you must make an appointment with Mr. Elden and, at the time of the meeting, have proof of property ownership and a recent tax receipt. If the market value* of an individual's home exceeds the value of \$250,000 but is less than

\$500,000 the portion in excess will be taxed at 0.75 percent of the value of the property. (Example: property valued at \$350,000, less exemption, would be taxed at 0.75% of the \$100,000 balance, or \$750.) On any portion of value in excess of \$500,000, the tax rate is 1% of the market value.

3. Anyone who rents—even if only once a year—is not eligible for the \$250,000 exemption. Such property value will be taxed at 2% of market value. While Mr. Elden would not go into details, he said that properties will be reviewed from time to time to determine whether they are being rented, because some properties were being rented after being declared unrented. In such cases, fines and tax increases could occur.

4. On unimproved property (vacant lots), where market value exceeds \$3000 but is less than \$100,000, the tax rate is 1% of market value. On any portion of the market value that exceeds \$100,000 the tax rate will be 1.5% of the value.

Property owners with individual questions should contact Mr. Elden directly at his office: telephone number: (242) 335-1484, fax (242) 335-1492.

*Market value is defined as the amount the property would realize if sold on the open market. Mr. Elden pointed out that while there is not a set formula or mill, the reassessments will be based on what a comparable property has sold for in the neighboring area. As an example, he pointed out that interior lots which individuals purchased for \$7000 to \$9000 years ago, based on today's average sale price, could easily see their taxes double. ❖



Eleuthera Byways: Ocean Hole

BY NANCY ALBURY

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Eleuthera is famed for the Rock

Sound Ocean Hole, which many believe to be "bottomless," teeming with fish which get in through outlets to the ocean. Recent investigations have taught us much more about this fascinating "blue hole."

In December, the Antiquities, Monuments and Museums Corp. (AMMC) sent researchers to explore the Ocean Hole for archaeological artifacts, water chemistry and marine life. Cave divers spent two days at the site and found that this "bottomless" hole has a maximum vertical depth of 131 feet. At 116 feet, a small passage provides an active exchange of sea water. Sadly, human-generated trash is spread across the bottom, covering any historically significant remains.

Several other blue holes and caves in central Eleuthera were also investigated by the team for archaeological indicators, water chemistry and recommendations for preservation.

While waiting for divers to surface, Mrs. Neilly, administrator for South Eleuthera, told me a story from her childhood in Andros: "Mermaids were said to climb out of the blue holes in the very early morning and sit on the rocks by the water's edge to comb their hair. We were told that if we were very quiet, we could sneak up on them and see them; but if we made a noise, all that we would see were the ripples in the water where they slipped back into the blue hole. My cousin and I would get up early and tip-toe through the dark woods, hoping to catch sight of a mermaid. I thought that if I got too close, she would grab me and carry me underwater so we peeked through



the bushes near the water's edge and I stepped on some dried leaves, which made cracking sounds. My older cousin was so angry at me for spoiling our chance to see the mermaid because all that was left were ripples in the water." Stories like

these are what make blue holes a special part of Bahamian history and culture.

The team is presently conducting research in Abaco under the direction of AMMC, recovering fossil remains of crocodiles, previously unknown species of tortoise, flightless birds and other animals. Often found in blue holes at depths exceeding 100 feet, the fossils are contributing volumes to the known natural history of the Bahamian Archipelago. ❖

MEMBER ADVERTISEMENTS

Atlantic View: Lot 32, Block 08, Section A, residential homesite on Ocean Drive. 9600 sq ft, 65-75 ft above sea level. Asking US\$15,000. Nole Talerico, tel. (239) 267-6629.

February 2007: Comings and Goings

Warren and Elaine Daigle of Moncton, New Brunswick, visiting **Stewart and Pat Morrison** (Elaine is Pat's sister) were married on Rainbow Beach by Eleuthera Commission Executive Officer **Shirley Burrows**. Shirley's dad **Edwin** was the founder of "Edwin's Fishlake" (see *Greetings from Rainbow Bay*, Spring 2005), and the first Bahamian to figure out how to make pineapples bear fruit in wintertime ... **John and Anita Kavali** held a farewell party for **Jane and Bob Boonstra**, who have sold their beautiful house overlooking the Atlantic after almost thirty years in Rainbow Bay, and are moving to Sebastian, Florida ... Pilot **Ed Lathrop**, who has been flying to Rainbow since the development was founded, paid a nostalgic homecoming at the Rainbow Inn in January. Ed is 83, going strong and still flying ... **Bob Koebel** is creating a davit system for his eight-foot "yacht" in front of his property at the "triangle" near Rainbow Beach: "The thing about owning a yacht is that you need to be able to be in it and on the water in a matter of minutes." Aware of the dangers to anything metal, Bob is constructing his system largely out of PVC ... **Eban and Brenda Moss** from Jackson, New Hampshire, moved into their newly completed home, painted Caribbean turquoise, on Ocean Drive ... **Jason Thompson** built a pretty aqua-colored house roughly opposite **Pierre and Gigi Arcoutte** on Lazy Shore Road; Jason finished this new home in "periwinkle," that beautiful shade of "Bonsal" that closely matches the Caribbean Sea ... **Bert and Kristi Kline** of Orleans, Massachusetts, travel agents for tall ships, purchased **Barney and Lea Barnhill's** house on High Point Road and spent two weeks cleaning, painting, and gardening in January ... A friend of **Perry Pinder**, who owns a nursery in Nassau, is donating plants for Association-owned lots such as triangles. ❖

Invoices for 2007 are being prepared and will likely be received about the time this newsletter arrives. Please note that 2007 assessments are due by June 1st. The Annual Meeting in 2006 voted to allow fees to be based on zoning and development status. The Board established the following schedule. For developed lots: Residential \$200, Commercial/Inn site and Multi-dwelling \$300. For undeveloped lots: Residential \$60, Commercial/Inn site and Multi-dwelling \$300.

Fee receipts for 2006 were up about 5% from 2005. Past due collections were down nearly 5% because most attorneys handling property sales in Rainbow Bay now check with the Treasurer about outstanding fees and many of the lots in arrears have been caught up. Donations were up over 130% from last year, but income from advertising and services was down by 50%. Bank interest declined as we spent over \$76,000 on road repairs and on a new tractor and trailer.

We particularly wish to thank the following generous members who have contributed to the road fund or made other donations: James & Jo-Ann Adams, Ishmael Amin, Sabino & Joseph Benvenuto, Allan & Harriet Berman, Paul Bontempo, Ronald Bulmer, George Chiulli, Anthony & Pauline Chung, Marco & Nancy Conrod, Richard & Ann Cummins, William & Dorris Dames, Stephen DesGarenes, Mariano & Susan DiGiovanni, Zinnia DiLemmo, Craig Dorfman, Carl Eckstrand, John & Lovina Garbochesky, Dennis & Patricia Grimmett, Melanie Halkitis, Raymond & Barbara Hartman, Sandra Mae Hebert, Dianne Hernandez, Bill & Donna Hoffman, Ed & Brenda Hofler, Matt Hoopes, Shirley Hughes, Ken Keene, Rev. Joel King Jr., Richard & Barbara Langworth, Esther & Victoria Lillicrappe, America Lluvera, David McDowell, John & Diane Nichols, Jill Phillips, MacLaine Pinder, Perry Pinder, Joan Resker, Corinne Rinaldi, Veronica Roach, Anne Robinson, Harriet Fairchild, Richard & Vanzorn Smith, John Smith, Glendon & Martha Stetson, James Suarez, LTC Ronald & Clara Tudor, Royal O'Harold Willie.

Total expenses—excluding road repairs—for 2006 were about \$7600 higher than last year. Ongoing road trimming and “beautification” of park sites was the major maintenance expense (\$6830).

Since our financial accounting is on a cash basis, the timing of payments received and made affects the report. As an example, only one insurance bill had been received for 2006, making it appear that insurance had dropped; in fact coverage remained the same and will probably increase slightly in 2007. The 2006 bill for annual government registration was paid last year but the 2007 bill, normally received in autumn, has not yet been received. The boat ramp near the tennis court was improved (\$2650). The revised newsletter resulted in a 50% cost increase in 2006; donations

of nearly \$900 offset some of this increase. A set newsletter budget is now established (see “From the Editor,” page 5). The cost of the website includes a one-time payment of \$960 for web hosting services that had not been previously billed. The construction of a new trash collection building (fondly nicknamed the Traj Mahal) was completed last year for an additional outlay of \$4920. Legal expenses were up 76% over 2005 because of issues involving lot zoning and the “Future Development” area.

Reserve Funds declined by about \$25,000 in 2006. The Road Fund was used to pay road repairs and resurfacing costs of \$44,292. It was replenished by a transfer of \$46,737 from maintenance fees and donations, bringing it to \$50,654 at the end of 2006. The Tractor Fund was used to purchase a new tractor and a trailer in 2006. This fund had accumulated over \$25,000 through 2005; we needed to contribute an additional \$7394 for the acquisition. The balance in the Tractor Fund at the end of 2006 was \$2213, which is the depreciation on the new equipment. Depreciation will continue to be accumulated, so that when we need to replace the equipment again, the majority of the funds will be available without needing special assessments or allocations from the maintenance fees.

The website remains an effective self-supporting vehicle for conveniently disseminating information to our members and for receiving feedback and questions from owners, prospective owners and the general public. We strive to reply to all emails in a timely manner, and to keep information on the web site current. We are planning to establish a private area, not available to the general public, where we can make the current newsletters available and we can reactivate our discussion forum among other features.

—Bill Hoffman, Treasurer

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
Fees, current	\$45,876.00	\$47,989.13
Fees, past due	19,397.25	14,006.21
Donations	1,675.00	3,873.56
Advertisements & other	1,965.00	1,536.66
Interest earned	2,304.23	1,792.52
Book sales	12.30	0.00
Total income	\$71,229.78	\$69,198.08

<u>EXPENSES</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
Bank fees, currency exch.	\$559.50	\$730.50
Insurance	1,663.42	500.00
<i>Maintenance:</i>		
Roads and park sites	5,591.43	6,830.00
Beaches & tennis court	887.39	323.00
Road signs	58.40	114.86
Equipment	487.00	989.43
Building	5.95	0.00
Boat ramps	650.00	2,650.00
Other maintenance	573.95	265.00

EXPENSES, continued...	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
Legal & accounting	\$1,756.50	\$3,052.81
Government registration	0.00	1,000.00
Newsletters	1,685.24	2,533.62
Office expenses:		
Annual meeting	462.50	566.80
Postage	985.17	999.96
Printing	236.69	812.99
Supplies	0.00	657.13
Utilities, telephone, fax	353.97	901.58
Website	148.01	1,068.08
Miscellaneous	70.26	315.10
Safety & security	1,000.00	34.00
Taxes	141.00	627.01
Total Expenses	\$17,316.38	\$24,971.87
NET INCOME	\$53,913.40	\$44,226.21
Transfer to reserve	(45,769.22)	(56,344.46)
Equipment sale	0.00	3,262.50
New trash building	(7,375.00)	(4,920.50)
Change in working capital	769.18	(13,776.25)

RESERVE FUNDS	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
Road Fund:		
Transfers	\$22,220.11	\$46,737.37
Expenditures	(885.00)	(44,291.60)
Balance	48,208.26	50,654.03
Legal Fund:		
Transfers & expenditures: none		
Balance	6,765.22	6,765.22
Other funds (tractor, beach, tennis):		
Transfers	23,384.11	7,394.09
Depreciation	165.00	2,213.00
Expenditures	0.00	(32,570.70)
Balance	25,176.61	2,213.00
Inventory	850.00	850.00
Deposits	(610.00)	(610.00)
Checking accounts & petty cash	42,777.85	31,756.30
TOTAL CASH & CREDITS	\$123,167.94	\$91,628.55
Note: 2005 data has been updated and revised from 2005 Treasurer's report.		

OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT: The 2007 Annual General Meeting was scheduled for 10 AM on February 24th. Bylaws provide that, lacking a quorum (which we have never had), a subsequent meeting may be held at which the quorum is members attending plus proxies. The actual Annual General Meeting will occur at 10 AM on Saturday March 3rd at the Association building next to the tennis court, Lazy Shore Road, Rainbow Bay, Eleuthera. Please join us there on March 3rd, and at Rainbow Beach for the annual beach party immediately following.

AGENDA: (1) Call to Order. (2) Acceptance of 2006 Minutes. (3) Confirmation of Board of Directors. (4) Annual Report. (5) Treasurer's Report. (6) Continuing Business. (7) New Business. (8) Adjournment. —*R.Perry Pinder, President*

RBPOA PROXY FOR THE 2007 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

If you are unable to attend the Annual General Meeting scheduled for February 24, 2007, or the substitute meeting on March 3 (if as anticipated there is no quorum on February 24), Please complete this proxy and return it by first class mail no later than February 20, 2007 to RBPOA LTD. - PROXY, PO Box 620864, Orlando FL 32862 USA ••or•• P.O. Box 25145, Governor's Harbour, Eleuthera, Bahamas. NOTE: If, owing to delays, you are unsure your proxy will be received in time, please email a copy of this identical information to Matt Hoopes, Secretary (islesman@batelnet.bs) and tell him your proxy is in the mail.

The undersigned member of the above named Company hereby appoints (check only one):

- The Board of Directors Member: _____

to attend and vote on my behalf on any and all matters that come before the Board and/or Membership at any and all RBPOA meetings from February 24, 2007 through March 3, 2007.

NAME (please print) _____ Number of lots: _____

Signed: _____ Dated the _____ day of _____, 2007

LOT(s): _____ BLOCK: _____ SECTION: _____

NOTE: THIS FORM MUST BE ORIGINAL (WITH YOUR ADDRESS LABEL ON REVERSE SIDE) AND MUST BE POSTMARKED BEFORE THE DATE OF THE SAID MEETING, EVEN IF YOU ALSO USE EMAIL.

Rainbow Bay Newsletter, January 1987

Warren and Loretta Cheney of Anchorage, Alaska, have submitted plans for construction of a twenty-unit condo building on inn site "B" across the street from the Rainbow Inn ... Nineteen eighty-six will be remembered as a "very good year" for the Association, its members and property owners, with many programs and services only talked about a year ago now in place. Roads and park site upkeep is performed on a regular basis. A new beach hut was constructed on Rainbow Beach. In addition to continuous mowing and clearing of all roads within the subdivision, several washed out roads were cleared, filled and regraded: Ship Sighter, Hill Climb, Signal Light, Fairview, Moonraker, High Point, Happy Hill, Seven Shilling, Lost Gold and Treasure Hill. All intersections have been cleared, making stop signs and oncoming traffic more visible. Parking areas have been cleared of brush and other overgrowth. In addition to the every day, ongoing road and parksite maintenance and upkeep, the Board of Directors hopes to complete such special projects as the installation of horseshoe pits, a volleyball court and shuffleboard court in the tennis court parksite area. —*Bob Poehlman*

Greetings from Rainbow Bay, Spring 1997

We are about to develop a computer-based membership registry. The present system is cumbersome and outdated and requires a manual billing arrangement. The new system will enable the board of directors to conduct your business more effectively, maintain accurate lot owner information, meet the legal requirements in our corporate charter, and reduce the costs for mailing, printing and administration.

Remember that membership in the RBPOA is not automatic upon obtaining title to property. Titleholders request membership by registering as the titleholder and paying an annual fee. As the years have passed, titles to lots have changed, several times in many cases, through sale, probate or gift. Many new owners have not registered, thus we are carrying on our register both inactive and "unknown" lot owners who are not current members. This dramatically affects voting procedures, increases mailing costs, dilutes the property rights of current members, and is a severe handicap for RBPOA in achieving its goals. If your fees are current we can presume your lot number, name and address are accurate, and you need take no further action. —*Ed Hofler* ❖



Rainbow Bay Property Owners Assn.
PO Box 620864
Orlando FL 32862 USA

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*Greetings from
Rainbow Bay!*

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