

The Rainbow Times

Number 28 • Summer 2020

Rainbow Bay Property Owners Association,
Eleuthera, Bahamas • Founded 1979

Eleuthera Weathers the Crisis
Covid-19: Latest Reports
New President Terry Clark
Nentwig Park at Rainbow Beach





The Rainbow Times

*Newsletter of the Rainbow Bay
Property Owners Association*

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Number 28 • Summer 2020

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Cover: Evening Glow from the Nentwigs' deck. Photo by Sue Nentwig

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President's Letter



I thought back in January that I would never want to see 2020 end—but now I can't wait. Some of you know me, many do not, but greetings and best wishes to all.

We *did* hold our bi-annual election just prior to the Annual General Meeting (more on that later). We had nine candidates for seven seats. In the end, eight had sufficient votes, but two were tied! In accord with our by-laws, we had to hold a coin toss for the seventh seat. So, with all candidates present, an "uninterested third party," namely **Enid Morris**, volunteered to toss the coin. The final results saw five incumbents re-elected: **Carlotta Willis, James Ryder, Mark Updegraff, Matt Hoopes and me**. New to the board are local business owner **Steve Cancino**, and **Rosie Graham** (two-home owner and full-timer).

After that, things started to happen faster almost than I recall. The Bahamian government instituted Covid rules that gradually became more restrictive. Before they came to full effect, the new board met to elect officers. I was elected president, Carlotta Willis vice-president and Matt Hoopes treasurer. We reaffirmed non-board member, **Roberta Updegraff** as secretary.

Late last year, the board created Finance and Maintenance Committees. We also authorized a Social Committee that for now is a volunteer effort. James Ryder was elected to replace me as head of the Finance Committee and Mark Updegraff was reaffirmed to head the Maintenance Committee. The Social Committee presently comprises Enid Morris, Roberta Updegraff and Rosie Graham—but we would like more. Please contact any committee head if you would like to volunteer. (Numbers and emails at left.)

We planned to hold the AGM on the Poehlman Building grounds on Saturday morning March 21st, followed by cocktails from 4pm to 6pm inside Sunset Cove and Rainbow Inn. As folks were becoming more aware of social distancing precautions, we moved the cocktails outside by the pool. Events overtook our plans when the Bahamian government banned group gatherings of *any* size. Thus we were forced to cancel both events—probably a first in the history of the Rainbow Bay Property Owners Association.

From late March to June, shopping rules also changed. Certain days and hours were dictated when one could shop. Distancing and masks became mandatory. Occasional lockdowns came and went. Tourists and part-timers left when a plane could get in and pick them up. As of this writing, tourists are allowed to return, but require a valid virus test not more than ten days old. Good luck with that. (See current rules on page 5.)

I was heartened to see the support our community gave to local restaurants. I saw a good number at the Rainbow Inn and **Carlotta Willis** reported a brisk takeout business at **Billy and Brenda's BBQ** in James's Cistern. **Tony Bethel** had a great operation going at Big Rock, and for the most part was reasonably well stocked. The **Rainbow Inn** closed in June for the season. It is supposed to re-open in November. A lot has happened since.

We encountered two grass fires. The first, in late March, may have started north of the road to The Cliffs. For a week it burned a large area extending to the Queens Highway, north but not crossing Albacore Road and east to Fisherman's Point. Fortunately at least one visit by a fire truck and two short but beneficial rains helped to put it out. The second fire occurred along the Queens Highway north of the Traj Mahal in late May. **Sylvie Menard, Ted Pope** and **Sam and Rosie Graham** pretty well took care of it. ↗

PRESIDENT'S LETTER *continued*

Speaking of the **Traj Mahal**, thanks to Mark Updegraff, Matt Hoopes, James Ryder, "**Jersey Joe**" DiPaulo and **Ray Clavelle** it now has a new roof. This was badly needed and their day of labor saved us a ton of cash. Other projects around that area includes several loads of gravel to fill in all the large potholes and puddle-collector ruts. Matt has contracted to get as many potholes filled with cement as possible.

Where do we go from here? In my mind are several priorities. The first is **communication**. I sent a preliminary version of this letter to an email list in May. I emailed 120 names and a fifth came back as "undeliverable." My email list is underwhelming, so if you did not get this, please send me your email address. (If you receive the *Rainbow Times* by email, assume that I have it.) Please provide your lot numbers and block, because I want this email confined to property owners. I hope to communicate by email quarterly, or as soon as possible after each board meeting. Incidentally, we have now conducted two RBPOA meetings using Zoom. It had some issues that are resolvable, and we will continue to Zoom while we are geographically separated. Our next one is scheduled for September. If you are on Facebook, we also have a "Rainbow Bay Homeowners Group" page.

Number two is resurrecting **Rainbow Bay's social life**. A big push has come from Bobbi Updegraff and Enid Morris, but I have had suggestions from others, notably **George Chiulli**. As we return to Eleuthera, we hope to have more vibrant activities arranged. Bobbi and Enid kicked it off by hosting a pot-luck lunch right after the Saturday clean up event on March 14th. It was a great start.

With the loss of jobs and income, there has been increased concern about **break-ins** on Rainbow properties. Please know that our own James Ryder is aware of this. James took it upon himself to start a Neighborhood Watch program. Understand that he is only one man, but if you are on the island, you will probably see his bronze Honda or white Chevy pickup truck on patrol. He definitely deserves our support.

❖ LAST WORD ❖

Just as the former executive board ended its term, it dealt with one last bit of business. An unofficial homeowners' committee led by **Stew Morrison**

approached vice-president Carlotta Willis about a proposal to place a name on that little park-like clearing at Rainbow Beach. It's the grassed area adjacent to the parking lot. The people

who drove that train, with a ton of their own sweat and equity, were **Ron and Sue Nentwig**. If you know them at all, you know that Ron and Sue are a total team. Carlotta called a meeting via email and a proposal was made, seconded and approved to name this area "**Nentwig Park**." A sign was procured using private donations, and the next time you are at Rainbow Beach you can see it in person. Also please note, I will start a private fund drive to raise a platform for social gatherings at this site. This is not a finished project.

I have gone on too long, so I will shut up for now. "All de best" to you all. I will catch you up on more "news" in my next email blast this summer, so again, contact me me privately by email if you didn't receive my email back in May: terryclark.florida@yahoo.com. ❖



Terry Clark

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Calendar 2021

March 13, 9am: Roadside trash clean-up and brunch.

March 20, 10am:
Annual General Meeting.
Both at Poehlman Building.

Available Again!

Rainbow Rising, a history of Rainbow Bay, \$35.

Laminated color maps of Rainbow Bay from the original developer's brochure, \$30. Contact Matt Hoopes (page opposite).

Get Your Rainbow Times by Email:

110 members receive *The Rainbow Times* (and hurricane alerts) by email as a .pdf, saving us \$200 per year. Triple that would save plenty. If you'd like your copy by email, notify richard@langworth.name.

Your copy will arrive six weeks before print copies. Your email address will not be passed to anyone, nor used for any other purpose.

Emergency Numbers

Police

• Governors Harbour: 911, 919, 332-2111 or 332-2117.

• Hatchet Bay: 335-0086

Clinics

• James Cistern: Mon-Wed, 9am-2pm.

• Hatchet Bay: Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm, 335-0091.

Resident nurse: 335-0620.

Changes of Address

Please notify our Accounts Manager, Vicki Collins, if you relocate or change your RBPOA mailing address: vickicollins2013@yahoo.com



What's (Not) Happening



Ron and Sue at Nentwig Park with our new Board of Directors. L-R: Terry Clark, Mark Updegraff, James Ryder, Rosie Graham, Ron Nentwig, Steve Cancino, Matt Hoopes, Sue Nentwig and Carlotta Willis. (Photo: Bobbi Updegraff)

ADDRESS/EMAIL CHANGES

A reminder from our business manager, Vicki Collins: if you change your address or email, please notify her by email to: vickicollins2013@yahoo.com

Email changes for anyone receiving *Rainbow Times* by email please also notify the editor by email: richard@langworth.name

ROSIE GRAHAM'S MESSAGE

Greetings to All. The winter and spring have been very different from previous years here on Eleuthera. Rainbow Bay has been empty and quiet. For some time, marine life was the only living thing legally allowed at the beach. Prime Minister Hubert Minnis soon announced a curfew and lockdown. Passenger travel by air or sea was restricted. (See other reports, pages 5-7.)

As we all find our way through the pandemic and take measures of personal protection, just a few thoughts on protecting your property and investment here in Rainbow Bay. The single

most important element is having a reliable caretaker, who checks on your property at least weekly. If you need a referral, check with any board members or the editor.

Next, you must be on the Neighborhood Watch register. James Ryder single-handedly drives around, looking for anything that looks suspicious. If he sees something to report he will notify officials and inform you IF he has your information. His email is Sandft@aol.com. Please send him your caretaker info as well as your own email and contact numbers.

For year-round or seasonal residents, please consider pitching in on the Watch. I'm sure James would appreciate a united effort.

Small measures such as keeping hedges trimmed avoid providing "hiding places." Keeping a lamp or two on with timers or a radio tuned to Bahamian news on AM 1540 may also aid as a deterrent. Teach your caretaker to reset lamps and radio after power outages. (See also "Power outage savers," page 7. These aren't new

ideas, but are worth repeating to discourage unwanted guests.

Security systems, cameras, and alarms, are now being installed by many homeowners. I spoke with residents who shared information about systems that work great on the island. I'll be happy to share their recommendations via email to those interested: rosie_graham@comcast.net

See this issue for current travel restrictions. Hopefully I will see many of you this autumn and winter. Be safe and healthy!

—Rosie Graham

TRAJ MAHAL ROOF REPAIR

The day after the Prime Minister lifted restrictions on outside construction for the Out Islands, James Ryder rounded up volunteers to help replace the roof on our trash repository. Here are James and Joe DiPaulo replacing rafters, while Ray Clavelle worked the ladders for two days, and Mark Updegraff handled the gofer work. Bobbi Updegraff supplied lunch for two days. Materials for the job cost around \$950, an overall saving to the community of several thousand dollars. Kudos to James, Joe, Ray, Bobbi and Mark!



James Ryder and Joe DiPaulo replacing rafters.

TRAJ MAHAL HISTORY

The "Traj Mahal" (originally a term of derision for its "extravagance") has become one of affection, because our well-hidden trash site is a boon to Rainbow Bay residents. Matt Hoopes had the unenviable task of relocating

Latest Travel Restrictions



The original trash dump and its fate.

the building from the Queen's Highway triangle, where it was overloaded with trash from passing non-residents. There was a lot of "NIMBY" about the location.

Matt designed the building so trash collectors would not have actually to climb inside—just back a truck up and shovel the stuff in. Matt contracted with Sue Rolle's husband to construct the building, and the then-treasurer went ballistic, making the sign in mockery! Now nobody can imagine Rainbow Bay without it.

HURRICANES



August 1st— Andros was not so lucky, but Hurricane Isaias (inset above) missed us to the west by the same 100 miles as "Dorian" (right) missed us to the east last year.

August residents report 25 mph winds, rain

squalls, no visible damage to trees or homes. Of course, the season's just beginning: keep looking at NOAA and Stormcarib.com. We thank Eleutherans who donated and aided neighboring islands through local charities. ❖



Led by CNN, many inaccurate reports circulated about travel bans on Americans, which the Bahamas government has been trying to correct. Of course, once in the "mediastream," everything becomes fact. *At this writing* (28 July), here is what we know:

All visitors entering via commercial airline (regardless of origin) are subject to a 14-day quarantine in a government facility at the expense of the traveler, followed by a mandatory RT PCR Covid-19 molecular test.

This quarantine period does *not* apply to those entering via a private or charter flight, but *all* must have a Health Visa and Covid-19 test, as follows:

Travel Health Visa: Go to travel.gov.bs, select INTERNATIONAL, complete and submit a Travel Health Visa application prior to travel. An automated email response will be sent (allow 72 hours for processing), which must be presented upon arrival. Your regular passport is also required.

Test: Each traveler over age 10 must have a Covid-19 RT PCR (molecular swab) test with a negative result, within ten days of arrival. No other type of test is acceptable. Test results must be uploaded when completing the Travel Health Visa Application prior to arrival.

In The Bahamas: Passengers will be subject to temperature screenings, 3-6-foot distancing, wearing personal protective equipment (PPE) and must practice regular handwashing. Further guidelines may be found at bahamas.com/tourism-reopening.

Inter-island travel is prohibited effective July 28th. This will be reviewed on an island-by-island basis in future weeks.

Private Charter Flights are operated by Air Care 1 (aircare-one.com): 502-242-7760; All Bahamas Courier Services: 242-727-4165; Aztec Airways (fly-aztec.com): 954-351-9313; Bahamas Charter Flights: 954-359-0320; IBC Airways: 954-848-2370; Island Air Charters: 954-359-9942; Island Wings: 954-617-8804; Makers Air 954-771-0330; Silver Airways Charters: 801-401-9103; Trans-Island Airways: 954-727-3377; Treasure Air Charters: 305-741-0489; Tropic Air Charters: 954-267-0707; Tropic Ocean Airways: 954-210-5569; Tropix Air/Island Wings: 242-424-4260. This does not constitute an endorsement.

Nationwide weekend lockdowns are in effect until further notice, from Fridays at 10pm through Mondays at 5am. During these, you may leave your residence for medical emergencies or to visit groceries, pharmacies and gas stations (operating 7am-6pm). You must remain within the confines of your home and yard or lodging. (Grand Bahama is under a 24/7 lockdown.) Lockdown restrictions will be removed on an island by island basis: consult local officials if unsure about any island's status.

Consult the CDC website for the recommendations for travelers. Visit the Department of Homeland Security website for information on U.S. travel restrictions. Visit the U.S. Embassy website for all questions. tel. 242-322-1181, ACSNassau@state.gov website: <https://bit.ly/32LWCB0>.

For U.S. citizens in an emergency, telephone the State Dept. Consular Affairs Office, 888-407-4747 (within USA) or (202) 501-4444 (outside USA). ❖

Eleuthera Weathers the Crisis

BY MATT HOOPES

Rainbow Bay emptied quickly this Spring, with fears of airlines cutting flights or the virus spreading. Many were concerned about the island's limited medical infrastructure. Canadian residents left when Prime Minister Trudeau warned he was closing borders. Some residents who live in hot spots opted to stay, thinking the island was safer than at home.

Those who remained paid close attention to Prime Minister Hubert Minnis (also a doctor). He soon announced his plan for the weeks ahead. Eleutherans were good about following the restrictions, and for ten weeks we had "lock down" weekends. That meant everything was closed, including roads and beaches, and all were required to stay at home.

There was no walking, swimming, boating, fishing or public drinking. (Liquor stores were closed, but some in Rainbow swapped unwanted bottles for more desirable ones.)

On weekdays we could drive to shop, bank and get other supplies. Stores were open for limited hours. They required masks and hand sanitizing, and limited customers to a few at a time. Most government offices including the post office and library closed. Rainbow residents shopped at Big Rock, wearing masks and standing six feet apart, catching up on "sip-sip" in the parking lot. As time went by, friends would visit each other, keeping their distance.

After four weeks, most felt comfortable seeing others who had been co-quarantined since the beginning. The ban on boating and fishing was lifted, but not on

swimming. Still, you could wade out chest-deep while casting for fish. People seemed to understand the restrictions and didn't grumble. It helped when the rules were relaxed so contractors and gardeners could return to work.

At this writing (late July) Eleuthera is still virus-free. Only three islands—Bimini, Grand Bahama and New Providence—had cases and deaths. Overall, The Bahamas has done well. Among 215 countries we rank 174th in cases (194), and 91st in deaths per capita (total deaths 11).

Inter-island travel resumed in June but has now stopped again (see page 5). With testing limited, most people stayed put.

Some Rainbow residents left by Aztec Airlines, which flew over empty or with cargo only. They provided reassurance that if need be, there was a way to leave. Everyone seems relieved that we've remained virus-free, but we still wear masks when going out.

International flights began to resume in July, but have lately been curtailed again when cases mounted in Freeport. Arrivals must present a Travel Health Visa and negative test result (page 5). The 9pm curfew was reestablished. The Prime Minister will continue to evaluate the situation and make adjustments on a week to week basis.

After the hot months of July and August we face hurricane season. Couple that with fear of airports and flying while the pandemic continues, and it's questionable how many tourists will come. However, some Rainbow residents who left without getting shutters on say they will be aboard the first planes in the air. ❖

ADVERTISEMENTS

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These bright little emergency lights store flat and inflate. They work well and have three degrees of brightness plus a flasher.

\$14.46 on Amazon:
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I've also ordered a pair of light bulbs that, when charged, stay on after a power outage. Imagine how useful a few of these will be. Will advise if they work. \$16.49 on Amazon:
<https://amzn.to/2ZY7TMR>

—Barb Tabory



THAT PIRATE MAP: Nobody identified this last issue, suggesting that either everybody knows or nobody does. This was the highly stylized and optimistic graphic sent to original lot buyers by the developer, Gordon Price, in the late 1960s. The Hatchet Bay Plantation and U.S. Navy Base were in full swing, and Hurricane Betsy (1965) was the only tropical cyclone to hit Eleuthera in the last thirty years!

Escape from Paradise

BY RICHARD LANGWORTH

March 20th: Friends said, “If you expect to leave, do it now.” We needed to go. (I failed at retirement and had work in New Hampshire for Hillsdale College in Michigan.) Accordingly, we changed our flights to Boston via Nassau from our usual early-April to March 25th.

Jet Blue was in chaos. In my first online chat session they said the change would cost \$472. Next time it was “no charge!” We took the freebee. Premium economy was wide open. We chose two seats in the middle, hoping the load would remain light.

March 22nd: Departure Mode. You know the drill. Hurricane shutters up, top off utility accounts, extra food to the locals, tank filled with gas and Stabile, battery minders set. Problem solved? Not quite...

March 24th: Our local carrier called at 6am: “We’re stopping service. You have one hour to get on our last flight.” Groggy from sleep I replied, “We can’t possibly clear out in an hour.” “Then you’d better plan on staying put.”

It was outrageous. Inter-island flights were *not* banned. They acted without warning in disdain for customers. Vowing never to fly with them again, I demanded and got a refund.

March 25th: Back on the web and phone, searching for a way out. The shutdown order did not prevent airlines from boarding at Nassau. Of course, to have a flight out, you need one coming in. And few were coming.

Aztec to the Rescue! I rang an old friend, former Rainbow resident Suzanne Tuccelli, manager of Aztec Airlines in Lauderdale.

Through everything, Aztec stood head and shoulders above other airlines in concern for

Eleuthera travelers. I strongly recommend them and may fly with them exclusively now. It costs more, but you know they will do their level best to help you out. Plus, they fly clean planes from the Executive Terminal—no TSA hassles: see www.aztecairways.com for flights or telephone (954) 601-3742. They also offer whole-plane charters which are reasonable if you can fill all or most of a nine-seat plane. These will arrive at a time of your choosing.

Suzanne said Aztec was complying with the Prime Minister’s ban on arriving passengers, but had secured permission to fly over empty (at a loss to them) to take people to the States. In minutes we were booked out of North Eleuthera on March 27th, Aztec’s first flight since the crisis.

As a charter airline, Aztec is still flying to GHB and North Eleuthera, subject to regulations (page 5). Costs are \$500-600 for a round trip. Flight time to and from Florida is 90 minutes.

Delta was still flying into Ft. Lauderdale, so we booked first class to Boston, thinking that gave the best chance of safe distancing. The cost was \$800. I phoned a NH car service to pick us up at Logan arrivals. Another \$200, with tip—in all, this trip cost us \$1200 extra. It was worth it.

March 27th: My old friend Hilton Johnson whisked us to North Eleuthera. Aztec arrived early and all nine passengers were there, so we left early and were in Lauderdale by 4pm. It was a brilliant job by Aztec and its pilot (who was not even allowed to leave his aircraft). Aztec recommended an airport shuttle to take us to the Delta terminal in a spotless SUV, its masked driver handling luggage with wipes.

I made one mistake. Waiting for the shuttle, I was parched, and an arriving passenger handed me a bottle of water. I wiped it down, drank deeply, put it on my suitcase, mistakenly picked up *his* bottle and drank again! I apologized but he laughed it off: “No virus on Eleuthera. No worries!”

If you’ve been through an airport since March, I don’t have to describe the eeriness. At our gate a Detroit flight was boarding. “Anyone who needs more time may board now...First Class and Diamond Select may board... Comfort Plus, anybody?” Nobody stood up. “Never mind—all seats!” Ten people boarded.

The Boston flight was anti-climactic. We wiped down our seats with Lysol and used gloves for passports and boarding passes. Delta left on time at 7:51pm with about twenty-five passengers. As planned, we were alone in first class. But since they were not serving drinks, the flight crew had little to do, and three of them engaged in close-up chatter (no masks) for the whole flight.

March 28th: Logan Airport was almost deserted, but the weather was warm. We’d cleared C&I at the no-sweat Executive Terminal, so were right out the door, our reliable NH driver at curbside in a wiped-down van. We headed north on near-empty I-93, arriving in Moultonborough at 1:30am. Thanks to neighbors, the larder was stocked and the hot water turned up for showers.

We sprayed Lysol on our suitcases, shoes and clothes and left them in the garage to mellow overnight. Unfortunately the wine cellar was not at its peak, but has since been replenished. (Gloria at Bristol Liquors will be abashed to know that the lovely Oyster Bay Sauvignon Blanc she has to charge \$22.95 for on Cupid’s Cay sells in New Hampshire state stores for ten bucks.) Safe at home. ❖



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PREFERRED PROPERTY OWNER:

Greetings from Rainbow Bay: **Twenty Years Ago: Floyd Recovery**

The sunbirds are heading for the beach but the scene has changed. The sea grape vine has it that Bob and Inga Karam and Cy and Eileen Ochs have sold their homes. Bob and Cy both served on the RBPOA board and they were among the earliest settlers.

The road to James's Cistern is slowly being repaired following the devastation of Hurricane Floyd. They plan to build a seawall along the lowest part of the beach area. Most places in Rainbow have returned to normal. We've heard that Club Med is planning to open, despite earlier rumors that it was closing for good. [It was. —Ed.] Plans for a new hotel and restaurant on Rainbow Cay are on hold indefinitely because of building difficulties. The Workers Union building north of Governor's is open for meals and gets a not-bad rating from local residents.

The real estate business has been brisk and the following are new Rainbow Bay property owners: Raymond Albury, Bruce and Taylor Brightman, Susan Riddle and John Brown, Tamara and Wes Camden, Mark Gadzinski, Dan Kellogg, Bernell Kemp, Jonathan and Carlotta Klute, Ken and Linda McGrath, Joe Mervin, Rev. David and Enid Morris, Linda and Bob Poehlman Jr., Sandra Sewell-Jones and Daniel Stephens. —AUTUMN 2000 ❖

Times Past

The Rainbow Times, No. 9, **Ten Years Ago: Plus ça Change**

Hi. It's me. Yes, again. Henry Ford II said "Never complain, never explain." I will explain. In March the Board asked me to resume editorship of *The Rainbow Times*, the name I rather gratuitously gave it in 2006. I gladly agreed. I have deep respect for the selfless dedication of members of this board, whose communications are frequent, directions explicit and decisions clear.

Our very first July 1984 newsletter, entitled *Rainbow News*, records that in May that year, Bob Poehlman and Max Wike arrived, bearing sixty proxies, at the Annual General Meeting (till then held in Freeport!). The off-island management had 266 proxies, but saw the writing on the wall. By July they had turned the Association over to people who actually live here. Barbara and I arrived in 1981, bought lots in 1982, but didn't build until 2003. We found an Association run by volunteers who owned or were building homes, who knew what was happening up to the minute. As lot owners all that time, we were constantly grateful that they were there.

As before, we cover every aspect of the Bay and its environs. Your comments, lot owners and home owners alike, are most welcome. Stop by "High Tide" any time the door is open. —AUTUMN 2010 ❖