

the **Sea Breeze**

PUBLISHED BY HILLSMERE SHORES
IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

JULY / AUGUST 2008

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

I hope everyone enjoyed their July 4th weekend. I spent the weekend by the water. There were Great Blue Herons and Ospreys. I saw a great fireworks show. In my case, I was in Seattle on family business. It was nice (very cool and no mosquitoes), but there is still nothing quite as nice as looking at the bay from the beach or marina in our wonderful community.

Many of you have met Randy, our security guard who is at the beach on weekends in the summer. He is now also providing our nighttime security patrols, along with our off-duty County police officer. Between the two of them, we have security nearly every night during the summer. Randy really loves our community and takes his job here very seriously. You have probably seen his flashing amber light as he makes his rounds. Be sure to say hello if you see him. If you have security concerns, he is always willing to listen and help.

Something that's always on our mind during the summer is mosquitoes. As I mentioned last month, on the community survey, 71% of the respondents were in favor of spraying for mosquitoes. Eighty-nine percent of the people who submitted a survey had an opinion on this question. At its last meeting, the HSIA Board voted to approve spraying by the MD Department of Agriculture, provided that residents could opt-out of having their property sprayed, if they desired. We have

Volunteer's Corner **Volunteers Needed ...**

- **Storm Water Drainage** - Committee now forming to address issues of storm water runoff needs volunteers.
- **Hillsmere Historian** - still needed.
- **Zoning & Covenants** - position has been filled by Jasen Adams. Thank you Jasen!
- **Pool Membership Chair** - Please email Holly Smith, hls828@aol.com, if interested.

Help make our community stronger.
Please call Natalie Lobe at 410-263-1947
or email her at natalielobe@verizon.net

(Continued on page 3)

THE SEA BREEZE

Published by: **HILLSMERE SHORES IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION**

BOX 3485, ANNAPOLIS, MD 21403

www.hillsmershores.net

Editor: Jean Somers 410-263-4456

Administrator: Jean Somers

Treasurer's Assistant: Jim Schwallenberg

HSIA Service and Information: 410-263-4456 (24-hours)

HSIA FAX Number: 410-267-6510

Submit articles, ads and features to above address or FAX

OFFICERS 2007-2008

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Vice President	Noel Gasparin	410-263-4456
Secretary	Mark Jones	321-377-2527
Treasurer	Bruce Walker	410-268-7466

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Annapolis Neck Peninsula Federation Representative - Ray Sullivan

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Boat Slip Assignment/Waiting List	321-377-2527
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Hillsmere Pool Association (www.hillsmerepool.org)	410-263-4456
Membership Chairperson	410-295-4913
Swim Team	410-267-9054
Recycling Information	410-222-6103

2008 BOARD MEETINGS - 7:00 p.m.

Jan 31	May 29	Sep 25
Feb 28	Jun 26	Oct 30
Mar 27	Jul 31	Nov 20
Apr 24	Aug 28	Dec 18

2008 GENERAL MEETINGS - 7:00 p.m.

Jan 10	May 8	Sep 11
Mar 13	Jul 10	Nov 13

All Board Meetings at The Key School Science and Library Center

All General Meetings at The Key School Multi-Purpose Building

applied for the spraying, but since the deadline has passed, it is most likely that we will not be sprayed this year. As I write this, Michael Cantwell from the MD Department of Agriculture, is scheduled to speak at our July 10th General Meeting. Although we may not be able to have an active spraying program this year, Mr. Cantwell has indicated that there may be some things that they can do to help us this season. In this issue of the Sea Breeze, there is additional information on the spraying program and a form for opting out. One thing to note is that if too many people opt-out, spraying may not be done at all, due to logistics problems. However, the State reserves the right to spray the entire neighborhood anyway if there is a public health danger that needs to be addressed. If you want to opt-out, then I urge you to send in your form ASAP. By the time you read this issue, the General Meeting will have already taken place. It was well publicized, so we're hoping for a good turn-out. This is an important issue for public health and for the quality of life in Hillsmere.

Another issue that people have strong opinions about is public water. In the survey, 51% of the respondents were in favor of getting public water. However, only 65% of the property owners responded to the survey. That means that only about a third of the property owners responded as being in favor of public water. The County requires more than 50% sign a petition requesting water or it cannot be done. The survey was a massive effort. The Community Survey Committee organized over 100 volunteers to conduct the survey. They went to every house and for those who did not fill out the survey, they went back two and three times and still they did not participate. We mailed surveys to all absentee owners. The survey went on for five months. At the last board meeting, the board decided that we will not request public water. The consensus was that the effort would be extremely difficult and would likely not result in more than 50% approving the petition. We would have to start all over again. The County has specific rules and forms that must be used. However, if anyone feels strongly enough about this issue, that they would like to organize a campaign to get the signatures, then the Board will lend support to the effort.

Speaking of volunteers, I am very happy to announce that Jasen Adams has volunteered to head the Zoning & Covenants Committee. This is a very important committee. The Z&C Committee investigates complaints of zoning, covenant, and/or HSIA rules violations. It attempts to resolve complaints by contacting the violator. Complaints are filed with authorities when necessary. All complaints are followed up to ensure they are resolved. Jasen's wife, Jennifer, is a member of the HSIA Board. To contact Jasen, send an email to zoning@hillsmreshores.net. Or call the HSIA 24-hour voice mail at 410-263-4456. If you would like to help Jasen by volunteering a few hours a month, please let him know.

There have been some great projects completed at the marina and beach. The pier at Beach Drive has been completely replaced along with a new boat ramp. By the time you read this, the piers at Sunset Drive will also have been replaced. This is a great improvement, both esthetically and in terms of safety. The old piers were over 35 years old and had been built with recycled telephone poles. There was a real danger of them collapsing if a boat hit them too hard. A new infrared security camera system has been installed at the sandspit and main marina. The images are saved on a DVR and can be replayed if an incident occurs. Within the next few months, the images will be available live on our web site. There are also new gates at the boat ramps and at the main marina. The main marina gate is automatic. It will open each morning and close at dark. Anyone inside when it closes will still be able to get out. Slip holders will have electronic cards that will open the gate at any time. All of the above projects were 100% paid for by Piers & Harbors funds. Although the general membership approved taking out a loan, no loans were needed. It was entirely financed from cash reserves. The marina reserve funds that were used will be completely replenished within three years.

(Continued on next page)

(President's Comments continued)

The beach project was paid for with Special Tax money. The bulkhead and rip-rap at the east end of the beach (toward the marina) was in desperate need of repair. It was completely replaced by a new stone revetment. The stone was extended toward the beach to protect an existing wetland area. The tall invasive grasses that obscured our views of the bay were removed and new native grasses that only grow a few feet high are being planted. The new benches had to be removed during the construction. They will be replaced shortly. This was a very successful project. Thanks to Kate Penn and the Beach Committee for all their hard work to get this done.

Speaking of the beach, please keep in mind that no dogs are allowed on the beach at any time. You can walk your dog at the marina, boat ramps or on the street. The beach means the entire park, not just the sand. I have received several complaints about violations of this rule, so please be a good neighbor and keep your dog off the beach.

The hot and muggy weather continues. One of the best ways to get outside and beat the heat is to be near the water. It's always cooler there. Hang out at the beach or marina and meet some of your neighbors. Always remember the sun screen too. Another way to cool off and have fun is to attend one of our great summer events. There will be a Beach Happy Hour on August 1st and our Ice Cream Social on August 8th. Check this issue for details. You live in a wonderful community, so get out and enjoy it!

Bill Shuman
President, Hillsmere Shores Improvement Association



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Good Neighbors Program

~Becky Lund

The *Good Neighbors Program* has received a positive response from kind-hearted people who want to help others. As a result, we've managed to lend a hand to three families in the neighborhood.

Do you know of someone who could use a helping hand? It might be a neighbor and it might be you. The contribution could be as simple as moving something heavy, replacing the batteries in a smoke alarm or offering an unneeded item to someone who will use it. You can be on the giving or receiving end of the process. Let us know by contacting goodneighbors@hillsmereshores.net.

So far, we have 13 wonderful volunteers standing by. That's been enough to address the handful of requests we've received. Perhaps best of all, some of our new volunteers are former recipients of a little help from *Good Neighbors*. Many thanks to the first group of folks to sign up. I'm listing first names only to protect the generous. The group includes Cindy, Doug, Helen, Jo, Kevin, David, Marilyn, Coleen, Sue, Stacy, Linda, Vern and John. You know who you are. Your kindness is appreciated.

We're still adding names to the list, so don't be shy. Two hours a month is enough to volunteer for *Good Neighbors*. Here is a short list of the type of assistance provided this year:

- ◆ A hard working single parent needed help fixing a handful of outlets that didn't work in her house. She could only use half of them and didn't know what was wrong.
- ◆ An elderly couple was concerned about impending storms and the branch sitting on their electrical wires. They needed the branch cut down and removed. BGE wouldn't help them. They couldn't do it themselves.
- ◆ A generous couple wished to donate a hot tub to a recovering neighbor. They needed a way to move it down the street.
- ◆ A concerned daughter called to request help *IN THE FUTURE* for her elderly mother who lives alone. She'll pass this information on to her mom and let her know what's available should she need it.

If you have questions about the program, let us know. Tell us if you or a neighbor could use some help OR call to volunteer your time. You can also specify the type of help you can or cannot provide: no heavy lifting, I hate spiders, I can fix anything, nothing electrical, no weekends, outside work only, etc. It can be as little or as much time and effort as you like. It's totally up to you. We'll take it!

Hillsmere Shores Community Happy Hours 2008 — We've had lots of fun at our Beach Social Happy Hours. Be sure to attend one before the end of the season. The Beach Committee is sponsoring the Happy Hours. Our next dates are August 1 from 5 pm to 8 pm and September 13 and October 11 from 3 - 6 pm. Come join your neighbors and enjoy our beautiful beach! We will supply the hot dogs, hot dog buns, condiments, hot grills, paper plates, napkins, soft drinks and coolers full of ice. You bring a plate of Happy Hour style food to share, some folding lawn chairs and your favorite adult beverage (beer or wine only). So put it on your calendar and plan to be there. If you would like to help with or plan future community Happy Hours, please contact Kate Penn or Noel Gasparin.

Beach Volleyball Group - Are you interested in playing Beach Volleyball at the beach this Summer? If so, please contact Craig Holt at 443-758-6975 or e-mail him at holt@usna.edu. Pick up games are once a week.

(HSIA News Continued)

Hillsmere Tee Shirts - There are still some Hillsmere tee shirts for sale. The shirts are forest green with gold lettering. Please call the voice mail at 410-263-4456 to see if we have your size still available. All shirts are \$10.

Dumpster Days - The County has scheduled our community for dumpsters in the Fall this year, so mark your calendars for October 3-4. The County schedules communities for dumpsters on a rotating basis, so the time of year varies depending on last year's schedule. Pertinent information will be in the September *Sea Breeze*.

Mark Your Calendars - A representative from the County's Recycling Office will be visiting us at our General Meeting on Thursday, September 11, at The Key School Multi-Purpose Building. The County will give a presentation and then open the floor for Questions and Answers. Please be sure to attend!

Fall Yard Sale - The Fall yard sale at the beach is scheduled for Saturday, October 4 with a rain date of Saturday, October 11. More info in the September *Sea Breeze*.

Blood Mobile Drive - To help ensure an adequate blood supply, Anne Arundel Medical Center has developed a new mobile blood program to allow neighborhoods, companies, churches, schools and organizations in the community to sponsor blood drives. Blood donations obtained from the mobile blood program stay at AAMC and are used solely for the purpose of meeting the community's increasing need for blood. Hillsmere will be sponsoring a blood drive on Saturday, October 18. The AAMC Blood Mobile will be parked at our beach from 10 am to 4 pm for anyone wishing to make a blood donation.

Want to make a donation to the Annapolis Neck Peninsula Federation? You can. Please make checks payable to ANPF and send donation to ANPF c/o HSIA, P.O. Box 3485, Annapolis, MD 21403.

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From the Beach Committee

~Kate Penn, Beach Chair

Shoreline Design has completed the construction phase of their work at the east point of the beach. At the end of July, they will install native plants to recreate the marsh that was removed as part of the construction. *Spartina Alterniflora* will be planted at the low area, which is primarily under water, except during low tide; *Spartina Patens* will be planted on the upper sections of the slope, which is wet during the high tides. The area that was previously lawn will be restored to lawn. Please be careful not to disturb the new grasses, seed, and straw netting that have been placed in the disturbed areas, so that they have a chance to take root. Although extensive sections of the *Phragmites* have been removed, it is likely that new shoots will appear in the improved marsh. Because the roots emit an herbicide that can damage other plants, we will be observing the area and removing new shoots.

While the Beach Committee gathers data on our shoreline conditions to plan any further work, we are also looking at ways to improve the upland areas. Runoff from several recent, harsh rain storms has carved away large sections of the sandy beach as well as the drainage area by the little bridge. We are exploring methods to better control the storm water as it runs to the bay. The improvements will filter the water, slow the flow to reduce erosion, and also reduce standing water in the park areas.

HSIA has contracted The South River Federation to provide weekly reports on the bacteria levels on our beach. In previous years, the SRF took regular samples all along the River and provided the data on their website. This year, they have agreed to sample water specifically targeting the community beaches on the South River, and to provide immediate results so we can notify residents of poor water conditions. The water is tested for enterococci, which are bacteria that come from the intestine of all warm-blooded animals. EPA states that bacteria levels higher than 158 probable colonies per milliliter (pc/ml) of water is unsafe for swimming, and young children and elderly should avoid water contact. In addition, the Health Department recommends staying out of the water for 48 hours after a heavy rain, due to rainwater runoff and increased health risks. In general, it is recommended to wash with soap and water after exposure to any natural body of water. The results from the SRF testing to date have been low, indicating the water has been safe for swimming. We will continue to monitor conditions and post alerts any time the levels rise near or above safe levels.

South River Enterococci Colony Forming Units/100 ml	6/4/08	6/11/08	6/18/08	7/2/08
Hillsmere Shores	5	3	3	4

The Beach Committee needs volunteers to help with several ongoing projects. If you are interested, please contact Kate Penn at beach@hillsmreshereshores.net, or call 410-263-4456.

- The gate to the beach is opened each morning by volunteers. This year's budget includes an automatic opener, like the one at the marina, which will relieve our long-standing volunteers from this task. However, in the meantime, we are looking for people who use or pass by the beach in the morning, who are willing to unlock it. With enough volunteers, we can set up an alternating schedule, so no one person is burdened every day.
- We need new committee members to help with the maintenance of and improvements to playground and park equipment. You would help inspect equipment, make recommendations for repairs and replacements, and help with the completion of those projects.
- We are looking for teams to pick up trash, rake the beaches, wipe down the tables and benches, and sweep the pavilions. This is also a task that can be completed on a rotating schedule. Ideally, each volunteer could work once every couple months.
- Volunteers are needed to help with spotting and removing new *Phragmites* shoots using approved methods for treatment.



RECREATION AND ENTERTAINMENT

What a fantastic turnout for the Community Picnic! Everyone had a great time. There were several volleyball matches and tug-of-war competitions. Kids were swimming in the river and Lulu was painting faces and doing magic tricks! The moonbounce was a hit and the sno cones were all eaten. Thanks to all who attended and made this a true Community Picnic!! Thanks also to Brendan for the new signs and our helpers in setting up and taking down — as well as our super grillers! Who ever brought the blueberry buckle dessert — several people would like your recipe — could you maybe contact Stephanie or send it in to the Hillsmere Administrator? Delicious!

Thanks to all the children and parents of Hillsmere who made our patriotic July 4th Bike Parade a success!! The bikes and wagons were spectacular! Thanks to Kurt Beall for leading the parade in his antique Fire Engine.

We'll see everyone on August 8th for the Ice Cream Social! Please enjoy this picture from the picnic.



Stephanie Crouse-Geib/Susan Staples: 410-263-4456

GARDEN CLUB



This coming September, our Garden Club will be celebrating its 37th year of existence in the community. We are a group that is interested in horticulture and related topics and try to gear our programs/presentations to our members' interests or seasonal topics. We also participate in activities that encourage civic pride in our community at large.

All are welcome to attend our meetings, even if you are not a Hillsmere resident. For the most part, we meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at the Eastport/Annapolis Neck Library at 12:30 pm. We have a social/refreshment time, a business meeting and then a program or presentation.

Our September meeting will be on September 17 and the presentation will be interpretative floral displays by our members. For further information, call Jean Koehler at 410-268-0276. Come join us — we love new people!

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Personal Ads

Needed - New Membership Chair for the Hillsmere Pool Association. Please email Holly at hls828@aol.com

Found - Found - mountain bike. Please call Art at 410-310-0159.

Found - Car carpets. Please call Bob at 410-267-5954.

BUILDING PERMITS

An HSIA Building Permit is required: Every time an Anne Arundel County Building Permit is required. The responsibility of obtaining an HSIA Building Permit does not fall on your builder, it falls on you.

The following items are needed to obtain an HSIA Building Permit:

1. A copy of the Anne Arundel County Building Permit.
2. A copy of the construction location on the property when required by the County.
3. Cash or check in the amount of \$5.00 made payable to HSIA, unless we sent you a certified letter. Then the cost is \$20 for the permit.
4. Mail to HSIA, P.O. Box 3485, Annapolis, MD 21403



Permits are required for construction of new houses, new sheds, additions to houses or sheds, retaining walls, piers and bulkheads. When in doubt, or if you have any questions, please call the HSIA Building Permit Chairperson, Bill Anderson, at 410-279-1666.

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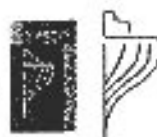
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For full details see The Comparison Guide for Maryland Auto & Home Insurance Rates, Anne Arundel County, August, 2000



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STANDARD MOSQUITO CONTROL OPERATING PROCEDURES

The Anne Arundel County & City of Annapolis Mosquito Control Program is conducted by the Mosquito Control Section of the Maryland Department of Agriculture, located in Annapolis, under cooperative agreement with the County and City Governments.

The following services will be conducted in the indicated time frames:

County-wide Surveillance and Control of Larval Mosquitoes: March - October

Surveillance and Control of Adult Mosquitoes: County wide Mid-May - September 25:

OPERATING PROCEDURES FOR SPRAYING OF ADULTICIDES/LARVICIDES

- Spraying for adult mosquitoes will be done only if a Maryland Department of Agriculture Inspector determines it is necessary.

Nuisance Abatement Thresholds for Ground Based ULV Treatments:

Landing Counts:	3 mosquitoes in a 2 minute count
Light Trap Collections:	12 female mosquitoes in an unbaited light trap
	24 female mosquitoes in a baited light trap

- **SPRAY SCHEDULE FOR LARVICIDES/ADULTICIDES**

Larvicides (Treatment for mosquito larvae)
Monday - Friday

Adulticide (Treatment for adult mosquitoes)
Sunday-Thursday
After 7:30 p.m.

Spraying will not be conducted during rain, in wind speeds exceeding 12 MPH or temperatures above 89°F.

- **LARVICIDES/ADULTICIDES TO BE USED:**

Larvicide	Formulations
<i>Bacillus thuringiensis</i> var. <i>israelensis</i> VectoBac and Aquabac <i>Bacillus sphaericus</i> VectoLex	Granular Liquid
Insect growth regulator Allosid (Methoprene)	Liquid Charcoal Briquet or Pellets
Adulticide	Formulations
Permethrin mixed with Piperonyl Butoxide and Mineral Oil	0.0036 lbs/acre (Ultra Low Volume application)

- The Mosquito Control Program does not spray for Midges that swarm on homes, boats, trees and shrubs along many Anne Arundel County creeks and rivers. These non-biting insects develop in mud bottoms of slow moving water ways of low dissolved oxygen and will decline in numbers within a few weeks after they first appear.
- Program Supervisor
Michael Cantwell, Entomologist
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MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE- MOSQUITO CONTROL SECTION

MOSQUITO CONTROL POLICY STATEMENT

OBJECTION TO ADULT MOSQUITO CONTROL

The policy of the Maryland Department of Agriculture regarding an objection to adult mosquito control by truck-mounted ultra low volume (ULV) application of insecticide is as follows:

- An individual may have his/her owned or leased real property and a surrounding buffer up to 300 feet on all sides of the property excluded from ground based ULV adult mosquito control.
- Each individual requesting this exclusion must submit the request in writing to the Maryland Department of Agriculture and provide copies to the appropriate community association or city/town. The request must provide the address of the property to be excluded and must be signed by the owner(s) or leasee(s). This request will be acknowledged in writing by the Department.
- If the number of individual objectors, and the location of excluded properties, precludes an effective mosquito control adulticide service in a community, the service in that community will be suspended. Service may be reinstated upon the written request of the community and approval by the Department.
- A city/town government or community association may request the Department rescind or modify a spray exclusion zone if the local authority believes the exemption unfairly impacts other residents who desire adult mosquito control service. Requests must be made in writing and delivered to the Secretary of Agriculture.
- The Department periodically will verify the continued occupancy/ownership by objectors of properties excluded from ULV ground spraying to determine if the objection continues.
- In the event of mosquito-borne disease or conditions that threaten public health, the suspension of mosquito adulticide service in an area due to objectors will be discontinued and the full range of mosquito control procedures available will be utilized.

PUBLIC INFORMATION NOTICE:

Your request for exemption from adult mosquito control services by the Maryland Department of Agriculture **WILL NOT** be processed unless **ALL** of the information requested has been supplied. You have a right to inspect, amend, or correct this information. Under State Government Article, 10-617, Annotated Code of Maryland, this information may be generally available for public inspection. This information is not routinely shared with state, federal or local government agencies.

Individuals should direct correspondence regarding this issue to:

Maryland Department of Agriculture
Mosquito Control Section
50 Harry S. Truman Parkway
Annapolis, MD 21401

REQUEST FOR EXEMPTION FROM ADULT MOSQUITO CONTROL SERVICES

This application must be completed by the individual residing within a community participating in the Mosquito Control Program who wishes to have his/her property excluded from adult mosquito control pesticide applications by truck-mounted ultra low volume (ULV) sprayers. The attached statement entitled "Objection to Adult Mosquito Control" explains the Maryland Department of Agriculture's policy on individual objectors. Please retain it for your files.

Please complete all information below. Please read the "Public Information Notice" on the attached policy statement. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Please print or type:

Name : _____

Address: _____

City: _____ County: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone No. Day _____

(Include area code) Evening _____

Name of your Community Association: _____

Name of the Subdivision in which you reside: _____

Signature: _____

Your city/town or community association will receive notice of the scheduled night for surveillance and spraying. It is the responsibility of the city/town or community association to notify residents of the schedule. Spraying will be conducted as indicated by surveillance and will be done on the same day of each week. Please feel free to contact me if you have further questions at 301-373-4264/65 - St. Mary's County; or 1-888-523-0256 - Charles County; or 410-841-5870 - Anne Arundel County.

Application should be mailed to:
Program Supervisor
Mosquito Control Section
50 Harry S. Truman Parkway
Annapolis, MD 21401



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HSIA Board Meeting

Thursday, July 31, 2008

7:00 pm

Key School Science & Library Center

HSIA Board Meeting

Thursday, August 28, 2008

7:00 pm

Key School Science & Library Center

HSIA General Meeting

Thursday, September 11, 2008

7:00 pm

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Deadline for the September

Sea Breeze is August 31, 2008

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2008

Sun	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
		1	2	3	4 Bicycle Parade	5
6	7	8	9	10 HSIA General Meeting	11 Beach Happy Hour	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31 HSIA Board Meeting		



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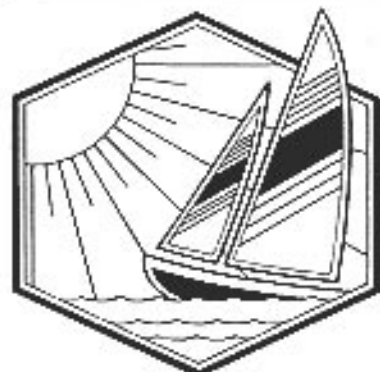
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					1 Beach Happy Hour	2
3	4	5	6	7	8 Ice Cream Social	9
10	11	12 Piers & Harbor Meeting	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 <i>Sea Breeze</i> deadline 31	25	26	27	28 HSIA Board Meeting	29	30



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