

PS OLOC miniNEWS

Connecting old lesbians throughout the Puget Sound area to form community and encourage participation in activities and causes that work to improve our lives and increase our visibility.

Our 37th Issue!

Late August 2015

Yea! Another Ice Cream Social! Sunday, September 6, afternoon

Hopefully this is already on your calendars: Donna and Gloria are hosting another Sunday Ice Cream Sundae Social on Sunday, September 6. This will be the third or fourth time they've done it – and we can pretty much guarantee you they know what they're doing. Gloria writes:

"We'll be ready for you, poised with spoons and cups (provided), at 2 pm, at Gloria & Donna's home near Gig Harbor. Carpool if you can, and we'll get everyone parked as close to the action as possible!"

If you need directions to G&D's, either check their recent post to the PS OLOC

Yahoo group, or email/call them directly – contact info on the last page of this issue.

The Ice Cream Social is a PS OLOC all-chapter event. What does that mean? Everyone is welcome! Seattle, Pt. Townsend, Tacoma, Olalla, Puyallup and beyond.



PS OLOC will provide a variety of frozen concoctions, toppings, utensils, etc. They'll also have ice water and iced tea. G says, "If you want something special to drink, bring it. If you are itching to make brownies or cookies to go under/over the ice cream, bring some. If you are lactose-intolerant, bring your pills or a dessert you can eat! This is a time to put faces to names, kick back and relax. We will ask you to wear name tags so we can do a better job with the challenge of remembering names!"

We're looking forward to seeing you all! Hope you'll make it.

QCCC (Queer Crone Coordinating Council) Check In

Assuming you know some of the QC3 members by now, you may not be surprised to hear that, once again, the nine women met and talked for five hours straight! Best of all, they managed to spend the vast majority of that time talking about items that were on the agenda.



In addition to the usual inclusion of reports on ongoing PS OLOC projects and coalition work, a significant portion of the meeting was spent discussing our vision of what we'd like a great PS OLOC website to look like, and then kicking around ideas on how we might be able to make that vision become a reality. Quite a bit of time was also devoted to talking about a grant application that we have submitted to the Pride Foundation, and our OLOHP work.

You are welcome at a QC3 meeting... of course, if you all did decide to show up, a bigger conference room would be required, so you might want to give us a bit of warning. The next meeting will be on October 4, 10-3, at the Valley View Library in Seatac. Since it spans lunch, we all do the brown-bag thing... although it's hard to say when someone last showed up with a plain brown bag.

Warning: This is a another jam-packed issue of the miniNEWS! Open with caution.



Who is Welcome in PS OLOC?

How about this: If you can say aloud, or at least to yourself, that you are a lesbian, and that you are old, then You Are Welcome! Best yet, here in PS OLOC, we don't define either *lesbian* or *old*! We've each come to recognize facets of ourselves at different stages in our lives. If you see yourself as an old lesbian, you're welcome to be a part of any and all that we do.

Contact Information for PS OLOC QC3 Members is the last page.

Recurring PS OLOC Area Events

We're going to approach this a bit differently for this issue. Instead of giving you separate articles for what is planned in the Seattle area, those in the West, or the South Sound, we're going to highlight the recurring dates, and encourage each of you to join the separate Yahoo groups – info on how is on the last page of this newsletter.

Seattle area:

- The Book Group meets on the first Tuesdays, at 7 pm, at Couth Buzzard Books. Some of the women will meet for dinner nearby first. (See separate article listing upcoming books)
- The Dinner Group meets on the third Thursday. Location varies, but they always try to meet at 6:30.



Westies (Olalla, Gig Harbor, Longbranch, Shelton, etc.):

- PS OLOC West women try to meet on the first and third Thursdays, generally at 12:30. Activity varies from discussions, films, movies out, picnics, games, etc., so locations vary a bit, too.



South Sound:

- SS Lunch Bunch continues to meet regularly in the Tacoma area on the second Tuesday of the month, at 11:30. Locations change.

Coming Out Women

- CO Women meets on the first and third Wednesdays each month. An additional night has been added to help with women's work schedules: they now also meet on the last Thursday. This is a support group for women of all ages dealing with coming out issues. CO Women meets at the library in University Place. For more info, contact Kathy P. or go to www.comingoutwomen.org



Since you never know what might happen to derail even the best made plans, we suggest you check close to the date to make sure any event is still on.

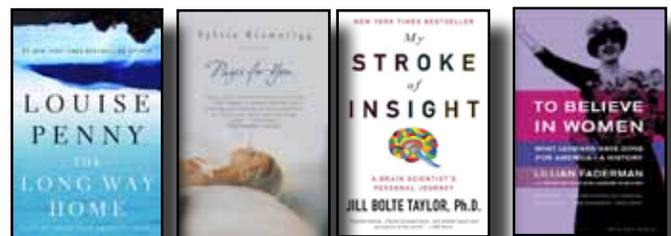
Seattle Book Club

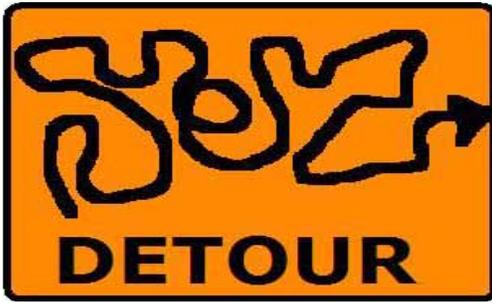
The Seattle PSOLOC book club continues to meet at 7 PM every first Tuesday of the month at the Couth Buzzard Bookstore at 8310 Greenwood Ave. N. Seattle 98103. Recently some members have been meeting about 5 PM and eating at various restaurants near the bookstore. Contact avark@comcast.net for information on where we will be on a particular night.

We had an unusually large turnout at the July meeting, with eleven at dinner and fifteen at the book club meeting. This was a little surprising (although quite nice) because most people said they did not particularly like the book, which was a novel by Sarah Waters, *The Paying Guests*. Books for the rest of the year for are:

- Sept. 1: *The Long Way Home* by Louise Penny
- Oct. 6: *My Stroke of Insight* by Jill Bolte Taylor
- Nov. 3: *Pages for You* by Sylvia Brownrigg
- Dec. 1: *To Believe in Women* by Lillian Faderman

We are already collecting suggestions for next year's books, so if you come across a book you think would be good for the group to read, let me know. Ideally, it should be a book that is fairly easy for us to get at local libraries.





Detour? or a New Pathway?

Remember last time when we explained that that issue of the miniNEWS was actually coming out a few weeks early despite our commitment to send it out in January, March, May, July, September and November? That was a late June issue and it was out of sync. And by now we're guessing you probably noticed this one is late August, again not on the list.

So our question is this: How many exceptions does it take for the old way to become the new way? You'll have to wait until the next issue to find out!



If there is a question as to who to contact about an event, you can always email info@psoloc.org.

Want the Latest News?

Sign up for the various Yahoo groups. Learn how how on the last page of the miniNEWS.

Fabulous Feedback!

The following is the text of an email sent to PS OLOC from Diane after the late-June issue of the miniNEWS was sent out. We love feedback, especially ones like this!

Posted by: "Diane Ste. Marie" <dstemarie@q.com>
Re: [psoloc] new issue of the miniNEWS

Fabulous, fun reading latest miniNEWS! Thanks so much for all the work you QC3 do, the writers and editor and producer of the newsletter, the work of all the people you wrote about, You are much appreciated.

Ever since the PNWOLOC Gathering a few years back, my life as an old lesbian has gotten richer and richer with all the opportunities of meeting old lesbians and supporters, so many things to do and women to do them with; opportunities to stretch my thinking and especially building supportive relationships. In my younger years, I may have hung out in crowded, dim, noisy bars hoping someone would not only notice me but want something a little more, but especially as a single lesbian, connections, friendships, seemed to constantly elude me or be of short duration. How much nicer and easier to meet old lesbians in the daylight, for us to have matured, grown, gained comfort in sharing friends, and especially today, the possibility and safety of being out and open in public in ways not possible when we were young. I say this is a great time to be an old lesbian! And a great time to be supported through networks of OLOC, PSOLOC, Over 40s, (the groups I mainly know about) and other groups as well.

Thank you everyone. I am deeply grateful. Diane

On Being A Herstory Reader

I've been interested for what seems like years now in participating in an OLOHP reading event. My schedule never seemed to permit it, but at the 2015 National Women's Music Festival, I got my chance. We received scripts at breakfast, just a few hours before the workshop. Would I be familiar enough with my part to be able to look up and engage with the audience? No worries; parts were small, as was the room (making voice projection easy). The room was filled, and the audience VERY ATTENTIVE. It felt so rewarding to be the voice of one of our sisters, and to have that snippet of an experience from the past so fully appreciated, not to mention my own feeling of relating to the part I was reading. I'm eager to participate again, anytime I'm asked.

Ellen Kritzman

Fun Was Had!

Despite the heat, despite the lack of rain, it sure has been a great summer. A big bunch of PS OLOC women got together at M&M's mid-July for a picnic/campfire/chat-fest. Arden, who many of us know and love, was visiting from Texas and it was one of those events that simply worked: everyone mingled, groups formed and reformed, women flowed, sharing and listening. It was perfect!

A few weeks later, Pokey invited folks to come do the puffin cruise in Pt. Townsend. It was last minute, and it looked like there would only be four of us, but several more PS OLOC women were there waiting on the dock when it was time to sail, plus we connected with other women from Discovery Bay Resort. An outsider might have said the event was a bust. It was puffin-less, but it had a magic of its own. We were in the right place at the right time – from our vantage point on the water, we watched the sun sink in the west, turned around and watched as the blue moon rose in the east.



Then came the kRi & Hettie house concert. We tested the limits of JS&C's space with 50, some connecting with PS OLOC for the first time. If there was anyone who wasn't charmed and delighted, they sure kept it to themselves. K&H hit the right notes, especially when they did a song thanking us, the women who came before them, for paving the way.

Add all that to the work PS OLOC has been doing: Wow. What a summer!

Kathy P. suggested running a series of articles based on interviews of PS OLOC women –and then she took it on, *and* she's writing it up! Yea! Here is Kathy's contribution based on her conversation with Diane Ste. Marie from Seattle.

GETTING TO KNOW DIANE STE MARIE

Married to Dick, an ob/gyn, Diane Ste. Marie twice attended San Francisco's National Sex Forum, sponsored by the National Memorial Methodist Church. The goal was to educate doctors to talk about sex with their female patients.

Diane recalls the enormous church space where they met – with 25 simultaneously projected images on walls: films of sex in relationships, women and men masturbating, a transwoman, same-sex couples. People going around nude or partly dressed in the church. Breaking taboo. The whole experience was exciting: meeting kinds of people she'd never met before. Diane wasn't shocked, but interested. It was positive, not upsetting. This was the Viet Nam era – and Diane was in Haight-Asbury in August, 1970.

She heard authors of sex studies. Lesbians came in – Phyllis Lyon, Tee Corinne – and spoke while lesbian films played. Diane danced with Phyllis who said, "A woman would love to be with you!" Diane first knew sexual feelings towards women there--although she says she "had been attracted to Jean Taylor, the Rockettes and Miss America!" Attended a Daughters of Bilitis meeting and had her first lesbian fling.

Dick's dream was to build the Akron Forum of Sexual Attitude Reassessment (AFSAR) – the NSF forum in-a-notebook. People were doing sex counseling therapy. A year later, Dick returned from a conference saying he'd met a man and wanted to move to SF. Great pain for Diane; just one friend to talk with. The marriage was falling apart. Dick had several lovers and finally left her for a man. Divorce: 1974.

Diane worked for Akron's Planned Parenthood, running women's sexuality workshops with 40+ women. Using plastic female pelvis models, she lead early teen rap groups about women's pelvic exams and being checked for pregnancy. She had LG people come to talk – including trans, disabled, bi. Diane enjoyed breaking the myths/silence around sexual organs and was fairly well received.

Diane headed for Hawaii with the three kids – to the University of Hawaii's School of Social Work. Doing birth control talks for PP, she served on boards – and came out there. Met Nancy at a Methodist church lesbian group. The relationship was "sweet but unsustainable."

With her MSW, Diane counseled for 2 years and became an assistant script writer for 8th grade TV health programs. Back on the mainland, in a Quaker meeting, she met a lesbian couple afraid to tell their stories. Diane wrote 15 questions and six people answered as Diane made a video: *Lots of Queer Quakers Some of Whom Are Gay* (1983) and the video played on public TV.

Diane's activism extended to Seattle – and beyond reproductive health – to Puget Sound Women's Peace Camp. She was one of the 12 activists who blockaded Boeing's cruise missile plant in Kent. In 2011, she connected with PS OLOC!

Honoring Choices Vashon ... The Most Important Conversation You'll Ever Have (by Ellen K)

On Vashon, an island-wide initiative has formed to provide information and tools to discuss end of life wishes with family, friends and healthcare providers, and to create advance care directives using the Respecting Choices model. The vision is for Vashon to be a community where death is understood as a natural part of life, where loved ones do not face confusion and conflict when crucial decisions have to be made, and where residents' wishes for their care is known, respected and honored. It is a collaborative, inclusive effort involving all segments of the community and is offered as a free service to island residents.

**A LIFE
WELL LIVED
DESERVES
A GOOD
DEATH.**

The write-up above comes from the printed program of a forum I attended August 6, along with maybe 75-80 other folks. The guest speaker was Bud Hammes, PhD, a medical ethicist from Wisconsin, where a coffee shop conversation originally started this initiative. "How do we start? With whom and how are decisions made? At what point do these actions get implemented?" The product will be an Advance Directive for Health Care.

Here, two counties, Whatcom and Snohomish, have taken action. Representatives from each of these initiatives spoke. In Whatcom, they started in 2012, but the community was not ready and it took about two years of workshops at places like senior centers. Now they get about a dozen referrals a month from doctors, and are becoming a community of "excellence in dying," including palliative care. In Snohomish business leaders got together and held two years of free classes in churches, senior centers, provider's offices, etc. *This point was made: have the conversation with anyone who might show up in your hospital room, including health care providers.*

On the state level there is Choosing Wisely and Honoring Choices Pacific Northwest, a collaborative initiative between the Washington State Medical and Hospital Associations and Gundersen Health System of La Crosse, WI. Washington State wants to spread the county models, to work with health care providers to have the conversation, to ask if directives have been made out and, if so, to get them into electronic medical records. The hope is to pull in younger people (remember the Terry Schiavo case) as well as every adult – maybe when they get a driver's license. They also plan to involve life insurance agents, estate planners, etc.

I have some more particulars on the documents, but this was not a workshop about them specifically. It was pointed out that Catholic institutions are on board with the initiative, but they are not supportive of Death With Dignity (where a person who is mentally sound can end his/her own life when diagnosed with only six months left to live).

Seattle Pride Parade 2015

PS OLOC members, Aganita Varkentine and Sue Weinheimer once again rode in the Seattle Pride parade with the NW LGBT Senior Care Providers Network. the NW LGBT SCPN is an informal network of senior providers of all kinds working together to provide advocacy and quality of care for the LGBT seniors of Washington State. 2014 was the first year the group had a float, and they asked PS OLOC to ride on it both years. The 2015 float was even more festive than the year before, and seniors from some of other affiliated groups also rode on the float.

The Care Providers people were very nice, providing rides to and from the parade and having water on hand since it was expected to be a hot day. This year's parade took place just after the Supreme Court had announced that same sex marriage was now the legal across the country, so the crowds watching the parade were larger and more enthusiastic than ever. It was especially gratifying to have people yell out "Hurray for our elders," and "Thank you for all you have done."

The New York Times *Fate of Domestic Partner Benefits in Question After Marriage Ruling*

In case you missed it, check out this article that ran in the New York Times...quotes and photo of Sandra Haggard, occasional visitor to our area, and close friend of Jolly Sue's. Great to see one of our tribe featured so prominently. Good article!
<http://tinyurl.com/qcf7z3x>

The Rainbow Center Says...

Join in a variety of activities!

The Rainbow Center is spreading its wings a bit these days. Now that they've settled into their new digs (2215 Pacific Ave, Tacoma), they are hosting several new events. In addition to the 50+ Lunch Bunch,* a social and educational opportunity for LGBTQ individuals 50 and older that meets the 3rd Friday of every month, 11 am - 1 pm, the RC has added the following evening "Late Night" events:

- **Queer Bingo! Aug. 26, 5:30 - 7 pm (family friendly, free)**
- **Pot Luck - Sept. 2, 5:50 - 8 pm (taco night: bring a fixin', family friendly, free)**
- **Fall Crafts, Sept. 9, 5:30- 8 pm (family friendly, all ages, free)**
- **Clothing Swap, Sept. 16, 5:30 - 7 pm**

The RC is also gearing up for their annual Black Tie Gala.

You can get details on all these events by contacting Laura Brewer. She can give you the lowdown on parking and any other details you might need.

The Rainbow Center

2215 Pacific Ave.

Tacoma, WA 98402

Ph: 253-383-2318 Fax: 253-383-2978

laura.brewer@rainbowcntr.org

* for the 50+ Lunch Bunch, bring your lunch, and the RC will provide beverages and snacks

M&M Recommends...

Zero Brides for Seven Brothers

Captain Smarty Pants, an off-shoot of the Seattle Gay Men's Chorus and self-described "homosexual vocal comedy group," shares their take on what it means to be a "bro," with music from the Doobie Brothers, The Jacksons, and more. The event will happen a couple of times: Sat., Sept 12, and Fri-Sat, Sept 18-19. It takes place at the Triple Door in Seattle, a favorite venue of M&M's... great space and dinner from the excellent Thai restaurant upstairs. Tix are \$25. If you want to join M&M, let them know soon so we can be seated near each other.

WomynRock Wants You to Know...

Women Keep On Rockin' in Olympia

PS OLOCer Pat M. regularly organizes dancing opportunities for the community. The next one is set for Sept. 19, and then there will be another on December 12. Dances take place in Olympia, at Jake's on Fourth. Pat says, "Come join the fun, meet some new friends and party the evening away from 5-9 p.m. As usual we will have a little raffle to help raise funds for SAGE Olympia and Tacoma Older LGBT serving our community of older LGBT adults." Jake's is a cash only bar, so come prepared... or there is an ATM on site. WomynRock dances have a small cover charge of \$6/person. Make sure you don't miss a dance by following WomynRock on Facebook www.facebook.com/WomynRock2



"You can call us "TOL" for short."

various events/dates

Pat McIntyre must not have enough to keep her busy, 'cause she's now deep into nurturing another organization that focuses on the needs of our community, Tacoma Older LGBT, or TOL. This is how TOL describes itself at www.tacomaolderlgbt.org: *Tacoma Older LGBT, is a non-profit 501(c)3, the premier lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) organization in Tacoma and Pierce County specifically geared to advocating for, serving, supporting, and working with older LGBT adults in Tacoma, Pierce County and surrounding areas.*

We'll let them get away with saying they are the premier org, since they serve L + G + B & T. If it wasn't for that, them thar would be fighting words – we, of course, think PS OLOC is deserving of the descriptor "premier."

Visit their website and you'll get the dates and times for a couple ongoing events they host including happy hours, walks, a grief group and more.

Tacoma Older LGBT celebrates the 50+ LGBT older adult for his/her resilience, their history and community. Without them we would not have the freedoms and equality the Pierce County LGBT community enjoys today.

Kristen Want You to Know...

SWC Concerts Coming Up Soon

Mark those calendars! The Seattle Women's Chorus will be performing Hallows in the Cathedral: Spirits Rising in Saint Mark's Cathedral in Seattle. Dates for performances are Oct. 23-24, 30, and 31. The first two performances will have a special guest, Spanish, singer/songwriter Rebekah Del Ri. Tix are available by going to www.flyinghouse.org



What many of you have discovered, is that the SWC also does a preview performance at the Ikea Performing Arts Center in Renton. Not only is it a bargain price (\$10, or what you can pay), parking isn't a big issue, and you get to hear the full performance plus get a behind-the-scenes- glimpse at how they make it all happen. This year, that special preview will happen on Saturday, Oct. 10 at 8 pm.

Anne H. Wants to Share...

Affordable Housing Workshop

On September 17, Allyship's Conversations Across Generations discussion will focus on affordable housing in Seattle. Word is that it will be more of a workshop format than their typical dialogue. The event will feature Lauren Craig from Puget Sound SAGE talking about how inclusionary housing policies in Seattle can benefit the LGBTQ communities.

You'll need to sign up for the free event at: www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2127570

This event takes place 6:30 - 8:30 pm, at the Washington State Labor Council, 321 16th Ave S, Seattle.

Questions? Get in touch with Anne or with Allyship: info@allyship.org



I Remember When by Kathy Prez.

★It was my job to defrost our Kelvinator frig (1943 model) every Saturday, placing trays of boiling water in the little freezer, then chipping away at 1.5" slabs of ice on freezer walls.

★From about age 10, I'd pick up dessert when my parents hosted their two-table bridge group. I'd walk the 1.5 block to "Jean's" (Norristown, PA) to pick up eight scoops of Breyer's ice cream – and race back home before they melted.



★I'd watch the coal truck dump loads of coal into our basement window – for our furnace.

★We shared our first car with the family, two doors over. They had five kids, we had two.

★I recall pre-car when my sister was covered with poison ivy, Daddy would pull her in our red metal wagon the six blocks to the doctor.

★BRoadway 2053W our "party" phone line

★We were last on our block to get a TV. I was nine when Daddy's mother died. After the funeral we drove her bulky TV in our trunk back to Pennsylvania. Favorite shows became "Ozzie & Harriet," "Father Knows



Best," "Your Hit Parade" – ("So Long...for A While").

★We took our turn at having neighborhood weekly rosary at our house – kneeling. Oooo...knees hurt!

★When I was first driving (1959), gas was \$.17 a gallon

★Each August (1960-63), I'd spend a week @ hockey camp in the Poconos with my college team and many other Philadelphia teams. Constance Applebee, camp founder/director, had "brought field hockey to the U.S." Arduous camp, but how amazing

to be with the girls/women at Camp Tegawitha – and "Miss Applebee" at age 87-90 years!

★Carbon paper (cc-ing) with Daddy's 1930's Underwood typewriter



Suggesting an article for the next issue of the miniNEWS: "I Remember When..." Send in your own recollections that may trigger memories in others.

Houston Chronicle Op-Ed: Marriage equality too late for LGBT seniors

Follow this link to an op-ed piece co-authored by Mayor Annise Parker: <http://tinyurl.com/or9wxky> It's a quick, interesting read.

With approximately 10,000 Americans reaching retirement age every single day, it is critical that we take steps to ensure that all seniors - who were among the first generations to defy cultural norms of discrimination and inequality - can enjoy their retirement years in the communities that they helped to define and make better places to live. We owe this especially to our LGBT seniors, those that have already suffered a lifetime of marginalization and discrimination. As we are on the brink of achieving many gains, we recognize the sacrifices made by our LGBT seniors. There remains much more work to be done on their behalf as we continue the work towards full equality.

Donald Rumsfeld and Climate Change by Margaret P

Until I read the article *The scariest part of climate change isn't what we know, but what we don't*, I didn't think I'd ever hear myself say Donald Rumsfeld was right about anything! I found the article thought-provoking for its content about climate change, which is excellent, but scary. What really captured my attention was this statement: *In a 2002 press briefing, Donald Rumsfeld, President George W. Bush's Secretary of Defense, distinguished among different kinds of uncertainty: things we know, things we know we don't know, and things we don't know we don't know. Though derided at the time for playing word games, Rumsfeld was actually making a good point: it's vital to be clear about what we're unclear about.*



That basic premise, critically evaluating an issue or idea so we have some grasp of what it is we don't know, can be applied to so much in our lives. For me, it was a nudge: Quit focusing on what you already know – that might be the easiest, and most comfortable avenue, but will it help me grow?

Why include something like this in the miniNEWS? I read the posts on our Yahoo groups and talk to friends at events, and it's clear how diverse our interests and passions are. A fascinating array of issues and interests push many of us into action. For myself, it would behoove me to ask more, and listen better. And I think we could all benefit from knowing that we need to know more about things we don't know!

Hmm... Tasty!

Ellen shared two recipes with us, both perfect for this time of year. One is called Summer Salad and the other

Green Bean, Nut & Mint Salad. We'll post them to the Yahoo list...if you don't have access to them, drop Margaret a note and she'll send you a copy. Thanks. Ellen!



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Keepin' Up With PS OLOC Events

Each group has two addresses listed here. If you belong to the group, use the first address to post. If you are new, send your initial query to the second address, the one with "subscribe" in its address. It's **the** least expensive subscription you'll ever have – and no renewal notices!

For all PS OLOC

psoloc@yahoogroups.com
psoloc-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

For the South Sound Lunch Bunch & the Westies (Gig Harbor, Olalla, Longbranch, etc.):

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