

**Quaker Cove**

**14694 Gibraltar rd.**

**Anacortes, WA 98221**

**(360) 899-8269**

Prepared by:

Liz Seume, Camp Director



March 6, 2017

**Lots of Quaker Cove**

Lots owned by Quaker Cove: P20408, P20423, P68160, P68161, P68162, P68163, P68167, P68169, P68170, P68171, P68172, P68173, P68174, P68175, P68178, P68179, P68180, P68182, P68183, P68184, P68185, P68186, P73564, P73565, P73566, P73574, P73600, P73603

Lots used by Quaker Cove, but privately owned: P68166, P68168, P68181

**History of Property use to Current Day**

Quaker Cove began in 1930, when a search group was formed, from the Friends (Quaker) Meeting in Seattle, to find a conference site. The search group found the property in 1930, and immediately began holding conferences (See Figure 1). It was the clear intention to use and develop the land as a conference site as seen in the 1930 dedication of the camp below (see Figure 2):

“To the glory of God, our Father, by whose favor we have been able to secure this conference site; to the honor of Jesus, the Christ, the Son of the living God, our Lord and Saviour; to the praise of the Holy Spirit, source of light and life; We dedicate these grounds...For worship in prayer and song; for the religious inspiration of our children, for the spiritual and social welfare of our young people...For the preservation and strengthening of family ties; for the guidance of youth; for the training of conscience; for aggression against evil...For the development of body, mind and spirit, under the blessing of our Lord and Saviour...As a tribute of gratitude, of love and devotion from those who have tasted the cup of thy salvation, and experienced the riches of thy grace; we thy people, now consecrating ourselves anew, dedicate these grounds with beach and Bay in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.  
(emphasis added)”

The camp has been used, every year since, for these same purposes. Other Quaker camps in the same regional Quaker conference (Indiana and Oregon Yearly Meeting at the time) also operated in the same way (See Figure 3). The purpose of Quaker Cove is also echoed repeatedly through its articles of incorporation over the years of the existence of the camp (the earliest copy we have at hand is from 1948, although the Corporation existed long before. “Quaker Cove Corporation” can be seen on the first purchase deeds for the land where the camp currently exists.)

Later, in the (50’s?) the land was divided into parceled lots, some leased and some sold to individual churches and families in churches to spur development for the camp (the lessees and owners of lots would build on those lots and the camp would use the money raised to develop communal buildings for the camp.) The private parcel lessees and owners developed cabins on their lots with the understanding

that the lots and private housing were still part of the camp and would be used for the church when retreats and other events took place and more housing was needed. The privately-owned parcels continued to remain as part of the Quaker Cove Corporation and they participated in the management of the camp and paid dues. This was a very common arrangement in the development of other church camps of the same era. Most of these private owners have, at this point, donated or sold the parcels back to the camp. The three lots that are still privately owned and remain as part of the camp are used by the camp throughout the year and shared by the private owners.

**Our own programs include (Currently):**

Quaker Cove Day Camp – two weeks of day time camp for children ages K-6 from the local area. Kids are outside most their time at the camp. They adventure and participate in activities that build confidence and skills. They learn about nature, get their hands dirty and laugh with fun young adult counselors who help them grow in character.

Quaker Cove Family Camp – A long held tradition at Quaker Cove. Families and singles come together to build community from the Puget Sound Area Friends Churches. Families are strengthened through group activities, worship, play and chapel services.

Amplify Camp – A camp for middle school students, where Quaker Cove partners with Anacortes Christian Church, to help them grow and learn to face the tough things they are beginning to encounter at this age. There is a focus for them to enjoy nature and be away from the distraction of electronics and media.

Serve Retreats – Groups come to the camp to volunteer around the grounds, doing basic work like landscaping and painting. In their free-time these groups enjoy the amenities of the camp, and meet and worship together.

Open House – We offer an open day to the public where families can come and enjoy the property and get to know the camp. There is play on the beach, tours of the grounds, s'more making, face-painting, games and free food.

In development – We are working on seasonal cooking courses (teaching how to cook from your garden or with fresh local produce) to offer to the community. We have a few seasonal events we would also like to implement in the future which would focus on bringing the community and families together, for example an outdoor worship service for all churches in the area or building gingerbread houses for kids and families in Anacortes.

**Other groups using the camp:** A variety of non-profits from near and far, covering many different themes and purposes. Recently, those groups include:

Anacortes Girl Scouts, NAS Whidbey Island Navigators, Friendly Waters for the World - Olympia, Snohomish CTK Church, Lydia Ministries - Anacortes, Seattle Academy of Sciences, Greenwood Tree Cooperative School – Mt. Vernon, Explorations Academy – Bellingham, Foothills Christian School – Mt. Vernon, Westminster Presbyterian Church – Anacortes, Arlington Lifeway Church, Bible Baptist Church – Oak Harbor, Sherwood Friends Church - Oregon, Greenleaf Friends Church - Idaho,

Swedenborgian Church Seattle and several family conferences bringing families together from across the US to enjoy Fidalgo Island.

## Use of the Camps Natural Features

The natural beauty of the land at Quaker Cove have always been important to the purpose and mission of the camp.

**Beach:** From the beginning of the camp in 1930, we see the beach area incorporated into the conference programs through sailing to deception pass from a dock on our beach, water-skiing, and we even have records of a clam-bake on the beach with a local tribe. There was also a beach house (which does not exist today) and the current Chapel, overlooking the beach, was used as a lodge and meeting space in the 30's. Last summer, as well as being enjoyed by many visiting groups to the camp, our own day camp program for children K-6<sup>th</sup> grade, used the beach to learn about crabs and clams and other beach life, geology by looking at different rocks, and the balance of the ecosystem. These children also learned through hours of play; digging and building driftwood forts and rafts which encouraged their creativity and helped to grow physical skills of coordination and balance. We also often use canoes and kayaks from the beach, and an occasional group (on a very hot day) will use the water for a swim. In the evening, groups have enjoyed our beach fire-pit area to gather their families and groups around food, music, drama or a speaker and watch the sun set over the islands.

**Fields:** At the camp, there are two large fields which are very versatile and a very important part of camp life. They are used for tent camping, group games, outdoor conference sessions, soccer, volleyball, dancing, and chapel services.

**Woods:** Trails for horseback riding and hiking had been developed, earlier in the camps history, in the wooded area of the property. This area is used, to this day, for outdoor education, nature walks, learning about native plants and animals, and finding peace and calm in the beauty of quiet nature. Although somewhat crowded residential housing has crept up on every side of the property since the original purchase, the camp has been able to preserve this large area. Tree planting (both in the woods and around the camp) has also been very important.

## Issues with the current zoning (Rural Intermediate)

Many buildings at the camp have been improved or maintained over the years. Several times, there were plans to further develop the camp, however due to income challenges off and on, an investment scandal where the camp lost a large amount of funds reserved for development, and the very unexpected death of the President of the corporation who was handling building plans, the camp had been unable to make the larger changes it wanted to make.

Currently the camp has the ability and momentum to start to make additions to the camp, but those at a pre-development meeting informed the camp that it would not be allowed to change the footprint of any existing buildings or build new buildings that aren't for residential use. For example, we would like to replace an older rustic cabin (not insulated and without plumbing), with a cabin that is 12 feet longer so that we can include a restroom and keep an appropriate number of beds. We have several buildings

which are of similar size, and also without plumbing or insulation. The incorrect zoning of the property gives us several issues to deal with.

**Issues with Keeping Abuse Prevention Guidelines:** To remodel cabins at their current size, which would be allowed, makes the cabins un-useable for many of our summer camp programs, especially those with minors. The current abuse prevention guidelines of most churches and organizations today (including our own) require that two adults, per cabin, supervise overnight groups of youth. The addition of a bathroom, but keeping the footprint of buildings at their current size, would cut the bed number from 6-8 down to just 4, which means that 2 adults would be needed per cabin with 2 youth. This creates a difficult problem for us, and takes away from the cabin atmosphere that is part of camp programming.

**Issues with including all ages and abilities:** To remodel these cabins at their current size without adding bathrooms means that our facilities are very limited for many participants in our programs. For small children, parents with babies, people with health issues, and the elderly it is difficult to make the trek to our bathrooms in the middle of the night, especially in winter. These are not issues that were considered in the 50's when most of our buildings were built, but today are very important. It is important for us to be able to include people of all ages and abilities in our programming and to make their experience as comfortable as we can, as comfortable as it is for those without these limitations.

**Issues with making cabins accessible:** Along with the above issues, not being able to expand our current buildings or build new ones which are carefully thought out, it is almost impossible for us to meet ADA guidelines and have accessibility. The problem here is with the amount of size needed for accessible bathrooms with large enough doorways and having enough aisle room between beds.

**Other general issues:** Aside from just these rustic cabins, we have the same issues with adding bathrooms and making things accessible for our common buildings like the dining hall and chapel, while retaining enough capacity in those buildings. Limiting our building under the rural intermediate zoning also keeps us from being able to carefully plan and re-work the facilities at the camp in such a way as to consider accessibility, pedestrian areas, green space, a dedicated first aid office, maintenance areas (keeping work areas enclosed and away from campers), traffic safety, and updating electrical and plumbing. The layout of a camp is very important, and an issue that most camps are dealing with today. Many camps weren't thoroughly thought out in the beginning, and buildings were added without thought for many of the above issues. Having the ability to arrange/re-arrange buildings in a more efficient way as we grow and change allows us to preserve more of the natural areas at camp, and also allows us to make decisions that are best for camper safety.

## Development Plans

**Dining Hall:** We need to expand our dining hall at its current location. Currently, the seating in our dining hall is about half the capacity of the camp when it is full. This is partially because we have exchanged bench seating for round tables with chairs, which are easier for those with mobility problems to use. We also have space limitations in the kitchen area of the dining hall, which make it difficult to have all the necessary modern equipment which helps the kitchen to run more efficiently and up to higher standards.

**Chapel:** We would replace or expand this building. Built in the 30's originally, the chapel is not as accessible as we would like for it to be. There are no bathroom facilities, which is very important as it is

on the other side of Gibraltar rd. from the main camp. This provides problems for many of our guests who cannot make the hike across the campus in time to use the bathroom.

**RV spaces:** We would like to add several RV spaces with full hook-ups. We have a few small RV spaces, but with the large size of most RV's today, along with the electrical requirements, they are not adequate anymore. We would also like to move RV spaces out of the central camp, where they currently are, to create more pedestrian areas and have better traffic safety for our campers. RV spaces are very important to our camp as the camp, in addition to rental groups, has retired volunteers who would like to help at the camp and need an RV space that meets their needs.

**Cabins:** These buildings need many changes. We have several cabins that we would replace or add over the next ten to twenty years. To be able to do this in a more thoughtful way than being limited to the current placement, floorplan and size allows us to do several things. First, to expand cabins to allow for accessibility, restrooms, abuse prevention guidelines and also to save trees with better placement of these expanded cabins. Then, to create community green spaces, and pedestrian areas between and around cabins that are arranged in a more practical way, so that campers are entering and exiting cabins from the same sides, and following the same paths. It also allows up to carefully consider parking areas and placing them in the best interest of camper safety.

**Indoor Recreation Space:** We would add a covered or enclosed recreation space for when the weather doesn't allow groups to be outside. It would be used for indoor games, or meetings requiring more open space than our small (chair-filled) chapel can offer. Currently our indoor spaces are limited to the cabins, dining hall, and chapel.

**Outdoor Shelter:** We would add a basic covered picnic area. This would protect groups from sun and rain, while still allowing them to enjoy the nature of the camp.

**Wooded Area:** We would like to develop one or two more trails for hiking, and add some nature activities or adventure elements to the wooded area. For example, a guided nature walk, big swing, low-ropes challenge course, or a climbing tower. We would also like to add one solitary cabin in the woods for one or two people to be able to have a personal quiet retreat in nature, away from the rest of the camp.

**Fields:** We would add a playground area somewhere on the edge of our playfields. Our other projects include landscaping the borders of the fields to hide the highway guard rails, and removing many invasive plants (scotch broom and spurge laurel).

**Beach:** If possible we would add a dock area to be used for recreational purposes on our beach. We would also move our fire-pit circle up (into an area with mostly low brush and no trees) and away from the flat area of the beach it currently sits on, and build in seating. Our current fire-pit is flooded at high tide during the winter at times and benches are moved and broken by logs washing up on the beach.

**Pedestrian Areas:** We would like to turn roads that run through the center of camp into pedestrian areas, and limit car traffic to the outer areas of the camp. With better planning of our cabins and facilities this would be possible.

**Parking:** We would also like to move our parking to parking areas outside of the central camp. As it is, it is scattered throughout the camp, and creates a lot of unnecessary car traffic.





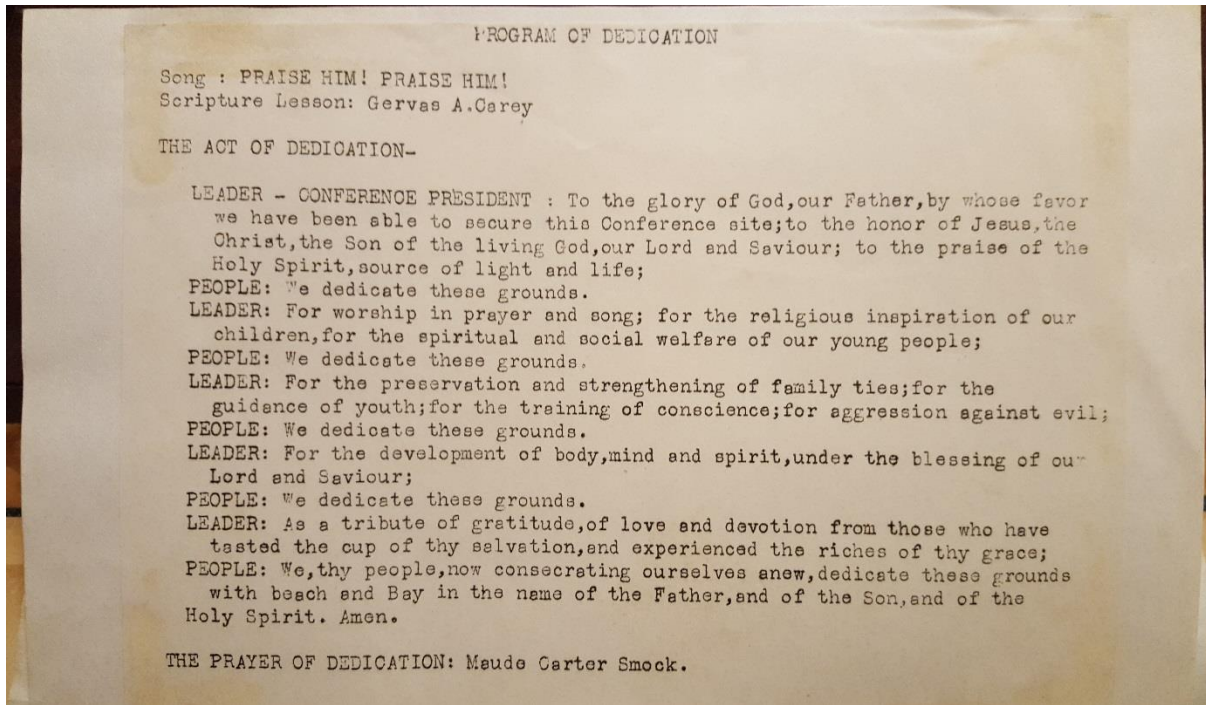


Figure 2: A bulletin (back) from the first Conference held at Quaker Cove, June 20-23, 1930 – North West Young Friends Conference Cruise. This is the dedication of the land as a conference site, listing several purposes and uses. This record is currently held by Quaker Cove.

**FINANCIAL REPORT OF CAMPS**  
 July 1, 1854 to June 30, 1955

Name of Camps and Directors	Quaker Cove (Thelma Green)	Quaker Hill Adult Camp (Orat Fish)	Quaker Hill Boys' Camp (Sheila Newkirk)	Quaker Hill Girls' Camp (Laura Shook)	Quaker Hill Youth Camp (Clare Wilcox)	Sawahinis Conference (Clyton Corman)	Twin Rocks Conference (Charles A. Beale)	Twin Rocks Boys' Camp and Girls' Camp	Twin Lakes Conference	Wauna Mer Conference (Howard Harmon)	Wauna Mer Junior Camp (Dorothy Stephens)	Grand Totals
<b>RECEIPTS</b>												
From Board, Registration, Sales, Etc.	\$209.55	\$128.70	\$829.30	\$856.23	\$760.95	\$504.68	\$1,939.34	\$2,346.49	\$115.40	\$629.26	\$434.97	\$8,754.87
From Gifts and Offerings	43.62	-----	-----	18.00	67.68	77.07	1,739.64	-----	-----	131.98	6.51	2,084.56
Rental of Grounds	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	688.50	-----	-----	-----	-----	688.50
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>\$253.17</b>	<b>\$128.70</b>	<b>\$829.30</b>	<b>\$874.23</b>	<b>\$828.63</b>	<b>\$581.75</b>	<b>\$4,367.48</b>	<b>\$2,346.49</b>	<b>\$115.40</b>	<b>\$761.24</b>	<b>\$441.54</b>	<b>\$10,946.18</b>
<b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>												
For all Conference or Camp Expense	\$214.30	\$4,720.00	\$-----	-----	-----	\$467.01	\$2,304.70	\$2,187.84	\$81.85	\$638.09	\$223.24	\$11,071.28
Caretaker's Salary	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	1,200.00	-----	-----	-----	-----	1,200.00
Property Improvements	-----	1,444.92	-----	-----	-----	-----	1,171.51	461.97	-----	127.68	-----	3,206.08
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>\$214.30</b>	<b>\$4,720.00</b>	<b>\$-----</b>	<b>\$-----</b>	<b>\$-----</b>	<b>\$467.01</b>	<b>\$4,676.21</b>	<b>\$2,649.81</b>	<b>\$81.85</b>	<b>\$765.77</b>	<b>\$223.24</b>	<b>\$13,798.19</b>
Estimated Valuation of Property	-----	\$31,000.00	-----	-----	-----	\$1,500.00	\$50,000.00	\$-----	-----	\$15,000.00	-----	\$97,500.00

Figure 3: From the "Oregon Yearly Meeting of Friends, Minutes, 1955" A chart showing Quaker Cove listed with the other camps under Oregon Yearly Meeting, along with the common uses of the camps (rentals, donations, and camps for adults, children, and youth.) This was the only year this chart was included in the Oregon Yearly Meeting Minutes. Minutes are archived at George Fox University.