



# Seldovia Gazette

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Thursday, June 22, 2006

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## 2 Cents Worth:

### What were your thoughts on the Summer Solstice Music Festival?



"So glad it is over!!!!...and that it was so successful and fun. The people we had staying with us, we really had fun with them, especially the baby. "

Mary Webber



"I was impressed with the lighting and the sound quality. It was so much better."

Jeff Snedgen



"I was really appreciative about all the Homer people who came over and we really enjoyed their company. "

Helen Josefsen



"I really liked Ann Pence, she was special!... Rick Brooks was screaming... Looking forward to next year! "

Gerry Willard

## Letters to the Editor

### Wow!! What a great festival!

There are just no words that can really convey my many thanks to the dedicated folks who did so much to make the 2006 Seldovia Summer Solstice Festival a huge success. To the core festival volunteers including Susan Zerwick, assistant Director, to the dedicated members of the Seldovia Arts Council Board of Directors, to the stage managers and tech crew, to the over 50 visiting musicians, to the homeowners and bed and breakfasts who housed festival participants, to the folks who provided food and transportation, to the media folks who did such incredible work promoting the festival and making the programs and websites and all of the businesses and individuals who provided sponsorship for the event, I say, "Wow and wow again!!". You are all tops!!!! Standing room only crowds are certainly a great measure of success for the head, but the smiles on people's faces and the joy expressed by all, uplifts the heart. Thank you all for lending you hearts and hands to this wonderful time.

Sincerely,

**Susan Mumma**

Seldovia Summer Solstice Music Festival Director  
Seldovia Arts Council

### A Letter to the Editor of the Seldovia Gazette

Okay, so the Internet World can check out Seldovia's Harbor (boat traffic?) Okay, so the Internet World can check out Seldovia's City Dock (Ferry traffic?). Okay, so the Internet World can check out Seldovia's Airport (weather?). NOW, the Internet World can see Seldovia's Bridge! (why?) Would you like the world to watch you when you are fishing? Forgive me if I am wrong, but I thought the idea of recreating, or fishing, was to get away from it all. Webcam's are an invasion of privacy. MOST people who choose to live or come visit Seldovia like it here, because of the isolation, the privacy, the small crowds, they don't want the the World knowing what they are doing. I am curious how you would like it if there was a 24 hour webcam aimed at your home and the Internet World could see who comes and goes and when? . What gives you the right to place a 24 hour camera anywhere in Seldovia that YOU feel people would like to see. What if people don't like being watched 24-7 ?! I say, enough is enough. The webcam "looking" at the Bridge should be removed. Thank you.

Signed,

**Mary Klinger**

A concerned Seldovian that enjoys privacy.

*[Editor Note: a response to this letter is included below]*

### Response from the Editors to Mary Klinger and the rest of the Seldovia community

Photographers and webcams will sometimes raise privacy concerns and we [the owners and editors of seldovia.com and seldoviagazette.com] would like to take this opportunity to explain our policies in those areas.

1. Photographs: our policy is to normally not display photos of an individual(s) if they ask us not to. We will not display photos that will embarrass or hurt people and we will, in most cases, remove the photo of a person if they ask us to . . . with or without a reason. An exception to this is a crowd shot in which the individual is not the primary subject, but even in that case, we will try to blur or crop out the individuals face if requested to do so.

2. WebCams: WebCams that can be viewed on seldovia.com will only be setup in public locations, unless we have obtained permission to do so on private property. In the case of our South Airport WebCam, it also happens to include a view of a private home in the foreground. We asked the owners if they objected to this when we initially set up the webcam and they said no problem (by the way, in the winter time, we happen to know that

5. Webcam locations: "What gives you the right to place a 24 hour camera anywhere in Seldovia that YOU feel people would like to see" Locations aren't based on something we just pulled out of the air, it's based on the number of people who ask for something. Although, the BridgeCam does not belong to us, we get emails from people all the time asking us to put one up at that location and we're glad to see one finally did. There are almost 1,000 people a day that visit seldovia.com and a huge percentage of those people are moms, dads, brothers, sisters, grandparents, husbands, wives, ex-spouses and friends who love Seldovia and can't live or visit here for what ever the reason . . . for some of those people, it is their only link with a place and people they love and can't be here to see. If you're laughing and don't believe that, think again. We get literally hundreds of emails every year from those people expressing their gratitude for that very reason. Once the kids figure out the BridgeCam is there, they will be setting times for their grandparents to view the webcam so they can go stand at the corner of the bridge and hold up the king they just caught.

We have not heard any objections to the HarborCam and AirportCam, but if there are objections . . . too bad. Boat and airplane owners are overwhelmingly in favor of these webcams because they allow them to check their property regularly and the

their friends look at the webcam to see if smoke is coming out the chimney so they don't call too early!!!)

3. Seldovia.com does not own and operate all of the webcams in Seldovia. Specifically, the CityDockCam is owned and operated by the City of Seldovia and the Bridge Cam is owned and operated by the Bridgekeeper Inn. Seldovia.com simply chooses to display their images on our website. The HarborCam2 (to be installed in June or July) is owned and operated by Herring Bay Mercantile. The only webcams owned by seldovia.com are the AirportCam, SouthAirportCam, and HarborCam1. Are we glad these individuals put up their webcams, you bet we are and we hope there will be a few others show up in the future.

4. "Invasion of Privacy" with the BridgeCam appears to be Ms. Klinger's primary complaint and our response is very simple . . . "you've got to be kidding." This webcam shoots an image of an Alaska State road, on an Alaska State bridge in one of the most public places in Seldovia! There are dozens of people shooting photos of fish and people on and under the bridge every day of the week. If folks are worried about the webcam catching them breaking the law by taking too many kings, I suggest you re-think whether they should be breaking the law plus it's not a webcam they need to worry about, it's the undercover Fish and Game agents that work Seldovia and the Bridge all the time. Ms. Klinger asks "What gives you the right to put up a webcam?" The response is easy . . . what gives her the right to tell anyone that they can't put up a webcam that views a public location? You want "privacy" . . . don't go to public places.

webcams cut down on theft and vandalism. From January 1 to April 1 of this year, the HarborCam was viewed over 176,000 times . . . I don't think those were all tourists looking at our harbor. The new CityDockCam was paid for by a small safety and security grant. The reason insurance companies and law enforcement agencies help sponsor grants for this type of equipment is that they know for a fact that this type of equipment cuts down on theft, vandalism, and illegal use of equipment as well as increasing basic security at the dock. The CityDockCam also allows the Seldovia Fuel and Hardware employees to see boats tied up at the fuel dock . . . not all boats have radios to call in for fuel.

"Change" upsets people sometimes but you can choose to look at change in either a positive way or a negative way. It's impossible to make everyone happy when something new comes along or something is changed **but that is not a good reason to do nothing**. When we moved to Seldovia 10 years ago, we made a conscious decision to do everything we could to help this town survive, to be good neighbors and to be people who make a positive difference in this community. We're not perfect by any means and we never will be, but we are not afraid to take chances with something new and we work hard at learning from our mistakes.

We think webcams in public places provide a whole lot more benefit than they take away.

**Tom & Mary Glover**  
*Owners, seldovia.com and seldoviagazette.com*

(PS: we plan to setup an underwater webcam in the harbor next summer . . . maybe we'll all get to watch the king and silver salmon runs come through the harbor!)



**Special Interest Forum: From time to time, topics of discussion will come up that are not a good fit for the Letters to the Editor section . . . usually due to things like the length of the letters or the need to post responses sooner than once a week on Thursday. Click the "Forum" button to enter this section. If you have a topic that you would like started, please let us know.**

**Last topic: [Creation vs. Evolution](#)**

The Seldovia Gazette values freedom of speech. We welcome original, insightful letters from our readers on issues that are of concern to them. However, due to space considerations, please limit letters to 300 words. We also reserve the right to edit all letters for clarity, grammar, and taste. Letters must be signed and submitted by Tuesday at 5 pm in order to be printed in that week's press. We accept letters submitted by one of three ways: by email at [tomg@seldovia.com](mailto:tomg@seldovia.com) or [maryg@seldovia.com](mailto:maryg@seldovia.com), by fax at 907-234-7526, or by mail at Seldovia Gazette, P.O. Box 97, Seldovia, Alaska 99663.

