

# Grass Roots Garbage Gang Beach Cleanup

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# What is the Grass Roots Garbage Gang?

## WHO

- VERY grassroots, people from all means and all walks of life
- All-volunteer
- Passionate about our beach
- Busy but committed people

## WHAT

- Organize community beach cleanup every Jan, April & July
- Collaboratively play steward to 28 miles of beach on Long Beach Peninsula
- Recognize & support routine self cleaning for regular beach-goers
- Encourage ALL beachgoers to pitch in and pick up
- Discourage beach littering
- Take every opportunity to educate about litter and its impact, especially plastic

## BRIEF HISTORY

- Began in 2001 with a handful of volunteers cleaning just 3 miles of beach
- Pacific County immediate support with bags, picker uppers and dumpster
- City of Long Beach soon made available a dumpster as well

# What's our Circumstance?

First, we are a geographical 'sitting duck':

- Columbia River flows west
- Ocean currents flow north
- Ocean currents occasionally brings in the Garbage Patch

## Multiuse beach

- Major fishing, crabbing,
- Shipping; freighters
- Vehicles allowed
- Major tourist attraction: the beach
- 4<sup>th</sup> of July free-for-all

# What's the Problem?



GARBAGE !!!



# North Pacific Gyre

## *"Great Pacific Garbage Patch"*

In each of our lifetimes,  
we produce ...

4 acres ~ 60 tons of garbage

**U.S.**

- 15,344 plastic bottles
- 18,306 plastic bags - 25 minutes
- 411 trees per person
- 26,480 aluminum cans
- American toss enough aluminum cans in 3 months to rebuild our entire fleet of planes
- US produces enough plastic each year to shrink wrap Texas
- The N Pacific Patch is said to be 2 times the size of Texas, 90 feet deep, holding more than 3 million tons of debris.
- Plastic, 1000 year to decompose

[Video Clip](#)

# What's the Volume & Types?

## Types & Volume of Garbage

1 person, 1 mile, 'on foot' collection in 3 hours on 2/17/02 in Ocean Park, WA



Large Picasso in Plastic 7'x 7'



Small Picasso in Plastic 3'x 2 1/2'

ge planter, 5 gal bucket marked "Mobile", 2 5 gal bucket lids, 2 4' long 3" piping, 3/4 Frisbee, large ship grid/lid, 13 firework parts, 67 bottle/can caps, 2 corks, 2 toothbrushes, umbrella dle, 5 small cargo hole lid, large rectangular container, 1 1/2 small planters, 4 beach clam buckets, 8 large pieces >8", 4 ship light ship light covers, 4 small grid pieces, 24 food tainers/parts/lids, drinking glass, 21 covers, 6 large food containers, 3 large food container lids, 8"x2" plastic wheel, 2 melted plastic composites, spool medicine bottles, liquor bottle, 2 dorant sticks, 3 lights, 9 handles/parts of handles, 7 grids/racks & pieces, large bucket handle, folded sheeting, black filter, small mat, 2 pieces 16' round red ball float, 14 broken off tle necks and 174 small, unidentified plastic pieces, caulking container, 5' gutter piece, 14' plastic pipe, 2 large pieces plastic lids & 1 large lid, 16 float pieces, 6 10 1/2" tubing, angular bottle, 47 water/juice bottles, 16 plastic strapping sections & a few small caps for decoration.



Capped 67 plastic bottle/can caps



Marketing 74 plastic labels/wrappers & pieces



Water Bottle Tower (47)

: 14 1/4 glass bottles, 1 fluorescent glass bulb, 2 incandescent glass bulbs, 21 whole plastic bags, 75 plastic bag pieces, 13 aluminum beer cans, small rubber mat, 1 men shoe, broom m, 3 sandals, large styrofoam pieces, paraffin wax slab, propane gas can & 9 more float pieces.

**Total Litter Collection in Volume = 796 pieces, large and small.**

# What's the Impact?



95% Fulmar carcasses averaged 44 pieces of plastic. That'd be equivalent to 5 pounds in a human.



# What's our local Solution?



# Beach Cleanup Statistics

01.19.02	12 volunteers	840 lbs
04.06.02	36 volunteers	1,890 lbs
07.07.02	150 volunteers	4 tons
01.18.03	100 volunteers	1 ton
04.25.03	200 volunteers	4 tons
07.06.03	300 volunteers	6 tons
01.23.04	130 volunteers	3 tons
04.25.04	150 volunteers	4 tons
07.05.04	400 volunteers	8 tons
01.15.05	100 volunteers	3 tons
04.23.05	150 volunteers	2.5 tons
07.05.05	200 volunteers	7.5 tons
01.21.06	150 volunteers	5 tons
04.22.06	250 volunteers	4 tons
07.05.06	350 volunteers	4.5 tons
01.13.07	135 volunteers	3.0 tons
04.21.07	150 volunteers	3.25 tons
07.05.07	500 volunteers	10 tons
01.26.08	200 volunteers	2 tons
04.26.08	300 volunteers	2.8 tons

2002 = 7 tons	2005 = 13 tons
2003 = 11 tons	2006 = 13.5 tons
2004 = 15 tons	2007 = 16.5 tons



# Adopt-a-Beach Groups

- **Seaview Approach:** IHS National Honor Society, Ilwaco-Long Beach Kiwanis, The Frost Family
- **Bolstad Approach:** Peninsula Rotary, Charter Communications, Pacific Realty, Friends of Willapa NWR
- **Cranberry Road Approach:** Dave n' Carolyn Cook & Family, Shoalwater Birders, The Schroeders & Lorentes, The Magnusons
- **Klipsan Beach Approach:** Hi Hopes!, Sporseen & Friends, Logan's, Lary & Neighbors, Moens and Robergs, Grover's, Grey and Friends
- **Ocean Park Approach:** N. Ocean Park Neighbors, Charlton~West Family & Friends, Okie's Sentry Supermarket, Joe Johns Neighbors, Kennedy's
- **Oysterville Approach:** Surfside Home Owners Assoc, The Wheatons, Linda Logan & Bruce Rathbun, The Lewis's and Friends
- **WE NEED MORE ADOPT-A-BEACH GROUPS**, 8 more in January, and countless walk-ins to help keep the debris off our beach

# Some of our Volunteers!

Abild Brake Cook Fisher Hash Jones Mack Neva Robinson Smith  
 Adamski Brassard Cook Fleck Haskin Jones Mack Nicely Roe Smith  
 Vinzant



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Heckes Kanehl  
 Hedge Karch



Olson Sanders Stevens  
 Olsson Sandige



Baker Sampson Dennis Sorenberg  
 Williams  
 Bales Carson Denzinger Goldfeder  
 Hughes Lang Meisner Pederson Schneider Straub

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# Current GRGG Yearly Events

- 3 Community Beach Cleanups

January, April & July 5th

Includes: Friday pot luck/speaker

Sat morn cleanup

Sat noon volunteer soup fed

- Ocean Park's Old Fashioned 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade
- 42<sup>nd</sup> Street Café October 'Community Night'

# HOW We Do It....

## Community Beach Cleanup consists of Advance Coordination:

- **Advance Communication of Dates** (up to a year), work around other activities (clamming)
- **Web Site** ([www.ourbeach.org](http://www.ourbeach.org))
- **Advance Coordination of Cleanup**
  - Securing supplies (good collection bags, signs, picker uppers)
  - Actively promote adopt a section of beach by adopt-a-beach groups
  - Adopt a beach group leaders canvasses for commitment from its members
  - Confirming beach approach coordinators availability & supply needs
  - Confirm dumpsters, trucks, haulers
- **Weeks/Days before - Media coverage of all Cleanups**
  - Newspaper Articles, Radio announcements, Funbeach.com, Community calendars
  - Reader board postings
  - Newsletter posted on web site and emailed to community
  - Community bulletin board/store window postings/banner across main street in Long Beach
  - E-mails
- **Logistics for Potluck dinner the evening before the Cleanup**
  - Sr. Activity Center requested one year in advance
  - Guest speakers invited
  - Communications via emails, newsletters and community calendars
- **Logistics for Cleanup Day Thank You Volunteer Soup Feed**
  - Sr. Activity Center requested one year in advance
  - Food, supplies committed (businesses, individuals)
  - Identify volunteers to serve, greet newcomers, cleanup crew

# HOW We Do It....

## Community Beach Cleanup consists of:

- Beach Cleanup Work Effort (9:30 am to apx Noon)  
Consisting of:
  - Adopt a beach groups stewarding own beach section
  - Beach approach coordinators cover beach approaches  
to greet/direct 'walk-ons'
  - Haulers collect ALL bagged garbage
  - All debris hauled to dumpsters

# Some of our Supporters!



Peninsula PSC  
Senior Center

Southwest Pacific County  
Peninsula Rotary Club



Long Beach Coffee  
Roasters



*Pacific County Department of Community Development*



COUNTRY STORE OCEAN PARK, WASHINGTON

# Our Fear - Sustainability - "Long Term"

## For GRGG:

### Volunteer Resources

- People, staying committed.
- Replacement bodies and skills as volunteers 'come and go'.

## For a Clean Beach:

### Pure Funding of

- Daily dump locations
- Event DUMP charges
- GREAT collection bags
- Picker Uppers
- Signs/banners
- Vests
- Printing Costs
- Beach-approach garbage receptacles/ ongoing maintenance.

# We Need Our Community

We need our community resources to join us...

- commerce (both individual businesses and commerce groups)
- community service groups (both adult and children)
- all levels of governments and governmental agencies
- and educational groups

Help clean the beach - Allocation of funds - Spread the word

The obvious benefit is a more beautiful beach, but the more serious benefit is a healthier marine ecosystem that effects all of us. In an area that relies heavily on fisheries and tourism, these are big benefits.



# Next Beach Cleanup

**Saturday July 5th**

**Grab your friends, co-workers  
and family & join in !!!**