

2003 News

7 Feb

Richard Beal of GCI Injured -- Friday morning (7 Feb.) Richard Beal slipped on the steps of the Community Center and broke his leg in two places, above and below the knee. He called Renna Colby at the store and told her he was lying around in a snowbank. She thought he was kidding around and hung up... He then called back and begged her not to hang up again, as it was serious. They then got the ambulance rolling. He won't return to the island until Monday afternoon. He is having to give the sheep away to anyone who wants them. ... He will probably have a hip cast on for a long time. [*text courtesy of Phil Whitney*]

15 May

Manset Ribbon Cutting Ceremony celebrates completion of the first phase of the **Cranberry Connector** Parking and Docking Facility at Manset.

15 May

Captain Steve Pagels starts seasonal service of the Cranberry Cove Boating Company, offering ferries between Southwest Harbor, Manset, and the Cranberry Isles.

29 May

New GCI Medical Emergency Numbers -- Lorraine Bracy informs me that "911" now works for the island, and that both she and Ed Horvath (Great Cranberry Island's EMTs) have new cell phone numbers. *Please write these new numbers immediately onto all places where you keep these numbers handy.*

1 June

GCI Library Wins Grant for Fourth Internet Access Computer from MBNA -- Librarian Ruth Westphal announces the installation of the library's fourth public access internet computer, to replace the one that failed early last year. This should set us in good stead for the upcoming busy summer season.

20 June

GCI Library Chosen to Participate in Walk-In Wireless Internet Project -- Great Cranberry Library was chosen as one of only 40 libraries in Maine to participate in an experimental Walk-In Wireless Information Access project, according to a Maine State Library announcement today. The project was funded by \$120,000 from the Maine Public Utilities Commission.

Our selection means we will be granted a wireless access base station, a laptop computer with a wireless interface card, and several additional wireless interface cards for use with library and/or patron computers. Support documentation and training will also be provided.

In our application to join the project, we stressed the great need for good internet access on this island, due to our poor telephone connectivity, with most houses connecting at only half the usual rate of 56 kilobaud, and some houses completely unable to connect at all.

Our application proposed to use the wireless technology as a way to allow laptop computer users to access the internet and e-mail using their own computers. This would work both inside the library during normal opening hours, and outside the library while it is closed.

The technology used in this wireless implementation, however, will not cover the whole island. Only computers within a radius of about 200 feet from the library will be able to use the wireless connection.

16 July

Better Service on Cranberry Connector Ferry - Captain Steve Pagels adds four additional boat runs to the Southwest Harbor-Manset-Cranberry Isles summer loop. The new boats leave the SWH Upper Town Dock at 10 a.m., 12 noon, 2 p.m., and 7 p.m. (Monday through Friday only.) See the new schedule for a complete list of all boats.