

'Not much trash' at That Beach

Today's News-Herald

By JAYNE HANSON

Tuesday, June 5, 2012 10:06 PM MST

About eight volunteers joined Lake Havasu City Councilman Dean Barlow for a trash cleanup effort Tuesday centering on That Beach, a public stretch of shore situated along the northwester portion of the Island.

The crew disembarked Lake Havasu State Park's Windsor Four dock on two separate barge-type boats to attack and haul trash from the waterfront. At least four volunteers, including Barlow, were surprised at what they found there.

"It's not that bad, it's a pretty clean area," said Chuck Guibord, of the local Havasu 4 Wheelers club.

Another volunteer agreed. "It was so much worse before," said Ellen Albert, of Marine Corps League Auxiliary. Albert has helped Dean out in years past.

That Beach recently became an issue of discussion among city officials and London Bridge Yacht Club leaders, who were in charge of replenishing the trash bags for the dozen or so Lake Havasu City Marine Association "Pack it In, Pack it Out" trash bag posts positioned there.

Yacht Club Commodore Bill Horton and his volunteers were becoming overwhelmed last month when they reported picking up 100 bags of trash from the area within a two-week time period.

After the discussions, Lake Havasu City Police Department land- and water-based police officers increased a presence at That Beach, and Barlow stepped in.

Barlow said his history spans a decade cleaning That Beach but that its recent cleanliness needs to be credited to the London Bridge Yacht Clubs efforts over the past three or more years.

"It's tiresome to see all that stuff again, and again, and again," Barlow said. "It wears a volunteer out." Barlow said he is set to clean the beach area three times yearly, after each of the holiday weekends.

London Bridge Yacht Club Commodore Bill Horton said he will continue to replace the bags on the posts. Discussion between the two parties is in the works, Horton said. "What surprised me was the lack of trash after the (Memorial Day) weekend," Horton said. "We went down to check the bags (May 29) and I was absolutely taken aback ... I thought Dean's group had already been through there and I had just missed the boat." Horton said the community is responding and he was blown away with the relatively good condition of That Beach. "It looked like a winter month," he said.

On Tuesday, volunteers pulled 40 bags of trash and other items including a broken collapsible lawn chair, mattress springs, pallets, board, and carpet.

"All in all, it's not nearly as much as we've taken off That Beach in the past," Barlow said. "And we attribute that to police presence and the efforts of London Bridge Yacht Club."

Sgt. Joe Harrold, spokesman for the local police department, said the department plans to continue patrol of that area as regularly as possible on weekends, during the week, and on regular summer weekends.

Jim Salscheider, executive director of Lake Havasu Marine Association, didn't immediately return phone calls Tuesday.

You may contact the reporter at jhanson@havasunews.com.



From left, **Chuck Guibord** and Lake Havasu City Councilman Dean Barlow work together to clean up an area of trash from That Beach on the Island Tuesday morning during a scheduled beach clean-up effort. Jayne Hanson/News-Herald Photo