

Seattle Mariners Women's Club Newsletter

January, 2026



Important SMWC Upcoming Dates

- Dave Valle Golf Tournament Monday, June 29 The Club at Snoqualmie Ridge
- Washington State Fair Thursday-Saturday, September 10-12 Puyallup

Presidents' Pitch



The New Year has sprung on us so quickly. The hustle and bustle of the holidays are behind us

and if you are like we are, our thoughts are turning to spring training and opening day!

But first want to give a huge shout out to everyone who made our Holiday fundraiser a HUGE success...you all did an amazing job! A special thank you goes to our holiday auction lead, and the one who pulls everything together for this event - Linda Stephens! According to her, it was our most successful auction yet! Please note the pictures and songs included in this newsletter. We honored Rick Rizzs for his 40 years of service to the Mariners and according to his facial expressions, we really did surprise him. Thanks to each of you for keeping it a secret!

As opening day approaches, we will soon be posting our annual predictions—note categories and when they must be submitted by. For now, just be dreaming of what might be!!!

At our general meeting on January 10th, we had the pleasure of having Rick Rizzs as our guest speaker. As always, he had so much to share! At the same meeting, we thanked our 2 outgoing board members: Sue Lassman (secretary) and Dawn Reiger (VP) and welcomed our new board members: Nancy Yee (secretary) and Sheri Salo and Mary Rae Cowles (Co-VP).

There will be many opportunities to volunteer this year!! Get involved...you will be glad you did!

GO MARINERS!

Sharon and Diana, co-presidents

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SMWC Holiday Party Songs

SALUTE TO A BROADCASTER, (TO THE TUNE OF 'SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO TOWN')

CHORUS:

*He's one of the best, best that there is. He's one of our own, Broadcaster Rick Rizzs
And we love to hear him call the games!*

*From Chicago's South Side to up in the booth
He's a fan of the game, that's the absolute truth
And we love to hear him call the games!*

*We hear him on the radio, we see him on TV
We sense his tone of urgency as he calls a great DP!*

(CHORUS)

*Oh, He's handsome and short, Italian by birth
He makes baseball alive for all that its worth
And we love to hear him call the games!
He's generous and giving, he really is good folk
We love his "Goodbye Baseball!" and his trademark "Holy Smoke!"*

(CHORUS)

*Oh its been forty years on our radios
We can't get enough of his of his audio
And we love to hear him call the games!
He's good to all who know him, so positive and kind
We want him in the Hall of Fame and his career to be defined!*

(CHORUS)

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SMWC Holiday Party Songs

ODE TO THE BBWAA

(to the tune of 'O Little Town of Bethlehem')

Oh Baseball Writers of Amer-i-ca
How could you be so blind?
Why couldn't you budge off Aaron Judge
And chose the "Great Behind"?
Why couldn't you see his value,
on of-fence and de-fence?
He took his team to heights unseen!
How could you be so dense?

A WORLD SERIES DREAM

(Tune: 'I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas')

I was dreaming of a World Series
We came so close to it this year.
To the Championship last game
We're up by two runs
Then George Springer hits a dinger
So I'm dreaming of a World Series
In twenty twenty six for sure
We'll have more experience by then,
So we'll just have to wait another year.

THE CONUNDRUM

(to the tune of 'Joy to the World')

What a conundrum Josh Naylor is!
I'm glad he's on our team!
You'd think he'd have an accent
But he's really just Canadian.
His focus is laser beam! His English is supreme.
I'm glad, I'm glad he's on our team!
What a conundrum Josh Naylor is!
I'm glad he's on our team!
He looks unfit to run but steals a base with ease!
He plays with such extreme!
His base running is a scream!
I'm glad, I'm glad he's on our team!
What a conundrum Josh Naylor is!
I'm glad he's on our team!
He plays like a junk yard dog but Tucker loves him so
Holds him in high esteem
He's Tuckers friend full steam
I'm glad, I'm glad he's on our team!
What a conundrum Josh Naylor is!
I'm glad he's on our team!
On the field he is such a brute!
But when he smiles he's really cute!
Those pearly white agleam!
Those curls are such a dream!
And I'm glad, so glad he chose our team!

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SMWC Holiday Party Songs

THE ICHIRO SONG

(To the tune of 'Jingle Bells')

CHORUS: Ichiro! Ichiro!

Your greatness reaches far

Considering your accomplishments you really were a star.

Ichiro, Ichiro

How could we'd ever known

This skinny kid from far Japan would stand out all alone.

You won 10 golden gloves, a first year MVP

Speed that was unheard of, a hit was guaranteed

The Star Wars throw to third - Incredibly absurd!

You threw out Terrence Long that night, respect you did incur.

(CHORUS)

Rookie of the year, an All Star many times

It was very clear that you were in your prime

There was naught you couldn't do. You broke George Sissler's streak

You hit Two hundred sixty two. You really were unique.

(CHORUS)

Your English it was good, although we rarely heard

We know you understood each and every word

Your fashion style unique. You were a major trend

And now you're in the Hall Of Fame. We love you without end.

(CHORUS)

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FanFest Birthday Greetings to:

Rosie Hardy	01/07
Michelle Sanders	01/12
Carl Johnson	01/12
Stacy White	01/19
Galen Mickelsen	01/21
Rebecca Miner	01/27
Megan Brown	01/31
Mike Rieger	02/03
Tiger Budbill	02/11
Jerry VanWyck	02/13
Tina Villa	02/14
Dawn Rieger	02/17
Randy Stearnes	02/22
Amy Ridgeway	02/23
Carolyn Stroeve	03/05
Al Nance	03/11
Kathryn Jackson	03/12
Dorothy Faucher	03/15

Note: if your birthday is not listed, or is incorrect, please let us know, at SMWClub@Gmail.Com

Holiday Party Thank You

Thank you to everyone, and there were so many of you, who helped to make our 2025 SMWC Holiday Party such a success!

So many of you stepped up to help and your support is much appreciated! Among those who did so much: Lyla Smith, Sheryl Johnson, Phyllis Kanda, Jennie Fike-Keith, Julie Hurwitz, Shannon Bible, Megan Brown, Al Nance, Stacy White, Nancy and Rob Yee, Marie and John Jackson, Deborah and Ruben Bocanegra, Elisa Thomases, Steve Smith, Bernadette Rossman, Sig Hamilton, Joni Brand, Kathryn Jackson, Laura Rotegard, Mike Rieger, Ada and Harv Hawks, Kelly Arnold, Diana Flett, Kristin and Bill Helgeson, Kathy Hope, Angela Hultz, B.J. Hultz, Amy Ridgeway, Annette Lowen, Carolyn Stroeve, Danyel Bruemmer, Tina Villa, Rebecca Miner, Sarah and Derek Fike, and my grandson, Keegan Fike!

Special thanks to all the members of the Board who contributed in so many ways: Mary Kay Rossman, Sue Lassman, Dawn Rieger, Sharon Abra, Diana Gentz, Sheri Salo, and Mary Rae Cowles. We could never have pulled this all off without my "partners in crime:" Ellen Duernberger and Brenda Donner.

Another special thanks to the Nance Family who gave us an extremely generous cash donation in honor of their late dear mother, Mary Nance, one of our original founding members.

And finally, more thanks than we could ever express to our dear Rick Rizzs! He has been there for SMWC, all its members, and all the goals and opportunities we have been able to achieve for more than 40 years!

Linda Stephens and Ellen Duernberger, SMWC Holiday Party Co-Chairs

PS Please forgive me if I forgot to mention anyone who contributed; I am getting old, you know!

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Holiday Party Photos *(courtesy of Steve Smith)*



Debut of the exciting new game, sure to sweep America: Rizzsingo!



Generous members and guests donated 665 pairs of socks, 7 baby blankets, and 7 pairs of gloves for Mary's Place! Thank you to Stacy and Chris White, who delivered them in time for Christmas.



Dawn Rieger and Al Nance checking in guests



Rick had a decoy invitation, unaware of the true theme until Marilyn gave him this real invitation at the holiday party



Nancy Yee gifted Rick his own personalized jersey



Some incredible auction and raffle items

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Holiday Party Photos *(courtesy of Steve Smith)*



Rick Rizzs and photographer Steve Smith, who donates his time and expertise to our holiday party each year



Chris White with his bidding paddle. Rick auctioned it off, after autographing it!

Nancy Henderson with her Rizzsingos cards, while Marilyn Niehaus holds a Cheetos bag clue



Annette Lowen and Brenda Donner presenting Randy Stearnes' stories from when he worked with Rick



Diana Gentz leading guests in our holiday songs; there seems to be a new lead singer (in green)!



Marilyn Niehaus and Greta Niehaus sharing stories of both Rick and the late, great Dave Niehaus

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Support the Seattle Mariners Women's Club!

Order from <https://www.bonfire.com/smwclub/>



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Seattle Mariners Women's Club 2026 Membership Application/Renewal

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

BEST CONTACT TELEPHONE _____

DATE OF BIRTH (MONTH/DAY) _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

Please designate if you would like to have either your email _____ or telephone _____ published in Roster

NEW! HOUSEHOLD MEMBERSHIP (must reside at same address) dues \$10.

YEARLY DUES FIRST Member \$15.00 _____

HOUSEHOLD DUES (add'l member) \$10.00 _____

DONATION TO SCHOLARSHIP FUND: _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____

Make check payable to: **SMWC**, and mail to:

Dawn Rieger
3710 S 268th St
Kent, WA 98032

Questions? Please contact:
Dawn Rieger, 206-229-7550
horsemomrieger@yahoo.com

Your dues and scholarship donations are tax deductible; SMWC is a 501(c)(3) organization

Household Member Information:

Name _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Birthday _____

Please circle preferred roster listing: email or phone