

5 May 2011

Dear Mayor Brean and Members of the City Council,



The Yachats Fireworks Committee notice was received this past week asking for “contributions to make the Yachats Fourth of July fireworks display the spectacular event we look forward to every year.”

As I have stated and explained at some length to you, Mayor Brean, and to you, Greg Scott, I think the Fourth of July should be more than a “spectacular event,” especially given the fact that--if I remember the percentage correctly as reported on PBS last year--40% of Americans have not a clue that the 4<sup>th</sup> is a celebration of the Declaration of Independence, and in fact, know nothing of the document.

I think it high time that the Declaration of Independence be read (with megaphone or whatever other device might be used to broadcast its reading) before the “spectacular event,” to the end that people become cognizant of the meaning of the holiday--of their own history and of why the Fourth of July is celebrated--not to mention what it means to be oppressed and what it means to rise up in reasoned protest against oppression.

Granted, the Declaration is long, perhaps too long to be read in its entirety, in which case the “Facts” grounding the charge of “Injuries” and “Usurpations” by the then “King of Great Britain” might be cut or abbreviated. I would be happy to submit such an abbreviated document to the City Council for its approval.

I furthermore understand that you, Mayor Brean, will not be here in Yachats on the 4<sup>th</sup>. I hope that a Council Member might volunteer to read the Declaration. If no member wants to do so, I will gladly try to find someone in Yachats who will read it.

Cheers,  
Maxine Sheets-Johnstone