



Simonton Says...

Simonton Lake Area Homeowners' Association, Inc. Newsletter, Elkhart, Indiana

February 2009

Volume 2, Issue 1

www.simontonlake.org

Special Points of Interest

- Memorial Day 2009 Boat Parade
- Johnny Prugh Offers Memories
- Property Tax Appeals
- Boating Rules & Safety



Fall Reflections on Simonton Lake

We are proud to share the winner of the Fall Photo Contest with you. We hope that the beautiful photograph will inspire you to reflect on the natural beauty of the lake we live on or near. Congratulations to our Contest Winner, Theresa Maier.

- by Theresa Maier

Having had the pleasure of living on Simonton Lake for over 30 years I continue to enjoy all four seasons and the variety of colors they produce. My "Fall Reflections" photograph was taken on a warm sunny October afternoon while kayaking with friends. The exceptional fall day in-

spired our kayak group to get on the water and enjoy. A camera accompanies us on all trips out to record memories and document photo opportunities. Kayaking has proven to be a wonderful way to experience all areas of our shallow lake during the four seasons.

"Fall Reflections" was taken on Little Simonton Lake, facing east just beyond the mouth See **Reflections**/pg. 6

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Johnny Prugh, the "Alpha Laker"

-by Carole Foutz

Very few of us are ever number one at anything; you know the fastest, the strongest, or the smartest. Well, the person who has the distinction of having lived the longest on Simonton Lake is Mr. Johnny Prugh, giving him the title of the "Alpha Laker" and all rights and privileges associated with that distinction.

If you read Simonton Chronicles in the last issue of **Simonton Says** featuring Bug-eye, AKA: Harry Hostetter, you know that he stated that Johnny Prugh was *really* the person to talk to. Without hesitation, the topic for the article was apparent. The call was made to Johnny requesting an interview for the newsletter. When



asked if he would be able to relate some stories about Simonton Lake, since he'd lived on the lake for such a long time; he very quickly replied, "Well, you know I've lived on the lake for 85 years!" After taking a moment for that fact to run through my head, I knew that I'd hit the jackpot as the author of this column. Wow, where do you begin?

Johnny was born September 21, 1914. That was before World War II! He lived in the city of Elkhart until he was 6 years old. Then in 1921, he moved to Simonton Lake on Lake Drive. Originally his parents moved into a small cottage on the south side until they upgraded to a home further down the street. Probably one of his most vivid memories as a young boy was when he became the first paper carrier outside of the city of Elkhart delivering the Elkhart Truth. His route was from County Road 4 north to Allentown (a small commercial spot at the corner of Cassopolis and Redfield Roads in Michigan). He was paid 6 cents a week, per customer. This sounds like peanuts but when you multiply it times his 18 customers, it works out to \$1.08 per week and that's really hard to grasp! The Elkhart Truth at that time cost 12 cents a week (6 days) for a subscription. I asked him if he rode his bike on his route and he responded animatedly, "I *didn't* have a bike then. Nobody had one! I did eventually buy a bike from Shelly Brothers and paid them \$1 a week until I paid it off." During the period of time he delivered papers, Johnny's route grew to be about 100 customers by 1935. This is one indicator of how

See Prugh/pg. 6

Last Summer Lake Happenings

- by Maria Hopman

Have you ever wondered what that big boat was doing anchored overnight on our sandbar this past summer? Well, my curiosity got the better of me, so Franklin (the mini-schnauzer that accompanies me on my wave runner) and I decided to pay them a neighborly visit. That boat, or yacht, (any vessel 27 feet or more is considered a yacht) was a 27 foot Bayliner Sunbridge. It sleeps six in the cabin, has a kitchen and bath. The proud owners are William and Cindy Heath. They live in Elkhart and said they come to our lake to get away from the grandkids. When asked why they chose our lake, William said the larger lakes, like Lake Michigan and Lake Wawasee are too choppy. When asked what it is like to stay overnight, they replied that the water is like glass and the moon and stars are breathtaking. According to the D.N.R. they can stay overnight but must anchor 200-300 feet from shore. If they leave for a long period of time, they would have to put their name and address on the boat. The Heaths stated that most of the people are friendly except for the "rednecks". William said he used to fish on Simonton and would someday like to buy a house out here. It's a good lake to be on, he said, as we lake residents know well!



Photo by Maria Hopman



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Would you like to contribute information, pictures, or stories to "Simonton Says...?"

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IN THE NEXT ISSUE: which will come out May 1st (until then, check the website for current news)

- ~ A Tribute to our Lake Veterans
- ~ Summer on the lake - boating, grilling...
- ~ Memorial Day Boat Parade

*The **MISSION** of the Simonton Lake Area Homeowner's Association is to foster the safety and quality of life in our neighborhood. We strive to protect the value of our homes, the wildlife and the environment surrounding our lake, support local and state law enforcement for the safety of our families and lake visitors, and encourage active involvement in the northern Elkhart area growth and development.*

Simonton Lake Events

May 23rd - Memorial Day Boat Parade

Sportsmen's Club Events

February 28th - March 1st - Winter Turkey Shoot

March 21st - Casino Night

April 25th - 28th - Spring Turkey Shoot

June 13th - Kid's Fishing Contest

July 4th - Poker Run & Fireworks (Rain date is July 5th)

August 8th - Kid's Fishing Contest

August 8th - Corn & Sausage Roast

August 15th - Third Annual Land Based Poker Run (Motorcycles & all other vehicles)

September 26th - 27th - Fall Turkey Shoot

October 10th - Casino Night

December 5th - Christmas Raffle

Community Contacts

Simonton Lake Conservancy
(574) 206-8485

DNR

Main office: (317)232-4160
or toll free 1-877-928-3755
Fax: (317)233-4579

Sheriff Elkhart County
(574) 533-4151

Association contact person:

Cpl. Casey Lehman

General information or questions,

Email: clehman@elkhartcountysheriff.com

Phone: (574) 535-6553

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Prugh

from page 2

Simonton Lake began to grow and how permanent residents began settling around the lake.

Graduation from Elkhart High School for Johnny was in 1934. He was permitted to attend the high school in the city; the only problem was you had to find your own transportation. At that time, Cassopolis Street had only been paved since 1925, and Simonton Lake was considered quite a distance from town. He was able to catch a ride with a neighbor who worked in "the city". Coming home from school, he rode in the Truth truck as they brought the papers out to be delivered. One winter day in his junior year, it was so icy he "ice sailed" to school on his ice skates and using a sail he fabricated! Returning home wasn't so much fun after the ice had melted, carrying the skates and sail.

After graduation, Johnny eventually went to work for the railroad as a conductor. His primary route ran from Chicago to Elkhart. He worked for the railroad 38 years until retirement in 1978. John married Jeannie Able and moved into her family's cottage home on North Shore Drive. In 1945, he built the home where he lives now. A second story was added after their five children were born.

When asked how the lake has changed since 1921, his initial response was that it is a totally different lake than he remembers in the 20's. Bulrushes lined much of the shores of the lake and lily pads were so thick it was nearly impossible to get to the Little Lake, and the lake was deep!?? Johnny told of how at least 2 spots on the lake were over 50 feet deep. He suspects that the boat traffic has stirred up the bottom which has covered up some of the natural springs. One story he tells is that there are at least 3 cars in one of the deeper spots. When John moved to the lake there were few houses on it. The cottages were barely more than shacks. He tells of the countless fish that he has pulled out of the lake.

A favorite Simonton establishment of his from the past was the old Dance Hall owned by Gene Moraity. Gene had moved here from Chicago and built a good business at the dance hall. The building extended 10 feet over the water and was on the Southwest shore of the lake. The Dance Hall was a very popular destination for area people with many good dance bands attracting large crowds. It closed in 1935. Gene also ran an ice house next door to the Dance Hall. In fact, Johnny remembered one winter how ice cutters working with a team of horses were on the ice pulling blocks that had been cut to the ice house. Somehow the horses slipped and fell into the lake and drowned. They could not be removed from the lake until spring. Johnny related that Pete's Restaurant goes back to 1935 when Prohibition was repealed. At that time, it was called The Last Roundup. It has changed ownership and names many times through the years, which Johnny can recall. One unique situation that developed was that the tavern was just north and next door to a church!

Johnny has a story for about any topic posed to him. After chatting with him, I discovered that he is a licensed pilot, a

scuba diver and of course, fisherman. It was clear that flying was a passion for Johnny. He loved flying over the lake and was proud of the fact that he still has his license. Johnny is one of the original members of the Simonton Lake Sportsman's Club and has always been interested in maintaining the quality of the lake. He takes an active interest in all of the club events, as well as spending a considerable amount of stool time with "Bugeye" at Pete's.

In preparation for this article, whenever I mentioned to several people that for my next article I was going to interview Johnny Prugh, the common response was "Oh, he's such a nice man." Dave, my husband, accompanied me for the interview. When we were leaving, Johnny invited us to stop by sometime when we are going by. I know now I can easily echo that same response, "Johnny Prugh is truly a nice man!"

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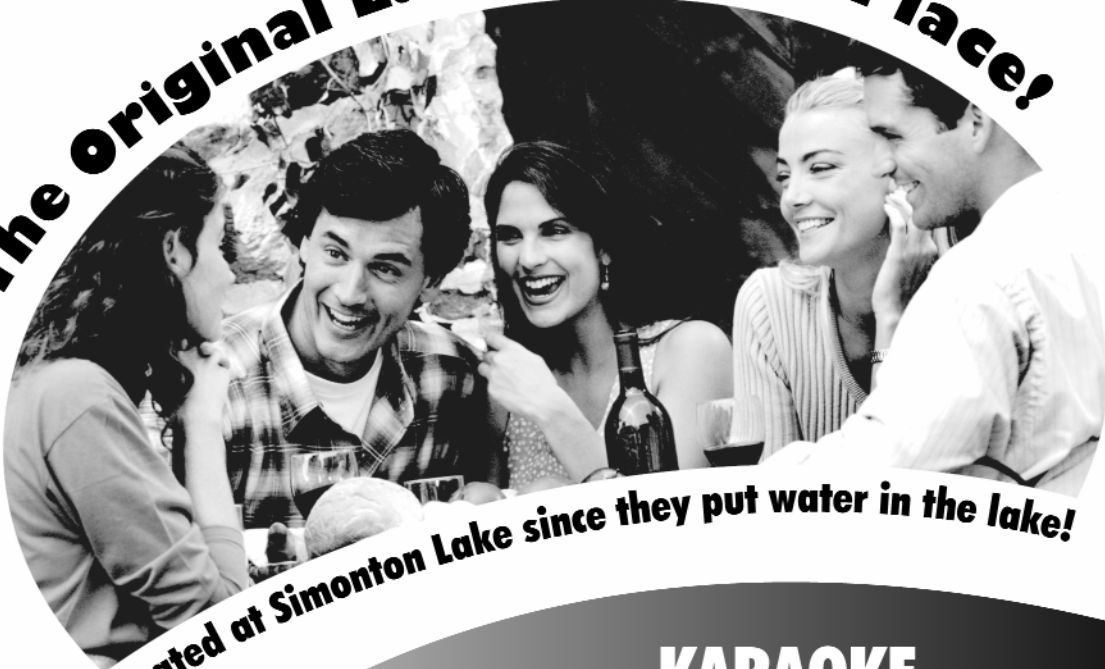
from page 1

of Lily Creek. Fall produced vibrant colors reflecting the still waters bestowing a tranquil scene. I remain in awe of the inspiring photo opportunities here at the lake year round.

Thanks for participating in the contest whether you submitted a picture, voted or viewed lake scenes. It was so much fun to see all the photo perspectives submitted. Thanks for your vote too!

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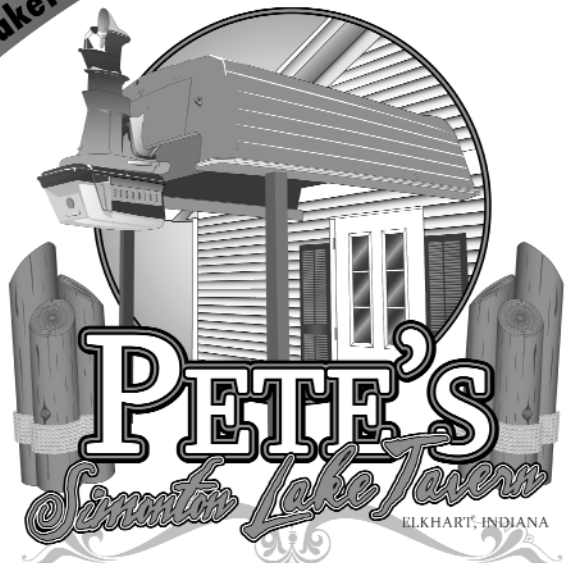
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The Winter Dogma, Yet Spring Will Come

- by Lisa Kime

Yes, fellow "lakefarers" we have assumed our landlubber forms until spring 2009. We all look out over the frozen tundra and think of warm sunshine, great boat rides, gardening and partying on the lake. Many of us don't see our neighbors until those first 55 degree days, as we start to clean up Mother Nature's down time. For me, as a Licensed Wildlife Rehabilitator it means work. A work which is my purpose here on earth and I greatly enjoy. The sleepless nights, road trips, multiple feedings, joy and sadness of saving wildlife. Most of my articles have been factual and informative. For this article I would like share some information to help our wildlife this spring.

The springtime for wildlife is a time to eat and drink spring's bounty. After birds have flown in, our mammalia has awakened from their semi-hibernation and breeding starts for the many animals on the lake. Most everyone has come across fledgling baby birds, orphaned bunnies, raccoons taking up house in our spaces and especially all wildlife which comes into conflict with cars. There are a few guidelines to follow when assessing whether or not wildlife is actually in trouble and in need of rescuing. Please use the following table as a guide:

Baby Birds:

NO FEATHERS	Place back into nest if possible, if not call rehabber.
CAN'T FLY	If fully feathered & happy BABY, with Mom & Dad close and still feeding, watch but leave alone for now. If ADULT, call rehabber immediately.
DAZED (possibly flew into something)	Call Rehabber immediately for rescue instructions.
WEAK and/or RESPIRATORY DISTRESS	Call rehabber immediately this is an emergency.

When baby birds fledge (leave the nest) it takes 3 days or so for them learn how to use their wings. Mom and Dad watch out over them and feed them while they get their wings. I find it fascinating that a mother robin, (a species everyone loves) cannot resist the cries of a baby bird of any kind and will feed it and take it as her own. The Cardinals in my little patch have also adopted orphaned babies birds I have rehabilitated and released. Isn't it wonderful how nature takes care of things. Conflicts with domestic animals are always a worry. If you feel fledglings are unsafe please call a rehabilitator.

Baby Bunnies:

HOPPING ABOUT, BUT SMALL	Leave alone.
STILL IN THE NEST	Leave alone.

Bunnies leaving the nest will forage and go back to the nest until they leave completely. So if you see them and they appear orphaned, they usually are not. The mother rabbit only feeds her babies on average twice a day, in the very early morning and at dusk. You may never see Mum. If you are unsure that the mother is visiting the nest, very quietly, without startling or disturbing the babies, arrange some grass on top of the nest. The next morning check to see if it has been moved. If not or if blood is present, call a rehabilitator. The major problems are mowers and dogs. If you have long grass please walk your lawn and look for nests before mowing. This saves the injury of little ones. Wild baby bunnies are extremely difficult to hand raise; they can die strictly from fright. Many times their chances of survival are better on their own.

For most other mammals, if they don't have fur, they need help unless Mom or Dad is around. The rule of thumb is: do not give food or water until speaking with a licensed wildlife rehabilitator. Keep them away from people, warm and quiet. In many cases rescuers administer fluids and food orally causing more damage than good to a shocked or dehydrated animal. If you find injured or orphaned wildlife please call a licensed rehabilitator right away. Well meaning individuals try to raise them and wait too long to call a rehabilitator and they die. It is also illegal to possess them.

I want to offer a sincere word of thanks and gratitude for all my fellow Wildlife Warriors out there helping, watching and making a difference.

Yours In Conservation,
Lisa Kime, Indiana State Licensed Wildlife Rehabilitator
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Property Tax Appeals

-by Dave Foutz

It's the law: You have the right to appeal your assessed value.

Property tax seems to be a perennial issue weighing heavily on the minds of the people of Simonton Lake. From the dramatic increases in assessed values over a year ago to the recent extreme delinquency of the tax bills, property tax has been a monumental irritation to lake residents. One of the key principles of financial management is to reduce any unnecessary tax burden. No one is expected to pay a single dime more than their minimum tax liability. However, individuals must take the initiative in determining what those minimums are and then advocate for themselves in the appeals process. There is an old saying that "knowledge is power," it's also money.

A taxpayer has the right to initiate an appeal of the current year's assessed valuation. The first step in the appeals process begins with a written notification to the County Assessor's office. There is a limited window of opportunity in initiating the process. Taxpayers have forty-five days from the date of the notice of assessment to begin the appeal process. If no notice of assessment is given, the taxpayer must file the written appeal no later than May 10.

The notice of appeal must include: (1) the name of the taxpayer, (2) the address and parcel or key number of the property, and (3) the address and telephone number of the taxpayer. Appeal notices must be mailed to Elkhart County Assessor, 117 North Second Street, Goshen, Indiana 46526, (574) 535-6702.. Taxpayers wishing to appeal more than one parcel must file a separate appeal for each property. A useful tool in mining information for the appeal process is the county GIS system: www.elkhartin.mygisonline.com. Remember that current assessment is not based on current market conditions. The 2009 assessed value of your property will be calculated on what your property would have sold for on January 1, 2007.

Evidence to support the taxpayer's case should accompany the appeal and can be in the form of a record of a sale for the particular piece of property, sales of comparable properties, listing prices, offers to purchase, or an appraisal prepared by a licensed appraiser. While an appraisal is not required, the Indiana Tax Court has held that an appraisal properly submitted is the best evidence to support an appeal.

If the taxpayer and the assessing official do not agree on the resolution of the assessment issues or no informal meet-

ing is held within 120 days of the appeal, the Property Tax Assessment Board of Appeals (PTABOA) must hold a hearing on the appeal within 180 days after the appeal was initiated. At the PTABOA hearing the taxpayer may present reasons for disagreement with the assessment.

If a taxpayer is still not satisfied with the decision of the PTABOA or if the PTABOA fails to hear the case within 180 days after the appeal, the taxpayer has the right to appeal to the Indiana Board of Tax Review (IBTR) by filing a Form 131. Taxpayers may contact the IBTR directly at (317) 232-3786 or visit the IBTR Web site "Guide to Appeals" at www.in.gov/ibtr/2330.

The probability of a successful appeal is directly proportional to the effort put into preparation of the appeal. There is a great deal of information available to home owners online. Something to consider is that a reduced current assessment will be the bases for future assessments; consequently a successful appeal will pay dividends into the future. Good luck to you if you do decide to appeal your current assessment.

See Appeals/pg. 12

It's the law: You have the right to appeal your assessed property value.

From the dramatic increases in assessed values over a year ago to the recent extreme delinquency of the tax bills, property tax has been a monumental irritation to lake residents.

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The pump has multiple floats that need to be inspected. The floats can get stuck, causing it to backup into the house, or burn up an expensive motor. The pump needs to be cleaned to function properly. The control box needs to be opened up and inspected. There are Simonton Lake residents who have spent thousands of dollars for needless repair.

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Appeals

from page 10

THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS

-Cathy Searcy, Elkhart County Assessor

The State of Indiana now mandates that the Assessor trend property assessments every year. This process is done through the evaluation of sales. Every time property is transferred through the Auditor's office, a sales disclosure form must be completed. On that form, you put the purchase price of the property. That information is entered into a database in the County Assessor's office. Some of the sales require additional investigation to assure that the purchase price is a true reflection of the value. At the end of the year, we review the sales and compare the sale price to the assessment. This is done for each neighborhood that we have assigned. Our neighborhoods are not necessarily the same as your subdivisions. On the lake, for example we would often separate the homes that are on the waterfront from those that are not. Along the river would be another example. After reviewing the data, we determine the trend for that area. That multiplier is then applied to every home in the neighborhood, even if it did not sell.

The process is very detailed and there are guidelines set by the state that we must consider. All of our studies are sub-

mitted to the Department of Local Government Finance for approval before we actually apply the factors.

Your next tax bill will be for the assessment date of March 1, 2008. For that assessment date we used sales that occurred in the years 2006 and 2007. This is confusing to some taxpayers because they think that the current assessment should be a reflection of the current market.

Starting July 1, 2009 we will begin the reassessment process for March 1, 2011. During this process we will complete the same process that was required in 2002. We will actually visit a certain percentage of the properties in the county and verify that the information that we have in our database is correct.

Feel free to contact our office if you have questions. This is a very simplified description of the process.

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Snowmobile Season is open - December through March

- from the Indiana Off-Road Vehicle Laws Handbook (see www.simontonlake.org for link to complete handbook)

Snowmobiling Safety

Snowmobiling can be a fun and safe sport; however, it can be hazardous if you're reckless, inattentive, or uneducated about the snowmobile you're driving.

A safe snowmobiler:

- Understands the mechanics of the machine.
- Has respect for its capabilities and its limitations.
- Knows how to maneuver through a variety of operating conditions.
- Knows the laws governing snowmobiles.
- Uses good judgment.
- Respects others and the environment.

Your snowmobile isn't ready to ride unless it has an up to date registration decal attached to both sides of the forward half of the machine. You also must carry a pocket-size registration card with you whenever you ride.

Ice Fishing Safety

Be sure the Ice is Thick Enough: HARD, CLEAR ICE ONLY	
Less Than 4" thick	Unsafe for any activity
Minimum 4" thick	Walking, skiing, fishing
Minimum 5" thick	Snowmobile or ATV
Minimum 8-12" thick	Automobile or light pickup
Minimum 12-15" thick	SUV or medium pickup

When in doubt, DON'T GO OUT! BEWARE OF THIN ICE

Every winter, thousands of Hoosiers enjoy fishing, skating, hiking or just sliding around on frozen ponds and lakes. And every year, people drown after falling through ice. Like driving on snow, Hoosiers need to re-learn how to have safe fun on ice.

WARN KIDS ABOUT PLAYING ON FROZEN LAKES AND STREAMS WITHOUT SUPERVISION!

If You Are Fishing:

1. Drill your own test hole near shore. Your test hole should show at least a four-inch thickness of clear ice like you get from your freezer.
2. Wear a life jacket for extra warmth and safety.
3. Be aware of various ice strengths and qualities. One area of a pond may be a foot thick while another spot of ice may only be an inch thick.
4. Ice strength can also change. Thick ice is rotten after rain. Old honey-combed ice, slush ice or ice with current under it is also dangerous. New ice is almost always stronger than old ice. Wind, waterfowl and beavers can also keep areas of ice thin.
5. Indiana law limits ice fishing holes to a diameter of twelve inches.
6. Fishing shanties must have reflectors on each side so snowmobiles won't crash into them at dusk or during snowstorms.



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For More Information Contact:

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Retail Relationship Manager

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- ☐ Spring Clean Up
- ☐ Fall Clean Up
- ☐ Shrub Trimming
- ☐ Fertilizing
- ☐ Brush Hogging
- ☐ Garden Rototilling
- ☐ Landscaping
- ☐ Snowplowing



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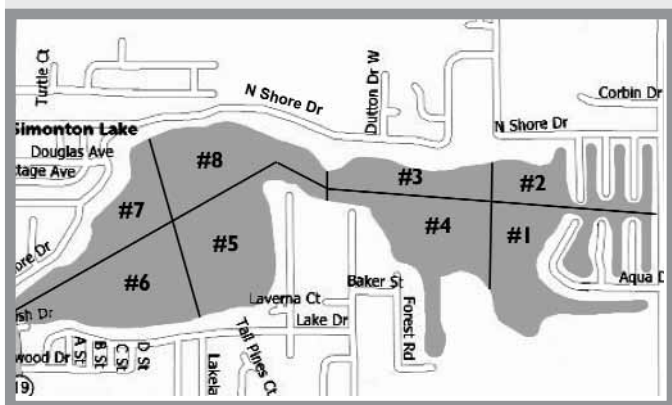
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Area Representatives

-your delegates for neighborhood concerns

1. Tim and Phyllis Nusbaum 264-0965
2. Ann and Jerry Broderick 264-1331
John and Pat Brown 264-2258
Ken and Sue Ward 206-0450
3. Susie Broderick 262-0818
4. Jon Hart 262-1404
Randy Hoff 262-3432
5. Bob Meyers 675-0970
Cindy Nickell 262-3105
6. Dave Brown 266-0188
7. Jack Griffith 264-5460
Dave VanZile 264-5201
8. (Representative needed)



To join the association fill out the form on page 18 or join online at www.simontonlake.org

Notice to Lake Area Veterans...

We are planning to highlight our summer American holidays of Memorial Day and Independence Day. We would like to **honor our lake area veterans** (past and present) and publish their names in our next issue. Please contact us by mail (**send to:** Kay Rhodes, 26189 Lake Dr, Elkhart, IN 46514.) or **email:** (simon@simontonlake.org). We would love to have you be a special part of our May issue. Please fill out form below:

Name:
Address:
Branch of Service:
Dates Served:
Stationed at:
Honors, Awards:
Combat seen at or during:
Notes:

Treasurer's Corner

To the right is a brief financial update on the association (as of 12/31/2008):

Please note that the Board will be seeking budget requests for the 2009 year from our committees this spring. We will also be sending out member renewal notices before the May General meeting. As always, if you have any questions about our association finances, please don't hesitate to contact Erin Harding at eharding@nd.edu or 312-771-6397.

Item	Subtotal	Total
Membership Dues	\$4,590.00	
Advertising	4,348.00	
Other (e.g., T-shirt sales, carryover, donations)	1,531.76	
Total Gross Revenue		\$10,469.76
Cost of Goods Sold (T-shirts)	\$308.56	
Total Gross Profit		\$10,161.20
Board of Directors (e.g., General meeting expenses)	100.90	
Membership / Outreach	52.21	
Newsletter / Website	1,080.70	
Total Expenses		\$1,233.81
Net Position as of December 31, 2008		\$8,927.39

February 2009

- by Amy Matherly

I don't see much of the lake these days. There's a little light in the morning when I leave and the light is starting to fade when I pull back into the driveway. I still feel the lake is a haven from the outside world. Once I turn off Cassopolis Street I can leave work behind. But on Saturday mornings I spend some time just sitting, drinking coffee, reading the paper and watching the lake outside those big picture windows in our living room. Those windows are a pain in the neck to keep clean but I wouldn't trade them for the world.

Now, after that wonderful restful Saturday morning I went outside to plow the driveway with our new snow blower. Some of you might ask why my husband didn't do that. Well, he was working that Saturday and he left the instructions, complete with a diagram, on how to start the machine. Some days I might have ignored the note and diagram. But I did want to know how to run the thing, so I went ahead.

Our old snow blower was so old and so hard to start that I had refused to use it. That meant either I did the driveway by hand, or Ryan did the driveway in the dark when he came home from the office. After last winter I reduced his options to one. Guess what? A new snow blower appeared.

This one makes the old one look like an antique. And, as I has specified, it has a push button start. When you fire it up, get back and get ready. For those of you who are thinking about getting a new snow blower, here are a few tips that are not in the instruction booklet:

1. If the sales person says a machine throws the snow, believe him. The snow will be thrown up into the air (in a very nice pattern, I might add) far out into the yard, into your mailbox, into your outside lighting fixtures and across the road to your neighbor's yard.
2. Have extra light bulbs on hand. Snow thrown into fixtures will break the bulbs.
3. The blower also throws small sticks and rocks. I don't advise that you purposely do this but, in case you do get off of the actual driveway, you might want to make sure your neighbors aren't close by doing their driveways. Those rocks can really hurt.
4. Be careful not to get off the driveway into your yard because it removes grass right down to the dirt. I tried to plow a path across our yard to the backdoor. Oh, well, we can always replant. And, then again, if you do want to remove some grass, the snow blower has an additional purpose.
5. No matter when you do your plowing, the county will be down the road right after you finish.
6. You can use your snow blower to plow a place for your dogs to do their business but where ever you plow won't be the right place for the business. (When the temperature drops into the single digits, our beagles go right on the deck or on the patio.)

With all this talk of snow there is a bright spot. The Burpee's Seed Catalog came in the mail last week! Until next time.

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the most
fun...



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www.ilovemyfroggy.com

ON AIR SCHEDULE

5:30 - 10am	The Froggy Morning Show w/ Beau Kennedy
10am - 2pm	The Midday Music Club w/ Katie Cruz
2pm - 7pm	"The Zach Attack w/ Zach Miller
7pm - 12mid	Paul "Dream" Weaver

.....
Cami Broderick, daughter of Bill and Susie Broderick, will be married next September to Ab Saleh. Congratulations!
.....

Travis Andrews, son-in-law of Paul and Linda Wilson and husband of Lindsey, returned from Afghanistan earlier this winter. The "Simonton Says" staff is planning an article about his return in the May issue as we honor our veterans and celebrate Memorial Day.
.....

Bufford and Becky Skipper
would like to announce the birth of their first grandchild, a boy, Wyatt Samuel Skipper born September 14, 2008 to son Seth and Kristina Skipper.
.....



Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Nusbaum family upon the death of **John Nusbaum** on January 8th. John and wife, Catherine have lived at the lake for many years. He was a member of the Simonton Lake Sportsman Club. Son, Johnny and his wife, Linda, live on the north shore of the lake.

Indiana Boating Laws and Responsibilities

- by Theresa Maier & Maria Hopman

When thinking about writing this article we wondered where to begin for Simonton Lake Homeowners in preparation for the upcoming boating season. As I write eight new inches of snow has fallen. Even if it doesn't seem possible that spring will arrive it will be here before we know it! **WHO may operate a Boat or Personal Water Craft** seemed like the logical place to begin.

Taken directly from the Handbook of Indiana Boating Laws and Responsibilities at:

<http://www.boat-ed.com/in/handbook/PWC>. IC 14-15-11. Below is the citation.

Effective January 1, 1996, all motorboat or PWC operators must have a valid driver's license to operate on all Indiana public waters.

Motorboat operators who are 15 may operate a motorboat or PWC until they become a licensed driver **ONLY** if they complete a boat education course approved by the Department of Natural Resources and have on board an ID card issued by the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV). A person who has never been licensed by the BMV must successfully complete an approved boater education course and have on board an ID issued by the Indiana BMV to legally operate a motorboat. No one under 15 years of age may legally operate a motorboat greater than 10 horsepower or a PWC.

All motorboat or PWC operators must have a valid driver's license (on board) to operate on all Indiana public waters.

Motorboat operators who are 15 may operate a motorboat or PWC - ONLY if they complete a boat education course approved by the DNR and have on board an ID card issued by the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV).

The good news is that you can now study at your own pace with free practice tests and take the course on line! If you don't pass you don't pay for the exam. The exam can be retaken.

For Boater Education go to:

http://www.boat-ed.com/in/in_internet.htm

According to the "Handbook of Indiana Boating Laws and Responsibilities" Indiana Boaters have TWO ways to become certified in boating safety. By becoming certified they can have a safer enjoyable experience on the water and save money on boat insurance by taking a Boat Indiana course on responsible boating.

1. Over the Internet....start at www.boat-ed.com/in
2. In a classroom....the DNR can help you locate a classroom course in your area call 317-232-4010 for information or log on at www.dnr.in.gov

Kathy Nobles, State Farm Insurance Office reported that "all operators successfully completing a boating safety course through the U.S. Power Squadron, Coast Guard, Red Cross, or State courses can present their certificate of completion for a 10% discount up to \$100.00 on their boat insurance."

A Simonton Lake resident over the age of 15 was recently stopped by a DNR Conversation Officer on Simonton Lake was asked to produce a valid Drivers License to operate her PWC. **The DNR officer informed her that legally she needed to carry her driver's license but a copy would suffice.**

Watch for further boating laws and responsibilities in future issues.

HAPPY SAFE BOATING!

Simonton Lake Sportsmen's Club "CATCH" Phrases

The Simonton Lake Sportsmen's Club has planned events for your enjoyment through 2009. The fun kicks off on February 28th and March 1st with the annual Winter Turkey Shoot. If you've never attended a turkey shoot, come on out to the SLSC clubhouse on Saturday and Sunday, the last weekend in February, anytime from 10 in the morning until 5 in the afternoon. There is no cover charge and you don't need a ticket. By this time in the winter, cabin fever will have set in, therefore join us at "the clubhouse" either day or both. A good time is promised.

The Sportsmen's Club will be holding a Casino Night on March 21st. Contact a club member for information and a ticket. This event is a great way to begin spring. And don't forget the Spring Turkey Shoot, which will be held Saturday, April 25th and Sunday, April 26th.

Some other events to look forward to are the first Kid's Fishing Contest on Saturday, June 13. Then enjoy the annual Poker Run followed by the Fourth of July Fireworks. And this year the Fourth of July Fireworks are going to be held ON the fourth of July. More information on these two, as well as other events, will be in future issues of "Simonton Says". See page 4 for the dates of all the SLSC events planned so far. It's going to be a fantastic year on and around the lake. See you on the ice.

www.simontonlake.org

To place a classified ad, email: ads@simontonlake.org. Classified ads are **free for paid members of the association**. Non-members pay \$5. Ads will have to be resubmitted for additional issues. *Ads are limited to 100 characters. No commercial business ads will be accepted to protect our sponsors who are supporting this newsletter.* Deadline: 20th of month prior to publishing date.

SLAHA MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION

Dues: \$30 per household per year **Senior Discount** (70 and over): \$20 per household per year
Senior Honorary Membership (80 and over): FREE lifetime member

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____ 2nd/Spouse Email: _____

Preference for contact: ☐ Email ☐ Phone ☐ Mail

Participation Interest: _____

Current committees: Lake Environment, Lake Safety, Membership/Outreach, Newsletter/Website

Please mail your completed form and check made out to **SLAHA** to: Simonton Lake Area Homeowners' Association, Inc., P.O. Box 1706, Elkhart, IN. 46515-1706

Please check the appropriate box below if you are **NOT** willing to share this information in a directory sent to members. We will not share this list outside of the association without your permission.

☐ Address ☐ Phone ☐ Email



Monday - Steak and Tators \$5.95

\$2 Tuesdays - Half Pound Burgers,
Fish Sandwiches, Domestic Bottled Beers

Wednesday - .40 Wings and .40 Shrimp

Thursday - Jumbo Burritos (Jumanguritos)

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New Sign Posted at Boat Launch

EXOTIC SPECIES ADVISORY

Non-native aquatic invaders may be costly to you and to the environment. Zebra Mussels, Spiny Water Fleas, Round Goby, European Watermilfoil.

Help Prevent Their Spread!

BEFORE leaving launch:

Remove plants and animals from equipment.

Drain boat of all lake water.

AFTER leaving launch:

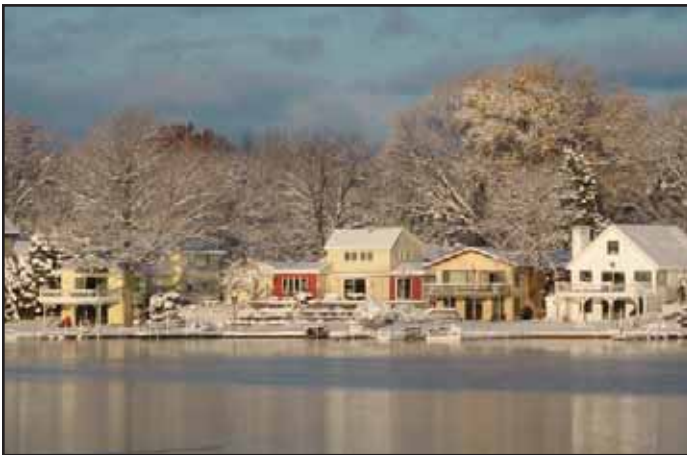
Dispose of any unwanted bait in trash, never in the water.

Wash all equipment with 104° tap water or a high-pressure sprayer **OR**

Dry equipment for a least 5 days.



Out with the ICE and in with the SUMMER FUN! It won't be long...



Simonton Lake's 1st Annual Memorial Day Boat Parade

Don't miss this - May 23rd, 2009!

The Membership/Outreach Committee of SLAHA is organizing the **1st Annual Memorial Day Boat Parade** with trophy presentations. We are scheduling this for the Memorial Day Weekend to kick off the summer. Festivities will happen Saturday, May 23rd with Sunday, May 24th as a rain date.

Competition will take place in 3 classifications: jet ski, speed boats, and pontoons. **Very important:** There will be two themes to decorate your craft this year: Return to Summer or Patriotic/Memorial Day. Any type of decorating is allowed but must be socially acceptable. Get your creative imaginations going as this plans to be a **Hoot!** Judging your craft will include the following categories which will lead to an overall score. The highest in each classification wins:

- 1) originality and creativity
- 2) costumes
- 3) special effects
- 4) choreography
- 5) size and detail of decorations and use of color.

You will receive a 5 point bonus if you are an SLAHA current member the day of the event.

The parade and judging will start at 1:00 P.M. The parade route and judging location will be announced in the next newsletter. There will also be a registration form with a \$10.00 non-member, \$7.00 member entry fee in the May newsletter. If you're planning to participate, please complete the registration form and mail it and your entry fee check to: **SLAHA, P. O. Box 1706, Elkhart, IN. 46515-1706**

After the parade and judging are over, all residents, participants and non-participants are invited to the sand bar for the trophy presentations. **COME ON AND MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS!** Bring your own refreshments and show off your creative masterpieces. **SLAHA T-SHIRTS** will be available for only \$10.00. You can also sign up to join SLAHA at the sand bar if you are not already a member.

This day plans to be one of great fun and camaraderie, so **"Let the Summer Begin!"** At this time, plans are in the works for a possible fall event. Keep tuned to your *Simonton Says* for upcoming information.

Come join the fun! Anybody who would like to get involved, please call Jack Griffith, 264-5460, Randy Hoff, 262-3432 or Dave VanZile, 264-5201.