



# Simonton Says...

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

February 2010

Volume 3, Issue 1

[www.simontonlake.org](http://www.simontonlake.org)

## Special Points of Interest

- Black Swans on the Lake
- Is it Time to Sell Your Home?
- Kayaking On & Off the Lake
- Weir Update

## Lake Landings! What Will We See Next?



Picture *above* was sent to us by Barbara and Richard "Zinny" Zinsmeister. Taken in August of 1998, these balloons almost touched the water just out in front of their home just west of the boat ramp. With them were their grandchildren Jake and Krista visiting from Illinois.

**Below** - pictures courtesy of Maria Hopman (late 1980's)



**Landing on the Ice**  
- photo courtesy of Maria Hopman  
(late 1980's)



Photo of plane landing on the lake - Fall 2009

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## Kayaking – On and Off the Lake!

-by Theresa Maier

The popular versatile sport of kayaking is everywhere! And it's no wonder with all the places you are able to go! Paddling the under sides of bridges with spider webs, wildlife, foliage, and the sights along the way, gives one a different perspective than driving a car over the bridge. So far, we have kayaked rivers, creeks, ditches, gorges and lakes. ... Oh, the fun people we have met...from the mountains of West Virginia to the rivers of Chicago...including three area rivers - Rocky, Kalamazoo and St. Joseph. It's fun to kayak the St. Joseph River thinking back to the Indians and LaSalle as they explored across

regions of Asia, North America and Greenland. Kayaks in some parts of the world are referred to as canoes and vice versa. Modern kayaks come in a wide variety of designs and materials for specialized purposes.

I first read about Eskimos kayaking while in grade school. Next, was the thrill of watching the 1988 Seoul Olympics when Michiana resident Greg Barton became first American to win two gold medals in kayaking. Very few kayaks were spotted on Simonton Lake back then. I didn't think much about kayaking after that. Then, a few summers ago, a friend dropped 2 kayaks off in my yard to try them out....I was immediately hooked. Sitting on top of the water moving across with little disruption much like water skiing on a smooth water day without the motor! My adven-

stickers, insurance costs, few repairs, and best of all no paperwork – its free! Once the right boat is found the durability allows you to keep it forever. You've probably noticed more boats on Simonton – the appeal ranges from the very young to the very old. When selecting a kayak be sure to test it first! Weight of boat, storage area to hold snacks, drinks, cameras, etc., size of cockpit, seat type, are all factors to consider when purchasing. The lightweight boats can be easily transported to almost any location, either on top of your car, in the back of your truck, or on a trailer.

There is an exercise component to kayaking. For balancing upper and lower body exercise kayaking at a moderate pace burns about the same calories per hour as moderate swimming or slow jogging around 300 calories for a 130

pound female and 400 calories for a 170 pound male. It's a good alternative to conventional fitness training which focuses on the lower body, kayaking takes an unhealthy stress off knees. I enjoy adding kayaking to my exercise routine weather permitting.

Maria Hopman likes the portability to toss her kayak in the truck and go where ever. She enjoys exploring new areas particularly the more challenging creeks in the area with obstacles like logs and portaging dams. Maria appreciates the peacefulness of the little lake and swimming in Forest Road channel with Franklin and her friends. Yes, we have even paddled Lily Creek with its many obstacles of reeds, sticker bushes, fallen logs, shallow water and angered honking geese.

Lake resident Anne Harbaugh recently began kayaking and

shares "kayaking provides a healthy way to de-stress and have fun with friends on the lake." "Transporting myself through the water in a non-motorized vessel, my kayak allows me really sit 'in' the water and see and hear much more of lake wildlife than on a pontoon. When the lake is calm and I am paddling my kayak there is a wonderful sense of peace that 'all is well with the world.'"

See **Kayaking**/pg.8



this country. As each trip ends I appreciate coming home to my clean familiar little lake to experience the happenings here.

Wikipedia defines kayaking as the use of a kayak for moving across water, a small human powered boat with the paddler facing forward, their legs in front using a double bladed paddle. The kayak was used by the native Ainu, Aleut, and Eskimo hunters in sub-Arctic

turous friend instantly planned a white water trip to West Virginia. Navigating the white rapids in a rubber ducky kayak and tumbling over in a few was a real blast! Upon returning home I purchased my own kayak. It has proven a great way to navigate the waterways of Michiana.

Kayaking is relatively inexpensive. A plastic molded kayak cost \$700 and up paddles cost \$99 and up. A kayak currently requires no license plates, taxes,



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Vaughn Nickell - President  
51147 Maplewood Drive  
Elkhart, IN 46514  
574-262-3105  
vaughnnickell@msn.com

John Rose - Vice President  
51332 Forest Road  
Elkhart, IN 46514  
574-333-2433  
johnrose11@comcast.net

Erin Harding - Treasurer  
25828 North Shore Drive  
Elkhart, IN 46514  
Cell: 312-771-6397  
eharding@nd.edu

Bill Leighton - Big Lake Director - North  
51134 North Shore Drive  
Elkhart, IN 46514  
574-361-8514  
wbleighton@yahoo.com

Carole Foutz - Big Lake Director - South  
26109 Lake Drive  
Elkhart, IN 46514  
574-262-3908  
clfoutz@aol.com

Jack Tucker - Little Lake/Channel Director  
51110 Sail Bay Court  
Elkhart, IN 46514  
574-370-3326  
JTU977@verizon.net

For information on our Association Committees, visit our website.

**[www.simontonlake.org](http://www.simontonlake.org)**

We would love to have you participate.

Our committees are:

**Membership/Outreach, Environment,  
Lake Safety, & Newsletter/Website.**

**Newsletter Staff:** Carole Foutz, Dave Foutz, Maria Hopman, Janet Kelsey, Theresa Maier, Diane Marlow, Amy Matherly, Bob Meyers, Dick Rhodes, Kay Rhodes

The newsletter is published 6 times per year - Feb, May, Jun, Jul, Aug, & Nov. For advertising information, call: Dick Rhodes - 574-370-7884 or Bob Meyers - 574-361-4445 or email: [ads@simontonlake.org](mailto:ads@simontonlake.org)  
**Would you like to contribute information, pictures, or stories to "Simonton Says...?"**

Email to: [simon@simontonlake.org](mailto:simon@simontonlake.org) or mail to:  
Simonton Says... Newsletter  
Simonton Lake Area Homeowners' Association, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1706  
Elkhart, IN. 46515-1706

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

**Simonton Lake Area  
Homeowners' Association, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1706, Elkhart, IN. 46515-1706  
[www.simontonlake.org](http://www.simontonlake.org)  
Email: [simon@simontonlake.org](mailto:simon@simontonlake.org)**

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.

## Events on the Lake

**January 30th** - Ice Golf Tournament at Lakeshore Grill (weather permitting)

**March 6th & 7th** - Winter Turkey Shoot  
(Sponsored by Sportsmen's Club)

**March 20th** - Casino Night  
(Sponsored by Sportsmen's Club)

**June 12th** - Kid's Fishing Contest  
(Sponsored by Sportsmen's Club)

**July 3rd** - Poker Run & Fireworks  
(Sponsored by Sportsmen's Club)

**July 24th** - Get Wet for a Pet Deux  
(Open Water Swim Event)

**August 7th** - Kid's fishing Contest, Corn & Sausage Roast  
(Sponsored by Sportsmen's Club)

**November 6th** - Fall Casino Night  
(Sponsored by Sportsmen's Club)

## Community Contacts

**Simonton Lake Conservancy**  
(574) 206-8485

**DNR**  
Main office: (317)232-4160  
or toll free 1-877-928-3755

**Sheriff Elkhart County**  
(574) 533-4151  
Neighborhood contact person:  
Cpl. Casey Lehman  
General information or questions,  
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# Wildlife in our Backyard

## Diana Bourn's Crested Ducks

-as shared with Diane Marlow

Six years ago Diana's granddaughter, Brianna, talked her mom, Gina, into bringing home a white duck and also a brown duck she felt no one would want because of his "mis-shaped" head. They lived in the city and the ducks quickly outgrew their wading pool and showers with Brianna. So the ducks were brought to Diana's house to oversee.

They did well until last winter. "Nolla" – the white duck died. Diana felt sorry for "Chesney" – the brown duck, because Nolla and Chesney had been inseparable. Diana told her daughter to watch for more ducks like Chesney. This past summer they called and said there were ten left at Rural King – a farm sup-



ply store on US 31 in Niles. (The marbled grays are crested "Econo" ducks. The mostly white ones are crested Peking ducks.) What a project!

She made a pen area in the garage, which grew to the size of a car. She spread wood chips to bed them and cut down on the waste mess; a wading pool for water and to walk around in; and ground duck pellets for the start of feeding. Between constant cleaning, feeding and water change morning and night,

she was busy.

She needed to get them used to being outside, so she fenced in a grassy area which she continued to enlarge. But she couldn't leave them outside unattended. Birds ran off hawks twice. Raccoons would kill them too. The ducks grow fast and run fast so when it was time to transport them in and out of the garage, the neighbors next door, Katie and Karen, would help her catch them and put them in a carrier so she wouldn't have to make so many trips.

Then Diana decided to get them into the lake. She found out ducks don't take to water well without a mommy! She started by fencing in an area which she enlarged bit by bit to include the channel. That called for more help from Scot, Karen and Katie. She gave Katie bread to throw into the water to keep them in the water while Scott, Karen and Diana blocked them from getting out of the water. It took three days before they went into the water on their own! She couldn't believe that.

Then the day came she knew she had to let them go. They stayed close at first. Neighbors watched out for them. She met so many animal lovers while doing this. It was great. Some could tell when she was worrying and let her know which channel they were in and if they were okay.

A couple of weeks went by and her regular head count went down to nine. She is not sure what hap-

pened. Then one morning one duck didn't get up to eat. She grabbed a towel, saw he had a shredded leg and ran him to her vet. She had to have him put down. She has seen ducks struggle with one bad leg and didn't want to watch him suffer or become easy prey.

She was counting on Chesney to lead them to an open channel for winter. It hasn't happened. They are still out back. They are down to a six-foot hole of water. Since she was worried about the ducks having enough water to drink and paddle around in over the winter, she went to a lumber yard to get a cement mixing trough large enough for them and

then to Rural King for a water heater to keep the water from freezing. It's ready.

Time will tell how this win-



ter goes for them. A few other ducks have joined them also.

She is so glad so many Simonton Lake residents enjoy them – they are pretty entertaining and love to be talked to- and Diana's clients at Dimensional Hair Design have been entertained for months by all her tales. Diana thanks everyone for caring. ■



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## Lake Ice Safety

- from the Indiana DNR

### 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.

#### Use these guidelines to judge the SAFETY of FRESH SOLID ICE

One inch of ice .....STAY OFF!!!  
 Four inches of ice.....Needed for safe ice fishing  
 Five inches of ice.....Needed for snowmobiling  
 Eight inches of ice.....Needed to support the weight of a car or light truck  
 Ten inches of ice .....Needed to support a medium weight truck

Again, the bottom line when it comes to safety: When in doubt, DON'T GO OUT! BEWARE OF THIN ICE!! ■



## Kayaking

from page 2

Long time kayaker Deb Weaver commented, "Kayaking puts me right in the water in a relaxing quiet and peaceful way. It allows me to cruise through areas that are not accessible any other way." Have you seen the wilderness, right in Christiana Creek?

Friends have kayaked year round in Indiana. I personally kayaked 11 of 12 months during a mild winter on Simonton. It's a different sound and feeling plowing through a thin layer of ice on the lake. Kayaking allows you to extend your boating

season on Simonton starting as early as March and ending whenever the lake freezes.

My husband says the best part of a kayak is that it is human powered and no motor! We both enjoy the closeness to the water, the peacefulness and quiet of your boat gliding across the water at whatever pace you choose. We are in awe of the stunning sunsets, wildlife up close - a swan honking as you pass too close, turtles diving from a nearby log, a fish jumping in the depths, a carp slithering under your boat in the shallows, and the ability to reach most areas around the lake. The opposite is white water, with the excitement of your

boat rising up and down on the waves, bumping over little or large rapids, the thrill of rounding a bend to see what you find. The surprise of startling a deer drinking along the creek or a fawn dashing across the creek in front of your boat! The photographic opportunities are another added bonus in a kayak. Being a bit of a shutter bug I can get up close to many lake scenes and check out the coots, loons, wood ducks, sand hill cranes, blue heron, swans, bullfrogs, crested ducks, moon rises, sunsets, full moons, harvest moons, and lots of other recreational kayakers along the way.

The adventures are endless....so if you want to see all that Simonton Lake offers carefully hop in your kayak and enjoy! For information on how to pick out a boat, basics of kayaking, types of water kayaking, and planning a trip check out the website: [www.kayakingjournal.com](http://www.kayakingjournal.com) ■



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# Simonton Chronicles

## Not the Same Old 'toon!

-by Carole Foutz

Call them what you will-floating patios, party barges, fishing platforms, whatever-there's no denying that pontoons make up a majority of the boats on the lakes in the local area. A pontoon is defined as a flat-bottomed boat used to support a structure on water. So why so many 'toons on today's modern waterways? My curiosity pushes me to dig a little deeper into the question. The inescapable truth about pontoons is that you either own one or spend a lot of time on one if you live on Simonton Lake.

Let's cruise back in the history of the trusty pontoon. One can find the concept of a pontoon in use clear back in Roman times. During the Civil War pontoons were used to float troops and supplies across rivers.

Wagons were sometimes attached to pontoons ferried across rivers. During the movement west, wagon trains carried pontoons to help with river crossings. Using pontoons to support bridges is still commonly found throughout the world.

Indiana has more pontoon manufacturers than any other state in the country. In fact, most of the builders are in northern Indiana. One major industry sales manager speculated as to why these manufacturers concentrated in the region. "With a lot of specialty man-

ufacturers in our area, such as farm equipment and conveyors, it seems like a natural evolution. Also, many steel fabricators have the know-how and facilities to craft the air-tight cylinders that are the basis of a pontoon

boat."

So where did the modern pontoon industry begin? Ambrose Weeres, a farmer from Richmond, Minnesota, created the first known pontoon boat in 1951, by fabricating two watertight cylinders from 55 gallon steel drums and attaching them to a couple of plywood sheets. S. S. Deputy, founder of Godfrey Marine, revolutionized the industry when he brought his all-aluminum pontoon to the 1958 Chicago Boat Show and

pontoon's primary characteristics: stability and utility.

Fifteen years ago, a pontoon boat was viewed strictly as a party barge. It was a fenced-in deck on a slab of plywood, with some lawn chairs thrown on for comfort. Today, a pontoon is a classification of watercraft with many choices of design depending on your purpose in the water. One can continue to choose a party barge or a camping pontoon, a fishing pontoon, even a ski tow. A variety of designs, engines, added comforts, and even electronics are now available to new pontoon buyers.

It doesn't take one long to look around the lake and see the evolution of the pontoon. Some are state-of-the-art and others are very basic, just a motor on a raft. And what do we need on Simonton Lake? I remember when we first moved to the lake and purchased

our new pontoon. We were completely clueless about what we really "needed". Dave's idea was think small, few frills, and save money. It didn't take long to realize that a power trim was a must on our shallow lake. One thing that sure is nice on the newer 'toons is quiet running motors..... **not** a must but much better for socializing! Have you seen the new under-mounted pontoon lifts which raise the pontoon out of the water? What will they think of next?

We just returned from

Florida where we spent a day out on a pontoon. We found out pontoons are **not** very good sea-going craft! Large waves are a disaster for a pontoon! We took a short trip out into the Gulf where a large wave nearly swamped the boat. But, in northern Indiana one cannot beat the convenience, affordability, value and flexibility of a pontoon. I bet we have some Simonton Lake neighbors already savoring a new pontoon and will be visiting the boat shows coming soon. After all, out on our 'toon on Simonton is where it **is** happening! Only 20 more weeks until June 1!

See you on the lake. ■



World's Fair. The popularity of the pontoon boat exploded from then. The move to aluminum was an important innovation because pontoons had previously been constructed from oil drums which had several serious drawbacks: weight, propensity to rust, and the difficulty and danger of welding the drums. Aluminum allowed more creativity in the design of pontoon tubes. The new designs allowed pontoons to more efficiently cut through the water and provide less resistance. Looking back, pontoons have been fashioned from everything from animal skins to copper, wood, steel, etc. but what has not changed are the

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# Life on the Lake

**February 2010**

- by Amy Matherly

I am writing this article from our newly remodeled den. Whatever possessed us to begin another remodeling project on our older home, who knows! But, we did this in 2009 and the six month project (It was supposed to be a three month project.) is finally complete. As those of you who own older homes know, remodeling an "older" home is never simple. The wiring needed to be replaced; the walls weren't plum. There was water leaking in from the adjacent garage. The windows were old and leaky and we needed more storage. And, it was so cold in the room in the winter you had to wear extra socks and a sweater. We now we have a beautiful, warm room, with storage galore and built-in double desks that face the lake.

Each year I write a Christmas letter that goes in the cards we send to our out of town friends. This one was a bit different because it was the last of the

decade. Decade! My goodness, it seems the 21st century just started. A decade in the whole scheme of things isn't much, I suppose. But it is a chunk in the life of a person or family. In this decade we saw both of our kids become college graduates, and, more important, become gainfully employed. That's right, they no longer live at home. Both of our kids were married and we advanced to the age of empty nesters. I returned to work full time, Ryan lost his hair and I began growing jowls and wrinkles, like a road map on my face.

Just before the beginning of 2000 we brought home two little beagles. For the last ten years I have walked those dogs down North Shore Drive most every day. For the last ten years any of you who boated past our pier, got an earful of barking in stereo. Those of you who walked past our house knew our home as the house with the beagles in the window. They spent most of every day in an old overstuffed chair that sat in a room up over the garage. From there they could watch over their "kingdom."

Sadly, one of the things we will remember from 2009 is the loss of one of those beagles, Abby. Her sister Sadie is still with us, but

lonely. Abby was my shadow and Sadie's caretaker. Over the last 10 years they have destroyed furniture, eaten chocolate and raw meat with no ill effects and run away together. They have dug up and eaten flowers and bulbs. They could hear you open a can of dog food from the other end of the house but rarely responded to the command, 'come'. They have chased squirrels, cats and ducks. They have dug up mole trails and hidden our underwear in holes in the lawn. We have lived with latches on our cabinets and have had to keep the toilet paper up on a shelf. Sadie is still untrustworthy but has slowed down quite a bit.

Abby had a small stuffed animal that she would take with her to bed at night. Sometimes she would hide it in the pillows or under a bed. I came across it the other day. I think I'll keep it. Not sure why. We miss that dog.

It's snowing today, again. It looks like little puffs of cotton. I'm sure the cold and snow will get old after a while. But, the good news is that my first seed catalog came in the mail. Spring will come. *Until next time.* ■

## Get a jump on "Mole Season"

- by Amy Matherly

In our last issue John Hoffmann lake area resident was pictured with one of the 21 moles he caught in his yard during the spring and summer of 2008. If you'll remember the picture was a humorous one, but John does have real success in trapping these creatures that ruin our lawns and flower beds.

First you need a mole trap. John recommends the Easy-Set Mole Eliminator #32 which he purchased at Martin's Pet and Garden in downtown Elkhart.

Once you have purchased a trap, go to your lawn and look for a long straight run with no branches. With a 5/8 inch dowel rod or similar width broom or rake handle, poke a hole in the top center of the run. Mark the hole so you can find it later. Mark several other runs in the same manner and wait. Within a 24 hour period the holes you have made will be plugged with dirt if the runs are indeed active.

Wearing gloves get the trap out of its packaging and place in per the instructions in the run. It is important that there be no human scent on the trap. There are occasions when the tunnel is wider than the trap and other times the mole tunnels around the trap. But, with some perseverance, you too can trap moles.

Good Hunting. John Hoffman, 'Mole King'. ■



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## What you should know about your Grinder Pump...

*It needs to be checked periodically to prevent future problems.*

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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# COMMUNITY UPDATE

## Weir Update

-by Dave Foutz

There is no example that more clearly demonstrates the adage "the wheels of government grind slowly" than the Simonton Lake weir project. However, it appears that the weir is finally making some forward progress. At an October meeting the County Commissioners agreed to support the project and approved a feasibility study and construction cost estimate from the engineering firm of Lawson Fisher. Once the preliminary design work is completed county representatives will communicate with

property owners in the affected areas and determine additional costs. The feasibility study was to be completed by December 31.

Clearly we are beyond the target completion date and the study is stalled waiting on Department of Natural Resources approval of proper water flow rates and 100 year flood data. The up-side of this is that once the study is complete, which should be soon, the project should quickly pass DNR muster when the final plan is submitted. The hope is that construction can still be completed yet this year. However construction requires funding and

See Weir/pg.16

## SAVE YOUR ASH TREES !

### The Emerald Ash Borer Beetle is Killing Ash Trees-Protect Yours Now

The Emerald Ash Borer Beetle (EAB) has killed an estimated 30 million Ash trees in Michigan since it was first discovered in 2002. EAB is now in Elkhart County. Unprotected Ash trees will likely be killed by this beetle if left unprotected!

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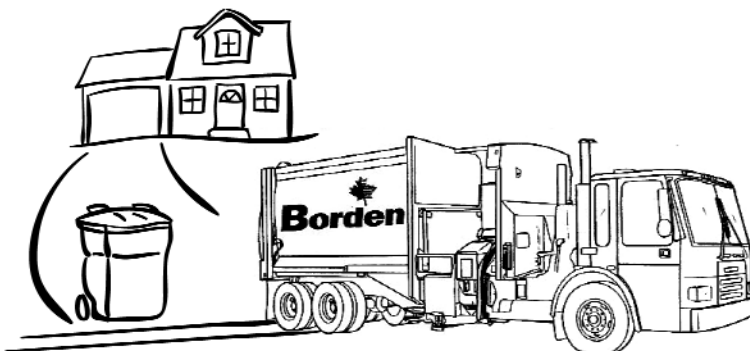


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**www.stopashborer.com**



# Borden

**Borden Waste-Away Service, Inc.**



**574-293-5001 Ext. 519**

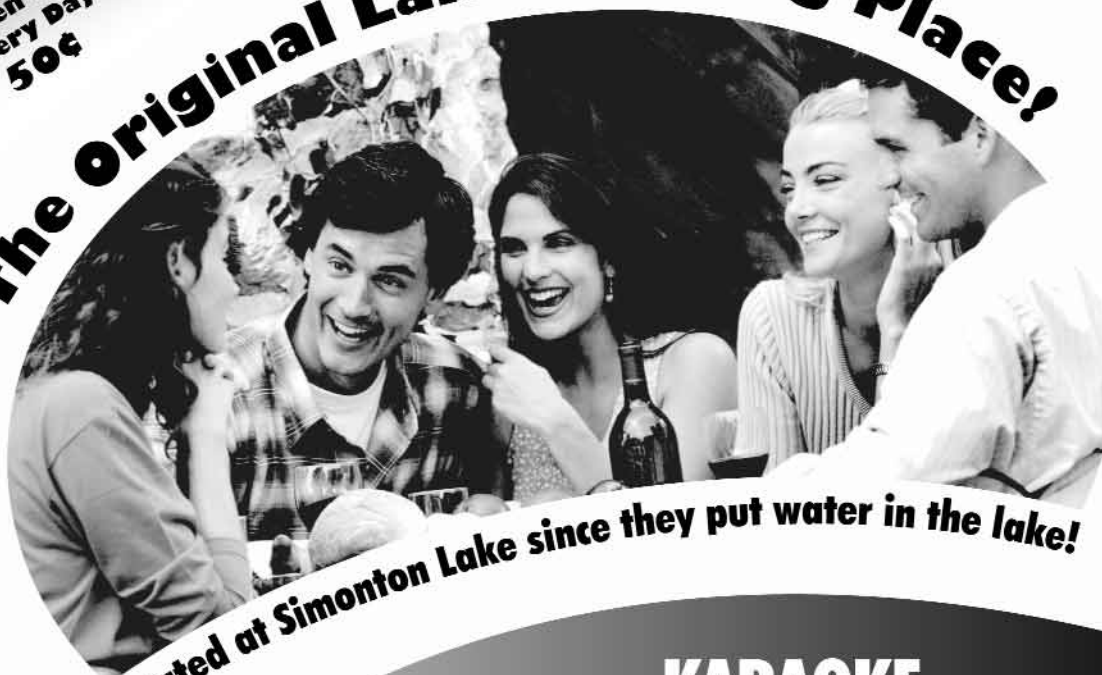
**Get started now by calling Dave VanZile, your residential representative & fellow Simonton Lake resident.**

**THE NEW PROVIDER OF CHOICE**  
*as endorsed by the Simonton Lake Area HOA*

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**Community Based**  
A local, family-owned waste and recycling service company
- 
**Four Service Levels Available**  
48, 64, 96, and 96 gallon + 10 Bags  
*(Mention the Simonton Lake HOA special pricing)*
- 
**Single Stream Recycling**  
Includes a 96 gallon cart on wheels  
Mix all recycling in one cart  
Every other week service
- 
**Special Programs Available**  
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**\$10.00 off first Big Box order**  
*(Simonton Lake HOA members receive discount)*

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**Broasted**  
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**50¢**

**The Original Lake Meeting Place!**



**Located at Simonton Lake since they put water in the lake!**

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**EVERY SATURDAY NIGHT 9PM**

## **Specials**

### **Sunday**

- 4 Piece Chicken Dinner - \$6.95

### **Monday Night**

- All You Can Eat Frog Legs - \$12.95

### **Tuesday**

- Cheeseburger - \$2.00

### **Wednesday**

- Hot Wings - \$0.50 each

### **Friday**

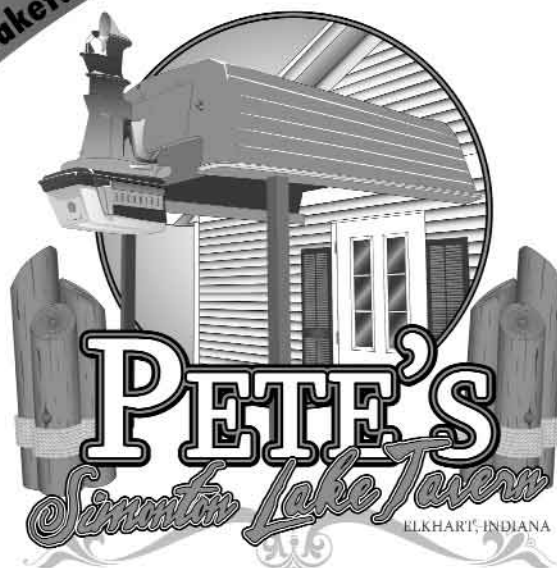
- All You Can Eat Fish - \$6.95

[www.petessimontonlaketavern.com](http://www.petessimontonlaketavern.com)

**Order Carryout - 574-264-9033**

**51426 SR 19, Elkhart, IN 46514**

**Kitchen Hours: Mon. - Sat.: 10:00am - 10:00pm, Sun.: 11:00am - 8:00pm**



# Sportsmen's Club

## Catch Phrases

**A**s we look out we see snow falling on an ice covered Simonton Lake. Ice? Exactly what is ice? We checked a Merriam-Webster Dictionary, asked men around the lake and asked ladies strolling the neighborhood.

**Merriam-Webster describes ice as:** 1 a: frozen water b: a sheet or stretch of ice. **Men on the lake:** Ice is something you cut holes in to get to the water so you can fish. **Women:** Ice is a native crystalline carbon that is usually colorless, that when transparent, and free from flaws, is highly valued as a precious stone.

Whatever your definition, enjoy the ice and the thoughts of what's coming when it melts.

**SLSC Sportsmen of the Year** honors went to Joe Arredondo and Dick Martin. The SLSC is "gearing" up for a year of events that will entertain you throughout the year.

### SPORTSMEN'S CLUB EVENTS:

Winter Turkey Shoot:	March 6 and 7
Spring Casino Night:	March 20
Spring Turkey Shoot:	TBD
Kid's Fishing Contest:	June 12

Poker Run and Fireworks:	July 3, rain date TBD
Kid's Fishing Contest:	August 7
Corn and Sausage Roast:	August 7
Fall Turkey Shoot:	TBD
Fall Casino Night:	November 6

Spring, the placement of that pier and launching of your boat are now within sight. Until then.....see you on the ice. ■

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## Weir

from page 14

that particular issue hasn't been determined. State statutes stipulate that the formula for funds sources is 50 percent state, 25 percent county, and 25 per-

cent residents. Since no one knows the price tag for the project no one is willing to step up and commit to their share of the financing.

The Simonton Lake Area Homeowners' Association is continuing to communicate the importance of the weir project

to representatives of local government and to work on possible funding sources. Remember 2010 is an election year and successful completion of this project would certainly be viewed favorably by residents when entering the voting booth. ■



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## Is It Really a Good Time to Sell My Lake Home?

- by Kelly Cress

After the economy started spiraling out of control at the end of 2008, this question has been asked frequently. Of course the answer to this question depends on each individual seller's situation. If you want or need to sell in the next year or two, the following facts\* are positive news for sellers:

- ❑ From 2007 to 2009, Simonton Lake sales outperformed Elkhart County sales by 67.4%!
  - a. Elkhart County home sales DECREASED by 25.7%
  - b. While Simonton Lake home sales INCREASED by 41.7%
- ❑ In 2009, on average Simonton Lake homes sold faster than the Elkhart County average.
- ❑ Simonton Lake has held 3% higher average sales prices than that of Elkhart County.

❑ Although our area values have been greatly affected by bank-owned (foreclosure) property sales this past year, in the second half of 2009 Simonton Lake homes held an average sales price 6% higher than that of the first half of the year.

❑ The home buyers' tax credit has now been extended to current homeowners! Call me for more information or visit my website @ [www.kellycresshomes.com](http://www.kellycresshomes.com) and click on the Homebuyers Tax Credit link.

If you are not on a timeline to sell and can afford to wait several more years, then selling now may not be the route to take. As time goes on and the economy recovers you will likely get a higher price for your home.

While no one knows for sure when the market will fully recover, we do know that there are many incentives out there to buy right now. So if you want to make your move in the next year or two, selling while the lake market is hot will allow

you to get that deal on YOUR next home. Most likely you will qualify for the tax credit and can take advantage of the competitively priced homes available today.

**How does your Simonton Lake home have the edge in this competitive market?** Easy...your home is a limited commodity. While there are currently more than 1,500 homes for sale in Elkhart County, only a dozen of those homes are on Simonton. Waterfront properties are hard to come by, especially Northern Indiana lakefront homes.

Call me for any of your real estate questions or needs. I'm here to help and would be happy to meet with you to help you determine if this is the best time for you to sell your Simonton Lake home. ■

Kelly Cress  
Prudential One Realty  
Simonton Lake Specialist  
596-9776  
[kcress@prudentialonerealty.com](mailto:kcress@prudentialonerealty.com)

*\*Information obtained from Elkhart County MLS Statistical data*

## The Black Swans of Simonton Lake

-by Amy Matherly and Maria Hopman

Many of you will remember the Frink home on the north side of the lake. The house was quite unusual, built around a living oak tree. Among the many trees on the lot was a nice-sized pond just a few feet back from the lake shore. The house is now gone and the lot cleared. But, back a few years ago, the pond was home to two black swans. These beautiful birds were purchased by Carla Pontius, former Simonton Lake resident. Named Adam and Eve, the original birds were purchased in Kokomo, Indiana. Once Carla purchased them she brought them to the Elkhart area, clipping a wing to keep them from flying away. The swans then lived an interesting life. They were leased to the management companies of some skyscrapers in the Chicago downtown area to keep the geese away from retaining ponds and lunch areas. After each season, Carla would gather up the swans and bring them back home to Elkhart.

Carla made a move to the Winding Waters area and found that there was not much room for the swans. The nest the



birds built was huge and the damage to the surrounding lawn was overwhelming. For instance, an egg that had not hatched would be rolled by the birds to the creek where it would be destroyed. So, it was time to find a new home.

Ann Maurine Frink offered to take three of the black swans. All went well for a while, until one October a few years ago, when Maria Hopman got a call. Ann explained that one of the swans had escaped from the pond and was out on the lake. She needed Maria to get on her wave runner and capture them. Maria quickly called her neighbor Marie Garatoni and off they went to capture the swans. The task was not easy. The

swans kept eluding the wave runners but finally the birds were herded towards shore. Found under a pier, the wave runners were beached and Marie grabbed a swan from under the pier. Marie and Ann then carried the swan all the way down North Shore Drive where it was placed back in the pond.

You won't see these swans on the lake any more. After Ann Maurine sold the property and left the lake the swans were moved to a farm in the Goshen area with a three acre pond.

*I didn't make this up... Only on the lake! ■*



# When You Sell a Lake Home, Choose a Specialist...

Choose *Kelly Cress...*

- ✓ **#1 Agent for Overall Sales on Simonton Lake for the past 7 years! In 2009 alone, I had 6 sales on Simonton!**
- ✓ **#1 Agent in all of Elkhart County for Osolo Township Sales Volume in 2009!**
- ✓ **Top Ten Realtor for Sales Volume in ALL of Elkhart County for 2009\***
- ✓ **Honest, hardworking agent with extensive knowledge of the Simonton Lake market!**

*Call me today with your real estate questions or to learn more about my services.*

**My Simonton Lake Home Sales for 2009:**

25086 North Shore (listing & buyer sale)  
 25120 North Shore (buyer sale)  
 26199 Lake Dr. (listing sale)  
 26265 Lake Dr. (listing & buyer sale)  
 51253 Aqua Dr. (listing & buyer sale)  
 51109 Sail Bay Ct. (listing sale)

Visit **KellyCressHomes.com**  
 for more information  
 and testimonials.

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\*Approximately 350 Realtors within Elkhart County Board of Realtors



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## Treasurer's Corner

Below is a brief financial update on the association:

**Simonton Lake Area Homeowners' Association, Inc.**  
**January 1, 2009 – December 31, 2009**  
**CASH Basis Accounting**

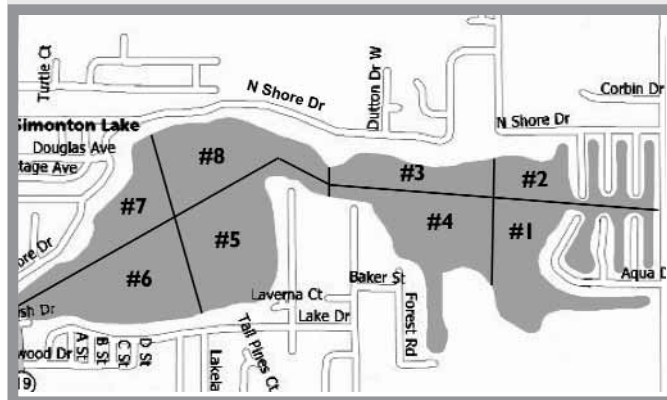
Item	Subtotal	Total
Membership Dues	\$4,485.00	
Advertising	5,704.00	
Events (Boat Parade & Hog Roast)	2,144.00	
Sales (T-shirts)	230.00	
Other (e.g., interest income)	30.01	
<b>Total Gross Revenue</b>		<b>\$12,593.01</b>
Cost of Goods Sold (T-shirts)	\$93.67	
<b>Total Gross Profit</b>		<b>\$12,499.34</b>
Board of Directors (e.g., General meeting expenses, bank fees)	1,336.57	
Membership/Outreach	2,317.40	
Newsletter / Website	2,122.04	
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>\$5,776.01</b>
<b>Net Position as of December 31, 2009</b>		<b>\$6,723.33</b>
<b>Bank Account Balance as of December 31, 2009</b>		<b>\$15,271.48</b>

April is the time to renew your membership with the SLAHA! Our **annual Membership Meeting will be held in May**. Thanks in advance for your support! 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.

## 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. Theresa Leighton 361-8514



**REMINDER: Our next issue of the newsletter will come out May 1st.**

## 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

**Wii Bowl for Kids Sake!**  
 Wednesday March 3rd  
 and 10th! 9 PM to ?  
 ...to raise money for  
 Big Brothers  
 Big Sisters  
 Come sign up and  
 join the fun!



**NOW SERVING  
 BREAKFAST**  
 Saturdays  
 & Sundays  
 at 10am

### HAVE YOU TRIED SOME OF OUR 2010 NEW MENU ITEMS?

#### — Honey Roasted Turkey Sandwich —

Honey Smoked Turkey Breast with applewood bacon, melted  
 Gruyere cheese, caramelized balsamic onions, avocado spread  
 and cranberry mayo on a herbed focaccia flatbread!

#### — The Pastraminator! —

Roasted Pepper Pastrami piled high with an apple bacon sauerkraut,  
 smoked gouda cheese and a whole grain mustard sauce!

#### — Cheesy Beef Sandwich —

Marinated beef sliced thin and sautéed with sweet onions,  
 green peppers and mushrooms then oven baked with a  
 melted Swiss cheese served with horsey sauce!

#### — Hot Cheesy Crab Dip! —

A melted cheese combo with crab and a hint of garlic  
 served with toasted baguettes!

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## Could Stand Up Paddling be the Next "Wave" of Lake Sports?

-by Kay Rhodes

**S**tand Up Paddle originated as a way for Hawaiian locals to take pictures of tourists learning to surf in Waikiki in the early 1960's and has turned into an all out phenomenon. It has lately been a new interest of those who want an alternative way to ride on water or purely a way to stay in shape and is now more commonly called SUP (Stand Up Paddleboarding).

It is a surface water sport, a variant of surfing where the surfer uses a paddle to move through the water, while standing on a



surfboard. It's the ultimate experience for people of all ages to enjoy almost any body of water. In fact, small lakes like Simonton are just perfect for the hottest new paddle sport to hit the water. SUP is easy to learn and almost impossible to master and is also one of the few sports that work almost every muscle in your body, from head to toe. Enjoy a relaxing ride

during sunset along the shore or endure an iron-man's workout.

Because of the standing height over the water, you can see both deeper into the water and further across the surface of the water, allowing better viewing of marine life in the lake.

Could this sport become the new craze on Simonton Lake? Could it become the next "wave" of the future? Maybe we'll see you "surfing" across our lake this summer. ■

## MESSAGE BOARD

### LARE Grant Update

The Lake environment committee is currently going over bids from 3 companies interested in doing our lake study through the LARE grant we received.

### Drive Carefully on Our Roads

This time of year presents a challenge for people out walking on our lake roads. **PLEASE SLOW DOWN** and watch for children and neighbors who are on the roadways. We want a safe neighborhood for all.

### Don't Waste This Opportunity

The Simonton Lake Area Home Owners Association has chosen Borden Waste-Away Service, Inc. as the provider of choice. We are a locally-owned and operated hauler that provides everything

from trash removal and single stream recycling to leaf recycling.

Our recycling options are innovative and make things more efficient for the homeowner. The **curbside single stream recycling** allows all items to be collected in one cart without the need for separation. The cart is on wheels for easy movement and a lid is attached to reduce blowing trash in the neighborhood. The material is brought to our state-of-the-art recycling facility in Elkhart. Commodities are separated and processed on site.

The **leaf pick up program** is a loose-leaf curbside program. This service consists of three scheduled passes: an early season, mid-season and late season pass with an optional spring pick up.

When you are choosing a waste and recycling partner, we hope you consider Borden Waste-Away. With increased participation, truck traffic will lessen. This results in reduced wear and tear on the streets, as well as, a safer environment for your children. For all of your services, choose Borden. -by Dave VanZile ■

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**POST your Garage Sale, Items for sale, Want ad, etc. FREE!!\***

To place a classified ad, email: [ads@simontonlake.org](mailto: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.

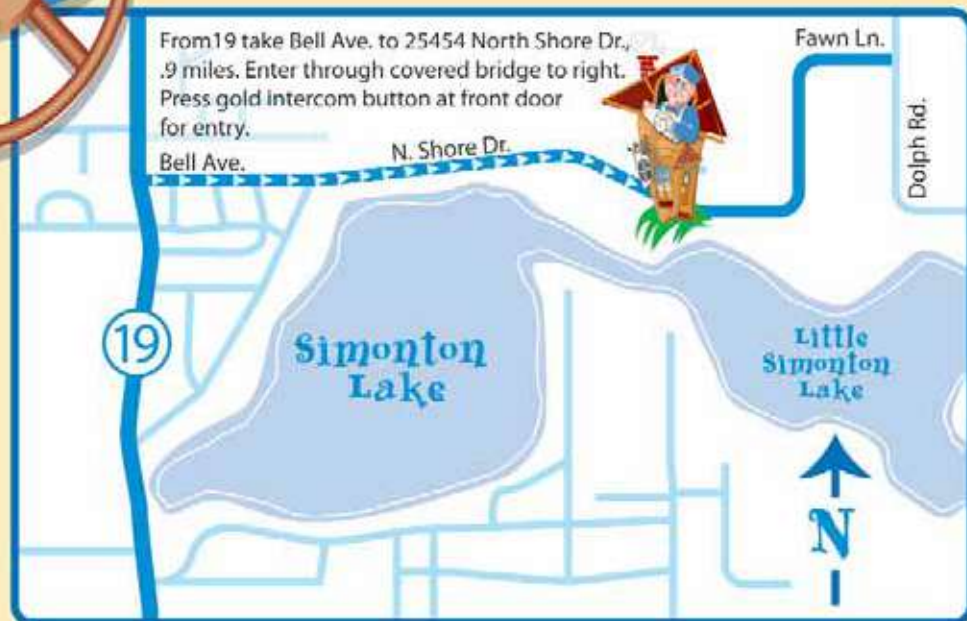
**WANT TO BUY:** I've lost my marbles. At least my wife, Pam, thinks so. Actually, I buy old marbles. If you have any old marbles tucked away in your attic or basement, and want to sell them, give me a call. Or, if you have old marbles and want to know more about them, call me. Bob Shultz, 51096 North Shore, 536-6960 (mobile)



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***Questions or directions?***

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Show us what makes the Simonton Lake Area special and unique. Tell us your stories, your events, birthdays, anniversaries, etc. Send us your photos, we want to hear from you.....

(Call Amy at 262-4773 or email [simon@simontonlake.org](mailto:simon@simontonlake.org))

We are sorry to report the passing of **Gerre (Geraldine) Arnold**, long time resident of Simonton Lake. Gerre was born on September 19, 1930 in Winchester, Virginia. She married Edwin Arnold on June 30, 1950. He passed away in 1987. Gerre worked for the Indiana Toll Road for more than 26 years. She developed, organized and directed the Fourth of July Flag Burning Ceremony held on the shore of our lake for many years. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family and friends. We will all miss her.

**Megan Dittmer**, daughter of **Dick and Kay Rhodes** was married to James Duncan on January 9th, 2010 at St. Mark's Methodist Church, Carmel. The reception was held at the Indianapolis Children's Museum. The couple will reside in Westfield, IN.



**Vaughn and Cindy Nickell** welcomed their 4th granddaughter on July 29th, Leighla Kay Winchester. Proud parents are Chad and Erin Winchester of Elkhart.



## Kayaking

...see story on page 2.

Below: Fun with friends & family, kayaking on Simonton.



Right: Chicago North Avenue launching & landing site.



Above: Checking out the city of Chicago from the River.



Right: Wacker Drive from a kayak.

