



Simonton Says...

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

May 2010

Volume 3, Issue 2

www.simontonlake.org

Special Points of Interest

- General Meeting - May 20th
- A Real Life Fairy Tale
- NEW Summer Events
- Where is Sanford School?



Go Jump in the Lake!!!

More pictures on page 2 & back cover
See story on page 6

Commissioners Say "NO!" to Weir Funding!

See story on page 24

Ice Golf 2010

More pictures on page 2
See story on page 12

Dock Dog Winner

See story on page 20



(Above) Gorilla on Ice

(Left) Winning foursome:
Mike McIntire, Jake Osowski,
Brandan Chapman, &
Colin Bontrager



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Go Jump in the Lake!!!

See Story and more pictures/pg.6 & back cover



Ice Golf 2010

See Story and more pictures/pg.12



Dick Koss, Steve Hill, Shawn Lockwood, Chris Healey



Jack Tucker and Team Premier Woods



Jeff Guy Second Left, Scott Sawyer Third Left



Team Zimmys....Jason Copenhaver, Tony Young, Jimmy Hepzanburger, Gary Kazmiecckzak, Steve Holtz, Jimmy Vance, Herm Hepzanburger, Craig Lochmandy



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*For information on our Association Committees, visit our website.
www.simontonlake.org*

*We would love to have you participate. Our committees are:
Membership/Outreach, Environment, Lake Safety, & Newsletter/Website.*

*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.*

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

Email to: 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 June 1st (in the meantime, check the website for current news)

Simonton Lake Area Homeowners' Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 1706, Elkhart, IN. 46515-1706
www.simontonlake.org
Email: simon@simontonlake.org

Events on the Lake

May 20th - Annual Homeowners' Meeting
held at Sportsmen's Club, 7:00pm,
(For more information see page 29)

May 22nd & 23rd - Spring Turkey Shoot
(Sponsored by Sportsmen's Club)

June 5th - Lakeshore 300
Cardboard Boat Race (see page 30)

June 12th - 2nd Annual Boat Parade
(Rain Date - June 13th) Cartoon theme
(see page 22)

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

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

July 4th - Fireworks (Rain date - July 5)
(Sponsored by Sportsmen's Club)

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

July 31st - Lakeside Festival of Lights
(For details see page 30)

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,
Email: clehman@elkhartcountysheriff.com
Phone: (574) 535-6553

EMERGENCIES - CALL 911

Osolo Township Fire Dept. (574) 264-1066

Osolo EMS (574) 262-3052

Law Enforcement District (574) 457-8092

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

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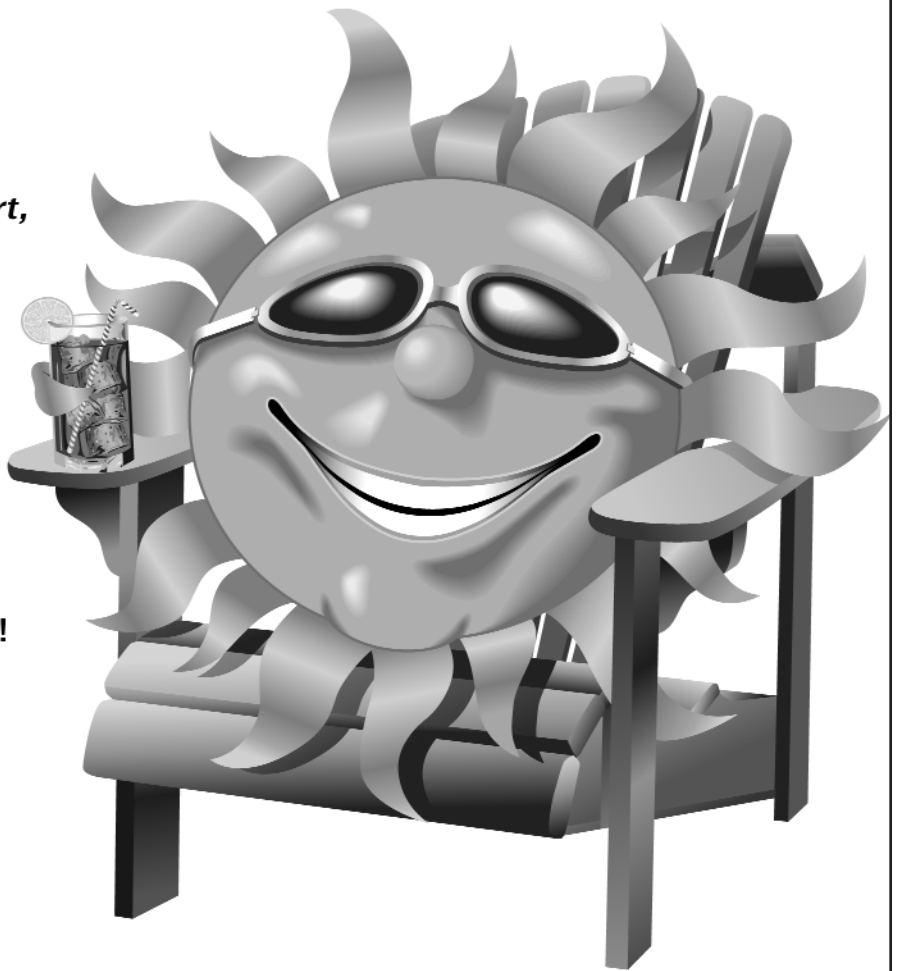
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Go Jump in the Lake

-by Bob Meyers

On a cold, snowy Winter day, Merle Anderson was working hard at Pete's Simonton Lake Tavern when Lake Drive resident Gail Price said, "You know, we should have some kind of fun activity outside on a day like this."

Merle looked at Gail, then out a window to see snow flying, then back at Gail and said, "Go jump in the lake."

Gail responded, "That's a great idea. We'll break away some ice and jump in the lake. We'll get a bunch of people to pay to jump and give the money to charity. I know the people at United Cancer Services. Let's talk with them." And the Leprechaun Leap was born.

Alright, since this is a story about a St. Patrick's Day event, we may have begun with an Irish tale, however the gist of the story is true. Gail and Merle came up with the idea of the now famous "Leprechaun Leap".

It is held each year on a Saturday near St. Patrick's Day. Each of the last five years, a number of people of all ages have joined Merle, his family, employees and friends, Peter Norton and his staff from United Cancer Services of Elkhart County, Kevin Musselman and his crew from Froggy Radio, and a flock of other unselfish volunteers who make "The Leap" a very successful money raiser for UCS.

The first "Leap" was very well attended. The "jumpers" and watchers had so much fun, and raised so much money, the event continued and has grown in numbers each year.

This cold Saturday in March brought more "jumpers" and watchers than one could ever imagine. There were approximately 180 leapers who, directed by Mister Norton, jumped in groups of ten. One "school" included our own Merle Anderson who, each year, makes sure his group is made up of cancer survivors and those going through treatment. Other leapers were Jimtown cheerleaders, members of the Elkhart City Po-



lice Department, who had a belly-flop contest, as well as other teams that joined individuals to make a cold leap, that because of its meaning, warms a lot of hearts.

Last year's record breaking "Leap" raised \$8,000. This year's amount blew that record "out of the water". They raised over \$20,000.

The ownership and managers of Pete's, Lou Kilgren, Merle Anderson and his wife, Linda, have donated more than we will ever know (heck, they even cut the holes in the ice), and keep giving to insure this event is the best it can be, a family affair so Mom, Dad and their children can enjoy the day. And they do their best to see that a great amount of money can be raised for the patient help group at UCS.

This is just one of the many enjoyable events taking place each year on YOUR lake. Here you have a group of people who on a cold day, during a long Winter, do something that does nothing more for them than make them freeze on the outside, but warms them on the inside.

So next year, as you contemplate what you can do on a cold Saturday in the middle of March. Go jump in the lake. ■





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Wildlife in our Backyard

New Visitor to the Lake - a Hooded Merganser

-by Dick Rhodes

The variety of waterfowl seen on our lake is quite intriguing. Jackie Cranmer, who lives on Beach Dr. wanted to share this picture with you, in case you missed seeing the new visitor to our lake. The picture was taken January 26, 2010, at the north end of the channel



between Beach & Twilight Drives. This was the first time a Hooded

Merganser has been seen by Jackie, who had to log onto Ducks Unlimited (www.ducks.org), to make the identification. She said, "He spent the morning happily diving in the open water in our channel, probably hunting his breakfast."

The Hooded Merganser is one of six species of Mergansers and is restricted to North America. They dive in shallow fresh water to feed on small fish. They breed in forested wetlands, which may



be attracting them to the channel and Little Simonton Lake.

How many different species have shown up on our lake? Keep your camera handy and send us photos of the waterfowl and other wildlife you see. It's easy to spend hours watching the beautiful birds put on their displays, and listen to the melody of the marsh created by the collective fanfare of a countless number of ducks and geese peeping, honking, whistling, and grunting. ■

Simonton Lake Pets

-by Amy Matherly

Pets are an important part of life on our lake. Just look at the number of pontoon boats with dogs aboard as they pass along the shore line.

You don't often see cats on boats. I think cats are a little more discriminating in their be-



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havior and choice of activities. Take Louis, Mary Noreus' cat. Louis is a small black and white cat and can be spotted in the early mornings when he makes the rounds of his kingdom, several properties along the North Shore. He's quite cautious and fleet of foot on the rock seawalls. I've never seen him catch a fish but he certainly has studied them in the shallows.

Contrast to that the big neighborhood dogs who bound out of the house to scare away ducks, swans, geese and an occasional rabbit. Our grand dog, Giles, happy-go-lucky English Sheep dog is in his glory

when he has free reign of the fenced in yard.

Another interesting character is the "puma" who belongs to our neighbors, Brud and Eldonna. My beagles in their youth never missed running after a cat, but not this cat. This is the largest cat I've ever seen. He never hissed at the beagles, he didn't need to. Just his presence was all that was ever required. Those dogs would just see him in his yard as they walked along the street and immediately and simultaneously cross to the other side of the street.

Send us your pet stories or pictures by mail or by e-mail to simon@simontonlake.org ■

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A Fairy Tale Come True

-by Amy Matherly

Miss Natalie Replogle, daughter of Dave and Colleen Replogle of North Shore Drive and Josh Hochstetler, son of Janet and Conrad Hochstetler, are engaged, but the story of the proposal is a fairy tale come true! A reporter interviewed the couple and wrote an article for the Purdue University "Exponent" magazine last November.

Natalie, Dave and Colleen's youngest daughter, graduated from Elkhart Memorial High School. Josh is a graduate of Bethany Christian High School.

How far would you go for love? One young man followed his across the Atlantic to ask his sweetheart to spend her life with him. While Natalie Replogle – soon to be Mrs. Hochstetler – an alumna of Indiana University, was taking time off after college visiting family and friends in Germany, her long-time Boilermaker of a boyfriend, Josh Hochstetler, a senior in the College of Technology at Purdue, was busy planning the engagement proposal of her dreams.

Hochstetler arrived in Germany early on the morning of October 11th. Natalie had been taken by her friends to a white temple at the highest point of Neroberg Park, which overlooks the entire city of Wiesbaden. "My friends told me it was a tradition to blindfold those who had never seen the beautiful view before and then to have the person make a wish," said Natalie. "Removing the blindfold, all I saw were rain clouds."

As if the rain clouds weren't enough of a surprise, Natalie discovered her friends had been videotaping her. And that's when Natalie saw a beautiful bouquet of roses with a handwritten note from Hochstetler. In the note, Josh explained his love by quoting Philippians 2:1-2. Heart racing, Natalie said she looked around for Josh.

Right on cue, Hochstetler emerged from behind one of the



temple pillars. It was then that Hochstetler got down on one knee and proposed. "It was very romantic!" said Natalie. "He knew I didn't care for proposals done in impersonal places like restaurants or baseball stadiums. It was an amazing gesture of his love to fly across the ocean to me!"

Josh said he got the idea when Natalie told him about her desire to explore Europe after her graduation. "I bought my ticket about four months before" said Hochstetler. "I was very nervous. One moment I would be just fine and then I would feel like I was going into cardiac arrest." But Natalie didn't seem to notice Hochstetler's butterflies.

To Natalie, everything had been perfect. When Josh said he regretted that it had been cold and rainy that day, Natalie wholeheartedly disagreed. "I've always wanted to be proposed to in the rain. I've always thought the end of the movie 'Little Women' when the professor comes back in the rain was so romantic."

The best part about spending the rest of her life with Josh is "knowing that he is my best friend." For Josh, it is knowing

that "She is all mine!" Natalie says the key to making your own fairy tale ending a reality is to have faith. "Josh appeared in my life when I was not looking for him," she said. While Natalie doesn't mean to imply one should trek around wearing eye patches, her best advice is not to go looking for love, but to let it find you.

I think I just heard the women of the lake say in unison "He's SO romantic!" The wedding of lake residents, Josh and Natalie, will take place in the summer of 2011. Congratulations to both families. We'll look forward to publishing Josh and Natalie's wedding picture. ■



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Ice Golf 2010

- by Cam Snyder

It's Saturday afternoon in late January in Northern Indiana and the thermometer reads 18 degrees. There's eight inches of snow on the ground and ten inches of ice on frozen Simonton lake. One would think it would be a perfect day to stay in the house nestled by the fire in front of the TV but not on this day.

Instead, the cold weather and plenty of ice on the lake made for perfect conditions to play golf! Ice golf that is! It was time for the much anticipated Blue Ball Open golf tournament at Lakeshore Grill. 120 golfers gathered at the Lakeshore for the annual fund raiser for the Simonton Lake Sportsmen Club.

A permit is required in Indiana to play golf on the ice and so the planning and application

process started back in August of 2009. The DNR must physically come to the lake and inspect the proposed golf course to approve the permit. The day the DNR officer had arrived to do his inspection was in September of 2009 and it was sunny and 80 degrees! Standing on my pier at lakeshore peering out over the lake he had to visualize the frozen tundra that was to be in January and the layout of the proposed golf course that I designed.

The course was expanded to 15 holes this year to handle the increase in participants. Complete with tee boxes, fairways and greens smoothed out with plows, snow blowers and shovels and the holes are drilled in the ice with ice augers... the course was in the best

shape ever!

Building the golf course is quite an undertaking and generally a two to three day job depending on the weather, amount of snow and how many brewskie breaks we take during the process! The grounds crew consisted of Vinny Vance from (Zimmyville) Coverdale Lake, Patrick Rosegnogle from Forest Dr., Dicky Koss, Shawn Lockwood and myself from Maplewood Drive.



Chris Beck Shorts middle, Bill Beck Shorts Right, Cam Snyder Black and White Jacket back left



It's was a scramble format tournament with four person teams of men or women. The rules are simple! You must use certified golf clubs no hockey sticks or tennis rackets allowed and a tennis ball instead of golf balls. Tennis balls are much easier to find in the snow and don't travel as far as a real golf ball.

Golf carts were a variation of modified sleds, toboggans and ice fishing tackle boxes with a few clubs, tennis balls and their favorite beverage to get them through the three-hour round of golf.

The winning foursome won a week's use of a new South Bay Pontoon, which was donated by Jeff Haradine and Chris Pobanz from Wakeside Marina. With a par of 49 (because that's what our team scored) we had an extremely close tournament. **With a score of 42 The winning team was Mike McIntire, Colin Bontrager, Brandon Chapman, Jake Osowski. 2nd Place: Rich Gawthrop, Brad Sissom, Jason Floyd, Pat Konecsky with a score of 43. 3rd Place: Ryan Snyder, Ab Saleh, Sean Broderick, Chad Broderick with a score of 44.**

The creativity that some of the teams brought to the tournament was awesome to see this year. One



team modified a ten by ten pop up tent on skis complete with stereo and speakers and cooler and pulled it around the course. Jack Tucker built his golf club carrier out of wood on skis and it had just enough room for a few of his favorite beverages and some extra tennis balls.

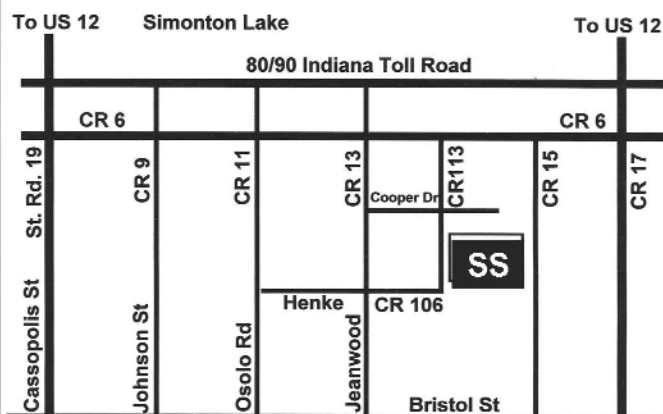
Sports Director from the Elkhart Truth, Bill Beck and his son Chris Beck played in shorts for the entire round. We even had an appearance from a golf playing gorilla!

It just goes to show you what a great community we live in when you can attract 120 people to play golf and a crowd of 75 people to come out and follow the golfers in eighteen degree weather in middle of winter!

Thanks to all that contributed and participated and a Big Thank You to the Lake residents for allowing me to hold the tournament on Simonton Lake again this year! ■



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Simonton Chronicles

Our New Martins Sparks Curiosity

-by Carole Foutz

How many of our Simonton Lake neighbors, when hearing about our new Martin's being located on Sanford School Road said, "What?". I taught at Mary Feeser School on County Road 4 for more than 25 years and this was a new revelation to me. I had never heard of Sanford School. Then when Martin's opened, a small article appeared in the Elkhart Truth explaining that Mayor Dick Moore was a driving force behind both re-searching and recognizing the location and existence of Sanford School as one of the earliest Osolo Township's schools. Thus, he decided to rename the city's portion of the road after the school. As a history teacher and author of Simonton Chronicles, how could I let this curiosity go unexplored? In the next few publications of Simonton Says, I will share with you not only information about Sanford School and early education in Osolo Township but actually a quite interesting history of Osolo Township.

Samuel Simonton is known to have been the first settler in Osolo Township in Section 9 which is the northern shore of Simonton Lake, in 1834. Soon after, came some familiar sounding names: Abraham Heaton, Philip Mechling, James Compton and John Gardner. Alphens Bugbee came the following year settling around Christiana Creek. In January 1838, Osolo Township was organized. Abraham Heaton was the first Justice of the Peace. The first election

was held in the county's first school house, known as the Johnson School which was erected in 1838. This was located on the west side of Johnson Street half way between County Roads 4 and 6.

As the settlement grew it needed a post office which was established in 1839. A post office was erected on Alphens Bugbee's land which was west of Christiana Creek in the area of County Road 4 (or Sanford School Road) and Bugbee became Postmaster.



Sanford School

Photos reprinted from Martins Supermarket flyer, courtesy of Doris Miller & Denny Thompson

In the early history books of Elkhart County, Osolo Township is referred to as the "Lake Township". The lakes consist of Simonton Lake, Mud Lake, Cooley Lake and Heaton Lake. Mud Lake is the principal source for Puterbaugh Creek. Christiana Creek is a major waterway in the township said to have been named in honor of the wife of a Christian missionary. Christiana Creek's source begins in Michigan in the group of lakes: Juneau, Christiana and Painter Lakes and empties into

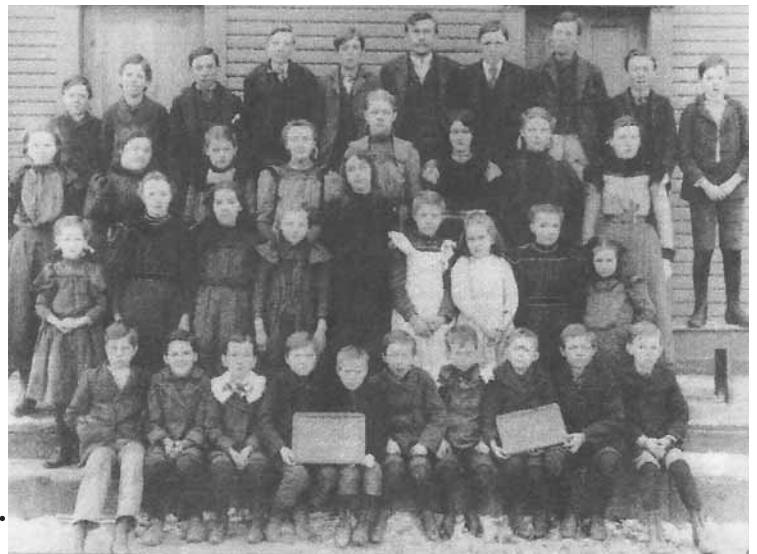
the St. Joseph River. Heaton Lake was named for its original land owner, Abraham Heaton.

Robert and Anna Sanford were owners of the land where Sanford School was built in 1888. Sanford School was built 50 years after the log cabin Johnson School. It educated students in Osolo Township for 37 years, before the township closed its one room school houses and built Osolo School, in 1925. (Today's new Osolo School presently sits on the site where the original 1925 school was torn down.) The Sanford School building has since been enlarged and incorporated into a home and still sits just southwest of the County Road 4 Christiana Creek Bridge.

Mary Feeser was a teacher at Sanford School and also at Osolo School, when it was opened in 1925. She wasn't forgotten for her service to the children in the township, we have a school today that bears her name.

Read in the next issue of *Simonton Says* more on early education in Osolo Township and its history as I continue this fascinating topic. One very interesting observation: the names of

the original landowners and participants in Osolo Township's very early history are matching up to many of our residents here today: Compton, Mechling, Replogle, Monger and more. We think of our modern country as being so mobile and diverse but Osolo Township in many ways still reflects a very close relationship to our past. ■



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It's time to "Hop to it" and get ready for Ski Season!

-by Kim Chastain

It doesn't take much for these guys to find a reason to hit the water.....and Froggy's Leprechaun Leap was a great way to for this foursome (plus son) to get together and take a dip – only this time it was barefoot off the pier instead of slalom behind the boat.

(left to right) Randy Hoff, Steve Robison, Tim Bair, Chuck Chastain and son Jake gathered together to support United Cancer Services annual fundraising event at Pete's on March 13th. Each took the plunge into the "30ish" degree water along with several others on this cold, rainy, Saturday morning.



While Randy and Tim still live at the lake, Chuck and Steve grew up there and moved away, but as they say, once a lake rat....always a lake rat! Come late April or early May you can usually catch the foursome out on Simonton Lake welcoming the sunrise and wishing away the fog in order to get in their weekend fix of slalom skiing. For the last 8-10 years or so, they've shared weekend mornings together enjoying the water and basking in the stories about who had the biggest spray, whose "cut" was the best, or where the next regional ski tournament is being held. It's a sport they say, that just like good wine.....gets better with age!

So next time you're out enjoying an early morning coffee, look for 4 MEN AND A BOAT and smile along with them! ■

Ruth's Chris Steak House at Old IGA Site?

-by Amy Matherly

Nope. Sorry. The famous steak place is not coming to the lake. But the 'Simonton Says' staff has heard lots of suggestions.

Last fall the building that had been Mauricks IGA burned almost to the ground. It was later completely demolished. All that remained is a pile in cinderblock and rubble. So, now will the property lay idle?

Our staff had some suggestions. How about a Starbucks? Or maybe a Hobby Lobby? What about a Kohl's or Target? Maybe it should be a park or a Farmer's Market. **Let us know what you'd like to see at the old IGA site.** ■

ALL HANDS ON DECK....

We need a few new people to join our newsletter and website staff...

We have no special requirements, we're just looking for people who enjoy:

- *Being creative & coming up with ideas or
- *Taking photographs or
- *Meeting people or talking with neighbors or
- *Doing research or
- *Learning about our environment or
- *Writing stories or articles or.....

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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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Life on the Lake

May 2010

- by Amy Matherly

Ryan and I moved to Simonton Lake 28 years ago. We raised our kids out here and we've never regretted a day. Somehow the last 28 years have melted away. Many summers have come and gone in an instant. And now, there will be another generation of Matherlys who have the great privilege of being a part of this lake. Our son Ben and his wife, Gina (Milhoupt), are expecting in May.

It seems that there are stages to life, many of which revolve around our kids. What an abrupt change we experienced 30 years ago when we brought home our first baby. He was a doll and he had colic. Having a doctor in the family did nothing for colic. Thank God for my mother-in-law, who would walk with him and talk to him and give me some relief. I remember wistfully thinking about sleeping through the night or going to the bathroom alone. Who would have ever thought that such simple things would be such "gifts?"

But then who would have ever imagined the precious memories of the last 30 years. In my mind I hold clearly a memory of our 2 year old daughter running down Tower Hill up at the dunes. Her blond curly hair was flying in the wind and her tan little arms and legs were pumping wildly. And that look of delight on her face. Priceless! And those summer afternoons when Ben learned to ski behind our fishing boat with a 4-horse Johnson motor.

From there we went on a race through the elementary years with a full complement of Little League and swim meets. The middle school stage wasn't one of my favorites but we made it.

I know I had switched stages of life when I ceased spending hours every day driving and picking up children from practices, lessons and birthday parties.

During that stage we had a van and I kept a cooler in the back on the outside chance that I could get to the grocery store for some milk between drop off and pickup.

When kids begin driving it's a mixed blessing. You get hours of time back but spend lots of time worrying. Then, too, it was who got what car and who could ride with whom and why is this car parked in the back of the other. And she gets the car all the time and it wasn't fair.

We went through a series of graduations which led to engagements, showers and weddings. If any of you need any votive candles, ostrich feathers (don't ask) or blank place cards, I've got them. I know some friends on the lake who have a stock of other wedding-type items, too.

And now with the announcement made by our son and daughter-in-law we enter into the grandparent stage. From what my friends tell me this is the best. It's like a great reward for having made it through the previous stages.

We were at Perkins one Sunday morning after church and in walked the Swansons with one of their granddaughters. Grandpa was beaming but the little girl he held in his arms looked as if she was with her champion. I've never seen such a look of admiration and trust. Grandpa Swanson looked at us as he went past and said, "This grandparent stuff is the greatest!"

So, I'm excited. Our baby is a girl. Her name will be Gia. Remember back in the day when you found out whether it was a boy or girl in the delivery room?

Now, an ultrasound is standard practice. I was asked to be at this event along with the other grandma and I was amazed at what this machine can do. There was little Gia, all 13 ounces of her. We heard her heartbeat, nice and strong. We looked at her lungs and spine, liver, heart. It was all good. I didn't tell the kids but I was worried. I know folks who didn't get good news at their ultrasound.

The mother-to-be cried a bit. My son, beamed from ear to ear. He's going to be someone's daddy, I thought. Seems like he was swimming in the shallows with his sister just yesterday. I called my mother later that day. She's a very wise woman. She said, "He's going to be a good daddy."

Just a couple of questions: Can you have too many cute little pink outfits? And, what the heck is a pack-n-play?

Till next time. ■



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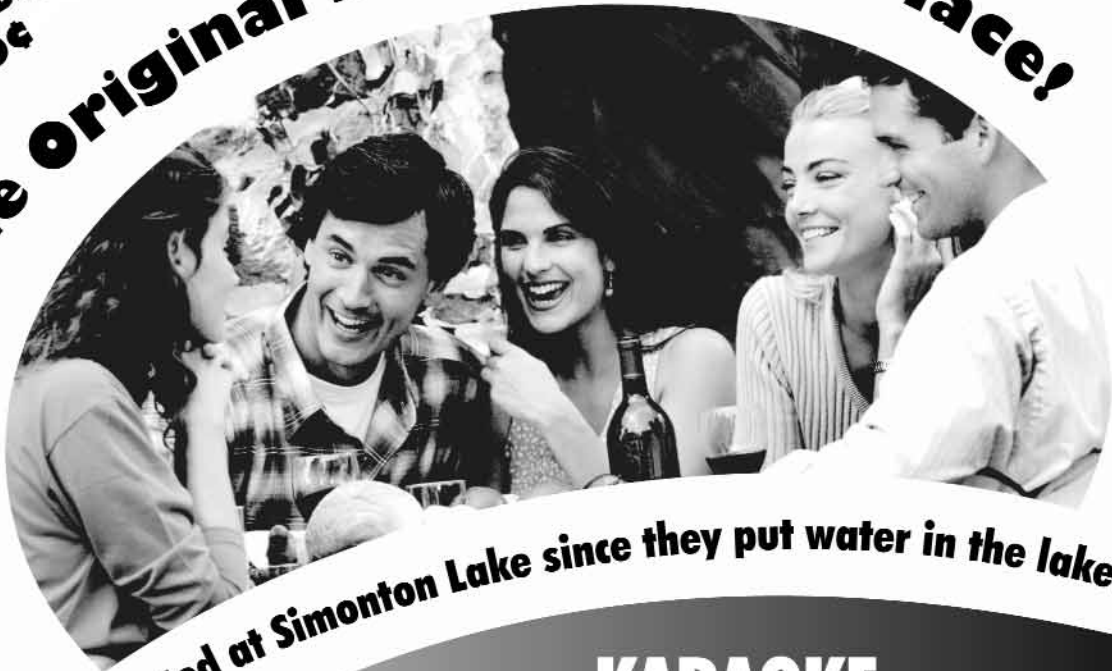
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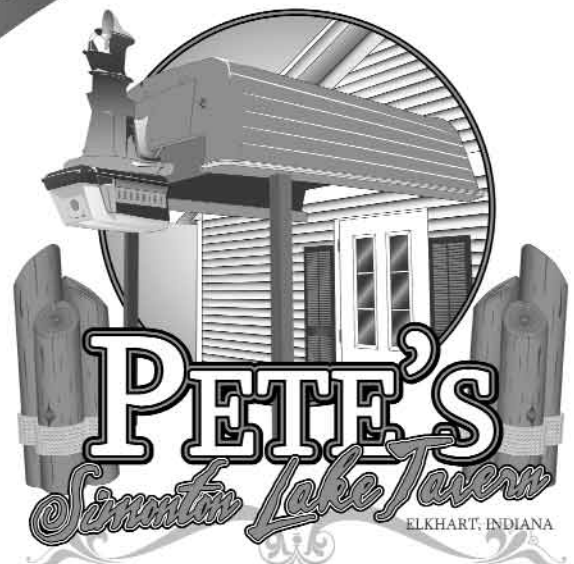
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The Lake's Leaping Labrador

-by Bob Putnam

In November of 2005 Bob Evans (Aqua Drive) brought home a cute eight week old yellow Labrador retriever. "Buckeye" or "Buck" got his name from Bob's days at Ohio State University and his hometown of Columbus, Ohio.

Today Buckeye is a big and strong bundle of energy. Growing up on the lake, Buckeye loved the water and retrieving, soon he was jumping off of the dock. Buckeye became an exceptionally strong swimmer and jumper with unending energy.

While attending some sporting and boating shows Bob was introduced to the Dock Dog competition and by March 2009 Buckeye was entered into his first Dock Dog event. Now, in a Dock Dog event, the dog and his handler are put on a dock that is 40 feet long and 8 feet wide. The dog is led by his handler to retrieve a baton/ball into a pool that is 40 feet long. The length of the dog's jump off of the dock is measured by video and computer. The measurement is made from the end of the dock to where the base of the dog's tail hits water. To give you an idea of how fast this all happens Buckeye takes between 1.5 to 1.75 seconds to run the length of the 40 foot dock and gets up to a speed as fast as 28 mph when

doing this.

At Buckeye's first Dock Dog event, in March 2009 in Columbus, Ohio, he placed in the preliminary rounds taking 1- first place, 2- second places, 1- third place and in the Championship round of the Big Air event, Buckeye won fourth place. In July 2009 Buckeye competed in a Dock Dog event in Rockford, IL and in the preliminary rounds he won 3- first

sion. Buckeye came in eighth place with a jump of 22 feet 7 inches. Buck had a great rookie year.

This year Buckeye has already competed in three events at McCormick Place in Chicago, Indianapolis, IN and Columbus, OH. He is now qualified to compete in this year's Nationals event in Dubuque, Iowa. The highlight, so far this year, happened in Columbus, OH, where Buckeye took First Place in the Championship round with a jump of 24 feet.

Bob Evans wants to let people know that you can watch Buckeye practice off of Bob's dock which is located between his house and the island on Little Simonton Lake. If you would like to know more about this sport, Bob would love to discuss it with you. So if you get the opportunity come on over and watch Buckeye the "Lake's Leaping Labrador". ■



places. In the Championship round, Buckeye won the Masters title and with this win he qualified to compete in the National Dock Dog Championships at Kings Island, Ohio, in October 2009. Throughout the four cold and rainy days at the Nationals event Buckeye qualified to compete in the finals of the Elite divi-



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July 31st on Simonton Lake

See page 30 for details.



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BECOME PART OF A TRADITION: You Can Watch the Boat Parade from the Shore, or Decorate your Boat and Join in the Fun!

SIGN UP NOW for Simonton Lake's 2nd Annual Boat Parade

We want to turn this into one of the best traditions on the lake, and we need your participation. The Membership/Outreach Committee of SLAHA has organized the 2nd Annual Boat Parade, this year it will be held on June 12th, rain date June 13th.

Competition will take place again in 3 classifications: jet ski, speed boats and pontoons. **VERY IMPORTANT: There will be only 1 theme for decorating your craft this year — CARTOONS.**

Any type of decorating is allowed but must be socially acceptable. 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 and animation
- 5) size and detail of decorations and use of color.

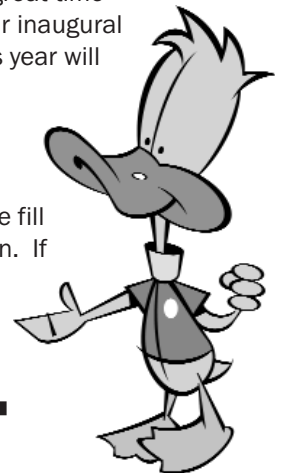
You will receive 5 extra bonus points if you are an SLAHA current member the day of the event.

The parade judging will start at 2 pm. The parade route will again be around the perimeter of the big lake and the judging location will be at Jack Griffith's pier, on

the northwest shore. After the parade and judging is over, all residents, participants, and non-participants are invited to the sand bar at approximately 3 pm for the 3 life ring trophy presentations, which will hang and be displayed in **Lakeshore Grill, Pete's and Wakeside Marine** until next years event. **COME ON AND MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS.** 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.

We had a great time last year in our inaugural event and this year will be bigger and better. Entry fees are the same as last year, so please fill out and mail in. If you have any questions, please call Jack Griffith,

264-5460 or Randy Hoff, 262-3432. ■



**2nd Annual
Boat Parade**

June 12th
(Rain Date - June 13th)
Judging starts at 2 pm
**Awards given on the
sandbar at approxi-
mately 3 pm**

THEME: Cartoons

CLASSIFICATIONS:
Jet Skis
Speed Boats
Pontoons

SLAHA MEMORIAL DAY BOAT PARADE

Saturday, June 12th, 2010, Rain Date Sunday, June 13th
Judging starts at 2:00 pm, Awards Presented at 3:00 pm on the sand bar

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

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

\$7 Resident _____

\$10 Non-Resident _____

Theme: Return to Summer _____

Patriotic/Memorial Day _____

Classification: Pontoon _____

Speedboat _____

Waverunner _____

By completing and signing this form, the registrant assumes all risks relating to or arising out of participation in the Boat Parade, whether foreseeable or unforeseeable, known or unknown, at this time, and further accepts personal and financial responsibility as to, and releases all claims against, the Simonton Lake Area Homeowners' Association, Inc. and its officers, directors and successors and assigns for any injuries, damages or losses sustained by the registrant relating to or arising out of participation in the Boat Parade.

Signature: _____

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— The Pastraminator! —

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

— Cheesy Beef Sandwich —

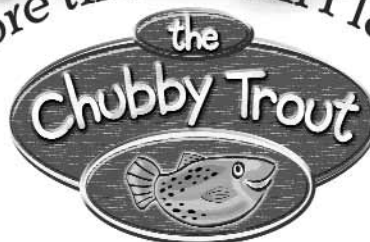
Marinated beef sliced thin and sautéed with sweet onions, green peppers and mushrooms then oven baked with a melted Swiss cheese served with horsey sauce!

— Hot Cheesy Crab Dip! —

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COMMUNITY UPDATE

Commissioners Say "NO!" to Weir Funding!

-by Dave Foutz

Just when the people of Simonton Lake began to hope that there might be some resolution to years of lake level fluctuation, just when there was a glimmer of hope for north side residents that they may no longer have water in their basements, and just when our resolute friends who have invested eighteen years in this odyssey sensed a crack in the governmental logjam, the commissioners effectively slam the door on the weir project.

Early this year the engineering firm of Lawson-Fisher submitted a feasibility and design study to the Commissioners that seemed very encouraging to the proponents of the weir project. The study determined that an effective water control device could be constructed and installed in Lilly Creek that would be less invasive to the habitat, could be substantially constructed in the existing ditch easement, and at about half of the cost previously anticipated. However, the study failed to ignite momentum in county government and the study languished in Goshen.

After several inquiries of key people as to the current status of the weir project and getting responses that clearly indicated the weir had fallen off the radar screen of the administrative branch of county government, it was determined that the project should once again be included in the public record. At the county's finance meeting on Thursday, April 15, it was determined the progress of the weir and the future implementa-

tion plan, which ought to be provided by the Surveyor's Office should be discussed at the Saturday, April 17 County Council meeting.

Following a discussion with the Surveyor's Office, the project seemed to be in its infancy but it did appear to have legs and things were looking up. Gordon Lord, the county attorney, obviously had been passed the ball on the project and appeared to be fully up to the task of running with it. Because of his central position on the project, it was determined that Mr. Lord would be the appropriate person to make the presentation at Saturday's meeting. During Mr. Lord's presentation at Saturday's meeting, Commissioner Mike Yoder interjected that **the county wouldn't be paying for any of the weir construction costs.**

Clearly Mr. Yoder must have been misunderstood and so he was asked to repeat his remark. Mr. Yoder clearly reiterated that county would not be paying anything toward the construction of the weir. The commissioners were of the opinion that costs associated with property acquisition and ditch preparation would be as much as the county was willing to contribute. Further, weir construction would be the responsibility of the state and Simonton Lake residents.

This is where the weir project currently stands. If **you don't agree** that your years of drainage assessment has been effectively serving

the interests of Simonton Lake residents, that spending millions of additional dollars for construction at the Criminal Justice Complex to house juvenile delinquents or other county big ticket projects should take precedent over a water control device that could keep water out of your basements and maintain the water level of our lake, you may wish to express your opinion with the Elkhart County Commissioners.

Contact information:

Mike Yoder: Vice-President

Frank Lucchese: Board Member

Terry Rodino: President, District 3 - representing townships of Baugo, Cleveland, Harrison, Locke, Olive, Osolo and Union, plus liaison to County Drainage Board.

117 North Second Street

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574-535-6743 (phone)

574-534-3541 (alternate phone)

Email:

Ccommissioners@elkhartcounty.com. ■

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www.stopashborer.com

www.simontonlake.org



by Bob Meyers

Enough about w-i-n-t-e-r.

First of all, let's complete the Winter news. The Winter Turkey Shoot and Pre-Spring Casino Night, both held at the Sportsmen's club house were HUGE successes. THANK YOU!

The ice is gone. The piers are "reapiering" and the boats are beginning to "apier" IT REALLY IS SPRING.

Our **Spring Turkey Shoot** will be held at the Sportsmen's Club on May 22nd and 23rd, beginning at 10 am each day.

The first Club sponsored **Kid's Fishing Contest** of the year will be held on Saturday, June 12th.

The annual Sportsmen's Club **Poker Run** will be held July 3rd, rain or shine, while the **Fourth of July Fireworks Celebration** will be on..... the Fourth of July with a rain date of the July 5th.

Here is good news for all members of the Simonton Lake Area Homeowners Association:

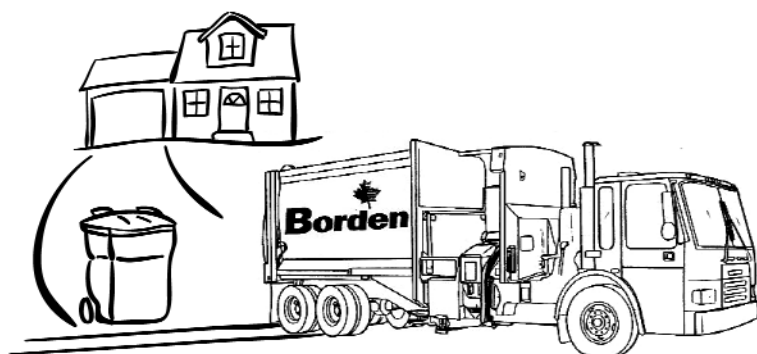
The Simonton Lake Sportsmen's Club clubhouse is available for rent to members of the Simonton Lake Area Homeowners Association at a **reduced rate**. If you are a member in good standing, you will receive a **\$200 discount** on a rental of the clubhouse located at 51036 County Road 11 North. For information on renting the best building in the area for your celebration call the clubhouse number 266-0153 and leave a message for Ginny. She will return your call.

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It's the Law: On the Water

Operating a boat or PWC in a manner that unnecessarily endangers a person or property of another person is considered dangerous. If you interfere with another person's lawful use of public water or obstruct a legally permitted marine event, you also may be charged. Should you be ticketed by a law enforcement officer for one of the crimes listed below, you could have points assessed against your driver's license.

Examples of illegal and reckless operation are:

- ☐ Operating a vessel at speeds that endanger human life, endanger human physical safety or property, or prevent stopping within an assured clear distance ahead. Be aware of and obey all regulatory markers, including those marked as "idle speed" or "slow, no wake speed."
- ☐ Operating a vessel at speeds of more than **10 miles per hour between sunset and sunrise.**
- ☐ Weaving your vessel through congested waterway traffic or swerving at the last possible moment in order to avoid collision.
- ☐ Jumping the wake of another vessel such that you endanger human life, human physical safety, or property.
- ☐ Loading the vessel beyond the recommended capacity shown on the capacity plate installed by the vessel manufacturer.
- ☐ Causing a hazardous wake or wash from your vessel.

- ☐ Boating in restricted areas without regard for other boaters or persons, posted speeds and wake restrictions, diver-down flags, etc.
- ☐ Operating in a circular course around another vessel engaged in fishing or around a person swimming.
- ☐ Operating within 150 feet of a diver-down flag unless assisting the diver.
- ☐ Allowing passengers to ride on the gunwale or, if the vessel is less than 21 feet in length, on the bow where they may fall overboard.

Lake and channel restrictions vary depending on the size of the body of water or the waterway. You may be restricted to speeds up to 10 miles per hour anywhere from 50 to 200 feet from the shoreline, depending on the size of the lake or the width of the channel (IC 14-15-3-7).

"Idle Speed" or "Slow, No Wake Speed" IC 14-8-2-129

These buoys or signs indicate a boating restricted area established to protect the safety of the public, ecological resources, and property. "Idle speed" means the slowest possible speed, not to exceed five miles per hour, so as to maintain steerage and produce minimal wake.

See our website for a map of the lake identifying the No Wake-Idle zones on Simonton Lake. www.simontonlake.org ■

Indiana Department of Natural Resources
The Handbook of Indiana Boating Laws and Responsibilities
For more information on Indiana Boating Laws, see our website:
www.simontonlake.org. click on **Resources**



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Your Simonton Lake Area Association & Lake Environment Committee Hard at Work

- by John Rose

It has been a long hard winter, but our committees and board members for the association have been hard at work trying to make our lake community a better place to live. One of the bigger projects that the association is working on comes out of the "Lake Environment Committee" chaired by Bill Broderick. Through Bill's leadership of this committee, an application through the D.N.R for a L.A.R.E (Lake And River Enhancement) Grant was submitted in 2009, and we were awarded a \$35,000 grant to do a study of Simonton Lake. Only 10% will be the responsibility of the association, which has already been budgeted. In February of this year, the Lake Committee sent out requests for bids for this study, out of the three companies' that

responded to us, a local company (Walkerton, Indiana) JFNEW was selected to do the lake study.

The Simonton Lake Diagnostic and Feasibility Study describe below is meant to document the conditions and trends in the 5,233 acre watershed and our 303 acre lake.

The purpose of this study:

- Describe conditions and trends in Simonton Lake and its watershed.
- Identify potential non point source water quality problems
- Prioritize potential watershed improvements projects
- Complete the feasibility of two improvement projects.

Address the concerns of the Simonton Lake Environment Committee and Association:

1. Improve water quality in Simonton Lake by implementing better management practices in the watershed and the lake
2. Understand the impact of boating between the two lake basins
3. Improve and or protect

wildlife habitat including wetlands adjacent to the lake.

4. Understand the influence of aquatic plants in the lake and the ways to improve both the plant life and the fish community.
5. Document the current condition and the existing positive practices being used in the lake and watershed.
6. Understand how the lack of an outlet control structure influences the lake.

Kent Tracey from the Department of Natural Resources is helping the Lake Environment Committee run this LARE project to make sure the study is done right and with in the terms of the contract. You may see a little more DNR activity on the lake than you would normally would this year.

I'll keep everyone in the loop on the progress of this project, until then see you on the water!!! ■

John Rose

Vice President SLAHA

Lake Environment Committee Member

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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 – April 19, 2010
CASH Basis Accounting

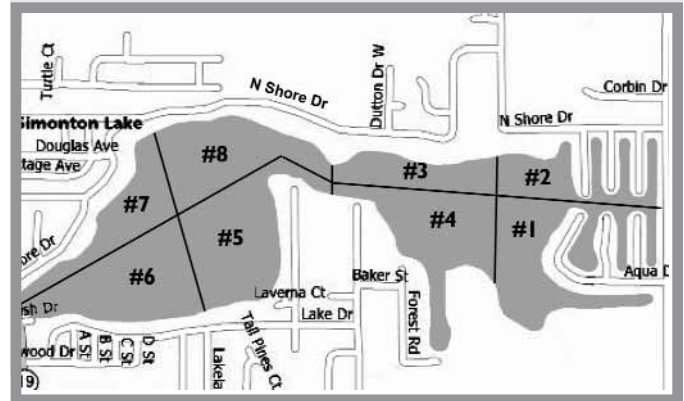
Item	Subtotal	Total
Membership Dues	\$160.00	
Advertising	156.00	
Events (Boat Parade & Hog Roast)	0.00	
Sales (T-shirts)	0.00	
Other (e.g., interest income)	12.51	
Total Gross Profit		\$328.51
Board of Directors (e.g., General meeting expenses, bank fees)	162.71	
Lake Safety	270.00	
Membership/Outreach	0.00	
Newsletter / Website	384.50	
Total Expenses		\$817.21
Net Position as of April 19, 2010		(\$488.20)

Please recall that our fiscal year begins in January, but our member dues and advertisers renew in spring. This means our financials always look a bit strange for the first few months of the year. 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. Dick Martin | |
| Ron Taylor | |
| 7. Jack Griffith | 264-5460 |
| Dave VanZile | 264-5201 |
| 8. Theresa Leighton | 361-8514 |



REMINDER: Our newsletter will be published each month during the summer, now through August. Please share your stories, announcements, photos, etc. We welcome all of you.

Email: simon@simontonlake.org

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

CLASSIFIED ADS

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

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.

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)

We're Inviting You to Show Your Support with 2010-2011 Dues!

by Erin Harding, SLAHA Treasurer

Piers are going in, kayakers are back on the water, boats are getting tuned up, and we're all ready to enjoy this new season of activities on Simonton Lake. Before you get immersed in summer fever, please take this opportunity to support our lake community by renewing your annual membership in our association! Membership dues remain unchanged. In a generous gesture, the Sportsmen's Club will also be offering a 20% discount to SLAHA members who book their facility (a \$200 value). Note that your current membership will need to be verified before the discount is applied. If you are already a member, an invoice for 2010-2011 SLAHA dues was mailed to your home the week of April 19th. If you are not already a member, this is a great year to join. See to the right, for a few updates on our committees' work to date. Please fill out the membership application contained in this issue of the newsletter – we would love to have you involved in our community! We truly appreciate your support of and participation in our organization. ■

Why Join SLAHA? Find Out at Our General Meeting in May!

by Erin Harding, SLAHA Treasurer

In our first two years of existence, SLAHA has definitely been busy. Many of you have written thoughtful and appreciative notes about the value of our newsletter – you can thank both your neighbors who serve on the Newsletter/Website committee and our generous advertisers for their support of this terrific publication. Each edition is delivered to your door thanks to the volunteers on our Membership and Outreach committee. The Membership Committee also hosted last year's early summer boat parade and fall hog roast, and they have a set of new activities planned to bring our community together this summer. New neighborhood watch signs will be posted on our streets soon thanks to the work of our Lake Safety Committee. And, in some of our biggest news yet, the Lake Environment Committee successfully obtained a LARE (Lake and River Enhancement Program) grant of \$35,000 from the State of Indiana. The resulting study will be completed this summer and provide valuable information about how we can continue to enjoy and steward our beautiful lake.

More details on all of these initiatives will be available at our May General Meeting, which will be held on Thursday, May 20, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. at the Sportsmen's Club. Two members of the Board of Directors will also be up for election. If you are interested in running for the Board, please contact John Rose at johnrose11@comcast.net as soon as possible. In the meantime, we hope you are as enthusiastic as we are about the progress already achieved by our dedicated committees. Show your support by joining SLAHA as a member for 2010-2011! ■

**YOU'RE INVITED
TO ATTEND:
Simonton Homeowners
Association
General Meeting
Thursday, May 20, 2010
at 7:00 p.m. at the
Sportsmen's Club.**

MESSAGE BOARD

Start Building Your Boat

The much anticipated Lakeshore 300 Cardboard Boat Race is Saturday June 5th. The detailed race rules and boat guidelines are available at the Lakeshore.

You must build a boat no longer the nine feet long out of corrugated cardboard and duct tape and paddle it around a course 300 feet long with one person. The boat with the quickest time wins a \$100 Gift Card a month for a year! Last years winner Roger Cain paddled his boat in 58 seconds.

The entry fee is \$75 per team. A portion of the proceeds go to benefit Elkhart Community Hospice through the Simonton Lake Sportmen's Club. We are limiting the field to 60 boats. For information stop in Lakeshore Grill or send an e-mail to cam@chubbytrout.com

Oops!

We apologize for the error in our February issue. The awesome picture of the hot air balloons on the cover was sent to us by Pam & Richard "Zinny" Zinsmeister. I'm sure that is our first mistake...

Fall Hog Roast Volunteers Needed!

The Simonton Lake Area Homeowners Association and the Sportman's Club are having the 2nd Annual Hog Roast again this fall. It was a popular and successful event last year and we are wanting to begin planning for this year. The exact date is not finalized yet. We would like to have a few volunteers to help plan the event. If you are not active on a committee with either organization, this is an opportunity to help us all out with planning this event. If you are interested call Carole Foutz at 262-3908 or email: clfoutz@aol.com.

Do You Have any New Neighbors?

We would love to bring them a welcome packet and put their name in our newsletter. Please notify Sue Ward at 574-206-0450.

Mole Remedy

We had a request for a repeat of the remedy to get rid of moles, given to us by John Hoffmann. Here it is: 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.

Get Ready for the Lakeside Festival of Lights July 31st, 2010

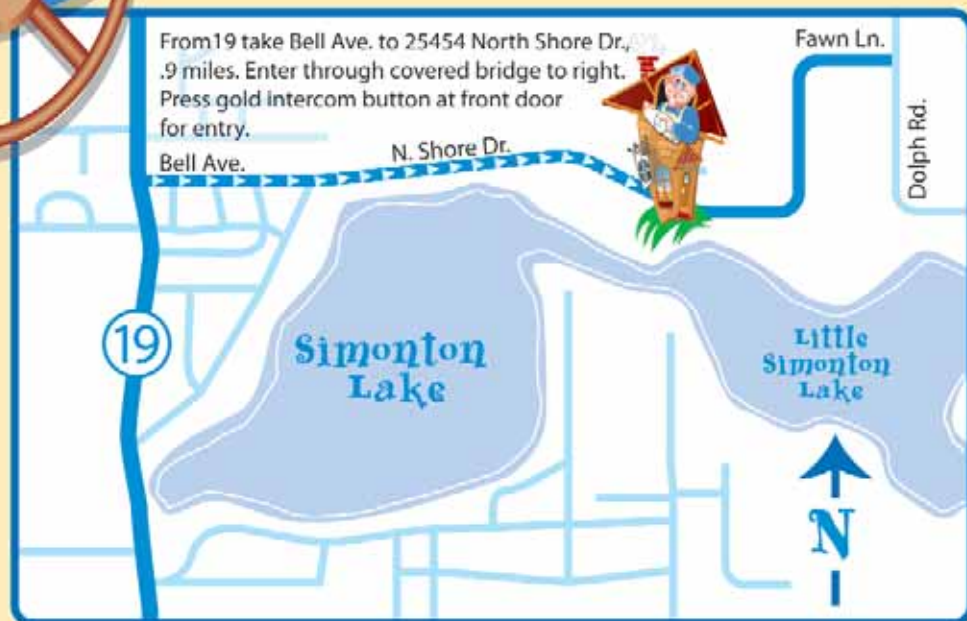
Simonton Lake is planning the first **Lakeside Festival of Lights** for Saturday, July 31st. Get your creative juices flowing and begin planning a light display on the lakeside. **The plan is simple: display lights of your choice (any theme you want) on July 31st.** Our lake residents and friends will go around the lake after dark and enjoy the display. There will be no prizes, just lots of fun and enjoyment!



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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)

- by Amy Matherly

I'm not sure when this happened but the old **Risner house** on Forrest Road has been torn down. Not sure if this property has sold but, my goodness, the folks who build there will have a beautiful view of the little lake.

Over here on the north shore we have new neighbors. **Kent and Stacy Baskerville** have purchased the home where he grew up, from his mother, Freda Baskerville, and are living there with her. The house has a new garage and siding and looks just great. They can be seen sunning and fishing in their pontoon as well as kayaking.

Jan Elliott, mother of lake resident, **Cathy Kessler** passed away this winter. She will be missed.

Josephine Essenwein, mother of lake resident **Mark Essenwein**, passed away in late April. Our sympathies go out to Mark and his wife Patti.

Gene & Linda Jimison are new channel residents, but are not new to the area. Linda (daughter of **Jim & Janie Friend**) spent most of her teenage years living on the lake. The Jimisons recently moved from Lake Drive, where they lived for 14 years, to their new waterfront property on North Shore Drive.

Jim Linn (Linnwood Drive) is recovering from heart surgery. We wish him a speedy comeback.



Natalie Replogle of North Shore Dr. and **Josh Hochstetler** of Channel Ct. were engaged on October 11, 2009, and are planning a summer 2011 wedding. Read the story of their fairy tale engagement on page 10.

Adam Meyers, son of **Bob & Bobbi Meyers** (Maplewood Dr.) and **Rachael**

Mueller will be getting married on May 22nd, in Battle Creek, Michigan. Both Adam and Rachael graduated in the spring of 2007, with secondary teaching degrees, Adam from Indiana University and Rachael from Western Michigan University. They both teach at Memorial High School, where they first met.



Kim Willis and **Benjie Paul** (Twilight Dr.) have purchased a home on Sail Bay Court. Kim grew up on Simonton Lake and we're glad to welcome her back. Kim's uncle, **Mike Smith** (North Shore Dr.), does a fantastic job printing our newsletter.

Kyle Rose, son of **John & Stephanie Rose** (Forest Rd.) graduates from Purdue University on May 15th with an Electrical Engineering Technology degree.

We did not win the "**First Pier in the Water**" unofficial contest of the Simonton Lake male residents. However, ours is in the water. My husband has an ingenious system. He inflates an inner tube and uses it to float one end of the pier sections while he attaches the other. He ran into a little problem. He



left the inflated inner tube on the seawall and went up to the house for his tools. When he turned around the inner tube was floating away. A decision had to be made to let it go and forget putting in the pier or swim out to get it. He swam. So, about the time the folks down at Pete's were leaping in, he was swimming. The pier is in but it was mighty cold.



Icy Jump ...see more pictures on page 2 & story on page 6

