



# Simonton Says...

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

April 2012

Volume 5, Issue 2

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

## Special Points of Interest

- ☐ Test Your Boating Knowledge
- ☐ Leprechaun Leap Photos
- ☐ Do You Know Your Indiana Lakes?
- ☐ Great long-time residents

## The Simonton Lake *Unofficial* Beginning of Summer **MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND 2012**

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**Putting in the pier in March... Dan Brekke & sons, Nathan & Grant, North Shore Dr..**



**The Leprechaun Leap 2012 at Pete's Tavern on March 17th, 2012 (photos on page 2, story on page 10 )**

Photos by Maria Hopman

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**The Leprechaun  
Leap 2012**  
(story on page 10)

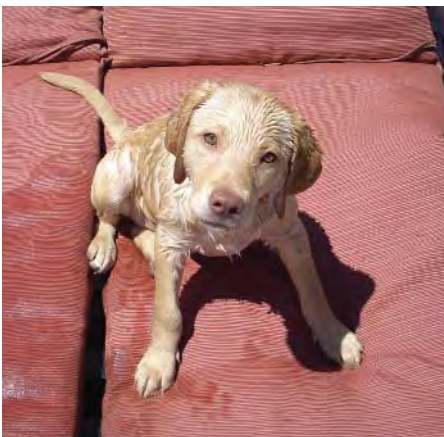
**WIN  
PRIZES**

-see details on page 14

Photos by Maria Hopman



## Pet "Tails"



I received your "Simonton Says" magazine. I moved to Cottage Ave. last August and have enjoyed the neighbors. People here are very welcoming. It's been quite a challenge bringing this home back to life. I love working on the yard and it will be full of color this year. Here is a photo of my lab, Sassy. She has been diving since she was a puppy and just turned 3 years old as of February 10th. She misses diving 8 1/2 feet into my old home's pool, but loves the lake. I am not new to the area but moved closer to the lake. If anyone needs assistance with any Irrigation problems give me a call. Hope to see you all this summer. Michael Sedlock, Cottage Ave. ■

## Pet Tails

**We want to feature your  
pet in an upcoming  
issue.**

Send us your pet stories  
& pictures by e-mail to:  
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or mail to: 26189 Lake  
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VLNickell@gmail.com

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johnrose11@comcast.net

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lgbellamy@msn.com

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574-264-2233  
zipi@choiceonemail.com

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

Jack Tucker - Little Lake/Channel Director  
51110 Sail Bay Court  
574-370-3326  
jtu977@frontier.com

**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 or email skward@frontier.com

**Pet Tails**

**We want to feature your pet in an upcoming issue.**

Send us your pet stories & pictures by mail to: 26189 Lake Dr. or by e-mail to: [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**

**May 23** - Association General Meeting - 7pm

**June 9** - Youth Fishing Contest  
(Sponsored by Sportsmen's Club)

**June 30** - Poker Run (rain or shine),  
& Fireworks (Sponsored by Sportsmen's Club)

**July 1** - Rain date for Fireworks

**August 4** - Youth Fishing Contest  
(Sponsored by Sportsmen's Club)

**September 29 and 30** - Fall Turkey Shoot  
(Sponsored by Sportsmen's Club)

**November 10** - 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](mailto: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

**Lake Safety Committee - Crime Tracking**

Contact Chris Toles: 574-266-7768

or [CMT6061@Comcast.net](mailto:CMT6061@Comcast.net)

The newsletter is published 6 times per year - NEW SCHEDULE!!!  
Feb, April, Jun, Aug, Oct & Dec. 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 the beginning of June.**

**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)**

We are always looking for volunteers for our committees:  
Membership/Outreach, Environment, Lake Safety, & Newsletter/Website. Please send an email if you are interested or if you have a story for our newsletter.



The volunteers delivering the newsletters are trying hard to get your copy delivered ASAP, but if after a week you still haven't received it, just give us a call... we'll make sure you get one.

Call Dick - 370-7884 or

Email

[simon@simontonlake.org](mailto:simon@simontonlake.org)

Newsletter Staff: Carole Foutz, Dave Foutz, Anne Harbaugh, Connie Hart, Maria Hopman, Theresa Maier, Diane Marlow, Amy Matherly, Bob Meyers, Dick Rhodes, Kay Rhodes, Kathy Shewmaker



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## Boating is fun, relaxing, entertaining and . . . a responsibility.

Every person or family with a boat or personal watercraft (PWC) should either have a copy of **The Handbook! Of Indiana Boating Laws & Responsibilities** or be able to access the website ([www.boat-ed.com](http://www.boat-ed.com)) to ensure proper use of this summer enjoyment. Since water vessels will soon be circling the lake again, this newsletter edition is a good time to refresh us on some of the boating rules.

### Before going out on the lake:

1. A certificate of registration is required to operate a vessel if motorized.
  - The registration is obtained through the BMV
  - The certificate must be on board the boat or PWC
  - The watercraft must be properly numbered, and the numbers and excise tax decals must be displayed on both sides of the bow
  - Transferring ownership of a boat, etc., one no longer owns should be reported within 15 days, and a buyer should have the registration transferred to his name within 31 days
2. An individual planning to operate a boat must hold a valid driver's license. An individual who is at least 15 years old who doesn't have a valid license but has successfully completed an approved DNR educational course may also operate a watercraft. No one under 15 years old may legally operate a motorboat greater than 10 horsepower or a PWC.
3. Certain equipment must be on board boats.
  - One wearable personal flotation device (PFD) per person on board the watercraft is required
  - Vessels 16' or longer must also have a throwable PFD on board
  - All persons being towed must wear a PFD – ski belts not approved
  - Fire extinguishers are required on most boats – check the handbook or website for exceptions

4. Navigation lights must be used during the following conditions:

- Between sunset and sunrise
- During restricted visibility, i.e., fog, heavy rain

If you have met all of the above criteria relating to your watercraft, it is time to get on the water.



Photo by Maria Hopman

## Now test your knowledge of rules on the water...

1. Boating laws are enforced by whom?
  - a. Law enforcement officer
  - b. Authorized peace officer
  - c. Indiana DNR conservation officer
  - d. All of the above
  - e. None of the above
2. What do throwable PFD's look like?
  - a. Any shape
  - b. Square cushion
  - c. Ring buoy
  - d. Both b. & c.
3. What is "Idle Speed" or "No Wake Speed"?
  - a. Less than 12 mph
  - b. Less than 10 mph
  - c. Less than 5 mph
4. At what speed may a boat be operated between sunset and sunrise?
  - a. 12 mph or less
  - b. 10 mph or less
  - c. 5 mph or less
5. For a PWC which statement is incorrect?
  - a. Operators of a PWC may pull a skier, watersled or something similar if a mirror is mounted to observe the person being towed
  - b. Operators may not weave through congested traffic
  - c. Drivers cannot jump the wake of another vessel
  - d. Following a vessel that is towing individuals is not allowed

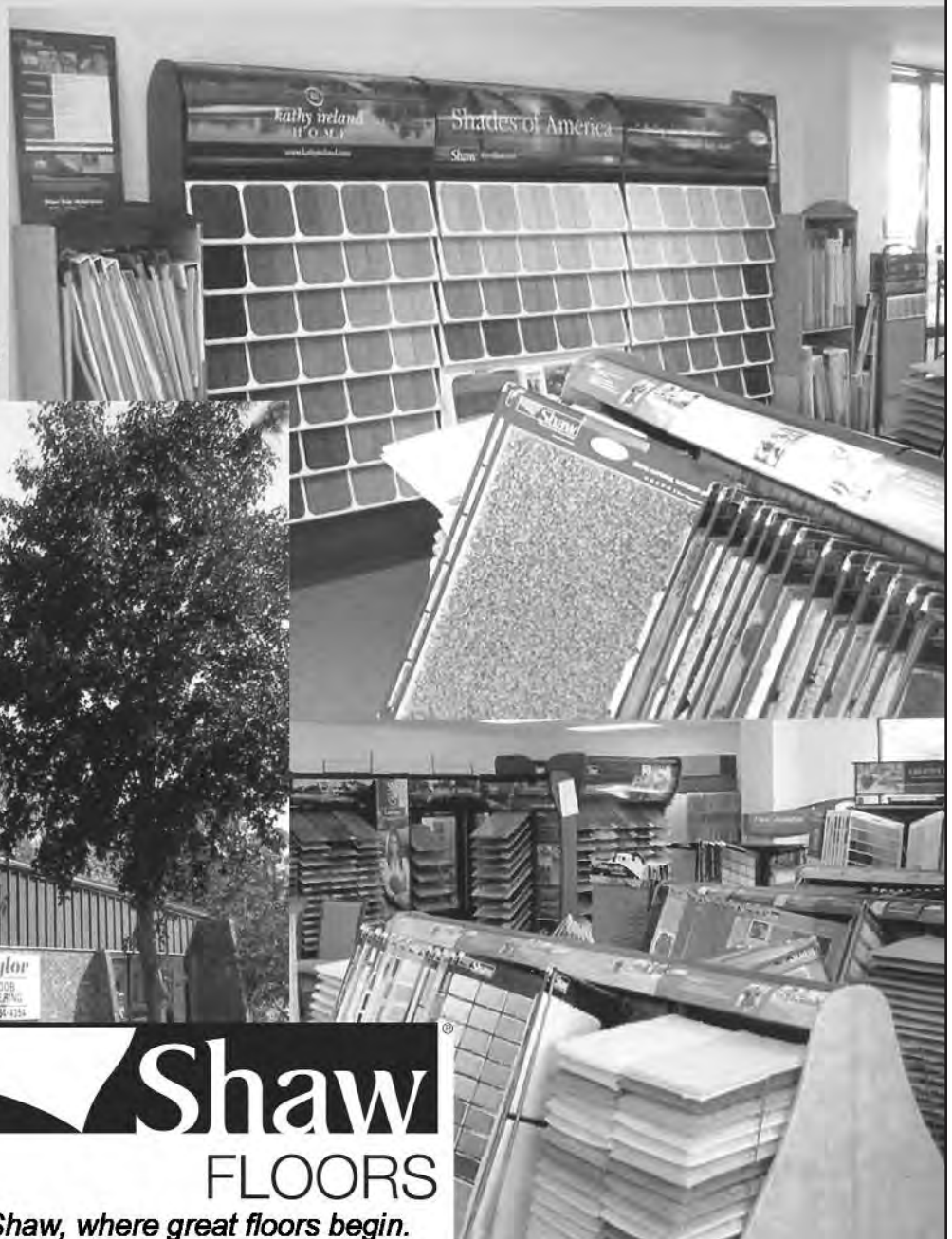
We'll discuss some of the questions and other rules for operation of boats and personal watercrafts on the water in the next newsletter. ■



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## Vintage Boats - "Special K"

-by Connie Hart

As we continue with our **vintage boat series** this month, remember in the last issue when I claimed that there was no better sound than the blub, blub, blub of a classic boat. In keeping with that theme, the same runs true of the sound from "Special K". It can not be confused with the snap, crackle, or pop produced by a breakfast cereal. This charming/charismatic boat is a tribute to how something special on the water outlasts the ordinary.

I'd like to introduce you to Patrick and Kristie Rosenagle's "Special K".

The sight of them and their dog Abby cruising by for an evening's ride on flat water is special as well. Enough with the play on words – here are the details of this craft. A dream finally realized after some nightmarish restoring challenges.

The 17 ft - 1956 Chris Craft Sportsman Deluxe originally stickered at \$2700 and the

engine was a 120 horsepower 6 cylinder. After purchasing the boat at auction, Patrick had the boat restored; including installing a 283 Chevy V8 in order for it to do what he wanted... pull skiers with more speed. Current top speed, 40 mph. It has the original interior with the exterior finish redone and brought back to life.

Another thing that is special about this boat.... It sits right next door. So between Austin's "Moody Blue" and Pat's "Special K", there's a beautiful sound in our neighborhood.

Oh, by the way.... I'm wondering if Kristie had anything SPECIAL to do with the naming of this boat. However it got it's name, we are O "K" with it. ■

## Good News!!

-by Staff Writer

This winter the Environment Committee submitted for LARE grants from the Indiana DNR. We applied for three different grants: the Aquatic Vegetation Project, the Eco Zone Project, and the Sediment Removal Project. We have received information on each of these projects.

The **Aquatic Vegetation Project** is probably not going to happen on Simonton. While we had great news that Simonton Lake has 1% invasive weeds (EMF) from our lake study, we most likely will not receive any funding. Other Indiana lakes have more severe problems.

The **Eco Zone Project** remains a possibility for our lake. What we need right now is a group of people to work on laying out a workable plan.


Finally, we received information this week that we are "officially approved" to develop a plan for sediment removal so that we can determine costs for the project. Again, this is exciting news for the **Sediment Removal Project!** We are looking for someone to head up this project.

**Anyone interested in any or all of these projects, a meeting of the Environment Committee will be held Monday, May 7 at 7:00 at Vaughn Nickell's home. ■**





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fat tomato bread \$3, garlic fat stix \$3,  
chicken on a stick \$4  
and sue sue shrimp \$5.*

*Also new spring lunch menu!*

**Catering menu available!**

## The Leprechaun Leap - 2012

-by Nick Wesman, Reprinted from the Elkhart Truth

ELKHART — Even the grass was green for Froggy radio's seventh annual Leprechaun Leap. Many of this year's participants wore T-shirts and sunglasses, as the unseasonably warm weather brought spectators out in droves for the United Cancer Services of Elkhart County benefit.

Mark McGill, Froggy radio personality, and Peter Norton, Director of United Cancer, estimated there would be nearly 1,000 people in attendance by the 2 p.m. leap into Simonton Lake. "Anytime you can draw 900 to 1,000 people, it's a major event," Norton said, referring to the event's



standing in the Elkhart area.

First time leapers Tim Lang and Michelle Britton, friends from Brown Mackie College in South Bend, were enjoying their first time at the event. "It's a good time for a good cause," Lang said. "It's nice to see everybody showing up."

Lang was dressed as a leprechaun, while his cohort wore a wedding dress. Britton had agreed that if her

friends helped her meet her fundraising goal, she would jump into the lake.

"I bought this wedding dress because I expect to get married at some point in the future. But right now there are women with cancer who may never see their wedding," Britton said.

McGill expected the fundraiser to bring in \$30,000 for United Cancer Services, though the exact amount will not be known until Monday or Tuesday.

While the sound of the local rock band Gypsy Red mingled in the breeze with the smell of food and beer donated by Pete's Simonton Lake Tavern, the crowd gathered near the dock. Just before 2 p.m., Norton climbed onto a table and addressed the gathering before the leaping began. "Thanks for caring about your neighbors with cancer," he said, before the crowd's anticipation of the leap drowned him out.

The team of 10 from Froggy were then led onto the dock, and with a collective scream, they jumped into the deceptively icy water, to cool off from the beautiful day they were lucky enough to receive. ■





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# Simonton Chronicles

## Leona Skinner, Queen of Little Simonton

-by Carole Foutz

After living on Little Simonton for 54 years, Leona Skinner definitely is the little lake's Queen! Leona celebrated her 90th birthday March 31 with her family and friends at a party held at New Creation Fellowship. She has lived in the same home on the lake since 1958. Leona was born in 1922, in Leiters Ford, Indiana then later moving to Richland Center. Leona graduated from Leiters Ford High School. Leona married Marion Skinner moving again to another close-by town, Bruce Lake Station.

Marion Skinner worked for his father at C and M Construction which was run by Bob



Cowles. At this time around 1958, there was to be a big job near Kalamazoo which brought the Skinners to want to live closer. Leona was driving around looking for a desirable spot and found a home which was located in a much undeveloped area on a little lake called Simonton. They bought the house and moved in shortly after. When the Skinners moved to Simonton Lake, there were only four other homes on the little lake and the channels had already been dug. At that time and for several years, there was little development on the channels with most of the homes beginning to be built in the late 60's. It was mostly sand piles.

Stan Skinner, Leona's son, remembers in the 1960's helping his dad operate machinery dredging out the channels again. Bob Cowles, Marion's boss, dredged most of those channels.

Because of the prevailing southwest winds bringing wind and waves bearing sand, the channels had gotten shallow and needed clearing of sand again. At that time, there was a deep dredged channel that ran on the east side of the lake along the shore allowing easier travel. If you are familiar with this area, you know that a deeper channel still exists on the southeast side of

the little lake but not the northeast side.

Leona has seen changes around her home such as the smaller channel dredged to the east of hers and homes have been built in recently. This brought her neighbors much closer. Stan and Linda moved into the same home while an addition was built for Leona to live on her own. Her husband, Marion, died nine years ago.

Can you believe that Leona delivered the Elkhart Truth (bundle route) for 40 years just retiring three years ago? Leona has delivered the bundles all over Elkhart County and southern Michigan. She would usually drive 70 miles daily. When the Elkhart Truth switched to a morning newspaper, it really changed her life! Leona can obviously tell stories of weather and experiences during her deliveries over those years!

Leona still enjoys many interests. Her children Stan and her daughter, Nyla, live in the area as well as her grandchildren. She has always enjoyed gardening along with the canning and cooking that comes with it. She plans to continue the garden until it is no longer physically possible to maintain. Leona enjoys reading, especially the Bible. Watching the birds of all kinds around their feeders brings a lot of joy to Leona. The Simonton Lake community wishes Leona a Happy 90th Birthday! Now that Leona is retired, she is able to enjoy the many things that brought her to Simonton Lake 54 years ago: nature, quiet waters, and her home in the woods. ■

**Have you always dreamed of being a Paper Boy?**

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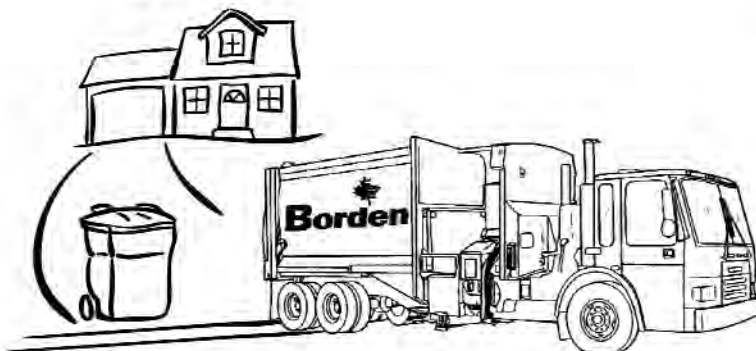
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## Sixty-eight Years on the Lake

-by Anne Harbaugh & Maria Hopman

**L**ucky you if you were the child of Frieda Baskerville. Pies, cakes and cookies would be waiting for you everyday after school. Frieda is 93 years old, moving to her home on North Shore Drive in 1944. She and her husband John raised three children at the lake in their 60 years of marriage.

Frieda moved to an uncle's in Elkhart Co. from Noble Co. when she was 20 years old for a job at Barger Box. There she met John and worked for 40 hours a week for \$10.00 (not an hour...a week!) with 10 cents deducted for Social Security.

In her 68 years on the lake Frieda has seen a lot of changes. At one time the closest stop light was at Bristol and Cassopolis St. She remembers willow trees along the shoreline all the way around the lake and only a few fishing boats before she saw the first boat with a motor. In the summer there were always children swimming from morning to night off anchored floating rafts. There were ice skaters on the lake all day in the winter. Frieda notes there were not as many "distractions" as today for kids. With a lot less traffic on North Shore there were always lots of children on bikes. At that time North Shore had no outlet, ending at Dutton St. Her husband John at one time owned a bar near Cassopolis St. and Lake Drive called Harold's. She also re-



Photo by Maria Hopman

members a Conservation Club near Lake Drive.

Mrs. Baskerville has bloomed where she was planted and never wanted to leave the lake. In November 2011 Frieda flew to Jackson Hole, Wyoming with her daughter Deb to visit her grand daughter. After seeing the Grand Tetons and a thrilling plane ride she was happy to get back to her home on Simonton Lake, a place we all love. ■

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**SLAHA's annual General Membership Meeting will be held on  
Wednesday, May 23rd at 7 p.m.  
at the Sportsmen's Club.**

Please plan to attend this meeting for an update on our work together to improve our lake and our community.

### **DOOR PRIZES**

Gift certificates to Pete's, Lakeshore, and Simonton Lake Drive-In will be awarded.

1. Drawing for people who live on the street with the **best renewal rate.**
2. Drawing for **new members.**
3. Drawing for people with **most members in attendance** at General Meeting **from same street.**



## Central Time Versus Eastern Time

-by Connie Hart


I saw on the news that there is a signature drive going on at our State's capital to have the whole of Indiana permanently returned to Central time...Yeah I am all for this and not because I am part of the older generation that doesn't like change. I have a hard time getting a handle on to this going back and forth and could never understand the rational behind the change to begin with. All of Indiana- all the same time and Central is the direction we should go.

On occasion, I have enjoyed the long warm summer evenings that are still light at 10 p.m., but we really should be winding down by then – getting ready for bed in order to get up and go to work in the morning with some semblance of being rested. Having the time fall back (when was that... November?) just makes it tooooooo dark all the time. "Winter wouldn't be so bad, if it wasn't so dark all the time".

How do I get on board the train that takes us to Central with No Time Change and what time do I set my clock to get to that station?

Let us know what you think about Central Time versus Eastern Time... We'd love to hear your opinion.

Email: [simon@simontonlake.org](mailto:simon@simontonlake.org)



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### SLAHA's Annual General Membership Meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 23rd at 7 p.m. at the Sportsmen's Club.

Please plan to attend this meeting for an update on our work together to improve our lake and our community.

### DOOR PRIZES

will be awarded based on member renewals and new members!



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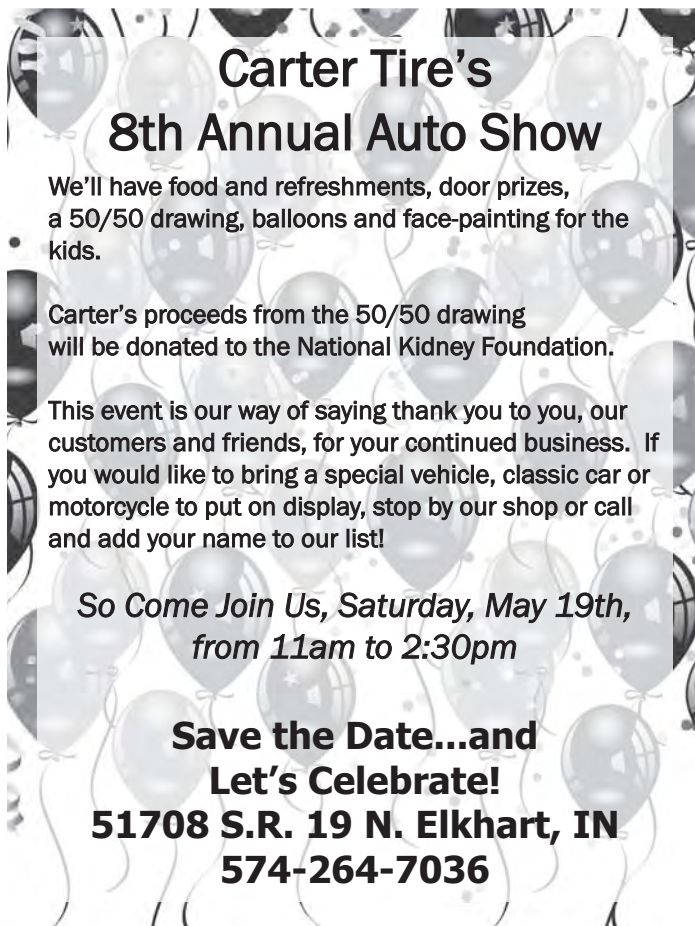
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# Life on the Lake

**April 2012**

- by Amy Matherly

Springtime is a time for hunting. There are Easter Egg Hunts and mushroom hunting. Hunting for the first robin, hunting for summer clothes and swim suits that cover the weight you gained last winter. Sometimes in the clear water in the spring you can hunt for the anchor you dropped at the sand bar last summer.

Here at our house we are looking for our leaf blower. Now, we like robins and mushrooms and we'll have an Easter Egg hunt but we'd really like to figure out where we stored that leaf blower.

We actually have another leaf blower. But it's one of those that you strap on your back and blows leaves like a mini hurricane. My goodness, it would even blow a small animal across the yard. It does the job but it's so heavy. I have to have one of the neighbors help me start it and get it up on to my back. And, if I get off balance I tip over like a turtle upside down on its shell. The doctor at my house sees no problem with this. But I did. So last summer I found a small blower on sale. It's just perfect for doing the patio and the sidewalks.

And, it's good for getting leaves out of the flower beds. But, where is it?

Everyone on the lake has lots of lake stuff. And I would guess everyone has a plan for what gets stored where and how. At our house we don't have much storage room. So we carefully, very carefully pack things away. We use every inch of space and certain things get packed in certain spots.

Lots of our summer stuff has to go into the attic. Each fall and each spring we have "attic day" All the stuff that can't be stored in the boat or anywhere else goes up there. When the kids were little they used to love "attic day." It was an adventure. They'd get to crawl up into the attic and help their dad while mom stayed down below hauling things up the ladder to dad. Funny, as they got older "attic day" lost its luster. Once the kids left home they'd call before they visited to say, "Is it "attic day" this weekend?" If the answer was yes, then they wouldn't come home. "Attic Day" isn't a happy day for the two of us and I have threatened from time to time to take away the ladder and leave the doctor up in the attic.

Last winter we had some electrical work done at the house so the attic had to stay empty for the workmen. We weren't as organized as usual. Things were just stored under plastic and in nooks and crannies wherever there was room. I've looked everywhere and then looked again. I still haven't found that leaf blower. But, I did find a gift I meant to give to someone last Christmas, a small screw that I was looking for that goes to a lamp and two year-old bags of chocolate Easter Eggs. The doctor and I think they're still good. We're gonna eat them and see what happens.

If you see my leaf blower, let me know. Until next time. ■

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## Whose Lake is it Anyway?

- by Bob Meyers

The term Michiana fits this lake. Indiana Lake is located mostly in Michigan and partly in Indiana, however, it is considered an Elkhart County Lake.....sometimes... an Indiana Lake..... sometimes .....and never considered a Michigan lake. Since most of it is in Michigan maybe it should be called Lake Michigan.....No, wait, there is already one of those.

Some listings of lakes in Indiana list Indiana Lake, many do not. Some listings of Elkhart County Lakes list Indiana Lake most do not. No listings I could find in Michigan or Cass County claim this treasure as their lake.

Tri Lakes are Baldwin, Indiana and Long. These three were for years the lakes of choice for many Elkhart residents to rent cottages. One of the hottest features of the area was Hollywood Shores, owned by Elkhart's Julius Decio, Hollywood Shores was located between Indiana Lake and Baldwin Lake. It

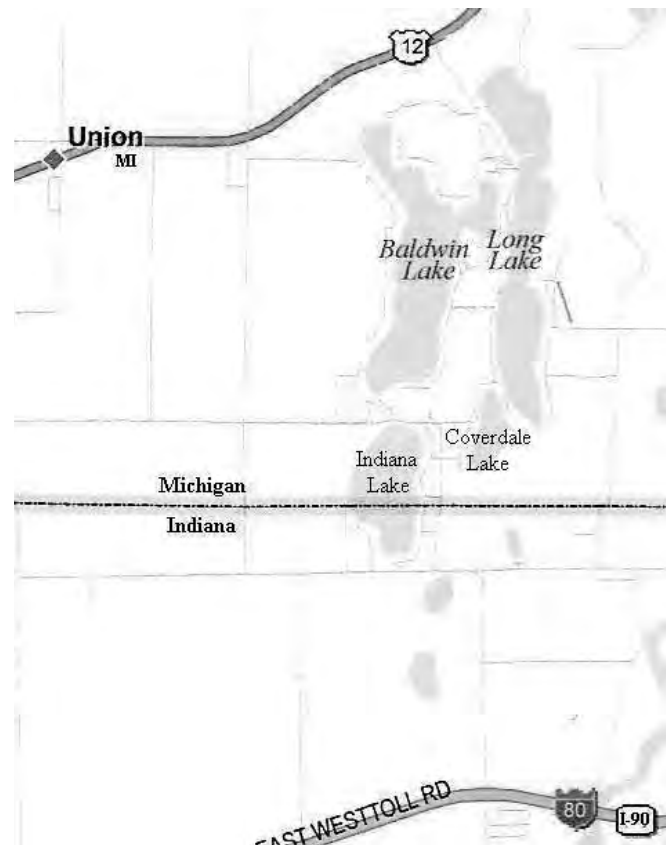
was a lively community where people could rent cottages, rent boats or go for a swim.

Today, Wayne Street runs through the Hollywood Shores area which is now, instead of cottages and boat rentals, homes, many homes.

To travel from Simonton Lake to Indiana Lake, take CR 4 east to CR 17. Take CR 17 north to Wayne Street. Turn right unto Wayne and continue east. You soon will be in "Hollywood Shores". Look to your right and you see Indiana Lake. You can take your first right which is Indiana Lake Drive which will take you along the east side of the lake. As you continue south, you re-enter the state of Indiana. After you pass a road named Cen-

tral, continue south and you will drive to Sunset Blvd. Turn right on Sunset and go south to Church Road. Take a right and you will meet Indiana Lake Road. Turn left and take Indiana Lake Road to CR 2. From here, you can turn right on CR 2 which will take you to Cornwall Road where you can turn right to follow the west side of the lake. Cornwall becomes a cul-de-sac, so turn around and go back to CR 2. Turn right on CR 2 and you are headed back home.

You can always do what many of our families did on Sunday afternoons years ago; take CR 19 north to CR 2. Take a right on CR 2 and continue east to CR



23. Take a left on CR 23 and continue north. You are now on Sunset Blvd. Continue North and look to your left, that's Indiana Lake. Continue past Wayne Street and you see Baldwin Lake on your left; Long Lake is on your right. There were many good times on the Tri Lakes, swimming, fishing, and relaxing. Now residents still have good times on these three lakes, swimming, fishing, and relaxing.

Hollywood Shores and Sunset Blvd., a little piece of southern California right here, just east of more heaven on earth, your own Simonton Lake.

Next month we stay in Indiana and visit Norton Lake. So until then, enjoy YOUR lake as you celebrate spring and the fact that it's only 3 months until summer. ■

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## Chapter 2

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# Wildlife in our Backyard

## Jurassic Turtle

-by Connie hart

While brainstorming for articles during one of our newsletter meetings, someone suggested we needed more stories on the wildlife seen in, on or around our lake area. That's when I told them the story of the



Jurassic Turtle seen off of our sea wall.

Over decades we've watched many leatherback turtles sunning themselves while floating on top of weeds in the channels and along the shoreline across from us. During my younger years and when our boys were little we caught and released painted turtles. They used to be in abundance out front of their grandma's house across from the boat landing and climbing up on limbs in several areas. Hanging on a wall in our home is a "bigger than a dinner plate more like a platter size" shell from a snapper that had been recently hit by a boat. We gave it to a neighbor. He cleaned it and prepared some mighty tasty turtle soup. But never have we seen anything the size of this beast. And beastly it was!

One spring while Jon was in the water putting in our sprinkling pump, he turned and noticed something that had him out of the water and running up to the house to find me so that I could see

what his hands and feet had just been within inches from.

Years before he had built and installed a ramp made of 1 by 4s for an old dog with bad hips.

This ramp was 2 ft wide and 3 feet long that extended from our seawall into the water. To my horror, stuck under the ramp was what had to be the oldest, biggest, ugliest, most frightening snapping turtle we had ever seen. Not even in a zoo, much less in our back yard. His shell extended beyond one side of the ramp to the other. Now remember this ramp was 2 feet wide. His head, what can I say about his head, other than when it reached up and looked at us, it seemed to be the size of a supersized grapefruit or small basketball. His neck could have easily reached out and taken Jon's hand or foot. If it had gotten a hold of any part of him – let's just say, I can only imagine the trauma. I've heard that when they bite, they hang on for life and

even after life has been taken from them, it's a struggle to get them to let go.

There were other witnesses. We called the Roses and they hurried down. John R. wanted to bring his gun, but Stephanie discouraged him. Part of me wishes he had, cuz we could have fed the neighborhood for a week from the meat that would have been claimed. And we would have had a trophy shell that would amaze visitors to any "hall of fame" museum. But instead, we honored the old relic and raised the ramp and sent him on his way to be feared and marveled at for future sightings. Word to the wise, BEWARE!

NATURALLY, SINCE WRITING THIS ARTILCE, I CAN'T FIND MY TURTLE PICTURES. !!!! and without them, it's like seeing Big Foot or a UFO but not having any proof. ■

## Follow-up on the Pileated Woodpecker

-story courtesy of Larry Tully, Aqua Drive

I saw this "big guy" for the 1st time yesterday (2/10/2012) eating from one of my 2 suet feeders. He stayed at the feeder for about 5 minutes. I was so amazed at his size I didn't even think of grabbing my camera.

I've fed the birds year round for years and have about 6 bird feeders around the house including a heated bird bath, so I get a lot of birds coming and going including Mallard Ducks that come to the ground feeder eating us out of house and home. A few years ago I had a pair of Mallards that always nested close to our house. They got so tame the male would let me pet him on the back while he was eating, but Gertrude and Heath-Cliff never returned a couple of years ago. ■

*Picture below was taken by Gene Landus in his backyard on Aqua Drive.*

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Thanks, Larry & Gene.





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### **Sunday**

- 4 Piece Chicken Dinner - \$7.50

### **Wednesday**

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## Drive and Dine: Chicago Style

- by Dave Foutz

No question about it, Chicago is a world class city. The skyline, Lake Michigan, the theaters, and the restaurants; Chicago doesn't take a back seat to any other prominent international city. Somewhere I once read that if you ate at a different Chicago restaurant everyday it would require 386 years to visit all of them. That doesn't seem like a particularly realistic goal but I do think it is worth a try.

Mark your calendar for next year be-

cause Presidents' Weekend is the perfect time to beat the winter blahs with a jaunt to the "Windy City." Chicago's Restaurant Week conveniently coincides with a national holiday at what is arguably the most dreadful part of winter. Organized by the Chicago Convention & Tourism Bureau, Restaurant Week gives local foodies and visitors an op-

portunity to enjoy established menus with multiple courses from more than 200 participating restaurants at two prices \$33/\$44 for dinner.

During our excursion our first dinner was at 312 Chicago, a restaurant on LaSalle Street in the heart of the financial district. This eatery had good reviews but it was also conveniently located around the corner from the Cadillac Palace where we had tickets to Rodgers and Hammerstein's South Pacific. Carole had Rigatoni Bolognese, with a meat sauce which contained ground beef, veal, pork, red wine, and plum tomatoes. I chose the pan-seared tilapia on braised lentils, spinach, cipollini onions, and thyme lemon oil. Carole was pleased with hers, mine was probably the best tilapia I had ever eaten. For desert Carole chose a flour-

less chocolate cake and I had Banana chocolate bread pudding. Again I would have to say I was the winner!

For our second evening we chose McCormick and Schmick's on Wacker Drive. We wouldn't normally choose a

chain restaurant but Terry Shewmaker raves about the restaurant in Indianapolis and the Chicago location is well situated on the Chicago River. We thought we would give it a try. Carole wasn't up



for a second multi course meal so she chose a pecan encrusted tilapia and I had a pan-seared walleye on roasted red potatoes, mushrooms and truffles sauce. As good as the tilapia was the night before, this was even better. Carole managed to save enough room to help me with my excellent key lime pie with fresh whipped cream.

Not everyone enjoys paying the tolls, dealing with parking, dodging taxis while driving in Chicago, so we chose to take the South Shore. I find this to be your best option as quite frankly a car is a liability in the city. If you choose to take the train, drive to the Carroll Street Station in Michigan City where there is ample free parking and purchase the round trip senior citizen ticket to Randolph Street Station for \$9.00, or less than half the fee to park your car one night at a hotel. For another \$5.75 you can get a one day unlimited use CTA fare card. Two people with fare cards can travel all day anywhere in the city for less than the price of one taxi ride in the downtown area.

When the lake is frozen and there is little happening in the area, nothing is more fun than taking a trip and enjoying new restaurants. And if you can also throw in one of the nation's largest auto shows, well it just doesn't get any better than that. ■





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## What Stories Can an Old Abstract Tell?

—by Carole Foutz

The Simonton Lake Newsletter committee was sitting and discussing possible stories we could do for future issues one evening and I mentioned how interesting old, fat abstracts are that many of us have filed away somewhere. When records began to be microfilmed or kept electronically, the old abstracts were given to the land owners. Some newer land owners may not have had the chance to acquire theirs. I have had an opportunity to read and study several around the lake...quite interesting and certainly each one carries its own history. Maria Hopman on North Shore volunteered to let me study hers and, YES, a new story to tell! Of course, most of the abstracts of this area begin with our area's founder, Samuel Simonton.

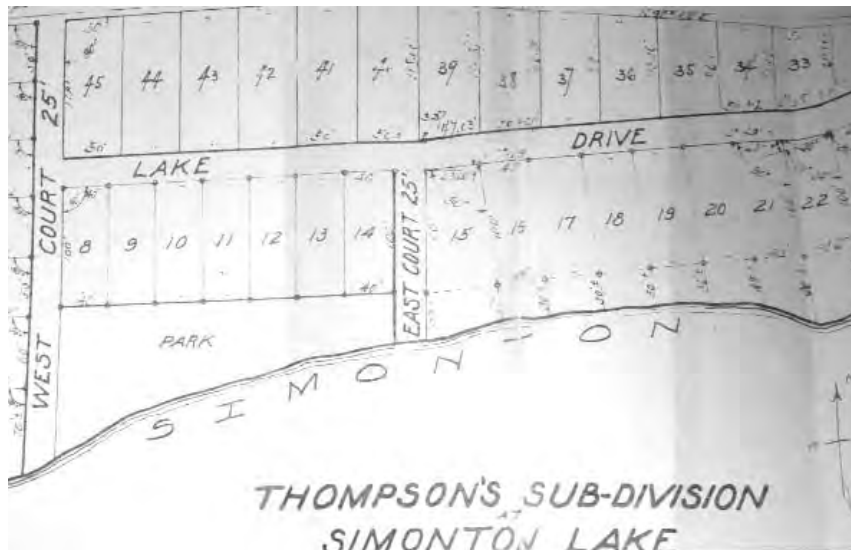
Maria's abstract begins with Samuel Simonton purchasing the land in 1832, when Andrew Jackson was president. Samuel was an early merchant in the village of Elkhart. He had four sons, Abner,

David, John, and Samuel and three daughters Eliza Tibbetts, Elizabeth Beardsley and Hannah Jackson. Samuel Sr. died in 1850, and willed his children

Bell. The stipulation was that they give one third of their crops and fruit from the land to their parents as long as they live.

In 1924, the children sold off land

and in 1926, Elmer Thompson subdivided some of the remaining land and formed "Johnson's Subdivision at Simonton Lake". (See map) The land that Maria lives on now was not sold until 1945, and purchased by Jessie Lamb. (Maria's lot is #24) The lot remained part of a larger piece of land until 1964, when it was sold to Willard



his land. In 1877, the Simonton children sold the land to Harry Winegar and William Thompson. (This was a large section of land but I was not able to determine the size and exact location.) William Thompson took the land north of the lake and Harry Winegar took the remaining. Thompson's land became a farm. The family home still remains on the east side of Cassopolis Street north of the lake. In 1900, William gave most of his land to his children, Ulysses Grant Thompson, Elmer Thompson and Jennie

and Sharon Miller when the house that Maria lives in now was built. Elmer Thompson died in 1964. When looking at the plans for the subdivision, much of the north and east part of the lake was within this subdivision. It even had plans for a park which to my knowledge, I have never found evidence that one existed.

So, what did we learn from another Simonton Lake abstract? It was interesting to me that the Simonton family owned much of the land at least on the north section of the lake until the late 1800's. When sold to the Thompson family, it then remained in their family as late as in the mid 1900's. The development of much of Osolo Township really did not take hold until the late 1800's. In 1881, the first Osolo post office was located along Adamsville Road with Alphonse Bugsbee the postmaster. The first school house was in a log cabin, Newell School, located on the northeast corner of County Road 6 and 9. However, most of the rest of the township schools were not built until the later years of the 1880's and 90's.

If any of this is of interest to you, why not do some Spring cleaning in your files, and bring out the old Abstract of your land (if you have one) and see what you might find? It might prove to be an interesting evening's read. And, if you want to share, give us a call!! ■







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-by Bob Meyers

Every year we look forward to it; and it's here, spring has arrived. The renewal of all that is beautiful in nature has begun, and it isn't more noticeable anywhere like here at Simonton Lake.

As we brush away winter, thank you to so many who made our February Turkey Shoot a HUGE success. Winners took home a record number of John Rose hams and Kevin Culp turkeys. Chairman Joe Arrendondo and his crew are to be commended for a job well done.

The March Casino Night was also a great success thanks to Chairman Jack Tucker and his volunteer staff.

With winter behind us we now use April and May to prepare for the first 2012 Youth Fishing Contest which will be held June 9th, and then the first event of summer, the annual Poker Run and fireworks to be held June 30th.

Get those piers and boats in the water, get that furniture on the deck, and prepare for it; summer is only 3 months away, so.....see you on the lake. ■

**June 9** – Youth Fishing Contest

**June 30** – Poker Run (rain or shine), Fireworks

**July 1** – Rain date for Fireworks

**August 4** – Youth Fishing Contest

**September 29 and 30** – Fall Turkey Shoot  
at the clubhouse

**November 10** – Fall Casino Night at the clubhouse

**SLAHA's Annual General Membership Meeting**  
**will be held on Wednesday, May 23rd at 7 p.m.**  
**at the Sportsmen's Club. WIN PRIZES...see page 14 for details.**

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## There Will Be No Empty Nest for Us

-by Connie Hart

A "house" at the lake becomes a HOME for more than your own family and if you want it can be a remedy for the feared empty nest.

I read an article the other day that made me think about something that was not part of Jon's and my master plan, but has turned out to be a wonderful blessing. We were told that living on the water would mean we would have an endless stream of people stopping by.

Building our home on the water was a fairy tale come true... a fairy tale that has become a never ending story of characters and events. Each new chapter during our 30+ years has introduced the wonders of lake life to more people stopping by than we ever dreamed. Happily they leave knowing they are welcome to come again anytime; they do and over the years they are now bringing their own families.

We knew we would always have gatherings during the summer months but the winter months have proven to be just as looked forward to with walks on the lake, skating and corn hole on the ice. And let's not forget the continual clearing snow from the rink. It must be a neighborhood favorite or why else would we spend so much time and energy on it just in case someone comes by. I must admit, there's something very rewarding and inviting with a cleared patch of ice with a path to another rink a few doors down. Add to it a cold liquid refreshment chilling in the snow banks and a toasty fire on the banks and you have a combinations that you would almost want winter to be year round. nah.... Come summer, from Memorial Day until Labor Day, the biggest draw is the sand volleyball court. Last year we had as many as 30 people showing up on Fridays.

Now as we begin to approach the next chapter - retirement, Jon and I need to consider what we want to do, what we want to have in our back yard or even where that back-yard will be so as to ensure we have something for everyone to come home to. ■

### **SLAHA's Annual General Membership Meeting** will be held on **Wednesday, May 23rd at 7 p.m.** **at the Sportsmen's Club.**

Please plan to attend this meeting for an update on our work together to improve our lake and our community.

### **DOOR PRIZES**

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### **ATTENTION: Residents planning on voting in the May Primary**

You need to be aware of **significant voting changes around Simonton Lake**. Following the 2010 Census there has been a complete change precinct maps and a substantial relocation of polling places. The former Osolo 67 precinct (Simonton Lake area) has been split. Residents living on the north side of the lake are now in the new Osolo 2 precinct and will vote at Mary Feeser School. Voters on the south side of the lake and those living between the lake and CR-4 are not in the Osolo 3 precinct and will continue to vote at the Visitors and Convention Bureau. Voters may wish to completely avoid the election day crowd and take advantage of early voting at court house in down town Elkhart. Which ever you choose, see you at the polls.



## Treasurer's Corner

Below is a brief financial update on the association:

**Simonton Lake Area Homeowners' Association, Inc.**  
**January 1, 2012 – March 27, 2012 (CASH Basis Accounting)**

Item	Subtotal	Total
Advertising	\$465.00	
Fireworks Donations	0.00	
Other Events (e.g., Hog Roast)	0.00	
LARE Grant from State of IN	0.00	
Membership Dues	90.00	
Sales (Calendars)	10.00	
Other (e.g., interest income)	4.71	
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>\$569.71</b>
Board of Directors (e.g., calendars, Hog roast, general meeting expenses, insurance)	39.86	
Fireworks Transfer to Sportsmen's Club	0.00	
Lake Environment (LARE Grant)	0.00	
Lake Safety	0.00	
Membership/Outreach	0.00	
Newsletter / Website	519.90	
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>\$559.76</b>
<b>Net Position as of March 27, 2012</b>		<b>\$9.95</b>

Current members: **Dues renewal notices are arriving in your mailbox in April. We invite you to both renew your membership in our organization and contribute to the Sportsmen's Club fireworks at the same time – your support helps make our community a better home and recreation area!**

If you haven't already joined SLAHA, now is the time! Last year was our biggest membership ever, so the bar is high for 2012-2013. Our organization can have even more impact with your support! Please fill out the member information card contained in this newsletter. Use the same form to support the fireworks as well.

**SLAHA's annual General Membership Meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 23rd at 7 p.m. at the Sportsmen's Club.** Please plan to attend this meeting for an update on our work together to improve our lake and our community. **DOOR PRIZES will be awarded based on member renewals and new members!** As always, if you have any questions about our association finances, please don't hesitate to contact Erin Harding at eharding@nd.edu.

### 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. Maria Hopman            | 262-1655 |
| Anne Harbaugh              |          |
| 4. Jon Hart                | 262-1404 |
| Randy Hoff                 | 262-3432 |
| 5. Bob Meyers              | 675-0970 |
| Cindy Nickell              | 262-3105 |
| 6. Dick Martin             | 264-7656 |
| Ron Taylor                 | 262-1332 |
| 7. Dave VanZile            | 264-5201 |
| Jon Hart                   | 262-1404 |
| 8. Maria Hopman            | 262-1655 |
| Anne Harbaugh              |          |



## SLAHA MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION

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

**DUES:** per household per year

\_\_\_\_\_ **Household:** \$30

\_\_\_\_\_ **Senior:** (70 and over): \$20

\_\_\_\_\_ **Senior Honorary Membership**  
 (80 and over):  
 FREE lifetime member

**FIREWORKS FUND DONATION:**

Donation Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED:**

with Registration Form

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

www.simontonlake.org

# MESSAGE BOARD



## Homeowners' Annual meeting: at Sportsmen's Club building, May 23 at 7:00pm

### We wish you a Happy Birthday!

4/2 Ryan Matherly  
 4/14 Ryan Harding  
 4/24 Preston Thomas Ryan (age 3) (grandparents Tim & Phyllis Nusbaum)  
 4/25 Cindy Mansfield  
 4/25 Kay Rhodes  
 4/28 Michael Thomas Fix (son of Katy Rutter and Ryan Fix, grandparents Margot and Thomas Rutter)  
 5/2 Janet Kelsey  
 5/4 Sue Taylor  
 5/4 Jim Friend  
 5/22 Nixon Barhydt (grandparents Jim & Chris Ulery)  
 6/1 Brynlee Grace Landis (parents Jody and Eric Landis)  
 6/11 Dick Rhodes  
 6/13 Jacob Moore (grandson of Theresa Maier)  
 6/14 Alex Freshour (grandson of Theresa Maier)  
 6/14 Pam Shultz  
 6/14 Randy Cooper  
 6/16 Bill Leighton  
 6/16 Albert Rodriguez "Kessler" aka AJ - 1 year old (grandparents Van & Cathy Kessler)  
 6/23 Charlie Byrns  
 6/24 Theresa Leighton  
 6/25 Emmaly Kate Kwasny (daughter of Kyle & Julianne Kwasny)  
 6/25 Linda Jimison  
 6/25 Wendy Cooper  
 6/27 Elizabeth Abel  
 6/28 Martha Nickell

### Happy Anniversary!

4/30 Bob & Bobbi Meyers  
 5/16 Katrina (Ulery) & Jason Barhydt  
 5/18 Dan & Leanne Brekke  
 5/22 Adam & Rachel Meyers  
 6/9 Mike & Angie Peterson  
 6/11 Natalie (Replogle) & Josh Hochstetler  
 6/19 Christi & Erik Smith (daughter of Dave & Tammy Obendorf)  
 6/13 Vaughn & Cindy Nickell  
 6/28 Gary & Marlene Taska

### BE AWARE OF CRIME IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

1. When a crime occurs: Make sure you **first** report the crime to the Elkhart County Sheriff's Department. **Call: 911**

2. Secondly - **CRIME TRACKING:** We encourage lake residents to forward safety issues (break-ins, vandalism, other crimes, etc.), so we can notify residents. Report to: **Chris Toles, Lake Safety Committee. Call: 574-266-7768**

Email: **CMT6061@Comcast.net**

We want to keep people informed about what is happening in our neighborhood, so you can keep a watchful eye. **If you would like to be notified when crimes occur around the lake, send your email address to [simon@simontonlake.org](mailto:simon@simontonlake.org)** (Your information will not be used for any other purpose).

## 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) or call: 262-9816. Classified ads are

**\*free for paid members of the association.**

Non-members pay \$5. Ads will have to be re-submitted 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.

**FOR SALE:** 2010 combo kayak/hauling/dumping trailer. \$900. Call Theresa at 262-2740.

**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)

Do you know someone who is having a birthday, anniversary, etc? Email:  
**[simon@simontonlake.org](mailto:simon@simontonlake.org)**



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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))

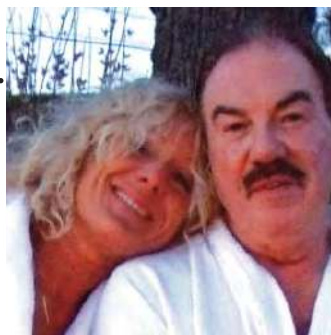
On the 17th day of February 2012, a bright light flickered at Simonton Lake, Elkhart. **Larry D. Maier**, 69, left the world to begin a new adventure with our Heavenly Father.

Larry was born Feb. 13, 1943, in Elkhart to Robert K. and Maxine (Elick) Maier Sr., and married **Theresa R. Rogers** on May 2, 1981. She survives along with two daughters, Jodi (Mark) Freshour of Constantine, Mich. and Monica (Jason Moore) Glanders of Elkhart; four grandchildren, Alex and Olivia Freshour and Adam and Jacob Moore; nieces and nephews Michael, Tami and Michelle Maier, Lori Wood, Ann Fletcher, Bret Robertson, Melissa Maeyans and C.J. Maier; brother Robert K. (Michele) Maier Jr. of Ocala, Fla.; and two sisters, Judith K. (Leonard) Jones of Colorado Springs, Colo., and Melody Sue (Brent) Robertson of Elkhart. Larry was preceded in death by an infant son, Samuel Scott Maier; and his parents.



Larry graduated from Elkhart High School in 1961 and attended IUSB and retired as a purchasing manager for various recreational vehicle companies after many years. After retirement he worked for Walmart. He was a member of First Presbyterian BRIDGE worship and was a mentor for Big Brothers Big Sisters. He enjoyed kayaking and loved his grandchildren, his lake home and lake community. He was truly a special member of our community and will be missed by all.

March 13th, **Beth Dinneen and (Doc) Ralph Inabnit**, North Shore Dr., enjoy an evening around the firepit with temps in the 60's. Beth and Doc will tie the knot on June 24th. What better place to get married than in your front yard on the lake?



Our condolences are with **John & Patty Bachman**, Aqua Drive. John's mother, Loretta F. Bachman passed away on March 22, 2012. The whole community sends their sympathies for the family.



Eulah June Shewmaker was born to **Kelly and Greg Shewmaker** on Monday, March 26 at 12:06 a.m. She weighed in at 8 pounds 12 ounces, 23 inches long. Grandparents are **Kathy and Terry Shewmaker**, Lake

Drive and **Ryan and Amy Matherly**, North Shore Drive. Great Grandparents are **Chet and Doris Matherly**, Lake Drive and Susan and Carl Myrick (Syracuse Lake).

**Ron (Papa) and Sue (Nana) Taylor**, Lake Drive, are proud grandparents. Their daughter **Jodi (Taylor) McKee** and her husband Chris are pictured here with their new baby, Olivia, who was born on December 9, 2011. She weighed 7 lbs. and was 19 3/4" long. They live in New



York City but Jodi lived all her growing up years at Simonton Lake. Ron has always lived at the lake (60+years) and Sue has since they were married.

**Jon and Connie Hart** received the happy news that their son **Austin** recently became engaged to Megan McCullough while skiing over the Valentine's weekend at Caberfae Peaks. The wedding is scheduled for June 1, 2013 at St. Hugo of the Hills in Bloomfield Hills, MI. Austin is employed at Press Ganey in the Software Quality Assurance Dept. and Megan, from the Detroit area, is an engineering PhD graduate student at the University of Notre Dame.

