



Simonton Says...

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

February 2012

Volume 5, Issue 1

www.simontonlake.org

Special Points of Interest

- ☐ Vintage and Classic Boats
- ☐ Our Own Dancing Queen
- ☐ Dates for the 2012 Fireworks
- ☐ A Safer Cassopolis Street



Do you love the deep throaty sound of BLUB, BLUB, BLUB that an old classic or vintage boat produces? (story on page 8)

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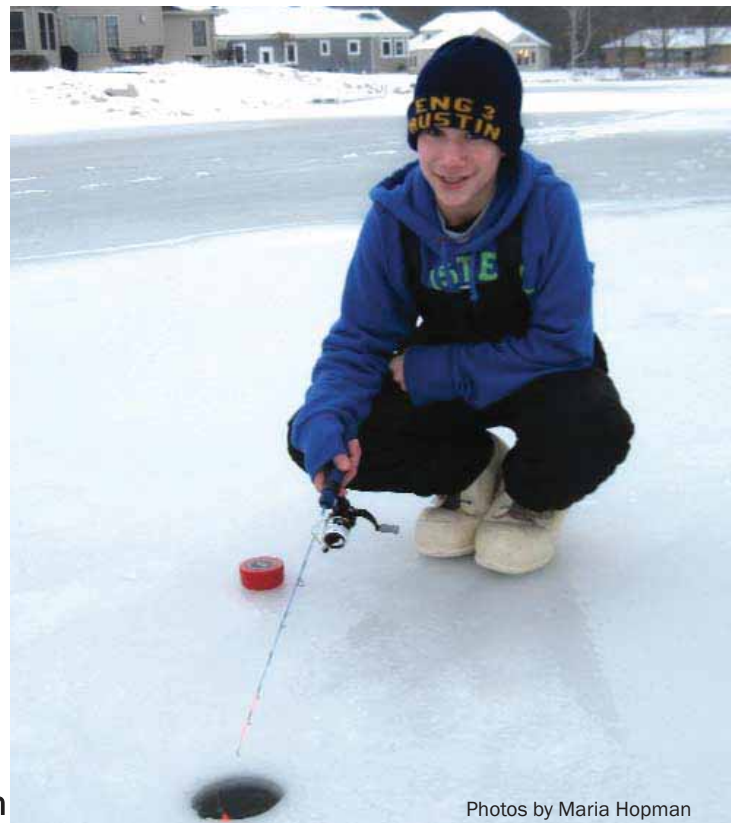
Photo by Maria Hopman

Our own Amy Matherly...dancing for charity (story on page 6)

There was a Santa sighting on Christmas Day. Santa and his elf traded in the sleigh for jet skis.



(above) The seagulls fill the sky over the lake this past fall.



Photos by Maria Hopman



Winter has finally arrived with fishermen the proof!

(above right) Austin Terrazas fishing on the ice. His Grandma Diane Bourne lives on the channel.

(left) Jason Hawkins of Elkhart caught 13 bluegills and 2 perch on the lake.



(above) The non-typically mild weather brought out someone on his jet ski on New Year's Day. Can you say cold?? Who is the mystery rider??



Photo by Maria Hopman

Pet "Tails"

Christmas morning...It doesn't get any better than this. Jack Tucker and son-in-law Tyler Wright, along with Jack's dog Pookie are fishing off the main channel bank on Christmas morning. There wasn't any ice or snow to hinder a special day together. ■

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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

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

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

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 the beginning of April (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

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.

Events on the Lake

February 18 and 19 – Winter Turkey Shoot
(Sponsored by Sportsmen's Club)

March 24 – Casino Night
(Sponsored by Sportsmen's Club)

May 23 - Association General Meeting

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

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



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.

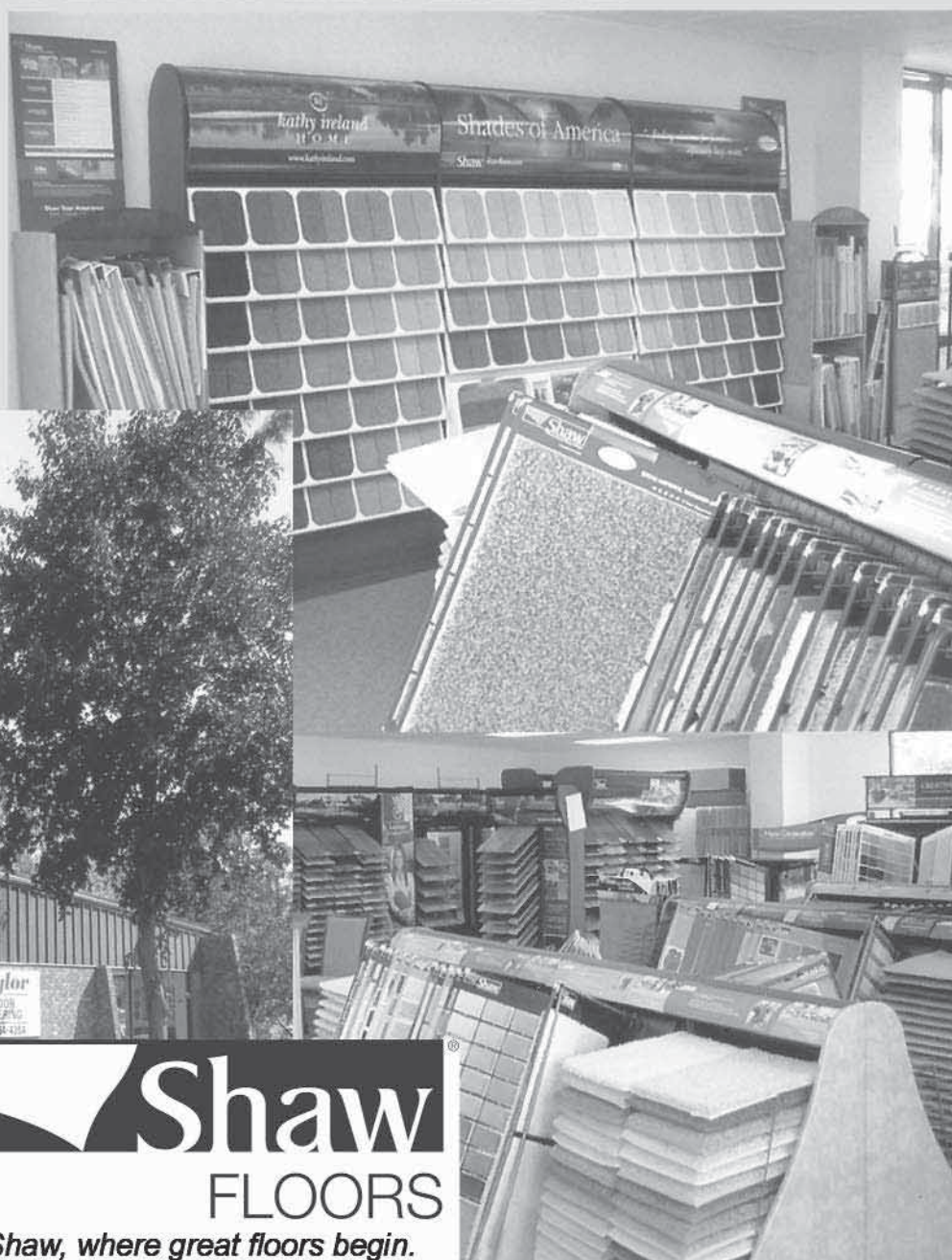
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Newsletter Staff: Carole Foutz, Dave Foutz, Connie Hart, Maria Hopman, Theresa Maier, Diane Marlow, Amy Matherly, Bob Meyers, Dick Rhodes, Kay Rhodes

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Amy Matherly is Still Dancing in Elkhart

-By Carole Foutz

Simonton Lake's Amy Matherly danced October 19th in Samaritan's Center's fundraiser, "Still Dancing in Elkhart". The Samaritan Center in Elkhart provides family counseling in the area. This fundraiser, which is their second, provides most of the funding for their center for the year. The proceeds from this event were \$94,000!

The community dancers were selected from different facets of interests and professions in Elkhart. There were 8 couples in the competition, the community "celebrity" and the professional dancer making up the couple. Amy's partner was Jake Smith from Sally Lee's Dance Studio. Jake is a student at IU Elkhart and a teacher at Sally's. Jake has been dancing since he was 8 years old. Amy began her lessons in July often twice a week and finished off with the competition at the Lerner in October.

Amy says that her inspiration for taking part in this tough challenge was

her in-laws, Chet and Doris Matherly. If you know the couple, you know that dancing is a passion for them. Amy would often go to Chet and Doris with questions and they were able to help her. Of course, Amy isn't going to enter any completion without entering it to win! The hardest part in Amy's opinion was not the performance in front of all of the people but learning the many parts of the dance in sequence.....she

never knew it could be so complicated to do the Cha Cha!

Amy states that she couldn't believe all that she endured in preparation for this event beyond learning the dance! She ordered a competition dress online. (The cost of those dresses was hardly affordable for a middle aged lady on Simonton Lake!) Little did she realize that it had to be glued to her for the completion! Amy was shocked at how

much "stage beautification" she had to do in order to be ready for her Cha Cha dance!

Since this is a fundraiser, money is the central theme of what happens in organizing this event. Every table and chair for the dancing and banquet had a specific price tied to it. Voting could be done online as well as at the event but done with a dollar a vote! This is where we are proud to say that Amy had two full tables of supporters many of whom were Simonton Lake residents and family. Amy and Jake's Cha Cha was flawless and fun! She did a wonderful job for a (*blank*) old grandmother!! Amy and Jake placed 7th in the competition based on money contributed, "AKA" votes. But the popular vote goes to Amy as she was our "dancing queen"! ■



Wildlife in our Backyard

Bird Sightings on the Lake

Mary Norris has spotted **Pileated Woodpeckers** in the woods on the north side of the lake. These birds, the size of crows, are the largest of the woodpeckers found in

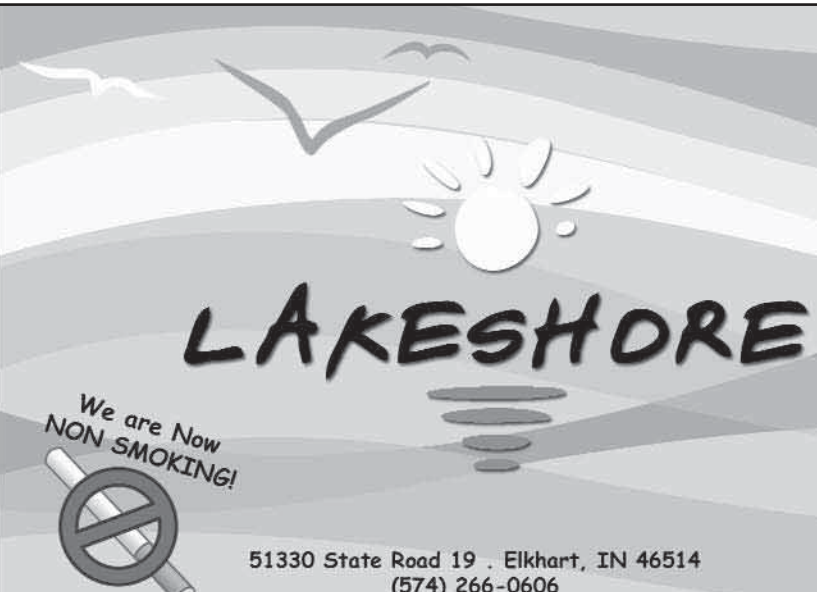
North America. As opposed to smaller woodpeckers these birds dig out huge holes in tree trunks up to seven inches across for their

nesting areas. Mainly black with red crests the birds have a black and white striped face and a white stripe down the neck. The Males have red mustaches.

Also an eagle was spotted over the south side of the lake. If you've seen this bird and have identified the type please let us know. ■



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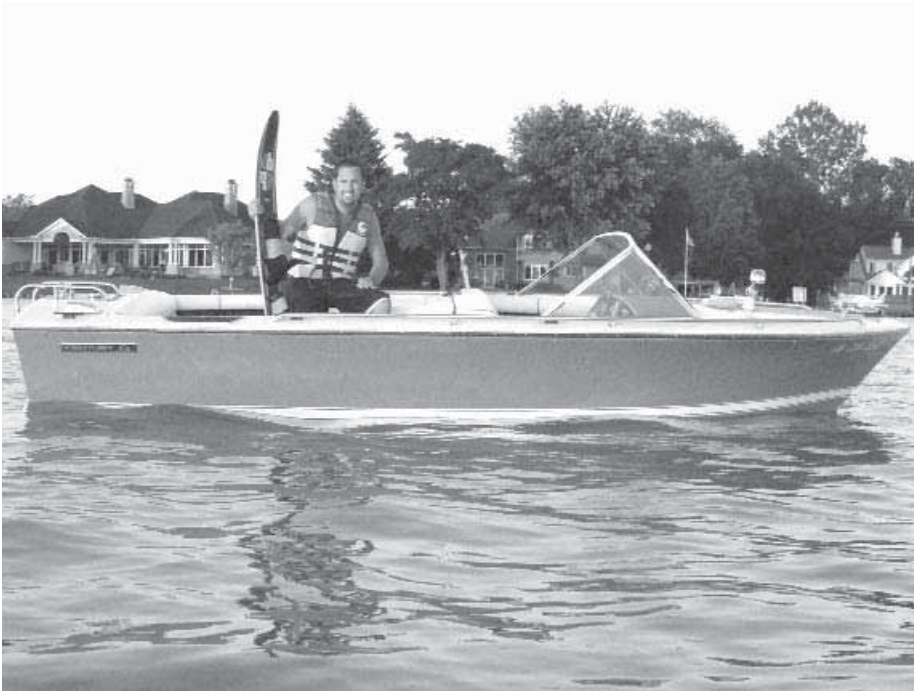
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The Classic and Vintage Boats of Simonton Lake

-by Connie Hart

Harley Davidson lovers claim that the sound their bikes make resembles saying the word potato, potato, potato several times in a row. Try it - It sorta does.....

There are others that love the deep throaty sound of BLUB, BLUB, BLUB that an old classic or vintage boat produces. Give it a full throttle take off and the engine begins to ROAR which turns to a mellow rumble as it planes off and begins to cruise the shoreline. Over the next issues, we will be featuring some of Simonton Lake's classics and vintage boats with pictures and stories as these treasures have traveled life's waterways.

Austin Hart's "Moody Blue" (above) is a 1973, 16 ft. Century Resorter with a 318 Chrysler / 225 hp. Top speed 40 mph. The original owner, Gene Thompson, Crooked Lake, Angola, IN had the boat for approx 30 years. Patrick Rose-nagle purchased the boat in 2006 and during the fall of 2007 he mentioned selling it to Austin. During that winter Wakeside worked on the engine and the interior was redone. Once Austin saw the boat on the water in the spring of

2008, he knew he had to have it. It was his and on the sandbar for 4th of July. A few 40/60 years olds came up, probably because they could appreciate and remember the glory days of the mid 70's fiberglass ski boats. Their comments were about how great it looked, but when they heard the sound of its pipes... even more cool, like the old days.

While researching the boat on line Austin ran across an individual that remembered growing up with the boat while spending time at his grandfather's, a friend and neighbor of Gene's. He told Austin several stories he remembered and said that the boat looked great and his final comment was "let the 318 scream....".

When it comes to value, NADA or the Kelly Blue Book can't get close, but as the advertising slogan suggests Sunny Days, flat water, great ride.... Priceless ! ■

How Long Have You Lived on the Lake?

-by Anne Harbaugh & Maria Hopman

Charles Vetter has lived on our lake all of his eighty-six years. He has seen a lot of changes. When he was a child he lived on Lake Drive with only a few cottages on the street and most people came on Memorial Day and left on Labor Day. After serving in World War II and getting an engineering degree from Purdue University, in 1953 he married his wife Vivian.

They purchased property on North Shore Dr., built a garage with an apartment above where they lived while he constructed the home they are living in now. Blessed with 5 children they have been married for 59 years.

Life at the lake has been active and a fun place to raise a family, with the summers filled with swimming and canoeing. Not one to sit around, Mr. Vetter just put up his ice skates 2 years ago at the age of 84!

Twenty years ago he purchased 9-1/2 acres on the north side of North Shore across from his property. He planted many trees and keeps a walking path there that he and his dog Alex use often. Living on the lake for eighty-six years is testimony to Mr. Vetter's love for our community. It truly is a special place. ■



Photo by Maria Hopman

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COMMUNITY UPDATE

Safer Cassopolis Street

-by Dave Foutz

By the next edition of Simonton Says we may know the specific improvements the state has in mind for Cassopolis Street. A fatal traffic accident at the curve on September 24, 2011 and the upcoming 2012 election year may have combined to serve as the catalyst for at least greater conversation about safety improvements along the route, but what about results?

On December 9, a meeting was held between INDOT and the Sheriffs' Department representatives, along with state and local elected officials at the Cracker Barrel restaurant. At the gathering, INDOT was represented by Transporta-

tion Commissioner Mike Cline, deputy commissioner Bob Alderman, and traffic engineers from various departments. At the meeting State Representative Tim Neese announced that flashing yellow lights have been ordered to be

placed on existing signage to alert motorists of the danger of the upcoming curve. Following the discussion at the restaurant the group adjourned to Pete's parking lot where INDOT representatives riding in a van inspected the highway multiple times from the state line to CR-4. Next the group walked the curve and visually examined the curve from both sides of the street. During this process, a resident of the North-

field housing development observed the group and stopped her car to offer her complaints about the existing problems associated with the construction of the highway.

"Traffic calming" is engineer language for trying to get people to slow down. This is what everyone knows needs to happen and it doesn't take a Purdue degree to figure it out. The current INDOT conversation on how to accomplish speed control is by reconfiguring the lanes from four to three from the state line to south end of the curve. Doing this would achieve two important results. First, since there

would be only one lane of traffic flow in each direction, motorists could move no faster than the slowest car in the lane. That change would have the desired effect on speed. Secondly, having a center turn lane would make entering and exiting neighborhood side streets much easier and much more safe.

"How are things progressing?" you



Photo by Carole Foutz

ask. Tim Neese reports that in a recent conversation with INDOT, he discovered that the wrong flashing lights were sent, but the correct ones are on their way. Additionally, changes in lane configuration continue to be strongly considered by the state. Lastly, the State Police have also targeted Cassopolis Street for speed enforcement. On the local level, the Sheriff's Department has made a significant improvement in driver awareness of observing the posted speed limit. Clearly, all three restaurants have made endeavors to illuminate the area with numerous night-guard lights. From the corner of North Shore Drive to south end of Pete's parking lot, on the east side of the street, there is only one utility pole that's not supporting a night-guard light.

Clearly action is being taken to address public concern regarding a significant safety issue. We need to continue conversations with those officials that have some influence in this matter and say thank you to those who are making a difference. People can make a difference. ■

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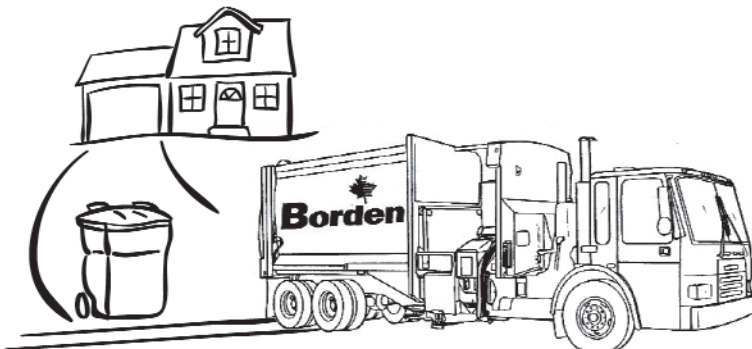
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Life on the Lake

February 2012

- by Amy Matherly

Buying Christmas presents for family members can be pretty difficult. My goal is to find that gift that brings a scream of delight as the present is opened. Sometimes I find that gift and sometimes I don't, but it sure is fun to try.

This year we had our 18 month old granddaughter to buy for. We got some suggestions from her parents and we took a look. These days you can buy a stuffed dog that barks when you pet them. Or walks forward when you say, "Come!" There's a gymnastics doll that dances, does summersaults and talks to you. The Sesame Street characters talk, sing, dance, play the drums and will teach your child to read, and learn their colors and numbers.

I polled my friends about the perfect gift for a child of this age and they all agreed. Get her a box, a plain old, cardboard box. I can remember the day 40 years ago when my dad pulled in the driveway with a new refrigerator in his truck. My sister and I thought the frig was nice but it was the box that we were excited about. First we stood it on its end and cut a door in the side. We used our crayons to color windows on the sides. When the cut out door began to rip we turned the box

on its side and made it into a boat. Then we jumped over it for a while. The box began breaking down so we flattened it and it was an island. We crawled under it and it became a tent. Then we took it over to the hill in the park and used it as a sled. I'm sure we would have used it for days but then it began to rain and the box just didn't do well.

Well, I did get the barking dog and a little pink chair for her to sit in when she looks at her books. But, I also sat aside a box for her. Not a refrigerator box, but a good sized box for her. Then one night late when I was frantically wrapping the final gifts for a holiday no more than 48 hours away, I had to use the box for someone else's present.

Not to worry. We still had a great time watching her play with her gifts. And, just yesterday her mother sent me a picture of her on their kitchen floor sitting on a big Tupperware container and beating on another pan with some wooden salad tongs. I guess that would be another good gift. I'll have to keep that in mind for the next Christmas.

Until next time. ■

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Elkhart County Lakes...

Hunter Lake: "Pay at House on Right In the Box at End of Porch"

- by Bob Meyers

Continuing our series of Lakes of Elkhart County, this issue we visit Hunter Lake. You've passed it as you travel 120 east of Bristol. Hunter is on the south side of 120 between County Road 43 to the west and Forest Lake Drive to the east. Another good view of the lake is south on County Road 43 to LaPlace Drive; another is driving south to Cottage Grove Drive.

Your best view of the lake is on State Road 120. You pull into an area that looks like a public landing; however there is a sign that reads in big letters:



There is also a sign that reads (The last line is hand painted on the sign):

SPEED LIMIT 10
By order of DNR

All this unusual signage is a part of the interesting landscape that is Hunter Lake. Hunter is situated on a busy highway on one side, a housing development on another, a lake community, on the third, and farm land on the remaining side. One day take a drive around Hunter Lake and enjoy the four different sides that make this Elkhart County Lake one of a kind. And if you wait until Spring to make the trip, enjoy an ice cream cone at Yup's Dairyland and stop at Oak Hills Golf Course and play a round of golf.

In the next issue, we will take a look at Indiana Lake. Until

then, enjoy the lakes of Elkhart County, especially yours, it's the best the county has to offer.....Only 5 months until summer. ■



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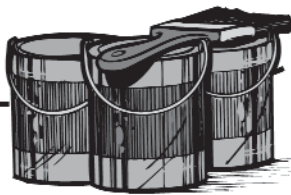


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Opportunities for You!

Our annual meeting of the Simonton Lake Area Homeowners' Association is coming up in May. Our association is comprised of a board of directors and four standing committees. **We are looking for anyone who may be interested in running for a board position prior to the May meeting to contact a nominating committee member.** They are: Paul Wilson, Sue Ward, Dick Rhodes, Carole Foutz, or Vaughn Nickell.

Our standing committees are: Lake Safety, Membership/Outreach, Newsletter/Website, and Environment Committee. If any of these committees appeal to your interest, we would love to hear from you and become a member. You

can contact any member of the board or nominating committee or a committee member.

The Environment Committee is in search of a person or persons to chair or co-chair the Environment Committee.

Additionally, the committee is starting three new projects this year that will operate under this committee:

- o Vegetation Management
- o Sediment Removal Project
- o Ecozone Project

Anyone interested in any of these projects either by helping or leading, contact either John Rose or Vaughn Nickell.

These projects are a direct result of recommendations made from the Lake Study Project that was performed last year on Simonton.

Vaughn Nickell
574-262-3105
VLNickell@gmail.com
John Rose
574-333-2433
johnrose11@comcast.net
Carole Foutz
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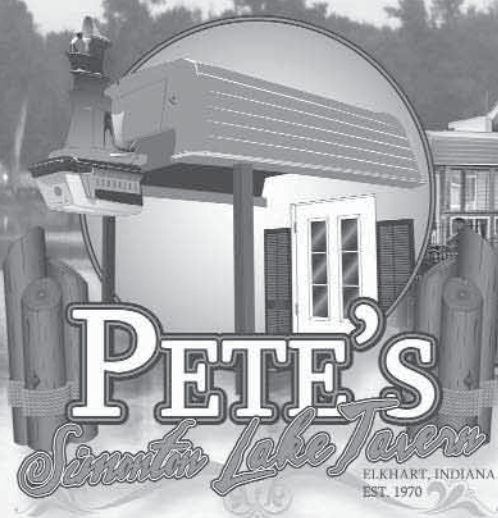
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Sunday

- 4 Piece Chicken Dinner - \$6.95

Tuesday

- Cheeseburger - \$2.00

Wednesday

- Beef and Noodles for \$5.95



Kelly Jae's Café

- by Dave Foutz

There is a certain contrarian attitude about the economic vitality of downtown Goshen. There are few Midwestern cities where you can stroll past storefronts that are actually filled with successful enterprises. Some of these businesses are of the type that "experts" would say have no chance of success, such as a high end restaurants. These are just a couple of the surprises that await local diners at **Kelly Jae's Café**.

There has been a lot of positive buzz among foodies about what an exciting

dining concept Kelly Graff and Karen Kennedy have developed at 133 South Main Street in Goshen. These entrepreneurs have exhaustive resumes, but of their many previous successes, the one that will impress most lake residents is **The Checkerberry Inn** (*not in business any longer*). If there were advanced degrees in the culinary arts, Kelly and Karen

would both have their PhD's.

What could be more enjoyable on a cold snowy January night than sharing a dining experience with your friends, Bob and Bobbi Meyers at a previously untried restaurant? One significant advantage to establishing an enterprise in an historic building is you don't have to manufacture charm. The café decor features lots of exposed brick, warm wood, and a classic tin ceiling, with an eclectic mix of modern lighting accents. The service was exceptional. In addition to their able array of servers, Kelly and Karen are absolutely everywhere. They have to be the hardest working restaurateurs I have ever seen.

Dinner features are self-described as, "an eclectic menu featuring Spanish tapas concept with an Asian flair." Tapas or small plate features are best enjoyed

by a group of friends who are not overly territorial about their dinner. The first item on the menu is "Baked Brie with Apricot Preserve in Puff Pastry." In football you always lead with your strength. I can't think of too many dishes I have enjoyed more than the baked brie. Additionally, we chose the special for the evening, shrimp pot-stickers. They were good, but the brie was a very tough act to follow. Carole enjoyed the grilled chicken skewers along with grilled broccolini, describing the chicken as having a nice spicy kick. I found the wine list to be quite adequate and affordable, with selection seemingly appropriate for the local customer base. I enjoyed a nice Spanish Tempranillo at \$7 a glass.

For dessert, our party chose Key Lime White Chocolate Mousse Cake, Molten Godiva Chocolate Cake, and Hot Apple Tart, along with huge cups of dark, rich coffee. How can you say anything bad about this list, so just let me say I think the apple tart received the most positive buzz? As we are finishing our coffee in walks the chef, Mac Zimet, a former student. Mac is someone whose professional career I have been following in the local restaurant scene with great interest.

Here's the problem with this place—as I set here jumping back and forth from the menu, I realize that have I barely scratched the surface. There are

so many items that I feel I should have tried. But then again maybe that's not such a bad thing. I can return to the scene of the crime and try the seared yellow fin tuna and maybe this time Bob Meyers will give me a taste of the apple tart. ■



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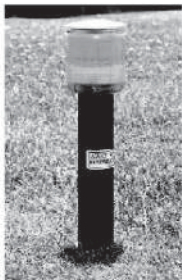
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Water-Based Unit

Interesting History in Your Abstract

--by Amy Matherly

When we bought our house in 1982 we received an Abstract that was about an inch thick. It's been sitting in a file drawer here at the house for all those years. But then last week when I had a few days off of school I cleaned out that drawer and took a look at that old document.

In 1833 the Recorder of Elkhart County entered 141.18 acres of land purchased by Samuel Simonton from the United States government. The document in our abstract is from the government in Washington D.C. and President Andrew Jackson. The Deed Record lists Samuel Simonton as a resident of Miami County, Ohio and that he had paid for the land under a Congressional Act "making further provision for the sale of the Public Lands." The Deed record is signed by Elijah Hayward, Commissioner of the General Land Office of the Department of the Interior.

Samuel Simonton passed away and in his will in 1850 the property area called The Creek Farm was to be sold to clear any debts. He was unmarried according to the records. So the remainder of the property went to his children David, Abner and John Simonton. Samuel's children were also to get the property in the village of Elkhart. In 1851 a portion of this land went from John Simonton to Hannah P. Simonton.

Hannah got married to a man names Giles Jackson and moved to California. She and her husband decided to sell the land back to John Simonton in 1873. John Simonton died in 1876 and at that time left an estate estimated to be in the value of about \$500. He was unmarried at the time of his death. David Simonton, his brother, was the administrator. John's heirs were Abner Simonton, David Simonton, Emily Simonton, Eliza Simonton Tibbits, Hannah Simonton Jackson, & Elizabeth (Simonton?) Beardsley (wife of Elam Beardsley). I don't know if Elam was one of the Beardsley's here in Elkhart, but by the time of the reading of the will, they had moved to Wisconsin. In 1877 a portion of the land was sold to Henry Winegar and William Thompson. (Thompson Avenue) It appears that Mr. Winegar sold part of the land to Elisah Drake in 1880.

In 1900 William Thompson sold a portion of the land to the State of Indiana for a school.

In 1903 there was a lawsuit by William Thompson and his wife Mary against Elmer Thompson, Grant Thompson and Jennie (Thompson) Bell, their children. (Bell Avenue?) From the documents it looks as though the parents had, by family agreement, given over the land in three parcels in exchange for one third of the crops and fruit raised on the land and a certain amount of firewood. This agreement was to stand until the end of William and Mary's lives. It looks like William didn't think this was happening so he took them to court. He won. The judgment even included a ruling that the children had to till as much as two thirds of their lands in grain or hay. William was named in a law suit in

See Abstract/ pg. 22

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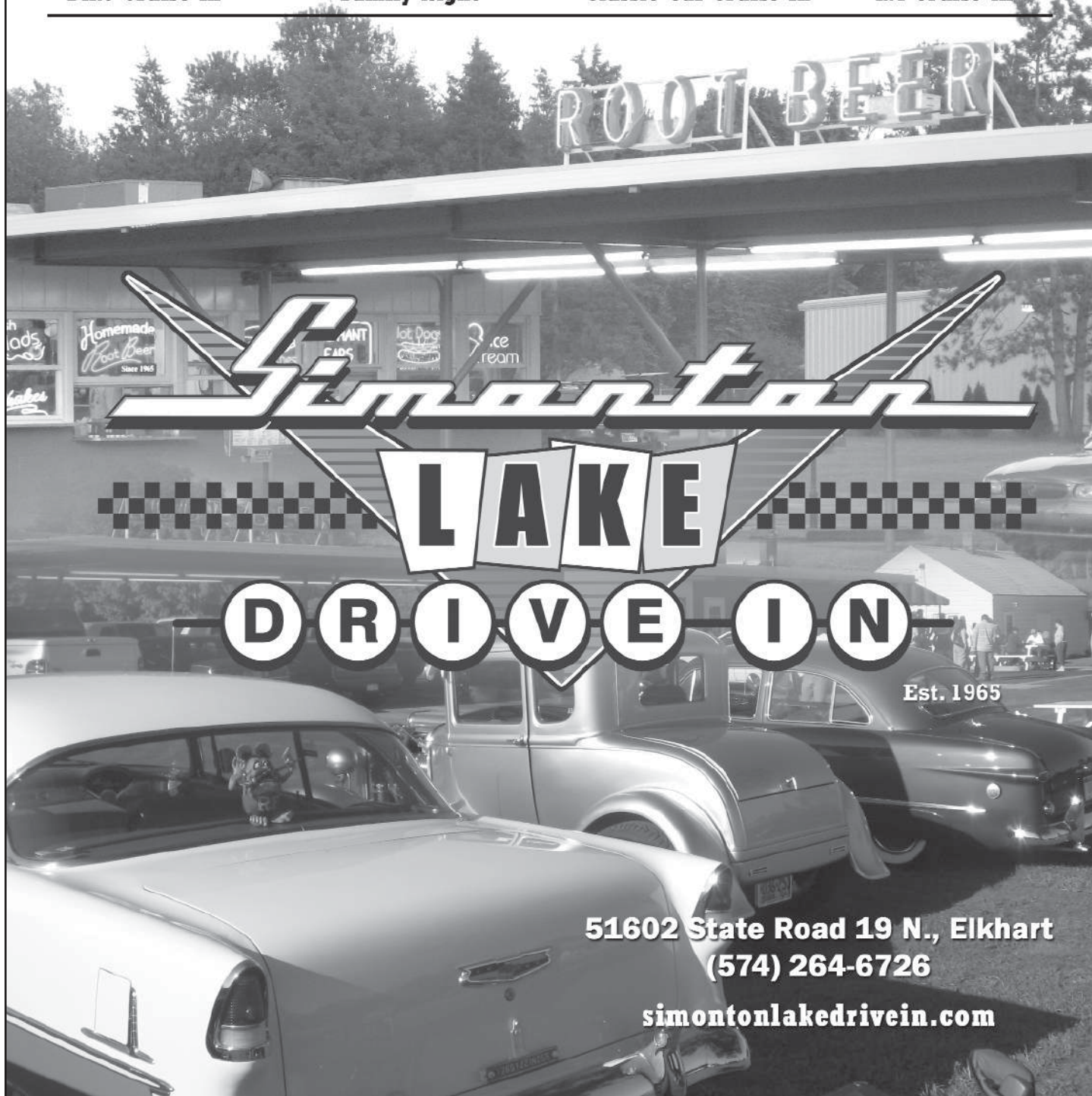
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Sportsmen's Club

Catch Phrases

-by Bob Meyers

The cold wind is whipping across the lake and the ice fishermen are in their shanties while closer to the shoreline the ice skaters enjoy making their figure eights. The children are sledding and building snowmen, while we with our snow blowers attempt to remove all snow down to the pavement to have that absolutely clean driveway. On February 2nd in a small town in Pennsylvania, Punxsutawney Phil, surrounded by men in tuxedos, comes out of his home while a crowd of onlookers wait for him to determine whether or not there will be six more weeks of winter. Regardless if Phil sees his shadow or does not, spring will begin March 20. Long before that date, you may see the first robin, the first crocus, and other first signs of spring, that

awakening of the beauty that is Simonton Lake.

Here are the Simonton Lake Sportsmen's Club events planned for 2012:

February 18 and 19 – Winter Turkey Shoot at the clubhouse - 10am-5pm

March 24 – Casino Night at the clubhouse

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

Make plans to enjoy all these events and more as 2012 develops at the greatest of all lakes, your lake, Simonton Lake. Only 5 months until summer..... See you on the ice. ■



Photos by Dave Foutz

Abstract

from page 20

1903. A company named Belle Fontaine Bridge and Iron Company sued him for \$13,000. The case was dismissed at a later date. Not sure why. There was another lawsuit in 1915. Mary Thompson sued Elmer and Ulysses. Not sure what this was about either but it looks like a civil matter.

Ulysses Grant Thompson, also known as Grant Ulysses Thompson died in 1923. Ulysses' children were Mabel, Wilbur, Arthur and Alice. Ulysses' property was divided between these children. Wilbur sold part of his land to Grant Thompson for \$200 per year until his death.

Elmer Thompson and his wife, German, sold part of his land to Annetta Cle-

land in 1907.

In 1926 Wilber had the land subdivided and recorded as: "Thompson's Subdivision at Simonton Lake by Wilber Thompson." At the far eastern edge of this land was a 25 foot court on the lake that he "dedicated to the use of the public". This court is still there today. The plat of this land was altered in 1948 to delete an area known as "the park". Those of us who live in this area will see the title "Thompson's Alteration" in our abstracts.

In 1945 Wilbur and his wife Leona (Perrin), also known as Dora, sold a portion of their land including some of the lake lots to Jessie M. Lamb. Jessie then sold lots to Arthur and Mattie Fuller, parents of ElDonna Thorpe who currently lives with her husband, Brud, across the street from this property. Arthur and

Mattie built the house we live in today. When we first moved into the house in 1982, our neighbor to the west was Fran Werner, husband of local dentist Dr. John C. Werner. Dr. Werner had passed away prior to our arrival. Fran told us that her house was the last house on the existing road when she and her husband built their house. In our abstract it shows a "Dedication of a Highway" document showing that John and Fran gave the state a strip of land thirty feet wide connecting the existing road (North Shore) to the end of the subdivision in 1963. This seems like it can't be the right date but that is what the document says.

The property then sold to Daniel and Yvonne Peters, then to Robert and Donna Erickson and then to us. Interesting!!! ■



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Simonton Chronicles

Remembering Growing up on Simonton Lake

-by Connie Brewer Hart

I've heard it said that if you grow up on water, it gets in your blood and it's nearly impossible to get it out of your system – why would you want to?

My family moved to the lake in 1965 and thankfully with my mom's good sense and foresight she put her family on the right direction for happiness (Circles). You see after what seems like forever, my mom, brother and I still find ourselves going around and around on the familiar circle of Simonton Lake.

Back then, the lake and channels had a much different look, sound and feel. The biggest outboard motor that I was aware of was the 80 horse on the back of one of my friend's boat. It not only had the horsepower, it was physically huge. I think two people could sit on it while bobbing on the waves out in the middle. Back then you could just lazily float without need of having to hold on for dear life because of the big rolling waves that are produced on the lake now.

The channel that my husband and I live on (Forest Road) had only one house and the rest, from my memory, was one long sand dune. I've always hoped to run across pictures of what that must have looked like. When you're 14, you don't think about taking pictures of the wonderful places you go. The other channels were equally as bare and without structures – lucky for me, because one time while speeding thru the channels with the family's 14' blue Starcraft with a 40 horse Johnson – I HIT A LOG. The motor broke off the back and flew up into the back seat and the boat landed on shore at one of the end lots. I had my share of boat troubles, but I think my brother was the reason for more times the boat was out of commis-

sion. He probably would tell a different story if you asked him. Maybe I will.

The old boyfriend and I, when we get together, can still recall the sound and feel of rocking the summer away listening to the waves splash up against the side of the boat. Oh, the smell of outboard motor oil brings these memories floating back. By the way, he's still on water too, just another lake.

The marina was a cool place to go, but not for hanging out according to Ted and Ernie. I would love to have a conversation with the Johnson's today and have it published in our next issue; the memories they can recall must be endless.

I remember the ski jump and the slalom course. I ran the course a couple of times, but the thrill I remember, was jumping out of the boat going full speed. My skiing skills were more along the lines of hanging on to the rope and my top rather than running the course. OH the ski club boys were so dreamy....

Back in my day, we could drive our boats at full speed thru the channel between the two lakes. I think that our being able to do this was part of the reason we did not have the build up of silt... But our motors were smaller and we were not as crowded as we are now. Maybe we should have designated hours to shake some things loose and stir things up. That would probably just shake and stir up too many people.

We used to be able to drive our shallow hulled boats all around the little lake and island area grabbing a hold of rice weeds. Now the rice weeds seem to be grabbing a hold of the lake and choking us out of our boating areas.

Sheared pins and being out of gas situations required ingenuity and challenges in order get the boat home.

Learning how to maneuver the muck and the best holding positions on to the side of your boat to swim it home are some of my cherished life lessons. Most kids now days....- Yuck – muck No way ! Although, my own sons and niece have a story they can tell about a time...

Back then the road did not go thru and the woods at the end of North Shore Drive was great for walking in what felt like wilderness. I remember the Sugar Shack. I was sad when it burnt. Each time I heard the song "Sugar Shack" I would think of this place. Before it caught fire, I remember standing in the shell of the building looking out the windows facing the water of the little lake. Wonder who else used to look out those windows and what did they see? There was a road that led away from the cabin toward state line road; it seemed to go off into the boonies and gave away to the secret mystery of it all. Across the street from our house, there was a trail too that led to state line road. My VW seemed to do quite well on that trail, using it as a short cut to the boyfriend's house on the other side of the lake.

I remember also going to Chandlers bait shop and boat rental located at the boat landing. The little bait shop was like walking into a vintage Field and Stream ad. I would love to talk to you if you have any information on this business. I think there is a story here waiting to be told.

Have you ever looked at a tree or house and wondered if it's branches or walls could talk.... What would the water have to say? ■



Treasurer's Corner

Below is a brief financial update on the association:

Simonton Lake Area Homeowners' Association, Inc.
January 1, 2011 – December 31, 2011 (CASH Basis Accounting)

Item	Subtotal	Total
Advertising	\$6,465.00	
Fireworks Donations	\$3,925.00	
Other Events (e.g., Hog Roast)	729.00	
LARE Grant from State of IN	18,857.47	
Membership Dues	4,970.00	
Sales (Calendars)	1,130.00	
Other (e.g., interest income)	55.47	
Total Income		36,131.94
Board of Directors (e.g., calendars, Hog roast, general meeting expenses, insurance)	3,286.11	
Fireworks Transfer to Sportsmen's Club	3,525.00	
Lake Environment (LARE Grant)	20,607.47	
Lake Safety	1,228.41	
Membership/Outreach	71.94	
Newsletter / Website	3,691.23	
Total Expenses		\$32,410.16
Net Position as of October 3, 2011		\$3,721.78

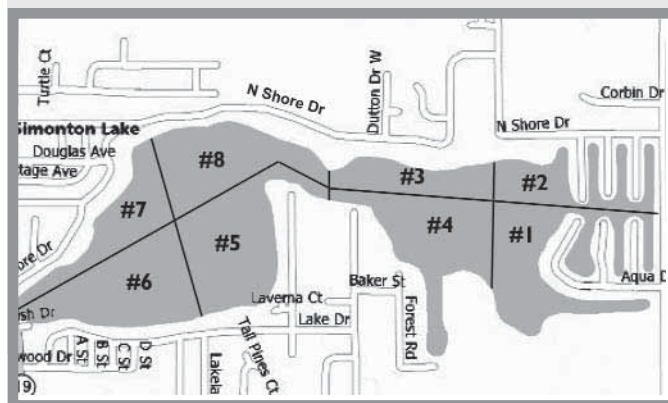
Thank you for the terrific support of our recent calendar project – we sold our entire inventory of over 100 calendars!!

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. 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 | 264-7656 |
| Ron Taylor | 262-1332 |
| 7. Dave VanZile | 264-5201 |
| Jon Hart | 262-1404 |
| 8. Susie Broderick | 262-0818 |
| Amy Matherly | 262-4773 |
| Maria Hopman | 262-1655 |



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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

www.simontonlake.org

MESSAGE BOARD



Oops!!

We apologize for an error in our 2012 calendar. It is missing a day in February...no not the 29th, leap day. We caught that one, but left out February 26th. (You really wanted to have that day to do nothing, right?) SORRY!!

Nike Reuse a Shoe Program

Grant Brekke, North Shore Dr., will be going for his black belt this spring. Part of the requirements is to do 20 hours of community service. Grant chose to do the *Nike Reuse A Shoe* program. This program reuses the shoes for running tracks, soles on new shoes, zippers on hoodies and much more. **He needs to collect 500 pairs of athletic shoes by May 5th.** There will be collection boxes at Eastlake Athletic Club and St. Thomas School in Elkhart and Maple City Fitness in Goshen. Below are the guidelines for what we can accept.

Athletic shoes (running shoes, sneakers, etc.) and LIVESTRONG wristbands only

You can recycle any brand of shoes

No shoes containing metal

No cleats or dress shoes

No wet or damp shoes

No sandals or flip-flops

No other types of armbands/bracelets

You can drop off items at 25934 North Shore Dr.
For more information call 574-264-5120

Do you know someone who is having a birthday, anniversary, etc? Email:
simon@simontonlake.org

Happy Anniversary!

4/4	Matt & Elle Hart Anniversary
4/30	Bob & Bobbi Meyers Anniversary

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** (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 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.

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)

LOOKING FOR: used wooden water skis cheap or free for a project. Call Theresa at 262-2740.

We wish you a Happy Birthday!

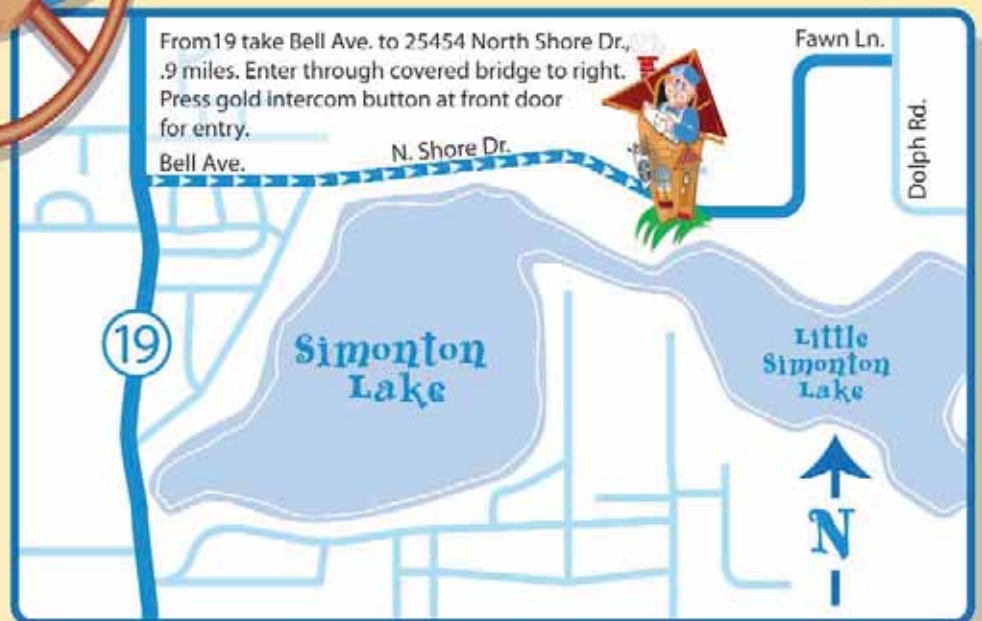
2/12	Bob Shultz	3/27	Bill Broderick	4/25	Cindy Mansfield
2/13	Larry Maier	4/2	Ryan Matherly	4/28	Michael Thomas Fix
2/16	Graham Duncan	4/14	Ryan Harding		(son of Katy Rutter and Ryan Fix. Grandparents are Margot and Thomas Rutter)
	(Grandson of Dick & Kay Rhodes)	4/24	Preston Thomas Ryan (age 3)		
2/18	Kathy Shewmaker		(grandparents Tim & Phyllis Nusbaum)		
2/23	Terry Shewmaker				
2/25	Vaughn Nickell				



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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.....

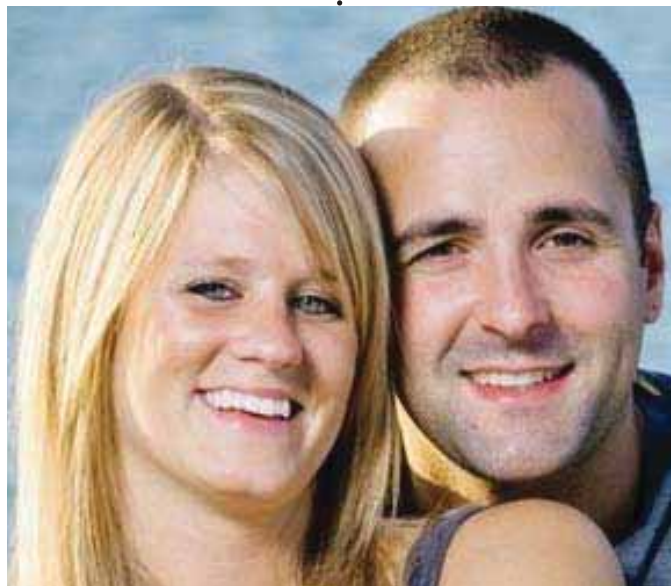
(Call Amy at 262-4773 or email simon@simontonlake.org)



We are sorry to report the passing of **Jack M. Linton**, 76, of Maplewood Drive on Dec. 29, 2011. Jack was born July 23, 1935, in Peoria, Ill. On July 12, 1959, he married **Ruth L. Shriver**, his college sweetheart, in South Bend. Ruth and Jack had three children: Mark B. (Kimberly) Linton of Elkhart, Leslie (Daryl) Greising of Elkhart and Kirk (Mary) Linton of Bristol; and six grandchildren, Briana Linton, Scott, Ross and Derek Linton, and Erin and Luke Greising.

Jack was the owner of J.M. Linton Woodwinds and a member of First Presbyterian Church where he served as church school superintendent, deacon, trustee and elder. He also served on the former Family Counseling Board and was instrumental in the initial planning and development of the Samaritan Center. He loved gardening and orchids, Sharing flowers and plants was his joy. His park-like gardens, which were open to visitors young and old, all through the year, gave him much pleasure. He played bassoon in the Elkhart Symphony and was involved in numerous musical organizations.

Courtney Snyder and Michael McIntire (right) are engaged and plan to marry June 16, 2012, at the home of her parents, **Cam & Sue Snyder** (Maplewood Dr.). Congratulations!



Bob Putnam was named, Sportsman of the Year, which was awarded at the Simonton Lake Sportsmen's Club annual Christmas Party on December 3, 2011. Approximately 20 members plus wives and/or guests attended. A great time was had by all.

1100 walleyes, measuring 5 to 8 inches, were stocked in Simonton Lake on October 20, 2011 by **Simonton Lake Sportsmen's Club**.

Congratulations to **Colleen and Dave Replogle** (North Shore Dr.) and **Conrad and Janet Hochstetler** (Aqua Dr.) on the marriage of their children **Natalie and Josh**. The marriage took place on June 11 at Potato Creek State Park overlooking Worster Lake. Natalie's sisters Stephanie and Erin as well as Josh's sisters Andrea and Leanne were bridesmaids. Erin's daughters Isabela and Mia were flower girls. Josh's brother Zach was best man. Colleen and Dave's sons-in-law Diego Mendoza and Andrew Harman ushered. The couple honeymooned to Soufriere, St. Lucia. They now live in Noblesville.



Our thoughts and prayers are with **Larry & Theresa Maier** (Maplewood Dr.) & family during this difficult time while they're dealing with Larry's illness. The whole lake community offers support & love. If you want to send a message of support to Larry, log onto his website at: www.caringbridge.org/visit/larrymaier.

Welcome to **Cindy and Dov Rosenberg** to Simonton Lake. Cindy is Amy Matherly's sister. The Rosenbergs live in Florida.

Sue and Tedd Johnson (Lake Drive) celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on New Years Eve. A family celebration will be held at a later date.

We welcome **Mike & Nancy Franger** to the lake. They recently bought a home on Maplewood Drive.

Brock and Angie Nickell are the proud parents of a new daughter Gianna Marie born January 20th. Brock is the son of **Vaughn and Cindy Nickell** (Maplewood Dr.).

Bugeye Hostetter celebrated his 90th birthday recently. Congratulations!!