



Simonton Says...

April 2013
Volume 6, Issue 2

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

BREAKING NEWS AT SIMONTON LAKE!

Several agencies of the state and federal government have agreed with the county commissioners that because Simonton Lake is not at the water level ordered by a superior court judge, the lake will be drained.
READ MORE...on page 6.

Check out the NEW campground right on the water, for fellow Simonton Lake campers. **READ MORE... on page 8.**



Caught on Camera.. page 18



Dog rescued...story on page 12



Meet Mel...story on page 16



Amazing story.....
A Grinder Pump Explodes on North Shore. **READ MORE... on page 6.**

Sponge Bob takes the jump for the Leprechaun Leap 2013. See more photos on page 2.

Local dog drives a truck into Simonton Lake.
READ MORE...on page 12.



(photos by Maria Hopman)



Hundreds Make the Splash

Braving below-freezing temperatures and the icy waters of Simonton Lake, Leprechaun Leap participants made a splash at Pete's Simonton Lake Tavern, for a good cause.

Hundreds of people gathered on Saturday, March 16, for the eighth annual fundraiser for United Cancer Services of Elkhart County. ■

(photos by Maria Hopman)





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**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.

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

Our Mission

*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.*

Our Newsletter

The newsletter is published 6 times per year (every other month) - 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

Events on the Lake

May 22	Association General Meeting
June 1	Youth Fishing Contest (sponsored by Sportsmen's Club)
July 6	Poker Run (Rain, sun or snow) (sponsored by Sportsmen's Club)
July 6	FIREWORKS (sponsored by Sportsmen's Club)
July 7	FIREWORKS Rain date
August 10	Youth Fishing Contest (sponsored by Sportsmen's Club)
TBD	Corn and Sausage Roast (sponsored by Sportsmen's Club)
Oct. 26 and 27	Fall Turkey Shoot (sponsored by Sportsmen's Club)
November 9	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.
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Osolo EMS
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Law Enforcement District
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**Lake Safety Committee -
Crime Tracking**

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Life on the Lake

Grinder Pump Explodes on North Shore

-by Amy Matherly

Shortly after a 5-alarm chili party at a home on North Shore Drive, the hosts awoke to growling sounds coming from outside their home. After some searching it was determined that it was not that puma folks see once in a while, but that the ever increasing distress was coming from the grinder pump. "It sounded like a train coming closer and closer, the homeowner told our reporter. "I just told the little woman to run for it! And then it just blew, like an oil geyser! Only it wasn't oil. Never saw anything like it."

Neighbors heard the commotion AND smelled the odor. One neighbor said, "You know that saying when the ___ hits the fan? Well, this was it! What a mess?"

HASMAT was called but said this was not in their area. The fire department would not respond either. While there was hot chili involved, there was no fire.

The grinder pump company has been called for ideas on clean up. A company spokesman responded to our question about the possibility of this happening again. "Well, what you had here was the results of some real spicy chili and some real gassy folks. Put all that down your grinder and you've got a natural combustion. We're not sure if it's covered by the homeowners insurance."

The homeowners are hoping for a good hard rain and planning a very bland diet. Oh, by the way, Happy April Fools Day. ■

**Association
General
Meeting
May 22, 2013
at the
Sportsman's
Clubhouse.
7pm**

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Are you interested in being on the Simonton Lake Homeowners' Board?

If so, Please contact: a member of the nominating committee:
Sue Ward - 574-206-0450, Paul Wilson - 574-262-1491
Carole Foutz - 574-262-3908, Dick Rhodes - 574-262-9816

EVERYBODY Skate

-by Bob Meyers

Several agencies of the state and federal government have agreed with the county commissioners that because Simonton Lake is not at the water level ordered by a superior court judge, the lake will be drained.

The draining of the lake will begin in the spring of 2013. It is not necessary to remove piers at this time, however during the "clean up" of the lake bottom, this summer and fall, everyone who has a pier in the water must remove it or the state will remove them at a cost to the pier owner.

Also if you have any obstacles over one of the drains, which may slow the drainage, they will be removed at YOUR expense.

Since sufficient ice has not

formed on the lake two of the last three years, ice skating has not been an option, therefore in the spring of 2014, the then drained lake, will be filled with concrete to allow roller skating to replace ice skating and hockey.

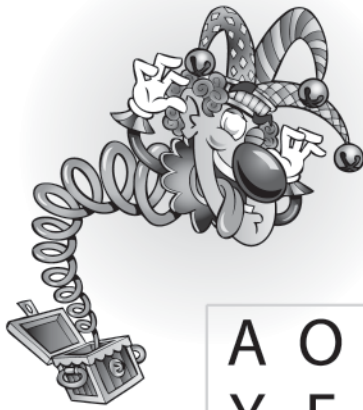
You may solicit the commissioners on the color you would like the concrete painted, however they will not be any more interested in your opinion on the color than they are on any other subject. Remember this is Simonton Lake, NOT the upper Saint Joseph River.

Property owners will gain from this action because your land will abut a parking lot instead of a body of water, therefore your real estate taxes will drop drastically.

If you don't know by now this is an April Fools story.....alright, you do now. ■

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April Fool's Day

Surprise...
there are 3 words hidden
but not listed. Can you find them?

Word Search

APRIL
SURPRISED
SPONTANEOUS
LAUGHING
PRETEND
TRICKS
PLAYFUL
JOKES
MISCHIEF
JOKE
HOAX
FUNNY
FOOL
FIRST
CHILDISH
FLOWERS
SPRING
KITE
BUTTERFLY
INSECTS
RAIN
PRANK

A	O	D	R	U	N	M	P	S	R	J	H	L	T
Y	F	T	A	P	R	I	L	R	R	O	F	S	O
S	R	Y	R	O	N	S	A	K	S	K	R	I	S
L	U	E	L	C	I	C	Y	R	N	E	N	S	E
T	A	R	L	F	H	H	F	L	W	S	U	E	O
R	S	U	P	O	R	I	U	O	E	L	P	N	L
I	L	R	G	R	O	E	L	C	A	R	O	O	J
C	I	R	I	H	I	F	T	D	E	K	O	J	L
K	R	N	E	F	I	S	M	T	I	F	E	F	K
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COMMUNITY UPDATE

Keeping up with the Neighbors

By Connie Hart

Jon and I finally realized a dream this last year with the purchase of our travel trailer. We love camping and have been going since we were first married. Back then it was in a small tent that we packed into our VW bug. We upgraded to a pop up in the early eighties, but never seemed to be able to take that next step up to a trailer.

As we have aged, the pop up has become not so sweet and endearing as it once was. It's more about enduring with all the labor involved. You would not believe what all goes in to packing in order to have everything imaginable for human comfort.

So after several of our neighbors on Forest Road beat us to the punch and got theirs this past summer, we bit the bullet embarrassed by our lack of swanky, high tech updated accommodations. Funny thing is we don't have a vehicle to pull it yet. Explaining why we only were able to take it out once, but it sure was GRAND.

With the need to find a location to store it, we happened on the idea to purchase the property at the north end of our street and develop a campground right on the water for fellow Simonton Lake campers. I couldn't be more pleased with how this has developed. You may have already seen one of our neighbor's campers there. So if you are interested in a reserving a site, just call us at 1- 277-453-6657 or 1-APR-ILF-OOLS. ■

**Association General Meeting
May 22, 2013 at the
Sportsman's Clubhouse. 7pm**

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) 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. ■

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

Continued on page 10.

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Corndance Tavern

-by Dave Foutz

We are privileged to have a couple of great eateries right on the lake that serve some of the best bar food in the area. However, sometimes you have a special occasion to celebrate, or you just have a craving for apricot brie and you want to move a little up market. I'm talking about the fine dining category where you make infrequent visits to enjoy a truly extraordinary dining experience, where the food is for more for the soul than the body. Corndance Tavern on Grape Road is one of my favorites in this category.

To better understand the unique quality of Corndance Tavern you need to know a bit about its owner and executive chef George Pesek. George grew up in Czechoslovakia, roaming around in a kitchen filled with chefs. He defected in 1989, and attended the Black Forest Culinary Arts in Germany. Spending the first year in America as a Sous Chef (assistant chef), in a French restaurant located in St. Louis, quickly followed by becoming the Executive Chef at Ditka's, in Chicago. He later worked in Italy for a year to acquire skill in presenting true Italian cuisine. This was followed by a stint in Napa, to learn some Californian Wine Country twists. George decided to open his own restaurant, Corndance Café in Culver, Indiana, on the shore of Lake Maxinkuckee away from the bustle of the city. Lake Maxinkuckee provided a back drop where people would

be able to sit back, relax, and focus on the dining experience. From this remarkable yet simple formula sprang Corndance Tavern in Mishawaka.

George and his wife Tammy chose the name Corndance from the prehistory of the area. The Potawatomi Indians, "Keepers of the Fire," lived in this region for nearly 200 years. They were adaptable hunters and farmers, skillfully using what the land offered to sustain every aspect of their culture – from food and clothing to shelter. In addition to sustaining their tribe by hunting and gathering the Potawatomi cultivated a staple crop, maize (corn). As with many Native American tribes, they gave thanks to their gods and made requests for bountiful harvests through elaborate rituals, one of them the corn dance.

The décor at Corndance Tavern reflects this tradition drawn from nature and connected to the earth. The interior is dominated with natural textures, wood, stone, tile, and even poured concrete. My particular favorite area to eat is in the sun room which is accessed through the tastefully designed bar. On a quiet, wintry Sunday evening six of us shared a fabulous, leisurely dinner that garnered unanimous rave reviews. Several of us delighted in servings of the pan seared red snapper special over finger sliced potatoes. There are always several seafood options on the menu in addition to the specials. Bison meatloaf was another choice that received glowing reviews. One of the more creative choices was a vegetarian selection of Seitan with roasted vegetables, over brown rice. This proved to impress all at the table.

Presentation is an area in which Corndance Tavern excels. For instance the Sword of John Adam, a steak selection, arrives on an actual sword. One of our diners ordered a wedge salad that arrived presented between two pieces of toast and looked as if it was popping up from a toaster.

Finally, if craft beer is to your liking, George has begun brewing his own line of beer under the Evil Czech label, brewed in Culver. This has proved interesting enough that I plan to swing by Culver on my next trip to Indianapolis for a closer inspection. Hopefully you will find the Corndance Tavern as delightful as we have. ■

...continued from page 8.

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. ■

Answers: 1. d, 2. d, 3. c, 4. b, 5. a

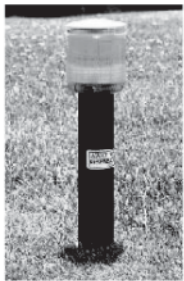
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Harley is Rescued Again

-by Diane Marlow

Around 9:30pm on Monday, February 18 Carol Aller of Beach Drive heard a dog barking somewhere close by – in fact it sounded like he was crying. She opened her upstairs side door to determine if she could find the dog's location. He was behind Tom and Deb Swanson's house – in the ice-covered channel.

If you are acquainted with Carol Aller, you know what an animal lover she is. The ducks are faithfully fed – and nick-named; the swans are kept watch over while raising their young; and she knows all the neighbors' dogs.

She had to get help for that dog in distress. So she called Don and Carol Bradshaw – more animal lovers – and told them what was happening. Don got a flashlight, and together they located where the barking cry was coming from.

By then the dog had made it to the other side of the channel – but was stuck on the ice and could not make that last jump over the seawall. He had been in the water so long that his hind legs just would not work.

Don got in his truck, picked up Carol A. and together they rode over to the Twilight side of the channel. Don had brought a leash with him – and, thank goodness, the dog had a collar on – so he was able to snap the leash to the collar and then grab hold

of him and lift him up to the ground.

After dropping Carol A. off at home, Don then took the dog to his house, dried him off and then let him spend the night in the family room. About an hour after going to bed, they heard the dog crying. So they went back downstairs, turned on a light and the TV to keep the dog company and then went back to bed. The dog was quiet the rest of the night.

Don and Carol's anniversary was



the next day – February 19th – and they spent most of the day trying to find the dog's home. He had on an electric shock collar but no tags. They took him to Animal Care Clinic North to see if he had a chip. He did but the chip was not registered with the

owner's name but did have the name of the vet – in Cassopolis, Mi.

Animal Care Clinic North (ACCN) called this vet and the vet had the owner's name. ACCN then contacted the owner. The owner told ACCN they were unable to keep the dog because he chased their cattle. They had taken him to the Humane Society in Cassopolis, Mi.

Animal Care Clinic North then called the Humane Society – and with the date of drop off and the dog's description from the previous owner was able to find out the name and address of the new owner. But the telephone number was no longer in service.

Carol had the great idea to Google the name and city – and found her address and where she worked. They drove up to Mary's house just north of State Line Road but no one was home. So Carol called Fat Cam's at Garver Lake and asked Mary if she had lost a dog. Mary could not believe her ears!

Mary then drove down to Bradshaw's and Harley was really glad to see her. He definitely knew his new owner. Harley and Mary are happy to be reunited – thanks to the efforts of so many people. Hopefully, Harley won't get wanderlust again and realizes there really is no place like home! ■

Dog Drives Truck into Simonton Lake

-by Maria Hopman

It was a snowy winter day, but a quick trip to Martin's was on the agenda. As I was backing out of the driveway, I realized I had forgotten my grocery list, and needed to run back inside for a few seconds to retrieve it. I always take Franklin, the Miniature Schnauzer, almost everywhere I go. So of course he was going to the store with me. Since it

was a cold day, I decided to keep the truck running while I went inside. When I came back outside my truck was gone! At first I thought someone had stolen it out of the driveway. Then I noticed tire tracks leading down to the lake. I panicked... Franklin must have bumped the shift and accidentally put it in drive. I ran down to the lake to see my truck sinking into the ice. I frantically called the fire department and they rescued Franklin, who was not harmed. My truck, however had to be towed away....April Fool's! ■

(See photo on page 1)

*Taste of
Another Era.....*

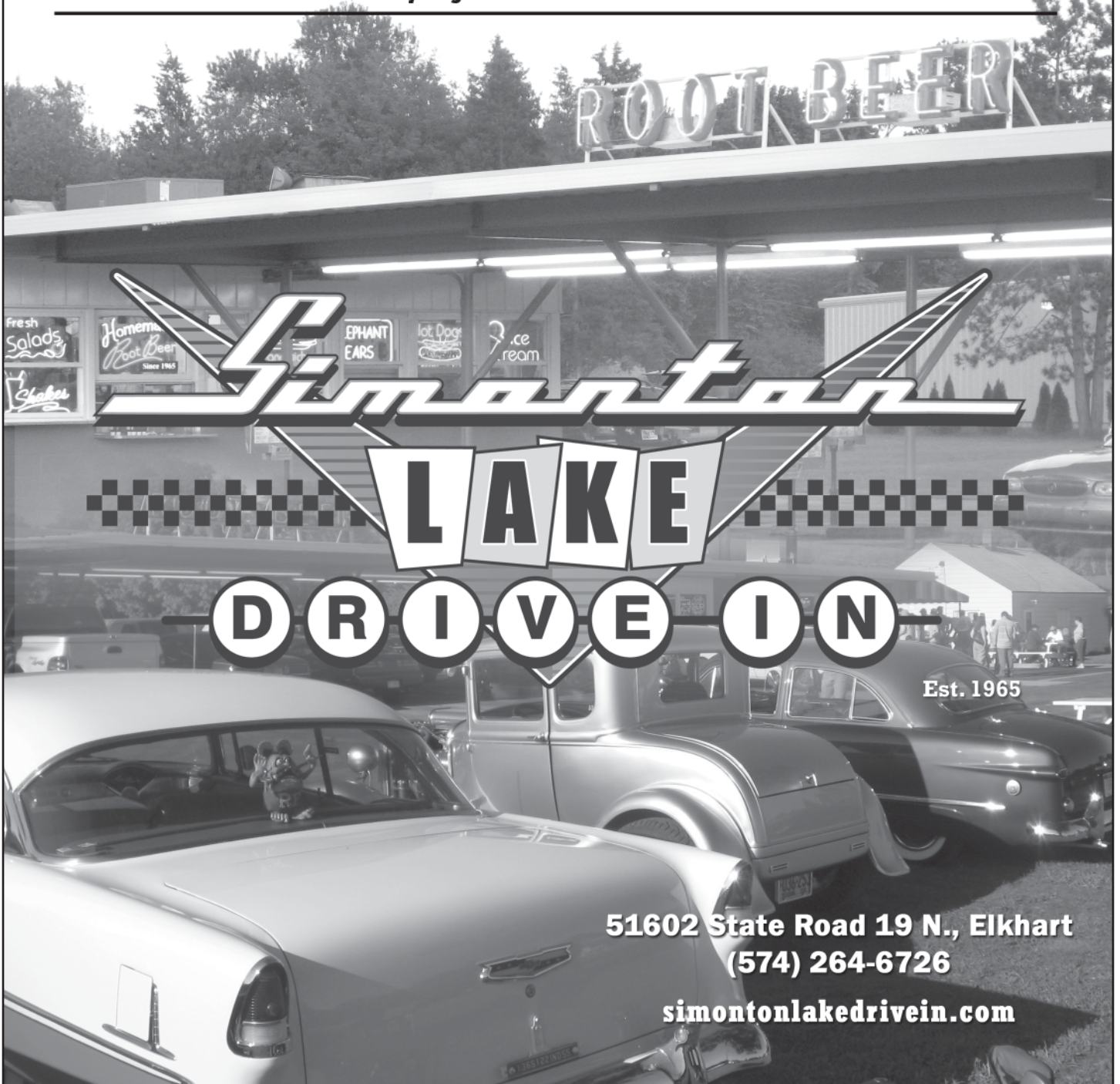
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Update on Environmental Projects at Simonton Lake

Last year Simonton Lake, like so many other lakes in our area, experienced extremely low water levels as a result of a continuing drought. These low water levels resulted in limited navigation and recreational use of our lake and denied some of our residents boating access to and from their piers. It took days for the sediment to settle until water clarity improved and you could see the lake bottom. Low water levels are not uncommon in late summer, but last year the lake level dropped much earlier in the year and much more severely.

According to many university and government studies, our property values will increase if we can improve water clarity and water depth for navigation and recreational use. It only makes sense that people want to live on lakes with clean, clear water and depths that allow good recreational boating. The Association continues to work on projects that will benefit not only property values, but also help make our boating and recreational experience more enjoyable and at the same time improve the habitat for wildlife and fishing.

Eco-Zone Project- Amy Matherly is leading this project. We've had numerous open meetings seeking resident input and involvement. We are currently attempting to define the boundaries of the potential Eco-Zone before we submit our proposal to the state. This project has very little cost to our Association, but it should have a positive impact for our wildlife and fishing habitat.

Weir Project- This project has been ongoing for the last 20+ years with numerous volunteers spearheading the effort. Elkhart County and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources are finalizing an agreement for the construction of the weir, and the Association and the County are exploring options for funding the residents' and the County's share of the cost (25% to be paid by the

residents and 25% to be paid by the County). We hope that these arrangements will be finalized very soon.

From May 1st to mid July of 2012, our lake dropped about 12" as water quickly flowed out Lilly Creek. From mid July (when Lilly Creek went dry) to mid October our lake level held steady (plus or minus 1-1/4"). When the creek becomes dry, the springs feeding our lake mostly keep pace with evaporation.

The weir will increase the average water depth of our lake.....with the weir set at the legal lake level of 772.86 feet above mean sea level we should experience less extreme low and high water conditionsthis will improve navigation and recreational use and minimize sediment disturbance enhancing water clarity. The Association website contains a link to the real-time U.S. Geological Survey gauge, so you can view current lake level information.

Sediment Removal Project- Last year the Association was awarded a LARE grant from the state of Indiana to develop a sediment removal plan (dredging). We submitted our "WISH LIST" knowing some of our requests would exceed the LARE budget, might not qualify for the program, or may not be eligible for permitting. We received the preliminary plan last January. It came in at an estimated cost of \$432,000.....The LARE program will only fund \$300,000 per application. We have since asked the contractor to breakout costs for each dredging site so we can modify and scale the project within our budget while focusing on our highest priorities. Depending on the ultimate cost, we may be forced to address our sediment removal in multiple phases.

We have a tremendous opportunity to improve our lake water clarity, navigation/recreational experience, and property values, but our Association must address two major challenges before we can proceed with the sediment removal project:

1. We need to secure land to dispose of the sediment. The complete plan estimates about 46,000 cubic yards

of wet sediment removal to a location where the wet sediment can drain back to the lake and shrink in volume by 90% to approximately 4,600 cubic yards (dry). The lab tests from core samplings of all dredging sites came back clean.... we have NO contaminated sediment samplings.....this was good news. Additionally, it is estimated that the removal of 46,000 cubic yards of sediment will **increase** our lake's water volume by 10,000,000 gallons and will not lower the lake level! The volume of wet sediment requires approximately 3,100 dump trucks (15 cubic yard capacity) to relocate.....when dry it represents 310 dump trucks. If you spread the dry sediment over 10 acres it will spread to about 3-1/2" deep. We have a small committee working on this phase of the project. Imagine the positive impact to our lake water if we can remove 3100 dump trucks of mucky sediment!

2. Raising \$86,000 to fund our 20% share of the \$432,000 cost. Our Association is moving forward with a new charitable organization to lead fundraising efforts. Contributions to the new organization will be tax-deductible..... more detail on this will be explained at our Annual Meeting in May. To put this in perspective....we print approximately 650 newsletters for households having an interest in our lake. If those same 650 households each made a 1 time gift of \$132.00 (or \$11.00/month for 1 year) we would raise \$86,000 for our dredging projects. This is a minimal one-time investment for the improved enjoyment of our lake and the long-term improvement in our property values.

We need the help of everyone around our lake to help us meet these two challenges before year-end when our application for the LARE grant is due.....Please contact any member of the Board of Directors if you would like to be involved in these efforts. ■

*For more information, search the following phrases on the Internet: "what impact does lake water clarity have on property values" and "what impact does lake water depth have on property values."

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Vernal Equinox

-by Bob Meyers

It's spring. It's here and it's going to be a terrific "spring"board to summer. April rain (or snow) will bring May flowers. The little ones will be playing baseball and softball. You will be working on your golf game.

By Mother's Day you will have your pier in, and if your boat isn't in the water by then, it will be soon after. You will be planting flowers, and manicuring your lawn; placing your patio furniture....deciding it's shabby and "re"placing your patio furniture, and touching up with a little paint.



-by Mel

My name is Melville, please call me Mel. I was named in memory of my owner's husband who didn't like this as his name.

I am 4 years old and live at

Simonton Lake....coming from the Humane Shelter where my name was Paradox. Delivered to my owner, Ruth Linton, the day before Valentine's Day 2012, they tied a big "PINK" bow around my neck! No more pink for me!

I love climbing, as my owner found out and a great perch for me is on the 2nd floor stair rail in my new home. Above the refrigerator and cabinets isn't bad either but my owner says NO! I'm an inside cat but love to sit outside on the deck in my cage. And, I can also be found across the street in our garden keeping watch as my owner pulls the weeds, and plants flowers. When going for a walk, I am very happy to look at our neighborhood from my cage as I am being pulled on the garden cart. Simonton Lake's beautiful birds are an exciting site to view from the numerous window sills in my home. Simonton Lake is a "cat" captivating place for me to be! ■

Then it will be Memorial Day weekend. The grill will be hot, the beverages will be cold and your family will be enjoying your efforts.

The first Youth Fishing Contest of the year, sponsored by the Sportsmen's Club, will be June 1. Begin practicing with those children and have them ready to catch the big ones by tournament time.

The annual Sportsmen's Club Poker Run will be held July 6 in rain, in sun, in Simonton Lake. Then the big event, the Fourth of July Fireworks will be that same night.

Get ready, it's only 3 months until summer.....see you on the lake. ■

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| April 13/14 | - Spring Turkey Shoot |
| June 1 | - Youth Fishing Contest |
| July 6 | - Poker Run (Rain or Shine) |
| July 6 | - FIREWORKS |
| July 7 | - Rain date for FIREWORKS |
| August 10 | - Youth Fishing Contest |
| TBD | - Corn and Sausage Roast |
| October | - SLSC will be stocking walleye in the lake. |
| October 26/27 | - Fall Turkey Shoot |
| November 9 | - Casino Night |

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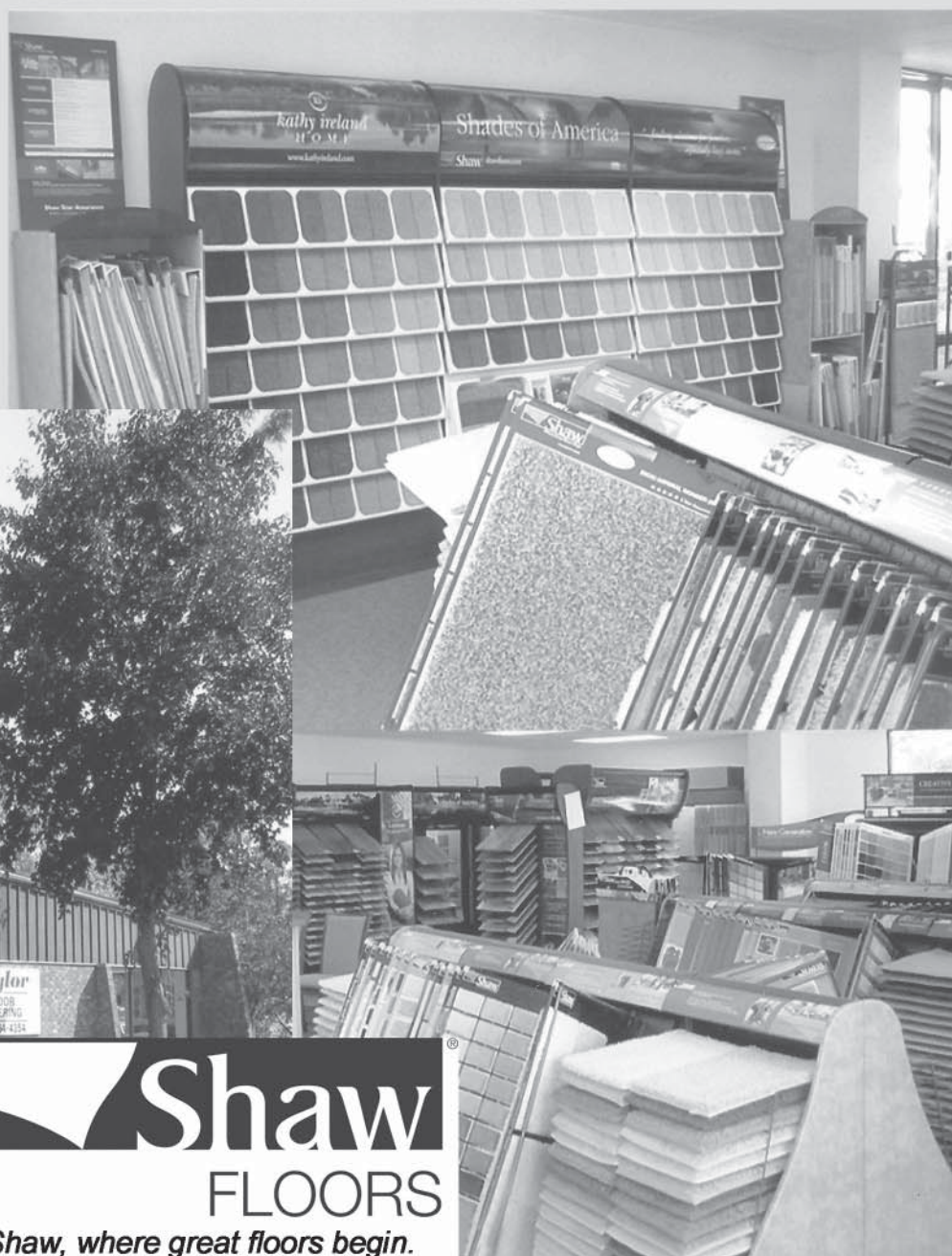
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Caught on Camera!

Wildlife Spotted in Our Backyard

We want to feature your photos, send to simon@simontonlake.org



Sandhill Cranes

(photo by Diane Marlow)



(photo by Maria Hopman)



(photo by Diane Marlow)



American Coot

(photo by Maria Hopman)

**Association General Meeting
May 22, 2013 at the Sports-
man's Clubhouse. 7pm**

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS!!!

Over our first five years, more than 250 households have signed up for SLAHA membership. The impact of our numbers truly matters in terms of our ability to execute projects for our common benefit and persuade state and local governmental leaders to support initiatives that impact the Simonton Lake area. With more than 500 homeowners around our immediate lake area, we want to increase our membership in a significant way. **Let's work together to increase our total involvement! Current members, for every new member you recruit to SLAHA for 2013-2014, you will receive \$10 off your own membership renewal. If you persuade a former member to rejoin, we will offer the same discount to you.** Simply have the new or returning member let me know the current member's name when you sign up, or send in both memberships together and I'll apply the credit! THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP – together, we can have an even greater impact on the community we love!

Registration form on page 20.

**NOW is the
time to list...
call TODAY!**

CALL
Kelly Cress...
Your Simonton Lake Specialist

- ★ In the past 3 years, 22 homes have sold on Simonton Lake...
 - 10 of those home sales involved Kelly Cress!
- ★ Sales prices have ranged from the \$130,000's to \$550,000's...
 - Currently there are 9 active listings on Simonton ranging from \$179,000 - \$849,000
- ★ Overall, this is a fairly low inventory for Simonton Lake...
 - The \$300,000 - \$500,000 range has an especially low inventory!
- ★ Last year was the slowest in the past 3 years with only 4 homes sold on Simonton...
 - Buyers are anxious for more Simonton homes to hit the market!

*Average sales prices are on the rise in Elkhart County
and warm weather is coming. What a wonderful time
to sell a Simonton Lake home!*

*The figures above are based on closed residential sales reported through the
Elkhart County Board of REALTORS® and are assumed to be accurate.



Prudential

One Realty

Kelly Cress

KellyCressHomes.com

Email: kcress@prudentialonerealty.com

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Treasurer's Corner

Below is a brief financial update on the association:

Simonton Lake Area Homeowners' Association, Inc.

January 1, 2013 – March 23, 2013 (CASH Basis Accounting)

ITEM	SUBTOTAL	TOTAL
Advertising	\$855.00	
Fireworks Donations	50.00	
Other Events (e.g., Hog Roast)		
LARE Grant from State of IN		
Membership Dues	110.00	
Sales (T-shirts, Calendars)		
Other (e.g., interest income)	4.48	
TOTAL INCOME		\$1,019.48
Board of Directors (e.g., Hog roast, general meeting expenses, insurance)	212.97	
Fireworks Transfer to Sportsmen's Club		
Lake Environment	25.00	
Lake Safety		
Membership/Outreach		
Newsletter / Website	965.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$1,202.97
NET POSITION AS OF 3/23/2013		(\$183.49)

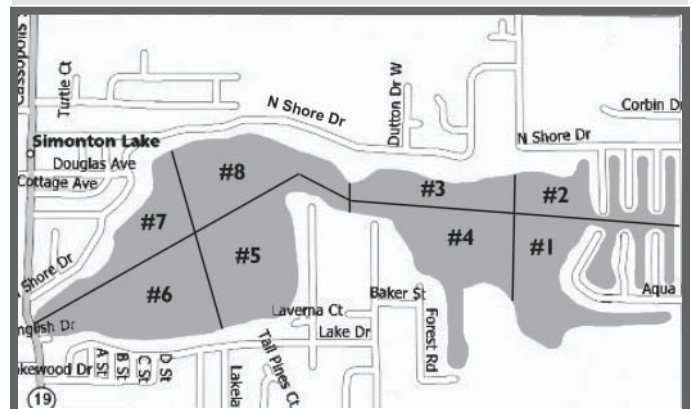
It is dues renewal time! Please watch for your renewal letter in the mail in April. We have a special incentive this year – for every new member you recruit to the association, you receive \$10 off your own membership! Persuading former members who did not renew in 2012-2013 to re-join will also be recognized with a discount off your own membership. We want this to be our biggest membership year ever as we seek to finalize and establish several critical projects that will benefit us all! So, talk to your neighbors and get them to join us!

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 264-7792
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: \$ _____

NEW MEMBER RECRUITED - \$10

Member's Name: _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED:

w/ Registration Form

\$ _____

The Original Lake Meeting Place!



SUNDAY SPECIAL

**4 Piece
Chicken Dinner
\$7.50**

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**Spaghetti &
Meatballs
\$9.20**



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

www.simontonlake.org

MESSAGE BOARD



We wish you a Happy Birthday!

- 4/2 Ryan Matherly
 4/5 Cassandra Ulery
 4/14 Ryan Harding
 4/24 Preston Thomas Ryan
 Grandparents are Tim & Phyllis Nusbaum
 4/25 Cindy Mansfield
 4/28 Michael Thomas Fix
 Son of Katy Rutter and Ryan Fix
 Grandparents are Margot & Tom Rutter
 4/30 Grant Brekke (10 years old)
 5/2 Janet Kelsey
 5/4 Jim Friend
 5/4 Sue Taylor
 5/21 Madelyn Grace Skipper (1 year old)
 Grandparents are Bufford & Becky Skipper
 5/22 Nixon Barhydt
 Grandfather is Jim Ulery
 6/1 Brynlee Grace Landis
 Daughter of Jody & Eric Landis

Happy Anniversary!

- 4/4 Matt & Elie Hart
 4/14 Lonnie & Carrie Waggoner
 4/30 Bob & Bobbi Meyers
 5/16 Katrina (Katy) & Jason Barhydt
 5/18 Dan & Leanne Brekke
 5/22 Adam & Rachel Meyers

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

CLASSIFIED ADS

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 resubmitted for additional issues. Ads are limited to 100 characters. No commercial business ads will be accepted to protect our sponsors who are supporting this newsletter. Deadline: 20th of month prior to publishing date.

FOR SALE: Six year old shore station. Cables in good condition. Manufacturer-RGC, Model-CWR18LT, maximum lift weight-4000 lbs., maximum lift height-108". \$1,900. Call 574-287-7187.

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.

It is dues renewal time! Please watch for your renewal letter in the mail in April. We have a special incentive this year – for every new member you recruit to the association, you receive \$10 off your own membership! Persuading former members who did not renew in 2012-2013 to re-join will also be recognized with a discount off your own membership. We want this to be our biggest membership year ever as we seek to finalize and establish several critical projects that will benefit us all! So, talk to your neighbors and get them to join us!

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

Osolo Volunteer Fire Department

is adding volunteers to our department. No experience required; training will be provided. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please contact Chief Jerry Miller at 574-264-1066 or visit the station at 24936 Buddy Street for a tour.



**In 1455
Johannes
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revolutionized**

**the printing process with the
invention of moveable type.**

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is known by few people
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**Simonton Lake area businesses or individuals
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Hours:

8:30am to 4:00pm Monday – Thursday

8:30am – 3:00pm Friday

Closed Weekends



**Graphics
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25454 North Shore Dr. / Elkhart, Indiana 46514

Phone: 574-264-3232 Fax: 574-264-0736

www.GraphicsGroupInc.net

E-mail: GGL@GraphicsGroupInc.net



Twin boys were born March 20th to **Kristin and Mike Newkirk** of Carmel, Indiana. Kristin is the daughter of **Dave and Carole Foutz**, Lake Drive. The twins are Colton Jesse weighing 6 pounds 6 ounces and Cody Kahlil weighing 6 pounds.

.....



Photo by Maria Hopman

Linda Anderson serving food at Pete's during the Leprechaun Leap 2013.

.....

Mary Wenger is going to be 93 in May. Congratulations & Happy Birthday.

.....

Ella Grace Meyers was born on February 19, 2013. She weighed 9 lb. 2 oz. and was 22 In. long. Parents are **Adam and Rachael Meyers**. Grandparents are **Bob and Bobbi Meyers**, Maplewood.



Osolo Volunteer Fire Department is adding volunteers to our department. No experience required; training will be provided. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please contact Chief Jerry Miller at 574-264-1066 or visit



the station at 24936 Buddy Street for a tour.

.....

Nathan and Grant Brekke, North Shore, enjoying the snow.



Photo by Maria Hopman