



Simonton Says...

December 2012
Volume 5, Issue 6

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

this issue

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and much more...	



Photos by Carole Foutz

Holidays around Simonton Lake!



What is going to be in
your "stocking"?



June is only
6 months away!



Is it safe to go Ice
Fishing?



Photo by Maria Hopman



Photo by Maralee Macumber



Photo by Maria Hopman

**(left) I know that Decembers issue of Simonton Says well be filled with pictures of all the leaves changing colors and the winter sunsets. Although the winters can be very pretty, I tend to think along with all the ski dudes that "I cant wait for summer". So I thought I'd send you a picture of what I love about the summer evenings out on the lake...
-Rachel Benedict**



Photo by Maralee Macumber

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CANDY CANE
SUGAR PLUMS
YULE LOG
ICE SKATES
HAPPY HOLIDAYS
SLEDDING
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SNOW BLOWER
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CROSS COUNTRY SKIS
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jtu977@frontier.com

New Neighbors?

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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

*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 (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

THE NEXT ISSUE will come out the beginning of February.

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.

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

Events on the Lake

Merry Christmas & Happy Hanukkah!

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

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Life on the Lake

December 2012

- by Amy Matherly

This is the first issue we've ever had in the month of December. So for the first time as I wrote my *Life on the Lake* article, it's a holiday story that I need to tell.

We Matherly's always cut down our tree. Rain, snow, sleet or hail, we go to Eby's Pines to pick out the perfect tree. Once we had our children, we took them to Eby's as a family outing. Each year when the day came to go, the children were excited. And, every year something happened.

We've been there when there was so much snow on the trees that they all looked alike. We've been there when it was so cold that we chose the best of what we saw within 20 feet of the car. We were there a couple of times in cold December rains. One year we slid off the road into a guardrail on the way to Eby's. No big damage and no injuries. One year we lost the Eby's Pines saw somewhere in the field. We spent more time finding the saw than we did finding the tree. We always tie the tree to the top of the car. My husband is good at this. We've never lost a tree yet. But, we have seen airborne trees launching themselves off of station wagons on the toll road coming home. Amazing how far a fir tree can fly. But they don't do so well under the weight of an eighteen wheeler.

Then there came the year when we told the kids that we were going out to get the tree and they didn't want to go. One year they were grounded and

we made them go. That was a fun outing!

Over the years we learned to look before we cut. You novices don't know that you need to check for dead insides, double trunks, bent trunks, bird's nests and trunks that won't fit into your tree stand. Then there are trunks that are so small that pieces of kindling have to be put in beside the trunk to keep it upright.

Then there's the tree that just won't stand up no matter what you do. You put it in the stand and make sure it's secure and then you sit back and look at that most beautiful tree and it begins a slow lean to about a 45 degree angle. We've learned with these trees that no matter what you try they'll lean just enough that your Christmas guests will ask if the tree is leaning. I put a lot of time into decorating my tree. When it leans it really ruins the look. Did you ever see a decorated tree in *Good Housekeeping* that leaned?

Then there are the lights. You get them out and test them. Once tested, up they go only to have one strand go out. But, which strand is it?

I've looked in the fancy magazines at the pre-lit noble fir trees that last forever, go up in a snap and fold down into nothing for storage. But, well, we're going out to Eby's in a couple of weeks. Funny both of our children who are grown and have their own homes have artificial trees. Hmmm.

Until next time. ■



Photo by Carole Foutz

Top Ten Christmas Songs

According to a pole by "People" magazine the top ten Christmas songs are:

We Wish You A Merry Christmas
The Twelve Days of Christmas
Deck the Halls
Silent Night
Let it Snow
Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer
Frosty the Snowman
Walking Through a Winter Wonderland
Santa Claus is Coming to Town
Holly Jolly Christmas

I like these songs but I just wonder who they asked. What about Jingle Bells and White Christmas? **E-mail us and we'll create a Simonton Lake Top Ten List.** simon@simontonlake.org ■

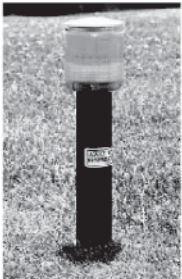
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A 40th Anniversary Celebration turns into a Special Year

-by Tom Swanson

Tom and Deb Swanson planned this trip to Hawaii along with dear friends of 40 years, Nan and Keith Davis on Twilight Lane and Tom's sister and brother in law, Barb and Ron Giska, who live on Lake Drive. We left on February 9th and got back on the 20th. It was our 40th



anniversary, the Davis's 55th and the Giskas 20th. We had a great time and got to see things that you don't always see over there, such as a "mama" whale breaching 10 feet from our boat. We all had our jaws drop on that one.

In June Deb and I went to Bermuda for our son's wedding. I can tell you that Bermuda is probably the most beautiful place I have ever been. Jordan Swanson married Dr. Lisa Witcher on the beach at sunset on June 23rd. We were blessed to have all of our children attend the ceremony. Jordan and Lisa reside in Kansas City, Mo.

On the Saturday of Labor Day weekend, we had a wedding "party" for them on the River Queen and another "party" at the Simonton Lake sand bar and the

celebration continued through Monday.

October 7th was our actual anniversary and I wanted to do something special for Deb for putting up with me all of these years. So, I made plans to go to Niagara Falls for a long weekend. Deb had never been there and it had been 50+ years since I had been there. We had a beautiful view of both Horseshoe Falls and the American Falls from our room. Nan and Keith Davis once again went with us and had a great time too. On Sunday the 7th, the 4 of us had dinner at the Skylon restaurant. This restaurant is 775' above the falls and revolves once an hour so you can see all of the sights while dining. It was truly a nice way to end our travels in our anniversary year. ■



COMMUNITY UPDATE

What's Happening Around Simonton Lake?

-by Carole Foutz

The SLAHA has been busy working on several projects this year. As with many things that involve money, especially money coming from our tax dollars, progress on several projects has required many steps and a lot of time. The following are the projects that are in the works.

- The **Eco-Zone Project** is moving forward. Amy Matherly is heading the committee. This project does not require money but planning. A meeting was held last month planning the next steps to be taken.
- The **Sediment Removal Project** is in the planning stages. One of the items at this point that is being considered is finding acreage in the area to deposit the sediment that is removed from the lake. The other important item is funding this project. The State is funding part but the remainder is in question.
- The **Simonton Lake Weir Project** is still in the works. We have DNR support of the project. We are working on a design to bid the project. This project too will be paid in part by the DNR, Elkhart County and area residents are responsible for a small portion. That funding question is still being discussed.



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Pet "Tails" - Maria Hopman, Simonton Lake Dog Whisperer

Dogs just love her and she loves dogs. Here's a picture of Matherly's new golden doodle, Ella and Franklin. Franklin belongs to the Garitones, Maria's neighbors, but spends a lot of time with Maria. Ella and Franklin don't get along very well. Franklin is older and Ella just is too much puppy for him to put up with. But, there they are in Maria's living room good as can be. She has a special gift with animals and is our official *Simonton Lake Dog Whisperer*. ■

***Pet Tails

We want to feature your pet in an upcoming issue.

Send us your pet stories & pictures by e-mail to: simon@simontonlake.org or mail to: 26189 Lake Dr., Elkhart 46514.



Photo by Maralee Macumber

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When in doubt, DON'T GO OUT! BEWARE OF THIN ICE

Lake Ice Safety

- from the Indiana DNR

Every winter, thousands of Hoosiers enjoy fishing, skating, hiking or just sliding around on frozen ponds and lakes. And every year, people drown after falling through ice. Like driving on snow, Hoosiers need to re-learn how to have safe fun on ice.

WARN KIDS ABOUT PLAYING ON FROZEN LAKES AND STREAMS WITHOUT SUPERVISION!

If You Are Fishing:

1. Drill your own test hole near shore. Your test hole should show at least a four-inch thickness of clear ice like you get from your freezer.
2. Wear a life jacket for extra warmth and safety.
3. Be aware of various ice strengths and qualities. One area of a pond may be a foot thick while another spot

of ice may only be an inch thick.

4. Ice strength can also change. Thick ice is rotten after rain. Old honey-combed ice, slush ice or ice with current under it is also dangerous. New ice is almost always stronger than old ice. Wind, waterfowl and beavers can also keep areas of ice thin.
5. Indiana law limits ice fishing holes to a diameter of twelve inches.
6. Fishing shanties must have reflectors on each side so snowmobiles won't crash into them at dusk or during snowstorms.

Use these guidelines to judge the SAFETY of FRESH SOLID ICE

Be sure the Ice is Thick Enough: HARD, CLEAR ICE ONLY	
Less Than 4" thick	Unsafe for any activity
Minimum 4" thick	Walking, skiing, fishing
Minimum 5" thick	Snowmobile or ATV
Minimum 8-12" thick	Automobile or light pickup
Minimum 12-15" thick	SUV or medium pickup

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

Snowmobile Season is open - December through March

- from the Indiana Off-Road Vehicle Laws Handbook (see www.simontonlake.org for link to complete handbook)

Snowmobiling Safety

Snowmobiling can be a fun and safe sport; however, it can be hazardous if you're reckless, inattentive, or uneducated about the snowmobile you're driving.

A safe snowmobiler:

- Understands the mechanics of the machine.
- Has respect for its capabilities and its limitations.
- Knows how to maneuver through a variety of operating conditions.
- Knows the laws governing snowmobiles.
- Uses good judgment.
- Respects others and the environment.

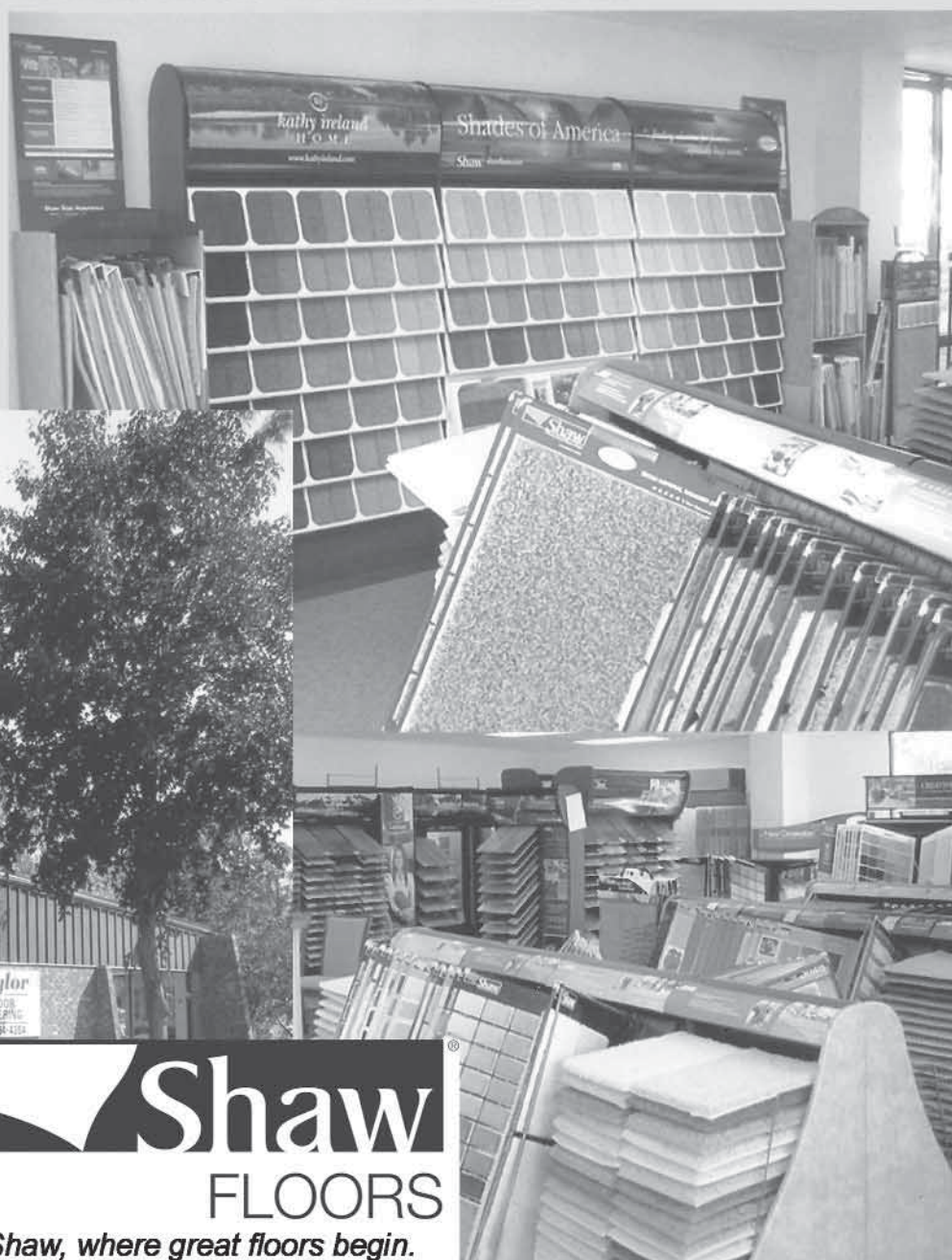
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Photo by Maralee Macumber

Attention SLAHA Members!

Our annual May SLAHA meeting is coming up and we will be once again electing new board members. We are requesting anyone who is interested in becoming involved with the SLAHA Board to contact anyone on nominating committee. A slate will be presented at the May meeting for election that evening. Please consider becoming active in your neighborhood homeowners' association or recommend someone whom you feel would be willing to be a part of the board.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Sue Ward - 574-206-0450

Paul Wilson - 574-262-1491

Carole Foutz - 574-262-3908

Dick Rhodes - 574-262-9816

A Word of Appreciation

Our SLAHA neighbors and friends of Simonton Lake would like to **thank Bob and Janet Kelsey** for their continued efforts in keeping the Simonton Lake Boat Landing clean. Bob is a SLAHA Board Member but has gone beyond the expected and taken responsibility to see that the trash is removed periodically. It is disappointing to report that this has to be done often to keep the landing looking much nicer than it has in recent years. The SLAHA's Safety Committee has worked closely with DNR in maintaining the facility but the State of Indiana does not clean the area. **So thank you Kelsey's for your efforts, it is greatly appreciated!**

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

from my family to yours!



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Johnson Marina

- by Dave Foutz

It's just about as certain if you have a lake you are going to have fishermen and if you have fishermen you are going to have people selling them bait, tackle and boating equipment. In talking to "old-timers" like Chet Matherly, Johnny Prugh and Bugeye there has been someone at the southwest corner of the lake renting row boats and selling fishing tackle as long as anyone can remember. But this article is going to focus on Johnson Marina. Just to show you how time flies; you would have had to be a "laker" for at least 30 years to remember this distinctive father and son enterprise.

Ernie Johnson, Ted's father, bought a lot on Simonton Lake in 1943 where he built a summer cottage two summers later. The family spent many happy summers on the lake and developed a healthy understanding of the areas of sport fishing and recreational boating. Ernie's profession was sign painting and he was very good at his craft. After Ted separated from the Air Force he and Ernie decided to open a marina in 1960 where they sold Gale outboard motors along with fishing boats and pontoons. The original Johnson Marina was located along old US-20, across from what is today Boling Eye Clinic; it was Morgan Drive-away back then. Between father and son they could arrange their flex time and cover

the hours of businesses operation. From the very beginning a division of labor developed, Ernie was the sales force and Ted with chief mechanic.

1963 was a big year for Ernie, Ted, and their enterprise. For a number of years Mel Krupp had owned the bait and tackle shop along with row boat rentals at the southwest corner of the lake. In that year Mel's wife strongly suggested that this was a good time for him to sell the business. Ernie and Ted anxious to move their business to the friendly con-

finies of Simonton Lake purchased the business from Mel. The following year brought the guys another surprise. Eagle Lake Marine was having financial difficulties and Outboard Marine Corporation was looking for another dealer to carry their Johnson outboard motor line. This

was a big upgrade from the Gale motors which were perceived by the public as less desirable than the Johnson brand. This is how Johnson Marina became the Johnson motor dealer, a winning combination.

The next ten years saw a lot of changes in the recreational boating scene on Simonton Lake and Johnson Marina. Market demand was moving from aluminum outboard fishing boats to fiberglass outboard runabouts and then to stern drives. The Marina was truly a family business, in addition to Ernie and Ted, Sue could usually

be found handling the books and doing whatever else was necessary. The kids, Heidi and Eddie also gave a hand, but more often than not were burning up the gas practicing with the ski club.

For twenty years Johnson Marina was an integral part of the fabric of Simonton Lake for marine sales, repairs, and gas purchases. However Tragedy struck in 1983. As Ernie was working on the roof of the marina he fell and broke his hip forcing him to take an unexpected retirement. Johnson Marina was a two man operation, each assuming distinctive rolls and without Ernie, Ted struggled to pick up the slack. In 1984 Dane Slabaugh offered to purchase the business from Ted and begins the second part of this story.

As I reflect on Johnson Marina it reminds me of how much it embodied the characteristics we so treasure about the past. Business was conducted at more personal level and at a slower pace. Ernie and Ted knew your name and if you happened to forget your wallet and your boat was out of gas, well that was OK. You could get back to them when you had a chance. So the next time you



Ernie Johnson is on Dennis Maloney's boat gasing it up.

see Ted putting around in that old maroon Toyota pickup tell him thanks for being here for us for twenty years. Oh, and that lake lot Ernie bought in 1943, well that's where Ted built Sue's "dream house" a few years back. ■

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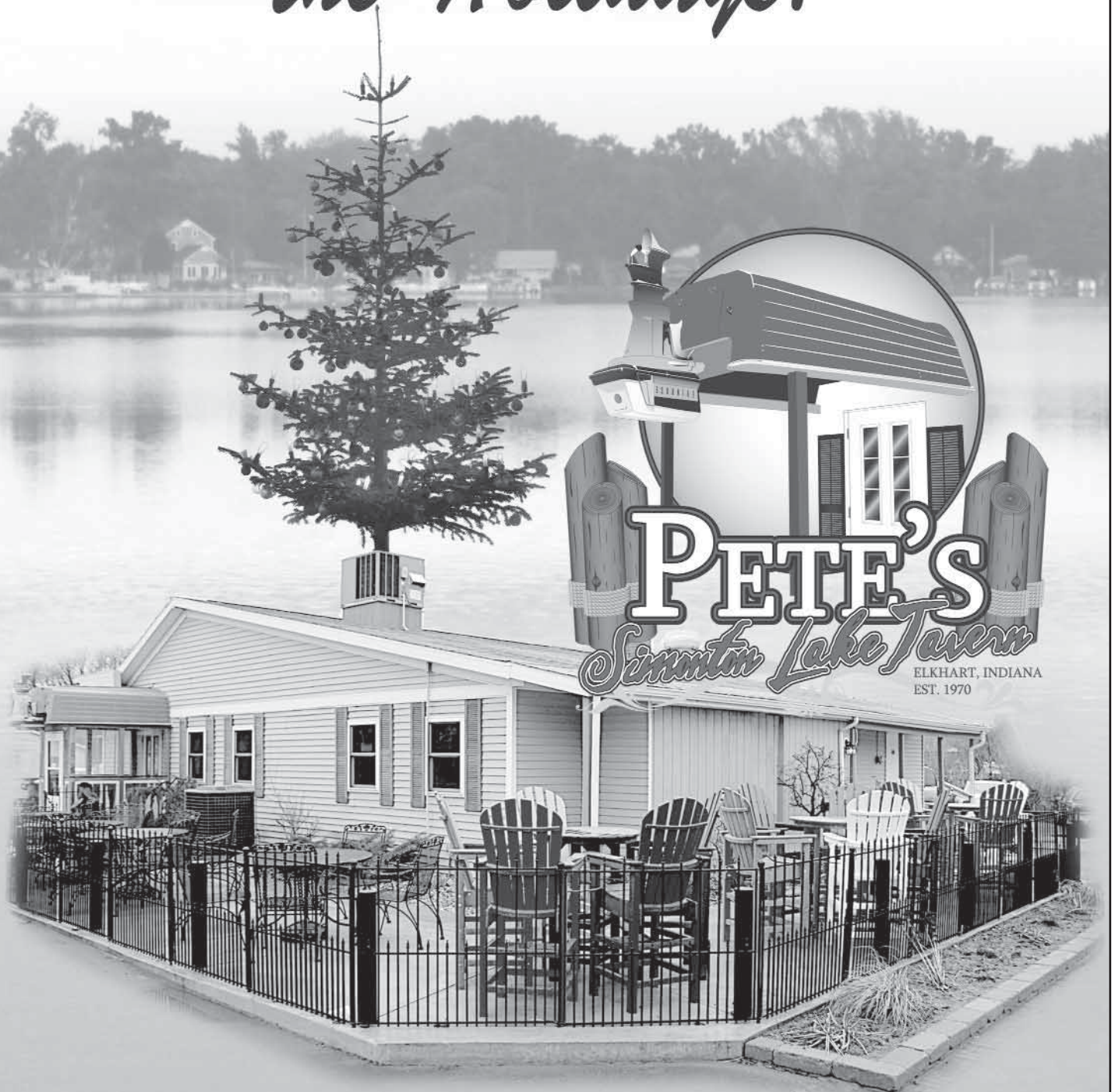
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Photo by Erin Harding



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Catch Phrases

-by Bob Meyers

Elvis sang a song entitled "If Every Day Was Like Christmas". In that song, one line reads, "Why Can't Every Day Be Just Like Christmas?"..... Oh, it can..... Look out a window..... Look at that lake..... That's a gift that you can enjoy every day of the year, and it keeps on giving. And because of your lake, when you entertain, you are able to give unforgettable memories to friends and relatives, memories that they will always treasure. And giving makes you feel better than any

gift received. It isn't everywhere people enjoy the four seasons the way you can here. The seasons are gifts. Although we often swear about the leaves and the snow that fall, and have to be removed; they are things so many never see, and some travel miles to enjoy.

So keep making those memories and supplying lasting pictures in the minds of those you love. You have something not many can give; you can offer terrific times on the best lake around.

You also have a great number of activities and events that take place on and near your lake. Thank you for attending our events and supporting the Simonton Lake Sportsmen's Club this year. We hope you have enjoyed them as much as we have bringing them to you.

Find ways to enjoy these holidays more than any in the past, and make them better for others as well. Make memories that surpass all expectations for as many as you can.

We wish you a Merry Christmas, not just on the 25th, but every day..... Only seven months until summer. See you on the ice. ■

Photo by Susie Broderick





Photo by Erin Harding



Photo by Erin Harding

The Walleye Stocking Project

-by Bob Putnam

Back in 1983 two of the founding members of the Simonton Lake Sportsmen's Club, Bob Hershberger and Jim Friend, stocked walleye in Simonton Lake. The stocking of 2,000 walleye fingerlings started the population of walleye we have in the lake. Since the lake bottom is sandy the walleye cannot reproduce here as they need a rocky bottom for their beds. The stocking needs to happen each year to keep the walleye population stable. Since 1983 Jim Friend, with the support of the Simonton Lake Sportsmen's Club, has obtained the DNR permits required and arranged to have the walleye fingerlings put into the lake every October.

This past October Jim arranged to have 1,000 fingerlings put into the lake at a cost of \$2.05 per fish. The cost of the fish has doubled due to inflation and the required testing that ensures the fish are disease free. The fish use to come from Michigan, but now come from Minnesota so this also adds to the cost. Jim gets the fish through the Dan Laggis Fish Farm in Gobles, MI. The fish go into the lake at the West end at the Lakeshore Grill's parking lot.

This event has been the source of some fish stories such as how Jim gets the walleye to hang around his dock. This is not a fish story, for many years Bugeye would gather up any floaters and have walleye for lunch that day. As you may know walleye is a great tasting fish, so the members of the Sportsmen's Club, especially Jim Friend, are working to keep the walleye in Simonton Lake for everyone to enjoy. The largest known walleye caught weighed 7 pounds and was 27 inches long. The Sportsmen's Club holds monthly fishing tournaments where there is a lot of competition to win the coveted travelling walleye trophy.

Good luck to all of you out there fishing and be sure to let me know if you catch a big walleye. ■



(above) Jim Friend helps Jim Johnson of Laggis Fish Farm

(below) They also get help from another member Gene Jimison, Jim's son-in-law



Simonton Lake Ecozone Update

-by Amy Matherly

As reported in the last issue of “Simonton Says” we are exploring the idea of establishing an ecozone area on our lake. The purposes are as follows:

- Improved water quality through the growth of natural non-invasive vegetation
- Creation of a natural fish and wildlife habitat

On August 15 the DNR made a presentation to interested lake residents and an ecozone committee was formed. This committee held its first meeting on November 8.

Here are highlights of that meeting:

While the state does not require that we notify neighbors individually, an informational letter will be sent to residents near the proposed ecozone.

This committee will need to make specific recommendations to the board: boundary, motor and speed restrictions, anchoring restrictions and whether or not we want a sunset clause.

The boundary issue: This winter when the ice is solid enough, milk cartons will be placed along a proposed boundary. Interested residents and committee members may take a look and make suggestions. We want to include most of the inlet that leads to Lilly Creek. However, since no dredging can be done within an ecozone, the area leading to Lilly Creek will be excluded so that any work that needs to be done in creating the weir can proceed.

Buoys will be provided by the state with special markings for ecozone areas. We will need to place, remove and store the buoys.

Motor and Speed restrictions: The committee discussed this at length and is leaning towards recommending no motors be allowed in the ecozone area. Because no motors would be allowed, the speed issue is a moot point.

Anchoring Restrictions: The committee would like the area to function as a natural fish hatchery so we will discourage fishing in the area by not allowing anchoring inside the zone.

Sunset Clause: A “Sunset Clause” sets up an option to review the ecozone and to close it down if we don’t like the way it has worked. Since this is our first time in working with an ecozone on our lake, we will submit our proposal with a “Sunset Clause”. We want the option of reviewing the establishment of the zone.

If you have concerns or questions please contact Bob Evans, Amy Matherly, Diane Marlow or Bob Putnam. ■



Treasurer's Corner

Below is a brief financial update on the association:

Simonton Lake Area Homeowners' Association, Inc.
January 1, 2012 – November 26, 2012 (CASH Basis Accounting)

Item	Subtotal	Total
Advertising	\$5,405.00	
Fireworks Donations	3,420.00	
Other Events (e.g., Hog Roast)	851.00	
LARE Grant from State of IN	0.00	
Membership Dues	4,410.00	
Sales (T-shirts, Calendars)	10.00	
Other (e.g., interest income)	31.80	
Total Income		\$14,127.80
Board of Directors (e.g., calendars, Hog roast, general meeting expenses, insurance)	\$2,165.40	
Fireworks Transfer to Sportsmen's Club	3,205.00	
Lake Environment (LARE Grant)	0.00	
Lake Safety	1,229.96	
Membership/Outreach	0.00	
Newsletter / Website	3,167.11	
Total Expenses		\$9,767.47
Net Position as of November 26, 2012		\$4,360.33

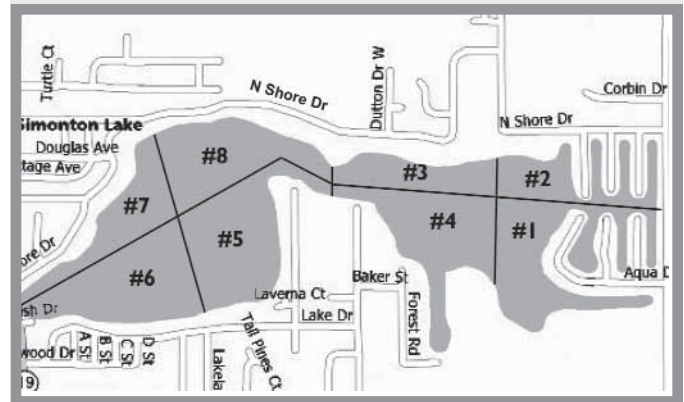
If you haven't paid your dues for 2012-2013, it isn't too late! Our dues year runs from May – April, and we need your support! Please fill out the member information card contained in this newsletter.

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: \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED:

with Registration Form

\$ _____

www.simontonlake.org

MESSAGE BOARD



We wish you a Happy Birthday!

11/29 Delores Troyer
 12/6 Chris Schultz
 12/9 Ann Maloney
 12/9 Olivia McKee
 Grandparents Ron & Sue Taylor
 12/10 Dave Foutz
 12/11 Ron Taylor
 12/21 Bobbi Meyers
 12/27 Megan Shultz
 12/31 Ethan & Aaron Dittmer (turning 5)
 Grandparents Dick & Kay Rhodes
 1/20 Gianna Marie Nickell (turning 1)
 Grandparents Vaughn & Cindy Nickell
 2/12 Bob Shultz



Happy Anniversary!

12/20 Dave and Carole Foutz
 12/31 Sue and Tedd Johnson
 1/9 Megan and James Duncan
 Daughter of Dick & Kay Rhodes



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

The *Simonton Lake Area Homeowners' Association* website can offer you lots of information.

Do you know what the lake level is today?

Do you want to go back to a past *Simonton Says* for an article?

Don't forget this valuable website:

www.simontonlake.org

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).

LOST & FOUND:

Did anyone leave a battery charger at the Simonton Lake landing? If you did, please call Maria at 574-262-1655.

Simonton Lake Water Level...

You can monitor our lake level in near real time at U.S. Geological Survey website

The gage is set to a base reading of 770 feet. Today's (11/27/12) reading is 2.31 feet. You add 770 plus 2.31 and get 772.31 feet above mean sea level.

http://waterdata.usgs.gov/in/nwis/uv?site_no=04099880

Find the link on: www.simontonlake.org

Request for anyone interested in being on the board of SLAHA to contact nominating committee:

Dick Rhodes - 574-262-9816

Sue Ward - 574-206-0450

Paul Wilson - 574-262-1491

Carole Foutz - 574-262-3908

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 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)

www.simontonlake.org

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Sales@GiraffeMe.com



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)

Raymond & Peggy Kiefer of Northshore Drive have lived at Simonton Lake for 48 years of their 75 year marriage. Their daughter & son-in-law **Cindy & Bill Hackman** around the corner from her parents on



Thompson are celebrating their 45th anniversary in January.

Ray and Peggy also raised a son, **Jim Kiefer**, formerly Aqua Dr., now Naples, Fla. Ray was co-owner of KM Kiefer & Son on Cassopolis St. Ray's father Kenneth lived on Lake-wood and built two homes there.

Ray, 94 and Peggy, 90 watched the toll road being built and Cassopolis St. widen from a two lane road.

In the summer you may see them in their garage converted to a screened porch enjoying

the weather and Northshore Dr. activity.

Like many other families the Simonton area has been an excellent location for this family to live and grow.

Barb and Greg McGough enjoyed a visit with their granddaughters in October. Son Jason brought his family for a birthday visit (Greg's) as well as to meet their newest granddaughter Finley. Born just a month prior, Finley with her sister Aislee (19 months) made the trip



across country in the family RV. They live in northern California with their mom Amber and Elkhart native dad, Jason.

Congratulations to **Bob Evans** who retired at the end of summer.

Henrietta Wenger's sister **Jane Chapin** passed away on November 1st at the age of 90. Our condolences go to Henrietta and all of the family.

On **Christmas Day 1982** the temperature was in the upper 60's. **Ryan**



Matherly, Dave Obendorf and **John Ball** went out skiing in the lake. Ron Taylor remembered that Randy Cooper opened the windows so they could have a Christmas fire in the fireplace. (Photos courtesy of Ron Taylor)



Dr. Lisa Ann Witcher and **Jordan Thomas Swanson** were married June 23, 2012, on Honeymoon Beach at Bermuda's Grotto Bay Beach Resort. The groom's parents are **Tom & Deb Swanson**, Beach Drive.



Franklin lives on North Shore Dr. (**Garatoni's** schnauzer) and is all dressed for Halloween, ready to head out for *Treats or Treats*.



Standing on a pontoon boat, **Kyle Vinsek** was serenading passing kayakers with some Bob Marley tunes. He is the nephew of **Georgia King** and **Bob Evans**.

Check out **North Shore Landings**, more trees are being decorated each week. A Notre Dame tree will be up to go along with the Purdue and I.U. trees. **Ryan Harding** owns the property and family members and some neighbors are doing the decorating. Anyone is welcome to come over and decorate a tree if they want to, and Ryan will foot the electric bill. You are welcome to drive by and check it out.