

MARCH 2008

La Porte Area Lake Association Newsletter



CLEAR LAKE

FISHTRAP LAKE

LILY LAKE

LOWER LAKE

PINE LAKE

STONE LAKE

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2008 General Meeting Schedule

March 1
10:00 a.m.
Le Cabernet

June 26
6:00 p.m.
Pompeii's Pub

October 11
11:00 a.m.
Yacht Club

December 6
Holiday Party
Election of Officers
Tuscan Timbers

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

See us at:

www.laportelakes.com

FROM THE PREZ

Dear Fellow Lake Lovers

My name is Julie Berry and I am the new President of our Association for 2008. I am fairly new to the area (about 7 years) but am a full-time resident on North Pine Lake.

After living in 6 states and always renting an apartment I was drawn to this part of NWI from Chicago because of the many wonderful bodies of water this area is blessed with. I wasn't interested in living on Lake Michigan because it's just too big. I love the activities our waters attract throughout every season. (Although I must confess, I don't understand the draw of sitting on a 5-gallon bucket for hours over a hole in the ice, and the confidence you must possess to drive a 1-2 ton truck out on frozen WATER.) But I'm fascinated and happy to watch from a bank of windows overlooking the lake, safely snuggled in an overstuffed cozy chair sipping a hot toddy alongside a roaring fire. Here, I can deal with winter. For a while.

But after this particularly harsh winter, I am SO ready for Spring! And I'm hearing it from many of you as well. We're fed up with old-man winter and it's time he packed his bags and headed outta town! We're

eyeballing the ground for those Spring bulbs to pop and tree branches to bud; and all eyes-to-the-skies in search of the annual return of our stately Bald Eagle which heralds...say it with me...say it out loud....THE ARRIVAL OF SPRING!!! (Did someone call me a drama queen?)

OK, ok....I'll try to focus on the task at hand. Which brings us to our calendar of meetings and events for 2008; you'll notice we have lots to discuss! Yes, we'll still have our general 4-quarter meetings, but we're planning many more activities for our members and their families this year.

To start us out in April, we'll host the LaPorte Area Lake Association first-ever Tailgate Chili Challenge Cook-off! Bring your stockpot, prepped ingredients and your propane burner to the Yacht Club parking lot. Don't forget the hot sauce! Tasters will deem the best! C'mon...what else do you have to do.....your boats are still in



**ASSOCIATION
2008 OFFICERS**

- President:** Julie Berry
312-375-0756
- Vice Pres:** Jay Pouzar
219-362-8200
- Secretary:** Dan Balich
219-362-6263
- Treasurer:** Sue Heikes
219-324-2058

COMMITTEE COORDINATORS

- Engineering Committee** ____ Jay Pouzar
- Holiday Party** ____ Sue Heikes
_____ Donna Pouzar
- LARE Grant** ____ Sue Heikes
_____ Jay Pouzar
- Lake Clean Up** __ Paul Thode
- Membership** ____ Dan Balich
_____ John Conroy
- Newsletter** _____ Donna Pouzar
- Venetian Night** __ Julie Berry
- Weed Control** ____ Sue Heikes
- Website** _____ Julie Berry

From the Prez (continued)

storage! Registration forms and rules are on our website.

Venetian Fest returns for an expanded day of fun, a field trip to the LaPorte Lake Siphon to learn about its history and function and a possible summer bus ride up to South West Michigan's wine country with tours, tastings and a dinner.

And of course, we'll need volunteers again for Lake Clean-Up, particularly after the 4th of July holiday, so please sign up!

We're beefing up the holidays with a ladies-only shopping party, (we get it guys, shopping doesn't float your boat) and you'll get to dress-your-best for a Tuscan Christmas when we offer our members a holiday dinner at Tuscan Timbers along with a fundraising silent auction.

And we're looking into regular BINGO games for 2009. Is anyone an avid Bingo player who would be interested in helping us get things going?

Anyway, we know our meetings are about general business, making decisions and learning about boating and lake issues, (and they're not everyone's cup of tea,) but we're hoping ALL OF OUR MEMBERS will get out and have some fun this year...bring the kids, meet your neighbors and let's enjoy the seasons before old-man winter moves back to town.

Please take a few moments to review the enclosed activities sign-up sheet, fill them out and return them. Mark your calendars for your favorite events and PLEASE participate. LALA truly wants and needs your involvement!

I look forward to meeting more and more members very soon! Till then...THINK SPRING! (ok- enough already ☺)

Julie K. Berry
2008 LALA President

Minutes from the January Meeting

The March 1st meeting was called to order by President Julie Berry at Le Cabernet at the Blue Heron Inn.

The Treasurers report was given by Sue Heikes. We have a balance of \$9653.01. We had a membership of 133 for 2007.

Ed Fay, from Fay's Marina, informed us of a new law that has passed regarding bilge water emptying into lakes. You will soon need to apply for a permit (approx 4-5 pages) to be able to pump water from your bilge pump. A bill is in-house currently to void the need for "recreational boaters" to need this permit, it was initially targeted for "commercial vessels" to protect our waters from pollution. To ensure that we will not need a permit to simply bilge our boats please go to www.boatblue.org and fill out an automated form that will alert our lawmakers to support the addendum to this law.

Ed Fay and his wife Christi donated \$500 to purchase buoys through the Lake Patrol. They will be placed in the shallow areas in "the channel" between North & South Pine Lake. This will help in navigating the area more safely than in previous years when the channel is shallow. It will also help with boaters running aground, causing injury and damage to themselves and their boat.

A motion was approved to have yearly insurance for our organizational events for the entire year rather than by individual event; ultimately saving us money.

Julie discussed the proposed 2008

agenda. A Chili Cook-off is scheduled for Sunday, April 13th at the Yacht Club. Let's have all the chili cookers present themselves and have a good time.

Let us also look forward to a possible wine tour and dinner in July.

Venetian Night will be on August 30th and our Holiday Party in December. Other events are proposed and will be mentioned in the newsletter. We're hoping members will be excited about these new events and participate.

The meeting was adjourned. 9 members were present.

WELCOME ABOARD!

BOB & SANDY ALLSHOUSE
BOB & BARB MCGRATH
LEO & SUE POYNTON, JR.
DAVID & DARMA YOUNG

New Business Partners

AL & JANET SCHOOF
DAN & CATHY BALICH

Announcements/Updates

New membership Directory/Newsletter

By Donna Pouzar

A new membership directory will be available by mid-summer. In an effort to save on postage, and to become more aware of 'going green,' all members with email access will receive an electronic version of the Directory AND the Newsletter via e-mail. Members without email access will receive the Directory and continue to receive the Newsletter via U.S. Mail.

For members who have e-mail: if you would rather receive the Directory and/or the Newsletter via "snail mail", please contact Donna Pouzar at 363-2960 or Sue Heikes at 324-2058.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

By: Sue Heikes

In conjunction with the new Membership Directory, beginning this year, **membership dues will be due by May 15, each year.**

Members whose dues are received after the 15th will not be included in the Directory. So, if you have not yet paid your dues, please make sure you get them in to Sue Heikes by May 15th.

WEBSITE

By: Julie Berry

There is a new Legislative Alert, pertaining to needing a permit starting in 2008 to bilge our boats.

Recreational boats are being lumped into commercial vessels and the like and a bill has been written to exempt recreational boats.

Please go to our website and use the link on our site to send a prewritten letter to our state's officials. We just need to get it passed. So let our

voices be heard! Thanks to Ed Fay for making us aware of this.

We've also had over 300 hits on our site for the past three months.

LAKE LEVELS

By: Jerry Jackson

It's a little early to tell if we've entered a period of increasing lake levels. I have noticed that there are signs that the ground water table is up:

1. Local wetlands are wet again
2. We've been receiving complaints about groundwater intrusion into basements
3. The wastewater treatment plant flow has increased. This occurs when the ground water level increases to a point where it is above local sewers and then infiltrates into the sewers.

It's difficult to predict if we are in the upswing part of the cycle, especially when it is not known why there is a cycle.

IN MEMORIAM

Audrey M. Klooster, age 85, of La Porte, Ind., died Thursday, February 28, 2008, at her home in La Porte, Ind. She has lived in the LaPorte area since 1957 coming from New York.

She was a member of the LaPorte Seventh-day Adventist Church. She attended Emmanuel Missionary College 1945-1947 (Now Andrews University) and received a Nursing degree in 1947 from Hinsdale Sanitarium. She was a member of LaPorte Service League, LaPorte Co. Chapter of the American Red Cross, Meals on Wheels and the La Porte Area Lake Association.

On February 23, 1947 in Muskegon, Michigan she married John E. Klooster who preceded in death March 31, 2006.

She is survived by her Daughter, Janet Lee Klooster of Daytona Beach Shores, Florida; Son, John Conrad (Amy) Klooster of Carmel, Indiana; Two grandchildren, Sister-in-law Mrs. Betty Klooster Kidder of Candler, N.C.; and a Brother, Mr. Anthony (Tony) Van Beukering of Battle Creek, Mich.

2008 Proposed Activities

April 13th, Sunday Tailgate Chili Challenge Cook-Off-Yacht Club
10 AM Set-up, Tasting 1 PM, winners following. Open to public?

- 50/25/25 Drawing
- Registration and Rule on our Website

May OFF – everyone's getting ready for summer!

June 26th, Thursday 6:00 p.m. Lake Siphon Field Trip & Tour
Association Meeting to follow.

Lake Siphon trip first then meet at Pompeii's Pub at the Blue Heron Inn.

- 50/50 Drawing
- Guest Speaker – Jerry Jackson

July 12th, Saturday 9:00 a.m. Lake Clean-Up – Yacht Club
Paul Thode, Coordinator

- Lunch

Southwest Michigan Wineries Day Trip Tasting & Dinner
July Date & Times TBD

- 50/50 Drawing
- Need to reserve a bus
- Call wineries about setting tours
- Reserve tables at Tabor Hill Restaurant

August 23rd, Saturday 10 a.m. - Venetian Fest Meeting
Yacht Club (back deck) for registered boaters in the parade

- Hand out Boat numbers
- Review schedule, rules, judging, and how to keep the parade in tact.

Support Your Association

The Association is made up of mostly of lake residents and local businesses.

As a volunteer organization, we are always looking for people to volunteer to work on our committees.

We also depend on our membership to alert the board of things going on around the lake.

If you see something going on in your neighborhood that you feel warrants investigation, contact a board member.

If you have an interesting story to share with the membership, please contact a board member, a committee chairperson if it pertains to a particular event, or our Newsletter Editor, donnaouzar@comcast.net

If you would like to help on a committee, please contact either a board member or the Committee Chairperson for that particular event.



August 30th, Saturday Night**VENETIAN FEST! – Yacht Club – Parking at Fay's**

- 50/25/25
- 2 bands – start 5 pm, 1st band 6-8 pm, break for parade, Elwood 9:30 to midnight.
- Tents in Yacht Club Parking Lot
- Kids Activities
- Food
- Crafts
- Mayor's Cup & Winners

October 11th, Saturday 11AM**LALA Meeting – Benefit for Food Bank – Yacht Club**

- 50/50
- Light Brunch (strata, fruit bowl, juices, coffee, Danish) offered by LALA
- Bring non-perishable food items
- Introduce Guest Speaker – Sandy Gleim – Healthy Communities
- Nominations for 2009 Board

November 8th, Saturday Noon**Ladies Only Shopping Party – Le Cabernet at the Blue Heron Inn**

- 50/50
- Bring an appetizer to pass/BYOB
- Businesses that will allow a % of the sales to go to LALA
 - ❖ Gourmet
 - ❖ Lingerie
 - ❖ Tupperware
 - ❖ Candles
 - ❖ Jewelry

December 6th, Saturday Night – To be confirmed**Holiday Party/Silent Auction – Tuscan Timbers**

- Purchase Tickets – based on what Timbers will charge us.
 - 50/25/25
 - Dress Up!
 - Vote for 2009 Board
 - Buffet/Cash Bar
 - Announce 2009 Board
 - Photos
 - Band – may be booked in bar, stay for dancing...
-

2008 LALA Activities
We Need You & Your Ideas!

Name _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Please check all you can to either HELP with or provide INFORMATION. Please use the back for additional comments or suggestions.

BINGO – planning several dates for 2009

Help _____ Play _____ Know of someone who knows everything about BINGO? _____

Tailgate Chili Challenge Cook-off – April 13th, 2008

I’m gonna WIN! _____ Wanna help _____ Just give me a spoon and leave me alone! _____

Lake Clean Up – July 12th, 2008

Count on me! _____ Not this year _____ I’ll send my kid (he’ll still be grounded by then anyway!)

Name(s) _____ Age(s) _____

Southwest Michigan Wineries Day Trip Tasting & Dinner – July date and prices TBD

Save me a seat on the bus _____ Save me a seat at the dinner table _____ I’ll drive separately can’t stay _____
 Would like to help _____

Venetian Fest – August 30th, 2008

Committee member _____ We plan on being in the parade _____ We’ll watch the fun! _____

Tents – I know about renting them _____ I know someone who might want to exhibit _____

Benefit for Food Panty – Saturday, October 11, 2008

I would like to help with planning the event _____

Ladies Only Shopping Party (% of sales goes to LALA) – November 8th, 2008

I have something to sell _____ I know a company rep who’ll participate _____ I’ll shop till I drop _____

Holiday Party – December 6th, 2008

I’d like to be on the Committee _____ Lets try Tuscan Timbers _____ I’d love a band _____

Would like to contribute to the Silent Auction _____ I know someone for the silent auction _____

Guest Speaker Ideas:

1.) _____ Topic _____

2.) _____ Topic _____

Venetian Fest Themes for 2008

1. _____

2. _____

Happy Birthday

Belated Birthday wishes to our members whose birthdays were in January and February.

JANUARY

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| 6 Jo Laskarin | 21 Elaine Balling |
| Roy Langford | Donna Panozzo |
| 10 Brad Ake | 24 Doug Evanoff |
| 12 Rose Philbrook | 25 Stephanie |
| 14 Doug Bolda | Skwiat |
| 15 Dan Balich | 29 Ron Nowak |
| 18 John Provan | Bob Gius |
| 20 Dennis Neirengarten | 30 Stephanie |
| 21 Elaine Balling | Kypuros |

FEBRUARY

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| 1 Vincent Aprino | 8 Sandra Provan |
| 2 Maryann Aprino | 11 Bob Schneider |
| Ed Skwiat | 14 John Brown |
| 3 Neil Reger | 16 Leo Poynton |
| 4 Kay Attar | 20 Don Bowman |
| 5 Arlene Schultz | Bob Bugel |
| 7 Carol McCombs | 26 Sue Heikes |
| Herb Schultz | 28 Guy Lain |
| 8 Romanel Biberstine | |

MARCH

- | |
|--------------------|
| 11 Laverne Lane |
| 14 Neil O'Connor |
| 18 Michele Dziaba |
| Paul Heikes |
| 20 Sandy Dexter |
| Rich Shelhamer |
| 31 Vicki Parrett |
| Mariette Shelhamer |

Calendar of Events

Some evens are pending, so please check our website for updates, speaker announcements or special meeting themes. Updates will also be noted in future newsletters.

Sunday, April 13 – 3:00 p.m.

Tailgate Chili Challenge – Open to the Public
La Porte Yacht Club

Thursday, June 26 – 6:00 p.m.

General Meeting/Field Trip
Pompeii's Pub – Blue Heron
Jerry Jackson, Guest Speaker will conduct a tour of the lake level siphon, weather permitting.

Saturday, July 12 – 9:00 a.m.

Lake Clean Up – Yacht Club
Paul Thode, Coordinator
Lunch to follow

JULY – DATE AND TIME TBD

Southwest Michigan Winery Tasting and Dinner

Saturday, August 23 – 10:00 a.m.

Venetian Night Registration
La Porte Yacht Club-Back deck

Saturday, August 30 – 5:00 p.m.

Venetian Night-La Porte
Yacht Club

Saturday, October 11 – 11:00 a.m.

General Meeting – Yacht Club – Light Brunch
Benefit for Food Pantry
Sandy Gleim – Healthy Communities, Guest Speaker

November 8, 12:00 noon

LADIES ONLY SHOPPING SPREE
Le Cabernet – Blue Heron

December 6 – 6:00 p.m.

Holiday Party/Silent Auction
Tuscan Timbers Restaurant

LaPorte Area Lake Association 2008 Dues Renewal Membership Form

YEARLY DUES: \$25.00 – Due May 15



Name: _____

Spouse Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone: Home: _____

Cell phone: _____

Work: _____

Birthday (no year, please, just month and day ☺)

Name: _____ Month _____ Day _____

Name: _____ Month _____ Day _____

Out of state address (if applicable)

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail address: _____

__ I WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE THE NEWSLETTER VIA E-MAIL

I would like to volunteer to work on:

_____ Membership

_____ Lake Clean Up

_____ Weed Control

_____ Holiday Party

_____ Newsletter

_____ Website

Return this form with your check payable to:

LaPorte Area Lake Assn., Inc. P.O. Box 324 LaPorte, Indiana 46352

MAILING AND E-MAILING ADDRESSES WILL NEVER BE SHARED OR SOLD BEYOND OUR MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY. WE WILL PROTECT THE PRIVACY OF OUR MEMBERS.

About Our Organization...

The LaPorte Area Lake Association was formed in 1965 and is a volunteer organization, comprised of businesses and residents, both on the lakes and surrounding neighborhoods, who are concerned about the quality and health of our lakes.

To ensure continued enjoyment of these lakes, the LaPorte Area Lake Association monitors issues and problems that could affect everything and everyone that uses these lakes from recreational activity to native wildlife. The Association supports; Clear Lake, Fishtrap Lake, Lily Lake, Lower Lake, Pine Lake and Stone Lake. For more information or membership visit; www.LaPorteLakes.com