

Arbutus Lake Log

July 1, 2012 Volume #Two Issue # Three

The official newsletter of the Lake Arbutus Association

Happy Birthday America

That's the 236th Birthday! So, as we celebrate, I bring you words from three great examples of the American way of service to Country and Community.

Hatfield Fire Chief; Gary Nordin

July!! Summer is amongst us. Fortunately with the dry and windy spring we only had two wild land fires. Largest one was 12 acres and the loss of one structure, a 28 foot mobile trailer unfortunately. We were able to save a 30x 36 shed though. At this time the origin of fire is unknown. The trailer was totally burned up. When we arrived the owners were back home and hadn't been up here in over a week. With the wild fires out of control in the western parts of the U.S., I cannot stress enough to landowners to keep their trees away from the buildings and all dead ones cleaned up.

We have 3 people going to first responder class Wednesday evenings in Sparta, 6-10pm, namely Ruthanne Alexander, Jason Waters, and Beth Lannigan. They started June 6th and will finish in October sometime. Our new recruits for firemen will be spending 4 full weekends in Sparta to get their schooling. We are very thankful that they stepped forward and volunteered to serve their community. They are Jacob Maske, Garrett Miller, Ruthanne Alexander, Scott Opelt, Jason Waters, Lucinda Bue, John Alberts, and Ryan Setzer. We hope they will stay interested enough to stay with the department. That will be my challenge.

Flag flown by Jim and Gail Beale July to Dec 2012

Something I seen while I was on the lake over Memorial weekend was a boat pulling skiers. The spotter had a red flag which was held in the air if the skiers had fallen and was in the water. Was very noticeable and I thought worth passing on to all boaters.

Our building fund is over \$48,000. "It will happen" is my motto. Thanks to those who have donated so far.

October 11th is our annual Fall Banquet at Castle Hill. Put it on your calendar and get your tickets before it is sold out. July 7 is the fireworks here in Hatfield. They are put on by the Chamber of Commerce. Play safe over the 4th.

Torger stopped by with some information on lock boxes for homeowners that are interested in having an access for us as a department to be able to enter their dwelling. That will be up to individuals if they want to participate. I just brought it up last year when we had a security alarm system send us to a property and it took us awhile to find a key to get into the house without knocking out a window or door. It was somewhat of a false alarm but it still warranted us to get in and search the home.

Lock box note: These boxes called "Knox Boxes" cost the homeowner about \$160.00 and are permanently attached to the structure. Your house key is locked into the box and only the Hatfield Fire Department or First Responders can unlock the box. Anytime they use their key for any Knox Box, the user, time and location are recorded. As many owners don't live here full time, access to a home is just minutes away, not days! They are especially effective with an alarm monitoring system.

Firewise director Amy Luebke, Wisconsin DNR

Forestry officials suggest caution with fireworks

Each year, especially during the summer holiday, the use of both legal and illegal fireworks causes wildfires in Wisconsin. The annual statewide average for Wisconsin is 100 fires started by fireworks each year.

Anyone using legal fireworks should do so only in a clear area away from buildings, vehicles and shrubbery and should have water or a fire extinguisher handy. Remember that wildfires can occur anytime the ground is not snow covered. Make sure you are aware of your local fire conditions. There is a big financial incentive for Wisconsinites to avoid igniting a wildfire because those responsible for a fire are liable for all suppression costs and damage to our natural resources.

Restricted fireworks are more likely to cause a forest fire or injury than legal fireworks because they often are larger, are launched into the air, and are used by persons not trained to handle these products. It is unlawful to possess restricted fireworks, which are defined as those that move, jump, explode or emit balls of fire and include such types as bottle rockets, firecrackers, jumping jacks and roman candles. These fireworks can only be used with a permit issued by local authorities as designated in Wisconsin statutes.

Not only do fireworks cause wildfires, but they also cause injuries. Sparklers, which are often considered to be the ideal safe fireworks, can actually burn at 1000 degrees F and can easily ignite clothing. Typically over the 4th of July week, emergency rooms will treat over 10,000 people injured by fireworks. Most are suffered by children with burns to the hands and eyes.

Fireworks Tips:

- Obtain a permit for restricted fireworks.
- Do not allow young children to play with fireworks under any circumstances,
- If fireworks are used by older children, make sure to have close adult supervision and be sure others are at a safe distance.
- Malfunctioning fireworks should be doused in water, not re-lit.
- Light sparklers at arm's length and never give them to a child under 5.
- Always keep a bucket of water nearby.
- Follow all warning and instructions on fireworks products.
- Use common sense and have a safe and fun 4th of July!

Jackson County has a new DNR Warden.

Shaun C Deeney DNR will be contributing to the LAA Newsletter as well as working the Hatfield area. If you see him, please welcome him to the area. Here's some news and tips from Shaun. (715) 284-1421:

Why do we have all these laws????!! Remember that hunting and fishing laws generally fall into one of three categories: biological, safety or promote fair chase. Some length limit that may seem obscure was likely created to protect certain species of fish in a certain lake

Biological. Shooting from the road or too close to a house...safety. It's illegal to shoot two bucks with a bow and put your wife's tag on it....That doesn't promote fair chase. Just remember, conservation wardens work for you and can tell the difference between someone who makes an honest mistake...and someone who intentionally tries to take advantage of the resource. Which one are you? Your actions and behavior when no one is looking keep ethical sportsmanship going.

New ATV/UTV law changes will be in effect starting July 1st, 2012. ATV associations approached the legislature and initiated some of them. The most notable changes will include license plate requirements for your machine. The plate can be home-made, but must be 4" x 7.5" and should be white with black lettering, and visible from the back of the machine. The letters must be at least 3/16" brush stroke. The sticker-style mail box letters should work just fine. Operators will need the four numbers and last two letters that correspond with their registration sticker.

Operators of UTV's must be 16 years old and all passengers need to wear seatbelts. Remember they may drive like a car but do not handle like a car...stay to the right and go slow on blind corners!

Anyone born on or after Jan. 1, 1988 must take an ATV safety course. The course can be taken on line for students over 16, or at your local ATV/Snowmobile dealer.

"I can't reach anyone at the DNR!" Not so fast...anyone can call the DNR and speak to a live person at 1-888-WDNRINFO. Our professional customer service staff can answer most of your general questions, the desk is open 7 days a week until 10 P.M. Or if you wish to report a violation, you can call our hotline at 1-800-TIP-WDNR. Callers can be anonymous and can speak to a warden right away.

Life Jackets...are you wearing one? Many survivors of boating accidents will tell you they didn't think it would happen to them. Shock, hypothermia and distance from shore are all factors that boaters can't plan for. When two boats collide at high speed, there's no time to grab your life jacket that's tucked under water skis and coolers. Please wear it, or at least have it readily accessible.

Fishing report: Smallmouth bass are generally aggressive this time of year on Lake Arbutus. Many anglers have luck fishing in either fork (east or main) near large rocks. Try "wacky rigging" a plastic worm on a #1 hook. Hook the worm (purple or black) through the middle and

let it fall. Slowly lift off the bottom...slower is better...and watch your line.

Have fun, be safe, and remember to say hi to your local warden!

Annual Meeting is Saturday July 28

We welcome everyone to come to the annual meeting at the Town of Dewhurst Town Hall which kicks off with a free pancake breakfast beginning at 8:00 AM. The annual meeting will begin at 9:00 AM with a recap of the past year activities and a discussion of what you would like to see from your Lake Association this upcoming year, followed by a presentation from the Wisconsin DNR regarding updates on boating and aquatic invasive species as well as a question and answer time with the DNR. Finally we will have an election of four Board Members. Then at 10:00 AM we will be having a presentation from North American Hydro regarding three alternative plans for draw downs. We hope to see you there.

Regarding the website:

All we can say for now is that we are planning on updating our website, but I do not think that we have any definite time the change will happen and I believe once it does happen it will be transparent to the use (in getting to the site, but it will just look different). We could say that updates to the web site are in the works so coming soon will be a new look on your familiar Lake Arbutus.com website.

The Web Cam on the dam has been having problems because of lightening strikes taking out the phone router system. Jim Beale has now been able to access the building and has re-programmed the router and DSL.

The Lake Arbutus Pavilion.

Our new/old roller rink is off to a great start. The skating surface has been restored to the original surface and the whole inside is re-finished to look like the old days. Go see it! It would take too much newsletter space for me to try to describe it. And, be sure to try an ice cream sundae. Phone 715-333-RINK (7465)

The Hatfield Flea Market

The big week end for the flea market is this week end, July 6 to 8. Don't know about you, but there always seems to be more bargains than I need but, why not. If I keep it up, I might just open my own Flea Market with all the "bargains that I've accumulated over the years. It's either that or gets a bigger garage. My favorite booth is the used books. I know that he will live well next winter after I get done shopping. And don't forget the pop corn and fry cakes!

Changes in the restaurant business in Hatfield.

We are very fortunate to have quite a variety of good eating places in our area. How can one pick a favorite when there are so many choices? There's the Mug, the Inn Wood, Stone's Throw, the Hub, Lake Arbutus Pavilion and the Sports Bar, as well as The boat landing and another ice cream only place with Hatfield's mini country club golf course. Well, somebody has to do it, so your humble reporter will check them all out, again.

Here's some news on the sale and purchase of the Hub and Sports bar. First of all, Roy Burlingame and family have bought out Steve Morey's Hub, cabins, Sports Bar and home. Roy has in turn leased the Sports Bar, Tiki Bar and campground to Scott and Ken Neumeister of La Crosse.

Roy will be handling the store, cabins and the Hub restaurant, and plans primarily on no real changes this year outside of an ice cream shop in the store. (Like I really need another place to take the grand kids). That makes four! Oh well, it will do well. Now if it only had a boat dock.

The Neumeisters are no strangers to the food and bar business, having one of the most successful ones in La Crosse. Their "flagship" is the Varsity on Ward Avenue, where they are known for some of the best wings and hot sauces in the area. They also have The Northstar on George Street.

As for their menu in Hatfield, Scott told me that they intend on turning their menu "Upside down" by bringing in many new items such as weekly specials, daily specials and ribs, along with "Chef specials". Scott also said that they are going to have entertainment on weekends, and they also plan on staying open year round. Hours will probably be adjusted for the seasons.

"We're here to stay and we plan on contributing to the community and the Lake Association." Stay tuned for some more announcements in the Oct. Newsletter.

Invasive Species Lake Arbutus will be visited by inspectors from CBCW. These are volunteer inspectors checking boats at the landings for any "critters" being brought to our lake on boat hulls, live wells etc. Look for them early morning or mid afternoon on July 2, 6, 8, 19 and 28 as well as Aug 3, 10 and 19. Oh, by the way, don't let CBCW scare you. It stands for *Clean*

Kids Don't Float



Have you seen the Lake Arbutus Association's new "Kids Don't Float" life jacket station at the Russell County Boat launch? The Association has constructed a life jacket loaner station for the daily use of kid size life jackets. The Wis. DNR has been planning this program for awhile, but one of our members saw this program in Alaska, and brought it to the attention of the board of directors. We immediately started planning on doing one of these at LAA expense but evidently we encouraged the DNR to "get crackin' " on their program. The DNR paid for all the material, signs, and furnished us with 50 kid size life jackets. The Assn. built it and placed it, and we are monitoring it. Wet jackets are hung on the sides till dry and then put back. Random checks have shown that it is getting good use. Wausau TV even came over and filmed a news segment on "Kids Don't Float" with LAA spokesperson Ralph Johnson for their nightly news.

Fireworks and week end schedule

The Lake Arbutus Sports Bar will have fireworks on Friday July 6 at twilight. The Chamber of Commerce fireworks will be on Saturday night, July 7. There will be a water ski show at the Russell Park beach before the fireworks. The Hatfield Flea Market will be open July 6 to 8.

Calendar Contest

The LAA will be having another photo contest for the Lake Arbutus Association annual calendar. Start editing your lake related pictures for the 2013 calendar contest. There will be twelve monthly pictures plus three to five for the front cover. Last year, my favorite entry could not be used because the picture was a vertical shot, which will not work on the calendar format. Other pictures were too low quality (pixel count) to blow up to 9 x 12. Each picture used will receive a free calendar. Otherwise, the calendars will be available in time for Christmas presents. The next newsletter in October will contain all information for entering the contest. Anyone or group having lake associated dates to be inserted on the calendar, please notify the LAA of these dates.

Other dates for the summer

Saturday, July 21 Sportsman's Carpfest.
August 4 & 5 Flea Market
August 24, 25 & 26 Hatfield Fun Days
Saturday September 1, Pork Chop Sandwiches
Sept 1, 2 & 3 Labor Day Flea Market
Saturday September 8 Chamber Poker Run

Party Time.

A membership party is in the early planning stages for the LAA. No real details available yet, but early discussions with the Arbutus Pavilion and a couple of other establishments will take some of the "dull" out of the fall months. Of course there will be food! Stay tuned.

Wish to donate a flag?

The LAA will be looking for a flag donor for the time Jan 1, 2013 to July 1, 2013. The price is \$50.00 and you may have it returned to you after it has flown. Fly the flag in honor of or in memory of someone you have known.

A funny ... Alert levels in other countries:

The English are feeling the pinch in relation to recent terrorist threats, and have therefore raised their security level from "Miffed" to "Peeved". Soon, though, security levels may be raised yet again to "Irritated" or even "A Bit Cross". The English have not been "A Bit Cross" since the blitz in 1940, when tea supplies nearly ran out. Terrorists have been re-categorized from "Tiresome" to "A Bloody Nuisance". The last time the British issued a "Bloody Nuisance" warning level was in 1588, when threatened by the Spanish Armada.

The Scots and Irish have raised their threat level from "Pissed Off" to "Let's get the Bastards". They don't have any other levels. This is the reason they have been used on the front line of the British army for the last 300 years.

The Germans have increased their alert state from "Disdainful Arrogance" to "Dress in Uniform and Sing Marching Songs." They also have two higher levels: "Invade a Neighbor" and "Lose".

Italy has increased the alert level from "Shout Loudly and Excitedly" to "Elaborate Military Posturing". Two more levels remain: "Ineffective Combat Operations" and "Change Sides".

Belgians, on the other hand, are all on holiday as usual; the only threat they are worried about is NATO pulling out of Brussels.

Australia, meanwhile, has raised its security level from "No worries" to "She'll be right, mate". Three more escalation levels remain: "Crikey!", "I think we'll need to cancel the barbie this weekend" and "The barbie is canceled". So far no situation has ever warranted use of the final escalation level.

New Zealand has raised its security levels - from "baaa" to "BAAAA". Due to continuing defense cutbacks, New Zealand has only one more level of escalation, which is "I hope Australia will come and rescue us".

The French government announced yesterday that it has raised its terror alert level from "Run" to "Hide". The only two higher levels in France

are "Collaborate" and "Surrender". The rise was precipitated by a recent fire that destroyed France's white flag factory, effectively paralyzing the country's military capability.

The Spanish are all excited to see their new submarines ready to deploy. These beautifully designed subs have glass bottoms so the new Spanish navy can get a really good look at the old Spanish navy.

Canada doesn't have any alert levels.

Americans meanwhile, and as usual, are carrying out preemptive strikes on all of their allies "just in case".

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