



# School Section Lake POA Crier

Spring 2018 Issue

## From Our President...

by Doug Murdoch

As spring 2018 arrives, I realize the term of my presidency is soon coming to an end. During my time I've realized how important the lake association is to School Section Lake. I've realized how many great people have a passion for the lake. I've also realized the importance of weed control, fish management, water clarity and quality checks for a healthy lake. I've also learned the importance of maintaining a good relationship with Mecosta County, Veterans Memorial Park and our surrounding community members and merchants. And last, but not least, the coming together of our residents and guests to get to know each other at our annual events: the July 4<sup>th</sup> boat parade, the Meet Your Neighbor event, and the newly created Poker Run.

I hope I've made a difference while serving our Association. I want to thank my mother, Maxine Murdoch, for her wisdom and advice, Vice President Marty Foster who continuously brainstormed with me, Secretary Marlene Schalm who helped keep us informed and Treasurer Janine Mills for all the balance and checks that help us allocate the funding for our events and activities.

Of course, none of this would be possible without all the volunteers – you and your family members. I hope we will maintain our reputation as a "friendly lake" while also working together to have a safe, fun, and peaceful summer 2018.

LET'S JUST HAVE FUN!!!

The SSLPOA would like to thank Doug, Marty and Janine for their service. Their time, talent and dedication to the SSLPOA is greatly appreciated. Thank you to Marlene for her continuing service, as well. Relax and enjoy your summer at the lake!

## We need YOU to attend!

Election of new officers

**SSLPOA ANNUAL MEETING**

**Saturday, June 9 at 9:00 AM**

Morton Township Hall, Mecosta  
Coffee & Donuts will be served!!!

## MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 11, 2018**

**12<sup>th</sup> Annual "Meet Your Neighbor" Picnic**  
**Saturday, August 11<sup>th</sup> 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM Corner**  
**Buchanan & West School Section Lk Dr**

Enjoy a "FREE" lunch of Hot Dogs, Brats & all the fixings. You are welcome to bring a dish to pass as well. This is a great time to get acquainted with property owners from all around the lake.

We need someone to step up as chairperson for this event ASAP. The details for what to do when and how are clearly written so all you have to do is organize us. Denise Ronning and Doug Murdoch will gladly help you this year. Many thanks to Denise and Mark Ronning for all their work making this event so successful in the past years.

Call or text Doug Murdoch if you can help in any way.

## In Memoriam

Wayne May passed away December 3, 2017.  
Pat Haynes passed away February 23, 2018.  
Jerry McKeith passed away March 4, 2018.  
Idabelle "Smitty" Smith, passed away April 26, 2018.

We would like to acknowledge all of the departed School Section Lake property owners. If you know of anyone we have missed, please contact Dorothy Metcalf or Maxine Murdoch.

## Welcome New Owners

We welcome all our new neighbors! Please let us know if we have missed anyone.

David Deboode, 9621 E SSL  
Michael Baldwin, 9460 W SSL  
Dana Woods, 9841 and 9851 E SSL  
Debra Hamler, 9711 E SSL  
Anthony Assaf, 9295 E SSL  
Duane Emery, 8660 Wood St  
Woodrow Holder, 8950 W SSL  
Randy Weener, 9075 W SSL  
Chuck Murdoch, 8580 Wood St

## SSL is on Facebook

by Marlene Schalm

We have created a Facebook page for anyone interested in "following". It is "School Section Lake Association". You can request to join and the admins (there are 2) will approve. The group page is a place where we can share pictures and stories of the lake, get to know our neighbors, ask questions, post events, and share positive things about the lake.



**Please respect the No Wake hours  
7:30 PM to 11:00 AM**

## Newsletter Items

We hope you enjoy the newsletter and find it both interesting and informative. We publish one in the spring and another one in the fall. If you have an idea for an article, a picture or story to share, please contact us any time throughout the year. We are always interested in archiving stories from the past and they can be included in the newsletter as well as on the website. Please contact Dorothy Metcalf or Maxine Murdoch

## Use of Email for Information

by Marlene Schalm

If you are not getting emails from Marlene Schalm about the gate code and other information, she does not have your current email address. Please update by contacting Marlene.

## Meet Your Neighbor Chair

by Denise Ronning

Since spring is finally here we can all look forward to sunny days on beautiful School Section Lake! It is also time to start planning for the Annual School Section Lake Association, Meet Your Neighbor Picnic! This year's event will take place on Saturday, August 11, 2018. We had another wonderful picnic last year with terrific prizes, great food, and good conversation!

I announced last year that I would be stepping down as the chair of this event and urged others to step up and take the reins! It was my honor and pleasure to chair the picnic with my husband. However, I have chaired the Picnic for the last five years and Margo for many years before me.

I have all the information you need to run this event including diagrams on how to set up the tent as well as who to contact for discounted food and beverages. Maxine Murdoch will continue to work with other lake owners in securing prizes. I will be happy to work with anyone who steps up to chair this important and fun event!

Please call Maxine Murdoch or me if you can take a turn at chairing the Meet Your Neighbor Picnic! You won't regret it!

## **Boat Parade Wed, July 4<sup>th</sup>**

by Kal Cotter

Us band 'o pirates be already getting' the ship ready! Plan to set sail on Wednesday, July 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM. We be leadin' the parade again this year, 'n we be settin' sail from the North East side 'o the Southern cove at 7:30 PM.



As always we're fixin' to put lots 'o time 'n effort into our ship 'tis year 'n hopes to gather brother n' sister pirates! If ye be worthy to sail wit' us, we're always lookin' to expand our fleet. Just remember, to sail with the Pirates ye have to be ready fer a ruckas! So, be sure to tell the young lads to set their eyes to the sea, 'n they'll be seein' the School Section Lake Pirates rule the waters again 'tis 4th 'o July celebration!

## **2nd Annual Poker Run**

by Dan Karcher

Saturday, July 28 is a date you'll want to put on your calendars. The poker run was so popular last year that it has become an annual event. Contact Dan Karcher if you would like to one of the 6-7 host houses. The host can participate in the event as well. In fact, last year's winners were hosts. Details will be announced at the annual meeting.

## **Boat Launch Gate**

by Don Swanson

The new 2018 Ramp Gate Combination will be sent to you by e-mail around May 12th. Until that time, last year's code should be used. If you are not getting these notifications, please contact Marlene Schalm. Please thank Lakeside Motor Sports for maintaining the ramp dock. There is a number posted at the ramp to call for assistance.

## **Fish Management Committee**

by Jerry King

On Wednesday, October 18, 2017, over 930 walleye were introduced to their new home at SSL. Usually the walleye are 6 to 9 inches long but they were bigger this year and cost \$2.20 per fish. A special thank you goes to Jerry King who always takes care of this and stays until the tanks are drained. The walleye should be 15 inches for legal sized catching.

Our fish planting is totally funded by donations from property owners and the SSL County Park. Fish planting is not included in the SSL budget. If you would like to donate to the fish fund, you may send it with your yearly dues or pay at the annual meeting in June or at Meet Your Neighbor in August. All donations are greatly appreciated.

## **Watercraft Rules**

All PWC (Jet Ski) operators born after December 31, 1978 must have a boating safety certificate available.

A book of rules for operators of PWC or motorized boats may be obtained on the internet or at any Secretary of State office. Please be advised of the rules as they are enforced.

## **Water Quality**

by Don Swanson

We will begin doing our water quality testing soon. Monitoring of the quality of our lake water as prescribed by the DEQ is done monthly throughout the summer. Our last Water Quality Analysis showed the lake to be in extremely good shape. Please use phosphorous free fertilizer on your lawns to preserve the lake quality.

## **Weed Control Committee**

by Jerry King

The job of maintaining weed control is on-going and important for the health of the lake. Next month Matt and I will profile the lake for trouble spots and schedule a work day around the end of June.

You will be notified a day ahead of time by signage on your front lawns. If we have enough advance notice I will ask Marlene to send out an email.

Scheduling depends on the weather and will avoid the weekend to minimize disruption to weekend fun. If you have questions feel free to call me any time.

## **SAFETY ON A CLEAN LAKE**

by Marlene Schalm

We all want a clean, safe Lake environment to live and play on. This is the responsibility of everyone. As a reminder the following are a few simple rules to follow in order to maintain a clean lake.

Use only non-phosphorus fertilizer on your lawn as phosphorous grows weeds and kills lakes and do not fertilize within the first 25 ft. of the shoreline. Another thing that kills lakes is the dispensing of gray water (water from dishwashers, washing machines, bathwater etc.) which is tiled into the lake instead of a septic system. This is against the law. Use low phosphate cleaning supplies when cleaning your boat.

Whenever possible, refuel personal watercraft and small boats on land, at gas stations and away from the shore. Clean boats, motors, and trailers of any clinging plant or animal material before launching in the lake or canal. Dispose of all attached materials on land and away from shore. Do not bathe in the lake. When boating in shallow areas or along the shoreline, minimize your wake. Every action causes a reaction and simply by slowing down to 5 MPH within 100 feet of the shoreline reduces erosion and disturbance of bottom sediment and sensitive aquatic life forms. We can seriously hurt game fish spawning areas and decrease light essential to submerged vegetation by wave action.

The annual report of our water quality is available on our website [www.schoolsectionlake.com](http://www.schoolsectionlake.com) for 2018. A hard copy will be available at the annual meeting as well.

## **DON'T DUMP YOUR BAIT**

by Marlene Schalm

Help prevent disease transfer from one lake to the next by properly disposing of unused bait on land or in the trash.

Empty live wells and bilges a the ramp when removing your boat from a lake and don't transfer live fish to other bodies of water other than where they were caught.

Fish diseases can be transferred from one lake to another in live wells or bilges. Clean these areas with  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup bleach to 5 gal. of water and allow to dry thoroughly before going in a different body of water.

Remember to disinfect the minnow bucket also.

## **SSL VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK**

by Marlene Schalm

The Mecosta County Parks superintendent is Jeff Abel, 22230 Northland Dr., Paris, Mi. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Jeff or Laura Odette, the seasonal Park Manager. The park will continue to be a 24/7 operation and anyone hearing or seeing issues that need to be corrected, are to call the park immediately. Problems need to be corrected when they happen, not brought to the Association meetings as a complaint. The staff is patrolling the park area until 2:00 AM on weekdays and 4:00 AM on weekends but can be reached by phone 24/7. The park is open to the public from May 1<sup>st</sup> until October 1<sup>st</sup>.

The Park has several renovation projects going and is investing \$500,000.00 to improve the drain field for the septic system and an addition to the bath house. These improvements will allow for full hook-ups for 69 campsites and should be completed by May 1<sup>st</sup>. when the park opens.

## **Road Report**

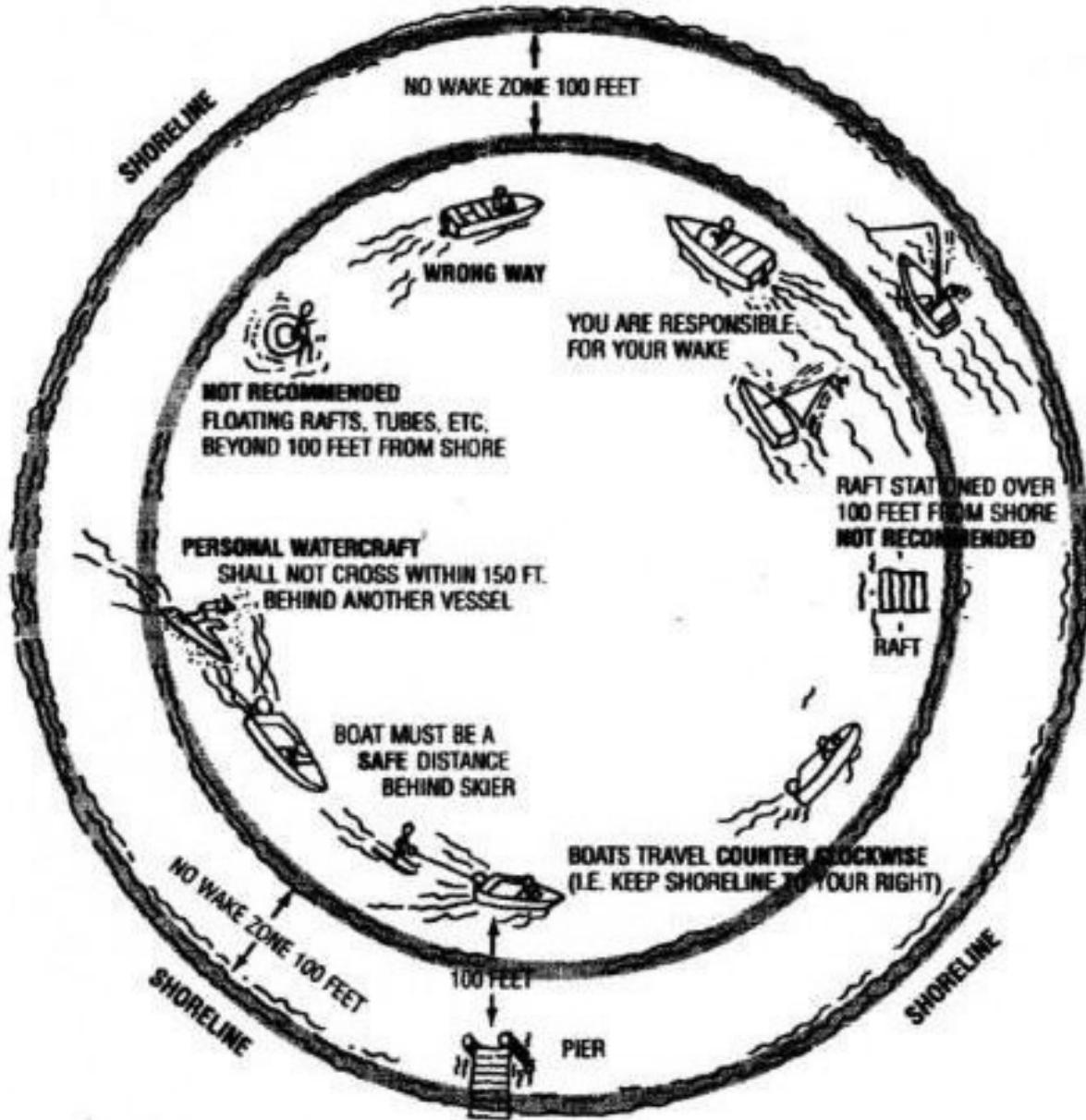
by Larry Bunker

It was amazing to watch the machine as it made just one pass down West School Section Lk. Dr.



## **Lost Items**

1. A maroon and white paddle boat found by Mark Perrin. A picture of it is posted on the SSLPOA Facebook page.
2. A door to a small Rubbermaid deck box found by Larry Ellison.



### **PLEASE INSTRUCT YOUR GUESTS ON “SAFE” BOATING!**

We trust all property/boat owners are familiar with the laws for boating on School Section Lake.

It is very important any guests you may have are also aware of these rules of the lake.

**Please keep this sketch in a visible place to inform & remind anyone who may be new to boating on our lake.** These boating rules are for all boats, pontoons, & Personal Watercraft (i.e. Seadoos, Jet Skis, etc).

# **2018 SSLPOA MEMBERSHIP DUES and FISH FUND PLANTING**

by Janine Mills Treasurer

The SSLPOA does a great job monitoring and protecting our beautiful lake. The dues you pay make this possible. Please join us in an effort to maintain the great natural resource we have here at School Section Lake by sending in your dues for 2018.

Our dues are just \$20 per year! What a bargain!

Please fill out the form below and mail back along with your check payable to SSLPOA.

If you have questions regarding dues, please call or text Janine Mills.

Over 930 walleyes were planted last fall. It is quite a sight to see so many fish scurrying into the lake. Use the form below to donate to the "Fish Fund" which enables us to continue this planting.

—————  
X ————— X

## **2018 MEMBERSHIP DUES, \$20.00**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

LAKE ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS, if different from lake address:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

SUBDIVISION: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

FISH PLANTING DONATION: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: SSLPOA, PO Box 115, Mecosta MI 49332

**School Section Lake Property Owners Association**  
**Doug Murdoch, President**  
**P. O. Box 115**  
**Mecosta MI 49332**



**Annual Meeting: Saturday, June 9, 9:00 AM, Twp. Hall**

**Poker Run: Saturday, July 28**

**Boat Parade: Wednesday, July 4**

**Meet Your Neighbor: Saturday, August 11**

**Recycle: each Saturday of the month 9 AM to noon**

**Located in the Morton Township Business Park on 9 Mile Rd.**

**Postage donated by Lakeside Motor Sports**