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OFFICERS

- Fred Luckerth, Chairperson
- Ken Shepard, Vice-Chair
- Dan Simms, Secretary
- Pam Harvala, Treasurer
- Ann Simms, Director
- Larry Kavolak, Director

Our Web Site Address

www.minnesotawaters.org/bootlake

Looking for past Association information or links to other lake information on the Web -- check out our website. If you have ideas or suggestions for our website contact our webmaster Dan Simms.

His email address:
dsimms@visionsolutions.com

Internet Options at Boot Lake -- by Ken Shepard

Decent Internet service in the Boot Lake area is getting steadily worse. Unless you have a satellite system, with its costs and disadvantages, you have almost certainly given up hope of ever getting broadband connections. The phone service installed by U.S. West (Qwest) was outdated when it was put in, and -- can you believe it? -- it has not gotten better over the years. At present, my maximum download speed, when I can connect, is almost always less than 1.0 KB per second. And my connection never lasts long enough to download a file of any size. Try downloading a 6 MB e-mail under conditions like that!

A system exists which promises to change all that. How about speeds of 1.0 to 1.5 MB per second? How about a monthly charge of \$30? How about being able to tell Qwest to "Stuff it?" Unfortunately, there are problems with this system that may make it unsuitable for us.

The details of this system make it seem a natural for the area. Each customer would have a small antenna (five inches by seven inches) on the roof at home which would receive the low power signals the system uses. The signal would go from house to house, with several boosters around the lake. The whole thing would be fed by an antenna somewhere around the lake reaching above the trees.

We are working with Pete Steiner, Enterpoint from Bemidji, to develop the particulars of a system like this. Check out this link for more details --

<http://www.enterpoint.net/html/netfreedom.html>

Enterpoint already has a similar system running in Bemidji, so they already have experience with such a system. Pete feels he will need to have a minimum of eighty customers (regular and seasonal) to pay for his investment.

And there's the rub. A WiMAX system is microwave based and reaches out 10 miles or so, but the Enterpoint system is not WiMAX. The Enterpoint system can go only a few hundred feet before it needs another repeater to relay the signal on to the next customer. A rough count of potential customers that live right around the lake, counting almost every person, leaves us short by about forty. I seriously doubt that Pete will set up his system with so few customers.

What we can do, at this point, is generate interest and try to find those eighty customers. In addition, we can keep searching for someone to set up a WiMAX system. If you would be willing to subscribe to the Enterpoint system if it becomes feasible, OR if you have any suggestions or ideas for alternative Internet options, email me at: bronsonpage@unitelc.com
Keep the faith.

Mark Your Calendars !!

Sat., May 3, 2008 -- Spring Road cleanup day followed by a Potluck at Pam and Joe Harvala's

Sun., June 8, 2008 -- Association Potluck Picnic at Judy and Jim Theisen's

Sun., August 10, 2008 -- Association Annual Meeting and Potluck at Judy and Jim Theisen's

(Editor Note: Today at Boot Lake we enjoy all the modern day conveniences in our cozy homes, cottages or campers. And as lakeshore development continues we have neighbors popping up on all sides of us. But what was it like before all the year-round retirees, snowbirds and weekend folks started moving in? Below is the first article on what we hope will be a regular feature in our newsletter on how life was "way back when".)

LIFE ON BOOT LAKE, 1945-1955 – by Larry Theisen

How different was living on Boot Lake 50 – 60 years ago? In this piece I will describe some of the conditions from that time that affected the John and Rose Theisen family (Siblings included Pat, John, Bill, Jim, Larry).

Looking back and comparing home conveniences of that period to those of the Theisen home, we were a deep woods family of limited means. The entrance from the county road was one mile of driveway (now designated as East Boot Lake Road). Grass grew in the roadway center between tire tracks and we did all road maintenance (filling pot holes in the spring, summer and fall and plowing snow in the winter). Our mailbox was at the county road (now Boot Lake Drive). Road maintenance was important for the once a week passage of the truck picking up our farm dairy product (cream). The money from sale of cream paid for sugar and flour. All other food was grown on the farm, shot in the woods, or caught in the lake.

Life at the lake improved in the mid-40's when the REA power company brought electricity to the Boot Lake area from Highway 71. We set aside our kerosene powered lanterns and lamps and stopped harvesting ice from Boot Lake. The ice was stored in our icehouse, packed inside sawdust, and used to cool dairy products sold in the spring and early summer.

Utilities included a hand operated outdoor well-water pump and an outhouse. Clothes were washed in Boot Lake water because well water contained minerals that turned wash-water and clothes red. We carried lake water to the house, an especially difficult task in the winter when we opened the ice-locked lake surface using hand chisels. The ice was also opened each day for our dairy cattle to drink (at a different location from our wash water access).

Boot Lake was at the center of many family and neighborhood activities and a convenient transportation route in the winter. Our country school, District 97, was located where Ken and Iris Shepard now live. In the spring and fall we walked to school using the lake route or the road route. The lake route was a through-the-woods trail north along the banks of Boot Lake (then crossing two properties, but now would cross many). The woods route saved about one-half mile of walking and was preferred because it was possible to play-out deep woods games involving creatures and heroism that could be shared later in that one room schoolhouse. In the winter, iced-over Boot Lake was the walking route. The school was visible from our dock area and on very cold mornings (minus 20 or lower) we did not start the journey until smoke was visible from the school chimney. Smoke meant a warm room and a teacher on duty.

Early in the 1950's I became civitified while attending high school in Park Rapids (more showers, less time bathing in the lake). The school bus traveled only the county road so the pick up point was at the mailbox in the spring and fall and across the frozen lake in the winter. In the mid-1950's the deep woods were disappearing and more neighbors appeared at the lake.

What's that spot? It's just a fluke

Have you ever caught a fish that looked like someone had sprinkled it with coarse ground pepper? You bring those fish home, clean them, and find the spots scattered throughout the fillets as well. What you're looking at is called neascus or black spot disease. Neascus is caused by the larval stage of certain flukes that live as adults in fish-eating birds. Herons, kingfishers and even loons are probably the most likely carriers. From the bird droppings it is passed to snails. Fish eat the snails, birds eat the fish, and the cycle continues. The main question from an angling standpoint is: Are these fish safe to eat?

Although unsightly, fish that carry black spot disease pose no health risk to humans. As long as the infected fillets are cooked thoroughly the fish are safe to eat. Black spot disease tends to be more noticeable in certain species such as bluegill and perch. But all fish - including walleyes, northern pike and bass - can carry the parasite. The disease has nothing to do with water temperature or the time of year these fish are caught. Lakes with a lot of vegetation and a high snail population probably have higher populations of fish with black spot disease. Lakes with high populations of fish-eating birds obviously add to the possibility of fish populations acquiring the parasite as well.

Paul Diedrich, DNR fisheries supervisor, said that he's seen black spot disease during the winter and open-water seasons, although he believes it's more prevalent during summer months. According to Diedrich, there isn't anything that can be done to prevent black spot disease. Once the parasite takes hold on a body of water and the fish that inhabit it, it's impossible to get rid of it. We see a few fish with neascus in every lake we sample," Diedrich said. "To some degree, it's in almost every lake." The disease also may be more noticeable in larger bluegills and other adult fish species from time to time. Pete Jacobson, Department of Natural Resources research scientist in Detroit Lakes, said this may be the result of older fish simply spending a longer amount of time in the infected surroundings. "The bottom line is that some lakes have more of it than others," he said. "We see it in a lot of lakes and get a lot of questions about it every year." As far as consumption, Jacobson said anglers can take the tip of their fillet knife and "flick" the parasite out of the meat - that is, if the fillet isn't completely "peppered" with black spot disease. If it is, then it's up to the individual. "I know people are apprehensive when they see it," Diedrich added. "Although they might not look the best, the fillets are fine to eat if cooked thoroughly."

(Reprinted from Mpls Star Tribune Jan 2008)

**Boot Lake Association
General Association Membership Meeting
Sunday, August 12, 2007
Home of the Jim and Judy Theisen**

Current Board of Directors and Officers:

Fred Luckeroth – Chair
George Thelen – Vice Chair
Pam Harvala - Treasurer
Dan Simms – Secretary
Dave Kloss – Director
Larry Kavolak – Director

~Minutes~

Old Business

Treasurer's Report

Currently \$1070.16 in the bank
Expenditures since last year: \$284.30 - picnic, newsletters, dues for Minnesota Waters
37 paid membership for 2006
18 and climbing for 2007

Loon count

12 loons; 0 loon chicks; Lost one loon nest in front of Luckeroth's

Secchi Information

5/3 22ft; 6/7 22ft; 7/4 25ft; 8/7 25ft

New Business

Election of Officers

Bylaws have 2 year term with option for 2nd term. Dan Simms (Secretary) and Fred Luckeroth (Chair) will serve 2nd term. George (Vice Chairman) would like to step down. George would like to see young blood step up.

For vice chair:

Ken Shepherd was nominated, 2nded and vote passed unanimously.

For director position:

Dan Simms nominated Ann Simms, 2nded by Pam Harvala vote passed.

2008 Association Events:

-- Calendar for next year:

-- Pot Luck Picnic -- 6/8/2008

-- Association annual meeting and potluck -- 8/10/08

-- Adopt a road cleanup -

First Saturday of October - 10/6/07 - Pot Luck at Burt and Darleen Swanson's

First Saturday of May 5/3/08 - Pot Luck at Pam Harvala's????

Hubbard county COLA -

The Hubbard County COLA (Coalition of Lake Associations) has created a task force to take action against the spread of aquatic invasive species. Discussion took place on whether Boot Lake assn should make a contribution to the COLA?

Shirley Simonson motioned to contribute \$25.00 to the Hubbard county COLA Task force. Money would go to fund efforts to fight aquatic invasive species.

In favor 11

Opposed 11

Motion was defeated due to tie.

Becker county COLA -

Should Boot Lake join? The cost would be \$3 per member per year. Some discussion took place about the benefits of joining. Some suggested that a team of people attend the COLA meetings and try to find out what it is about. The team would then report back to the association.

Pam Harvala - Motion to join Becker county COLA

Bill Wallschmidt 2nded -

Barb Stecker mentioned that we have discussed this for a long time. The association never joined. Motion was defeated.

Roger Stecker motioned to send an individual to check out the Becker county COLA.

Seconded by George Thelen. Motioned passed.

Roger Stecker, Fred Luckeroth, Pam Harvala will attend the meeting.

Public Access -

There was discussion about improving the boat ramp. Not all agreed that improvement was necessary.

Discussion on function of lake associations: by Pam Harvala.

Pam recommended that we continue to improve our lake association and strive to use it as a vehicle for educating the stake holders in order to preserve the lake for generations to come.

Extension of the Secretary and Chair Person's terms -

Motion to have Dan Simms and Fred Luckerth serve another term - by Pam Harvala, Seconded by Richard. The motion passed.

Boot Lake Citizen Lake Monitoring Program, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency -

Discussion of Report from MN Pollution Control Agency (May 4, 2007). Boot lake water quality is excellent and every effort should be taken to preserve it. The report is posted on the web site. Members are encouraged to read the report. Here is the link:

<http://www.minnesotawaters.org/templates/groups/3953/files/200703%20MPCA%20Citizen%20Lake-Monitoring%20Program%20-%20Boot%20Lake.pdf>

Minnesota's Citizen Lake-Monitoring Program (CLMP) is the largest and oldest volunteer lake monitoring program in the country. Volunteers in the CLMP currently use a Secchi disk to measure the clarity on hundreds of Minnesota's lakes. The expanded program, including the collection of water chemistry samples for analysis along with Secchi transparency collection, was conducted in Becker, Itasca, and Polk Counties in 2006. In Becker County, Boot Lake was selected for monitoring during the 2006 season. All equipment and analytical costs for the samples were provided and paid for by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). Thanks to Roger Stecker for volunteering his time to collect samples and work with the MPCA.

Motion to adjourn. Seconded. Motion passed.
Adjourned at 8/12/2007 1:30:51 PM

Submitted

Dan Simms

Secretary, Boot Lake Association

**Boot Lake Association
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