



BARLOW LAKE NEWS

Summer 2018



Where proper attire is required



“Wow - a fresh new summer and a fresh new newsletter. For many years I attempted to bring something different and informative to the great neighbors of Barlow through the newsletter and for many years asked if someone more capable, better at new age of technology, could help out and add a fresh look. Well, I think we finally found that person and what was a decent newsletter, just got really, really great.

A special thanks to Karen Hale for stepping in to give us all that new look newsletter. Karen brings to us a tremendous amount of experience with association newsletters, additional thoughts on better promoting the lake, a great way to share lake memories, pictures, thoughts and ideas.

Lets take advantage of this. Please send pictures, share memories - new and old, recipes — whatever you have. Send it in. We need your help.

Enjoy what appears to be a late start to summer but hopefully what will be a late fall - after all, its only fair and we do want more time on the water.

- Luke

We all are looking forward to boating, great fishing, awesome fireworks and spending time with family!

ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

President

Luke Miller

Vice President

Mike Cunningham

Secretary

Barb Cunningham

Treasurer

Don Visser

AREA CAPTAINS

Area 1

Jim and Mary Lou Johnson
Luke Miller

Area 2

Greg Oatley

Area 3

Ruth Hubbard

Area 4

Bob & Wanda Hunt
Mike & Marilyn Wagner

Area 5

Terri Duff
Fred Ainsworth
Bernice Heys
Deb Offringa

Area 6

Sue O'Brien

Area captains are representatives for their area along with helping to pass out annual newsletters.



BARLOW LAKE COMMUNITY NOW ON FACEBOOK!

Follow on Facebook!

We created a new facebook page exclusively for Barlow Lake residents to have access to Lake Association reminders, lost and found, share your lake pics, and more. Please help us grow our community!



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Association Spring Meeting

Saturday, June 2

9:00am

Join us for Coffee and Donuts

Yankee Springs Township Hall
284 N Briggs Rd

Agenda items for meeting:
Financial Report • Fireworks
Boat Parade • YMCA Picnic
Fish Program • Weed Control
Agenda items covered first, then
open for discussions

Boat Parade

Saturday, July 7

2:00pm

Fireworks

Saturday, July 7

10:15 pm

YMCA / Lake Association Picnic

Saturday, August 4

4:00pm - 7:00pm

Food served at 6:00pm
Activities: Climbing Wall,
Archery, Zip-line & S'mores

*Hosted by YMCA Camp and open to all
Barlow Lake Residents and family members!*

Association Summer Meeting

Saturday, August 18

9:00am

Yankee Springs Township Hall
284 N Briggs Rd

Summer of 2018



Summer Watermelon Salsa

Ingredients:

- 1 1/2 teaspoons lime zest (from about 1 lime)
- 1/4 cup fresh lime juice (from about 3 limes)
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- Freshly ground pepper
- 3 cups seeded and finely chopped watermelon
- 1 cucumber, peeled, seeded and diced
- 1 mango, peeled and diced
- 1 jalapeno pepper, seeded and minced
- 1 small red onion, finely chopped
- 8 fresh basil leaves, finely chopped
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic salt
- Tortilla or pita chips, for serving

Directions: Stir together the lime zest, lime juice, sugar and 3/4 teaspoon pepper in a bowl. Add the watermelon, cucumber, mango, jalapeno, onion and basil and toss gently. Chill the salsa until ready to serve.

Add the garlic salt just before serving. Serve with chips.



STAY CONNECTED

**Trying to grow
our email list!**

**If you want to stay connected,
send your email address to
association@barlowlakemi.com**

**Don't Forget to follow Barlow Lake
Community on Facebook too!**

History on Barlow~ The Kooiker Cottage

1672 Heritage Bay Drive, Area 1

Soon after WWII in 1944 or 45, Herman and Sue Kooiker from SW Grand Rapids, MI bought a lot on the North West side of Barlow Lake. There were no cottages nearby at this time although the Harmelink's next door had a tent barracks. Herm built a small cottage on the lot using used lumber. His trade was wood working and for a time made wooden toy guns and other toys as well as furniture.

Herm and Sue had 3 children: Fannie (Harold) Pell, Henry (Jean) Kooiker and Tom and Kay Sjoerdsma (now Rotman), 13 grandchildren and many great-grandchildren who enjoyed the lake every summer. On Holidays when the family would stay overnight, all the kids would sleep on the floor in the glass/screened in porch. The kids didn't care; they were up at sunrise ready for a fun day.

Saturday was "lake" day when most of the family came to the cottage. They would arrive midmorning and the day was filled with fun and laughter! Skiing was popular as was water tobogganing. The toboggan was made of wood and 2-3 kids could ride on it behind the boat while holding on for "dear life" depending on who was driving the boat! The toboggan was the forerunner of the "tube".

We all looked forward to "snack" time at 3:00 PM with goodies and "koolaid" and of course, coffee. Supper was always a hamburger fry with potluck with excellent food. After supper a few kids would take the rowboat to the lily pads and look for frogs or find a good fishing hole.

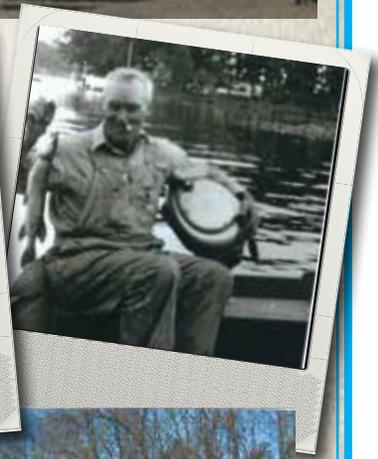
As the family grew, the cottage needed remodeling. Patio doors along with a large deck was added to the front. The garage next to the house was torn down and replaced with a covered deck with several picnic tables, a life saver when it rained.

Sue died in 1978 and Herm passed in 1998 at the age of 99. Herm gave the cottage to his 3 children. Each one had a month at the cottage BUT Saturday was always open for everyone. In 1995 they decided to sell it. Ken (Harold and Fannie's son) and his wife Marcia wanted to keep it in the family so they bought it and are making memories with their children and grandchildren.

I think this comment by Val, Kay's daughter sums it up. "I remember so much of those days! I remember the boats under roofs, taking the docks in and out, raking the old leaves out of the swimming area, laying on the grass with Carol, Vonda, LuAnne and getting fried! I remember waking in the morning to grandpa playing his accordion and grandma making breakfast! I remember going to the lily pads and catching frogs. I could go on and on! My kids even still talk about the good old days at the cottage with cousins! Oh yeah, the cotton candy man on holidays! We sure got our sugar buzz then! Always had the machine on the picnic table and kids would come from all over the lake. Never charged anything!

Barlow Lake has been a special place for the "Kooiker" family!

Article written by
Cheryl Pell



Barlow Lake neighbors and vessel operators;

HELP! Many of you have probably noticed the lake level is at a very high level. In fact, the lake is at its **highest level in more than 30 years**. Many of our neighbor's docks are in the water, some under water and others just above the water. Some seawalls are seeing significant damage from boat wakes going over the seawall while some seawalls are completely underwater. We need to help one another at this time while the lake level is historically high to help protect each other's property and our lake shoreline.

So what can we do?

The easiest and most important thing we can do is understand the impact of your boat wake on the property and shoreline around you. Do NOT operate your boat in a manner that causes a wake that is going to damage a neighbors dock, seawall or shoreline. Barlow Lake has always been a community that is strong on family and caring for each other. It should be relatively simple for each of us to operate our vessels in a safe manor with respect of the property of our neighbors and friends. Simple things to protect the lake shoreline and neighbors property:

Understand which of the lake owner's docks or seawalls are in a condition that your vessels wake could cause damage to the dock or go over the seawall to damage/undermine the seawall structure. Maintain enough distance from these conditions such that your vessel's wake will dissipate before getting to these docks or seawalls.

Safely operate your vessel to comply with the State Laws for clearance of docks, rafts, buoyed markers and the shoreline. State Law requires that both the vessel and persons being towed maintain a clearance of 100 feet from these objects at greater than "no wake" speed. The "Barlow Lake Narrows" are barely 200 feet wide shoreline to shoreline and less than 160 feet wide between the stump buoy and west shoreline. Based on state laws and the size of the narrows you can determine what state law requires for safe vessel operation. We can all agree that the "narrows" are one of the most dangerous areas of Barlow Lake for vessel traffic and one of the most vulnerable areas for shoreline damage due to vessel operation.

Do not operate your vessel to cause a large wake (such as wake boarding or wake surfing) in the "Barlow Lake Narrows" or within a distance from the shoreline that your vessel wake will cause property damage. When enjoying large wake activities, understand your responsibility for your vessels wake and any impact on the shoreline or property owner's seawalls. The best locations for large wake activities are in the larger sections of Barlow Lake, away from the shoreline and NOT through the "Barlow Lake Narrows". Remember that large wake activities are never safe in the "Barlow Lake Narrows" due to both the impact to the shoreline and the limited operation clearance of the shoreline and objects.

None of us wants to be known as the vessel that is damaging our neighbor's property or the lake shoreline or be the vessel operator that results in the DNR getting involved. We don't want to get to a point that our neighbor's property damage continues and they have no option but to get the DNR involved.

DNR involvement could result in long term vessel operation restrictions that could impact the life we love and respect on Barlow Lake.



Together, the neighbors of Barlow Lake can help protect and respect each other's lake front property and the shoreline of Barlow Lake in these times of historically high water levels.

YOUR BARLOW LAKE ASSOCIATION

... (What it is and what it isn't)



The Barlow Lake Association has been around at least since the early 1950's. Based on what I remember and what I have gleaned from browsing through past copies of the association newsletters, my perception of the intent and purpose of the association is that it is supposed to maintain and improve Barlow Lake and the "Barlow Lake" experience for the association members. This intent has been put into practice over the years through many of the same activities we see today.

Such as:

- 1 **Fireworks** – Earl Krol
- 2 **Boat Parade** – Paula Bruinsslot
- 3 **Fish Contest and Planting** – Jordan Huizinga
- 4 **Newsletter & Directory** – Karen Hale, Luke Miller, Mike Cunningham, Area Captains & Lake Contributors
- 5 **Area Bulletin Boards** – Lake Association & Lake Residents
- 6 **Navigation Buoys** – Roger Offringa
- 7 **Water Testing** – Mike & Barb Cunningham
- 8 **Invasive Weed Control** – Progressive AE, Environmental Consultant, Tony Groves
- 9 **Annual Picnic** – Volunteers Deb Mousseau and Donna Cook / Camp Manitou-Lin
- 10 **Annual Meetings** - Association Board

The activities shown above are paid for with the \$40/year dues we all pay. About 70% of the almost 230 Lake Association members pay their dues each year. Over half of the members also give extra towards fireworks and fish planting. It is easy to forget to pay these voluntary dues which is something that happens to all of us occasionally. I would ask that everyone try hard not to forget so that we can continue to enjoy the activities we are used to. I think that, in addition to the activities listed above, the Lake Association provides a sense of community that is hard to prove or describe but would be missed if there was no Lake Association.

What it is not ...

The Barlow Lake Association is not a homeowners association or a condominium owners association and it is certainly not a governmental body. The Association only has control over how it spends the money voluntarily paid as dues by the Association members, the conduct of meetings, creation of the newsletter etc. The Association does not own any property and as such does not have the ability or responsibility to control or maintain any property around Barlow Lake or elsewhere.

We are fortunate that our lake does not have any major problems and that the Lake Association can focus on the enjoyable and beneficial activities listed above.

Mike Cunningham

2018 Association Dues / \$40 per year

Dues for Barlow allows us to continue with fireworks, boat parade, fish stocking and the fish contest!

For those who would like to contribute "extra" you can do so and can have it directed to the fish funds or fireworks – simply select which – or both on the dues sheet and we will make sure to apply accordingly.

Thanks to all those that have paid– we have had some very generous folks adding to fireworks and fish stocking

Please mail your dues to: Don Visser, Suite 150, 2480 44th St SE
Or drop it off to your Area Captain

2017 BARLOW LAKE FISHING CONTEST RESULTS



**DID YOU CATCH THE
BIG ONE?**
Memorial Day-Labor Day

**SEND JORDAN
YOUR PICTURES
WITH DATE AND SIZE**

FISH	FISHER-PERSON	DATE OF CATCH	SIZE
Blue Gill	None Reported	-----	---
Sunfish	Owen Plumert	July 2017	9"
Green Sunfish	Steve VanSickle	5/29/2017	9 ½"
Crappie	Lester Miller	6/24/2017	12"
Perch	None Reported	-----	--
Rock Bass	Peyton Edick	9/2/2017	8 ½"
Smallmouth Bass	Austin Plumert	July 2017	18 ¼"
Largemouth Bass	Lester Miller	7/21/2017	20"
Brown Bullhead	None Reported	-----	----
Black Bullhead	None Reported	-----	----
Walleye	Dale DeYoung	8/13/2017	23"
Northern Pike	Dale DeYoung	8/13/2017	37 ½"
Gar Pike	Hunter & Austin Pitsch	8/20/2017	41"

Trophies awarded for largest fish in each category!

Please contact Jordan at jordanh@vanmanen.com with any and all fish entries.

IMPORTANT BOATING SAFETY RULE!

DON'T HIT ANYONE!!!

Thank You!



SOCIAL ORGANIZERS NEEDED!

GET TO KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORS ON BARLOW!?

Interested in helping organize a Barlow Lake social event?

Golf Outing? Progressive Boat/Cottage Dinner Party? Float Barlow?

Have any fun ideas to get Barlow Lake social?

Contact Karen Hale at khmarketingdesign@gmail.com

or 616-401-6155. Let's Talk!

2018

BARLOW LAKE BOAT PARADE

BARLOW LAKE PARADE OF HOMES

Decorate your Boat and/or Your Home or Yard!



SATURDAY, JULY 7 • 2:00PM START • TURTLE BAY

Our annual boat parade takes on new co-captains, as well as an addition to the holiday spirit, a parade of decorated homes. We are asking home owners and renters to decorate their yards and homes with one or both of our annual themes:

2018 THEMES: PATRIOTIC AND OLYMPICS

Boat Parade Info:

Prizes will be awarded to each boat for the children in attendance. Please contact either Paula Bruinsslot at rbruinsslot2@charter.net or by phone at 269-795-8766 or Terri Woodward via email at terri@watermarkeb.com with an approximate number of children participating (prize items fitting for age of 12ish and under). We want to make sure we have enough for ALL children attending the boat parade. Please let us know by July 2 so we can put together "Goodie Bags". We will have extra for any unexpected guests that you may have so feel free to adjust the number the day of event.

As always, boat line up will be in Turtle Bay, with a starting time of 2:00. Please plan to be ready at the bay shortly before 2:00 so we may begin on time and distribute goodie bags.

Parade of Home Info:

One home will be chosen as "BEST DECORATED" to launch what we hope will become an annual home/yard decorating event celebrating July 4th. The home chosen will receive a SPECIAL PRIZE, AWARD and PICTURE in our famous fall newsletter and hold the coveted title of 1st place winner of the Barlow Lake Best Decorated Yard and Home Parade.

Any questions, please reach out to Paula Bruinsslot or Terri Woodward at the contact info mentioned above.

Looking forward to a fabulous boat parade, warm and sunny day, good times with family and friends and a very safe holiday week.

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**Visit our website for more
information at barlowlakemi.com**

**Please share your photos, articles,
recipes, or any ideas you'd like to see
in the future newsletters.**

Send to association@barlowlakemi.com



**BARLOW LAKE COMMUNITY
NOW ON FACEBOOK!**