

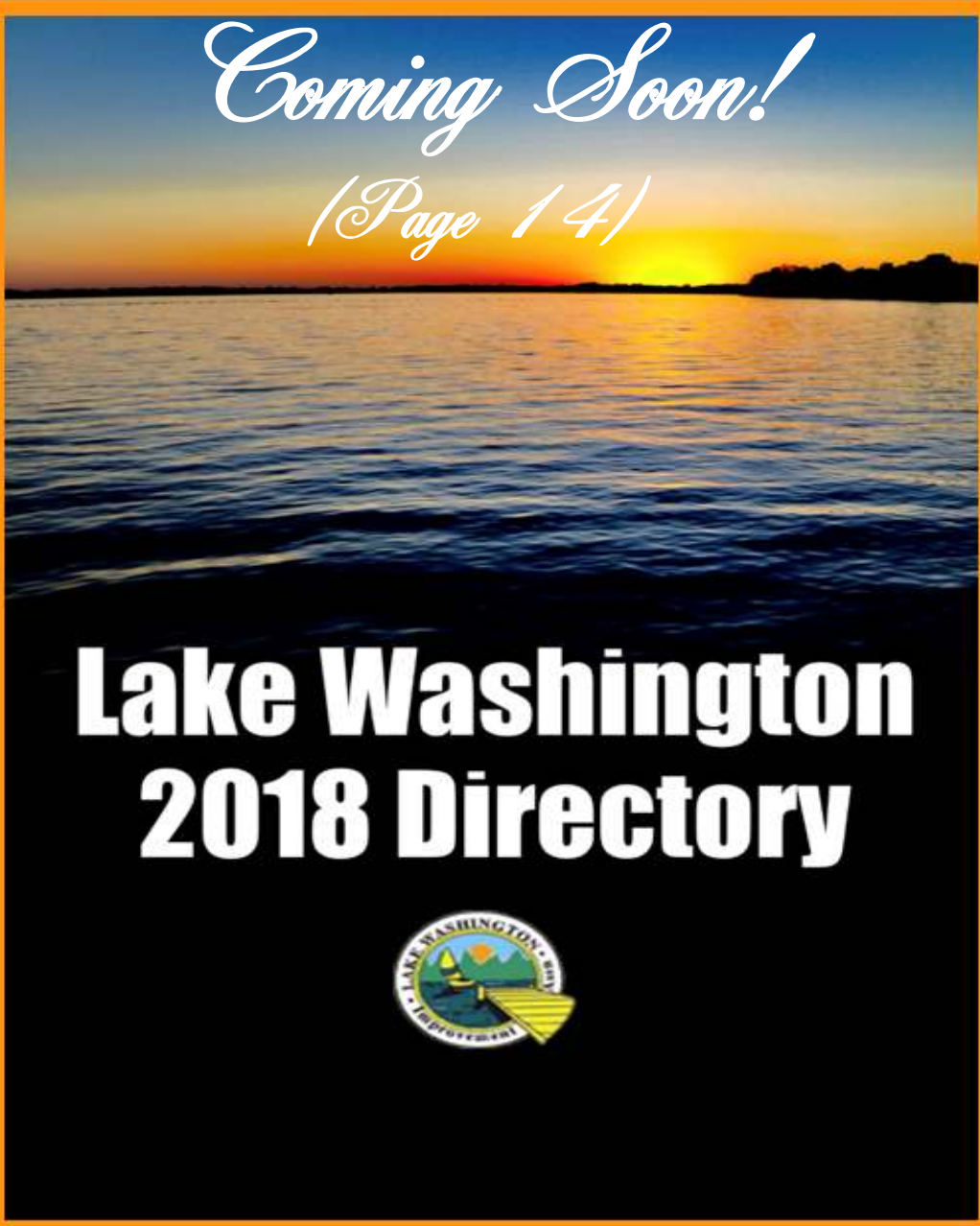


Lake Washington Improvement Association

Spring 2018

Coming Soon!

(Page 14)



**Lake Washington
2018 Directory**



SPRING NEWSLETTER, 2018

Lake Washington Improvement Assn.
PO Box 68 Dassel, MN 55325
www.lakewashingtonassn.com
Email: info@lakewashingtonassn.com

Contact Us



General Issues:

info@lakewashingtonassn.com

Membership Changes:

membership@lakewashingtonassn.com

Lost and Found:

lostfound@lakewashingtonassn.com

The Lake Washington Newsletter is published three times a year (Spring, Summer and Fall) by the Lake Washington Improvement Association. It is distributed free to lake property owners and friends around Lake Washington.



Ice Ridges



Recovered Vehicles



Grant Program



New Contour Map



Pigeon Lake



Zebra Mussels



Water Quality



I-LIDS



Committee Reports

End Of The Dock

By Steve Grotbo, President

I am writing this at the beginning of March while looking over the snow covered lake with people out ice fishing thinking that last year at this time it was open water. Granted it did freeze up again and we ended up with having the official ice out date of [March 27th](#). Hopefully by the time this newsletter gets to you I am able to have the dock in the water. This year will be a bit trickier to get the dock in for many of us on the north side with the ice heaves, where it was the south side that got hit last season.

The annual pork chop dinner falls on Cinco de Mayo this year. I got voted down for trying to make a Mexican theme and serving very hot spicy pork chops. Luckily for you, the same secret spices are going to be used and you get an awesome pork chop dinner. Sandy Wosmek can be bribed if you are wanting the recipe. I am just hoping some people bring tequila for the [May 5th](#) event.

The elections should go pretty smoothly as Cathy Klehr, Steve Ullom, Skip Sustacek, Mike & Sandy Wosmek, and Lyle Walker have their terms ending, but all agreed to run again. Saying that, it would be fun to make this a real election and have others volunteer to run for a board position. Please do keep in mind that you do not have to be a board member to volunteer to help out. Even the tiny gestures of bringing coffee or donuts when you see the watershed committee working on their next project goes a long ways. If you are interested in helping out, please contact any board member for details.

Speaking of helping out, Laurie Johnson is supporting the effort with her expert publishing abilities for the new lake directory. Mark Johnson has taken the lead on this major project. In fact it is a lot of contributors from the board members and the advertisers that make this possible. Everyone will be receiving this soon from your shoreline captain, so be sure to pass on your thanks to Mark and Laurie Johnson for a job well done.

The exciting activity happening this season is “playing” with the new GPS. Okay, so the mapping of the lake project will probably be “fun” for the first few outings, but will soon turn into what seems like “work”. I am just curious to see how many more vehicles this mapping project will uncover in Lake Washington. You can all look forward to receiving a detail lake map in spring of 2019.



Ice Ridges

By Steve Ullom



Ice ridges are caused by the pushing action of a lake's ice sheet against the shore. Cracks form in the ice because of different contraction rates at the top and bottom of the ice sheet. This is especially true in years that the ice sheet lacks an insulating snow cover. Ice cracks also develop because the edges of the ice sheet are sometimes firmly attached to the shore. When water rises in the cracks and freezes, the ice sheet expands slightly. Rising air temperatures warm the ice, leading to additional expansion, which exerts a tremendous thrust against the shore. Alternate warming and cooling of the ice sheet leads to additional pushing action, causing the ice to creep

shoreward and scrape, gouge, and push soil and rock into mounds (called "ice ridges", "ice pushes", or "ramparts").

Remember these DNR rules when repairing your shoreline from damage caused by ice ridges:

An individual permit is required for most projects constructed below the ordinary high-water level (OHWL) of public waters.

An individual Public Waters Work Permit is not required from the DNR to remove or grade an ice ridge if the work meets the following conditions: • The ice ridge resulted from ice action within the last year. • The project is either exempt from local permits or is authorized by issuance of a local government permit. • Not more than 200 feet of shoreline is affected. • All ice ridge material that is composed of muck, clay, or organic sediment is deposited and stabilized at an upland site above the ordinary high-water level. • All ice ridge material that is composed of sand or gravel is removed as provided above or graded to conform to the original cross section and alignment of the lake bed, with a finished surface at or below the OHWL. • **No additional excavation or replacement fill material occurs on the site.** • All exposed areas are immediately stabilized as needed to prevent erosion and sedimentation (see Lakescaping information sheet). • Local zoning officials, the watershed district (if applicable) and the soil and water conservation district are given at least 7 days' notice before beginning the project. Removal or grading of an ice ridge must not disturb emergent aquatic vegetation, unless authorized by an aquatic plant management permit from the DNR's Division of Fisheries. http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/waters/watermgmt_section/pwpermits/ice_ridges.html

Code Red Replaces Crime Alerts

Just a reminder that you can be notified of crime alerts via the Meeker County Sheriff's Office, as described in our 2017 summer newsletter.

Residents are encouraged to visit <https://public.coderedweb.com/cne/en-US/BFA04B497E8D> <<https://public.coderedweb.com/cne/en-US/BFA04B497E8D>> to sign up for CodeRED and immediately start receiving these alerts. Citizens without an Internet connection can call the sheriff's office @ 320-693-5400, ask for Stephanie Johnson (Director of Meeker Co. Emergency Management), or go in and fill out paperwork to get signed up.

Recovered Vehicles

Images Obtained by Tom Hauer

Here are some pictures of the vehicles recovered from Lake Washington this winter. The first is the truck that went down this past year (passengers survived). The next two are pictures of a “stolen” car that had been in the lake since 2003.



2018 Approved Grant Program

By Sharon Daniels, Grant Coordinator

Welcome to Lake Washington 2018!

In the fall of 2017 we applied for grant programs with the MCAL and Meeker County Task Forces for Aquatic Invasive Species. These two organizations met after the first of the year and had robust discussions about the entries, the granting process, and how each of the proposals addressed issues facing the county. Grants were then awarded to various lake associations.

Lake Washington Improvement Association was awarded the following:

- Mecker County Association of Lakes grant of \$2,000.00 for undefined project(s) in 2018.
- Aquatic Invasive Species grant of two items in 2018:
 - Funds to conduct maintenance for the I-LIDS on Ellsworth Landing for \$2,200.00.
 - Funds to chemically treat Eurasian water milfoil for \$5,200.00.

We will be using these grants to help prevent or control the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS) such as milfoil, zebra mussels, spiny water fleas, starry stonewort, etc. Also for monthly water quality testing, I-LIDS maintenance, along with zebra mussel inspections, milfoil monitoring and treatment as needed, tile inlet projects, buffer strips, and holding pond maintenance. All of this to be done with volunteer help, but there are still costs to complete these projects and that is why these grants are so important to LWIA. Should anyone have questions in regards to AIS permits, treatments, etc., you may contact MN DNR AIS specialist, Eric Katzenmeyer at 320-234-2550 x238 or by email at eric.katzenmeyer@state.mn.us.

To all the volunteers that help work on projects during 2018, please email me your amount of “in-kind” volunteer hours as well as any receipts for expenses as soon as a project is completed. My email address: sdaniels@grdaniels.com. I will then forward the receipts to MCAL and or AIS for reimbursement.

Thanks! to all those that volunteer their time and efforts to keep our lake at its best!

Protect Our Wildlife

By Pat Hanson

We need to protect wildlife by transitioning to lead-free tackle. Studies have shown there is no safe level for our children. Did you know a loon, our state bird, can be poisoned by eating one lead fishing sinker and can perish within weeks. Loons need to eat small pebbles to help with digestion. Eagles, our national bird, can also be affected as they eat fish that have recently consumed lead tackle.

So a solution to using lead tackle is to switch to tackle made with tin, steel, and other non-toxic choices which are sold in stores in Minnesota. As we plan to fish on Lake Washington one needs to remember that we can discard our lead lures in our Minnesotan household hazardous waste collection location.

Watershed Report

By Skip Sustacek

This winter was very windy and cold but it was good for safety of the ice. Fishing was very heavy north of our home. Many people coming and going on the lake. The entry to Lake Washington off County Road 4 was updated by a Lake Washington member and was used more than I have seen since we moved here. It was worth the time spent on it. Some reflectors are needed for the night time to help fishing people find the exit off the lake in the dark.

Our fall was very wet, which meant the ditch on the east side of Ellsworth Landing didn't get seeded. As soon as it dries up we will get the seeding done. It is possible we would add some trees or shrubs if needed.

We look forward to working with landowners around the lake and improving the watershed. If you need some help feel free to call 320-241-8454, or anyone on the Lake Board.



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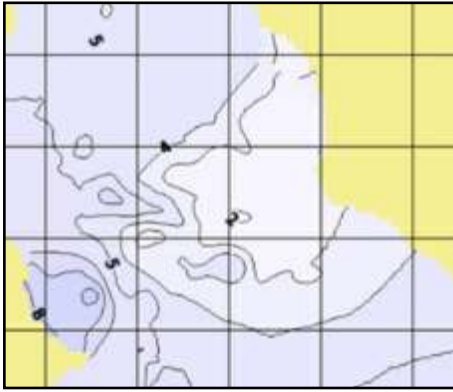
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The advertisement features a light green background with a decorative vine on the left side. The central image is a photograph of a rustic log cabin with a green door and windows, surrounded by a wooden fence and some garden plants.

New Lake Washington Contour Map

By Ron Bubany



The GPS we have been using for the past ten years while surveying vegetation has become obsolete and in need of replacement. Replacement was completed last year and we now have a Humminbird Helix 9 combination GPS and Depth Finder - state of the art!

This unit will be invaluable in making our survey life easier and quicker. But more than that, it gives us the capability to record depths across the entire lake. These recordings can then be processed with special Humminbird software to create a contour map (picture to left is a sample I recorded last fall).

The existing lake map we use is old, inaccurate and of very low detail (contours are five feet apart). Thus the little humps and dips that fish like do not show up on the map. We have therefore developed a plan to develop a new map for Lake Washington with much smaller contour separation.

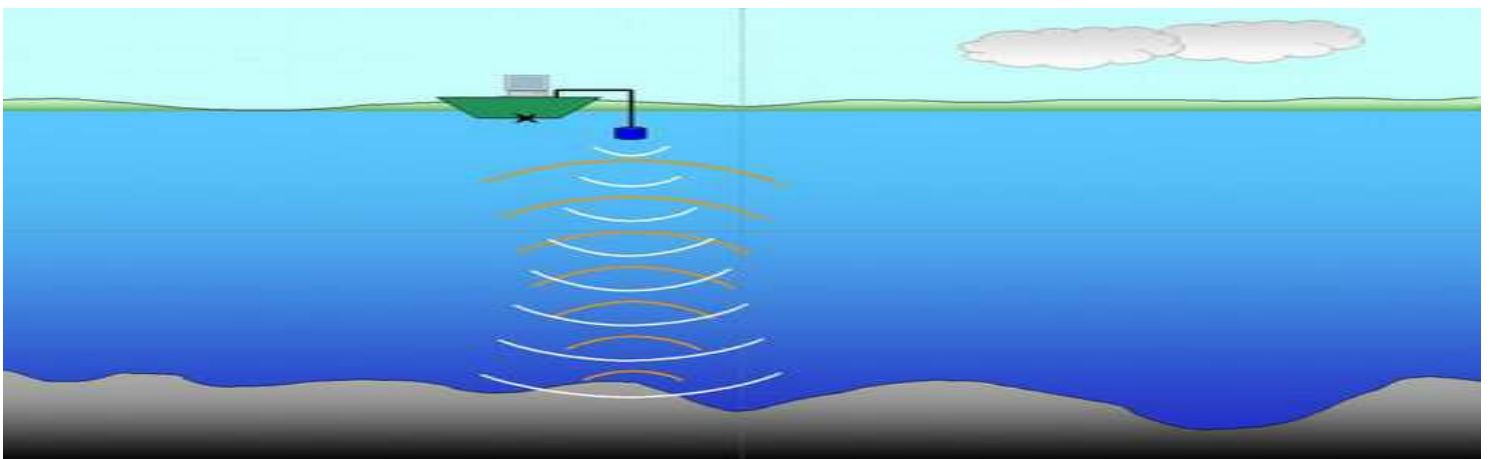
It will take many, many hours of navigation to make the lake recordings, but even so, we have a good number of volunteer boaters to accomplish the job. Mapping will begin immediately this spring after ice out.

Equipment (for those interested):

HELIX 9 CHIRP MEGA SI GPS G2N

- 9" Color Display
- GPS Chartplotting with ContourXD Maps
- MEGA Side Imaging
- MEGA Down Imaging
- CHIRP Digital Sonar
- DualBeam PLUS
- Optional Ethernet Networking
- Optional NMEA2000 Capabilities

Humminbird Autochart Pro PC Software



All About Pigeon Lake

By Dean Shaner

The Pigeon Lake Scenic Overlook

Double Crested Cormorants, Great Blue Herons, White Pelicans, Little Green Herons, Bitterns, and Common Terns are all species that inhabit Pigeon Lake and which may or may not be destroying the lake itself as well as the ecosystems of surrounding lakes. The area known as the Halo Lakes Area contains 30 lakes surrounding Pigeon Lake which contain small bait fish. Bait fish of multiple species for feeding young and adult birds while spending summer on Pigeon Lake from their arrival in spring to migration in late August or September. The adults consume about 1 ½ pounds when feeding their young and 1 ¼ pounds when not. So depending on how many birds of each species are on the rookery a huge number of pounds of fish are taken out of area lakes every season. They consume fish that range from 1 inch up to seven inches in length. They are simply an opportunistic feeder, and not fussy which species to eat. They will upset the ecosystem of a lake if not monitored closely and will travel the shortest distance to the highest population of fish to consume while feeding their young.

Land classifications and how ownership plays a role in MN DNR dealings with each area.

The land the Native American's own is a sovereign nation and they can do whatever they wish on the land (example Leech Lake culling of Double Crested Cormorants). Government owned parcels are controlled by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources which has power to say, yes/no or maybe.

An owner of a private island or other privately owned land, has more power to say what can be done (Example the Island on Lake Waconia). Politicians help in determination of culling of Double Crested Cormorants.

Solution Failures to the Pigeon Lake Problem

There have been two outbreaks of Newcastle's disease where I have personally observed workers in hazmat suits cleaning up dead birds on Pigeon Lake. When you have a disease in a population of birds such as this it is simply a sign the population is in a state of overload and nature must override the system and put it back into balance!!!

Over population and associated destruction of ecosystems in the halo lakes area surrounding Pigeon lake is caused by opportunistic feeding by water bird colonies. The MN DNR has never given our group a true carrying capacity number for the Pigeon Lake / Halo Lakes Area. The first I heard of population numbers was about 700 breeding pairs and now our most recent numbers indicate 4400 breeding pairs. Have we ever heard a true carrying capacity for the ecosystem of the Halo Lake Area??? That would be a point for all parties concerned to know and to work from to set goals to talk about control and to increase the health of the ecosystem!!!

Politicians at the MN State and Federal level have been approached and talked to but to my knowledge have never taken a stand or made any comments about control or studies. I have spoken with Mr. John Kline (retired) Congressman of the 2nd District of which I am a resident. He helped the people of Waconia with cormorant control on Lake Waconia. He suggests returning control to the State DNR of each state which seems to be a simple and common-sense solution to our problem!

All About Pigeon Lake (continued)

Problem

The Minnesota DNR is playing tough guy and ignoring people of the area and not agreeing with what residents believe to be the problem of the Pigeon Lake/ Halo Lakes area. The fish eating water birds are upsetting the fish populations of Pigeon Lake Area/Halo Lakes Areas Ecosystem!

Solution

Identify the carrying capacity of each species population of water birds and cull them to proper capacity that will balance out the Pigeon Lake / Halo Lakes Area ecosystems.

Common Tern



Double Crested Cormorant



Great Blue Heron



Little Green Heron



Pelican



Bittern



Zebra Mussels

By Dave Rathe

This year we plan to locate our zebra mussel settlement plates (hotels) in the same locations as last year (see map below). There was quite a variation in the number of zebra mussels on the hotels last year. I suspect this will change and even out this year due to the increase in the population in the lake. I also believe we are in the exponential population growth phase for zebra mussels, so expect to see an explosion come this fall when we collect the hotels for analysis (I hope I'm wrong).



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Zebra Mussels (continued)

I attended a WebEx virtual meeting hosted by the MPCA and the guest speaker was Tina Wolbers, Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Planner with the MN DNR. She indicated the DNR was only treating lakes for zebra mussels where the infestation is localized in a small area, no adult zebra mussels have been found, and the lake has no inlet or outlet to any other body of water. This means there are still no treatment options for Lake Washington.

I asked Dr. Michael McCartney (Research Assistant Professor of the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center) what new developments there were regarding zebra mussel research. This was his reply:

“We are moving forward with genotyping mussels from all over Minnesota and all of the Great Lakes proper (except for Ontario) with the genomic (SNP) markers, and that is looking really good. We have completed sequencing the zebra mussel genome and the assembly is chugging along. We have new collaborations with synthetic biologists and with a social scientist to start work on applying CRISPR/Cas9 and another ingenious biocontrol technology to mussels.

Also, just as an FYI, we have Lake Washington and several other lakes in the region between Hennepin and Douglas counties in the cue to be analyzed for SNPs but we have not yet received the data--should get it in the next couple of weeks.”

SNP = small nucleotide polymorphisms

CRISPR/Cas9 = Lab protocol that cuts/deletes DNA in a specific location and then can be used to replace a single nucleotide.

Thanks to all of the folks who are letting LWIA use their docks for hotels again this year. There is no need to check the hotels or report findings during the summer this year, as we know the hotels are going to have zebra mussels, but you can if you want. We will do a count and analysis this fall when we pull the hotels.

Thanks also to Mike Wosmek for his help with distributing and collecting the hotels.

Zebra Mussel Hotel (settlement plate)



Water Quality Testing

By Dave Rathe

We are planning to do water quality testing again this year. We will take water clarity readings (using a secchi disc) starting in May twice a month at 5 different sites around the lake. We'll also be taking water samples once per month, at one site, which is at the deepest part of the lake. Then the water samples will be analyzed for phosphorus (nutrients in the water) and chlorophyll-A (a measure of algae concentration). Our testing will conclude in September and the results of the tests will be reported to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and the chemical analysis results will be available on the RMB Environmental Labs website. The MPCA is changing and improving their water quality analysis protocol this year based on the data we provide, so it will be interesting to see how the new analysis affects the results. MPCA is looking for long-term water quality trends in the 8-10 year range.

Based on my review of the data taken from 2006 to 2017, I believe the water quality is improving slightly. It will be interesting to see how the water quality changes as our zebra mussel population increases. Each zebra mussel filters around 1 quart of water per day.

Dean Shaner, Tom Hauer, Skip Sustacek, and Dave Rathe did the water quality testing last year and are expected to volunteer again this year.



Dassel Rod & Gun Club



Spring Fish Fry!

Friday, April 20th

Fish served from 11:00am to 7pm

Fried Alaskan Pollock
Au Gratin Potatoes, Cole Slaw, Baked Beans, Bread, Milk, and Coffee
Pop and Setups Available

at Sportsman's Park on Lake Washington

Adults - \$12.00
Children under 12 - \$5.00



I-LIDS (Internet – Landing Installed Device Sensor)

By Dave Rathe



This year we plan to setup the I-LIDS system again at Ellsworth Landing prior to the fish opener. It will operate throughout the summer and into the fall.

I-LIDS monitoring continues to provide oversight of boaters visiting Lake Washington especially when inspectors cannot be there. Last year we saw people react to the audio message, read the sign, and then inspect their boat and trailer for attached plants before launching and after pulling out of the lake.

The DNR has no plans for watercraft inspection at the landing this year, however, the DNR does plan to have a decontamination station at the landing for part of the year. With this reduced inspection this year, the I-LIDS system is our main-line of defense against further infestation from aquatic invasive species (AIS).

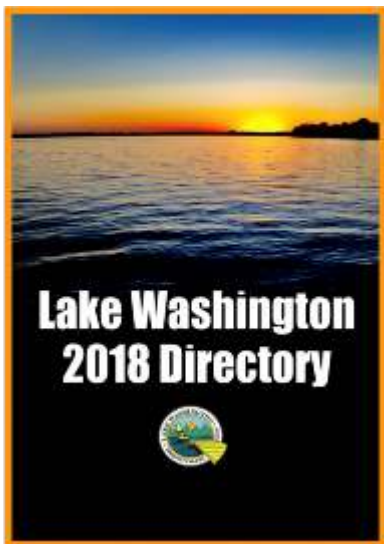
We are installing a new feature to the I-LIDS system. It is a magnetic sensor to identify when a vehicle is present at the launch, then playback audio messages, and alert the camera to record. This should reduce false triggers from people and animals walking past the camera.

Tom Hauer and Dave Rathe will be installing the system this spring and monitoring the boat launch videos.

Remember, when you are launching or landing your watercraft – Clean, Drain, Dispose, Dry.

Oh, don't forget the drain plug. As my son said very loudly one time at a very busy landing, to my embarrassment "Dad, we're sinking".

Coming Soon - Membership Directory



Every five years (or so) we publish the Membership Directory. It contains not only a list of persons around the lake, but also a wealth of facts and history about Lake Washington.

Every effort is being made to have this available to the Shoreline Captains so they can distribute the directory when making their spring rounds.

Many "kudos" to Mark Johnson for taking on this difficult and time consuming task.

Please look forward to getting your copy and placing it at a prominent place on your coffee table.

Committee Reports

SHORELINE CAPTAINS/MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

By Cathy Klehr

Your membership to Lake Washington Improvement Association is needed and appreciated to continually maintain the quality and beauty of our lake. Please take time to fill out the **enclosed Membership Registration Form** and return it in the envelope provided.

Thank You for your support.

Our board has been busy over the last six months putting together the new **2018 LWIA Lake Directory**. Our plans are to have them available for distribution by the Shoreline Captains starting Memorial weekend. Special Thanks to all for their time and effort in pulling this project together. Well done!

If you are interested in volunteering your time in any way, please contact me (see link below) or any board member. You can also attend our annual Shoreline Captains Kickoff Meeting in May.

For changes of address, phone, e-mail or any other information, please contact us at membership@lakewashingtonassn.com

FINANCE / FUND RAISING COMMITTEE

By Lyle Walker

There has been little financial activity since the end of the season last fall. That will change now with the arrival of spring and 2018 membership renewals along with the start of the many activities that are the Lake Association. We begin this season in a strong financial position with total funds of \$125,400.



Committee Reports (continued)

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

By Sandy Wosmek



As I sit this morning with my cup of coffee ---

- Daylight savings time has come,
- The calendar says spring has arrived,
- It must be time for "Lake Season".

Hope all had a safe, happy, healthy winter. The board members have met a few times already discussing 2018 activities and events.

DATES TO REMEMBER -----

Saturday, May 5 -----Annual meeting ----- Dassel Rod and Gun Pork Chop Dinner

- Social Hour -- 5 PM (please bring your own refreshments)
- Dinner -- 6 PM

Free pork chop, bean casserole, potato chips, coleslaw, bread, brownies, coffee/koolaid. Pork chops from Benny's Meat Market. Once again B & B Sports is paying for the chops. Please thank them when doing business with them.

- Meat Raffle & program to follow meal --
 - Committee reports
 - Board Election
 - Open Discussion

Another date for later in the summer ----- Saturday, August 4 ----- Pot Luck

More info on that in the summer newsletter.

Hope to see many of you at the May Annual Meeting.

