

A Note From the Editor

Welcome to the Clark Lake Association Newsletter!

This newsletter will be issued on a quarterly basis...November, February, May, and August. The intent of this newsletter is to keep lake residents informed of news and events happening within the Clark Lake community. Anyone wishing to contribute a photo or an article for the next newsletter publication should submit it to Terry Schneider at Carters2052@sbcglobal.net by August 25th, 2025.



A Message from the Clark Lake Association President... Mike Brunet

Greetings:

Welcome to a cool start to Summer. I am writing this over Memorial Day weekend. While you are enjoying this weekend with your family and friends, take time to remember those that have given their life for your freedom. Tell your children and grandchildren why we celebrate Memorial Day. If you are enjoying your freedom, please thank a Veteran.

As Clark Lake comes to life this Spring, Your Board members have been busy planning and organizing event for your family create memories, meet other members, and have fun. Please attend these events starting with CLAA Welcome Back to Summer at Island Fever in June. The buoys are in, the boat launch dock is in, the no parking lines and boat launch lines have been repainted, and some progress is being made on educating members and the public how use of wake enhancing devices are causing ill effects to shallow inland lakes.

Thank you to the many volunteers that put in the docks, collected well water samples this Spring, sent out the social events survey, and painted the lines at the boat launch area. If you see any of these volunteers, please take the time to say Thank You. CLAA is doing great things for the betterment of the lake.

Continuation of Clark Lake Association President... Mike Brunet

While the CLAA officers and Board members are working on goals, plans, and budgets for the upcoming year for next year, we are open for suggestions and events that will provide members a chance to gather together and meet new members around Clark Lake.

Our ramp donations are voluntary, but many have asked about making an annual donation and receiving an annual sticker to eliminate donations each time they launch their boats, kayaks, or canoes. CLAA has listened to them. In 2025, CLAA will be providing annual stickers. Please see separate article.

I want to emphasize four main items:

VOLUNTEER and JOIN - The CLAA Team works hard to plan and run a number of family events, but we need your help to make them successful. CLAA has changed a few of them, dropped some, and added some to increase your participation. I am asking the members to contact our Board members to provide feedback about why you did not attend/participate and discuss what we can do better to increase your involvement. If you have paid your dues or your neighbors have not joined, please tell them the great things we are doing and how it affects them.

CLAA really needs your help and participation to make these events successful. CLAA is short a number of Board members. CLAA needs chair persons for the Water Quality and Vegetation Committee, Social Committee, the Fish and Wildlife Committee. A number of members and Board Members have stepped up to chair a number of the WQVC projects, but CLAA still needs a chairperson to coordinate all these important activities. You are not required to be a Board member to chair a committee or event or volunteer on projects such as Ridges dock removal and installation, boat ramp education and inspection. Please see CLAA website (clarklakewi.com), (not Clark Lake Facebook) for committee duties or calendar of events. But we cannot do it alone. Please get involved and give us a few hours of your time and talent.

WAKE SURF BOATS – in 2024, The Board decided unanimously to work on an ordinance to prevent the activity of artificially enhanced wakeboarding devices on Clark Lake. In order to create this protection for the lake and its users, both Sevastopol and Jacksonport townships must pass essentially identical ordinances. Sevastopol Park and Recreation Committee voted in January 2025 to table the ordinance one year. Jacksonport, though they passed the ordinance along with Baileys Harbor for Kangaroo Lake, has been silent with respect to its position on wake boating on Clark Lake.

Continuation of Clark Lake Association President... Mike Brunet

The CLAA Board voted to join the Wakesports Reform Coalition with 75 plus member organizations to support the effort at the state level to limit these devices to 700 feet from shore, in depths greater than 30 feet, have certification of ballast tank decontamination before entering the lake, and continued support for local municipal control of the lakes. Our Clark Lake cannot protect itself from the environmental hazards known to occur from operation of artificially enhanced wake boats in waters that are too shallow and areas too close to shore. Any questions, please contact Gwenn Graboyes.

CLARK LAKE DAM – The concrete in the spillway portion of the Clark Lake Dam was repaired in Fall 2024. This has allowed the horizontal fish grates (fish fingers) to be supported above the usual water levels in the downstream Whitefish Bay Creek. Issues still exist. Spring ice breakup, melting snow and spring rains raise the water level above the fish grates. Spawning fish can breach the dam possibly allowing Lake Michigan fish to bring diseases that could decimate our fish population, specifically Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS). CLAA has been working with the Town of Sevastopol to understand and to improve the outflow of Clark Lake and Whitefish Bay Creek. One item is the undersized culvert on County Road WD. In the interim, the boards in the dam are removed/added to maintain the DNR established levels and keep the water level below the fish grates. Any questions, please contact Gwenn Graboyes.

MEMBER BOOK – CLAA will be publishing another edition later this summer, so please let us know of changes to your contact information and changes of property ownership.

I hope everyone will have a safe and enjoyable Summer. Please keep an eye on neighbors' places when they are away. Thank you for the taking the time to get involved in the betterment of Clark Lake.

Mike Brunet



Clark Lake Rummage Sale in August

There are numerous individuals on the lake who have expressed interest in bringing back the Clark Lake Rummage Sale. This will probably take place mid August. We need to have a reasonable number of participants to make this a successful event. If you would like to participate, please contact Christine Moe at <u>camoe12@hotmail.com</u> to confirm your participation!

Directions For Boat Ramp By Tim Temby

NEW! Annual Boat Launch Sticker Available for West Shore Ramp

Due to popular demand, we're excited to offer an **annual boat launch sticker** for the west shore ramp.

Cost: \$35 (voluntary fee)

You have two options to purchase the sticker:

- 1. By Mail:
 - Send a check for \$35 payable to CLAA
 - Include the name and mailing address of the sticker holder
 - Mail to: CLAA
 P.O. Box 255
 Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235

2. At the Launch Site:

- Place \$35 in the ramp envelope at the west shore launch
- Be sure to include your name and mailing address so we can send the sticker

Sticker Details:

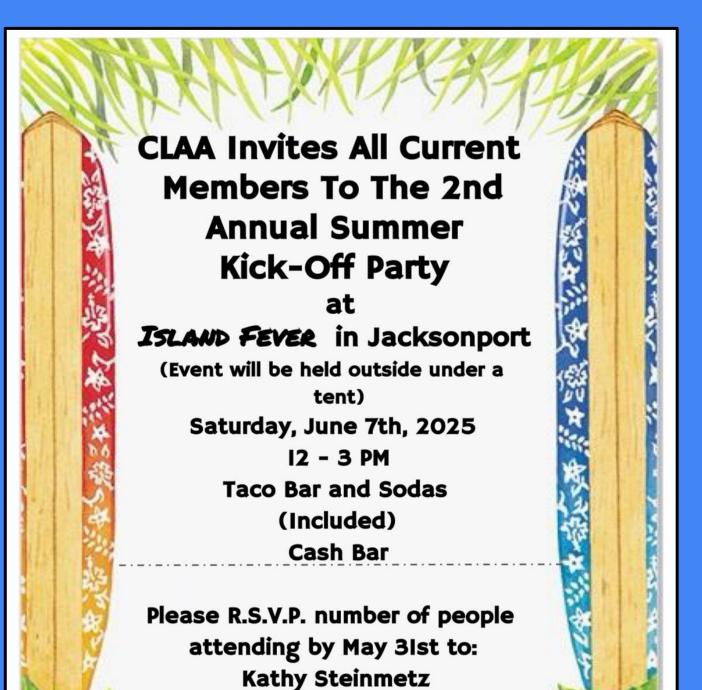
- Valid for the current calendar year
- Each sticker displays the year and features a unique color that changes annually

Prefer to pay per use?

Daily use is still available for a **\$5 fee per launch** —just use the ramp envelope at the site as usual.

Thank you for supporting the maintenance and improvements of our lake facilities!

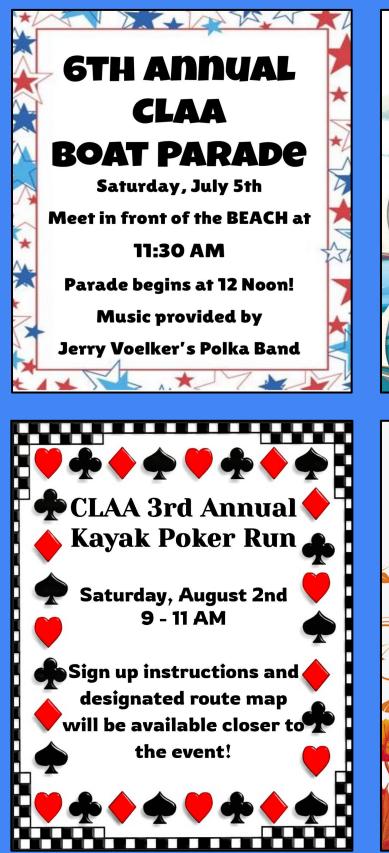
Upcoming Social Committee Events



Email: kmsteinmetz12@gmail.com

Phone: (414) 467-9444

Upcoming Social Committee Events





CLAA ANNUAL

MEETING

Saturday, July 19th

9:00 AM

At Jacksonport

Town Hall

Thank You Mark Weisse

Mark Weisse, a longtime resident on Clark Lake, is officially retiring from his volunteer duties with the association. The CLAA would like to acknowledge and thank Mark for his dedication and commitment to making our lake environment a better place to live. Here are Mark's own words for giving up his leadership roles. Thank you, Mark, for your service to our organization!

I am stepping down from the role of WQVC chair because of family health issues, but encourage all of you to manage your property to lessen your footprint and choose to treat the lake gently while enjoying her pleasures.

My wife Patty and I purchased a cottage on Clark Lake in 1983. We were attracted by the quietness, small family cottages and relative lack of development. In addition there was ample opportunity for families, even with small children, to bike on the quiet roads, hike at the dunes, paddle, swim and fish in near solitude.

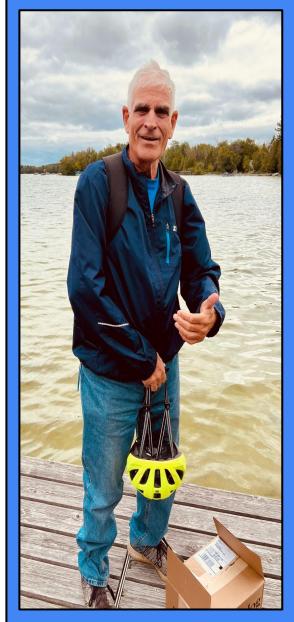
In 2010 we retired here to our current home on the cheap side of the road across from the lake. This location, surrounded by undeveloped property and ample wildlife, gave us a new perspective and appreciation of undisturbed nature.

About that same time I was asked to serve on the CLAA board and volunteered to assist with the phragmites program championed for many years by Paul Schumacher. When Paul stepped back and I transitioned into the role of not only phragmites but also Water Quality and Vegetation Control (WQVC) chair.

I shaped WQVC with the idea of refreshing the goals set forth in the 2005-2006 UW-SP study. Members who had previously volunteered for various projects were invited to join so they were able to champion specific aspects of the recommendations. We set up a plan of education, data monitoring, continuation of existing programs and a special focus or project each year. Our intention has always been to emphasize individual responsibility for stewardship of our land and the lake.

Our biggest challenge was and continues to be not only publicizing the goals among all lake owners but effecting changes in behavior to ensure preservation of what we hold dear about the lake. Threats from larger and faster boats, increased hardscaped waterfronts, larger homes and yards, greater density of buildings, loss of protected lands, increased road traffic and noise all abound.

Only by each of our small contributions will we be able to realize the greater cause of preservation of Clark Lake.



General Lake Announcement Do's & Don'ts On The Water...

All people who put their motorized watercraft into Clark Lake...please read. Buoys are placed at specific locations in the water on the lake. They are placed there to indicate water depth and to protect delicate vegetation along the shoreline. When using motorized watercraft, please respect the NO WAKE ZONES along the shoreline of the lake. Please remind your visitors and guests to follow suggested wake procedures so that Clark Lake is a safe lake for all to enjoy and use.

Please do not capture minnows and use them for bait! Use store bought bait!

Fish for carp and remove them from Clark Lake! Dispose of properly!

WISCONSIN BOATING REGULATIONS

It is unlawful to operate a motor-boat within 100 feet of any dock, raft, pier, or buoyed restricted area on any lake at a speed in excess of ..."slow-no-wake". (Includes the public swimming beach)

It is unlawful to operate a personal watercraft faster than "slow-no-wake" within 200 feet of any shore on any lake.

LOCAL ORDINANCES

SLOW-NO-WAKE ZONE

It is unlawful to operate a watercraft faster than "slow-no-wake" in two areas of bulrushes in East Bay as shown on the map and marked by regulatory buoys.

 Town of Sevastopol
 Town of Jacksonport

 1-21-08 Ordinance 2007-04
 1-22-08 Ordinance 03-2007 No-Motor-Zone

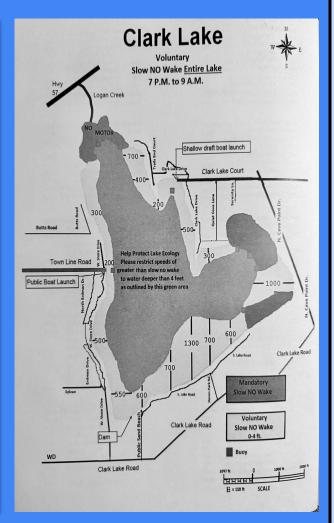
It is unlawful to operate a watercraft propelled by electric motors or internal combustion engines in the North End of Clark Lake and up Logan Creek to Hwy 57 as shown on the map and marked by regulatory buoys. A watercraft may be operated in the "no-motor zone" as long as it is not propelled by an electric motor or internal combustion engine.

Town of Jacksonport

12-16-08 Ordinance 03-2008

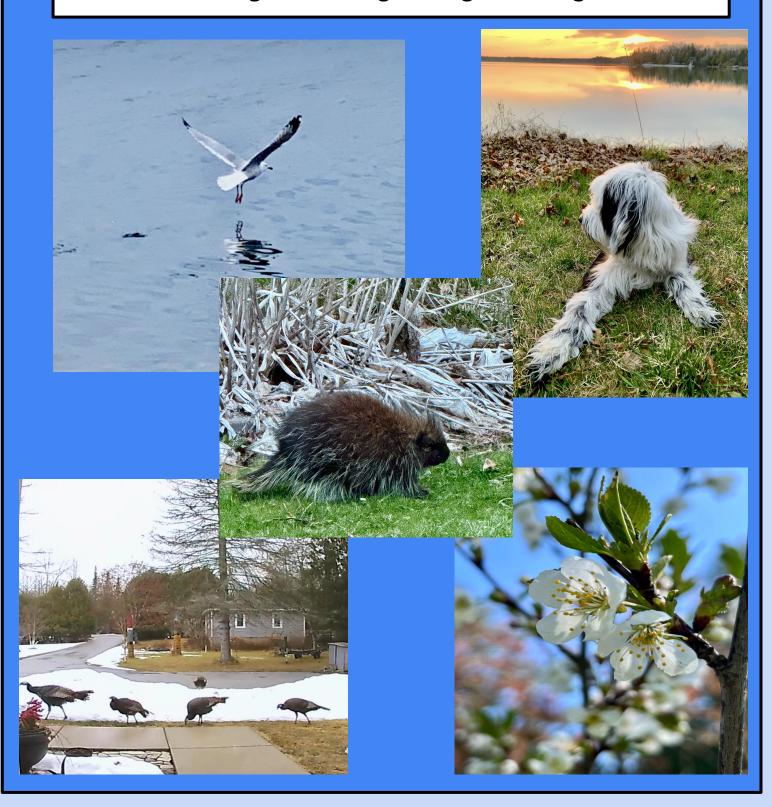
Report Violations to the DNR 1-800-847-9367

The Clark Lake Advancement Association asks you to respect a voluntary slow-no-wake period for personal watercraft, waterskiing and similar towing activities before 9 am and after 7 pm.



Spring Awakening Around Clark Lake

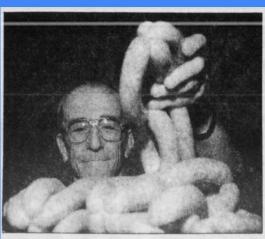
It's been a cool spring. Blossoms are later this year. I'm used to seeing turkeys and deer around the cottage. It's been six years since I've seen porcupines in the yard...Yikes! It's a bit nerve wracking when taking the dogs out at night!



A Bit of History...with Carol Kerscher



The name Kerscher is well known in and around Clark Lake. In 1958 Kim Kerscher and his father, Lawrence, took over the grocery store in Valmy and it became known as the Foodland grocery. Jim managed the grocery part of the business and Lawrence was in charge of meats. Their brats were renowned in the county. Jim's wife, Carol worked at the store, and some of us still own the T-shirts she stocked on the shelves. Niki Kaftan who spent childhood summers on Bark Road near Whitefish Bay, remembers the Kerscher's store in the early 1960s. She was quoted in The Pulse saying, "Such a wonderful place with Mr. Kerscher making his own sausages, and later his son, Jim, carrying on the tradition. Mrs. Kerscher manned the checkout counter and knew every customer by name. As kids, we were allowed to drop in and pick up groceries, maybe some candy and a comic book, and just say, 'Put it on our bill.' This place was definitely the center of our summer community." The Kerschers ran the store in Valmy for 46 years until it was taken over by the Welsings.



Sausage stack: Jim Kerscher, owner of Kerscher's Foodland grocery store, weighs homemade brats on a scale.



Kerscher History continued...



Carol Kerscher has a long-standing connection to Clark Lake and the Valmy area. Back in the early 1950s, Carol's grandfather, Charles Stoeger, and Carol's father, Ernest Stoeger, moved a house from Clark Lake Road to a piece of property on the West Shore of Clark Lake. Carol was about 8 years old at the time. Modifications were made to the home to make the structure into a cottage. Red brick was removed as were some of the gables in the roof. An artist's depiction shows what the home looked like before being moved. That cottage home no longer stands. Carol Kerscher and her husband, Jim, bought a cottage for a "Real Deal" near the bend of West Shore. It had limited provisions so after 3 years, that cottage was torn down and rebuilt. The existing cottage, since remodeled, at 5435 West Shore Drive belongs to Carol's son, Tom Kerscher, today. Tom's three brothers, Ron, Jimmy, and Terry, also own a cottage or property on the lake. Clark Lake has remained a special place for the generations of the Kerscher family. Carol's husband, Jim, has passed away, but Carol remains living in her home in Valmy across from the store.

