

PINE LAKE ASSOCIATION



WE'RE ON THE WEB:
WWW.PINELK.ORG

June, 2012 – www.pinelk.org

Pine Lake Association Board

President
Scott Cook
president@pinklk.org
664-5098

Vice-President
Won't YOU
Volunteer?

Secretary
Don Haneckow
secretary@pinelk.org
664-6677

Treasurer
Kathy Yarworth
treasurer@pinelk.org
978-8067

Sergeant-at-Arms
Ed Kornetti
sergeant-at-arms@pinelk.org
664-4830

Secretary's Comments

Membership Drive

We have had a fairly successful membership drive this year with over 200 households joining the association and making donations for the fireworks and the buoy fund. There has just been a second mailing of the dues invoice and donations letter as a helpful reminder to those you have not made a commitment to the lake activities. Reminder, the fireworks will be funded though this solicitation for donations and we will no longer be doing a raffle.

Fireworks

As much fun as the fireworks raffle has been in the past, and as good fund raising project as it was, it is a very time consuming project for the leader and the many fine folks who helped sell tickets. This year we did not have anyone come forward to chair and or coordinate the raffle so it did not happen. If someone wants to chair this committee and take on this endeavor, please contact one of the Board members and we will help you get set for the next year.

Here is an explanation of what the funding stream for the fireworks is now. We are going to take the money raised through the raffle last year, the donation coin boxes, and donations received through the annual membership and donations drive to ensure that the fireworks in 2012 will be equal to what we had last year. Any money raised above the amount needed to match last year's fine display, will be held as seed money for next year's fireworks. By doing it this way, we should always have a minimal base amount to ensure some type of fireworks display in subsequent years.

Volunteers

We as Board Members are volunteers. We do not get paid for our time and efforts and we have full time jobs and or other obligations besides the PLA. For this reason when no one comes forward to chair and or assist with various projects, we do not have a choice but to no longer hold these events. I find this somewhat of a puzzle because we usually have a great time when we get together to do these projects, if not during, usually soon there after, during "debriefing". We have more members in the PLA then we have had in a long time, possibly ever, so let's hope we can get a few dozen volunteers to help out. Just let one of the Board members know you are interested in helping out, or watch the "Facebook" page or the web site for upcoming projects.

Elections

The annual meeting is scheduled for June 9th at 9:00am at the cabin at MCTI. We ask that you talk to your friends and neighbors and come forward with some candidates to run for the offices of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Sgt. at Arms. We are again coming to a critical juncture on the lake with the weeds, high water, and invasive species, and we will need much help and input to make good, well reasoned decisions that will impact our quality of life for years to come.

What do you think?

What impact would having 4 Mile Road paved from Lindsey Rd to Enzian Rd or even Norris Rd have on your driving habits?

Would you change the route you take to Delton, Richland, Kalamazoo, or Battle Creek?

Would it change the route you drive to work?

Do you think it would have a significant impact on traffic on Doster Rd?

Let us know your thoughts on this.
You can mail your comments to

“4 Mile Rd”, PO Box 3, Plainwell, Mi. 49080
Or you can e-mail them to secretary@pinelk.org
use the subject line “4 Mile Rd”

Or you can chat this up at the Pine Lake Association Facebook Page use “4 Mile Rd” as the topic.

What other topics or items would you like to put out for the residents of the lake to discuss? Send them to the Secretary either at the post office or the email address.

Thoughts for Appealing Your Tax Assessment

Plan ahead by speaking with your local assessor.

If you feel your value is too high, verify your reasons, gather facts and then pursue a correction.

Compare your records and thoughts with the assessor's and look for differences. For example, discrepancies in the square footage, or in the number of rooms or any other item affecting value should be explained.

Speak with the assessor about facts that you think are either erroneous, missing or should be considered.

Most assessors will automatically correct errors of fact when they are discovered and you will not have to appear before the board of review.

If you must appear before the board of review, you will have to present facts and show what you believe your property's value should be.

Documentation includes:

- ✦ examining sales the assessor may offer as evidence of the value of your property.
- ✦ Finding recent sales of properties comparable to yours
- ✦ Make a comparison of average selling prices per square foot for properties that have been used by either you or the assessor.
- ✦ Examine comparable properties for obvious differences between them and your property: look at age, lot size, condition, number of bedrooms and bathrooms, pools, garages etc. In the case of Lakefront property also consider frontage dimensions

Gathered from various on-line sources



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Pine Lake Garage Sale Information

Yes, the much anticipated all Pine Lake Garage Sale is coming again in June. Great time to sort out those items you do not need. An application/ registration for this event can be found in the May PLA newsletter, or you can download a registration from the PLA web site.

The all Pine Lake Garage sale is going to happen on Friday and Saturday, June 22 and 23, 2012. If you are a member of the Pine Lake Association your registration is free. You get placed on the universal list of sale locations, your location gets placed on a map, and you get a sign on your feeder street indicating that there are garage sales on your street. If you are not a member of the Association, we welcome your participation and we are asking a mere \$5.00 fee to cover costs of printing and administration of the sale.

Hurry, your application should be received by Monday, June 18, 2012 in order to be placed on the list and to get your sign. You need to send in an application whether you are a PLA member or not so we know where everyone is that is participating.

Send your application to:
Garage Sale,
PO Box 3,
Plainwell, Mi. 49080

Calendar of Events

PLA Meeting
Sat., June 9, 9AM, MCTI Lodge

Garage Sales
Fri. & Sat., June 22 & 23

4th of July Events (watch website & Facebook)
Car Show at the Diner, TBD
Fireworks, Tues., July 3rd
Boat Parade, TBD
Turtle Races, Wed., July 4th

PLA Meeting
Sat., Aug. 16, 7PM, Fire Barn

Annual Pig Roast
Sat., Aug. 25 (tentative)

Buoy Pull-Out
Sat., Sept. 22 or Sept. 29

Hey everyone! Got a basement, garage or attic full of STUFF?
Want to make some money on it? Then join us for the . . .

ANNUAL PINE LAKE GARAGE SALES

Friday, June 22nd 9-5 & Saturday, June 23rd 9-3

Cost is \$5.00 for the event.

Here's the "great" news . . . if you are a Pine Lake Association member, then the event is free!!!

Please fill out the application below and send it to me before Monday, June 18th in order for the location of your sale to go on the lakewide maps that will be handed out. Thanks, and have a great summer!

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

\$5.00 check enclosed I am a PLA member

Please send to:
Garage Sale,
P.O. Box 3
Plainwell, MI 49080



Boating Safety

The following information was provided to us from Sgt. Julie Jones of the Barry County Sheriff's Department Marine Patrol. She responded to an article that was posted on the Pine Lake Facebook page that talked about recent laws signed by Governor Snyder. The article alluded to no longer having safety inspections or being stopped for "life jacket count" along with other changes on access to the water from roads and access points. We thank Sgt. Jones for her comments and Sheriff Leaf for supporting the Marine Patrol..

Thank you for your inquiry. The article you have referenced is written as a brief overview with partial information and implies law enforcement officer have less authority to make boat stops. Not exactly accurate. After talking with the Captain and DNR, I believe the wording changed but the authority of the Marine Officer is the same.

Laws are often written with burdensome language and some difficult to interpret. (Reference House Bill 5110, Public Act 451, Section 80166 and 80166a.)Your attached article states, "Another new measure takes away officers' ability to stop boaters and make sure they have adequate floatation devices. The governor's office said, "Stops without reasonable suspicion of violation are an unnecessary hindrance for boaters." I am not certain what the governor's office actually said but the new law has simply removed the words which once said, "Except for the inspection of a vessel to determine the number and adequacy of personal floatation devices on a vessel"... then says, "A peace officer shall not

stop and inspect a vessel bearing the decal described in section 80166a... (those vessels bearing the safety inspection stickers.) ...without reasonable suspicion. (nutshell version)
Law enforcement officers are not prevented from stopping a vessel and checking for personal floatation devices, it simply provides a guideline for law enforcement by requiring them to have reasonable suspicion for the stop of vessels displaying a Vessel Safety Inspection Sticker. Organizations such as the Power Squadron and USCG Auxiliary, will conduct extensive safety inspections and issue stickers to those who pass. If the sticker is displayed, an officer must have reasonable suspicion to stop the vessel. We encourage the stringent inspection of vessels and testing of boat owners seeking the sticker. The inspection requirements can be found at www.safetysal.net The process takes effort and usually indicates a person is serious about safety. They are also tested on their knowledge of the marine laws. It is a good thing.

How will this affect boaters in Barry County? Not much. If an officer has reasonable suspicion that a vessel does not have sufficient Personal Floatation Devices, they can be stopped. The law also states that the personal floatation devices must be readily accessible. A vessel can be stopped by a Law Enforcement officer for any Marine or Criminal law violation. In procedural law reasonable suspicion is more than a hunch and less than "probable cause." Furthermore, all of this does not apply to those vessels who do not have a safety inspection sticker. People who go through the trouble of seeking this sticker are not usually the people that are operating in an unsafe manner however having a sticker does not prevent a vessel from being stopped.
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2011-2012/publicact/htm/2012-PA-0062.htm>
[http://www.legislature.mi.gov/\(S\(cpegmg55h0i20u453txzmvyf\)\)/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=mcl-324-80166a](http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(cpegmg55h0i20u453txzmvyf))/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=mcl-324-80166a)

In addition, the inland lake law SB778 referencing the docking or mooring vessels at a public road end. The key will be to note the definition of "public road" and "public road end". There are places in Barry County where this will affect a few people but most likely only in places where no current township ordinances presently exist addressing the problem. See attached link.
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2011-2012/publicact/htm/2012-PA-0056.htm>

Also House Bill 4848, requires vessels to stop when signaled by a police officer to do so. The officer must be in uniform and in a marked vehicle or vessel. The operator must stop or will be subject to Flee and Elude charges which are a felony with varying degrees of punishment depending on prior convictions.
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2011-2012/publicact/htm/2012-PA-0060.htm>

Continued on next page



Pine Lake Storage

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Steve & Heather Stampfler
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Continued from previous page

Finally, the PWC laws on age restrictions now reads... “(4) Beginning October 1, 2011, a person under the age of 16 shall not operate a personal watercraft on the waters of this state unless the person is not less than 14 years of age and 1 of the following circumstances applies:

(a) The person is riding the personal watercraft with his or her parent or guardian or an individual 21 years of age or older designated by the parent or guardian.

(b) The person is operating or riding a personal watercraft at a distance of not more than 100 feet from his or her parent or guardian or an individual 21 years of age or older designated by the parent or guardian.

[http://www.legislature.mi.gov/\(S\(cpegmg55h0i20u453txzmvyf\)\)/mileg.aspx?page=getobject&objectname=mcl-324-80215&query=on&highlight=personal%20AND%20watercraft%20AND%20age](http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(cpegmg55h0i20u453txzmvyf))/mileg.aspx?page=getobject&objectname=mcl-324-80215&query=on&highlight=personal%20AND%20watercraft%20AND%20age)

... now if anyone has a question about the “100 foot law” regarding the 14 or 15 year old’ required operating distance of the PWC from the parent... I have yet to find an answer for that. It seems to me that a 14/15 year old, that is in compliance with all other requirements, may still be in violation of the 100 foot law if that 14/15

year old travels at a speed greater than slow no wake while the parent is sitting on a dock or in an anchored vessel since it is a violation of the 100 foot rule to do so. Perhaps the best course of action would be to have the parent on the PWC with the 14/15 year old if they are operating at a speed greater than slow no wake. There is no change in the law requiring a PWC operator, born after December 31, 1978, to have taken a boater safety course and have the boater safety card on board while operating a PWC.

I am concerned about the translation of all of this information for the news letter. Like the article that was written in “Lansing”, it is too easy to confuse the meaning of the law where it may not properly understood. It is always best to copy the law or the link to the laws so that we are not liable for a misinterpretation. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me. Thank you again for being an avenue for communication. Captain Johnson and I are available for meetings if the questions from the community are too difficult to safely answer in a news letter. We will also provide Boater Safety Courses free of charge to any group who wants to find a classroom setting. We like to have at least 20 people. Take care,

Sgt. Julie Jones

Next Meeting
Sat.
June 9,
2012

9:00AM

MCTI
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The Rivertown Team would like to thank the residents of Pine Lake for again allowing us to be part of the “Pine Lake Family”. We are honored with all the trust you place with the Rivertown Team as together we bring your lake home dreams to life. We truly enjoy what we do and we love all the new friendships that begin as we work on the design and construct your new home or renovation. Providing you with a better place to create family memories and traditions.



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Treasurers Report -

First a note:

The invoice membership has been well received and we currently have more PLA members than we have had in quite a while. Thank you to all who have and are responding to this. We have also had many suggestions of which are greatly appreciated. That being said, we still do not have very much participation in meeting attendance. Our hope and desire is to see Pine Lake and it's residents come together as a large community that offers a multitude of activities that can be enjoyed by all. This however, requires volunteers. As many have noticed, there is not a fireworks raffle this year, as we do not have the man power to organize and run it. My challenge to the residents of Pine Lake... can you spare time for your community? Do you or someone you know, have the desire to be on the PLA Board in order to help grow our lake? If so, please attend the annual June meeting and let your voice be heard.

Breakdown of PLA account as of April 25th:

General:	\$15,372.45
Fireworks	12,432.77
Buoys	1,801.49
Total	\$29,606.71

Please note that although we do have a substantial amount of money in the fireworks fund, not all of that was obtained through the invoice system...about half was. The rest of it was a "pad" from last year. Our goal is to continue to provide the best fireworks on the lake that we can and hope to continue with it in the years to follow.

Hoping everyone has a beautiful summer here on the lake,
Kathie Yarworth

Notes from the Prairieville Township Fire Department

Those of you that are fire buffs or listen to scanners may have noticed that the fire department is now going by the call name of the Prairieville Township Fire Department. What does that mean for us on the lake or in the township....nothing. The fire department will still respond to fires, medical emergencies and rescues as we have always done.

With the donation from the Pine Lake Association, and a matching amount of money from the Township we were able to purchase an MSA Thermal imaging Camera. This device is used to search for victims in limited site areas, such as smoke filled rooms or areas with no available lighting.

The Thermal Imaging Camera also has the ability to see behind walls and or in blind areas to determine the level of heat that is either trapped or is being generated. This gives us the ability to search out fire and extinguish it in hidden areas. It also allows us to determine that there is no fire in certain areas without having to tear apart walls or ceiling. We hope that by using this equipment we can minimize damage done by fire or by firefighters while fighting the fire

The first time the camera was used in the township, it was used on Enzian Rd. to determine that there was no extension of fire into an attic after a chimney caught on fire. Without this equipment the fire department would have pulled down walls and ceiling to check for extended fire.

Again Thanks so much for enabling us to buy this equipment.

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Lost Dock:

Frank and Nancy Spitters of 10854 South Dr. on Lake 3 are missing a piece of their dock. If you think you may have it or know where it is, contact them or contact the PLA Secretary and we will get ahold of them.

Use Your Electronic Mail Box!

Just send your email address to:
Don Haneckow
secretary@pinelk.org (664-6677)

Convenient! Just print what you want, refer back anytime. We use the BCC function (blind copy), so all email addresses are not shared with all recipients. We will not share your email address for any purpose other than getting news and communications from PLA out to you. We will not sell your email address. And remember ! Past issues of the PLA newsletter are available at the website: www.pinelk.org Just click on the Newsletters link.

You've signed up for email delivery but you're not getting your PLA Newsletter?

*Let us know. Changed your email address lately?
Don't forget to include the PLA in notifying of any changes.*

Thanks!

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Next Meeting
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9:00AM

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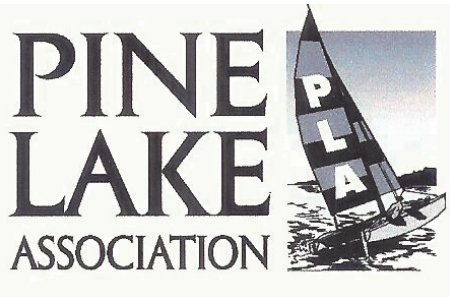
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Pine Lake Association
P.O. Box 3
Plainwell, MI 49080-0003

NOTICE - all dues received after the April 21, 2012 meeting will be applied to the 2012-13 membership year.

*Membership: June 1st to June 1st (membership year).
Dues accepted at any time, however not pro-rated.
Must be paid in order to vote; 2 votes per household.*

Name: _____

Lake Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Mailing Address (if different than Lake Address):

City, State, Zip: _____

E-mail Address: _____

____ YES, please use my e-mail address to deliver PLA newsletter as a PDF
(otherwise it will be delivered snail mail)

Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Lake Phone: _____

Business Phone: _____

Residential Status: _____ Year Round _____ Seasonal

First Year On Pine Lake: _____

____ YES, I would like to be contacted regarding volunteer opportunities with the PLA!

Qty.	Description	Amount
____	June 1st—June 1st PLA Membership Dues (1 year)	\$ 25.00
____	Buoy Fund Donation	_____
____	Fireworks Donation	_____
____	Misc. Contribution	_____
	TOTAL	_____

Payable to: PLA, send to: P.O. Box 3, Plainwell, MI 49080-0003

Your Comments / Suggestions:

Tear Off below to keep for your records!

Date Paid: _____ Check #: _____

To: Pine Lake Association Year 20 _____

WE'RE ON THE WEB:
WWW.PINELK.ORG

Pine Lake Association
P.O. Box 3
Plainwell, MI 49080
www.pinelk.org
Contact PLA Board Members
Email: pla-board@pinelk.org

