

Beaches From Our Lake

July/August 2008
Volume 106

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El Presidente's Manifesto

By Bernie Reyes

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**General
Membership
Meeting**
Sept. 20, 2008
12:30pm
Read Clubhouse

I was glad to see how well attended the Beach Party was on July 19th. Every one seemed to have a good time and the food and beverages were in abundant supply. There was a lot of work put into this affair and we all owe a great deal of thanks to Barbara DiMaio and the crew that worked so hard, as they do every year, to give the community a day of fun.

We also had a Pancake Breakfast on June 15th organized by Fran Orth and her crew, which was a great success. The cooks, Kim Boriin and Keith LaPan, provided delicious food. My grandson, who was 6 1/2 at the time, ate five pancakes. We had a pleasant breakfast getting to know one another again in a different atmosphere.

This demonstrates that we can, as a community, work together to provide fun activities and organize fundraisers to benefit all including the various other beneficial organizations in our area. Let us try to support these activities and continue the community spirit.

That brings to mind a point: Many of the people at the beach party and the breakfast were not at the General Membership Meeting. This meeting was the one at which the voting for the new Board Members took place. Walker Lake is managed by hard working, talented volunteers. They are interested in a community that is well cared for while at the same time being fiscally prudent. It is difficult, then, when those in the community are quick to complain, call the office or the directors at home, write emails and letters when they perceive that the Board of Directors is remiss in their duties; yet cannot find the time to participate at three meetings a year.

President's Message continued on page 2

News from the WLLA Office

Lost and Found: Sunglasses, pruning shears, and a ring. Please stop by the office if you are missing any of these items. Hours are 10 am – 1 pm Tuesday through Friday and 9 am-2pm on Saturday.

We have several publications, announcements, and information in the WLLA office that is free for the taking. Please feel free to stop by during office hours to see if there is anything that interests you. The library is also open during those hours.

Treasurer's Report

By Art Politano

Enclosed with this newsletter is the WLLA 2009 Budget that was approved by the Board of Directors at the July 20, 2008 Board meeting. As you are aware, once the Board of Directors approves the new budget, it then must meet the approval of a General Membership vote. This vote shall take place at the next scheduled General Membership meeting on **September 20, 2008**. Besides the budget being posted here in the newsletter, it will also appear on the WLLA website, as well as being posted at the Clubhouse. If you are interested in this budget process, and are the active, dues-paying members who do participate in the voting at the meetings, please take the time to peruse the WLLA Budget for the fiscal year 2009.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me, Bernie Reyes, or Frank Dubowski.

I hope you all are enjoying a great summer here at Walker Lake. Thank you.

www.walkerlake.com

Visit our website for links to local services, WLLA 2008 meeting schedule, WLLA budget, current and past editions of the newsletter, the current Rules and Regulations, special announcements, and upcoming events

WLLA 2008 Elections

The election of Officers and Directors of the WLLA Board of Directors took place at the Annual Membership Meeting on July 20th. The election results are as follows:

Treasurer- Art Politano

Secretary- Paul DuBrow

Directors- Roseanne Gargiulo

Kathy Kilmer

Keith LaPan

Rose Murphy

Fran Orth

Barbara Di Maio (2 year position)

Thank you to those members who participated in the voting process and thank you to those members who are volunteering their free time to serve on the Board of Directors to help manage our association.

President's Message *from page 1*

Your right to vote is the first and the most important way of gaining the kind of community that you want. The Nominations Committee (Kathy Kilmer, Andy Milne, Paul DuBrow, and Judy Mays) worked long and hard to ensure that the vote would be fair and above board for the benefit of our members. The election process ensures that you have a chance to vote for those Board Members that will represent your point of view. With the new absentee ballot procedure, all members have an opportunity to vote. If you do not, you cannot look to those who do work and try to resolve issues, even for those who seemingly do not find their work important.

We are pleased to welcome Mary Agnes Dorney to our office staff. Mary Agnes is retired Special Education and Spanish teacher. Mary Agnes has good interpersonal skills, is experienced in office procedure and is proficient with computers. She will be working with Norma. Mary Agnes will be in the office two days per week.

The Board of Directors has approved the hiring of "Homeland Security Concepts" to patrol in our community. The security patrol will be responsible for providing:

- Monitoring of speed limits
- Patrolling of Beaches and Boat Launch
- Checking of Permits on construction sites
- Enforcement of ATV regulations
- Crime prevention

The security patrol begins Saturday August 2, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,
Bernie Reyes

Calendar of Events

August 23, Saturday "How-To" Expo

Come to the Walker Lake clubhouse from **12-4 pm** to learn some fun and useful things from your fellow community members. See the enclosed flyer for more details.

September 8, Monday Bus Trip

We are having our third bus trip, this time to Empire City Gaming at Yonkers Raceway. They have over 5300 slot machines! The price per person is \$25 and we will receive \$10 for food and \$5 for gaming. Seating is limited so please call Fran at 296-5528 or the WLLA office at 296-7823 to reserve your seat.

September 13, Saturday Jazz at the Lake

On September 13th, pianists, Bill Mays and Andy Milne (Walker Lake residents and world-class musicians) are doing a two-keyboard concert at the Walker Lake clubhouse at **7 pm**. They are donating their services and all proceeds will go to Walker Lake for the youth program. There will also be a free drawing to win CD's of these two talented musicians. Visit www.billmays.net and www.andymilne.com for more information about the musicians.

September 20, Saturday General Membership Meeting

Come join your neighbors at the Read Clubhouse at **12:30 pm** for the last membership meeting of the year. Bring your enthusiasm, questions, and suggestions. Take this opportunity to be a part of your community. The membership will be voting on the 2009 WLLA budget that is enclosed with this newsletter.

October 11, Saturday 50's Dance

Plans are going ahead for our first 50's dance. It should be a fun evening with Al Masi, the DJ from the beach party playing all those great songs. Even if you are too young or too old to remember the 50's, the music is still great after all these years.

December 6, Sunday Breakfast with Santa

Mark the date for our Breakfast with Santa. More information will be in the next newsletter.

Pancake Breakfast

Our Father's Day Pancake Breakfast was a huge success due to our chef, Kim Boriin and helper, Keith LaPan. The women's club, Linda, Pat, Roseanne, Chris, and Phyllis served the pancakes, sausage, juice, coffee, and baked desserts for all that attended to enjoy.

Fran Orth

Penny Social

Our Penny Social was held on July 12, 2008. We had 62 people attend this year and made \$518.50. I would like to thank all the people who donated items, those who helped set up and clean up the clubhouse after it was over. I also want to thank all those who helped me the night of the Penny Social and baked the cakes. Thank you for all your help. I'm sure a good time was had by all.

Grace Hachtman

**Annual Walker Lake Beach Party/Picnic
July 19, 2008**

One million thanks to all our gracious volunteers for allowing our community to come together on such a fun-filled, relaxing day at our Clubhouse Beach. We had more than 150 community members attending the festivities. The weather was HOT and so were the happy men at their barbecues. Our fantastic cooks filled pans with delicious sausage and peppers. The other food trays were quickly emptied as well as the ice cream and watermelon and desserts.

Our Karaoke DJ had our feet tapping and humming along to our very "Talented Vocalists". The smiling winners of the "Raw Egg Toss" contest and the tired relay runners from the "Fill the Bucket" contest quickly cooled off with a long swim in the lake.

Another "Thank You" to our community for such a great "Togetherness Day" on our freshly smoothed and sanded beach. Thanks to Charlie and Gwen Kieselmann and Don Wall.

Hugs to all,
Barb Di Maio, Chair

Letters to the Editor

Keeping Walker Lake Litter-Free

Why not take along a garbage bag on your next walk around our community? (I know many people who are already doing this.) On my walk along Lake Shore, East Shore, and Maple on July 4h, I filled a bag with the following:

- 2 beer cans
- 1 empty water bottle
- 1 empty iced tea bottle
- several cigarette cartons
- many cigarette butts
- fast food coffee and soda cups
- assorted paper and plastic items
- 2 plastic garbage bags

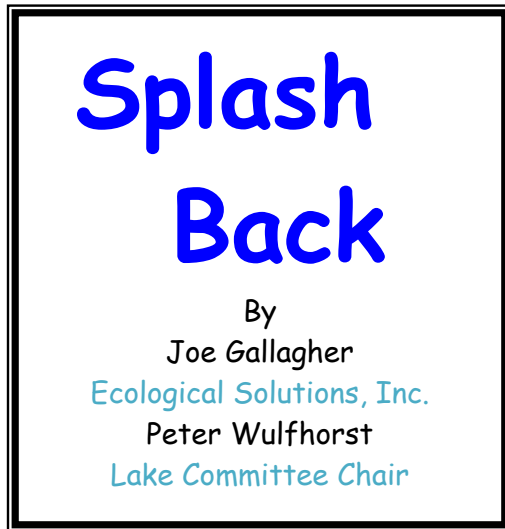
Of course, if these things weren't tossed, we wouldn't have any litter to collect. Wouldn't that be nice!
Barbara Silver

Our Clubhouse Beach is a Lovely Area for Family Fun and Togetherness

For the past ten years our Beach Committee (all volunteers) have been struggling with severe summer storms, back to back, which have washed away almost the entire beach. These wash outs have been so strong, they have allowed many deeply embedded rocks to come to the surface, which, as you know, creates an uncomfortable entrance to the water. But, as a spring-fed, mountain lake is a natural entity, rocks are nature's way of holding dirt and grasses together.

Every time a load of sand is delivered and raked onto the beach (by volunteers), our families are joyous for now the surface is soft and inviting and pretty again. We PLEAD with our young families, when the children play in the sand AS THEY SHOULD, before you leave for home, have the children, as good and caring community members, smooth out the sand so no ruts or holes remain that can cause an elder community member to fall. By this small gesture of kindness, our beach will remain smooth and will hold a rainfall more easily without gullies that wash away the treasured sand again.

(Continued on page 6)



Who spilled the paint in the lake?

On our last visit to the lake I noticed unusual flakes floating all around the lake. The flakes were blueish-green and looked like small pieces of paint that had been thrown into the water.

The truth is that these small paint-like pieces floating in the lake are actually blue green algae. The genera of algae is Anabaena, which is one of the four blue green algae that are capable of producing neurotoxins. Rest assured, the bloom that has occurred in Walker Lake is not significant enough to warrant concern to either

humans and/or pets. The toxins created by the bacteria may cause skin irritations and/or possibly nausea in humans. Farm animals and pets have been killed by the toxins. However, this has only occurred during major blooms, which resulted in the accumulation of heavy growth or scum near the shoreline. The lake committee will be monitoring the Anabaena to prevent a major bloom in Walker Lake.

The water lilies and watershield (non-flowering floating plant) were treated along the western shoreline on our last visit. Hopefully, they will begin to die soon and those areas will become more accessible to the homeowner's along that shoreline. We will treat other areas for submergent species on our next visit. As always, we have been monitoring the water quality and everything appears to be great.

If you have concerns about aquatic plants on your lakefront property, please don't try and control them yourselves through a chemical application. You would need a permit from the PA Fish & Boat Commission as well as an applicator license from the PA Department of Agriculture. Walker Lake Landowners Association through our consultant has both the permit and applicators license. You should contact the office about your concern. We will then notify our lake consultant about a solution to the concern.

In addition, if you are having an issue with aquatic plants along your lakefront property, there is a cutting rake you can borrow from the Walker Lake Office. The instrument will allow you to remove the aquatic plants from the water. It has two blades that cut the plants in the water. You would then need to remove the plants. If you want to borrow the rake, please contact the office.

It is already July and the summer is well underway, but I hope to see you on the water sometime this summer. So get out and enjoy your beautiful lake!!!!

Letters to the Editor *continued from pg. 4*

Whenever a Beach Committee member or a caring community member approaches a family who are disrupting beach goers with improper language or overly rough play, they have been threatened with physical violence or very obscenely told to mind their own business. This is our community that we have built, loved, and cherished and watched our families grow in a safe, calm vacation atmosphere. Anyone who comes to swim and play in our waters should HOPE that the volunteers who work to keep our area in good condition are appreciated by all our community members. Many of our volunteers still work full time jobs and this is truly an act of dedication to the community of Walker Lake. Shame on those who cannot respect this dedication.

We are now calling on the goodness of our newer families and asking for a few hours of their time to help us care for our community. This is what makes togetherness and a larger family of neighbors and friends. One area is our Crime Watch Patrol. This dedication requires about 5 to 8 hours in a week. The more volunteers in this group, the least amount of time you are asked to serve. Another way of helping is our two beaches and the boat docking area,,,take pride in how you leave the area, and clean up any debris that is left behind. Do not let people walk their dogs on the beach sand. Wear your Beach Badges and question, politely, anyone not wearing a badge. Many strangers drive right down to our parking area and use our beach, but will leave quite nicely if you approach them with the info," This is a private beach." It's OUR beach, why not defend it?

Over the years we have had picnic tables, a lovely barbecue pit, a wooden lifeguard stand, a wall of cinder blocks which you could sit upon. These community possessions were pulled apart, burned, then thrown into the lake by unhappy, sad young people in the middle of the night. They felt so badly about themselves, they had to do their misdeeds under cover of night. Even a security guard could not prevent those happenings. Only a caring parent that teaches respect for the property of others and your own possessions could prevent those sad events. All of those items were built by loving caring community members...these people are your neighbors and friends.

Many people complain about the conditions of the recreational facilities in our community but their voices are not heard at the membership meetings. We need your input; we need your honest feelings about what you want. Perhaps you could spare a few hours once a month to take care of those little items that have been, possibly unintentionally damaged. We work for you; we are your volunteers because we care for our community. Volunteers have gotten together to paint and clean and polish the Clubhouse, the Women's Group made curtains, the entire community got together and walked the streets picking up debris left behind by careless drivers. We are a big growing family...we are Walker Lake...we are proud of what we have...

Barbara Di Maio

Reminder to all residents

Do not post notices of any kind on the mailboxes! It is illegal to post signs on Federal property.

WALKER LAKE GALLERY CAFE

PRESENTS

The HOW-TO EXPO

If you want to know how to can vegetables or fruits, make clay figures, fix a computer, prepare a roof-top garden, keep your house-cleaning 'green', make bookmarks, paint a rock, carve wood, win at Scrabble, and lots more,

**WE HAVE PEOPLE TO SHOW
and TELL YOU
WHAT YOU WANT TO KNOW!!!**

Come and Enjoy our HOW-TO EXPO
Saturday, August 23, 2008
12:00-4:00 pm
Read Clubhouse at Walker Lake
Bring your curiosity.
Door Prizes!

Other questions contact Judy Mays at
jkirtley@ptd.net or 570-296-2134

Cafe Summer Menu

**Coffee / Tea
Pastries
Fruit Juices**

Contributions Welcome