Fall 2026

Deer Lake Newsletter

Published three times a year by:

Deer Lake Property Owners' Association

Dedicated to the preservation and improvement of a beautiful lake for future generations


Patriots at our Boat Parade

President's Message

George Lynn

Happy Fall everyone! I hope you're enjoying the weather and beautiful colors around the lake. Moving into the quieter months, I wanted to reflect on our Summer's historical 250th celebration and also mention fire safety.

Our July 4th celebration was truly outstanding. It was amazing how the community came together with a well-attended parade, a lively picnic entertained by the Ridler's, a spectacular fireworks event, the boat parade and the traditional pancake feed. It was especially meaningful to mark the nation's 250th anniversary with so many residents, both longtime and new.



The energy, volunteer spirit, and turnout made this one of the most memorable Independence Day celebrations we've had in recent years. Thank you to everyone who helped plan, set up, and participated. Your efforts made the celebration a great success!



At the same time, extended dry conditions and use of fireworks during the holiday period created a significantly heightened fire risk; elevating fire danger throughout the week. The combination of increased activity and dry vegetation required extra vigilance from both residents and local fire officials. While we were fortunate that no major fire incidents occurred, the situation served as a clear reminder of how quickly conditions can become dangerous in our community.



As we head into Fall, I encourage everyone to stay mindful of fire prevention. Please continue to clear dry brush and debris from your properties, use caution with any outdoor burning or fire pits and keep an eye on conditions as leaves begin to fall. If you notice any concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to Stevens County Emergency Services.

Thank you again for making our 250th celebration such a success. Let's carry that same community spirit into the Fall while remaining safety conscious.

Wishing you all a safe and enjoyable season!

You Due You

If you received an envelope inside this newsletter, it is because we have not yet received the 2026 annual dues we ask you to donate to help support Deer Lake. If you didn't get an envelope...Thank You! That means you have previously sent us your contribution. We appreciate your support.

There are still a few months left, if you want to pay the 2026 dues. There are a couple ways you can do that:

1. You may use the enclosed envelope to mail us a check.
2. Use the QR code above, which quickly takes you to our website (which you can also find by typing dlpoa.com into your device). Once there, you may pay by credit card, securely on a Stripe-hosted checkout page (your card information never touches our server). On our website, you can also donate to the 4th of July Fireworks Fund, or the General Fund, in any amount from the same secure checkout.

Thank you for your consideration.



The Parade and Picnic

Bobby Williams

This year's Deer Lake 4th of July parade and picnic in Pinelow Park was one for the books. We had the largest crowd in the history of the event, and by the time the last plate was handed out, we had fed hot dogs and chips to nearly 700 people. Seeing so many neighbors, families, and visitors lining the route is exactly what this parade is about. Thank you to Ken Ring, Ron Watson, Mike Nixon, and Sharon Crump for the crazy job of herding cats at the beginning of the parade—we also appreciate the Deer Lake Resort letting us stage there.

None of this annual event happens on its own. A huge thank you also goes out to Sonnenbergs in Spokane and to Franz Bakery, who together donated every single hot dog and bun we served. That kind of generosity is what allows us to keep this event free and welcoming for everybody who shows up. When local businesses step up like that, the whole community feels it.



Our volunteers deserve just as much credit. They showed up early, stayed late, and kept the food line moving without missing a beat. Whether you were cooking, serving, setting up, tearing down, or helping folks find a place to sit, thank you. This event runs on people who give their time for nothing more than the joy of seeing it come together.

Special thanks to Ron and Nicki Coil for letting us take over the massive green area, to Stevens County Fire and Sheriff's Offices, and to the Washington State Patrol. Their continued support keeps the route safe and the day running smoothly, year after year. It is easy to take that for granted, but we do not.

To everyone who came out, brought a chair, waved at the procession, or simply enjoyed the afternoon with us, thank you. You made this the best one yet!

Pancake Feed

Kim Nixon

The 45th Annual Pancake Fee, held on Sunday, July 5th at Pinelow, was a huge success! Just over 800 people were served, with the proceeds deposited into the DLPOA General Fund to help support the many projects and events that we sponsor each year. **Many thanks go to the 46 volunteers who helped during this year's event**:

Kerri Anderson, Peter Bach, Erik Nikkola, Phil and Jill Bray, Joe Byrne, Sharon Crump, Patrick Daly, Barb and Sean Douglas, Mike Egan, Tim Erlandsen, Bob Fischer, Dave Greco, Bill, Jennifer, Will and Carter Haney, Pam Horner, Brad and Mary Kay Hudson, Mike Hudson, Ryan Kuch, George Lynn Senior and Junior, Courtney Fujita, Sally Lamson, Barb Maranto, Mike Phillips, Greg and Karen Presley, Jerry Rasley, Ken and Cheryl Ring, Drezdyn Cross, Joe Conner, Ken and Kim Roberson, Ken Santora, Bob Schwartz, Gene Tierney, Janeen Van Slyke, Ron Watson, Skip Wells, Lucia and Jack Wordman, and Susie LeMay.

We also give special thanks to the Coils—Ron and Nicki, who generously allow us to use their beautiful facilities at Pinelow each year. Although many of our volunteers return every year to serve our community and get to see many of our friends and neighbors, we have a need for a few new volunteers each year. Brandon Bouge has already volunteered to join the 2027 crew. Please contact **Mike Nixon at 509-844-4439** if you are also interested.













A Fun-Filled Picnic in Pinelow Park



In the morning, the people paraded, in the afternoon, the boats got their turn!



















Hot sunny weather helps make it a great day for a water fight! Great patriotic decorations and smiling participants on land and sea! See you all next year!







Water fight at the Ring Inn





The stages of a water fight

Left: **The boat comes to the dock, strong and confident with squirt guns plus throwing water balloons! Ten boat people versus 5 on the dock...**

Right: **Ducking down, with hands up, now running scared at the massive counter attack staged at the Ring Inn in the NW Narrows!**

DLPOA Fireworks Show – Special Appreciation

The strength of a community is measured not only by its traditions, but by the generosity of the people who help sustain them. This year's DLPOA fireworks show, our signature Summer celebration enjoyed by families and friends all around the lake, occurred again, thanks to a combination of DLPOA funding and the remarkable support of our donors. DLPOA covered the majority of the cost of this year's show, reaffirming our commitment to provide a safe, memorable, and family-friendly event for everyone. Even so, the contributions from our donors played an essential role in making the celebration truly shine.

We extend our deepest appreciation to **Knight Docks**, whose major contribution of $2,000 helped elevate the event and continue their tradition of supporting community activities that bring neighbors together.

Thank you, Doug Knight, and everyone at Knight Boat Docks!



We also gratefully acknowledge the **anonymous donor**'s gift of $750. Their quiet generosity reflects a heartfelt desire to give back without seeking recognition.

Equally important, we want to thank the **many community members** who contributed donations of $25, $50 or $100. These gifts—each meaningful on its own— demonstrated how deeply our Deer Lake community members care about preserving this tradition.
Every gift played a part in lighting up the sky over Deer Lake. Your generosity and community spirit help create lasting memories for families, friends, and visitors each summer. We also want to thank Ron and Nicki Coil for the use of their beach at Pinelow Park to stage the show before the barge pulls out in the water.

Community traditions don't happen by themselves - DLPOA extends a special thank you to **Mike Egan, Fireworks Committee Chair**, whose dedication makes our annual show possible year after year. Each year, Mike selflessly devotes countless hours of his own Fourth of July holiday making this cherished event a success by overseeing and coordinating every part of the show, including pre-show set up, barge moving, post-show cleanup and many other behind-the-scene tasks. His commitment ensures the show runs safely, smoothly, and spectacularly.

The show consisted of 647 shells (3 inch—12 inches). The 12 inch finale shell was spectacular. The roar of approval from the crowd around the lake was awesome, making us feel like we put on a really good show!

All of us at DLPOA look forward to celebrating with you again next year!











DLPOA 's unofficial mascot, "Big Buck" made his first appearance at the Pancake Feed, urging DLPOA members to donate $100 or more (including the annual $20 dues) to be part of the Big Buck Club.

He was truly touched by all the well -wishers that day, although some were a little "handsy"!







The Pancake Feed was a gastronomic and patriotic delight!









Emergency Services **Skip Wells**

We highly encourage getting set up on the Stevens County Hyper Reach program for fire notifications. Do not wait for a level 3 warning to come—fires change in minutes! Keep the roadways open so folks can exit in an orderly manner.

It's time to start getting ready for Fall and Winter; remember Stevens Co. PUD 1 recommends the installation of a water shutoff to avoid freezing and flooding problems. Contact them at 509-233-2534 to get further information.

Get your propane tank filled up, wood supply in, and install storm windows if you have them. Have gas for generators on hand. By doing this now and over the next few weeks the work gets spread out and still lets you enjoy the Fall.

Remember to join our two social media sites, if you haven't done so already. It's a great way to stay in touch with events happening at the lake, such as items for sale, lost and found postings, and alerts. To join Nextdoor, send an email to Bob Schwartz at rismt@hotmail.com, and he will mail you an invitation link to submit to Nextdoor directly. (You must own property here).

nextdoor

facebook We also have a Deer Lake Property Owners Facebook page, send a "friend" request and, you too, could be one of our over 2,000 members. This is also the place where more photos are posted showing the good times that are had at the lake, as well as news that is passed along to members.



The Sinking of the Piglet

by Chuck Long

My mother and father first bought property on the east side of Deer Lake in the mid 60's (Julius Terrace) and kept and maintained it for more than thirty years. Then my sister, Angie, and her husband Irv Zakheim bought the resort on the north end of the lake called Lancien's Landing (most of us older people would remember it as Pearl Ray Resort). Angie and Irv had no want or need to run it as a resort, so they simply share it with the family, (Tell me Irv's not crazy, because Angie has nine siblings!) Angie and Irv are extremely foolish…I mean generous!



Growing up around the lake I've always had a sickness/passion for old boats and outboards. I currently have three vintage fiberglass finned classics from the 1950's. Piglet is a 1958 Whitehouse Apache, made in Fort Worth, Texas.

Last July 4th, 2025, my wife, Sue, and friends Zack and Cheyenne Babinski and their three-month old son, Brewer, were going for a boat ride. Though it was pretty windy and choppy, we climbed into Piglet and started to back out of our boat slip. Right away, water came over the transom and within seconds we were all swimming. Luckily, we were still next to the dock and easily made it back safely. I took a lot of ribbing for not saving Sue as I carefully swam and pushed my beloved Piglet back to shore. Luckily, my niece's 15 year old son, Ethan, simply reached down for Sue and in one motion, deadlifted her back up onto the dock .



Piglet is only 14 ft. long and doesn't have a splash well allowing water to wash in over the transom and easily drain back out. This was the first outboard I'd ever sunk, but being around them all my life, I knew what to do and had Piglet up and running by the next week. I had to replace the starter and Sue's cell phone, and of course tolerate the teasing and ribbing from many friends and neighbors and, of course, family (mostly my brothers). Nobody beats dead horses like my brothers and me!

Our Lake, Our Community—DLPOA Membership

Bill Haney



There is no better reminder of why we love Deer Lake than a quiet afternoon on the water. The view of the surrounding hills, the familiar shoreline, and the opportunity to spend time with family and neighbors are experiences that connect us all. Whether your family has been here for generations or you are new to the lake, we share a common interest in protecting and enjoying this special place.





As Membership Chair, I want to thank our members for their continued support of the Deer Lake Property Owners' Association. Membership helps make possible the work that benefits our entire community, including lake stewardship, fish rearing, roadside cleanup, safety and boating education, community events, fireworks, and advocacy on issues affecting Deer Lake property owners. Much of this work is accomplished by volunteers who generously contribute their time and energy.



Our Association is strongest when more property owners participate. If you have not yet renewed your $20 annual membership, I encourage you to do so. If you know a neighbor who is not a member, please invite them to join. Every membership strengthens our ability to maintain these programs, communicate with property owners, and represent the interests of our lake community.



Thank you to our volunteers, Board Members, and everyone who supports DLPOA. Together, we can preserve the traditions we value while ensuring Deer Lake remains a wonderful place for future generations.

(Photos are of just some of the many loyal volunteers for the Pancake Feed)





Skip Wells

Grand Marshall













Deer Lake gets decked out for the **250th** birthday of the United States!









Deer Lake Water Quality Update

Mark Turney

We are pleased to share that Deer Lake continues to maintain a **generally healthy aquatic ecosystem**. Throughout the past season, we received **no reports of cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) outbreaks**, allowing for safe and enjoyable recreation on the water for all our residents and visitors, though we received increased reports of **Swimmer's Itch**.



One of the most notable highlights from our recent monitoring is that Secchi disk water clarity tests revealed a **record-breaking 33-foot visibility**, largely driven by low runoff from minimal precipitation, which also creates very low lake levels. While this crystal-clear water is wonderful for swimming and viewing the lake bottom, this milestone is a **double-edged sword**. High clarity means there is less phytoplankton at the base of the food web to support aquatic life, and increased light penetration can unfortunately stimulate faster growth of invasive species like milfoil.



Our routine water quality analyses show that the lake's chemical health remains in great shape. Standard metrics—including **pH, oxygen reduction potential, conductivity, total dissolved solids, resistivity, and salinity**—are all within normal, healthy ranges. However, tests did note **slightly lower dissolved oxygen levels at depths below 60 feet**--we will continue to monitor closely.

Milfoil found in the boat slips of Lake Tahoe– it takes over quickly!

To combat the increased light-driven growth potential, our **milfoil abatement program** remains active and vital. Ongoing weed management efforts are critical to keeping our shoreline accessible and protecting the native balance of the lake. Fortunately, **milfoil growth is on par with previous years** and is being successfully held in check.



Deer Lake will never look like this!

Thank you to all members for your continued support in preserving Deer Lake's natural beauty!



Deer Lake Fish Rearing 2026-2027

Ken Santora

We hope that this year's Deer Lake fishing season has been good to you! We've seen several photographs of Macs, Brook Trout, Rainbows, Bass, and Perch that were caught this year.
Fun, fun, fun!

We want to once again thank Bill Calligan for raising and releasing 15,000 Rainbow Trout into Deer Lake in April. In addition, the Santoras released 15,000 Brook Trout and 15,000 Rainbow Trout.

In total, 141,000 fish were released into our lake through the combined efforts of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Bill, and the Santoras. That is quite an investment in the health and enjoyment of our fishery!

As we look ahead to the upcoming fish-rearing season, Bill will once again raise 15,000 Rainbow Trout. The Santoras will also raise an additional 15,000 fish, which will be either Brook Trout or Rainbow Trout.
We are excited to continue working together to support and improve the Deer Lake fishery for everyone to enjoy.
Here's hoping for another great fishing season ahead! **Happy fishing!**

Chipper Day for Fall

Skip Wells

Chipper Day, as we have known it, has been cancelled. The state grant which supports this activity has been dropped by the Department of Natural Recourses due to a budget reduction. The actual Chipping Company has no market for pine needles, and the Avista Bio-mass plant cannot take pine needles due to inefficiency of burning operations.

Stevens County is having a **Green Material only** for Deer Lake and Loon Lake which would occur at the Transfer Station. It's a free activity for acceptable materials. NextDoor and Facebook have information about the dates. Previously, DLPOA earned $660.00 in collected fees—the charities it will be donated to will be nominated and voted on by the homeowners who attend the Annual Meeting.



Veterans Fishing Day is Back!

Greg and Karen Presley



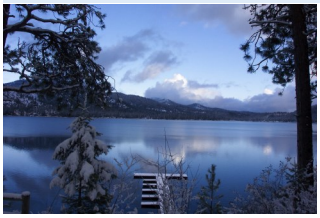
We were blessed with the most beautiful day on the lake! It was touch and go for the folks from the Spokane Veterans Home to be able to come this year, as they had a Covid outbreak and their one and only bus broke down. They didn't get their bus back until May 19th with fishing scheduled for May 21st. This was their first outing after their Covid lockdown, and they were so excited to come spend the day with us here at Deer Lake.

Shout out to our four boats and their crew:
Pam and Mike Horner, Greg Presley and Terry Nielsen, Dale Winfrey, Larry Cameron, Dave Rose, and Scott Mizoguchi.



Three of the four boats did catch fish that day! For those of us that fish this lake regularly, we know that is not a given.
After fishing we had pizza, macaroni salad, cookies, brownies, apple and cherry pie and, of course, ice cream.

Thanks to the volunteers that helped serve and provided all the yummy sides:
Jane Nielsen, Colleen Kendall, Kathy and Eric Kelly, Cheryl Fochtman and Karen Presley. It was a great day at Deer Lake!



A Thank you from Mike Phillips

I am taking this opportunity to thank all the people that have assisted me over the years with the LMD and water quality work. At the end of this year, I will be stepping down as the head of the LMD board and the water quality testing project. Deer Lake will still be in good hands, as you can see below—almost everyone has been helping to do these jobs for a long time.

Taking over my responsibilities:

Milfoil: Kevin Shroeder, and volunteers Jerry Rasley and John Lamers (since 2010)
Water Quality: Mark Turney (since 2026)
The Lake Management District Board: Skip Wells, Bill Haney, Kevin Shroeder, Ken Santora, Jerry Rasley, Ken Ring, Mark Turney, and Greg Presley (since 2011)
Deer Lake water level data tracking: Ken Santora (since 2008)

Thanks for the continued financial support and backing from the entire **DLPOA Board** that enables us to do what we need to do for the health of our lake.
Gratitude to the **homeowners** that voted to continue the Lake Management District, with a 98% yes vote. Without that support, our lake would eventually die.

The water level of Deer Lake is at the lowest it has been since 2008!

The snowpack on the lake was only 17" last winter. That also equals the lowest amount in 25 years.

To compare how low that was, our average snowpack is around 50".



Send me your Deer Lake Photos!

For the end-of-the year issue, I'll post current or nostalgic photos. Include names and a short explanation, if necessary to enhance or explain what's happening in the photo. **Limit of 4, please.**

Email them to me, Cheryl Ring, at cherylring @gmail.com OR post them when you see a post asking for them from DLPOA's Facebook page in a couple weeks. Thanks, I look forward to seeing them!

The Deer Lake Property Owners' Association held its Annual Meeting on August 22th, bringing community members and Board representatives together for an informative update on the lake community.
The meeting included introductions of the DLPOA Board and officers, approval of the 2025 Annual Meeting minutes, and a review of the association's financial position.

Board members also shared updates on the many programs and activities supported by DLPOA, including:

- Membership
- DLPOA.com — our website
- Fourth of July events:
- Fireworks, Parades, Picnic, and Pancake Feed
- Fish rearing
- Milfoil control and lake levels
- Roadside cleanup
- Community events
- Social media
- DLPOA apparel
- Newsletters and calendar
- Emergency Services
- Chipper days, and its donation to local charities

Three important items were presented, discussed, and approved unanimously by the general membership and Board.

- Annual DLPOA membership dues will increase from $20 to $30 (in 2027)
- the purchase of a new storage shed to support DLPOA operations and lake-related activities and lastly the
- Dispersal of the Charity Fund (generated by Chipper Day fees). It will be split between Pinelow Park & Conference Center, the Loon Lake Food Bank, and Stevens County Fire Recovery Fund.

Members heard from two guest speakers:

Candace Bennett, Wildlife Conflict Specialist with the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife

Mark Turney, who provided an update on the health and condition of Deer Lake.

The meeting also included the ratification of the 2026–2027 DLPOA Officers and Board Members (Shown at right)

Additional topics addressed by the community members were:

1. A heightened interest regarding the use of illegal fireworks in the Deer lake community, and
2. An update on the Julius Terrace road paving status. Both items will be added to a future DLPOA monthly meeting agenda and readdressed.

Lastly, the Annual Meeting provided an opportunity to recognize the many volunteers who contribute their time and energy to making Deer Lake a strong, active, and connected community.

The DLPOA Board appreciates the continued support and involvement of its members as we work together to protect and improve Deer Lake for years to come. By George Lynn, President

Meet your DLPOA Board Members:



Fall Roadside Cleanup **Dave Greco**

It was a brisk Summer morning that turned into a beautiful warm day. Some new, any many longtime volunteers turned out to pick up litter from the roads around Deer Lake on Saturday, September 19th. The combined weight of the west and east side garbage bags was 220 lbs. Everyone enjoyed a lovely Brunch afterwards at our lake Fire Station. Thank you to everyone who participated and made a hard job easier! We look forward to more help next Spring!

Volunteers:

George Lynn Sr.	George Lynn Jr.	Kevin Flerchinger	Mark Nevdahl	Julie Nevdahl
Ken Ring	Cheryl Ring	Alex Stone	Janeen Van Slyke	Alexis Culnane
Addie Culnane	Jessica Magnuson	Owen Magnuson	Bob Schwartz	Dave Greco
Jerry Rasley	Kevin Schroeder	April Tweedy	Bill Ryan	Thijs Van Androoy
Ingrid Van Anrrooy	Phil Bray	Jill Bray	Denny Block	Karsten Block
Wayne Kenny	Debbie Kenny			













Hot dogs, chili, chips, potato salad, Hostess Twinkies and Cupcakes, Donuts, and Gator Aid

Join us next Spring!