



# DEER LAKE NEWSLETTER

BOX 250, LOON LAKE, WA 99148

DEER LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

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[WWW.DLPOA.COM](http://WWW.DLPOA.COM)

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

## Temporary Presidents Comments

By Mike Phillips

As the temporary President of DLPOA, I am pleased to say that Larry Nokes is on a slow road to recovery after a serious stroke a couple of months ago. He is in a nursing home now but may get to come home in December. He is working hard to regain movement on his right side and is learning to talk again. He can get around with a walker.

DLPOA has been meeting in the Deer Park city council meeting room, as half the board lives in Spokane. After some discussion, we decided to have some more input and vote at the November meeting with the thought of moving it back to Camp Gifford. The results of that vote will be in this newsletter.

We also voted to suspend the January meetings until further notice.

The reasons for that are: the usual bad driving conditions that time of year and we usually don't have anything new to discuss then that can't be talked about in ~~February~~ March.

As usual we could sure use some more members on the board. Over the last 15 or so years the composition of the board has changed with the coming and going of members. We try to keep about 12 to 16 members on the board. If anyone would like to help us out or at least come to a board meeting or two to see what goes on, please show up. Even if you can only help with some of the projects at certain times of the year, your help would be greatly appreciated. We need a President with better leadership ability than myself. I work well in the background but that is not enough for a group like this.

We are trying out a new section for our newsletter. A couple of board members are interviewing some of the older residents around the lake. We are looking for stories of interest. We think people may be interested in what life was like around the lake several generations ago. If any of our older folk would like to tell stories of their days on the lake, please contact any board member.

**New Board Members**  
by the Secretary Guy

We have had three new members volunteer to serve on the board of directors of DLPOA since the last newsletter. They are:

Jerry Groom, Brian Humphrey, and Rick Jarvis.

Thank you for joining our board. That brings it to an even Baker's Dozen.

**Women of Deer Lake – Unite!**  
By Ken Ring

Did you know there aren't any women on the board of DLPOA? We know that women are smart, dedicated, organized, and not afraid to work hard, so what can the reason be? Maybe they're TOO smart; once a month they get the opportunity to push their men folk out the door and have an evening to themselves, and they grab it! If that's it, then the jig is up – women, it's time to get more involved. We Need YOU!

DLPOA needs more volunteers to be successful. We have fewer participants doing the chores of the lake, and last year we had a decline in members paying dues. Have you ever thought to yourself, "If I was in charge I would ..."? We have several events coming up in 2010 that need new leadership. This is the time to step up and have a say if you would like to see some event changed in any way. Consider the Fourth of July parade and barbeque, the Fourth of July boat parade, the fireworks display, pancake feed, dock demolition, clean up days, etc.

It's always great to have fresh ideas and new faces. Not everyone is a leader, and that's a good thing because every event needs workers who just agree to show up and do whatever is needed. If you would like to volunteer to help in any area this coming year, please just add a note when you pay your membership dues this year, or contact a member of the board.

**Roadside Cleanup**  
by Mike Phillips

As usual our fall cleanup was laid on a few volunteers that did a commendable job. We picked up about 800 pounds of litter. I am thanking the Dick and Mary Schroeder family for their help on the East side. I was told they covered a lot of roadside.

**Lake Water Level**  
by Mike Phillips

Since we reestablished the full lake level last year, we have been recording the lake level about once per month. This year the lake started out 12 inches below full. It is now 35 inches below full pool. Because we started out 12 in. below full, we have lost 23 inches total. Last year we lost 22.5 inches. This loss is due to evaporation and seepage. We would have lost more but much of last springs snow melted into the ground water. This water helped feed the springs located in the lakebed during the summer, keeping the inflow at a good level.

## **Board Meeting Changes**

By the Secretary Guy

From time immemorial, the DLPOA Board of Directors has had its meetings on the second Thursday of the months January - May and September -November. For the last year or so, we have met at the Deer Park city hall, since half of the board members live in Spokane, and the other half live at the lake.

At the November meeting, two proposals were made, and passed.

First, we decided to bag the January and February 2010 meetings. Last January's meeting was canceled because of bad weather, and we have had quorum problems with other winter meetings. The significant things being discussed all take place in late Spring and Summer (eg Road Cleanup, Dock Demo, 4<sup>th</sup> of July) and it was felt that jabbering about these things starting in March would give us plenty of time to do whatever it is we do, while lessening the chance of icy head on collisions while we commute to the meeting. This will require a change to the bylaws to make it permanent, but we believe we have the authority to cancel the next two meetings even without a bylaw change. (If not, we are doing it anyway.) We have also decided to have a new meeting in June, before the Annual Meeting which is also in June.

Second, it was decided to move the meetings back to the Salvation Army Camp dining room, where these meetings were previously held for several years. It was pointed out that we get a lot fewer non board members coming to these meetings since we moved the meetings to Deer Park, and maybe if we had the meetings at the lake, more of the public would show up. That will be the case for all meetings except for the new June meeting, which we will have to find a place for since the Camp will be unavailable to us then.

## **Milfoil**

by Mike Phillips

Ace Diving covered the lake again this fall after a July survey and cleanup of milfoil. We have a problem in the very northern part of the narrows. The Eurasian milfoil in there is mixed with a lot of native milfoil and it's in one to 2 feet of water. Those conditions are making it difficult to hand pull the invasive form of milfoil.

There is a possibility we may have to use 2-4d to clean up that area next year or it may get out of control. Time will tell.

In the spring newsletter there will be pictures and descriptions of natural and Eurasian milfoil. Even when placed side by side it is not easy to tell the difference.

**A report on Larry Nokes**  
by Mike Egan

As many of you know, Larry Nokes suffered a stroke. I recently saw him and am happy to report he is making good progress. Manor Nursing home is an excellent facility and he should benefit greatly. He may be home a couple of days for Thanksgiving and Christmas. We hope to see him home permanently very soon.

Larry has organized our July 4<sup>th</sup> festivities for many years now and done a fantastic job. I will head up next year's July 4th event with the capable help of our board members and you, our members. We intend to have another great fireworks show, boat parade and kiddy parade. I would like to thank all of you members and beach associations around the lake for your generous fireworks donations. If you have any questions or comments please contact DLPOA. Have a nice Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas.

**More on Larry**, by the Web Guy

As some of you know, our DLPOA president, Larry Nokes, suffered a huge stroke in late August. It is unlikely that he will be able to work again. His family hopes that with a large amount of physical therapy, that he will someday be able to participate in social endeavors, but the concept of building houses and laying out gardens, his profession, is gone.

Larry has been the president of DLPOA for the last nine years, and was on the board for several more. He has been totally involved with most of the DLPOA activities. He led the kiddy parade on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. He was the guy that arranged to have the fireworks guys to shoot off the fireworks on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. He arranged for the fireworks dock, and for several years almost ruined his small boat towing the lumbering dock all around the lake during that time. He was involved in dock demo days, in the road cleanup. He was the only guy at the board meetings who actually thought of an agenda for the meetings, and would arrange for some guest speakers, including several members of the Stevens County Commissioners. Our organization is much the better for his long participation.

Being self employed, and being in the construction, real estate, and landscaping business, health insurance was not at the top of his list of things to worry about. He had some catastrophic coverage, as I understand it, but I am not sure how you plan for an event like this other than having a couple million bucks stuffed under your mattress or something. His family is trying to sell off the equipment that he used in his business, and have or are selling most of the boy toys, to provide for the physical therapy that his health insurance will not pay for. There are a few pieces of heavy equipment still not sold, in case you are in the market for a skid steer or wheel barrow or something.

If anybody would like to donate something to help the Nokes family through this difficult time, such donations can be sent to

Larry and Charmaine Nokes  
3860 N Deer Lake Rd  
Loon Lake, Wa 99148

**Bang Bang!**  
By the Newsletter Guy

We city slickers may not be aware of it, but there are absolutely no county rules against shooting off pistols, rifles, cannons, rpgs, or anti aircraft guns on our lake. If you want to pop a duck, during duck season of course, from your back deck with your over under shotguns, go right ahead, it is perfectly legal. If you want to set up target practice against your neighbor's fence, at least you have the legal right to load up the ole blunderbuss and let 'er rip, although you might have a problem with said neighbor if Magnum bullet holes pepper you neighbor's house.

*(In full disclosure, this is being written by probably the only person to have ever flunked the California Hunter's Safety program, so if I get some terminology or legality wrong I am happy to plead total ignorance of this subject.)*

Not everybody believes that this is a good idea. This subject has come up before, which you can see from the fall 99 and spring 2000 newsletters ([www.dlpoa.com/newsletters.htm](http://www.dlpoa.com/newsletters.htm))

Anyway, a few months back, the board got a note from a member who lives in the Pebble Beach area about a neighbor who is in fact using the junk in his back yard as target practice, and that indeed spent bullets (and bullet holes) do appear around the neighborhood, and that apparently quiet discussion has so far not resolved this problem. The sheriff is refusing to deal with this, since there is no ordinance being violated. This got escalated to Stevens County Commissioner Larry Gunther, who came to our September meeting to discuss possible options. (See [www.dlpoa.com/boardnotes.htm](http://www.dlpoa.com/boardnotes.htm) for that full report). The suggestion is to establish a no shooting area in the immediate area of Deer Lake's shore area. This would NOT include the docks, so bagging a goose will still be legal from your dock. It also would not apply to air driven (eg pellet) guns.

It may be that there are some WACs that already address this issue. WAC 332-52-145 has some rules applying to target shooting, but one could argue that blasting holes in your neighbor's Hupmobile might not be target shooting. Existing rules need to be researched by somebody who knows where to look, and who can stay awake reading all this mumbo jumbo.

Passing an ordinance is a really big deal. The commissioners cannot just have a meeting, have a vote, write it up, and be done with it in an hour. There have to be several public meetings where all sides can be heard on this, and then you have hearings with one or several commissioners, and then maybe you get to the write up and voting stage.

At that September meeting, DLPOA volunteered to host a request for comments meeting. At our November meeting, the board considered, but did not vote on, a resolution to NOT host this meeting. For now, we are attempting to see if the WAC—145 will take care of these problems without an ordinance.

## **Fish Pens**

by a board member with a grey dock

Two fish pens were installed October 3<sup>rd</sup> on the west side of the narrows. Three neighbors, the Stewarts, Augustines, and Rings will share in the raising of 16,000 rainbow trout this winter. They will be released in the spring of 2010 along with the 15,017 fish being raised by Jim Santora.

A special thanks to N.E. Washington Wildlife group for the construction and repair of the pens and to Brian and Scot Humphrey for the added muscle in moving the "fish shed". Ralph Rice donated his boat for the transfer of the pens to the narrows.

This raising season the baby rainbows will be given special training to be attracted to the yellow colored fishing poles hanging out from grey docks (hmmm .. Sounds like Ken Ring's place). Only one month after receiving the 4 inch fish, they are almost 6 inches long. Anyone who would like to visit the operation is welcome to drop by. Feeding the fish is interesting and enjoyable. They are as cute as can be when they are fed, somewhat like watching thousands of piranhas in a feeding frenzy! Over 12,000 have been named, but we still need 4,000 more names. If you have a suggestion, please call the Stewarts or Augustines.

## **Fish News from the Department of Fish & Wildlife**

**Bill Baker – Fish & Wildlife** made a presentation to the board in November on fish stocking and fish pens. We have two members of the board that volunteer to raise fish in pens during the winter. A bunch of Kokanee that we were supposed to get went to Loon Lake instead. Turns out that Loon's Kokanee population crashed, and they really needed the bump. Loon has not had any Kokanee in the last five years, whereas we have got about half a million a year in that time. So we got rainbow trout instead. Deer has a serious predation problem that chomps up all the Kokanee fry as soon as they get dumped in there. When they release the Kokanee, it becomes a feeding frenzy for the Macks. No matter where in the lake they release them.

Question – does Loon have better spawning? Answer – don't think that is the issue. Loon also has Mack predators, and they are large, whereas Deer's Macks are stunted. No small mouth Bass in Loon, but there is in Deer. Deer should be able to spawn Kokanee, and somehow it does not happen. Modifying fishing limits probably will not help, since the limits are already quite liberal. (5 fish limit for trout (including Macks), with up to two over 30 inches, per day, 10 a day for Bass.) **KEEP THE MACKS THAT YOU CATCH!** (*Ed note – The only good Mack is a dead Mack.*) Ponderay does a reward program to get rid of predators. Also lets commercial fishermen get them out. We discussed having a bounty program here.

The problem is, Macks are more of a sport fish that people like to catch, but not so much eat. (*Ed note: They do make good garden fertilizer.*)

Question – how many predators are in the lake? Last count was five years ago, and another count should be done. Of course, there is no money for any of this. Can't get grants without the

studies, don't have money for the studies.

Question – if a rainbow is 7 inches long when released, is there a better survival rate? Answer – no, they still become Mack food. Out of half a million Silver fry released each year, how many ever get caught? Nobody at the meeting sees these things. This year, several thousand 2 year old Kokanee (maybe 10 inches) were released, and they still all got gobbled up on release.

Question – can you let pen fish sit longer to get bigger? Answer – you get into a water temperature issue, and eventually a density problem.

Question – Can you start with larger fish in the pens? Answer – No, the hatcheries do not have the space to do this.

Next year we will get our share of Kokanee, since F&W will be prepared for it. But they will still get eaten.....

Question – why is Lake Roosevelt better fishing than our lake? Answer – stock 750k rainbows, not so many predators, more available food, deeper, more shoreline. There are 40 net pens on Lake Roosevelt.

He needs to know what do the stakeholders (us) want? A small mouth bass and mack fishery, or a rainbow and silver fishery? For the former, they can just do nothing, cause that is what we got. For the latter, about the only solution is to nuke what is there, and start over. That would be one humongous political problem, though.

Brook trout – hard to get from the hatcheries. These are a good fit for our lake, but we will probably not get any for a couple of years, until they can ramp up hatchery space for them.

For our lake, rainbow trout seem to be the most durable, and maybe smarter than the average Mack. Brookies are good too. Catch size laws do not seem to help make a better fishery.

Predators like the fact that our lake is very clear, because they find their pray visually. In the past, before the sewer, maybe the “good” fish survived better because of all the (literally) crap in the lake at that time. Deer Lake is nutrient limited, compared to other lakes. Macks exist in Priest Lake, but there they eat some sort of shrimp, that we don't have.

### **North Deer Lake Sign**

We have been discussing moving this sign for about a year. Larry Nokes' company was going to do this job for us, but that is no longer an option. Mr Humphrey is now taking on the project. He will acquire some timber logs, these will be planted near the entrance to the Public Access area, and then our sign, spiffed up, will somehow be attached to these logs. The existing sign spot is a traffic hazard, and the supports are all rotting away.

## Deer Lake Early Days – Denny Kemp

*Some of us have been curious about what Deer Lake was like 50 or 100 years ago. Two years ago we published a memoir by Frank Buell about his time on Deer Lake 1910-1920 ([www.dlpoa.com/FrankBuell.pdf](http://www.dlpoa.com/FrankBuell.pdf)) [case sensitive]. We would like to do more of this by interviewing those neighbors that were around back then (and are still around now). Mike Phillips and your humble scrivener interviewed Mr Kemp and his wife and sister one fall Saturday. This is their recollection of what it was like here in the 50's. This will be the first in what we hope will be a series of interviews. If you are, or know, somebody who has been on the lake for a serious amount of time, please let us know so we can contact them.*

Denny Kemp was born in the late 30's, lived his early life on Loon Lake, and then in 1952 his parents moved to Spokane and bought a lot in the then new Gardner Estates (\$250). We also talked to his sister Jean Vanhook, who shares ownership of their cabin.

The whole strip of land, from the then road (now the power lines) to the lake, from about the Gardner Estates boat launch to Pinelow, could have been bought by his grandfather for \$1500. However, since it was not farmland and you could not really grow anything on it, his grandfather passed on the deal as being quite uneconomical. Somewhere along the line, Sam Gardner did buy most of the land, we think from the railroad. The Gardners had been living somewhere up in the narrows at the time, then moved to the current Gardner area later. Sam later platted the area out and started selling lots over a 20 year time period. Rita Gardner (Sam Gardner's wife) drove the local school "bus" in the area, eg a Buick Stationwagon. From the very beginning, what is now Gardner Beach was reserved for the use of those people who bought a lot in Gardner Estates. Now that beach is operated by an LLC, but still owned by a member of the Gardner family. It is still only available to people who have a lot in one of the three Gardner Estates developments.

For the first several years they owned the lot in the early 50's, they lived in a tent during their weekend trips up here in the summer. Drinking water was brought in with five gallon milk cans. Water for other purposes was grabbed out of the lake. (They have a secondary lot, but in those days the lake shore was easy to get to from their lot.) Personal Needs was handled by an outhouse. Denny himself dug the outhouse pit under the "direction" of his father. As they were digging away, they uncovered one of the markers for their lot boundaries, and discovered that they were digging their hole on the Wrong side of the line. A few well placed shovels of dirt over the marker took care of that problem, and the hole digging continued on. I am told that most lots on the North and narrows side of the lake are off their correct boundaries by 10 feet or more.

In 1956 one of their neighbors brought in a Korean war era barracks building from Fairchild Air Force Base, and Mr Kemp Senior thought that was a marvelous idea, so he bought one too. Denny remembers meeting the truck with this 20 X 26 ft building at Deer Park. He has no idea how something that big got there. They rolled through the back roads (eg Spotted Road and the like) and got all the way to Pinelow, where they got stuck. The truck driver was going to dump

the building right there, but Mr Kemp pointed out that several other identical buildings had been already moved further along, and there had to be a way. On inspection of the blocking trees, they discovered marks apparently made by chains, which had been used to pry the trees back a few feet, enough for the buildings to move along. That was done, and Denny and his wife are still living in that building on their lot to this day, although it has been expanded.

One of Denny's first jobs as a teenager was carving out the roads inside Gardner Estates. Chopping Trees, pick and shovel work, all for fifty cents an hour. Work that would get somebody tossed in jail today for hiring a 13 year old to do.

The Salvation Army camp was established here in 1921, even then with the charter to bring in city kids to get a taste of country life. Denny would head on down there (in the 50's) and join in the fun and hang out at the camp. He was also friends with the Gardner kids, one of which was Ivy Shaw (who was a member of the DLPOA board for several years, and who will herself be the subject of one of these essays).

For some reason, they used to go swimming in a pond that is now on Salvation Army land, colloquially known as Tule Lake. It was also used by every animal in the area to drink in and poop in. Recently, Mike Phillips did some water quality testing of the lake, and for the heck of it tested water from this pond too. A bad reading is 1 ppm of coliform bacteria. The reading in this pond is like 70. At one time there was a drag line there, to dig out the peat (read: animal poop) that lines the bottom of the pond. This peat bog is like 40 feet deep, so there is a lot there. It was not economic. They also pumped the water out and grew alfalfa and wheat on it, and ran cattle (more poop). The pump was around until about 15 years ago.

In those days, you could still find structures from the really early days of the lake. At one time there was a wooden flume that took water from Grouse Creek and directed it to some apple orchard. This flume was several miles long, and was built during a very wet time in this area. Once it was up and running, everything dried up and we think it never really got used. Grouse Creek had a concrete dam built for this flume, and the concrete remnants are still visible if you know where to look. There was also an old army road that was built in the 1800's to connect Ft Walla Walla to Ft Colville (who knew that there WAS a Ft Colville?). In the 50's, that road was still in good enough shape that you could drive on it. Now Powers Road follows some of its path. (*Editor's note – in a future essay, a slightly different version of the flume story will be presented.*)

In 1958, Denny decided to see the world by joining the Navy. He got assigned as a nuclear technician on the then new Nuke submarines, and ended up spending 30 years on various aspects of that job, and getting enough promotions that he went all the way from E-nothing to Lt Commander. During that time, he only got to our lake three or four times. He met his wife while studying at the submarine school in New London, Connecticut. Enlisted people were only allowed to travel 50 miles from base in their free time, so he drew a 50 mile circle on a map and threw a dart to see where he should go. It happened that the dart landed seven miles from his future wife. They have been married 47 years, and have two children.

His forebearers first arrived in the area in 1896. His great grandfather, a civil war vet, arrived with his four (grown) children from Iowa and carved out a homestead. He had a relative, maybe a sister, already in the area. At that time, there were several mines in the area. Down past the narrows there were at least three copper mines. These mines kept producing till after World War I ended. There was also a Tungsten mine, this one on Blue Grouse mountain, which is one hill East of the hill above East Deer Lake Road. That mine operated as a real production mine with industrial sized equipment up until the 60s's, and was not a Prospector and Donkey kind of operation. From that mine entrance you can see the Gardner homestead on the NorthWest corner of Deer Lake. Denny's GGrandfather worked at the copper mines, and also worked as a blacksmith at Loon Lake. Denny's father arrived on the scene in 1899, born in the cook shack of one of these copper mines.

During the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century, Loon Lake was quite the resort area. A train ran from Spokane to a station at Loon Lake, and there was provision to take the passengers to a park that still exists today at Loon Lake. There people could picnic, swim, and do all the stuff that people did then and still do today, albeit with much less clothing today.

## DOOOS

Enclosed with this newsletter is a dues envelope. Those of you that would like to support the fine work that DLPOA does are requested to kick in a sawbuck to keep things going. This money first of all allows us to provide you with this fine multi colored glossy magazine. Well, if we had more bux, maybe it would be multi colored and glossy. But even this rag sheet takes some serious bread to get printed and mailed. We are also always on the lookout for donations for the fireworks. Last year donations provided 90% of the cost of the fireworks display. It also costs something to maintain our web site ([www.dlpoa.com](http://www.dlpoa.com)), support for the road cleanups, and the dock demo day. We hope that with these newsletters, we not only keep you informed of what is going on with our lake, but about some of the work that DLPOA does to keep the lake "Preserved and Improved for Future Generations".

### **2009 Pancake Feed**

by Lee Bayley, chairman

The 2009 – July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend Pancake Feed at the fire station at Deer Lake was a resounding success. Many thanks for all the volunteers who helped set up on Saturday, who cooked and served over 600 people on Sunday, and who then stayed to clean up and tear down. Without the generous contribution of time and energy by these volunteers, success would have been doubtful.

Total receipts for the breakfast was \$2563 and the raffle, chaired by the Dave Besley family, brought in an additional \$699. After all expenses DLPOA netted closed to \$2550. The number served and the income was reminiscent of many years past when we had over 20 volunteer fire fighters.

Special thanks to Tony Mauciople for the music. Next year promises to be equally well attended so place July 4<sup>th</sup> – 2010 – Sunday down for another great day of community building with lake friends and neighbors. See you then.

## Officers and Board members, 2009-2010

President:	Larry Nokes (On Leave)
Vice President	Mike Phillips
Treasurer	Mike Egan
Secretary	Dennis DeMattia

## Board Members of DLPOA

Bill Bajadali  
John Gregerson  
Jerry Groom  
Brian Humphrey  
Rick Jarvis  
Bill Meulink  
Jerry Rasley  
Ken Ring  
Jim Santora



Larry Nokes at the last Annual Meeting

Deer Lake Property Owners Association  
Box 250  
Loon Lake, Wa 99148-0250

**All future DLPOA Board meetings will be at the  
Salvation Army Camp, 6pm, Dining Building.**

**There will be NO board meetings in  
January or February.**

Board Meetings for the first half of 2010 will be

Thursday, March 11  
Thursday April 8  
Thursday May 13  
Thursday June 10

The Annual Meeting will probably be Saturday June 12.  
The 4<sup>th</sup> of July will be, well, Sunday, July 4th....