



Big Fish Lake Association Newsletter

SUMMER, 2024

Big Fish Lake Property Owners Association

Officers

Joshua Datema-President, call, or text 269-251-0306

Raymond Bierbaum, Jr.-Vice-President

Cheri Shepherd-Secretary

Lynn Carr-Treasurer

Board of Directors

Wayne Brazzell

Ken Chemers

Ron Colborn

Art Peterson

Steve Shepherd

BFLPOA Meeting August 31, 2024

Time: 10AM

Where: The Rock at Big Fish Lake.

Committee Contacts

Advertising – Ray Bierbaum, Jr.

BFL Directory - Mary Kiser

BFL Flags - John Brocar

Holiday Party 2024 – Sue Brazzell

Lake Weeds - Chris Brooks Marcellus/Volinia SAD liaison

Neighborhood Watch - Contact your block captain

Picnic 2024 – Tom Dinneen

Poker Run 2024 – Ron Colborn

Website - Mary Kiser

Welcome Baskets – Sharon Simpson

Welcome Party 2025 - TBD

Neighborhood Watch Block Captains

Mike Hauser – Grandview Drive

Walt Leazenby – Red Run Road

Kelly Lewis – Red Run Road

Jerry Melko – Red Run Road

Art Peterson – Fish Lake Drive

Steve & Cheri Shepherd – Lake St/Steininger Rd

Gary Troop – Elm Drive

BFL Flags for Sale

To purchase a BFL flag (\$40) for your yard or boat, contact John Brocar, 312-835-0138 or Ray Bierbaum, Jr..574-292-3310.

Calendar of Events - 2024

Meetings

Board 9 AM General 10 AM

August 31

Events

Poker Run August 3

Holiday Party November 30

BFL – Apparel and More

Association apparel with choice of logo can be ordered online and delivered directly to you. Go to www.rokkitwear.com. Then enter Big Fish Lake Property Owners Association.

Neighborhood Security System

24-hour surveillance. New, larger signs will be posted soon.



Boat Safety Certificate

Any motorized boat operator born after June 30, 1996, is required by law to pass a boater safety course and to carry a boater education card. In addition, boater education is also required for all Personal Water Craft operators born after December 31, 1978. To learn safe boating operation and to get certified, go online at boat-ed.com/michigan

Unleashed Dogs.

According to Michigan law, no dog owner is allowed to have his or her dog stray in public unless leashed properly. This applies to any area that is not on the dog owner's property. If you are bothered by an unleashed dog, contact the Cass County Animal control at (269)445-3701

Big Fish Lake POA Equipment Rentals

In addition to rental fees, a \$25 deposit is required for tents. Deposit will be refunded upon return.

2 Bean Bag Toss games – Free

Tent 10 x 10 - \$10

Tent 15 x 15 - \$15 (tents must be dry upon return)

Picnic Tables - \$5 each

Contact Ray Bierbaum, Jr. 574-292-3310

Welcome Party 2024



Many thanks to our hosts Frank and Becky Militello.

Little Free Library Dedication

Big Fish Lake now has a second Little Free Library exchange box which will serve the southside community. A dedication took place on June 15, 2024. The LFL is available for you to take a book and/or leave a book.



Pictured at the dedication are, Ron Colborn, Phyllis Jerke, Tabetha Banashak, Sue Krzus, Cheri Shepherd, Steve Shepherd, Alice Paulsen.

Thanks to Ron Colborn for acquiring this exchange box and to the Shepherd's for placing it on their property. It's a lovely location.

BFLPOA Board Elections 2025

Elections for officers and directors take place next year. Please consider serving a 3-year term for any position. If you want more information, meet with a current serving member at the POA meeting on August 31, 2024.

Marcellus Township Wood Memorial Library

LOOKING TO GET A LIBRARY CARD?

DO I QUALIFY FOR A FREE CARD?

Townships served:
 Marcellus
 Flowerfield
 Porter
 Newberg
 Volinia

If you are a teacher/student at the Marcellus Community Schools or Howardsville Schools, you qualify.

If you have a card at any branch of the Cass District Library or the Van Buren District Library, you also qualify.

I DON'T QUALIFY FOR A FREE CARD...

That's okay!

For a one time fee of \$20, we can give you a library card if you are out of our service area, no matter where you reside.

WHAT CAN I DO WITH MY CARD?

1. Check out books, DVDs, magazines, & mobile hotspots
2. Access e-books & audiobooks via the Libby app
3. Interlibrary loan items from other libraries using Mel.org
4. Access the Michigan Activity Pass

269.646.9654
 marcellusmichiganlibrary@gmail.com
 205 E. Main St. Marcellus, MI 49067

Marcellus Township, Cass County Michigan-Lake Area ORV Ordinance NO. 2018-1 (Amended)

Off-road vehicles and golf carts have returned to our township streets. Please review the amended ordinance regarding operating rules on our website at bigfishlake.org. At the July 6 BFLPOA meeting a concern was raised regarding children operating these vehicles in an unsafe manner.

Big Fish Lake Catch of the Day

Look what Alice Paulsen's granddaughter Lexie caught when fishing off the dock.



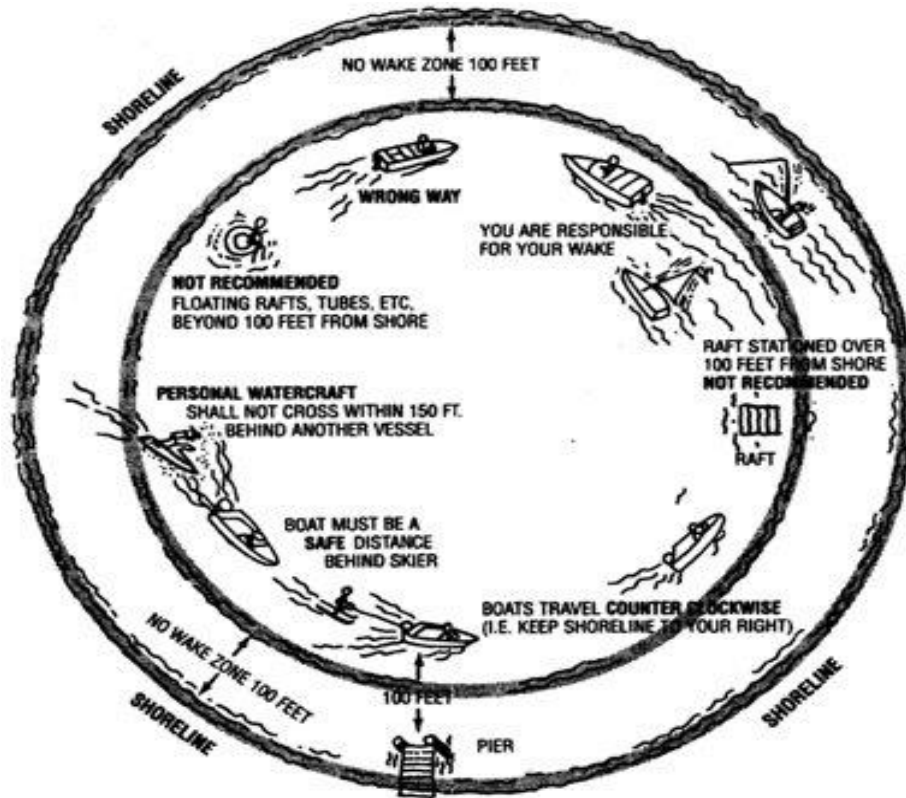
Boat Parade 2024



A Safety Reminder for Everyone Navigating Our Lakes.

A person shall maintain 100 feet from any dock, boat, raft, buoyed or occupied swimming area while driving at other than slow – no wake speed

Slow – no wake means operation at a very slow speed to minimize the wake created by your vessel.



On the Water

In addition to the laws mentioned previously, here are some other Michigan regulations that apply when vessel operators are on the water.

Unlawful and Dangerous Operation

Michigan law designates these dangerous operating practices as illegal.

- **Reckless Operation** of a vessel or reckless manipulation of water skis, a surfboard, or similar device is defined as operation which disregards the safety or rights of others or endangers the person or property of others. Some examples are:
 - Weaving your vessel through congested waterway traffic or swerving at the last possible moment in order to avoid collision
 - Jumping the wake of another vessel unnecessarily close to the other vessel or when visibility around the other vessel is restricted
 - Chasing, harassing, or disturbing wildlife with your vessel
 - Causing damage from the wake of your vessel

Are You Really Prepared for a Boating Emergency?


by Ron Colborn

I thought everyone was safe on our boat. I always carry more than enough life jackets. I have one out for each passenger and require anyone age 9 or less to always have a life jacket on. I also have a throwable flotation ring tied next to my captain's seat. I found out the hard way that this is not enough. We had a family go out with us on our pontoon boat and we were having a great time swimming and cruising the lakes. We stopped back home for lunch and then went out for another cruise. We stopped to go swimming again and my wife, Barb, and I were entertaining the two children in the back of the boat while the parents took a swim, without life jackets. Shortly, the husband is asking me for the throwable ring, because he says his wife can't get back to the boat. He did not think to throw any of the life jackets to her that were laying on the seats. Suddenly I realized that we are looking at a life or death situation. Barb started the motor and I went to the front to see what needed to be done to rescue her. His wife was doing everything she could to keep her head above water and by this time she was too far away to throw her a life jacket. Barb tried to get closer to her, but was only circling her. I took over and put it in reverse to line up better and pulled up to her with the boat ladder in place. Her husband, who was on the ladder, grabbed her and pulled her toward the boat. I grabbed her wrists and he got under her and tried to help me lift her onto the boat from the ladder. She later confirmed that her weight is 125 lbs. 125 lbs. of dead weight is an unbelievable lift for 2 men. It took us about 5 minutes to get her totally onto the boat. She was breathing fine, just totally spent. We rushed her home and thankfully she recovered quickly!

What we learned that may help save lives in the future:

1. Require everyone who goes swimming to wear a proper size life jacket. Beyond not knowing their swimming ability, they could experience a heart attack or other medical crisis and it will help you assist them.
2. Have the throwable life-saving ring with attached rope easily accessible and mounted on the front or rear of your boat or have 2 for extra safety.
3. Practice maneuvering your boat directly to a floating person. It takes practice and you don't want to lose time in an emergency. Backing up to align with someone, rather than going straight forward to them is normally going to be the quickest way.
4. Ask yourself if you are going to be able to get your passenger back in the boat if they are unable to help. For me this was the most challenging factor we were faced with. If you know you can't, please consider not swimming from your boat, or have others with you.
5. Jumping in to rescue someone is the last and most dangerous option to consider. Even a strong, skilled lifeguard knows that a drowning person is panicking and can grab them and take them down also. Give the floundering person anything that floats and pull them to the boat or shore. The only time you should make contact yourself is if they are no longer struggling and you have the training to be successful.

Our experience was frightening, but even with our mistakes, everything turned out alright. Please talk about this with your family and friends and prevent it from happening to you.



Mark Ye Well
This Date-

FULL BOAT

Big Fish · Finch · East & West Saddlebag Lakes **POKER RUN 6**

Sign up at The Rock Aug. 3rd from 10am-11:30, \$25 per player

Starting at noon, follow your map to collect envelopes from marked docks around the lakes. We'll meet up at Penn's Grove to count your cards at 3pm, with a hog roast at 4pm. Please bring a dish to pass. BYOB.



BLUEGILL FROLIC

499 S Burney, Marcellus MI

**16 AUGUST, FRIDAY
OPENING AT 11 AM**

- Cornhole tournament 5pm
- Marks reptiles
- Lasoulful 4pm
- Rebel Pride 7pm

**17 AUGUST, SATUDAY
OPENING AT 8 AM**

- Car show 8-2pm
- Fishing contest 8am
- Pony rides 10-3pm
- Marcellus Talent 12 PM
- Cornhole tournament 3pm
- Slimknot 4 PM
- Mud Creek 7 PM

BOTH DAYS

- Dunk Tank
- Beer Tent
- Food Trucks and Vendors
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4:00 - 9:00

OPEN MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND - LABOR DAY WEEKEND

TheRockAtBigFishLake.com



Big Fish Lake Association Annual Membership Application

We welcome all lake area residents to join the Big Fish Lake Property Owners Association. Your membership dues support lake activities. Plus, you also receive a spring, summer, and fall newsletter.

Dues is \$20 per family. Additional \$14 (optional) for the Riparian magazine.

Membership Enrollment Form:

Date Completed: _____

Name(s): _____

Lake Address: _____

City: Marcellus State: MI Zip: 49067

Home phone: _____ Cell phone: _____

Email address: (needed so you will receive our newsletters and important announcements)

Mark selection: Dues: \$20 _____

Riparian: \$14 _____

Total: \$ _____

Payable to BFLPOA. Mail to: BFLPOA, Attn. Lynn Carr, Treasurer, PO Box 601, Marcellus, MI 49067

