

LAKE RABUN ASSOCIATION GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2019

LOCATION: PAVILION

WELCOME AND INVOCATION

A motion was passed to approve the minutes of the Memorial Day minutes.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS: Chris and Dorothy Baugher, Jeb and Carrie Bluont , McKenzie and Brittany Cochran, Francis Doling, Tom and Stacey Ewing, David Ferguson and Holly Bayman, Hardman and Kelly Knox, Pat and Lois Mickler, Doug, Jennifer and Barbara Nassaur, Lee and Wavely Noles, Paul and Caroline Normark, Brent and Chrissy Reeves, Wayne and Mary Soud, Cindy Wright and Robert Waller, Shane and Amy O'Neill.

LRA IN MEMORIAM: Elaine Herndon and Lou Storemant

RECOGNITION OF RETIRING TRUSTEES: Every year we rotate seven trustees in and seven out. Judy Cathy, Betty King, Cherry Kinnunen, Judson Laws, Hollis McCracken, Julie Taylor, and Gordon Van Mol.

NEW TRUSTEES: Jill Bernhart, Forrest Kennedy, Taylor Schweiger, Mary Shannon Scott, Ryan Simmons, Lori Hughes, Susie Tillis.

NEW SECRETARY: Dick Newkirk

Motion passed to elect new officers, Secretary and Trustees.

Presentation of paddle to John Williams.

CHAIRMAN JOHN WILLIAMS : No report

VICE CHAIR SANDY STRONG: Thanks to Michael Crowe for arranging our latest CPR and AED class. A list of neighbors who have AEDs is on the 2nd page of the Directory. If you haven't been updated on CPR lately you don't have to do the breathing any longer - just chest compressions.

PRESIDENT RUDDY DEAS: Reported that we won the battle to defeat the commercial zoning request of 6.7 acres by Rabun Bluffs. Thanks to everyone who helped and showed up at the meeting,. The Rabun County Commission vote was unanimous. \The issue will be with us going forward so Ruddy has established an "early warning system". Some people are checking the legal section in the Clayton Tribune every week, and others who are checking for zoning signs (a reddish sign). We don't want to be in a catchup mode. We want to be as far in front of this process as we can. We have established a very good working relationship with the zoning office. There are only two pieces of land which could potentially be problems - this one and 24 acres on the other side of the lake.

Georgia Power is now going to a 3 year drawdown. We have been in discussion with the company all the way up to the Vice President of Environmental Affairs. Ruddy offered to compromise to 2 year drawdown if they would work with us on wake boats and also lengthen the drawdown to 6 or 7 weeks. We have been told that 3 years is set and will not change, but they may consider lengthening the drawdown.

On wakeboard boats, DNR says they understand the problem but the law doesn't allow them to limit wake boats. As long as a boat is 26-½' long or less and does not have a head, it is legal on Lake Rabun.

Ruddy asked for help identifying anyone in the power company, the federal or state government who might be able to help. There have been efforts to outlaw wakeboard boats in 6 states but they have so far failed. Allen Price said it's time for the LRA to fund an environmental impact study. There are no limitations as to the size of the lake required for wakeboard boats, or the weight of the boat. Judson Laws said there should be an 8,000 pound weight limit on boats on Lake Rabun. We need to educate wake boat owners to empty their ballast when not in use.

Ruddy said the LRA adopted Minnehaha but we haven't followed through. He and Michael Crowe are looking for 4-5 volunteers to come twice a year to help with the heavy work at Minnehaha. We may hire some day laborers too. We will then have a general family cleanup in the spring to spruce it up.

There are 80-90 members who have higher insurance because they are too far away from a fire station. We need 2 acres in the Tame Turkey or Flat Creek area for a new fire department substation.

Ruddy said we will e-blast to ask members what merchandise they want to be offered. Penny Burkett has been doing this merchandise for over 20 years and has contributed over \$50,000. (applause)

A film about the Georgia Power mountain lakes has been made based on a book written by Mike Maffett of Lake Burton. LRA members have been invited to a premier of the film Sunday, September 22 at Waterfall Club. It will also be shown on PBS on Tuesday, September 24.

Ruddy presented Jim Roberson with the Fred Stewart Shangrila plaque for helping Jill Dyas after a fall and serious injury. This is the second time Jim has come to someone's aid. He also helped in an accident on the lake involving a German man.

VICE PRESIDENT DAVID TATUM: We have our fourth party tonight with Wolf Creek BBQ doing the catering and Atlanta Rhythm and Groove. The band is here for all LRA members and guests. But you need a ticket for the food. Please have a designated driver. David thanked everyone who has helped decorate tables, setup tents, etc. David recognized Mike Swink who is always there to help. Joan and Coleen Henry will do Bingo again for one more year. They are looking for a replacement. Also, thanks to John King, our Dean of Lakemont University. And thanks to Elizabeth Bitter who runs our Beach Party.

David recognized David Dyer for setting up tables and chairs and all the other things he does.

We are giving David a plaque, but it didn't arrive in time.

Anne Pledger found information showing that the date of the Articles of Incorporation for our non-profit organization was on September 4, 1970, which means 2020 will be the 50th anniversary. Next year we will do some things to celebrate the anniversary.

SECRETARY DICK SIMMS: No report.

ANITA PITTMAN - CFO: reported that the financial footing of our organization remains strong. Our bank balance and reserves are more than sufficient to cover the expenses projected for the remainder of the year. Our biggest expenses are membership events and parties, fireworks, printing the directory every other year, subscriptions to the Clayton Tribune and development of the new website, which is ongoing. Anita said we need volunteers who have expertise in technology who can help with maintenance. Membership is 511 including 31 new members. Financial statements will be posted on the website, along with the minutes of this meeting.

STEVE RAEHER - FOUNDATION REPORT: Steve thanked everyone for all they do for the foundation. The group of scholarship students is very talented. Steve listed examples of some of the students' many talents and achievements. He discussed the positive impact of connecting students with LRA families. The NGCF sent checks to students totaling \$94,000 so far this year. The foundation will also make grants of more than \$40,000 to a variety of local charities, schools and other non-profits. Steve said that when the students renew their scholarships, they send their grades to the NGCF and a little note telling what's going on in their lives and how much they appreciate the support and encouragement from the foundation. He read several examples. Steve thanked everyone for their support through our annual fund and named scholarship program. Keith and Terry Davidson have established a named scholarship. There are now 12. Greg and Laura Rhodes and Dwight and Mary Shannon Scott have signed up for a second round of the scholarship. (applause)

Steve thanked Sandy, Anita and Andrea Altholz for Local on the Lake, Sandy for the 13th Rabun Ramble, and Penny Burkett for selling merchandise. Special thanks to Nick and Lisa Hoffman who for the second year have sent a scholarship student to attend Cambridge for a week for free. Please remember the foundation in your estate planning.

WHIPPOORWILL AWARD - CAROL RAEHER: the first recipient restructured the LRA financial system, updated and reorganized the LRA bylaws, worked to improve the LRA website, organized a successful fireboat campaign, led the effort to protect the endangered hemlock trees, participated in many other volunteer events and takes care of neighborhood roads with his mule and chainsaw. He along with our second recipient chaired a very successful Tour of Homes in 2014. Our second recipient was a huge contributor to the Centennial book, the Gatherings cookbook, The Lake Rabun Foundation, and especially the Lake Rabun Foundation scholarship program. The recipients are Anne and Bob Pledger. (applause)

WHIPPOORSNAPPER AWARD - MIKE SWINK: The recipient has worked at every Tour of Homes and most of the events every year. She ran the bar at the year's auction, was a clown and ran the childrens' party at the the Centennial. She has organized help for victims of fires. Mike congratulated and thanked Emily Thompson. (applause)

DICK SIMMS - WATER TESTING: We resumed testing the water quality on Lake Rabun this summer. We tested in June and in early August, taking a total of six samples from various places on the lake. EPA says if e-coli level is greater than 235 units per 100 ml, that it is not safe to swim. All six of our samples came in under 10. Dick reminded everyone that in the spring with heavy rains and flooding, the water might not be so clean. We will try to do some testing next spring to see.

MICHAEL CROWE - BOATER AND COMMUNITY SAFETY: Life jacket stations are up and actively being used. They are a joint effort of LRA, Georgia Power, the Forest Service and Hall's.

Hollis McCracken will manage the station at Hall's and Michael Crowe will manage the one at the Rabun Beach. Please donate life jackets that are in good condition and Coast Guard approved.

New buoys have been installed in the no-wake zone at Rabun Beach. They mark the shallow water too. In a significant flooding event, no-wake signs will be put up at the boat ramps recommending that all boats stay at idle speed until the water recedes. An e-blast will also be sent out. Otherwise we have had a safe summer on Lake Rabun.

ANITA AND SANDY - LOCAL ON THE LAKE: Anita thanked all who participated. It was a new and different kind of event and was put together fairly quickly. She thanked Sandy and Andrea, as well as the sponsors, the design team especially Emily Thompson, who introduced us to Oakley Sutherland, who also was a big help. Forest Kennedy was also a huge help. Judy Cathey did a great job with flowers. Craig Kettles did a great job with marketing. Thanks to our bartenders, Connie, Tommy and Emily Thompson. Thanks to Lee Epting and his team who did the catering. They went above and beyond to make it such a wonderful experience. People really enjoyed this event. Financially it was a big success. We delivered \$38,600 to the Foundation.

Sandy talked about the Rabun Ramble which is a 5k / 10k road race to kick-off the 4th of July weekend. This was the 13th Ramble with about 750 runners. Sandy thanked her incredible volunteer support team and sponsors. We are trying to bring in more young people. We had walkie-talkies along the course in case of an emergency.

JULIE AND CINDY TAYLOR - TOUR OF HOMES: Julie Taylor said she and Cindy are very excited about the June 20, 2020 LRA Tour of Homes. There is a pamphlet in your chair with details. Please come and see the homes with "2020 vision". Cindy introduced homeowners who will be opening their houses; Tom and Sandy Gay and Anne Scott and Judy Lampert. We need helpers. See you all on June 20, 2020.

OLD BUSINESS - DAVID TATUM: The VP is responsible for getting the outgoing President a present. Ruddy said "I don't need anything and you can't afford what I want". David presented Ruddy with a paddle, since he seems to be up the creek without one. As a gift, the LRA will donate \$500 to the NGCF in Ruddy's name. One of Ruddy's favorite saying is "Go with your gut". David presented Ruddy with a t-shirt that says "Follow your gut". (applause & laughter)

Ruddy thanked everyone for giving him the opportunity. He said he has enjoyed the vast majority of it. I'm stepping down but I will be around forever and I will do whatever I can to help.

The lake cleanup is September 13. David Dyer says we have a lot of maps and some round LRA disks. The next lake drawdown is around Thanksgiving 2020.

Ruddy handed the gavel to David Tatum, our upcoming President.

Respectfully submitted,

Dick Simms, Secretary

