



Lake Cavanaugh News

Special Edition ~ February 2023

Published by the Lake Cavanaugh Improvement Association (LCIA)

On the internet <https://www.lakecavanaugh.info>

Message from the President

When my wife and I were first introduced to the Lake Cavanaugh community in the mid-1980's, we certainly had no idea we would ever own property on the lake. Yet, here we are in the early part of 2023 and we feel blessed to have been on the lake for nearly thirty years.

Like so many of us, my wife, Tammy, and I first discovered this wonderful lake through our friends. Our weekend adventures up here with them eventually inspired us to seek out a place of our own. We worked with Dottie and Warren Otteson to take ownership of a rustic little cabin, with no electrical service and no running water. We have "fond" memories of our first nights in that cabin, sharing the space with the resident mice who had apparently assumed ownership prior to our arrival. As with so many families on the lake, the sale of that first cabin enabled us to purchase our next cabin, which was built in the 1950's. We have now been happily ensconced just off of West Shore since 1999 with no intentions of moving elsewhere.

As all who own property on the lake can attest, Lake Cavanaugh becomes a part of who we are and where we belong. Ours is a unique and amazing community. It is certainly defined, in part, by the physical beauty: the mountains, the clear water, the wildlife and amazing seasonal changes. As important as these characteristics are, it is the inherent bond we share as residents of the lake which brings us together. While we may not know all who cruise by our docks throughout the year, we still feel a connection which is rooted in our common understanding of just how special our lake is.

This was in the forefront of my mind when Shannon O'Kelly recently asked me to take on this position. Many of the friends we have made at the lake are now considered family. In listening to them and observing their commitment to our community, I saw the importance of becoming more involved at the lake. I am looking forward to working with the other committed board members of the LCIA, as well as all of our LCIA members, to maintain Lake Cavanaugh as the special place we know it to be.

See you on the lake!

John Matusak

Upcoming Community Center Events

Check our website for more information at: <https://www.lakecavanaugh.info/>

Happy Hour: Ongoing every third Saturday unless posted otherwise

Kid's Club: March thru November every third Saturday unless posted otherwise

Spring Luncheon: May 6th 11:00 RSVP Barbara Busby

Hibachi Teppanyaki Fundraiser Dinner (limited seating): June 3rd

Rummage Sale Drop-Off & Set-up Week: June 26th thru 30th

Rummage Sale Days: July 1st thru 4th

Rummage Sale Cleanup & Packup: July 5th

Classic Car Show: July 8th

Dumpster Day: July 15th

FunFest Weekend: September 2nd & 3rd

Spring Luncheon

Saturday May 6

11:00 am

Speaker: Chad Clark from the
Sheriff's Department

Followed by luncheon

Call Barbara Busby for Reservations
360-422-6883 or
email: LKCAV@aol.com

Grill on Wheels is coming back by popular demand!



Please join us for a very special Dinner Show Event!

Private Chef AJ from Grill on Wheels is coming to the Lake Cavanaugh Community Center to cook a delicious Hibachi Dinner. AJ is excited to entertain our lake residents with his griddle skills of spatula spinning, egg throwing and cooking right in front of your eyes. This very special presentation is on

**June 4th beginning with
Social Half Hour at 5:30 PM and
Dinner to follow at 6 PM.**

This is an LCIA fund raiser of a \$100 donation per person for a Teppanyaki Japanese style dinner with hosted beer and wine (over 21)

Only 24 seats available, early reservations are suggested.

Call: Priscilla McElhose at 360.422.5606 for reservations.

Link to video: <https://fb.watch/aWRHjPZILN/>

LCIA 2023 Officers

MISSION STATEMENT

*To promote friendship and
cooperation among lake residents,
and to solve common problems and
to achieve common goals.*

Community Center Wifi:

LCCCHub-Guest: No Password Required

✓ Agree to disclaimer

President: John Matusak
Vice-Pres: Shannon O'Kelley
Treasurer: Christine Nielsen
Secretary: Debbie Stinson
Directors: Mick Steinman
Priscilla McElhose
Bob McCullough
Rick Diedrich

LCIA General Meeting Dates 2023

May 27, July 3, Aug 5, Sept 2

*All lake residents are welcome, whether you
are a member or not. We discuss issues that
are pertinent to all lake residents.*

Committees

Newsletter: Christine Nielsen
4nielsen@gmail.com
cell 360-420-7140

Advertising: Gay Duvall
duvallg@comcast.net
cell 206-330-5305

Directory: Robin Gibaut
robingib2018@gmail.com

For more information on officers and
committees, and to volunteer:

<https://www.lakecavanaugh.info/contact>

Lake Cavanaugh Improvement Association Membership Drive 2023 - Join Today!

Some of you have asked—What are LCIA membership dues used for? or What does the LCIA do?—Here is an in-depth overview of all that your LCIA membership dues include, and help support.

The Lake Cavanaugh Improvement Association (LCIA) is committed to promoting activities for community participation and enjoyment for all lake residents, and to solve common problems and achieve common goals as stated in our bylaws. We are not a political group or organization but simply a community looking to better itself and create events and activities for all to enjoy. We are also not subsidized by anybody and we receive no tax money.

There is an open invitation to all lake residents to attend and join clubs and groups such as Garden Club, Bunco, Kids Club, Church in the summer, Happy Hour, Book Club, and special events, such as the Rummage Sale, and new activities such as the Classic Car Show. We end the season in September with the annual FunFest activities including: craft fair, golf tournament, games for kids and adults, and Labor Day Dance.

When we host these activities at the Community Center there are operating and building maintenance expenses that your dues are paying for. In simple terms this includes: cleaning supplies, paper products and so on. In other words, anything that's in the cupboards has been donated or paid for by your dues. Volunteers take time out of their busy schedules to replenish supplies and keep the Community Center building supplied, in good condition and in working order.

There are monthly utilities: propane, electricity, telephone, and garbage pickup; and yearly inspections from the Health Department for the kitchen permit, for inspection and parts for the safety vent over the propane kitchen stove and inspection of the septic system. There is also water quality testing for the well and for the lake water. In addition, there are costs of maintaining the exterior of the building such as paint, roof, furnace, insurance, and the list goes on as it would with your own home, such as lawn care and window washing. We also sponsor a Dumpster Day each year in July for all residents to bring their castoff's. We ask for a donation to help cover the dumpster expenses.

The LCIA also acts on behalf of your community in any government related endeavors or challenges. This would include communicating when snow plowing is needed, North Shore repair, boat launch updates, chip sealing schedules, updates on logging, etc. While there are no dollars related to these endeavors, these are just a few of the items that the LCIA provides for you. We are not subsidized by any other group or entity but strictly maintain communications through our own LCIA community and volunteers.

We have done significant property improvements in the last four years that required considerable expense, thus the fundraising events that we have asked the community to contribute to.

- The concrete parking area at the Community Center was built by volunteer labor and was also equipped with sport court equipment which enables a variety of games—double duty here.
- Another sport court for volleyball and badminton has been installed on the grass over the foot bridge and a permanent horseshoe pit has been built in that area.
- In 2021 the exterior of the building was repainted for the first time since it was built in 2010.
- Just last year in 2022 the remainder of the parking area was asphalted.

A little bit of background for those who haven't been on the lake until recently: The Community Center building was built totally by volunteer help and donated material and funds. It was completed in 2010 and open for use. There are still volunteers donating their time and materials to keep our Community Center running. There is an article later in this Special Edition listing the volunteer positions we need help with.

article continues on next page

It Pays to Join the LCIA: Support your community, stay informed, and enjoy the many benefits included in your membership. Please visit our website with options to pay online via PayPal or by mail. See details below.

The benefits you receive when you pay dues and join the LCIA:

- You will receive the full Newsletter four more times this year to inform you about the activities that are happening during that time and any news around the lake. These four newsletters include the advertisers that help support us. You can also see the advertisers on the lake website. All of the newsletters are digital.
- You will receive a welcome letter from our database volunteer, Robin Gibaut, with the passwords for the website “Members Only Section” which is where you find the downloadable phone and address Directory for the lake.
- As a property owner and a dues paying member, you will be a voting member of the LCIA. When you attend any of four meetings that the LCIA conducts each summer you will be able to voice your opinion and concerns along with your vote for our proposed projects. You have a voice. You have a vote. Anyone is welcome at these meetings, member or not. Please join us.
- As a dues paying member you receive a reduced rate when renting the Community Center for a private party.

You need not be a member to join in any of the community activities or events, but your membership dollars and donations go a long way to support your Community Center and the activities the LCIA provides.

Online using PayPal

<https://www.lakecavanaugh.info/member-dues-and-donations/>

\$50.00 Primary Membership

\$20 Associate Member

By Mail

Lake Cavanaugh Improvement Association; Make checks payable to LCIA

c/o Christine Nielsen, LCIA Treasurer

35022 South Shore Drive, Mount Vernon, WA 98274

Thank you for your continued support!

Looking forward to seeing you all this summer!

Lake Cavanaugh Improvement Association Board of Directors

Shannon O’Kelley, LCIA Vice-President and Membership Chair

msokelley@hotmail.com

North Shore Update

by Larita Humble

At this point, a year and half after the North Shore closure, I continue to diligently work and communicate with the Skagit County Commissioners and Public Works to find a solution or resolution for North Shore.

Unfortunately, Lake Cavanaugh is not at the top of their priority list/budget for several reasons, one of which is “amount of money spent per people served!” I sit in on Monday public works briefs to hear if North Shore is discussed and to determine if a budget is being created for our road. By doing so, I glean certain valuable information regarding other road projects giving me an advantage/ammunition to make valid points every Tuesday for my allotted 3-minute presentation during the Skagit County public comment period. I have used every viable point that I can think of and per my research presenting at the commissioners public comment meetings, but to no avail!

The county places a road counter annually to determine the number of cars using our roads and the number is too low in our remote area for them to even consider the project. The counting strips have been placed during the off season and mid-week thereby receiving an inaccurate number of “people served.” *They have since agreed to place counters during the summer and over a weekend.*

Commissioners and public works are well aware of the inconvenience and frustrations that we undergo on a daily basis. They don’t care if it takes longer to drive around the lake, or what transpires with our garbage, mail or deliveries or care about the added stress on South Shore making that road deteriorate more rapidly. *More importantly, they are sympathetic of our emergency needs but ultimately do not have the funds to assist such a small community.*

I recently presented a human interest story regarding one of our neighbors and the hoops that he had to jump through recently to receive a package at the barrier. SO.....my question to you is...would you be willing, or do you have, a personal story that has had a negative impact on you and your family due to the closure? If so, would you be willing to contact me and tell me your story so that I may present it to the commissioners and public works?

I am not giving up representing you and my community as I have made it very clear and apparent to the commissioners and public works that even though my tenure as president ended on December 31st, 2022, I will see this project through for my community until restoration is complete.

If you would like to write to the commissioners regarding North Shore, or for any other Skagit County business or concerns, please email them at: commissioners@co.skagit.wa.us or via USPS at: 1800 Continental Place, Suite 100, Mount Vernon, WA 98273 or if you would be interested in joining the Tuesday, 11:30 AM public comment meeting, you may do so via Zoom at <https://skagitcounty.net/Departments/CountyCommissioners/main.htm> or in person at their Continental Place meeting room.

Rest assured that I am working for you and will not quit until we receive the end results that we are looking for! I won’t bore you with all the details here, but please know that I continue to put many hours into this project for us. If you would like further details and information regarding North Shore, please call or email me.

***Let’s work together to get the road open!
Thank you for any help that you are able to provide.***

**Larita Humble cell # 206.794.7141 or
larita_humble@frontier.com**

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The first two positions are extremely important to the operation of the LCIA and must be filled as soon as possible.

Database & Directory —

- 1) Maintain the database by making sure information is up-to-date to track current years memberships. During peak season 2–3 hrs a week. Off-season an 1 hr per week.
- 2) Sending out the newsletters, 30 minutes.
- 3) Creating the Directory 2/3 days.
- 4) Check county records for new owners.

Webmaster — for the LCIA website
Must know “Word Press” and be readily available to make changes and updates.

Each of the following positions can be filled by multiple volunteers working independently or as a committee.

Welcome Committee — consists of meeting and greeting new residents, giving out swag bag and community information along with a friendly handshake and smile.

Kids Club — is in need of volunteers to set up and tear down tables and games, providing and /or coordinating snacks and extra assistance for special events such as Halloween and the Easter Egg Hunt.

Sports Court Assistance —

This opportunity includes taking nets up and down for events including community and private rentals and winter storage.

Fund Raising Assistance —

Helping with and setup of events such as the Hibachi Dinner is order taking, set up/ decorating and clean up. The Classic Car Show and the Labor Day Dance community event activities consist of scheduling, hiring and general coordination including set up and tear down.

Rummage Sale Assistance — duties consist of sorting, pricing, and selling and boxing up the remaining goods for pick up. The rummage sale generally runs about two weeks, beginning to end, giving room for many volunteer time and opportunities.

Community Events — including Labor Day Dance, FunFest , Classic Car Show and Dumpster Day activities consist of scheduling, hiring and general coordination including set up and tear down.

If you are interested in volunteering contact:

Larita Humble

206.794.7141

larita_humble@frontier.com

or

Christine Nielsen

360.420.7140

4nielsen@gmail.com

Fire Department Auxiliary

As the new President of LCFDA I am looking forward to 2023 in a very positive and productive way. I look forward to working with the Community and the LCIA. Together we can accomplish anything.

I invite everyone who wants to help make a difference to contact me personally. Our first LCFDA meeting is on March 11th. If you are interested in joining us, our meeting starts at 10:00 AM. Hope to see you there!

Carol Pletz, President, LCFDA

***There is an open meeting of
Alcoholics Anonymous
at the Community Center.***

**The meeting will be held upstairs
on Saturdays from 7:30am to 8:30am
Anyone is welcome to attend.**

If you want to contact me by email
allenjlp@aol.com



***Lake Cavanaugh
Community
and
Lake Cavanaugh
too good to toss***

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Join your Volunteer Fire Department

Serving your community as a volunteer firefighter is one of the most rewarding experiences you will ever have. Not only will you learn valuable skills, but you will have a positive impact on the lives of those around you.

**YOU can make a difference. Volunteer.
Contact your local fire department today.**

Fire Chief – Scott Lemke
chief_lemke@lakecav.net

Assistant Fire Chief – Harley Spaeth
360-814-4960

Community Corner

We are sad to hear that Chris Kane passed away after a long illness with pancreatic cancer. Kathy said he slept peacefully without pain at the end. Our sympathy and prayers are with her and her family.

If you have something to contribute, send an email to:
Christine Nielsen 4nielsen@gmail.com

Starry Nights at Lake Cavanaugh

By Mark D. Olson

Little cute cabins dotted the Lake shore in 1957. I was five years old. Coleman lanterns sent warm dim light across the water, sometimes aided by a brighter campfire. Still, they were no match for the bright stars on a clear night. I first learned about the Milky Way at the Lake. When I was five, I didn't understand that the Milky Way was made up of one hundred thousand million stars many light years away. I was impressed.

While in my teens, my friends and I would escape from the cabin and our parents to go smoke cigarettes that we stole from one of the parents' basement stockpiles. Old Golds, I as I recall. On the West end of the lake, the road passes through a long-wooded stretch and it was so dark we couldn't see the dirt road in front of us. But, the stars shown through overhead between the part in the tall Cedars that lined both sides of the road. Our own way of navigation by the stars.

We passed our cabin, late that night, determined to take another turn around the Lake when a large meteor entering the atmosphere directly over our heads exploded into thousands of smaller meteors. Really, the most dramatic shooting star I've ever witnessed in my life. We weren't certain we could believe our eyes. It was gone in a flash. Only the glow of our Old Golds remained in the dark. Without a word, we turned around and headed back to find some reassurance in the light of our cabin lanterns.

Without our star the Sun, our planet would be a rock covered in ice. Since ancient times, stars have meant hope, destiny, or eternity. We and other creatures navigated by the stars and as a metaphor, we follow our own star home. Some of us even shoot for the stars.

There are many bright lights on the lake now decorating railings, gutters and trees. The darkness in the forest around us is deep, and the lights make it cheerier somehow. We don't feel so alone when our neighbors' lights are on even when we know no one is home. The bright lights also distract us from looking up. The Milky Way can be hard to see. I miss that connection. I worry about it because a pattern we've made may lead us past our star.

Cavanaugh Kids Club

Kids Club was a dream that began by reaching out to families a year and a half ago. Since it's inception; the kids, parents and grandparents have literally come out of the woodwork to help create amazing events for all our Cavanaugh kids. It's a great opportunity to meet new neighbors while the kids play.

Activities range from coloring, games and legos, to special occasion events like Halloween costume parties, Easter egg hunts, holiday crafting and much more. And let's not forget those beautiful and creative snacks that volunteers have provided... Thanks to everyone that helps with these events!

The kids club is held most months between March and November on the third Saturday of each month. Check out or subscribe to the LCIA website events calendar to always find the most up to date schedule.

Kids Club is in need set up and tear down of tables and games, providing and or coordinating snacks and extra assistance for special events such as Halloween and the Easter Egg hunt.

Rent the Lake Cavanaugh Community Center for your Family Gathering

We are all anxious to get together and celebrate again soon. Do you want to have a birthday party or wedding reception, or perhaps a baby shower or family reunion? Is your cabin just too small for such an event or do you want additional amenities?

Plan to rent the Lake Cavanaugh Community Center. You don't need to be a LCIA member, but members get a great discount, and our price is the lowest around. We also have an off-season discount. Tables, chairs, dishes, tablecloths, silverware are all included. We also have a great sound system with inside and outside speakers, a 75" smart TV, and a commercial stove and dishwasher in the wonderful kitchen. Use the sport court or side yard to play in and pictures look great in front of the beautiful rockery.

Go online at <https://www.lakecavanaugh.info> to pull up pictures and our application form.

Call Priscilla McElhose at 360-422-5606 for further information or a tour.

Plan ahead soon for the summer, as weekends are filling up fast!



Lake Cavanaugh Community

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/282192631838163>

Lake Cavanaugh Too Good To Toss

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1678085472442324>

Both are private groups, just ask to join.
Lake Cavanaugh Community Administrator: Kurt Wold
Too Good to Toss Administrator: Liha Rinehardt

SKAGIT COUNTY BOATING REGULATIONS

REGISTRATION

1. Owners of all recreational boats must apply for a title and registration at a County Auditor's office.
2. **EXEMPT:** Vessels under 16' with 10 or less horsepower.
3. Registration numbers must be permanently attached on each side of the hull in 3" contrasting letters

SAFETY EQUIPMENT

1. **PFD's:** Vessel must carry one US Coast Guard approved personal flotation device for each person aboard & one throwable flotation device. PFD's must be worn by children 12 years of age or younger while vessel is underway.
2. **Sound Signals:** One whistle, horn, or other device capable of producing whistle blasts.
3. **Navigation Lights:** Required for night operation and must conform to USCG regulations or on manually propelled vessels, a white light of sufficient brightness must be available to display in time to avoid a collision.
4. **Fire Extinguisher:** Approved USCG extinguisher required if fuel tanks are permanently installed or in closed compartments.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

1. Lake Cavanaugh speed limit is **40 mph**.
2. No vessel shall be operated in a negligent or reckless manner that would endanger persons or property.
3. All motorboats and PWC shall be operated **150' from any shoreline, dock, float, or other boat, except at its idle/ 5 MPH "no wake" speed.**
4. Swimming activities beyond 150' of the shoreline shall be accompanied by an attendant in a boat.
5. Operation of a motorboat while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or drug **is illegal**.
6. Minimum age to operate a motor boat powered by a motor of 10 HP or more is 14 years of age and must be carrying a boater's education card. Persons under the age of 10 years old may not operate any vessel.
7. The operator of every boat involved in an accident is required by law to file a report in writing whenever a boating accident results in a loss of life, injury which required medical treatment beyond first aid, property damage over \$500.00, or a disappearance of a person.
8. It is **illegal** to throw any litter overboard into any waterway. Recreational boats must carry a litter bag.
9. **Teak surfing** is illegal and constitutes a \$100 fine.
10. **Vessel Capacity:** Check maximum weight and number of persons plate on boat for safe loading.
11. **Boater Education Card:** Operators must carry card while operating a vessel 15 HP or more (age applicable per mandatory education and calendar year).



WATER SKIING/TUBING/SURFING RULES

1. Recreational boats which are towing a person or persons shall be occupied by **an operator with a boater's education card** and a competent observer at least 10 years of age.
2. The observer shall continuously **observe** the persons being towed and **shall display a 12" by 12" bright red flag** attached to a 24" handle **whenever the persons are in the water**.
3. All water skiers/tubers/surfers must wear a USCG approved personal flotation device.
4. Water skiing/tubing/surfing is **prohibited ½ hour after sunset until ½ hour after sunrise and no towing is permitted and is illegal 1/2 hour after sunset even with the use of running lights.**
5. When moving toward or away from the shore, dock, or float, the water skier/tuber/surfer will travel at an angle between 45 and 60 degrees from the shoreline on the right-hand side of the skier.
6. All water skiing/tubing/surfing shall be in a **counter-clockwise** manner on the lake at least **150'** from docks, etc.



PADDLEBOARDS

1. Must have a life jacket for each person on board.
2. Must wear a sound producing device, such as a whistle.

PERSONAL WATERCRAFT RULES

1. No person shall operate or ride on a personal watercraft without wearing a USCG approved flotation device.
2. A person operating a personal watercraft equipped by the manufacturer with a lanyard type engine cutoff switch must attach the lanyard to his or her person, clothing, or personal flotation device.
3. No person shall operate a personal watercraft on the waters of Washington during the period from **½ hour after sunset until ½ hour after sunrise**.
4. Operators of personal watercraft in Washington State **must** be at least **14 years of age** and carry a **boater's education card**.
5. It is illegal to jump the wake of another vessel unreasonably close to that vessel.
6. **PWC shall be operated 150' from any shoreline, dock, float, or other boat, except at its idle/5 MPH "no wake speed."**



This is condensed from the Adventures in Boating Washington Guide – and the Skagit County Sheriff Boating Regulations. For complete text of Boating regulation go to: <https://www.skagitcounty.net/Departments/Sheriff/boatReg.htm> or call Skagit County Sheriff at **360-416-1911**.