



REFLECTION LAKE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

37708 N SHEETS RD, ELK, WA 99009

President’s Message

By Charles Bennett

This year’s annual meeting in July had a great turnout and the elections brought some new faces to the board. I look forward to working with all of them as we navigate our way through the challenges and the many accomplishments that are the RLCA.

Regular meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. sharp. This time and date was set after careful consideration as the time when the most people could attend—early in the week and after work for many of us. Weekends are for family and for recreation. Perhaps more discussions could be had regarding this time and date in the future.

We currently have four active committees and can always use more community-minded volunteers to join in the important discussions which are presented to the RLCA board for action. These committees are: Conservation, Maintenance and Dams (CMD), Firewise, Community Relations, and Roads.

Something that I try and convey to new members is what a unique place Reflection Lake is. As an owner of any property within the plat, you are also a co-

Reflection Lake Trivia:

(see answers on page 4)

1

What year was the fish hatchery built?

2

Before Reflection Lake was created, what was on this site?

3

What is the oldest building on the lake?

***Call to
Volunteer!***

Little Free Library

We have all been so busy lately with so many things going on, but don't forget to stop by our Little Free Library and pick up a good book to read or drop off a book you would like to share!

There are lots of great kids' books too!

owner of the lake, dams, and common areas. With that ownership comes a responsibility to maintain the health, safety and maintenance of the community. As long as I have been a board member, the RLCA has consistently worked to recruit volunteers and does the majority of the work in the community resulting in amazing low-cost dues to the members. Understand that a breakup of the RLCA would mean that paid managers maintain the lake, dams and common areas. This simply means more cost passed on to the members.

Please see page 3 for meeting places & times!

Reports of Officer's and Committees

Treasurer, Jim Boothby

Our little community has grown by 100% in the last 20 years. We have the same number of lots, same lake and same great environment. The doubling of the actual number of people living out here has caused some growing pains.

We were a happy little community that volunteered our time, donated to make life better for all and paid what was required to keep our recreational lake in good shape.

Now we have people paddling in different directions, convinced that hiring management and throwing money at any problems will solve everything. Management by employees cost more and separates you from a sense of purpose. Volunteer board and committees allow for a change of direction when things go wrong.

All good and great associations count heavily on caring members to give of their time and talent.

Conservation, Maintenance and Dams (CMD)

meets 4th Tuesday at 6 PM of each month at the community center

Firewise

The board meetings function as the meeting

Community Relations

Meets the 3rd Tuesday at 7 PM of each month at the community center

Roads Committee

Meets the 2nd Tuesday at 6 PM of each month at the community center

Secretary's Report

By Sandi Bennett

I have been working diligently on updating emails, addresses and phone numbers for the association. If you have not received an email from Reflectionlake62 in the last couple of months, please get me your current email. Thank you.



Conservation, Maintenance and Dams (CMD)

by Dan Loos

This year, we repaired two of the RLCA signs by replacing the backboard, more sand was delivered to the beaches, rock was delivered to the south dam to shore up the side of the dam, per the Department of Ecology. Also, trees were trimmed at the north end of Sheets Rd. We are also continuing to monitor the dip on the north dam.

A big thank you to Ken Skutley for building the boat rack that is located at Bald Eagle Beach and to Rick and Adam Hayes for maintaining our grass areas.

Future projects could include dock repairs, more boat racks, repair lake valve and complete dam elevation survey.



Answers to Trivia Questions

1. 1955
2. A buffalo farm
3. Susan Emry’s home, block 5, lots 7-8, predates the lake 60 years

Upcoming Events

Charlie and Sandi Bennett will be hosting a “drive through” Halloween Party again this year! It will be on Sunday, October 31st. It will begin at 4:00 and continue throughout the evening.

There will be treats for the kids and they can have their pictures taken with “Big Foot!” There will also be a fire pit for those who would like to hang out for a while.

We are talking about organizing a group who would like to do some Christmas Caroling around the community this year! So, if this sounds fun and you like to sing, watch for an announcement on our

Facebook page or an email with more details as the Christmas season gets closer! Respond on Facebook or Email if you are interested in participating.

Firewise

by Charlie Bennett

One of the benefits of being a Firewise USA Site is having a close relationship with our local fire department. In 2019, they helped us to acquire and to train a few of us to use our AED (Automated External Defibrillator). We would very much like to have another training session at our Community Center this fall. This will include CPR and AED Training. If this is something you would be interested to learn or get a refresher, please contact your Firewise Director (Charlie Bennett) right away as the number of trainers relates to the amount of people attending the training. You can reply to this email or call or text me. Also this year, Reflection Lake became a model community for Spokane County and Washington State in the Wildfire Ready Neighbors Program. We were proud to have Hilary Franz, the Commissioner of Public Lands, announce the passage of H.B. 1168 at Reflection Lake. This bill is the \$125 million wildfire bill which contains funding for communities like us in our efforts to mitigate the spreading of wildfires in our area. *(continued page 5)*

This year they provided us with five-40 yard dumpsters, a promise to pay for our draft site (dry hydrant) in the spring, and \$2000 toward the cleanup of Lot one and demolition of the trailer which cannot be moved. *(continued page 5)*

Please turn in your estimated hours spent on your property or helping others to make our community more adaptive to surviving a wildfire in our area. This includes raking leaves or pine needles, cleaning gutters, safely burning debris, etc. These hours provide a guideline for the DNR and state agencies to estimate how much to help us next year in the form of grants and other services.

If you have not yet had a free home fire assessment, or received a free reflective address post, so fire and medical personnel can find your address quicker in case of an emergency, please contact your Firewise Director or your local fire station.

Community Relations

Committee

By Diana Kenworthy

Boat Identification

As you know, we have been working for several months now on getting all of the boats stored at the lake accesses identified. Our goal is to make more room at the beaches by moving out abandoned boats. Most boats have now been identified at Bald Eagle Beach, Bing's Landing, and Bishop's Park. The boats that still have not been claimed have been moved to Turtle Beach where there are a greater number of abandoned boats. There will be a designated area ("Area 51") for "UFOs" (unidentified floating objects) at Turtle Beach. If you still have not identified your boat, please do so! All you need to do is put your lot and block number or your last name on your boat. Thank you to all of you who have already identified your boats!!

Roads

by Ben Bersagel

There have been a lot of ups and downs this year with many bumps to smooth out. We have been working on drainage, new speed limit signs and planning projects for years to come. One such project the roads committee has been racking our brains on is the condition of our private roads. But who and how we will pay for them? At the annual meeting a special account was approved to start saving for this massive project by fundraising and donations. The whole lake benefits from the quality of the east side roads with their access to Bald Eagle Beach, Turtle Beach and our Community Center. But the financial burden falls directly to the east side to fix the road. A heavy burden, no doubt. A burden too large for the east side to carry alone. One solution we have come up with is to ask for donations from those around the lake who are interested in helping to donate to the roads committee account. This would give us a jumpstart and lessen the burden to the east side. There are other ways you can help too, by joining the roads committee, helping with fundraising, and other projects that benefit the community. We are stronger and more productive if we build our community together.

Treasurer's Report

Jim Boothby, RLCA Treasurer

We are still working on a mediated agreement to bring the lawsuits to an end still leaving us with a possible pile of mediation legal bills and we may still be heading to court. Our financial status has been impacted by the law suits resulting in additional costs to all of us.

The new lake budget started on 1 October. Please contact me if you are on the delinquent dues list to avoid a lien being placed in December.

Legal Update

By Charlie Bennett

I would like to believe that by Spring of 2022, Reflection Lake will be everything that our friends at Firewise U.S.A. and Washington State think we are: that is a community which represents the model of volunteerism and common interest, working together to leave things better than we found them.

To date, around \$50,000 has been paid to lawyers by this community. Approximately \$30,000 of that amount has been donated by 25 members of the RLCA. The RLCA Board entered in good faith mediation on August 24th determined to satisfy our plaintiffs demands and we thought we had accomplished that goal. However, since then the lawyers have been hard at work on reaching a compromise on the mediation agreement. At this time, there is still no signed agreement and the costs continue.

If successful, these lawsuits would effectively change our covenants which require a vote of 2/3 majority of the members.

The very same people who are suing this community were on the 2020 RLCA Appointed Board. They could have re-written the covenants and let the members vote. Instead, they hired lawyers to block elections and to force paid management on the members.

In Memoriam

In memory of our dear neighbors and friends we have lost this year...

Frank Huboff

Vonnie Hutchison

Mark Wiser

We will miss you all. Thank you for your contributions to our community. Our sympathies and condolences to their families.

