

The Hutchins Lake Herald

A publication of  
Hutchins Lake Improvement Association  
[www.hlia.org](http://www.hlia.org)

*Hutchins Lake is what we all have in common.*

Edition #34  
Summer 2017

**HLIA ANNUAL MEETING**

When you think of summer on Hutchins Lake what comes to mind is fun with friends and family while enjoying the water either swimming or boating. Along with the fun comes planning to help keep the lake healthy and safe and to provide lake activities for homeowners.

All Hutchins Lake residents, whether a riparian or a back lot owner, are encouraged to put Saturday, June 24th at 10:00 a.m. on your calendar to mark the HLIA ANNUAL MEETING, which is always held on the last Saturday in June.

Decisions that affect our lake are voted on at this meeting. The HLIA Board invites you to join them. We hope to see you there.

The HLIA's officers are elected by you, the homeowners, and the directors are volunteers who may be your next door neighbor. A director is assigned to each neighborhood or district around the lake totaling fourteen districts. Your director keeps you informed with lake news and represents your interests at the HLIA Board quarterly meetings.

Upon arrival at the Annual meeting located in the Fennville Public Schools Board of Education room, enjoy refreshments while you visit and meet new neighbors. Members receive a ballot to select officers and vote on any items requiring membership approval. Come meet your board members.

**HLIA Executive Board**

President:  
Loren Barnes  
616-255-5038

Vice President & Newsletter Editor:  
Anne Irwin  
941-447-5691

Secretary:  
Randy Vogelzang  
817-456-3543

Treasurer:  
Denise Grimaldi  
269-561-5789

**District Directors**

1 - John Lindahl	269-650-5900
2 - Jill O'Connor	269-561-2110
3a - Vikki Barnes	269-722-3230
3b - Maureen Sytsma	269-561-2437
4 - John Lerg	616-550-9812
5a & 5b - Jim Baird	616-901-2483
6a - Todd Moore	616-836-2989
6b - Martha Kautz	630-649-9211
7 - Scott Clark	646-739-3534
8 - John Burmeister	616-886-8732
9a - Denise Grimaldi	269-561-5789
9b - Janice Rowland	269-561-2520
10 - Gary Holton	269-568-6838

## Summer Activities for 2017

<b>Poker Run</b>	<b>5/27 @ 7:15pm</b>
<b>Annual Meeting</b>	<b>6/24 @ 10am</b>
<b>Boat Parade</b>	<b>7/4 @ 7:30pm</b>
<b>Discovery Days</b>	<b>7/11 &amp; 7/12 @ 9 am to noon</b>

### **Memorial Day Poker Run**

Any non-motorized craft (paddleboats, row boats, kayaks, canoes, sailboats, tubes, water walkers, surfboards, swimmers, etc) may compete for prizes. Spectators are encouraged to cheer and come to the post party. Everyone on the lake is invited.

Prizes will be awarded for those who participate and refreshments (hot dogs & pop) will be served at the award ceremony for all who attend.

Best Adult Single-handed  
Best Adult Team  
Best Adult-Youth Team  
Best Youth Team (age 12-16)

Additional raffle prizes for all so join the fun of this rapidly growing event. This event is not just for paddlers. It's a summer kick off get together for everyone! There is plenty of parking off Sunset Drive.

Meet on the east side of the lake at the Sunset Drive access lot on Sat. May 27<sup>th</sup> @ 7:15pm for an evening of fun on the lake. Register for the Run when you arrive or call (616-901-2483) **Jim Baird**.

The Run starts at 7:30 pm. The objective is to get to seven different spots on the lake where you collect a playing card that is part of a poker hand. Best hand wins a prize! Final destination is back at the Sunset Drive access lot.

**\*\*LIFE JACKETS MUST BE WORN\*\***  
**YOU MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN A PRIZE!!**

### **It's Not Too Late!**

The current year membership drive started on January 1st. A membership, either a renewal or a first timer, may be obtained prior to the HLIA Annual meeting and the member will be eligible to vote for officers and other items. A membership form and directions are on the [www.hlia.org](http://www.hlia.org) website or contact the Treasurer.

### **Election of Officers**

Annually, two officers are elected to lead the Hutchins Lake Improvement Association for a two year term. This spring the positions of **Vice President** and **Treasurer** are open for any member of the association to be placed into nomination.

**Running for office:** If you are interested in running for one of these positions, either make your name known to a Nominating Committee member (Jim Baird 616-901-2483, Martha Kautz 630-649-9211, or Scott Clark 646-739-3534) or be nominated on the floor of the HLIA Annual Meeting held on June 24th at 10:00 a. m. in the Fennville Public Schools Board of Education room.

**Voting for officers:** A riparian or a legal access property owner who has paid the 2017 dues has one vote.

**ALL ABSENTEE OR PROXY VOTES MUST BE IN THE HANDS OF Jim Baird BY THE OPENING OF NOMINATIONS AT THE ANNUAL MEETING.**

**Only those current voting members in attendance** at the Annual meeting will be eligible to vote for a candidate who may be nominated from the floor.

#### **Swimmer's Itch Reminder**

Here are a few tips to avoid swimmer's itch:

- You are more likely to get swimmer's itch during the beginning of the season.
- Try to avoid it by swimming in deep water rather than shallow.
- Leave the water immediately & hose off.
- Rub visible skin vigorously with a towel.

## **Hutchins Lake Boating Laws**

(From the current *Handbook of Michigan Boating Laws and Responsibilities*, 2016 Edition)

**Please post these boating laws and regulations in your lake home. Take time to discuss them with your family, guests, and renters. Report violations to the Allegan County Marine Patrol 269-673-0438. In an emergency dial 911.**

- Non-motorized craft, i.e. sailboats, rowboats, canoes, and kayaks, etc. have the right of way over powered watercraft (boats & PWC). Skiers must also yield right of way to non-motorized craft.
- Operating powered watercraft, including personal watercraft (PWC) such as Jet Skis, Ski-Doo's, Wave Runners, etc. at speeds which create a wake is restricted to the hours of 11:00 am to 7:30 pm daily.
- Personal watercraft (PWC) may not cross a wake within 150 feet of another vessel.
- All powered watercraft must stay 100 feet, and preferably more, from fishing boats, sailing boats, swimming areas, docks, boat floats, buoys, rafts, and inhabited shores.
- All powered watercraft, including those pulling skiers, must travel in a **counter-clockwise direction around** the lake.
- No powered watercraft may be operated in a reckless manner which endangers life, limb, or property.
- All powered watercraft (boats and PWC) must have a legal operator and at least one competent observer (no dogs or children) to tow or pull water skiers, tubes, rafts, etc.
- **Persons less than 14 years of age** may **not** legally operate a personal watercraft (PWC).
- **Persons 14 and 15 years of age** may operate a PWC legally **only if** they have obtained a boating safety certificate **and ...**
  - He or she is accompanied on board by his or her parent or legal guardian or by a person at least 21 years of age who has been designated by the parent or legal guardian **or ...**
  - He or she is operating or riding the PWC at a distance of not more than 100 feet from his or her parent or legal guardian or from a person at least 21 years of age who has been designated by the parent or legal guardian.
- **Persons at least 16 years of age** and born after December 31, 1978, may operate a PWC legally **only if** they have obtained a boating safety certificate.
- Those born on or before December 31, 1978, may operate a PWC legally without restrictions.
- **Persons less than 12 years of age** may operate a boat powered by a motor of no more than 6 horsepower (hp) legally without restrictions.
- **Persons less than 12 years of age** may operate a boat powered by a motor of more than 6 hp but no more than 35 hp legally **only if** they:
  - Have been issued a boating safety certificate and have it on board the boat **and ...**
  - Are directly supervised on board by a person at least 16 years of age.
- **Persons less than 12 years of age** may **not** operate a boat powered by a motor of more than 35 hp legally under any conditions.
- **Persons born on or after July 1, 1996**, may operate a boat legally **only if** they have been issued a boating safety certificate and have it on board the boat.
- Person born before July 1, 1996, may operate a boat legally without restrictions.
- **A vessel operator who is required to have passed a boating safety course should carry this certificate on board.**

**These laws are listed in the Marine Safety Act. All boating laws and regulations will be enforced by the Marine Patrol of the Allegan County Sheriff's Department. There will be frequent patrols. Violators will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.**

### **All Waterfowl Are To Be Left Alone**

All waterfowl on Hutchins Lake are to be left unmolested. **Please avoid ...**

- travelling through a group of waterfowl
- chasing them
- getting close to them
- bothering their nesting areas
- separating babies from their parents

Please obey all boating laws on Hutchins Lake for the safety of the people and waterfowl that enjoy this beautiful lake. Please inform your guests/renters what acceptable and lawful behavior is on Hutchins Lake.

Hutchins Lake Improvement Association  
Loren Barnes, President  
2290 Elm Street  
Fennville, MI 49408

### **2017 Summer Discovery Days**

Discovery Days for children K-3<sup>rd</sup> grade will take place July 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> from 9 am until noon with the 13<sup>th</sup> a makeup day. The class is FREE, covers both days, and is limited to 10-12 students. A picnic for students and their families will follow after class on the second day.

Students are to be dropped off and picked up at Eagle Point Drive Park with a certified life jacket, beach towel, and water shoes which are recommended for the students safety.

The theme of class instruction will be the life cycle of a dragon fly, a sun fish, and a frog in and around Hutchins Lake. Also, invasive species that negatively affect the lake will be studied. Students will make a nature board reflecting these themes.

Class activities will include a tour of the lake scouting wildlife via a pontoon boat, learning about water clarity and how it is measured, & reviewing boating rules. **A certified life jacket is required.**

Call Sarah Kramer @ 616-443-9739 or Jill O'Connor @ 269-561-2110 to enroll students or ask questions.

### **Fourth of July Boat Parade**

Join the 'Do It Yourself' annual boat parade! Last year at least 30 boats participated, some blasting music, others singing, and all enjoying the fun. Decorate your craft in any theme. Leave your dock promptly at 7:30 pm on the 4th and travel in a counter clockwise direction. Enjoy the cheers coming from the shore from your lake friends and neighbors.