

Moose Lake News by

Jim Onarheim

It looks and feels like spring may be just around the corner but living in northern Wisconsin or in the Hayward area we never know. Because we are losing some of our snow cover, I must remind everyone that the fire danger signs in our area will be starting to change. During the winter everyone normally leaves their Smokey Bear sign at Low Fire danger level. The southern half of our state of Wisconsin has lost all of their snow cover so the Wisconsin DNR has put this area of the state at the moderate fire danger level. Some of these areas extend up north as far as Eau Claire County.

If we get snow cover or rain the level will drop back to low. When there is a significant amount of snow cover, we do not need a burning permit either. At this time of the year this is a day-to-day thing. Good common sense is what we have to use. If you make a mistake and accidentally start a wildfire, you may receive a fine from the Wisconsin DNR. Be careful!

With spring coming soon and all our snow possible close to being gone, I must remind everyone to be careful with fire. The dead grass and dry brush that are now exposed in the fields and forest are highly flammable at this time of the year. The low humidity that we have during this time contributes to a dangerous situation. Debris burning is a major problem when people start to clean their property after a long winter.

If you were to use a Burn barrel, you need a ¼ inch mesh screen over the top. In fact, I would like to recommend that you put off any outside burning of any kind until our fields and forests green up. Burn barrels could be used on a rainy day. Remember, any outside burning requires a permit even after things green up. I mentioned a few paragraphs ago the only exception is a significant amount of snow is the only exception. This means two inches of snow cover is the only thing that will allow you to burn without a permit.

Most of us live in the forest, which is an area that can be very explosive at this time of year to a fire. I must also remind you, if you accidentally start a wildfire you are totally responsible for the cost of extinguishing that fire. This means even if the forest service or the fire department must bring in heavy equipment, you may be charged for all expenses.

Composting is always your best option. Burning debris is your last option. But in case you need to do outside burning please note the following. In the Round Lake Township, we have four locations where the Smokey Bear fire danger signs are posted for your information. Pine Point Rd. & County Hwy S, County Hwy S and Moose Lake Rd. County Hwy A and Moose Lake Rd. and in front of Hilman's grocery store on Hwy. B. In the weeks to come we will explain the different levels of the fire danger and explain what each one means. We try to remind you each year in case you forget what each level means. More on this in the weeks to come.

Pool League this past Thursday the 27th got under way at 6 PM at Christinas Y-Pines. I have missed several Thursday pool sessions because of my comment to the Ambulance service on the same evening.

I felt that after missing several evenings of pool that I may be a little rusty, so I was not expecting a lot from myself that evening. We drew partners and I drew Bruce Vanfleet who is an exceptionally good pool player. Our first game went very well, which we won. We lost the second game but then we won our

remaining four games to take second place for the evening. I could not complain about that. Bruce must have held me up with his excellent play. First place that evening went to Gatlin Gunn and Charles Coss. Dan Resh and Drew Puetz won the TP award. We had a total of seven teams competing that evening or a total of fourteen players. A very fun time was had by all, except we played until 11:30 PM. A little too late for a lot of us older guys. zzzz.

Birthday wishes this week are extended to David Slotten on the 10th, Tom Off and Larry Fullington both have birthdays on the 11th. Happy Birthday to all of you. There are two anniversaries this week. Both are on the 9th of the Month. John and Linda Myhre and Bill and Sallie Carlson. Happy Anniversary to both couples. Because of her schedule Tammy will not be able to continue helping me with the Moose Lake News. This means that I again am looking for someone that may be interested in writing the Moose Lake News with me. Once or twice a month would be great. Give me a call if you are interested. 715-577-8880.

Stay safe everyone and enjoy your week with nice temperatures. Let's hope we don't get too much of that white stuff. Please send your items of interest to my new e-mail address emta984@gmail.com or call my landline at 715-462-4448 or my cell at 715-577-8880. Moose Lake Improvement association website is <http://mliahaywardwi.org> The Town of Round Lake Web site is <https://www.townofroundlakewi.org> and the Round Lake Fire Department website is <https://townofroundlakefire-rescue.org> JO