

# THE RUSTED ROWBOAT

A Weekly Campground Newsletter | Tidbits | News & Events

## This Weekend's Activities

Happy Memorial Weekend!

No activities Friday, as we have a family graduation to attend.

Saturday: 10 a.m.: Kids' Craft in the lodge (moved from original location of picnic shelter); Dusk: Golf Cart Drive-In Movie at the Event Center

Sunday: 10 - 11 a.m.: Bloody Mary & Caesar Bar in the picnic shelter! First come, first serve; Dusk: Community Bonfire at the bottom of the boat hill.

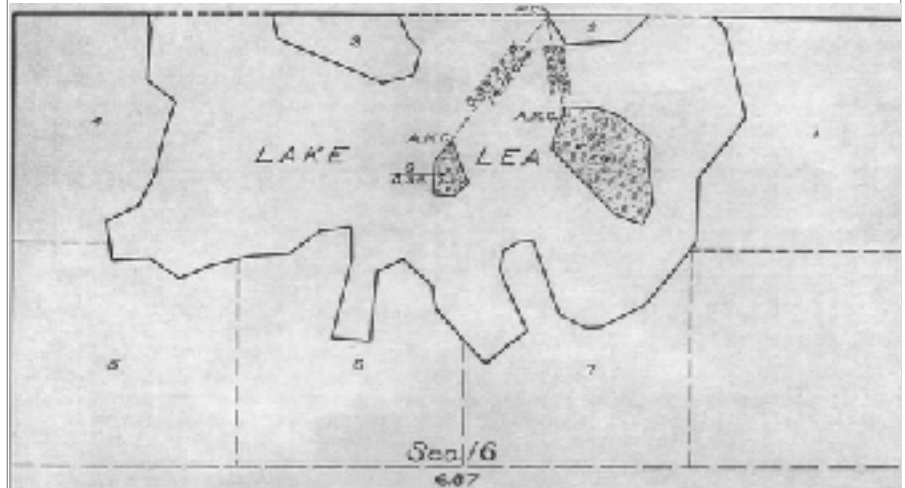
## Upcoming Activities

June 3: Karaoke Night

June 4: Highway Clean-Up

June 24: Wet & Wild Day and Trivia

## Lee Lake History Blip: Homesteading the Islands



We have recently employed Jamin Krause as our lawn mower. He grew up in Hawley, with strong Hawley roots, and is a big history buff! He lead us in the right direction to a Clay County Historical Society article from 2007 that covered the history of the islands on Lee Lake.

Clay County, like much of the midwest, has a rich history of homesteaders (which we have been researching on our property, but that's a story for another day!). Did you know that the two islands on Lee Lake were the last homesteaded land in Clay County? The majority of homesteaders settled in the late 1800s, but these islands were not claimed until 1923 & 1927. This was due to an oversight by the Eglon Township surveyors back in the 1870s, who did not include the islands in their maps.

## Campground Birthdays & Anniversaries

None to report this week!

## What's New

Lot 83: Now occupied by Miles & Dorinda Triebenbach (previously lot 88)

Lot 38: Now occupied by Mary Alice Buettner and her mother, Catherine Buettner

Lot 90: Jason and Melanie Maneval will be using this lot until the new sites are ready; it will then be taken over by Andrew & Shannon Swiontek & their two children

Lot A: Now occupied by Rick Williams, Sr. and Leah Winge

Lot 88: Tim Gaffaney is in this lot until Rhino Contracting have finished their job in Hawley

Lot 75: Tim & Sandy Nathe will be moving their park model into this lot

4 new employees: In the lodge we have Tamora Ellis, Katie Ferden, and Kirby Baasch, and on the mower we have Jamin Krause.

## Justin's Corner

I am planning on removing more dead trees and branches this summer. Please talk to me if this is a problem in your lot, so that we can get the trees marked and ready.

## Islands Con't

A Hawley physician named Dr. Charles W. Simison was able to look into a lot of government loopholes (a very complicated process; he was clearly an intelligent man), and found a way to homestead this land after it was thought that all the available homesteading land was taken.

There were some disputes to his being able to do this; the man who owned the land on the south side of the lake thought he had a good claim to these islands, as he owned the rest of the land in that designated section bordering the lake. During these years, the lake was going through a pretty bad drought, so the islands were not considered islands anymore by many of the people who lived near the lake. In fact, the lake was so low that you could drive straight out to the islands in your car on some of the lake's ridges. Dr. Simison did end up winning the rights to the islands, after it was proved that they are typically islands, and were in that condition at the time of surveying and when the homesteading act began. He built a cabin on the large island afterwards. We are just glad the lake hasn't been that low again for many decades!

## Word from the Lodge

We are all set for full food service! Stop in and grab some of your old favorites, or try some of our new items! We changed up sandwiches this year, so there will no longer be chicken, but turkey, as we have done away with the air fried food altogether. Our pizzas are now assembled as they're ordered, which leaves us the option of a bigger variety of toppings! Caramel rolls are back, with the addition of different types of cinnamon rolls each week, and still continuing with the baked good of the week. Completely new to the menu are fresh-baked cookies, breadsticks, garlic bread, and chicken wings! We also have our three new lodge employees starting this weekend. Stop in to grab a bite to eat and to greet our new faces!