



THE DAM NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION OF THE FRIENDS OF RAYSTOWN LAKE

WINTER 2024 + ISSUE 1 + VOL 28



Winter 2024

Over the past several months, we've had many exciting operational improvements and changes within Friends of Raystown Lake (FRL). Notably, we've started sending out annual, collectible stickers as thanks for becoming a member, so if you renewed or became a member in 2024, you should've already received yours in the mail (see Stickers!!!).

Additionally, we elected many new officers and board members in January, which you would've seen in our last newsletter issue. However, we also added another new face to the board since then, Rod Donaldson, who joins us from the Putt's Camp subcommittee! Welcome Rod!

We've been hosting many exciting events for the fast-approaching 50th Anniversary of the Raystown Dam, with many more to come! In March, Friends members had a fantastic time at the inaugural FRL Polar Plunge (see Polar Plunge)! We're also looking forward to upcoming spring events, such as some old favorites, like Cleanup Day and Fish Structure Building, and many new events as well, such as Paint Parties and the "Raystown Open" (see Upcoming Events)!

Thanks for your ongoing support. See you soon!

FRIENDS OF
RAYSTOWN LAKE
P.O. BOX 87
HESSTON, PA 16647

Board of Directors

President + Michael Tome
Vice President + Carla Baumgardner
Secretary + Hanah Thatcher
Treasurer + Wayne Hearn

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Stickers!

Beginning in 2024, if you become a member of FRL or renew your existing membership, you will be sent a FREE sticker!

The design of these cool, collectible stickers will change every year, thus incentivizing you to COLLECT 'EM ALL!!! Put a sticker on everything you own and spread the good word of the Friends to all of your friends so they can tell their friends and their friend's friends and we'll all become BEST friends!

If you paid your membership in 2024, should have already received a sticker, unless you just paid your membership within the past 30 days (in which case, it's coming soon).

Additionally, if you paid for any FRL merchandise in the past (including an embroidered patch, lapel pin, vehicle decal, or t-shirt), but **did not receive said item, please let us know so we can make it right** and send you the item! We apologize if this happened to you, but we have upgraded our membership registration to avoid this in the future.



Above: 2024 sticker design



Captain's Quarters



BY MIKE TOME, PRESIDENT

Greetings Friends of Raystown Lake members! I'm honored and excited to have been elected as president of this wonderful organization and to join the new leadership to in continuing FRL's mission of environmental education, resource protection and enhancement, and recreational development. This organization has had some incredible achievements in the past and I hope to continue its legacy of making the Raystown Lake area a premier outdoor recreation experience.

I'd like to use this first "Captain's Quarters" to tell you a little about myself. My wife, Karin, and I moved to Hesston in 2019. I retired from the federal government in 2021 where I worked as a wildlife biologist for over 30 years. We have two children, Jesse and his wife Kristin, and Ethan and his wife Emily, who all love coming up to enjoy the beauty of the area. I have always felt a deep connection with our natural environment, so when we moved here, we were very happy to find FRL and a group of likeminded people that were also dedicated to protecting and enhancing the natural beauty of Raystown Lake.

I'm excited to be helping with the many projects we have going around Raystown Lake. We have a world-class mountain bike trail system, a beautiful primitive campsite we manage, and an environmental education program that we help to sponsor... so many opportunities to make Raystown Lake a better place. We appreciate that you have supported FRL with your membership, and hope that you can also find ways to volunteer with our many projects or support a project with additional donations. I look forward to a fun, productive year!

-Mike Tome



Navigation Lights



DID YOU KNOW?

Since 2002, the Friends of Raystown Lake have been responsible for the red, green, and white navigation lights on the shorelines of Raystown Lake. Situated on the peninsulas of the lake, the lights serve as essential aids to navigating the meandering, serpentine topography of the lake, thus improving the safety of all nighttime boaters.

However, maintaining and upgrading navigation lights comes with significant costs. From installation expenses to ongoing maintenance, and upgrading to eco-friendly, energy-efficient lighting solutions, the financial burden can be overwhelming. As a result, all of the lights have fallen into a state of disrepair and many need total replacement. Each light costs approximately \$350, and the stainless steel pole, concrete, mounting plate, and other materials add an additional \$200 per light.

We are seeking sponsors to help us defray the costs associated with replacing and maintaining these lights. Your support, no matter the size, will help us sustain and improve this vital program, ensuring the safety of all boaters navigating Raystown Lake.

Please consider donating by sending a check by mail to PO Box 87, Hesston, PA 16647 or visit our GoFundMe page- <https://www.gofundme.com/f/ensure-safe-navigation-at-raystown-lake>

Sponsor-a-Light Program

Are you a business or organization interested in sponsoring a light for \$500? In return for your generous sponsorship, we offer the following recognition and benefits:

- Print Recognition on signage placed on sponsored navigation lights and in any print publications
- Online acknowledgment and appreciation through our organization's website and social media channels
- Location selection from a variety of strategic positions around the lake

Your sponsorship not only demonstrates your organization's dedication to safety and community well-being but also provides valuable support for the preservation and enjoyment of Raystown Lake for generations to come.

Visit friendsofrazystownlake.com/nav-lights for more info!



Opening Schedule

USACE Facilities

Ridenour Overlook:	March 1
Baker's Hollow Water Pump:	April 12
Seven Points Camp Loops	
• Ridge, Meadow, Point, Senoia 1:	April 5
• Valley, Bay, Senoia 2:	May 17
Seven Points Beach:	May 24
Tatman Run Beach:	May 24
Susquehannock Campground:	May 24
Amphitheater (Summer Program Start Date):	May 24

Gate Opening (Turkey Season)

High Germany (Gate 28):	April 26
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Restrooms

Oak, Seven Points Boat Launch 1:	March 15
Raystown Lake Dam:	March 27
Seven Points Entrance Station:	April 5
Pine, Mushroom, Miller, Laurel,	
Seven Points Boat Launch 2:	May 10
Boat Launches:	Open Year Round

Concessionaires

Branch Camp:	April 5
Lake Raystown Resort	
• Campground, marina, restaurant:	April 12
Seven Points Marina:	April 26
Lighthouse Concessions:	May 24

Allegrippis Trail Work

In preparation of the fast approaching Allegrippis Trail Days on May 16-19, we need your help in reporting and repairing issues on the trails.

Since not everyone universally uses trail apps, such as Trail Forks, to report issues, we have created a QR code that provides another avenue for reporting. This code links to a Google Form that people can use to report maintenance needs along the trails. We've also created a separate code for those interested in staying up-to-date regarding upcoming work days.

We're still looking for a trail maintenance coordinator, by the way. Hint hint, wink wink ;) Visit <https://friendsofrazstownlake.com/allegrippis-trails-info> for more info on how to get involved.



Report Trail Issues



Stay Up-To-Date on Work Days



Freezin' for a Reason



In celebration of half a century of the Raystown Lake Project, the Friends of Raystown Lake hosted the Raystown Lake Project 50th Anniversary Polar Plunge on Saturday, March 16th. The Polar Plunge drew over 30 participants eager to take a refreshing dip in the icy waters of Raystown Lake. Concession stands offered delicious treats to warm up chilly plungers and spectators alike, while a variety of raffle items provided opportunities for attendees to win exciting prizes. Additionally, a costume contest added an extra element of fun and creativity to the festivities, with the winner receiving the golden plunger. Thanks to the generosity of attendees and donors, nearly \$1,600 was raised. The best part? 100% of these proceeds will go directly towards our many programs! We're hoping to make this an annual fundraising event - get involved to help plan next year's event!



Above: Brave plungers entering the water

Right: Winners of the "Golden Plunger"

Left: FRL Members, Carla & Rich and Artie & Barbara, helping run the event.

Friends of Raystown Lake
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