

# 2025 RDLA Labor Day Newsletter

## RDLA Officers

**President - Kevin Hendricks**  
**Vice President – Jim McGovern**  
**Secretary – Ruth Tiry**  
**Treasurer – Kristi Aberwald**

## RDLA Board Members

Rob Walker John Gerold  
Jerry Kiel Greg Pittz  
[www.facebook.com/rockdamlake](http://www.facebook.com/rockdamlake)  
E-mail photos, recipes and stories to:  
[rockdamlakeassociation@gmail.com](mailto:rockdamlakeassociation@gmail.com)

## 2025 RDLA Fall Meeting/ Get Together

**Saturday August 30th @ NOON - Location: Rod and Gun Club**

We're looking forward to seeing everyone again at the Labor Day Weekend Meeting / Get Together. As always please bring a dish to pass, we'll get to have lunch, visit with your old neighbors, meet some new neighbors and have some fun. We'll probably have a raffle or two. 2025 T-Shirts will be available for the ridiculously low price of \$15 each. Get one before they are gone!

**2025 is an election year for the Lake Association.** We will be voting on all of the Lake Association Officer and Board Member positions. If you are interested in joining the Lake Association Board, please contact Kevin Hendricks or any other Board member.

See you there!

## Pancake Breakfast

On Sunday, August 31st, 2025, the RDLA will be holding its annual Pancake Breakfast. We will be set once again as **Take-Out** service. We will have a take-out counter set up and provide a quick and easy way to get a delicious pancake and sausage breakfast for you to take back home or to your campsite. We will also have a few tables set up for dine in customers, if desired. Please come down to the **Rod and Gun Club between 8AM and 11AM** to get a hot and tasty breakfast from us. The cost is still only \$5.00 per person with special kids pricing.

This is one of our major annual fundraisers, so your support is needed and greatly appreciated!



## Our Final Boat Ramp Update

Well, the first season with the new boat ramp is almost behind us and you can already tell the difference it is making. It is so much easier to put a boat in or take it out safely. We are beginning to see a number of boaters on the lake that would have been reluctant to back their trailers down our old ramp. It looks like even some of the kayakers are beginning to use the ramp instead of the beach. Now on to our next lake improvement project!

## Road Clean-Up

The Haycreek Road clean-up was a success once again this year. We had a great turnout with lots of new helpers! Thanks to volunteers:

Picture 1 - Front row--Jameson, Korben and Kaiden Bryant  
Back row--Rollin, Jameson, Karen and Tristan Bryant, Ellen Johnson and Susann Skinner.

Picture 2 - Jerry and Theresa Kiel, Kathy and Loren Anderson



## Brats on the Beach

Thanks to everyone who came out to support this year's Brats on the Beach. We had a fantastic turnout and raised over \$700. A special thanks again to Mark and Lori Anderson for their generous donation of the Brats and to Virginia and Kevin Hendricks for their donation of the Hot Dogs, buns, condiments and beverages.

**Another big shout out of thanks to all of our great volunteers:**

**Ruth Tiry**

**Cynthia McGovern**

**Kristi Aberwald**

**Steve Goebel**

**Brett Hazard**

**Virginia Hendricks**

**Diane Collins**

**Linda Pittz**

**David Bullington**

**Noelle Hazard**

**Sue Emmer**

**John Gerold**

**Rob Walker**

**Ellie Collins**

**Greg Pittz**



## RDLA's 1<sup>st</sup> Meat Raffle

The Lake Association's first ever Meat Raffle was a raving success! This event had been discussed over the last few years as a way to replace some of the lost revenue that had been generated through Dr. B's Bingo nights. Although there were a few skeptics, Jim McGovern decided that it was time to try it out. He recruited a number of the board members to help give it a try and it was a huge success! The team raised about \$500 and added another fundraiser to the RDLA calendar. Look forward to seeing additional Meat Raffles scheduled over the next year. Great job Jim! Thank you to AKA Lakeside for the Raffle venue and drink tickets!

## Rock Dam Lake Fish Stocking

**After holding off on stocking fish in the lake due to the Boat Ramp Project, we are ready to put fish in the lake again this fall. Greg Pittz has already contacted the DNR for permission and has lined up a fish vendor that will deliver the fish in one of their "fish tanker trucks". We'll post the delivery date on our Facebook page once it is known so you can come out to watch the delivery.**

## In Memory

### Georgana Jean Cruse

March 14, 1953 – February 9, 2025

Georgana first came to Rock Dam after her parents Bruce and Ruth Maresch moved here in retirement. Georgana enjoyed crafts, reading, swimming, going to church, traveling, and spending as much time as possible with her family. She loved to attend the RDLA Bingo nights and we'll miss her smiling face around the community. Our sincere condolences to her family.



# Rock Dam Days Parade



# Rock Dam Days Parade (cont.)



# Rock Dam Days Parade (cont.)



# Rock Dam Days Parade (cont.)



# Rock Dam Days Parade (cont.)



# Kayak Winners and Pontoon Parade

## Kayak Races

### Nine and Under

#### **Heat 1 – Left to Right**

3rd place - Adelynn Nikolai

2nd place - Ashton Pittz

1st place - Raylan Burns

#### **Heat 2 – Left to Right**

2nd place – Reed Mueller

1st place – Cooper Martin

3rd place – Braxton Hagen  
(not pictured)



## Kayak Races (cont.)

### Ten to Sixteen

1st place – Griffin Marklein

2nd place – Hunter Hagen

3rd place – Audie Martin

### Seventeen and Up

1st place – Matt Hagen

2nd place – Adam Hitts

3rd place – David Bullington

**Congratulations to Everyone!**



## Pontoon Parade

Shelly Reit decided it was time to bring back some glitz and glamour to the annual pontoon parade. She solicited prizes from local businesses and recruited a group of impartial judges. Thanks to our generous sponsors: Haas and Sons, Mesquite Grill, The Stockyard, Offroad and Choice Transportation. The turnout was fantastic! Below are the winners.

**1<sup>st</sup> Place – The Kolbecks**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place – The Reits**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place – The Rileys**

**Congratulations!**

**See everyone on the lake next year!**



# Pontoon Parade (cont.)



# Fireworks 2025

Vice President Jim McGovern and the team from J&M Displays received an increase in their budget this year based on last year's fundraising. They were also given a challenge to make it the best show ever and they delivered!!!

**Thanks again to everyone who makes the Fireworks such a special event for the community. A special thanks again to all of our great business and family sponsors. It wouldn't be possible without your generous support.**



## Movie Night

(Sponsored by Rob & Cathie Walker)

**Saturday Night August 30th  
8:30pm to 10:30pm @ Rock  
Dam Beach**

**Bring the kids down with your chairs and blankets for a night of movie memories down by the lake!**

**Popcorn, sodas and snacks will be available for purchase.**

**It's always a great time and admission is free!**

**See you there.**

## Presidents Corner

This is the last time that I will be writing to you in this space. After 5 terms and 10 years as the Lake Association President I am stepping back. It's time for me to support someone else that will continue and grow the traditions of the Rock Dam Lake Association. I'll still be around and continue on the Board if allowed, but I'll be trying to stay in the background.

My time at Rock Dam goes back over 50 years. I came up in 1972 to snowmobile at a friend's uncle's cottage and fell in love with the lake and snowmobiling. I bought that cottage 11 years later and here I am.

Virginia and I became active members of the Lake Association because of a joke. We hadn't even been to a meeting until Todd Scheel had put a spoof picture of our cabin in the newsletter in 2007. We attended our first meeting that Memorial Day weekend to get in on the joke and have been involved ever since. We signed up to volunteer on Road Clean-Up and Movie Night popping and bagging popcorn that night.

It's that kind of volunteerism within the Lake Association that I am so proud of. Whenever there is some event that needs help, our members pitch in. Our Sponsors are the same way. That is unique. The only thing that anyone is getting out of what we do are the memories that are being created for us, of the kids and their families that enjoyed some time at Rock Dam Lake. Those memories are priceless. Rock Dam Lake is special and the RDLA helps support what makes it special. Thank you to everyone that has helped and continues to help keep it that way.

Ten years is a long time to be in a leadership position in any organization. I am glad that I was able to serve as president when there were opportunities to move things ahead. It's been the positive comments, thank you's and tearful moments watching kids bundled up in their parent's lap at Movies on the Beach that kept me going. I hope my time as the president has helped you enjoy and be proud of the Rock Dam community just a little bit more than you did the year before. I know I'll miss some of the opportunities to make a difference, but I'm sure I'll find a little bit different way to fill that need.

Finally, I need to thank the Lake Association Board and members that have supported me throughout all 10 years. I couldn't have stayed in the position for 10 years without them. A big THANK YOU to sister-in-law Melinda Mayhew for her technical assistance on our electronic media. Last but definitely not least, I need to thank Virginia. She helps make me a better person every day and she helped make me a better President. She has put in countless hours working behind the scenes and has been a trusted advisor (and editor) throughout my tenure.

So, it's not goodbye, I hope to see you around the lake!  
Kevin

## Rock Dam Days 5K Run/Walk

The 2nd annual Rock Dam 5k was another huge success. 90 runners and walkers enjoyed a perfect, cool morning for a trip around our favorite lake. Thanks to all the participants, the volunteers, and especially all our neighbors who set up creative refreshment stations along Lakeside road. A huge shout out to our sponsors, AKA Lakeside, Cal's Rock Dam Resort, Marieke Gouda, and Thorp SuperValu Foods! A special thank you to Ellen Johnson who coordinated every detail with her small but mighty team!



## Fireworks Raffle Winners

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Kay Blanck
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Jason Conrad
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Kyle Petrie

**Thanks for supporting the Fireworks!!!**

A huge thank you to everyone that sold raffle tickets for us. Businesses: AKA Lakeside & Cal's Rock Dam Resort. Our tremendous individual Rock Dam Days sellers: Max Hazard, Seamus Rudy, Melinda Mayhew, Jim McGovern, Rob Walker, Mary Riley and our Super Star salesperson of the year again, Steve Goebel!

Also, a HUGE thanks to the Pittz & Martin Kid's "Bucket Brigade" They raised @ \$500 in donations!

Another very special **Thank You to Ron Kundinger and Family** for the fantastic DJ'ing, entertainment, games and prizes that Ron and his team provide for the beach crowd. Thanks especially for all of the prize donations he collects for the kids. Ron had 5 bikes for the kids this year! Ron continues to expand the experience for everyone that is at the beach and park on Saturday each year. It's clear that Ron and his team love being part of the Rock Dam Days Fireworks program and we are very lucky to have them be a big part of our weekend.  
**Thanks Ron!**

**Rock Dam Community Christmas Party**  
**Hold the Date! Saturday January 3rd 2026**  
**@ AKA Lakeside**

# 2025 Fireworks Sponsors

AKA Lakeside  
 Loren and Kathy Anderson  
 Bauer Welding  
 Burly N' Bucks  
 Cal's Rock Dam Resort  
 Chwala's Construction  
 Dallman Insurance Agency  
 Fireworks Liquidators  
 The Gravrok Family  
 GFL Environmental  
 John & Geri Gerold  
 Virginia & Kevin Hendricks  
 The Jayne, Kolbeck and Thomsen  
 Families  
 The Kiel Family  
 Kitzhaber Crop Care  
 The McGovern Family  
 Northwestern Bank  
 Greg & Linda Pittz and Family  
 The Raese Family  
 Rhom Construction  
 Rock Dam Rod and Gun Club  
 Shoe's Place  
 Stanley Tire  
 Sun-Up Saloon  
 Bob & Paula Schreiner  
 The Thorp Courier and Shopper  
 Tieman Realty  
 The Tiry Family  
 Rob & Cathie Walker  
 Wellner Arboriculture  
 The Witkowski & Gizzi Families  
 Wolf's True Value  
 Woodland Storage

**Thank You!!!!**

**Please Patronize Our Great  
Business Sponsors!**

## Newsletter Sponsor

**Joe's Refrigeration**

**Know Your Wildfire Risks**  
Debris burning safety tips

<p><b>Safest</b> time to burn No DNR burn permits required when ground is fully snow covered.</p> 	<p><b>Caution</b> Snow must remain for entire burn DNR burn permits may be required.</p> 	<p><b>Avoid</b> burning in spring DNR burn permits required, fire danger changes daily.</p> 	<p><b>Watch</b> for dry conditions Critical fire danger subsides as vegetation fully greens.</p> 
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These are general guidelines. For the most current fire situation and permit requirements, visit [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov), search "fire"

**PREVENT A WILDFIRE**

- Nearly 1/3 of all wildfires in Wisconsin are caused by debris burning in spring
- Over 70% of debris burning wildfires are caused by people who did NOT get a burn permit
- Get a DNR burn permit — it's free, easy and the responsible thing to do

[dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov), keyword "fire"



**Please make sure to keep your membership to the Lake Association current in order to continue to receive the Newsletter! Annual membership expires Labor Day each year.**

Rock Dam Lake Association

Annual Dues \$20.00 Year 20\_\_

Mailing Address Newsletter: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Information (Lake address, donation to fireworks, etc.):

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: RDLA  
P.O. Box 24  
Willard, WI 54493

Received by: \_\_\_\_\_

Thanks For Your Support