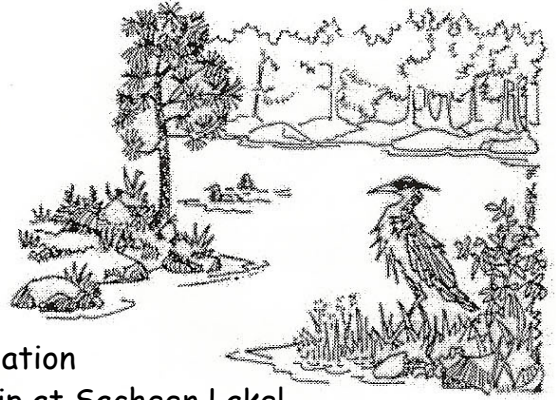


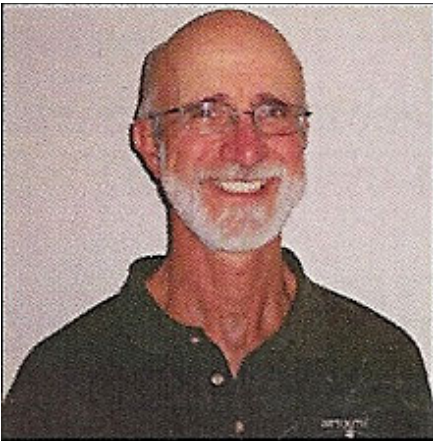
SacheenSCOPE



Published by the Sacheen Lake Association
Celebrating 59 Years of Stewardship and Friendship at Sacheen Lake!

Spring 2017

SacheenSCOPE. . . since 1988
edited by Nancy Cain



The President's Message **Had Enough Precipitation?**

by Don Hill - President, Sacheen Lake Association

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Had enough rain, and snow melt, and water in general?

The lake level peaked (hopefully for the last time!) at around 10 feet, about a foot higher than this time last year. The flow out via the West Branch of the Little Spokane has been substantial, as evidenced by the flooding downstream all the way to Spokane. We will be contacting the county commissioners to request wake limits until the level drops significantly. Shoreline erosion will be bad enough as it is, when the wind gets the waves going!

Speaking of lake level, I have been remiss in not yet acknowledging the 'Beaver Buster' volunteers last year, who worked with me to keep the tubes cleared in the downstream beaver dams. A hearty "Thank You" to Nathan Johnson, Dan White, Larry Holman, Brad Wear, and Joe Pearman for all the hard work. The Water and Sewer District and SLA volunteers will be at it again this year to do all we can to keep the water flowing in the right direction!

It seemed like a long winter, didn't it?! Thankfully, besides shoveling snow, we were able to keep busy cheering on the Zags through another awesome season, with the men's basketball team making it all the way to the NCAA National Championship game! I read in the newspaper how the team brought Spokane as a community together, and remember thinking 'well, yeah, Sacheen Lake, too!' How fun to cheer on a local team, as a community!

Now, as we move into summer (?), my hope is that all of you have an enjoyable and safe season. We hope you will take part in activities of stewardship and community that the SLA sponsors (see listing in this SacheenSCOPE), and send in your dues to help us keep it up.

Best Regards,

Don Hill



Meet Your Fire District



by Mike Nokes
Chief, SPOFR

This time of year the most common question I get is
"Can I burn?"

The answer is yes and if you follow the rules listed below you will have a safe burn season.

- **Call** 1-800-323-burn before you burn to make sure the burn season is still open, and call Pend Oreille Fire Dispatch at 447-3151 Ext. 2 to inform them your burning so they do not send fire resources to check on your burn pile
- Burn one pile at a time no larger than 10' x 10' in Pend Oreille County during DNR Rule Burn Oct. 16th – June 30th. 4' x 4' x 3' July 1st – Oct. 15th when burn season is open
- Only natural vegetation may be burned
- Burn barrels are illegal
- Never leave your fire unattended
- Do not burn when it is windy
- Always have a water source available to extinguish the fire
- Always ensure the fire is out and cold to the touch
- If you are burning bigger piles, more than one at a time, or land clearing you **MUST** contact DNR and get a permit to burn from DNR before you burn

If you have a fire get away from you, do not wait to call 911. Most people try to extinguish the fire themselves first. Take the 30 seconds to call 911 and get help coming, we would much rather get there and have you tell us you put the fire out, then let the fire grow for 10 minutes while someone tries to put it out. The sooner fire resources get there the less likely we are to have a large fire in our area.

If you have any questions on: burning, or if you would be interested in serving your community as a member of the volunteer fire district please contact me at 447-5305, or on-line at www.spofr.org.

Thank you,

Mike Nokes
Fire Chief

The inter- weaving of experiences into a tapestry that contain the strongest of memories can represent the journey of our lives. Many of the Mac Gown girls' strongest memories are those that have been experienced in the 70 years of living on Sacheen Lake. Cathy Retterer and Peggy Johnsen, the Mac Gown daughters of Paul and Caroline Mac Gown, began the collecting of these threads of memories of early springs, summers, and falls at Sacheen Lake when their parents bought the property in 1947. Here are some of those early threads of memories from those first 5-6 years that initially designed the Sacheen Mac Gown Tapestry.

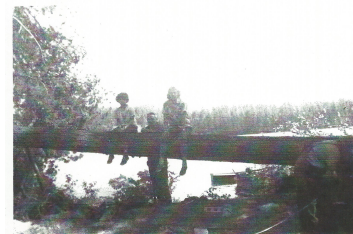
It all began on June 20, 1947, when the Mac Gowns visited the property of Charles Peters, (Caroline's brother) on Sacheen to celebrate Peggy's fifth birthday. During that day, Paul roamed several properties on Schaffer Beach that were up for sale while Caroline waded and swam the shore waters; both were looking for the perfect combination of land and shallow beaches to buy. They found the perfect lot that day and agreed to the conditions of the property owner: ten dollars down and pay "as you can." It was still a struggle for the public school teacher and stay-at-home mom's budget, but they found a way to pay \$50 a month toward ownership.

The summer of 1948 memory tapestry thread concentrated on moving the old 25x25 cabin back away from the shore. It moved on large logs and was cleverly balanced and leveled with beer bottles in each corner. We are certain that the bottles were definitely empty! The shore was inundated with many fallen trees in the water; the Indian naming of Sacheen, "lake of the beautiful fallen trees" was definitely appropriate. Our first dock consisted of planks across two fallen cedar trees.

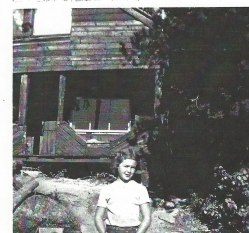
A strong and continual thread of memory was the responsibilities every day to work on the property until 11:00 A.M. EVERY DAY! Daily jobs consisted of raking the beach and straining the debris and seaweed through homemade boxes with screened bottoms. After the water had drained and the contents dried, we carried them up and deposited them around Mom's yard of natural plants and bushes that she carefully protected. As there was no water or electricity on the property (until the mid 50's) we dutifully watered the vegetation and the planted clover around the cabin by dipping #10 cans into large containers of water that Dad had placed around the yard. These #10 cans had holes in the bottom; we dunked and then slowly walked up, down, and around the precious yard, repeating the procedure until Mom was satisfied.

The cabin was old, dilapidated, infested with rats and mice and so a strong thread of memory was the removing of each and every board inside and outside the cabin and washing with bleach water, sun dried, and then replaced. During that process, our dog Blackie became the master ratter and mouser! A strong memory is hearing the thump, thump of wood rat (pack rat) tails slapping in the eaves of the cabin. The carcasses were always reverently buried in Cathy and Peggy's rodent cemetery. And then, of course, there was the wonderful squeaking

Peggy - Paul - Cathy Mac Gown
1949-50

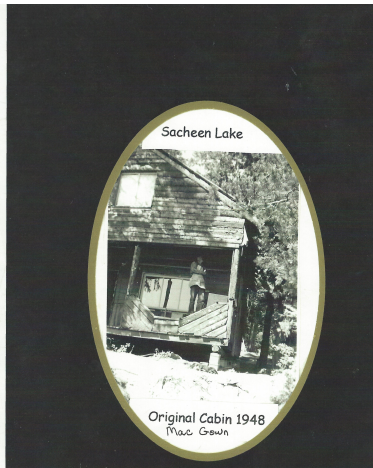


Sacheen - "Lake of the Beautiful Fallen Trees."



The Sacheen Tapestry - Continued ...

of the bats coming and going into the night to eat all those mosquitoes. We were taught to treasure and honor their homes between the bark slats on the sides of the cabin. When one of our cats might bring a live bat into the cabin, our father would tenderly gather it with a fishing net and release the bat into the night.



Because there was no running water or electricity during these early summers, the memory of “doing the dishes” consisted of first taking the tin plates, etc. down to the beach and scrub with sand and then rinse. The dishes were brought back up to the cabin and some of the precious hot water from the kettle on the back of the cook stove was used to wash with soap and then rinse. This was done in a “sink” with two small metal basins. There was the shared job of taking out the “slop bucket” by the back door and dump it into the woods behind the cabin. If there were large pieces of food scraps, such as watermelon rinds or bones, Dad would dig a hole and bury the items. Lots of garbage was transported back to the Spokane home or taken to the county dump on Kent Rd. (no longer there). Too many skunks and

porcupines were nightly visitors looking for any food garbage left outside. All potable water was brought from our Spokane home. The delicate and constant supervision of the kerosene lamps at night lit the games of Hearts and Pinochle around the huge oak table is a thread that added to the tapestry for many years. The cook stove did not leave the cabin until the early 60’s even though there was electricity. It warmed the cool mornings in June and cooked perfect cinnamon rolls and chili for those boisterous card games at night.

One strong thread of memory was the job of driving the boat (equipped with the fastest motor on the lake, a 5 horse power ... wow!) down to the Resort to buy a chunk of ice to refill our icebox. When Peggy was old enough, she was given permission to do this alone! Perhaps Cathy was quite willing to turn this “honor” over?

We had a lot of fun swimming for hours in the lake and hiking in the woods along the six beaver dams between our cabin and Buck Creek Rd. There was the “chore” of going out on the lake in our old, old tin rowing boat with instructions, “Do not come back until you have caught 100 perch.” We would return in 2-3 hrs; of course we would have been home in an hour if we had not spent a lot of the time jumping off the boat to swim or look for turtles. Yes, we had to clean them too! There was the lovely early evenings in the dusk hours rowing for our father while he casted for bass, which were kept live in a basket off the end of the dock until they were cooked for dinner. A majority of our meals were fish caught each week. Schoolteachers were not paid during the summer; the saved money during the year always seemed to go to some emergency at “the lake.”

The Sacheen Mac Gown Tapestry has grown more complicated over the years with the addition of two more generations (a total of 4 generations) adding to its unique memories. But we, the Mac Gown girls, believe that those most early threads of memories have provided the strong foundation for this growing tapestry. This summer as family and friends visit the Lake, we will be collecting those new threads of memories that most certainly will add to and celebrate our summer of 70 years on Sacheen Lake.

CANDIDATE FILING WEEK IS COMING UP!

Please consider serving your community. Commissioner positions 1 and 2 are coming up for election this fall. Position 1 has been held by Perry Pearman for the past eight years. Perry started out substituting as the board secretary in 1990 and has served on the board several times. He will not be seeking re-election. Position 2 is currently held by Mike Quick, who volunteered to fill the vacancy left when Gary Garrett left the board. Position 1 is a 6-year term and Position 2 is an unexpired 4-year term.

Filing dates are May 15 through May 18 and filing can be completed at the Pend Oreille County court house in Newport.

Thank you to all who have set up their accounts to pay through their bank's bill pay system. I never need return one of these checks because they weren't dated properly or signed! The bill pay systems really are convenient, especially for those who travel or are snowbirds. They also save the cost of envelopes and stamps. If you already use your bill pay system, please make sure that you have updated your payment per the January rate letter and that you have made your balloon payment that was billed out in March, as these may have been overlooked. Remember, payments are due by the 10th of the month.

Geocaching in the Sacheen Area

by Lynn Walters

Our lake has a hidden geocache container but before I address that, I know that many of you are not familiar with the hobby which has been around for sixteen years.

-Geocaching 101: What is geocaching? Geocaching is a real-world, outdoor treasure hunting game using GPS-enabled devices. Participants navigate to a specific set of GPS coordinates and then attempt to find the geocache (container) hidden there. Geocaches can be found all over the world. It is common for geocachers to hide caches in locations that are important to them, reflecting a special interest or skill of the cache owner. (Anyone can hide a cache but it is recommended that you find at least a hundred before taking on the commitment.) Locations can be very diverse: they may be at a park, on a hike, at every rest stop, on an island in the Pend Oreille River or sprinkled throughout a city. We have a cache at Sacheen Lake.

-To get started, you need to have an app on your phone, tablet or GPS. Basic membership is free through Groundspeak at www.geocaching.com. Using the app, select an area and a map will pop up with the highlighted caches. Then, using the app's compass, head out. Basic information such as the container size, the difficulty of the terrain, (1 equals handicachable, 5 equals extreme difficulty that may require a kayak or perhaps rock climbing) the difficulty of the hide (1 equals a large ammo can whereas 5 may be a magnet the size of your fingernail and 30 feet up a lamp post) and a hint will be provided for each hunt. Each time you log a find, you will get a smiley face on your GPS at that location.

WSGA (Washington State Geocaching Association) is a very active group. For more local information, join the Facebook page called Inland Empire Geocachers. Liking that page will connect you with many enthusiasts who host Meet and Greets and go out and cache together. On the app, you can also look up local events. The wonder of this hobby is that you can participate in a group or head out alone to get your smiley faces.

~History: the game began shortly after GPS technology became available to the public on May 2, 2000. The next day, Dave Ulmer, a computer consultant, wanted to test the accuracy by hiding a navigational target in the woods. The idea was simple: hide a container out in the woods and note the coordinates with a GPS unit. The finder would then have to locate the container with only the use of his or her GPS receiver. The rules for the finder were simple: "take some stuff, leave some stuff." Dave placed a black bucket in the woods near Beavercreek, Oregon, near Portland. Along with a logbook and pencil, he left various prize items for the first finder. Within three days, two different readers found the container and shared their experiences online. Throughout the next week, others excited by the prospect of hiding and finding stashes began hiding their own containers and posting coordinates. Sixteen years later, this has become a massive worldwide hobby. Groundspeak's headquarters are in the Fremont District of Seattle with ten of the world's best caches hidden nearby. The most famous is the chair tree, a tree with hundreds of child's chairs within its branches. One of the chairs is on a pulley and the cache container on the seat.

~Sacheen Lake

Pend Oreille County Parks and Recreation has placed a geocache at our lake near the boat launch. They have also hidden one on Fertile Valley Road. It gets bigger. In Pend Oreille County Park, there are fourteen caches placed within the park and on various trails. In fact, the parks department has hidden fifty in a series in Pend Oreille County. In our area many are on trails so hike a bit, get a reward and hike on. It is a great incentive

For more information go to: www.geocaching.com

Sacheen Lake Association Membership Renewal Form

Dues for 2017 are still only \$10 for an individual / \$25 for a family

Name:	
Mailing Address:	
Lake Address:	
Home Phone:	
Lake Phone:	
Email Address:	

Please fill out the form and mail it with your check, payable to:

Sacheen Lake Association, c/o Jerry Johnsen, Treasurer, PO Box 401, Newport WA 99156-0401

PLEASE include your correct CURRENT EMAIL ADDRESS

sacheenlake.com

Don't forget check out our beautiful website. It is a wonderful way to stay connected with our community, lake and sewer news, and the wildlife around the lake. To share your photos and Info, contact Jerry Johnsen @ jj_at_lake@yahoo.com.

STAY INFORMED

Join the **SLA email list**. Please send your request to be added to the email list and/or send address corrections or changes to:

Sacheen Lake Inventor

Nuisance lake weeds spark a big idea from one local resident. Lake home owner Bret Britz saw a need and came up with an innovative solution. Britz, a Mechanical Engineer, spent several summers trying to rid his dock and lakefront of the unsightly prop-tangling weeds that plague many waterfront homeowners. He purchased a shed full of weed removal tools that claimed to be the latest and greatest. What he ended up with was a slimmer wallet and a bunch of tools that just didn't do the job they claimed to do. He set to work designing and building his own lake weed rake. What he discovered was something so easy and fun to use that one local resident proclaimed, "It does an hours' worth of work in 10 minutes!" Bret approached his cousin Bryan, who has over 16 years of marketing experience, and asked if he thought this was something they could sell. The answer was a resounding YES. After a few tweaks the final product was ready for production, however they needed a name. The design of the weed removal tool allows it to easily glide across the top of the water and drop down exactly where you want it to. Since the flexible blades bow slightly when it's gliding across the water, it resembles a Manta Ray. The WeedRay was born. The duo decided to launch their new product at the Spokane Boat Show in January of 2017. In the midst of a snowstorm and with all the area lakes frozen over, they really didn't expect to sell any of them. The thought was it would be a great opportunity to get the word out. What they found was a very enthusiastic public. They ended up selling almost half of their inventory. The people who bought The WeedRay, were waterfront homeowners who had also spent a small fortune on inferior products that just didn't do the job. The WeedRay, being so different and completely customizable right out of the box, was an immediate head turner. A video playing at the booth showed potential buyers just what the WeedRay could do. It easily adjusts for any condition, long weeds, short weeds, broadleaf, etc. A series of snap together aluminum poles allows the user to easily make the tool as long as they want for those hard to reach areas. Gone are the days of picking the weeds out of a rake. The weeds that are brought up fall easily to the dock or shoreline by simply turning the handle one quarter turn in each direction. The user's hands stay clear and clean. When done, the rake folds up smaller than a garden rake and stores safely away. While the WeedRay's are not yet available in stores, they are selling them on their website www.weedray.com. To see the WeedRay in action for yourself, go to the website and click on "videos" at the top of the page.

Sacheen Merchandise For Sale

Virginia Hill - Merchandise Chairman
(509)447-0960

Sacheen Lake merchandise is for sale at the annual meeting and the community picnic. You may also shop at Virginia's home by calling and arranging a time.

The merchandise includes various items of clothing, coffee mugs, and beverage glasses.

If you have any ideas for merchandise that you would like to see sold, please email Virginia at DVJH@aol.com

These make wonderful year-round gifts!



Become a friend!

Sacheen Lake Association is now on FACEBOOK

SacheenSCOPE
PO Box 401
Newport WA 99156

Sacheen Lake Association Board

President:	Don Hill 509/447-0960 DVJH@aol.com	Eastshore
Vice President:	Brian Hood 509/447-3124 LakesEnd@gmail.com	Sacheen Shores / West End
Secretary:	Beryl Pielli 509/447-3793 lbpielli@povn.com	At large
Treasurer:	Jerry Johnsen 447-4587 jj_at_lake@yahoo.com	Schaefer's Beach
*Lance Barklen, 509/447-0247 barklen@cox.net		Mtn. View
* Mary Maxfield, 509/993-5117 spokanemary@yahoo.com		Eisenbarth's Addition
* Karen White, 509/447-0151 dankaren89@gmail.com		At large
* John Pargman, 509/447-0735 gjpargman@yahoo.com		At large
* Jeanne Holman, 509/599-7234 larryandjeanne70@yahoo.com		The Narrows
* Al Pool, 509/447-0221 alberthpool@gmail.com		The Terrace

Sacheen Sewer & Water District Meetings

2nd Wednesday of each month - 5 p.m.
Sacheen Fire Station on Highway 211

SLA Annual Meeting - June 24, 2017
Saturday, 9-11:30 a.m. Fire Station, Hwy 211

SLA Community Picnic BBQ - Aug 12, 2017
Saturday, 11:30am -2pm at Meyers-Harter Park

Community Volunteer Clean-Up Days
Meet at Meyers-Harter Park at time listed

Fertile Valley Road Cleanup
May 6, Saturday 9:00 a.m.

Meyers-Harter Park Weed 'n' Trim
May 11, Wednesday 9:00 a.m. - noon
(bring some yard tools)

Highway 211 Cleanups
June 10, Saturday 8:00 a.m.
August 26, Saturday 8:00 a.m.