

# Sacheen SCOPE

Published by the Sacheen Lake Association

Celebrating 63 Years of Stewardship and Friendship at Sacheen Lake!

Spring 2020  
Sandra J. Smith, Editor

## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE April 2020



Greetings my friends from Sacheen Lake

Well this is certainly not what we expected when the new year and new decade came January 1, 2020. I'm writing this April 3, 2020 so I pray that things will have improved exponentially by the time you are reading this Scope issue. I've been in self quarantine for 4 weeks now. My only conversation is with myself so I must appologize to everyone who has spent time with me over the years. I am not very good company. We cancelled the March SLA Board meeting and I will cancel the April meeting later today, and maybe May as well.

In my neighborhood we are all communicating via phone and email checking to make sure everyone is safe and well. It is heart warming to see people come together in this difficult time with love and compassion for each other. We all hope that we will be in a position to come together in June for the Annual SLA meeting and July for the Picnic. At any rate when you read this I hope to have a plan in place for the remainder of the year. As has been said over and over ... "We will get through this together"

Albert Pool  
President





**Mike Nokes**  
**Fire Chief, South Pend Oreille Fire & Rescue**

**Burning....** If you have any questions or if you are interested in becoming a volunteer EMT or firefighter, feel free to contact me either by phone, 447-5305 or on-line at [www.spoifr.org](http://www.spoifr.org)

As we all are adjusting to a new normal, I sincerely hope everyone is safe and healthy.

Spring is here, and what has come with it is spring burning. What is different this year is more people are home all day, every day. Before we had this last round of rain and we started to see the green-up, we did have a few little fires escape but not as many in years past. That said, one thing that has been noticed is it is dry in the woods, and so far, predictive weather services are calling for an active fire season. I enjoy a nice day like anybody else, but I'm also ok with some good heavy spring rains. No one truly knows what the weather will bring, but I wanted to share with you some burning tips.

Complacency is what causes most of the escaped fires. People think because we had one day of drizzle or a few cold days in a row, it's ok to burn, and not keep an eye on it. Most of the time, when we arrive at the fire, people say to us, "I only left it for 10 – 15 minutes", "I didn't think it would go anywhere." It will, and it does.

Grass and light small brush is called one-hour fuels. That means on a sunny day with some wind; it only takes one hour to change the moisture content of the fuel. What happens is people light their fire in the morning, and it stays in their pile and doesn't spread. Hours later, the day has warmed up, the fuels around it have dried, and now add a light breeze to the day, and your little burn pile has gone from small and contained to consuming 15 acres of land. Yes, it can happen that fast.

If you have a fire escape, 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.

This spring, there were a few questions, and complaints about DNR permitted slash burning. DNR is the authority having jurisdiction when it comes to allowing slash burns, and setting the outdoor burn guidance. If at any time you have a question or a complaint about a DNR permitted burns, you can call 1-800-323-2876, and ask to speak to the DNR Arcadia Duty Officer.

The fire district's role during burning, if a complaint is received, is to assess for compliance, provide education if needed, and ensure there is no direct or immediate threat to life or property. If someone is following the rules, we do not have the authority to extinguish the fire just because a complaint was received.

If you have smoke impact complaint, those can be made to the Department of Ecology at 509-329-3400. DOE has the authority to stop any burning permitted or not if enough complaints are received.

Any time we can remove excess fuels from the urban interface we live in, it helps reduce the impact of fires. When burning is done safely and respectfully, it is a benefit. Are there alternatives to burning, yes. For those interested google (USFS to masticate or not) it is a good article by the Forest Service on the advantages and disadvantages.

If you follow the burning safety rules listed below, you will greatly reduce the risk of having a fire escape your burn pile.

- 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 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.spoifr.org](http://www.spoifr.org).

Mike Nokes  
Fire Chief

# Sacheen Lake Association Membership Renewal Form

Dues for 2020 are still only \$10 for an individual / \$25 for a family

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

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

PLEASE include your correct CURRENT EMAIL ADDRESS and PHONE #

Name:			
Mailing Address:			
Phone:			
Email Address:			

## THE NEWPORT SMELTER..UPDATE!

**Land sale for Newport smelter ruled legal**...reprinted in part from the 4/22/2020 Spokesman Review

Appellate judges say PUD had authority by state law

By Kip Hill -CONTACT THE WRITER:(509) 459-5429 kiph@spokesman.com

THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

A panel of Washington state appellate judges ruled Tuesday the sale of land for a controversial smelter near Newport was legal.

Construction of the silicon smelter plant on 172 acres of previously public land in Pend Oreille County has been put on hold, as county commissioners there rejected a zoning change in December that would have allowed the project to move forward.

Tyler Whitney, general counsel and assistant general manager for the Pend Oreille Public Utility District, praised the ruling in a statement issued Tuesday afternoon, saying it reaffirmed the utility district's authority to make good financial decisions for ratepayers.

"We are very pleased that both the trial court and the court of appeals properly interpreted the broad authority of public utility districts in the exercise of their

business judgment on behalf of PUD ratepayers, including the purchase and sale of real property," the statement said. "Pend Oreille PUD is looking forward to closing the book on this case and continuing its mission of providing quality service at low cost through electric load growth."

But the ruling might embolden other public utility providers and governments to sell land to private interests without going to a vote of the public, said Rick Eichstaedt, a Spokane-based attorney who represented the group of property owners challenging the sale.

"From a PUD standpoint, or another municipal government looking at this, they might say we get to be a little fast and loose with the rules," Eichstaedt said.

Attorneys for the Pend Oreille PUD, the entity providing water, power and broadband internet service in the area, argued the sale of the property, finalized in August 2017, followed necessary provisions in state law. Opponents said the district, which purchased one of four parcels for the project from Pend Oreille County, didn't properly declare the land surplus before selling it above appraised value to HiTest Sand Inc.,

the Canadian company interested in building the smelter, and also didn't seek approval from voters beforehand.

A spokesman for Pac-West, the subsidiary of HiTest Sand that would build the estimated \$325million project, did not return messages seeking comment on the ruling Tuesday. The county and PacWest have been involved in a public argument over communication on

the project, and in January a letter was sent by PacWest to Gov. Jay Inslee indicating the project had been placed on hold.

A unanimous panel of appellate judges for Washington's Division III of the Court of Appeals found the public utility "failed to follow statutory requirements" during the process of the sale, but that its legal authority in state law to dispose of land it owned and considered useless permitted its actions.

Eichstaedt said the nonprofit

he represents was weighing its potential legal options, which could include seeking review by the Washington Supreme Court.

## STAY INFORMED

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

# How to Get Your Boat Ready for Summer- The Ultimate Checklist

Now that the ice is off the area lakes it is time to think about getting your boat ready for the water! The goal in performing a spring check list is to make sure that you and your family get the most out of your boating season. Generally money and more importantly, weekends can be saved through good preventative care. Every boat (and motor) has their own unique requirements however the following list will provide boaters with an idea of what to check and consider. For the “do it yourselfer”, your owner’s manuals will provide you with more specific information. For those a little less handy, your boat dealer will have professional certified technicians that can perform any services required.

**FUEL SYSTEMS:** Check all of the exposed fuel components for signs of rot or deterioration. If the system has a primer bulb (most outboards) squeeze it to provide pressure and look for leaks at all fuel connections. If any leaks are spotted we suggest that the unexposed areas of the fuel system be accessed to ensure that there aren’t any bad areas “hiding” from you. Bad fuel hoses can show up as too soft AND too brittle. A good hose will remain pliable but firm as you move it. Our preference for fuel is what is known as “90 Rec”. This fuel doesn’t contain Ethanol and is 90 octane. In newer engines that are run consistently so that fuel doesn’t sit around in the tank, 10% Ethanol is ok. In engines that see limited use and infrequent fill ups however, Ethanol tends to draw moisture creating pockets of water in the fuel which is very tough on engines and fuel systems, causing corrosion, clogs, and generally “mucking up the works”. If you must use fuel containing Ethanol make sure to keep a good fuel treatment available for every fill up.

**ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS:** Nothing can ruin a perfectly good weekend like being stuck on the lake in a boat that won’t start due to a dead battery! In the spring, charge the battery deeply by using a slow charger (about 3 amps) overnight. Let the battery sit for a day and then take it to a dealer or parts store to have it “load tested”. This simulates the battery getting used and will give you reliable knowledge of whether the battery should be replaced. The average boat battery, if stored properly, will generally last about 4 or 5 years. A small PWC battery will generally need replaced every 3 years. When you hook up your battery, remember to connect the positive leads (should be the red ones) to the positive battery terminal and the ground leads (black ones) to the negative terminal. Mix that up and you will blow fuses at minimum and could do significant damage! If you are unsure, let a professional figure it out and properly label the wires. Make sure that any corrosion is cleaned from the wires and the terminals, and tighten the clamps securely. The terminals should be covered so that nothing can accidentally touch them causing a short. The battery must also be clamped or restrained in some fashion to keep it upright and in place, in a vented compartment or open area.

**FLUIDS, BELTS, HOSES, CABLES:** Be sure to check and top off all of your fluids like engine oil, gear case oil, antifreeze if it is present, power steering, and power trim. If you have an inboard engine that was winterized using standard automotive antifreeze (the green stuff) you must capture that and dispose of properly! Most marine dealers are using the blue stuff now that is non-toxic but check and know before you let it run off onto your driveway. Check your belts and engine hoses, looking for signs of rot and to make sure they are tight and secure. The movement range of all the cables (steering, throttle, and shift) can be very lightly lubricated. If the operation of any of the cables is stiff and they are over 10 years old don’t think you can “grease them into submission”! These are maintenance items that need to be replaced on occasion.

**PROP:** If you did not remove the prop at winterization to grease the shaft and check for fishing line you need to do that before you “splash”. That old fish line can cut into the gear case seal allowing oil to leak out and causing total gear failure! It is also a great idea to put a thin layer of grease on the prop shaft to keep the shaft and prop hub from corroding and becoming difficult to get off.

**WATERPUMPS:** The Spring is a great time to consider your need for a new water pump impeller. If you haven’t put in a new impeller in 3 or 4 years you are likely due for one. Your engine depends on a constant flow of water to stay cool and at high speeds a pump failure goes from just an alarm to engine damage in seconds with little time to react. For economy and emissions standards, today’s engines run hotter and are less forgiving to an overheat situation. It is best to try and avoid failure with proper routine replacement. Many manuals call for a new impeller every year. That is probably overkill for the average fresh water recreational boater. There are many dependent factors like shallow water that play a role so consider replacement now, look at the condition of the old impeller and that will tell you whether you pushed your luck and need to be more aggressive with your change interval. Again, you will be looking for pliability, wear patterns and blade shape. Ask your mechanic, they will tell you what the condition was. **DON’T FORGET – NEVER** fire up your engine without correctly supplying it with water! You will burn up your impeller in seconds by starting it dry!

**TUNE- UPS:** Tune-ups on newer engines are best left to the pros because most work requires specialized computer programs to properly “read” your engine. If you have an older engine though, and are comfortable with the process, the spring is a great time to consider doing a tune up. Why waste a great Saturday in June doing a job that could have been done in April!

**GENERAL GEAR CHECK:** Remember to check and inventory all your gear. Replace any life jackets that have rips or bad seams or that are no longer pliable. Replace any lines that are starting to fray or rot. Consider replacing any fire extinguisher that is over 5 years old, you can always keep the old one around as a spare in your house or garage...it will probably still work. You must have a life jacket for each person on board. Do you have enough? Know your local regulations but normally in addition to the life jackets and fire extinguisher, the other required gear is a working horn, distress flag, throwable device (throw cushion), and anchor with line. Even if you do not plan to “anchor out” the anchor is important because if you break down it may be critical that you stop yourself from drifting. Make sure you have an anchor that will do this job if it is needed! We would also suggest that a basic tool kit and basic first aid kit always be on board.

Continued on page 5



**GENERAL EQUIPMENT CHECK:** After installing your charged and tested battery, run through all of your equipment and check for functionality. Blow the horn a few times. Operate the blower with the engine hatch open (on inboards) and listen to make sure you hear the fan. You should also be able to feel air flow on the outlet vent side of the blower system. Same thing with the bilge pump and with that if you want to really make sure just use a hose and run enough water into the bilge to activate the pump. Clean the bilge area first so that the water doesn't cause any oil to slosh around and make a mess or get pumped outside of the boat. Navigation lights – check, Stereo – check, speakers – check, fishfinder – check. Most instruments today are “free floating” so where the indicator sets when the key is off is meaningless. Turn the key to the on position and you should see all the instruments return to their base line, the battery gauge should jump to about 12 – 13 volts and the fuel gauge should move to an accurate indication.

**TRAILER:** Check your tire pressure, grease or repack your wheel bearings (do you have a spare set?), check your trailer lights, and make sure your coupler can latch securely. If your trailer has hydraulic brakes remove the fill cap on the coupler. If you can see fluid, dip a q-tip into it to check for water vs fluid. Water will have a distinctly different consistency than fluid which feels about like mineral oil. If it is water, make plans to get your brake system gone through. Water will rust up all of the components internally and the brakes will not function. Hydraulic drum style brakes should be gone through about every 3 years depending on use. We do see disc style brakes going a little longer as long as the fluid is kept free of water.

**THE FIRST TRIP OUT:** First - Don't forget to install your drain plug! (we've all been there!). Before you load up all the troops, start the engine with only you aboard so that you can SEE, HEAR, SMELL what is going on aboard. If possible, open the engine hatch and have a look. Let the engine warm up a few minutes. The first few minutes on your first start up of the year can be very informative. If something appears, sounds, or smells wrong it probably is! Stop the engine and safely check it out.

OK! Now get all of your household chores out of the way because your boat is ready for that first day out on the lake! Enjoy a safe and happy boating season!

**Note:** This is a guest post by Jim Reed, President of Rebo Inc. dba Spend A Day Marina, a family business started by his parents in 1950 dedicated to recreational boaters. His 55 years of experience includes servicing and sales of watercraft throughout the range of 10' jon boats, pontoons, and 60' Cruisers in both fresh and salt water.



## **EDITORIAL...By Joni Stillian, District Manager**

**Comments from Joni Stillian, District Manager, Sacheen lake Water and Sewer District - jssacheen@gmail.com 509-447-4647**

First I would like to introduce myself as the new District Manager for the Water and Sewer District. I have been "in the business" for 13 years working for the District that serves the Skookum Rendezvous RV Resort . At Skookum I have an office in the lodge and love interacting with all of the customers. That is why I would like to invite you to come by my Sacheen office located at the Fire Station on Highway 211. My office hours are on Monday and Thursday from 10:00 to 2:00. It would be my pleasure to meet you and I will do whatever I can to provide you with excellent customer service. If you go around to the back door, there is a doorbell for you to ring. A thought..probably should wait to get acquainted until after this virus business is over.

Like the rest of the Country, we have been somewhat sidelined by the Covid-19 Virus. We had to cancel our April 8th meeting due to social distancing requirements. We are hoping that our May 13th meeting will take place and that we can all be in the same room together. We had planned to get started on our Milfoil mediation plan in April, but that has been put on hold for a couple of months, we will have a plan when it is time to publish the next Scope, if not sooner.

Also a gentle reminder, at the beginning of this shutdown there was a TP shortage, so a few things not to flush: wipes, paper towels, diapers, or anything made out of cloth. Thank you for being conscientious and helping us to keep our system running smoothly.

**There are no pictures in this publication honoring those in our community who have made a difference. COVID -19 has reared its ugly viral head on so many horrific and cruel levels.**

**This article is to honor those who have warmed our hearts, have gone the extra mile, who have showed compassion and strength to strangers and loved ones alike during this unprecedented pandemic. This difficult time will pass and in the meantime we hang tough to our true grit and good ole' fashioned American ingenuity.**

### **A PLACE OF SOLID GROUND - The Touch Stone - SACHEEN LAKE**

I'd say this is a time to bring out our better angels as they say, and keep them out.... The cruel microscopic virus COVID-19 has taken over 69,000 in the U.S. alone; over 239,000 deaths world wide as I write this editorial. The best research scientists race for a vaccine. God help us. Families scurry to keep their own immune systems strong, we use oil of oregano; or whatever tools we have in our arsenal for keeping our bodies resilient. My grandmother Madelynn used this right? What did they use before antibiotics to ward off diseases and pandemics?

A few days ago while on a walk with my now famous little dog, "Jules Vern" an elderly woman called out to me from across the street, peering through the shrubs, an emphatic "hehlloo" she called. "Are you okay?" She wanted to know, and who was this handsome little dog? I want to be like her when I grow old, a Madelyn look alike, wispy iridescent strands of silver, bright heart shaped pink lips, an aurora of rosewater, kindness and gratitude. A better angel, perhaps a real angel with a dapper cane; she startled me out of my self absorption and a long day of problem solving. I thought about this whimsical little encounter long into the night. A silver elder embodying hope for a better tomorrow, a gentler kinder world for humans, animals and our mother earth; perhaps a learning of COVID - 19, and the new normal we won't find under the microscope.

In this new normal we see the very best in people with great acts of kindness, and sadly those who are out to scam. We live in a time of such paradox. We can buy into Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) or Post Traumatic Growth (PTG); we get to choose. With all of the present unpredictability, sadness, fear, and potential calamity let us join forces and continue to grow and know that this too shall pass. New challenges will mark the 21st century; we won't forget this one. Let us know what we do for others matters, however small our encounters may be. No act of kindness is ever wasted.

I return home to Sacheen, my touch stone, solid ground, an eagle's wing soars above shadowing the white pine and cedars. The golden glow of another Sacheen sunset shows promise against Little Blue Grouse Mountain. I know I can never pay back all those who have helped me, my loved ones, and those strangers who appear out of nowhere with wispy silver hair; strangely familiar; I do know I can play if forward. I do know that I am grateful every day for a little gem of a lake called Sacheen, this is home there is no place in all of the world like it; The touch stone.

*Sandee J. Smith*

*Editor Sacheen Scope*



## Sacheen Lake Association



is now on  
**FACEBOOK**

Don't forget to 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 Carl Gross at [carlgross@gmail.com](mailto:carlgross@gmail.com).



1910/1920



1915

### LOOKING BACK

Barbara Burns found these images at Spokane Public Library Northwest Room website.

A special thanks to Carol Hood and Di Wear for bringing these nostalgic photos to our attention.



1920/1940

### Setting your settings on Sacheen Lake nextdoor.com

If you are posting/receiving/seeing messages on nextdoor.com from other neighborhoods than Sacheen Lake, you can control what and who you see under "General" settings and when you post, by choosing which neighborhood/s you want to post to. You can also "mute" people you don't wish to hear from, by clicking the little arrows on the right. Sorry, I can't control the advertising, but you can "uncheck" the things that you may have marked as "interests" to you, as that is where many of them are generated. Hope that helps!

\* nextdoor.com is not affiliated with the Sacheen Lake Association, but many of you are nextdoor members, thus the FYI.

SacheenSCOPE  
PO Box 401  
Newport WA 99156

## Sacheen Lake Association Board

**President: Al Pool, 509/447-0221**  
alberthpool@gmail.com

The Terrace

**Past President: Don Hill, 509-447-0960**  
DVJH@aol.com

Eastshore

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Sacheen Shores / West End

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At Large

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**Karen White, 509/447-0151**  
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At Large

**Shaun Bleecker, 509/496-0972**  
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At Large

**Jeanne Holman, 509/599-7234**  
larryandjeanne70@yahoo.com

The Narrows



### Sacheen Sewer & Water District Meetings

**Meetings are canceled until further notice due to COVID-19**

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

**Highway Cleanup is canceled until further notice due to COVID-19**