

# ANN LAKE WATER LOG

A Newsletter of the Ann Lake Property Owners' Association (ALPOA) – June 2011

## 2011 ALPOA

### BOARD MEMBERS

#### PRESIDENT:

ELLIE FLAHERTY-275-6313

#### VICE PRESIDENT:

LEE MUEHLMANN -357-6768

#### SECRETARY:

ARNIE NOE-275-7911

#### TREASURER:

DAVE MAXSON-275-7732:

#### DIRECTORS:

BETH DANNECKER-NOE -  
275-7911

TED KESKEY - 633-9396

KENT TAYLOR - 275-6804

SCOTT HEDBERG -  
734-905-3158

## Notes from the President

Ellie Flaherty

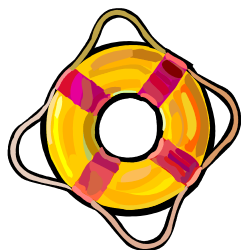
Hello to all who use, enjoy, share and take care of Ann Lake.....hmmm, where have I read that before? Oh yeh, that was the start of my “Notes from the President” that I wrote last year. I’m back as President again this year, so “Hello” again, I’m glad to be here. I’m excited about another new, fun, informative ALPOA summer season.

Your ALPOA Board has been busy this winter and spring via email between Board members and by email from the Board to all ALPOA members with email. Snail mail from the Board to ALPOA members without email was started in April.

Thank you for your participation in the ALPOA Survey taken in April. Your input was appreciated and very important. Ann Lake is a treasure **for** all of us that needs to be kept in A-one condition **by** all of us.

Your ALPOA Board strives to **educate** (see article on Invasive Species), **inform** (see articles on Survey Results and Loon Buoys), **evaluate** (see Water Quality Report), **communicate** (see article about the new ALPOA Website, plus there has been and will be periodic updates from our Township, County and State Governments), and **entertain** (the Annual Picnic June 25, the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Boat Parade, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Paddle, Pedal, Paddle, Row around Ann Lake August 6<sup>th</sup>).

I urge all Ann Lake property owners to renew your membership or begin your membership in the Ann Lake Property Owners’ Association. Your membership will be good for you and good for Ann Lake!



## Boating Education/Safety

Annually, the Benzie County Sheriff's Department offers boating classes. The next boating class is scheduled for June 25, 2010 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Benzie County Sheriff's office. The classes are free. To enroll, please call 231-882-0060, ext. 350.

## Water Quality

*Once again, the board and association are indebted to the individuals who have participated and continue to participate in water testing. Water testing is a means for us to determine the status of the lake's health and our impact on that health.*

*We would like to thank Dave Maxson for his on-going efforts at measuring the quality of the lake. Following is Dave's report on Lake Ann.*



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### WATER QUALITY

As reported in some detail in the past, ALPOA continues to monitor the quality of the water in our lake. Tests include measurements for clarity, phosphorus, chlorophyll, dissolved oxygen, and temperature, all of which contribute to the overall "quality" of the water. Results that are compiled and published annually via our participation in the Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program (CLMP) indicate that (a) the overall condition of our lake has remained very stable for the 12 years or more that our volunteers have been collecting data, and (b) our lake compares quite favorably with other lakes in the state in every measurement. In fact, the trend in clarity indicates steady **improvement** for over 10 years. I think you can thank the zebra mussels for that.

If you would be interested in more specifics and detail on the subject, I would be happy to loan you a copy of the annual CLMP report. It will tell you more than you ever wanted to know, and might also be an effective remedy for insomnia. You're welcome to contact me at 275-7732, or via [dcmxson@msn.com](mailto:dcmxson@msn.com).

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*June 25 from  
noon – 2 p.m. at  
the Almira  
Township Park  
pavilion.*

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## Annual Association Meeting

The annual association meeting is Saturday, June 25, 2011 from 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. at the Almira Township Park pavilion. Please plan on attending. We would appreciate everyone bringing either a covered dish, side item such as chips or vegetables, or a beverage.

Please contact Ellie Flaherty at 275-6313 or Beth Noe at 275-7911 if you are attending, as Sloppy Joes and some beverages are provided and a count of attendees is helpful. The speaker for this year's meeting is Heather Seites, DNRE officer from the fisheries division. The topic of Ms. Seites discussion is the walleye planting. She will also answer any additional questions you have regarding the DNRE role and involvement with the lake.



## Annual Dues

The 2011 annual dues are \$20. Please complete the attached form and remit your payment as soon as possible. Thank you for your support.

## Membership

ALPOA experienced a remarkable 42% increase in members last year, from 52 in 2009, to 74 in 2010. We thank all of you who responded last year and welcome your continued support in 2011.

And if any more incentive is necessary for the rest of you, the board has begun to take advantage of more advanced technology than “snail mail” for communicating with its members. For instance, this past winter we sent a **winter** e-newsletter to all those members for whom we have email addresses. On at least one recent occasion our President, Ellie Flaherty, sent an emailed “heads up” to members, regarding a pertinent issue that was on the agenda at the Almira Township Board meeting, and which would be open to public comment. Also, we invited members to respond to a survey of their opinions regarding use and care of our lake resource. The board is committed to keeping its members informed of issues of import to property owners, on a more timely basis than ever before.

If you'd like to be in that loop in the future, we encourage you to submit your membership dues, and include your email address.



## Treasurer's Report

Included in this letter is the 2010 Treasurer's report. This report indicates how the money is used by the Association and how it benefits property owners and all who use the lake. An example of this may be found in water testing. Both lakefront property owners and users of the lake benefit by having clean water. Our dues help pay for the maintenance of this function. Please take a moment to review the report.

Ann Lake Property Owners' Association			
TREASURER'S REPORT FOR CALENDAR 2010			
Respectfully submitted by Dave Maxson			
Beginning Balance January 1, 2010			<b>\$3,580.55</b>
Income			
	interest income on savings	6.37	
	2010 membership dues paid (73)	1460.00	
	donations	330.00	
	People Powered Paddle registration fees (40)	\$600.00	
	Less: PPP shirts, snacks, water, etc.	\$526.32	
	Net PPP income	73.68	
Total Income			<b>\$1,870.05</b>
Disbursements			
	Michigan Lakes & Streams Association; annual dues	60.00	
	MLSA: enrollment in CLMP (lake monitoring program)	115.00	
	Annual meeting and PPP supplies	47.03	
	Rent pavilion for Annual Meeting	30.00	
	MLS&A for 9 copies "Nuts and Bolts"	139.50	
	Postage for June newsletter	100.65	
	Copying expense for June newsletter	114.88	
	Loon buoys	434.60	
	Annual filing fee; State of Michigan	20.00	
	Postmaster: Postage and PO Box Rent	51.42	
	New Secchi disk for water testing	35.33	
	Deliver water samples for testing	20.05	
	Subscriptions to Mich Riparian (for 2011)	304.00	
Total Disbursements			<b>(\$1,472.46)</b>
Ending Balance December 31, 2010			<b>\$3,978.14</b>



## SAVE THESE DATES!!

**June 25, 2011** – 12:00 – 2:00 P.M. – annual association meeting

UNOFFICIAL **4<sup>TH</sup> OF July** Pontoon Parade

Rumor has it the pontoon parade will start at the sand bar around 1:00 P.M.

**2<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL PADDLE, PEDAL, PADDLE, ROW**

Saturday, **August 6, 2010** from 8:00 am. – 11:00 a.m. People Powered Paddle, Pedal, Paddle, Row – see insert and registration form

## INVASIVE SPECIES UPDATE

Our recent survey contained a reference to board members finding what might have been an invasive species of the common reed in our lake area. To eliminate all the suspense here are the details of that event, one that served to open our eyes as to the devastating potential of this seemingly, innocuous plant.

The common reed, or *phragmites*, has been here in the Lake Ann area for generations. It is its invasive European cousin which should concern us. Investigating a sighting of what we feared was invasive or ‘introduced’ phragmites, we met with a NPS Ranger and local officials in Betsy Bay to learn more and see firsthand, the takeover of significant portions of Betsy Bay by this non-native reed.



We learned that this plant is a tall, perennial grass that can grow to over 15 feet in height. As we saw in Betsy Bay, introduced phragmites forms dense stands which take over the natural habitat. These stands offer no seeming value to native animals while crowding out native plants within the marshy areas, river edges and

lake shores where they proliferate. Their leaves are long, typically 1-1.5 inches wide at their widest point. Flowers form bushy panicles in late August and September that are usually a silvery purple in color. Below ground, phragmites forms a dense network of roots and rhizomes which can go to a depth of several feet. The plant spreads horizontally by sending out rhizome runners which can grow 10, 20 or more feet in a single growing season if conditions are optimal. Though it generates seeds it is usually by these runners that these reeds expand their territory. Once established, non-native phragmites is incredibly difficult to eradicate, requiring hand application of pesticide, bundling, burning, cutting and constant monitoring of the area, as Beaver Island has recently discovered. Here is a movie which describes not only the threat but how some committed and resourceful Beaver Island residents are managing to address this problem for now and the future. Please watch this film: <http://www.agreatlakesjewel.org/phragmites/>

Once educated, we went back to the suspected plant on a site Mud Lake and Ann Lake, hoping not to find the tell-tale signs an 'introduced', non-native variety of phragmites. From a distance we could see that the height of the plants, though a good 5-6 feet, was not nearly the 8-12 feet of those at Betsy Bay. Upon examining the stem, we found it relatively smooth with no ridges and underneath leaf sheaths it was a purplish/red in color. The non-native variety would have or tan stems throughout with vertical ridges. Furthermore, there was a light yellow/green rather than the darker blue/green of introduced species. The flowers or panicles were not overly bushy but rather sparse and a wheat color. The last thing we noticed was that the plants we were examining were isolated, amongst other plants while the invaders in Betsy Bay had all other plants, creating a thick monoculture of phragmites. We came to the pleasant conclusion that we were looking at natural grouping of native phragmites. Later the folks at the MSU Agricultural Extension Service confirmed this by DNA analysis.

More identification information can be found here:

<http://www.nps.gov/plants/ALIEN/fact/pdf/phau1.pdf>

<http://www.nps.gov/plants/ALIEN/fact/pdf/phau1-powerpoint.pdf>

<http://www.invasiveplants.net/phragmites/morphology.asp>



between that this was distance we feet, was not stem, we sheaths it yellow/green plant itself the silver/purple thing we living crowded out

Though a false alarm, this became an important lesson for the board and a reaffirmation that one of our Association's prime responsibilities is protecting this lake's ecosystem (currently stable, clean and beautiful) from any and all invasive species, be they fish, fowl, or plant. Other water borne invasive species like phragmites can be brought in by boat trailer or bait bucket, just like the zebra mussels were. Invasive plants like the aforementioned reeds also migrate between marshes and lakes, moving along water edges, capitalizing on disturbed ground. To meet these responsibilities the board needs the eyes of all members focused on the potential problem as we travel and enjoy the lake and the surrounding watershed. We have recently sampled opinion on this from membership and found a vast majority are concerned about invasive species in our Ann Lake habitat, several have offered to volunteer to be 'area monitors'. This last group will be armed with all the knowledge we have gathered and some new field identification guides we received from the DNRE/MSU University Extension Service.

We are obviously seeking to develop a way to marshal our resources as an association. How do we incorporate the eyes of our membership in an effective way? How can we assist in the education of our membership so we all know what to look for, avoiding false alarms? These issues and information on other invasive threats will be explored in future newsletters as we seek to maintain our shared goal of a pristine, stable and diverse ecosystem in Ann Lake.

**Native phragmites, Boundary Waters****Non-native phragmites on the East Coast**

## LOON BUOYS

Last year, ALPOA purchased three regulatory loon buoys. After assistance with permit application from the Regional Loon Coordinator, and subsequent approval from the DNRE, two buoys have been placed at the current nest in Mud Bay. The buoys are to be removed after the chicks have hatched. Statistically, buoys have been proven to successfully increase the birthrate of the loon by keeping boaters at a proper distance from the nest. As of this writing we have a chick! Please keep in mind the loons are protected by state law. Boats are to remain 300 feet from them in the water.

## WEBSITE

The Ann Lake Property Owners' Association website is still a work-in-progress. The website has been reserved and details will follow when it is up and running.

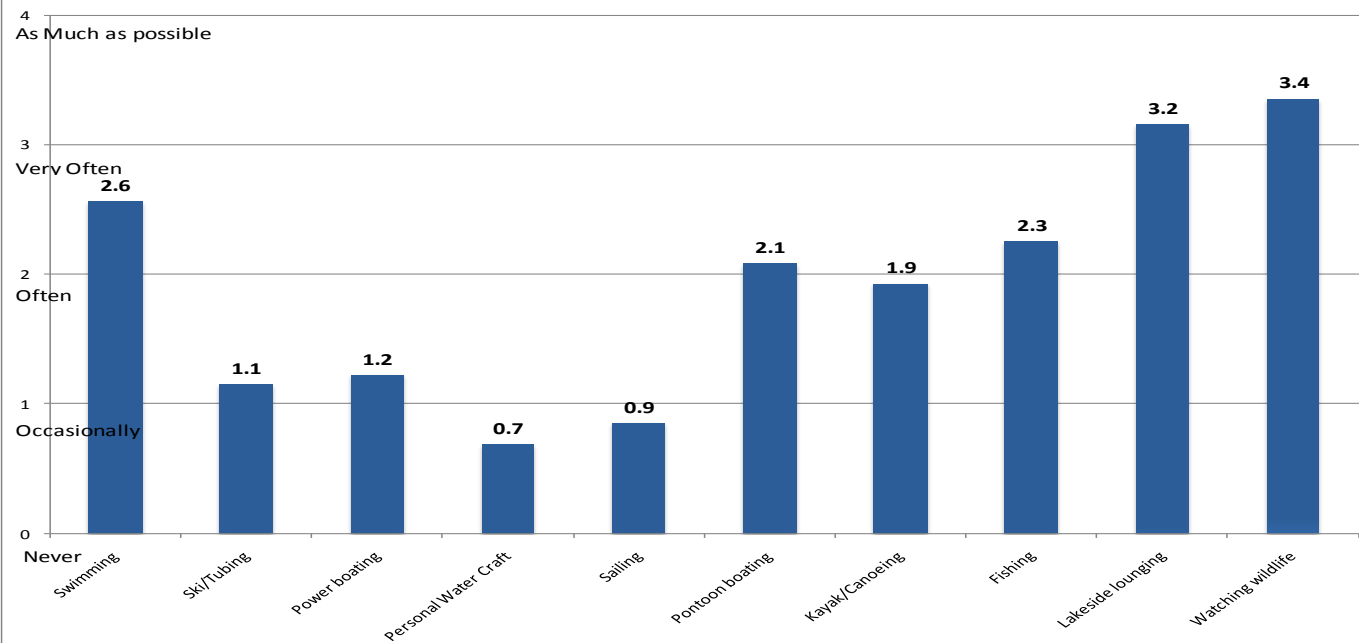
## ALPOA SURVEY RESULTS

The board surveyed the membership on a number of issues this spring. Of the 75 surveys sent via mail or email to ALPOA members, 41 were returned (a 55% response rate). Presented below are the results of the survey. The board will be reviewing the results in a future board meeting. Thanks to everyone who participated. To participate in future surveys, become a member and give us your email address!!!

**1. How do you enjoy Ann Lake and how frequently?**

Top number is the count of respondents selecting the option.  
Bottom % is percent of the total respondents selecting the option.

	As Much as Possible	Very Often	Often	Occasionally	Never
Swimming	14 34%	8 20%	9 22%	7 17%	3 7%
Ski/Tubing	4 10%	2 5%	5 12%	15 37%	15 37%
Power boating	3 7%	4 10%	7 17%	12 29%	15 37%
Personal Water Craft	2 5%	3 7%	3 7%	5 12%	28 68%
Sailing	1 2%	1 2%	7 18%	13 32%	18 45%
Pontoon boating	9 23%	9 23%	6 15%	6 15%	9 23%
Kayak/Canoeing	10 24%	4 10%	7 17%	13 32%	7 17%
Fishing	11 28%	8 20%	3 8%	16 40%	2 5%
Lakeside lounging	19 48%	11 28%	7 18%	3 8%	0 0%
Watching wildlife	22 55%	12 30%	4 10%	2 5%	0 0%

**How do you enjoy Ann Lake and how frequently?****2. As you may know the ALPOA Board sponsored a Paddle, Pedal, Row event last August. What would improve your experience if you participated or encourage you to participate if you didn't?**

I do not own and would need access to a paddle boat, canoe, rowboat or kayak		1	3%
An event afterward for everyone to mingle and refresh		12	32%
More publicity, I wasn't aware of it in time to participate		7	19%
I am not interested in any such event		5	14%
Other, please specify <a href="#">View Responses</a>		12	32%
Total		37	100%

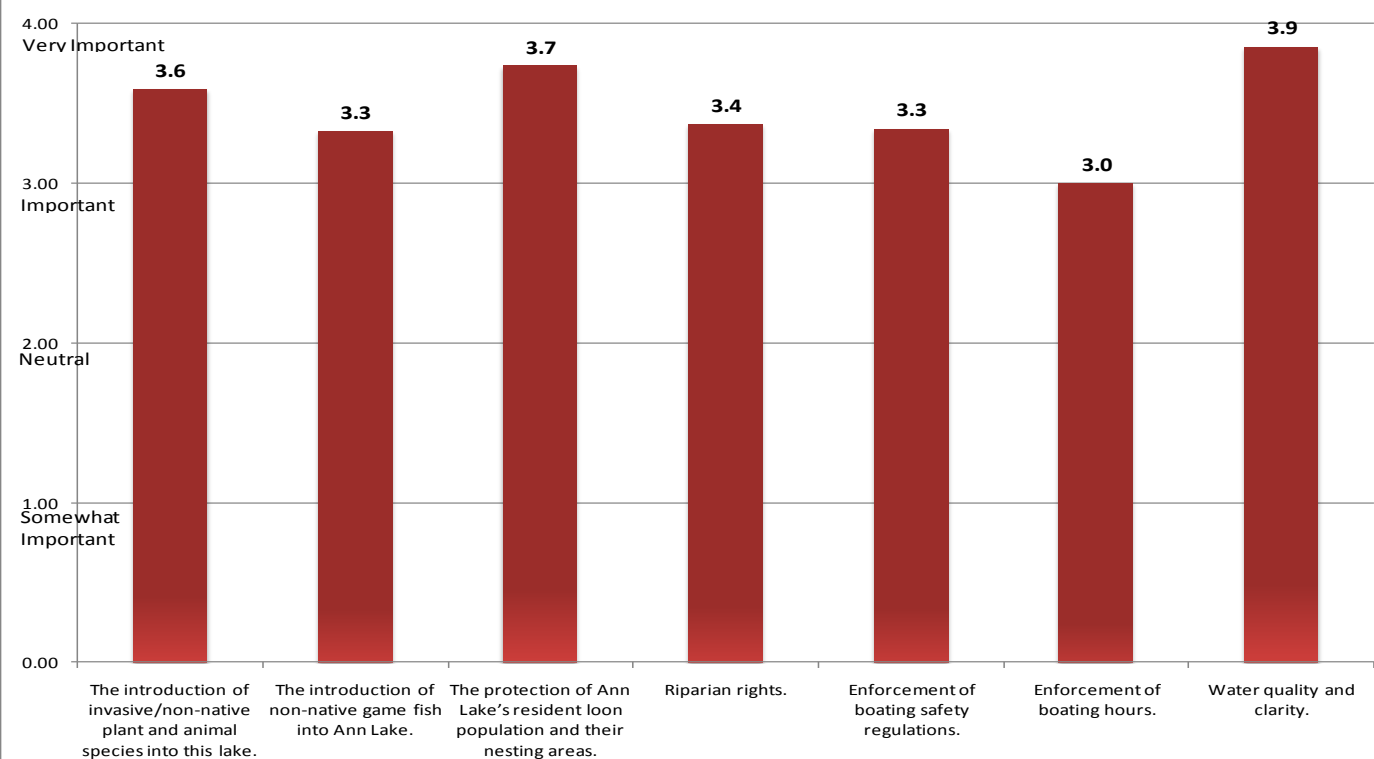
**3.** Every summer (usually in June) the ALPOA Board has a annual meeting and pot-luck picnic. Would a professional speaker at the aforementioned picnic increase the likelihood of you attending? (Mark the one response that best reflects your attitude about this event).

Yes it might make a significant difference		8	20%
No it wouldn't affect my decision to attend		16	39%
I would probably never attend this event		0	0%
I will always try to attend this event regardless of a speaker		17	41%
Total		41	100%



**4.** Which of these issues/concerns are important to you as a lake property owner?

Top number is the count of respondents selecting the option. Bottom % is percent of the total respondents selecting the option.	Very Important	Important	Neutral	Somewhat Important	Not Important
The introduction of invasive/non-native plant and animal species into this lake.	30 73%	8 20%	1 2%	1 2%	1 2%
The introduction of non-native game fish into Ann Lake.	25 62%	8 20%	4 10%	1 2%	2 5%
The protection of Ann Lake's resident loon population and their nesting areas.	32 78%	7 17%	2 5%	0 0%	0 0%
Riparian rights.	21 51%	15 37%	4 10%	1 2%	0 0%
Enforcement of boating safety regulations.	21 51%	15 37%	3 7%	2 5%	0 0%
Enforcement of boating hours.	20 49%	10 24%	5 12%	3 7%	3 7%
Water quality and clarity.	35 85%	6 15%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%





**Which of these issues/concerns are important to you as a lake property owner?**






**5.** Other than zebra mussels, have you ever seen what you would consider a non-native or invasive species of animal or plant in the lake or surrounding area?

Yes		3	8%
No		36	92%
Total		39	100%
<a href="#">View 5 Responses</a>			

**6.** What role do you expect the ALPOA Board to play in opposing the introduction of invasive species?

Work with local agencies to stay aware of local threats		3	7%
Educate the membership of the nature of the threats and what to do if found		2	5%
Set up local patrols to monitor lake health and note sites of possibly new species introduction		1	2%
All of the above		35	85%
The board should stay out of it		0	0%
Total		41	100%



**7.** Would you be interested in the introduction of non-native game fish into Ann Lake?

No, the lake is fine as it is		19	48%
Only if done with assurances that the native populations will not be adversely affected		12	30%
I really don't care one way or the other.		2	5%
Yes, please specify species <a href="#">View Responses</a>		7	18%
Total		40	100%




**8.** Would you be interested in one or more of the following volunteer activities associated with ALPOA? (If you prefer, you can email Ellie Flaherty directly at [mapafiah@hotmail.com](mailto:mapafiah@hotmail.com) to volunteer or to get more information.)

Top number is the count of respondents selecting the option. Bottom % is percent of the total respondents selecting the option.		Yes	No, not at this time	Never
Would you be interested in serving on the ALPOA Board?	4 11%	30 81%	3 8%	
Would you be interested in serving on an ALPOA committee?	7 19%	28 76%	2 5%	
Would you consider volunteering time or skills to some of the activities and programs suggested in this questionnaire and cover piece?	6 17%	29 81%	1 3%	
Would you be willing to serve as a nature monitor, responsible for a given area of the lake to patrol on a monthly basis on the lookout for invasive species?	6 17%	29 81%	1 3%	
Would you be willing to help the Board identify and mark loon nesting locations?	8 22%	28 76%	1 3%	
Would you be willing to assist in water quality and clarity testing?	6 16%	31 82%	1 3%	
<a href="#">View 10 Responses</a>				

**9.** For informational purposes only, are you a permanent or seasonal resident of Ann Lake?

Permanent		20	50%
Seasonal		20	50%
Total		40	100%

**10.** For informational purposes only, what is your age?

Under 40		0	0%
40-49		3	8%
50-65		17	42%
over 65		20	50%
Total		40	100%

## 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL PADDLE, PEDAL, PADDLE, ROW AROUND ANN LAKE

For kayaks, pedal boats, canoes, row boats, paddle boards ONLY . No motors, no sails. **THIS IS NOT A RACE.**

It is a slow, fun way to enjoy all the wonderful nooks and crannies and wild life around Ann Lake. And, you'll be able to brag, "I went all the way around Ann Lake under my own power!"

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 6, 8:00AM TO 11:00 AM** (no wake boating hours). **SUNDAY, AUGUST 7** is the alternate date, if the weather/wind is unfavorable on August 6.

Committee docks or boats will be labeled A, B, C, D, E, F, and anchored around the lake in alphabetical order. You will check in at the Committee dock or boat closest to your launch area, then, move in a counter clockwise direction (the shore line always on your right) in alphabetical order, checking in at each Committee dock or boat. For instance, if you start at "D", then move to "E", "F", "A", "B", "C" and BACK to "D" to complete your circumnavigation of Ann Lake.

Certificates of Accomplishment will be awarded to all who check in at all 6 check points thus completing the circumnavigation of Ann Lake. These people will also have their name put into a hat for a drawing for various prizes.

**REGISTER NOW** for the August 6, 2011 People Powered, Paddle, Pedal, Paddle, Row event. \$ 15.00 for each person participating covers the cost of a special tee shirt, plus water and snacks along the course.

**New this year, a Post Paddle, Pedal, Paddle, Row Pizza Party for Participants and Phriends in the Park.**

**What:** Eat Pizza; maybe win a Prize Drawing; Reminisce about your Participation.

**When:** 12:30 PM after PPPR Event

**Where:** Almira Township Park

**Cost:** \$4.00 person over and above the PPPR registration fee

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### REGISTRATION FOR ALPOA PEOPLE POWERED EVENT AUGUST 6, 2011

Number Registering for PPPR Event \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$ 15.00 per person. Amount Due \_\_\_\_\_  
Number for Pizza Party \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$ 4.00 per person.....Amount Due \_\_\_\_\_  
Total Amount Due \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) of person(s) registering for PPPR Event \_\_\_\_\_  
Please Print

Number of each shirt size needed: Adult: S \_\_\_ M \_\_\_ L \_\_\_ XL \_\_\_ XXL \_\_\_ 3XL \_\_\_ 4XL \_\_\_

Youth: S \_\_\_ M \_\_\_ L \_\_\_

Make check payable to Ann Lake Property Owners' Association

Send to: Dave Maxson, Treasurer  
Ann Lake Property Owners' Association  
P.O. Box 184  
Lake Ann, MI 49650

#### YOUR SUMMER ADDRESS

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

**REGISTRATION MUST BE IN BY JULY 15, 2011**

**NOTE:** Tee shirts should be picked up Friday, August 5 between 5-6 pm at the Pavilion in the Lake Ann Village Park across from the LA Café.

**ANN LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS' ASSOCIATION**  
**P.O. Box 184**  
**Lake Ann, MI 49650**

**YEARLY MEMEBRSHIP DUES: \$20.00**

**I/We would like to make an additional donation to support the Ann Lake Association activities.**

**YEARLY MEMEBRSHIP DUES: \$ 20.00**

**Additional Donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**Total Amount Paid: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**Thank you for your support!**

**Please PRINT the following Information:**

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

**Permanent Address: \_\_\_\_\_**

**City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_**

**Phone # \_\_\_\_\_**

**Summer Address \_\_\_\_\_**

**City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_**

**E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_**

**Please print clearly, as using this will help to save on postage.**

**COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Please check one of the following:**

- ( ) Yes, I would like a subscription to The Michigan Riparian magazine**  
**( ) No, I do not want a copy of The Michigan Riparian magazine**