



# BIG STAR LAKE PARTY LINE

Fall & Winter 2023-2024



Bob Tiggelman  
BSLA President

## President's Corner

***"The lake level has never been so low  
the drain must be leaking..."***

*I don't participate in Facebook chatter but I've been told the above was a very common theme posted this summer.*

I too am concerned, but let's take a step back. First of all, those of us who have been on the lake for decades ( 7 for me ) know that in the late 50's and early 60's the lake level was MUCH lower and your board was concerned then as we are today and drastic measures were contemplated including drilling 3 wells to pump water back into the lake. The next summer the level went up slightly and continued to rise.

So what about today? I have had a discussion with an engineer that knows a great deal more than I do about lake levels and conditions that cause fluctuations as well as exploring the possibility that there IS a problem with the drain.

The first step is to determine if the low level is simply due to environmental factors or something else.

To answer that question we have engaged Progressive/AE an engineering firm, to conduct a BSL Area Climatological Analysis.

I'll report the results on both Member Planet and in the Spring Edition of this newsletter. See you on the water!

*Bob Tiggelman*

### Did you know...

The majority of the proceeds we receive from the Poker Run betting sheets go to benefit the local community?

This year we were able to write a check to the Lake County Community Foundation for \$1000.00 to help with their good work.

To learn more about the organization, go to [facommunityfoundation.org](http://facommunityfoundation.org) and click on the Lake County link.



"Bob Tiggelman delivering a check to LCCF director Seth Wenger."



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**Newsletter design by**  
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**For More Information and Event Updates check our Website**



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**5k Race winner Steve Zaacki Jr 0:19:17**



**15k Race winner Brian Sharda 01:00:38**

**We had a great day for the annual BSL Labor Day weekend run and a fantastic turnout. Thank you to for all that preregistered. It was a record this year that allowed us to have accurate shirt size orders and even some left over to sell after the race. In the future we hope to be working toward online registration for this event. The cost of individual race chips for runners still is not feasible and we will have to rely on Maureen Sullivan and her great staff to do hand tabulation of the results. A big thank you goes out to the BSL board members and volunteers that all help pull off this fun activity. In order to reduce the length of the event, we have cut back on announcing all individual times for participants and now limit this to the top 3 in each age category. We may try to incorporate some raffle drawings between tabulation of results and the awards ceremony. I am open to your suggestions on how to improve the event and hope to see you again next year.**

**Best wishes**

*Gary Bissonette*

***Membership Update***

*Kris White*

Another great summer season is in the books!

A huge thank you to all of our members for continued support of the BSLA! This past year we again saw a small net gain in membership. Despite this positive trend over the past several years, only about half of the property owners are members of the association!

If you have a neighbor who isn't proudly sporting a Membership sign, please invite them to consider joining us! They could look on our website at [www.bigstarlake.com](http://www.bigstarlake.com), or feel free to connect them to me at [kkswhite@comcast.net](mailto:kkswhite@comcast.net) and I'd be happy to talk with them. Membership renewal is May 1- more information regarding that will be sent to you in April.

It is only with the participation and engagement of our members that the association can continue to support our mission to protect the lake and watershed, and to also provide fun activities through the summer for us all to enjoy.

Finally, we want to know what is on your mind! In early 2024, you will receive a brief survey asking for feedback about our association. Please take a moment and share what thoughts you have. Your feedback will help strengthen and guide the association as we plan for the upcoming years.

Enjoy the rest of the fall and the winter- no matter what the season it is beautiful at Big Star Lake!

*Kris White*



***New Band for next summer!***

Hope you all enjoyed the concert last summer, once again we had a beautiful evening.

We have used the same band since we started doing our concerts several years ago and decided to change things up for 2024 - Save the date **July 20 from 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.**

We welcome you by boat  
In front of Tall Oaks Camp. See you there.

*Jean Osterheert*



Dewsouth's home has been Michigan since 1996, and has played shows from 20 person private party to 80,000 person show at B-93 Birthday Bash. One thing is for certain, a lot of fun has happened over the years, and a lot of friends have been made. Dewsouth brings a wild variety of songs to the table. New country, old country, rock, and blues. Guaranteed to hit songs you know and love!

***Poker Run***

***Mike Van Dyken***



Last year's Poker Run was a huge success. The weather cooperated and there were a lot of participants. We were able to use the proceeds to make a donation to the Lake County Community Foundation. Thank you to the dock hosts; the event can't happen without all of you! Also, thanks to our friends at Tall Oaks Camp for letting us use their beachfront for the event. We wouldn't be able to do the Poker Run without their support. **SAVE THE DATE!** Next year the Poker Run will be on **Saturday, August 3**, with an August 10 rain date. We are currently looking for dock hosts for next year. Please email me at [firefighter1828@yahoo.com](mailto:firefighter1828@yahoo.com) if you are interested. We will begin selling registrations at the BSLA Annual Meeting in May. We will be at Mr. Bibs selling registrations the weekends of July 20-21 and July 27-28.

Looking forward to seeing you August 3!

*Mike Van Dyken*



## FYI

We are a member of the Michigan Lakes and Streams Association (MLSA). They are a state-wide, 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and protection of Michigan's vast treasure of inland lakes and streams. Their mission is supporting riparian associations as well as the collective and individual education and conservation initiatives of their members which include lake associations (BSLA), concerned citizens, commercial, and non-profit businesses as well as public and private collaborative partners. Recently, they provided information on resources that may be of value to you. 1. **Well water testing.** Most owners do not test their well water until they get a new well. Info. at: [Michigan.gov/EGLEPrivateWells](https://www.michigan.gov/EGLEPrivateWells) At times testing can be free.

2. **Septic Tanks.** Be septic smart. Good info. at [epa.gov/septic](https://www.epa.gov/septic)

3. **Boater and Hunter education.** [Michigan.gov/recreationalSafety](https://www.michigan.gov/recreationalSafety)

4. **Spring Lawn care.** Good article from MSU.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/spring-lawn-care-tips-for-shoreline-homeowners>

## *Fishing On BigStar Lake*

*Judy Alphenaar*

### **The Smallmouth Bass**

Big Star Lake is a great lake for fishing. The lake is home to a variety of game fish. The Smallmouth Bass is a great game fish because it puts up a good fight when caught. A Smallmouth Bass may leap out of the water after it is caught and even try and shake the hook out of its mouth. Very often it does! Many anglers have experienced reeling in a feisty Smallmouth Bass thinking it is tired out and then reaching over the side of the boat to pick it up, only to have it take off again and make a run for it!

The Smallmouth Bass belongs to the sunfish family and on average is about 15 inches long and weighs around 2 pounds. This fish is brownish-green and has red or orange eyes giving him the nick-name "red-eye." You can tell the difference between a Smallmouth and a Largemouth Bass by looking at their mouths. The mouth of a Smallmouth extends only to the middle of its eyes, whereas the mouth of a Largemouth goes beyond the eyes.

The diet of the Smallmouth Bass consists of crayfish, insects, and minnows. During the summer months when the weather turns hot, this fish will often feed at night or early in the morning when it is cooler. Spring is nest building time for the Smallmouth Bass. Their nest is made in shallow water when the water temperature goes above 60 degrees. The female Smallmouth will lay her eggs and then return to the deeper, cooler water while the male remains by the nest to guard the eggs from creatures that will eat them.

As you can see from our 2023 Fishing Contest results Smallmouth Bass fishing is alive and well at Big Star Lake.



## Congratulations to the 2023 Big Star Lake Fishing Contest Winners!



### **Ages 0 – 5**

	<b>Species</b>	<b>Length</b>
Brody Hesselink	Bluegill, Sunfish, Pumpkinseed	9.25 inches
Brody Hesselink	Largemouth Bass	16 inches
Maaïke Kelder	Perch	7.5 inches
Brody Hesselink	Smallmouth Bass.	17 inches
Nora Geurink	Turtle	10 inches

### **Ages 6 – 11**

	<b>Species</b>	<b>Length</b>
Gavin Hesselink	Bluegill, Sunfish, Pumpkinseed	10.875 inches
Judd Kleinheksel	Frog	12 inches
Samantha Roede	Largemouth Bass	20 inches
Patrick Baldrige	Perch	8.5 inches
Zeke Metten	Smallmouth Bass	19 inches
Vocean Rillema	Walleye	22 inches

### **Ages 12 – 15**

	<b>Species</b>	<b>Length</b>
Isaac Oosterheert	Bluegill, Sunfish, Pumpkinseed	10.9 inches
Rowan Phillips	Crappie/Speckled Bass/Speck	15 inches
Olivia Bruinsma	Largemouth Bass	18 inches
Rowan Phillips	Smallmouth Bass	19 inches
Eli VanderLoon	Walleye	19.5 inches

### **Ages 16 – Adult**

	<b>Species</b>	<b>Length</b>
Andrew Hesselink	Bluegill, Sunfish, Pumpkinseed	10.5 inches
Ryan Hop	Crappie/Speckled Bass/Speck	13.875 inches
Rick Hesselink	Largemouth Bass	19 inches
Andrew Hesselink	Perch	11.25 inches
Neal Hargrave	Pike	34 inches
Andrew Hesselink	Smallmouth Bass	18 inches
Lindsay	Turtle	11 inches
Lynn Gorter	Walleye	24 inches



## 2024 Spring Big Star Lake Road Cleanup

Thank you to all the much-appreciated volunteers who spent time picking up litter and trash during our annual Fall Big Star Lake Road cleanup. Many volunteers have graciously participated in this event year after year and we hope more of you will join us in the Spring of 2024.

Please mark the following dates on your 2024 calendar for the Spring Big Star Lake Road cleanup that will take place from Saturday, May 18 through Saturday, May 25, 2024.

Safety vests and trash bags are provided and will be available for volunteers to pick up at Mr. Bibs on Saturday, May 24. Put on a pair of boots to keep your feet dry and a pair of gloves for handling trashcans&bottles. After cleaning up, place the trash bag(s) by the area marker sign for the Lake County Road Commission to pick up.

Watch for a reminder email in May of 2024 and then go to the sign-up page on the portal.

## Stolen Sign



Early this summer someone stole the Wake Board & Surf Responsibly sign we erected at the boat launch to help visitors to our lake learn where to surf responsibly ( members already possess this knowledge ) to date it is still missing. If you know who is responsible or have any information, please contact the me or the Lake County Sheriff Department.

*Bob Tiggleman*





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