



News From the Lake

Spring 2024 • Little Sand Lake Area Association • Park Rapids, Minnesota

Website: littlesandlakemn.com | Facebook: Little Sand Lake, Park Rapids, MN | Email: LittleSandLakeAA@outlook.com

LSLAA Mission Statement: The Little Sand Lake Area Association Mission is to promote a sense of community among Little Sand Lake residents through social events, information-sharing, and collective action on issues important to all of us.



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Christine Hobrough | LSLAA President

Hello, Lake Friends:

Hoping this letter finds you well and enjoying the season! Sending a warm welcome to our new members too!

The Minnesota Climatology Office said this winter was dominated by “warmth and snowlessness with December through February becoming the warmest on record at almost all stations” including record breaking 50-degrees as far north as International Falls in January! On average, between Detroit Lakes and St. Cloud, our area sees an average 34 days with 0.1 inch of snow or more and totals of 47.75 inches over the season. Most Minnesota areas, including ours, received less than 50% of the normal snowfall through the end of February including a record number of days with no snow on the ground. During April and May, we seemed to have made up for much of the shortfall and the lake level has come up!

We have an outstanding Social Committee that meets throughout the year to plan activities that bring us together in social settings. All events are paid by the participants and are lots of fun! Activities are listed on page 2, please take a moment to review upcoming events. Keep an eye out for email messages and the social calendar announcing activities. Add our email address to your address book if you haven't done so already:

LittleSandLakeAA@outlook.com, this will ensure the messages stay out of your spam, junk or trash.

Our lake covers 409 acres and has 6.4 miles of shoreline. The Little Sand Lake Area Association (LSLAA) Board spends a great deal of time discussing our natural resources and how to maintain our reputation as one of the cleanest and clearest lakes in Minnesota this past year. We finished setting up our donor fund for AIS Prevention with the Northwest Minnesota Foundation. You'll soon see regular updates and information on our website about this. The LSLAA Board committed to maintain the 472 inspection hours at the public launch. These hours are funded by the state and county, the township, and LSLAA. Thanks to Lake Emma Township for a grant supporting this important work to prevent AIS.

Please be diligent with your own boating and lake equipment and that of your guests by encouraging use of the free Hubbard County Decontamination Station before any boat/motor enters Little Sand Lake. And, if you purchase used watercraft, docks, or boat lifts, please keep them out of the water for a minimum of 21 days to ensure any aquatic hitchhikers die before you put the equipment into Little Sand Lake. AIS can enter the lake not only by watercraft, but also by things like paddle boards, life jackets, and even water shoes!

We are working hard to ensure we update and modernize the volunteer activities that need to occur to manage the lake association. This includes managing memberships, paying dues and the record keeping involved. Please pay your dues on-time which means, before the annual meeting. If

you have a credit card or debit card, please pay with one of those versus a check. This

eliminates a lot of manual work for our Treasurer. We are also introducing a new membership directory that will allow all members to update their own information from year to year. We will announce this at the annual meeting and show a demonstration. We'll be available after the meeting to assist anyone who would like additional help.

We are an all-volunteer non-profit organization; we always need more volunteers. A few ways to be involved include the lake monitoring team that completes water testing and aquatic vegetation sampling throughout the summer months. Our thanks for the volunteers who completed that in the Summer of 2023.

My thanks to our volunteer Board of Directors including: MaJeana Hallstrom, Past President • Karen Netland, Secretary and Member Directory • Jane Amble, Treasurer • Cindy Nollette, Vice President and COLA Representative • Mary Bradley, Ben Doda, Greg Dravis, Thom Johnson and Gerry Kaluzny, Directors at Large. We also thank Thom Johnson and Greg Dravis for their service as they are stepping down for other priorities. **Abbi Schwartz will be running for a Director at Large position and Steve Trutna will be running to complete Thom Johnson's term.** Special thanks to Jacob Nollette for his technical expertise and advice with our website, Board meetings and the annual member meeting. We've learned so much from his expertise!

We are grateful for all of our volunteers! To name just a few, we have Mark and Nancy Doda, who manage the launch kiosk, as well as the fishing contest; Randi Herda and Adam Goebel of NAPA Central who manage and sponsor the Annual Boat-Decorating Contest and Parade; the Social Committee who put together a terrific calendar of events to bring us together each year; Chris Sorensen, Larry Odegard, Marshall Howe and others who manage the water quality testing and aquatic vegetation sampling. We are also grateful for the efforts of our Loon Watchers, Phyllis and Steve Trutna - and, speaking of loons, please watch out for them as their little ones have hatched! Our loons are one of our many natural resources that make Little Sand Lake so special. Keep an eye out for all wildlife on and around our lake. Please observe regulations at the launch and in the water including how far motorized crafts need to stay from shorelines, especially Little Sand Lake's beloved “Christmas Tree Point.” Be sure to report any concerns to the DNR.

And finally, thanks to Amy Sorensen for her time and talents in putting this newsletter together! Thank you all for being members of the Little Sand Lake Area Association. Your annual dues and additional donations are put to excellent use in supporting AIS prevention and managing our precious natural resource.

We hope you have a joyful summer. See you on the lake!

2024 LITTLE SAND SOCIAL EVENTS

WELCOME TO SUMMER

We, on the Social Committee, enjoy planning gatherings for our neighbors on the Lake.

Getting to know your neighbors is a good thing, one never knows when you might need to give a helping hand or need one yourself.

Opportunities to join in are varied and there may be something just right for you.

We begin our Summer Season with the celebration of Cinco de Mayo. Why not? We have Companeros ready to serve our Mexican favorites.

We share with other committees and board members to open doors and welcome our lake neighbors.

Be sure to check the SOCIAL CALENDAR ON THE WEBSITE, littlesandlakemn.com, for specific times and dates.

Contact us if you have suggestions for socializing, or would like to host a coffee.

Social Committee

Phyllis Trutna, Chair: 719-440-1330

Dar Swanson: 612-819-0242

Karen Odegard: 303-709-2120

Vicki Johnson: 701-741-3935

Please check your email, or email LittleSandLakeAA@outlook.com, for event confirmation and details.

Summer Heartland Trail Walks

Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:00 am
Meet at Dorset Trailhead Parking Lot

JUNE 2024

LaPasta Welcome Back Breakfast

Thursday, June 13th at 9:00 am
RSVP by Friday, June 7th
Text/Call: 303-709-2120

Full Moon Boat/Pontoon

Friday, June 21st at 7:30 pm
Meet near the Public Access

Annual LSLAA Meeting

Saturday, June 22nd at Zorbaz
7:30 am set up, 8:00 am Coffee/Social
8:30 am Meeting Starts
Doughnuts and coffee will be served

Pizza Night at Zorbaz

Monday, June 24th at 5:00 pm

JULY 2024

County Road 50 Roadside Pickup

Wednesday, July 3rd at 9:30 am
Meet at the south drive of Glacier Dr. (Public Access Road) Wear boots, a bright top and gloves. Bright Vests and Bags will be available. Bring a "reacher" if available.

July 4th Boat Parade

Saturday, July 6th
Details on page 4

Dinner at Dorset House

Thursday, July 11th at 5:00 pm
RSVP by Monday, July 8th
Text/Call: 719-440-1330
Mini Golf to follow at Heartland Trailside, Dorset

Men's Breakfast

Tuesday, July 23rd at 9:00 am
Emmaville Café
RSVP by Friday, July 19th
Text/Phone: 701-741-3935



Ladies Night

Tuesday, July 23rd at 4:00 pm
Bella Cafe
RSVP by Friday, July 19th
Text/Phone: 701-741-3935

Pizza Night at Zorbaz

Monday, July 29th at 5:00 pm

AUGUST 2024

Annual Fishing Tournament

Saturday, August 3rd
Details on page 4



LSLAA Annual Picnic 60's, 70's Hippie Theme! Bring your Flower Power!

Saturday, August 10th,
5:00 pm

Hosted by Paul & Laurie Isakson,
22933 Glider Trail
RSVP Friday, August 2nd
Text/Call: 612-819-0242

Full Moon Boat/Pontoon Night

Monday, August 19th, 7:30 pm
Meet near the Public Access

Pizza Night at Zorbaz

Monday, August 26th at 5:00 pm

County Road 50 Roadside Pickup

Friday, August 30th at 9:30 am
Meet at the south drive of Glacier Dr. (Public Access Road) Wear boots, a bright top and gloves. Bright Vests and Bags will be available. Bring a "reacher" if available.

Neighborhood Coffee

Saturday, August 31st at 10:00 am
Hosted by Dave & Christine Hobrough,
21502 Goldenrod Dr
Text/Call: 651-343-1407

SEPTEMBER 2024

End of Season Breakfast

Thursday, September 12th at 9:00 am
West Forty
RSVP by Friday, September 6th
Text/Call: 303-709-2120

Pizza Night at Zorbaz

Monday, September 30th at 5:00 pm

WAKE AWARENESS

Almost every motorboat can create a wake, which is why boaters must be aware of the danger wakes present and the damage they can do. While common courtesy dictates boaters should control their wakes, there are consequences beyond how wakes may affect people. So, what do boaters really need to know when it comes to owning their wake?

Under Minnesota law, the damage your wake causes is treated the same as damage caused by an actual collision.

Personal watercraft (PWC) must stay at least 150 feet from shore and it is recommended to stay in lake depth of 15 feet or more to avoid damaging lake bottom aquatic vegetation. There is no required distance for boats, but by staying at least 200 feet from shore or other structures boaters can reduce the likelihood their

wakes will cause damage. Boats that create an artificial wake may require more distance to lower the impact.

***Be aware** of your environment and what's going on around you – this applies to everyone on and around the water.*

- Have a designated lookout to keep an eye out for other boats, objects, and swimmers.
- If crossing a wake, cross at low speeds and keep a close lookout for skiers and towables.
- Comply with all signs and respect barriers. This includes speed limits, no-wake zones, and underwater obstructions.

***Stay away** from shorelines, docks, or other structures. Backing a boat up to a riverbank or lakeshore can damage the area and lead to erosion. Travel slowly in shallow waters.*

- Avoid boating in water less than 2½ feet deep. High speeds near shorelines lead to large wakes that cause shoreline erosion.



- Check local ordinances, restrictions, closures, and permit requirements for the body of water you are on.
- Ask permission from the landowner(s) before crossing private property.

Minimize repetitive passes. Once you've run a line, move on to another area. Comply with all signs and respect barriers.

Respect the rights of others so everyone can enjoy their time on the water – keep the noise down, be courteous to other boaters, and show consideration to all recreationists on and around the water.

Environmental impacts of wakes

Large wakes produced by watercraft can result in a variety of negative environmental consequences, including:

- Shoreline erosion;
- Impaired water quality resulting from increased sediment in the water;
- Loss of shoreline vegetation, which helps stabilize the shore and provides important habitat for fish and wildlife.

These impacts are greater when water levels are high and shorelines are saturated.

Boaters must be aware that their actions directly impact the environment. They should take steps to reduce their wake when operating near shore or when water levels are high.



2024 LITTLE SAND LAKE CONTESTS

2nd Annual Little Sand Lake Boat Parade Contest!

Saturday, July 6th 2024, 11am

(Rain or Shine)

1st Place = Trophy AND \$150 Cash!



2nd Place = \$100 Cash!

3rd Place = \$50 Cash!

Sponsored by:



Details

- Must register on the Little Sand Facebook Page or by email: littleandslakeaa@outlook.com
- Meet in front of Zorbaz at 11am
- Rotation will be **Clockwise** this year
- Judging will be at the "Sandbar"
- Winners will be announced on Facebook and Email
- Your boat can have any theme you wish as long as it is family friendly

The Best Decorated Boat Wins!

Register by July 3rd

Name(s) _____

Email _____ Phone Number _____

Description of boat _____

Address _____

22nd Annual Fishing Contest

Hope you will join the fun at our 22nd Annual Little Sand Fishing Contest for Property Owners and their guests. The fishing contest is always the Saturday before the Taste of Dorset (which is held the first Sunday in August). Prizes are awarded in each age group for the largest fish in each category. We also have drawings for door prizes for those who register, donated by area merchants. Volunteers are needed! Please contact Mark Doda if you can help.

When: Saturday, August 3, 2024

Where: Meet at the Public Water Access

Time: 5:00-5:15 PM – Registration - \$1.00 per person,
5:30 to 7:15 Fishing on Little Sand Lake, 7:30 – Prizes awarded

Categories: Children - 10 and younger, Youth - 11 to 17,
Adults - 18 and over

1st Annual Photo Contest

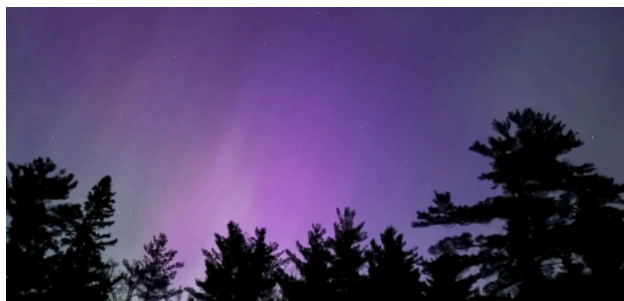


Photo credit: Amy Sorensen - Northern Lights over Little Sand, May 9, 2024

Get your cameras out! Little Sand Lake Association is sponsoring our first PHOTO CONTEST this summer, 2024.

We will kick off the contest on the day of our annual meeting at Zorbaz! We will have age categories : 13 and under, 14-18, and over 18! All ages can submit entries.

There will not be a theme this year but pictures must be of Little Sand Lake, or within a 5 mile area around Little Sand.

The photos must be of high resolution and will be uploaded to our website after you register. We will have more details about that in the next few weeks.

Prizes will be awarded. We will have a team judge the top three and for fun, you can vote on a People's Choice award!

Watch our Facebook Page, Little Sand Lake, Park Rapids MN, and an email soon about more details.

Any questions, please contact Cindy Nollette: 612-483-5427 or Jane Amble: 701-238-4583

Join the Fun!

Last year's Boat-Decorating Contest was a huge success, and we're excited to do it again! Many thanks to NAPA Central (Adam Goebel and Randi Herda) for sponsoring this year's contest for Little Sand Lake's 2024 Independence Day Boat Parade! The parade will take place on Saturday, July 6.

A Few Details:

- Participants must register by Wednesday, July 3rd on Facebook or via email at littleandslakeaa@outlook.com.
- Meet in front of Zorbaz at 11 am on July 6.
- The parade will run clockwise this year.

We Need Judges! Prizes can't be awarded without judges. We are seeking volunteers to help judge the boats. If interested, please contact Randi at erandilynn@hotmail.com or comment on the pinned Facebook post on our group page. Randi will follow up with further details.

Note: You don't have to decorate your boat to join the Boat Parade. Everyone is welcome to participate! The more, the merrier!

HEALTHY LAKE COMMITTEE

Why Should We Care about Aquatic Invasive Species?

Simply put, they impact our economy, environment, and society.

Little Sand Lake is fortunate to have dedicated volunteers who monitor the lake to ensure it remains clean, clear, and healthy. On Sunday, June 2, eight Healthy Lake Committee members met to review their summer tasks and discuss developing an enhanced process for checking aquatic vegetation. The Healthy Lake Committee consists of two teams:

Water Quality Monitoring Team

Team members: Chris Sorensen, Larry Odegard, Mark Doda, Rich Soderberg, and Wayne Swanson.

They conduct various tests, including:

- Dissolved Oxygen (DO) and Water Temperature Testing
- Secchi Disc Reading
- Secchi Disc Reading for MPCA/CLMP**
- Lake Chemicals Test
- Veliger (zebra mussel larvae) Testing

These tasks are performed 1-2 times per month from May through September in the lake's deepest part, which is in the middle of the lake off the public launch.

Vegetation Sampling Team

Team members: Marshall Howe, John Lund, Luanne O'Neill, Thom Johnson, and Wayne Swanson, with new volunteers Bill Douglas and Greg and Tracy Dravis.

Vegetation Sampling is done using a rake-type device dropped to the bottom of the lake to bring up/gather vegetation. This task is done 3-4 times per year at six different locations around the lake, checking for invasive plants such as Eurasian milfoil, starry stonewort, and curly pond leaf.

This team aims to develop a more enhanced aquatic vegetation survey. They will meet with a Lake Belle Taine representative to learn about the Belle Taine Shoreline Monitoring Program, and later in the summer—when the vegetation is more mature—attend a Vegetation Identification Workshop.

To learn more about all the different types of monitoring done on Little Sand Lake, visit:

<https://littlesandlakemn.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Lake-Monitoring-Healthy-Lake-Tasks-7-5-21.pdf>

Zebra Mussel Sediment Sampling:



Zebra mussel settlement samplers are placed at the end of docks in the spring, hanging about 12 inches from the bottom of the lake, providing surfaces for zebra mussels to settle after their larval ("veliger") stage. Various types of samplers are used—from cement blocks to DIY and commercially produced samplers.

While there is no specific "team" for this monitoring, volunteers from around the lake hang samplers and respond to the "Eyes

on the Water" survey in the fall. Volunteers include Wayne Swanson (public launch dock and home), Rod and Char Westrum, Tony and Maggie Yerkes, Rob and MaJeana Hallstrom, Cindy Nollette, Karen Netland and Diane Smith, and Greg and Tracy Dravis. We are looking for more volunteers to help with this important, but low-commitment task. If we missed listing anyone here, please inform MaJeana Hallstrom.

For more information about zebra mussel sampling, visit this DNR link:

https://files.dnr.state.mn.us/natural_resources/invasives/aquaticanimals/zebramussel/zebra_mussel_monitoring_2015-09-10.pdf

Commercially produced Sediment Sampler:



Example of what you might see at the end of the summer if zebra mussels are present.

Be sure to thank these volunteers, as they are working to protect our lake— and your property values!

LITTLE SAND LAKE MEMBERSHIP

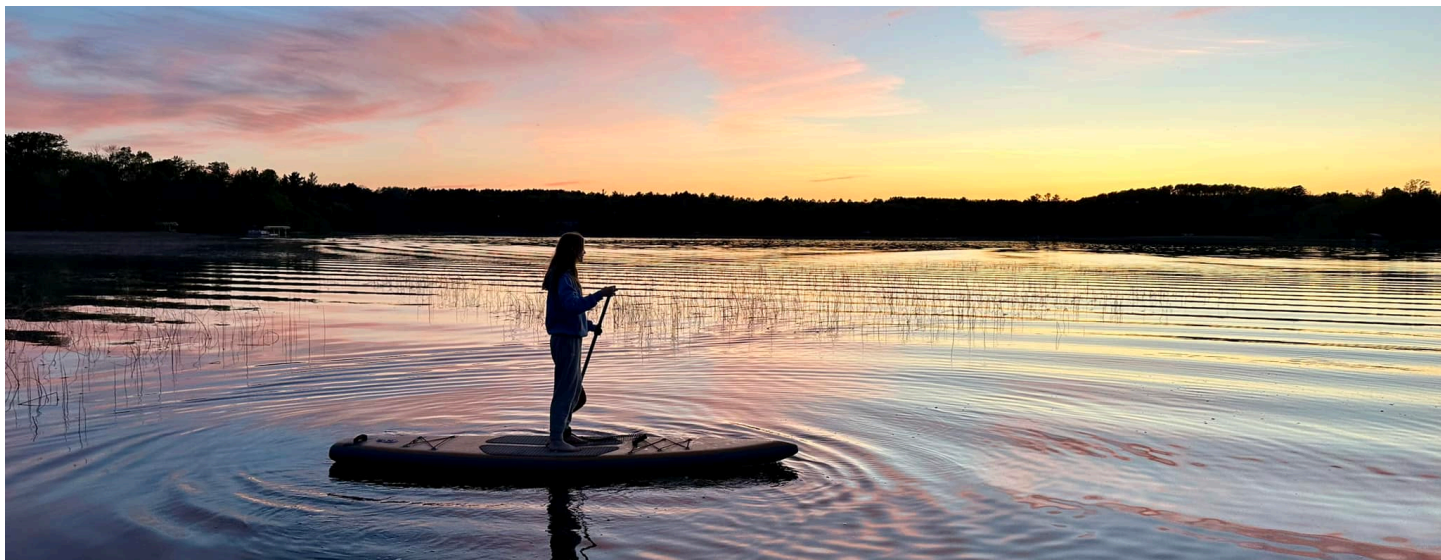


Photo Credit: Kasie Lynn, May 25, 2024

We Need Your Membership!

Your membership is crucial to the work we do here on Little Sand Lake. Most of your dues go toward maintaining our healthy lake, including Little Sand Lake's membership in the Hubbard County Coalition of Lakes (HCCOLA), support of Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates (MLR), water quality monitoring, and funding a significant portion of AIS Inspection hours at the public lake access.



Dues and Donations:

While most of your dues go towards preserving our lake's health, a portion also covers administrative costs such as website fees. We are very grateful to those who make additional donations beyond the membership dues, especially since not all properties join LSLAA.

Tax Deductible Contributions:

LSLAA is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, so your dues and donations are tax deductible!

Membership Dues:

Annual dues are \$50 per property. Our fiscal year runs from January to December. Dues paid within the fiscal year will be applied to that year.

Memorial Donations:

Consider making a memorial donation to Little Sand Lake in honor of a loved one. We have a kiosk at the boat launch where we will place a nameplate in their honor.

How to Pay Dues and Make Donations:

The credit card payment option is on our website. We prefer electronic payments. Use this link for payment information:

<https://littlesandlakemn.com/annual-dues/>

Thank You, Current Members! Thank you for your support in keeping Little Sand Lake healthy and vibrant!

BOAT LAUNCH AND SHORELINE



Launch Inspection Costs

To protect our lake from invasive species entering via watercraft, LSLAA participates in the Boat Launch Inspection program coordinated by Hubbard County Environmental Services. The LSLAA Board is committed to using your dues and donations where they are most needed, and the Launch Inspection Program is one of our most important and largest expenses.

Hubbard County allocates state-funded amounts to lakes in the county, targeting those most vulnerable to AIS based on previous years' inspection data. We are fortunate that Emma Township also provides grants to township lakes with public launches. However, the labor rate for inspectors has increased over the years, and both Hubbard County and Emma Township have reduced funding for Little Sand launch inspectors.

Since the inception of the Launch Inspection Program, our goal has been to achieve a total of 472 inspection hours each season. LSLAA covers the hours not funded by the county and township, which has led to an increasing financial burden. Here are the amounts LSLAA has paid over the last five years:

2024: \$6,175
2023: \$5,575
2022: \$3,700
2021: \$3,000
2020: \$2,370

Even with dues set at \$50 per property, the funds are insufficient to cover our launch inspection costs. Many of you have generously supported us by contributing above and beyond your dues, and we sincerely thank you for your continued support.

Your contributions are vital in maintaining the pristine nature of Little Sand Lake.

Shoreline Buffer Program

Little Sand Lake is a very healthy lake! We have very good water quality and want to assure that for the future our lake. One of the best ways to maintain a healthy lake is to maintain a healthy shoreline. There is a direct correlation with land use and water quality.

What are some things that each of us can do to maintain a healthy shoreline?

Adding or maintaining a “buffer” along the shoreline is one of the best tools for maintaining the quality of water entering the lake from the land surrounding the lake. Native grasses, plants, trees and shrubs help

with this process and add to the natural beauty of the shoreline. A rain garden that captures some of the runoff from higher ground can serve as a filter.



Hubbard County COLA has a number of trained “Shoreland Advisors” who can offer insights to lakeshore owners as to how to improve your shoreline and the water run off. If you would like to schedule a complimentary visit by these trained HCCOLA coaches, email HCcolaMN@gmail.com. During a visit, the Shoreland Advisor will walk with you on your shoreland, listen to your ideas, and share insights on how to prevent runoff, erosion and promote water quality. A visit is typically less than an hour, and after researching questions and potential opportunities, a visit recap is shared with you via email. This can be done as long as there is no snow on the ground.

Our Restore the Shore Program coordinated by Wayne Swanson is another great way to get trees and shrubs at a low cost. Orders are placed in the fall and the plants are delivered in May. We will provide more information about this program in the early fall.

**Minimize use of fertilizer on your grass. It is imperative that you use phosphorus free fertilizer. *Observe your shoreline and monitor any changes on your property from year to year.*

The Little Sand Lake Association is looking to strengthen our Shoreline Advisory Program. Please let us know if you would like to be a part of our efforts!

2023: LSLAA Year-In-Review

2023 Annual Boat Parade



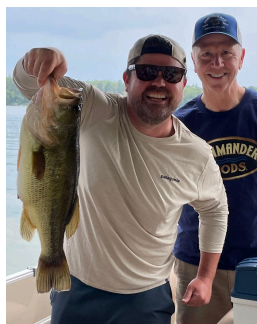
2023 Annual Picnic



**3 Old Guys Ride to Alaska Presentation
by Rob Hallstrom**



2023 Annual Fishing Contest



2023 Annual Holiday Party

