



Delaware - Wyoming - Lac La Belle - Bete Grise - South Point - Betsy - Little Betsy

The Pandemic of 2020



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

SSA President's Remarks & Calendar	2
Bear Belly Bar closing & the Fire Department Fish Boil	3
Lac La Belle VFD & Road Commission Update	4
ORV Trail Update	5
Compactor Cams & Tom Talvensari	6
Uno Isaacson Obituary & Membership Forms	7

NEWSLETTER

Marge Meyers

Bob Meyers

Rick Olson

Jim Valsa

Ned Huwatschek

Mark Oviatt

Steve Oviatt



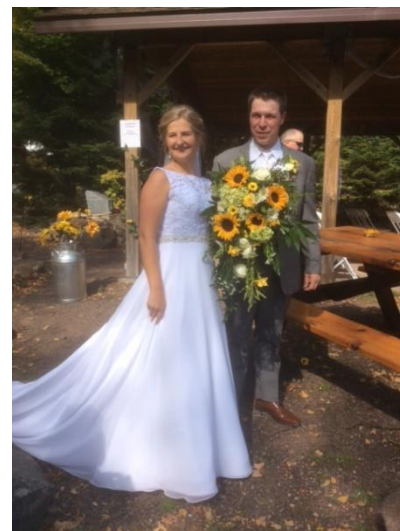
Haven Falls during Tropical Storm Cristobal, courtesy of Mark Oviatt.

Mother Nature hit the South Shore hard in 2020. Between the COVID-19 virus and restrictions on travel, gatherings and small businesses, fewer of us were able to gather and enjoy each other's company. Dumpster Days survived and the Fire Department Fish Boil became a pickup and take it away event.

In addition to events being canceled, the first ever tropical storm swept through the Keweenaw on June 10th, turning Haven Falls into a miniature version of Niagara Falls.

Since churches and other indoor venues were closed, Haven Falls became a very popular wedding venue, even when the weather did not always cooperate.

Among those celebrating their special day with friends and family were Hannah and Matthew "Mutti" Zerbst on September 25th. Hannah's mother, Mary Pat Crampton, and grandmother, Maryanne Battersby, are long time members of the SSA.



1Photo courtesy of Marjorie Meyers

Mark Your Calendars!**LOOKING FORWARD TO 2021**

Grant Township meetings are the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6:00 PM at the Grant Township Community Center

Grant Township Work sessions are the Thursday before their regular meeting at 6:00 PM at the Grant Township Community Center.

Zoning meetings are the 4th Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM.

County Commissioners meetings are the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 6:30 PM.

SSA meetings are the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m.

2021 SSA Meeting Dates

June 16

July 14

August 18

September 15

Women's MeetingTuesdays, 10 AM
LLB Firehall**Upcoming Events**

June 21, Mid-Summer Bonfire, Bete Grise

July 17 & 18

Dumpster Days & Rummage Sale

August 1, Summer Fest

August 14, Fish Boil

August 21, Kid's Fishing Tournament

December 4, SSA & VFD Christmas Party

Please stay safe and healthy so we may all enjoy a return to our activities this summer. Our members are appreciated for their understanding during these trying times. Although our SSA events were cancelled, we still managed to help the Fire Department with their revised Fish Boil fundraiser. We also accomplished Dumpster Days that enabled many people to safely remove trash from their camps. Thank you SSA members! And we continued to show our support and interest in the Grant Township Board by attending meetings. They are always impressed by our turnout.

For 2021, we are hopeful that Covid-19 will be under control and that our events will be able to proceed. The 2021 schedule is posted on the bulletin board. Since there was not a rummage sale this past year, SSA will plan to have one during Dumpster Days on July 17-18. Please save your rummage items for then.

If you renewed your membership in 2020, remember that it will carry over to 2021. Otherwise, please take a moment to send in your renewal. We are thankful for your support. Speaking of support, how about some ideas for a speaker/presentation at our meetings? Or ideas for a project to enhance our area? Email, or call, and we will be sure to follow-up.

If you are thinking about a way to help SSA, we have a solution for you. There is an opening on the board for the Secretary's position. It is quite easy as you would handle the minutes for our meetings and assist with correspondence and newsletters. Please consider this and let one of us know.

Let us look forward to renewing friendships at our first meeting on Wednesday, June 16 at 6:30 pm. And, of course, our Welcome Back Mid-Summer Bonfire on Monday, June 21.

Jim Valsa, President

SSA Newsletter

Please consider helping with the newsletter by letting us know of interesting activities and also by **taking pictures at SSA events**. Your help is important in order to keep the newsletter going. Send them to novasteve0@gmail.com.

Big Changes!



Among the casualties of the pandemic and associated closures enacted in 2020 was the Bear Belly Bar & Grill. For the first time in decades there was no local gathering spot on the South Shore.

Because of the pandemic restrictions and economics, the Bear Belly Bar & Grill remade itself into the Bear Belly Pit Stop, allowing customers to get sandwiches, pasties, salads, fresh baked goods and pre-cooked meals to take out.

While the popular Friday night fish fry is now gone, Wings, Ribs and Turkey nights will continue on a first call, first served reservation basis to take out.

As an alternative, the Olson family stated firmly there are NO plans to rebuild the long-gone Wilderness Bar.

For its part, Mount Bohemia's small restaurant will remain open to all throughout the year. And while nothing will occur anytime soon, preliminary plans are underway to build and open a new bar and restaurant on the lake.



2Photo courtesy of Bob Meyers

The annual Fire Department Fish Boil was held on schedule in 2020 despite the pandemic but as a takeout event.

This was the scene for those who bought tickets.

Customers who purchased tickets were able to get fresh takeout dinners. While the meeting room at the Fire Hall was closed, the pavilion at Haven Falls proved to be a popular dining spot that day.

LAC LA BELLE VFD

I would like to remind you to have your chimney cleaned during the winter if you're burning wood and, in the spring, if you're burning wood in the summer months.

Make sure you pay attention to your furnace exhaust and intake to be sure they are not covered in snow. Also be sure to check they are not iced up. This should be a regular check during the winter months.

Change smoke detector batteries and check your carbon monoxide detector. If you do not have these items, please purchase them.

Enjoy your winter and be safe,

Rick Olson, Chief, LLBVFD



Road Commission Update

The road from Delaware to Lac La Belle, the Gay/Lac La Belle Road to Montgomery Point, Montgomery Point Road, as well as Bete Gris Road from Sand Point to the new Tar and Chip area about a mile away were completed in 2020. All of these were crush/shape and pave projects.

2021 will most likely not see any paving on the South Shore because of other projects around the County.

In 2022 we anticipate continuing the Gay/Lac La Belle Road repaving if funding is available. Also, as funding is available, we will continue repaving on the Bete Gris Road.

In addition, new signs prohibiting overnight camping were installed on Bete Gris beach, Haven Falls and Jackson parks. These new signs replace the traditional wooden signs, which were repeatedly stolen in previous years.

Rick Olson
Keweenaw County Road Commissioner



Keweenaw Outdoor Recreation Coalition

2020 witnessed the closure of the off-road trails from Lac la Belle to Keweenaw Point. While logging operations were blamed, carelessness on the part of several off-road operators were cited for extending the closure into the fall.

As a result, the Outdoor Recreation Coalition concentrated its efforts on installing and emptying bear-proof trash receptacles at High Rock Bay and improving the West Schlatter Lake Road and securing access to Horseshoe Harbor.

2021 plans are to install an information kiosk, more trash receptacles and a pumpable vault toilet at High Rock Bay.

There are continuing efforts to work with the DNR on firming up rights of way, maintaining and policing the trail system. Illegal dumping and trash collection along the trails is a continuing problem.

Extending the trail system from Gay to Lac la Belle is not possible at this time because the owner of the property is actively logging it during the summer and KORC lacks volunteers to monitor any new trail extension.

In a related move, Mount Bohemia has relocated the snowmobile trail on its property from the Bete Gris Road to the Lac la Belle Road from Delaware just uphill from the yurts. The ATV trail off the Bete Gris Road will remain untouched.

All other trails are open to pedestrian and bicycle traffic, as well as berry pickers and foragers.



3Map courtesy of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources

SMILE!



When you visit the trash compactor at Lac la Belle in 2921, expect to be on the local version of “Candid Camera”.

To stop the dumping of illegal items and to save money on attendants, internet cameras will be monitoring anyone using the compactor. If everything works out, you, too may be able to see who stops by over the internet.

From the ~~Daily Mining Gazette~~, December 19, 2019:



4Photo courtesy of the Daily Mining Gazette

Tom Talvensaari has had hearing aids for 35 years. But his insurance doesn't cover them anymore, unless he can drive to Marquette every time he needs them serviced, or to see an audiologist.

“So he has hearing aids now. They're older,” said Melissa Collard, Talvensaari's audiologist at U.P. Audiology. *“He's had so many issues with them.”*

She said it is past time for Talvensaari to get new hearing aids. He was even using “loaners” when he came into Collard's office Thursday. However, his insurance wouldn't pay for them or any other replacement.

That's where Hearing for the Holidays comes in. For three years now, U.P. Audiology accepts nominations for people in the community and selects two, one from their Houghton office, and one from their Iron Mountain office, to receive new hearing aids.

“The hearing aids he's getting are top of the line, best technology out there, almost \$6,000 hearing aids,” Collard said.

They will connect to his phone and TV directly as well as amplifying ambient sound.

Talvensaari was nominated anonymously.

“It means a lot to be able to hear,” he said.

PASSINGS.....

Uno Isaacson, 95, a resident of Ahmeek, passed away on Saturday, September 19, 2020, at his home. Many will remember Uno when he, his wife Agnes, and son, Neil, purchased the Lac La Belle Resort. They operated it for more than 10 years before he went to work for Rowe Moving, retiring as a mechanic. Uno then went to help Neil at Sandy Pebbles Golf Course working an array of jobs.

Uno was awarded the Bronze Star for his service with the 10th Mountain Division in World War II. In later years, he was a fireman for the Calumet Village and Lac La Belle Fire Departments. He also volunteered at many fundraisers for the Ahmeek Fire Department. He served as a trustee for the Grant Township board as well.

MEMBERSHIP FORM (ONE MEMBER PER FORM)

Please take time to fill out and return your membership form. Your help in doing this in a timely manner will be very helpful. **You will be taken off the mailing/email list when dues are not paid for three years.** Mail to Marge Meyers, PO Box 183, Mohawk, MI 49950

Pay dues by April 30

Please pay before Summer Fest so we know our budget

(One name per form please)

NAME: _____ EMAIL: _____

PERMANENT ADDRESS: _____

SEASONAL ADDRESS: _____

~~DUES \$10~~
(One name per form please)

~~DONATION:~~

~~CHECK NUMBER:~~

NAME: _____ EMAIL: _____

PERMANENT ADDRESS: _____

SEASONAL ADDRESS: _____

DUES: \$10

DONATION:

CHECK NUMBER:

South Shore Association

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About Us

Founded in 1995, the South Shore Association is a legal nonprofit, incorporated, tax exempt community organization.

Your Involvement

All residents are encouraged to run for Grant Township office, register to vote in Grant Township, and attend Township and County meetings. This is the most important thing you can do to promote our interests on the South Shore. By attending SSA meetings, you can share your ideas, get informed, get networked, and be part of the various projects we undertake to enhance the quality of life on the South Shore.

Guiding Principles

1. To be the voice of the South Shore in Grant Township and insure proper and equitable distribution of tax dollars.
2. To improve and maintain desirable living conditions for the many cottage dwellers and permanent South Shore residents in Grant Township.
3. To provide and maintain a friendly spirit of cooperation among the members for mutual benefit and enjoyment.
4. To support and enhance a quality of life on the South Shore.

And in closing:



5Lac la Belle February 1, 2021 courtesy of the Lac la Belle Lodge Webcam

P.O. Box 183
Mohawk, MI 49950

