

FYI
CLARE-MAR LAKES
AUGUST-SEPTEMBER NEWS LETTER
2010
BY BARB SEARS

Hi Campers,

It was so wonderful to see such a good turn out for the 40th anniversary. I had rehearsed everything I wanted to say to you and I certainly goofed it all up! It was suppose to be such a happy occasion, but it was a sad one all day. I kept thinking that Len should be here to celebrate it with us. I wanted to introduce people that had a hand in the development of Clare-Mar and I couldn't get it out. So I will give you a little of what I had to say here.

When we bought the park back in 1970 we were in our mid 30's and really green at running this kind of business, but even back then we go alot of help from the campers. There was no office. We had two 5x5 gatehouses with a small driveway in between. One took care of the cars and small Nimrod trailers coming in and the other was the "out" gate. Eventually we had to tear one down because the Mini and Motor homes were coming in to vogue and couldn't get between them. The office was in my house and fall sign up time was at my kitchen table. Many times someone would want to sign up for season camping and had to wait while we finished our meal, breakfast, lunch or dinner.

The land was bare of trees except for the wooded area. Len planted every tree you see on the meadows. We added roads and where the tent area is was all jungle. He created that whole area, which to me is the most beautiful natural area of the park. It is very picturesque in the wintertime. We finally put a small trailer office by the dam in back of the gatehouse and got it out of our house. Things looked up at that point and it stopped being a "Mom and Pop" business. In 1974 we contracted to put on a World Championship Rodeo! Len had the arena built that would hold ten thousand people and we did get the ten thousand in the three days of the rodeo. We had the rodeo for 9 years and then the first recession made that impossible to continue. The Rodeo put us on the map for years. We started the trailer sales in 1976 with small towables and advancing to park models shortly after. The day before the first rodeo we had so much rain it made soup out of our newly constructed arena floor so Len had to completely tear out the arena floor and redo it over night. Semis were hauling in sand one after another for over 12 hours to accomplish this. Len and the crew never went to bed all night and were ready for the rodeo the next day.

That's what was so sad on our 40th anniversary, the fact that this park was his dream and he built it to what it is today. It has been a lot of hard work and sacrifice for the whole family. I didn't get to introduce Brenda, who has done a great job taking over for me. Mark Getsay was also at our table and he is our accountant and financial advisor. Brenda and Mark work hand in hand. I didn't finish introducing the rest of my family either and for that I apologize. It was such an emotional day for me and my children because Len should have been here for the 40th. Again thank you for helping to make this park a success.

From Don: We had a very nice attendance at our 40th anniversary dinner. I believe everyone had enough to eat? Roger Childs did a fantastic job of cooking the beef and we thank him.

As we stated at the dinner, much of our records do not go back past 10 years, so maybe there were some oversights and incorrect years of attendance announced. Two people I know of were missed. Judy Graham, over 30 years and Nancy Early, again over 30 years. Sorry about that and I thank all of you for years of support.

With one of the country's warmest summer seasons on record, we have seen some changes in nature for sure. Much of the fruit and vegetables were ready way early. Our water table is lower than it should be which created other changes which brings me to my next announcement. I have signed an agreement with the Lake Management Co. to help control the many different types of weeds.

Because we swim in the water and eat the fish, I have to make sure the chemicals we use are safe for everyone's concern. So I have hired experts to help with the lake. There will be no less than 6 applications next year and monitored from April through Sept. Thank you for your patience concerning this situation and 'happy boating!

One more issue I need to talk about. The trash pick up fees are constantly increasing. Our trash is calculated on "normal material". This means only things that will fit in a kitchen trash bag. We have been bending on the larger items such as old BBQ grills, push mowers and sometimes mattresses and box springs, etc. These types of unwanted items must be taken out of the park to dispose of. We can no longer absorb the cost of processing this type of trash. I have been noticing items other than burnables showing up at the burn area. Not only is this dangerous for the employees maintaining that area, but children and adults dig through and climb on and around this area for whatever reason. Bottom line. If it is not a natural item like grass clippings, leaves, tree limbs, etc.. If it does not fit in a kitchen trash bag, PLEASE take it home. Thank you for your cooperation.

We have a lot of season left and many more activities planned, so let's all enjoy!

From Debbie: I want to thank all that helped with the activities. It is always greatly appreciated.

The Spaghetti Dinner took in 600.00, which was donated, to the Cancer drive The Afghan was donated by Dorene Bonness (WM). That took in \$114.00. 1/2 went for the Cancer Society and 1/2 went to kids activities. Thanks to all that participated.

Labor Day Activities:

Sept. 4 **YARD SALES** --- 9:00 to 1:00
7:00 pm Hayride and Bingo

Sept 5 11:00 am Corn Hole
8:00 pm DANCE

Oct. 2nd **HOLLOWEEN WEEKEND!**

1 TO 3 PM TRICK-ORTREAT

7:00 PM---- COSTUME BALL -----

Sept. Activities:

Sept 11 2:00pm Golf Cart Scavenger Hunt
5:00 pm **Corn Roast** 8:00 pm
Adult Karaoke

Sept 18 5:00 pm Clam Bake

Sept 25 5:00 pm Soup & Chili Cook Off

There will be a slight change in the Corn Roast this year. We will be including hamburgers as well as the usual hot dogs. We supply the corn, burgers, dogs and buns. ketchup, mustard, relish and butter. YOU bring your own table settings (table cover, silver ware and plates) and what ever else you want for your own family to go with the burgers and/or dogs.

Get your tickets now for the Clambake.

\$20.00 per bake

6.00 extra doz. clams

\$14.00 Chicken only.

Bake comes with: 1 dozen clams, 1/2 chicken, Sweet potato, Corn chowder and corn bread. Bring your own beverage.

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(OVER)

FALL SIGN UP TIME

PLEASE MARK THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR:

WEST MEADOW SIGN UP DATE ----- SEPT. 10 -12

EAST MEADOW SIGN UP DATE ----- SEPT 17 -19

WOODS SIGN UP DATE -----OCT. 1- 3

From Barb:

Sorry I missed sending out the FYI letter earlier! (I forgot (:)

And HEY! I'm in the yard sale this year in my back yard! Yep, I have "Stuff"

SEE YOU THEN!