



Peaceful Valley Property Owners' Association
Newsletter

February 18

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February 2019

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Welcome to February. Well, we got one of the biggest snows of the year in January and record cold temperatures that we haven't seen in decades. The government was partially shut down for most of last month and there's a threat to do it again in just a few weeks. The good news is that with the Winter solstice, the days getting longer again. For being the shortest month, February packs a lot of events—Valentine's Day, President's Day, Mardi Gras, National Margarita Day, and Groundhog Day. In addition, Cardinals pitchers and catchers report to spring training on February 12th, and the Blues, after a shockingly dismal first half of the season, seem to be slowly climbing into competition for a wild card

spot in the Stanley Cup playoffs. Super Bowl LIII drew record low viewership, which is not a surprise as it featured "the cheaters vs. the leavers" who got into the playoffs on horrible officiating calls/non-calls during the league championship games. Something for your radar screen: Major league baseball is thinking about some new ways to try and speed up the game, to include a 20 second pitch clock, having pitchers face a minimum of 3 batters, and having a universal Designated Hitter rule (meaning the National League would allow DHs). Something they're going to experiment with in spring training and the All-Star Game is starting extra innings with a man on second base.

February Events: (see the PVL Things to do calendar at <http://www.peacefulvalleylake.com/things-to-do-calendar.html>)

--Saturday, February 2nd, Groundhog Day

--Thursday, February 14th, Valentine's Day

--Friday Feb 15th, 5:30PM to 6:30 PM, Public Water Supply District #1 Board of Directors Meeting. This is the regular monthly meeting.

--Friday February 15th, 7:30PM to 9:30 PM, PV Property Owner's Association Board of Directors Meeting. This is the regular monthly meeting.

--Sunday, February 26th, Cut-off date for accepting applications for Board of Directors Candidates (see below)

--Monday, February 18th, Presidents Day. Banks, Post Office, Federal and State offices closed.

--Saturday, February 23rd, Cut-off date for registering for March 16th Boating Safety Course (see below)

Wanted: A Few Good Men and Women to Run for PVPOA Board of Directors

In line with our Property Owners' Association's Bylaws, we have a board of directors consisting of 9 members. Since we're a private, membership-only association, the board of directors is our equivalent of a small town's mayor, board of aldermen, and city manager, charged with the day-to-day operations and management of PVL as well as the long-range planning for improvements and capital expenditures.



Board of Directors Election

Every year, 3 of the board members' terms expire, meaning that members must vote for candidates to fill these positions. We know we have at least one retiring board member, so we need candidates who are willing and able to serve. To qualify, you must be a member of PVPOA, and current with your annual membership dues. Duties and responsibilities of board members include:

- Representing the interests of the membership of PVL
- Willingness to help with critical decisions affecting the lake and amenities
- Deciding on prudent use of membership dues
- Attendance at monthly board meetings
- Participation as an officer or on one or more committees

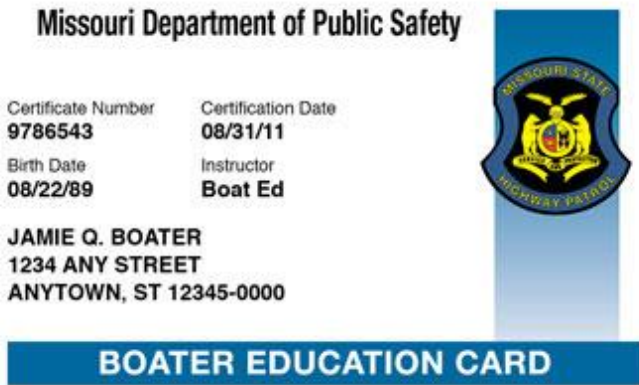
Board members are elected for a 3-year term on a rotating cycle. Meetings are the third Friday of the month, with an additional annual membership meeting in April. If you're interesting in running for a board position, please click on the link at https://www.peacefulvalleylake.com/uploads/2/4/7/0/24700980/board_of_directors_application.pdf to download an application or stop by the office to get a copy. You can either send or drop it by the office, but make sure it's in before the February 26th, 2019 cut-off date. Ballots will be sent out several weeks in advance of the April 27th, 2018 Annual Membership Meeting, when the new board will be announced.

Mark Your Calendar: Boating Safety Course at Peaceful Valley Lake Lodge, March 16, 2019 9 AM to 4 PM

We've arranged with the Missouri State Highway Patrol to come onsite at Peaceful Valley on Saturday, March 16th, 2019 from 9 AM to 4 PM for their boating safety course. I know what you're saying—"I've been boating for years, so why do I need to take a boating safety course?" Well, for one thing, it's a state law: if you were born after January 1st, 1984 and 14 or older, you need to carry a boating safety certificate and picture ID when operating a boat. Second, there's an economic advantage--most boat insurance companies give discounts for clients who complete boating safety certificates. Third, it's great to do a refresher if you took the course when you were 14 and you're now 61, like me.



The course covers a variety of topics such as Missouri boating laws, boat and PWC safety, navigation, use of lights and flags during operations, etc. See the Missouri Boating Handbook at https://www.boat-ed.com/assets/pdf/handbook/mo_handbook_entire.pdf for additional details and the Highway Patrol suggests checking out the study guide at <https://www.boat-ed.com/missouri/> Why check out the study guides? Because at the end of the course, participants take a test which qualifies them for a lifetime Missouri Boater Education Card. The Highway Patrol will score them that day, but you'll need to apply for a card online or by mail for a \$15 fee.

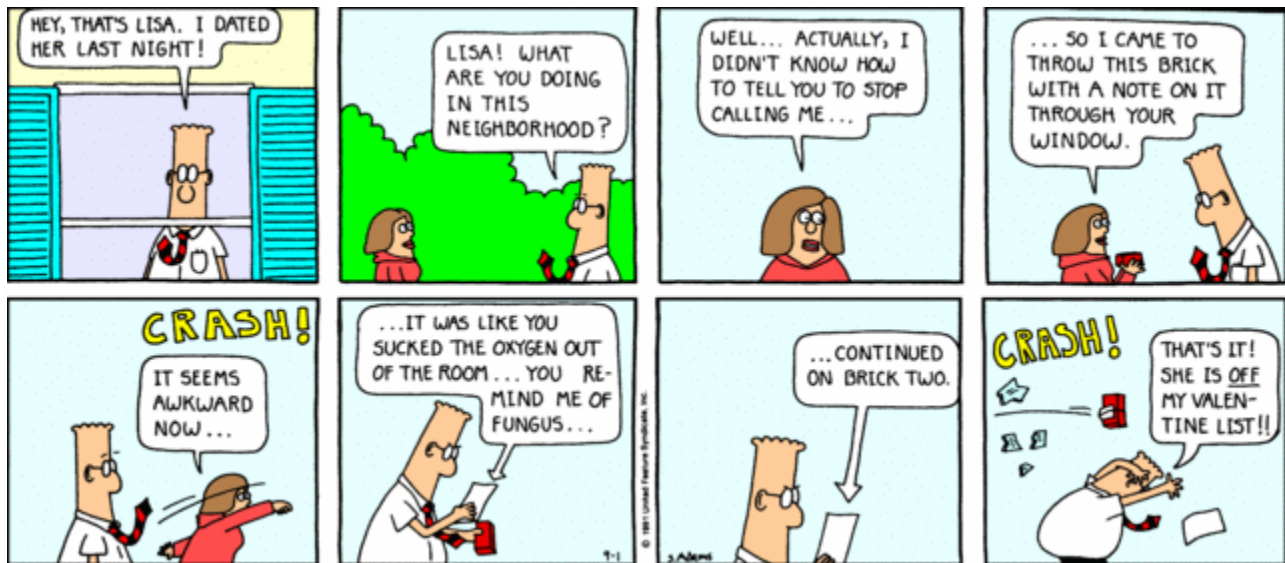


The course is free, but since seating is limited to 30 participants, we've set up a self-service online reservation system at

<https://www.peacefulvalleylake.com/boating-safety-class-registration.html> or you can contact the Peaceful Valley Office at (573) 437-2605 or via email at peacefulvalleylake@gmail.com. We're requesting a \$10 refundable deposit per seat or \$40 per family. You can cancel your reservations for a refund up to 3 days before the event (Wednesday, March 13), but if you do not show up for the event, you'll forfeit the deposit.

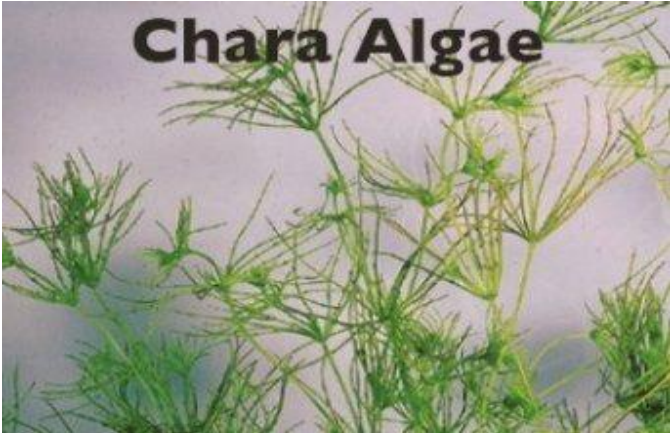
Since this is an all-day event and we're not too close to any restaurants, we'll be providing morning and afternoon snacks and beverages, and for lunch we'll be offering Subway sandwiches, chips, soda and water, so when you sign in the day of the course, you can choose either a \$10 lunch/snack voucher or have your deposit refunded.

The Highway Patrol has asked us to provide names of attendees by March 2nd so please make your reservations by then. Questions or comments can be directed to the Peaceful Valley Lake Office.



Annoying Aquatic Vegetation at Peaceful Valley Lake

What's that weed in the lake? Well, we have several nuisance aquatic plants, but Chara and Coontail are the most dominant. Chara is actually an algae and responds very rapidly to raking or copper sulfate treatment. It forms loosely rooted mats and is found mostly in shallow waters.



Coontail (also called hornwort) is much harder to control and can thrive in deeper water. It can enter the lake on boats or waterfowl. The stems are multi-branched, can be up to 6-foot long, and get their name from the bushy tips. It is considered to be a submerged plant, able to attach to the bottom by rhizomes, but technically no roots. It also thrives unattached, absorbing its nutrient from the water. Coontail reproduces both by seed and fragmentation. It is perennial (overwinters without problems), and fragments can remain dormant for long periods of time. At nuisance levels, it can deplete oxygen levels and impede recreational activity.



Coontail (aka Hornwort)

So, what are we doing to address this issue? Over the last two years, we've added several hundred grass

carp, and will likely add more this year. However, Coontail is not their first choice of plant, and will be eaten after other plants. Grass carp generally don't bite on regular bait, but if by chance you catch one, please release it back to the lake. The grass carp we procure are sterile and cannot reproduce in our lake.



Chemicals have some impact, but results are often short-lived and expensive. Last year we began using a spray liquid called Cutrine Plus to treat some of the floating algae. This concentrated chemical costs \$50 per gallon and treats 1.5 acre-feet of water (1.5 acres of water up to 1 foot deep). It also requires multiple applications. We also use copper sulfate crystals on the rooted plants, and this costs over \$100 for a 50 pound sack. Most of these chemicals work by denying the plants of one of the three things it needs to survive—water, oxygen, and sun. In the case of Copper sulfate, it depletes the oxygen so it must be used sparingly in order to not disrupt the fish population. Cutrine plus breaks down the cell structure of the algae, disrupting the photosynthesis function it needs to survive. One thing we'll be experimenting with this year at the beach is a more natural solution—placement of lake bottom mats that controls weeds by denying them sunlight. We will continue to treat, but it must be done in a controlled manner so as not to deplete oxygen levels in the lake. The final means of control is mechanical. Cutting or raking are effective, but care must be taken to remove all fragments as coontail can (and will) regrow. If you see it drifting up on shore, please rake it out. A long-handled rake can be used on areas near shore. Try not to run motorized vehicles (boats, jet skis) through any dense areas, as this will cause fragments, creating more plants. It will be difficult to control this weed, but your cooperation and patience is appreciated. (*n.b.—Thanks to master gardener Carol Eilermann for writing the majority of this article*)