

BOYD'S BULLETIN

Fall 2014



POST OFFICE BOX 57 • FIFIELD, WISCONSIN 54524
Phone (715) 762-3469 or (715) 762-4663

It's Sunday morning, November 9, and there is snow on the ground. The temperature is 32 degrees and expected to drop this evening and be very cold all week. I am not looking forward to winter, especially if it is anything like last year. Dick called last winter, "brutal", "horrific", "miserably endless" and other similar descriptive adjectives. Though my memory is not the best, I think it was more typical of winters we had back in the '60's, '70's, and early '80's. During the past 30 years or so winters have become more "docile", with snow coming later, leaving earlier, a mid winter thaw, and temperatures rarely getting to -20 degrees. This past winter, snow came early, continued throughout, with record setting temperatures of below zero lasting more than 58 days. Normally the ice goes off the lakes around mid April, but it didn't leave Little Bass until May 2nd and Long lake May 4th. We slid through spring into what turned out to be a cool and somewhat wet summer. With all the water from the snow-melt and spring rain, we didn't have to worry about drought or fire hazard but we payed the price with mosquitoes. The first two weeks in June supported more mosquitoes than I can ever remember. They were our very unofficial Boyd's greeters; as guests would arrive and step out of their cars, literally a grey cloud of mosquitoes would descend upon them. For whatever reasons, when we got to mid June and beyond, they died off for the most part and we got back to normal.

There are two things that really scare my brother, Dick. That is fire and wind. With all the moisture, we had little fire danger. We did get through a lot of the season unscathed by wind as well. However, we did get a couple storms in early September that brought us some strong winds. Fortunately, we didn't have any damage to people, buildings or vehicles, but we did lose some more hemlocks. A group went down along the road to Terry, another group by Ryan, and quite a few scattered throughout the woods.

So much for weather. The big news for the year, is the birth of Kerris Kathryn Stroud. She was born on Nov. 2, 2013 and is the daughter of Ryan (my oldest son) and Shayne. They arrived at the name Kerris, by combining my name (Chris) and Shayne's Mom's name, Carol. Her middle name, was my mother's name. Many of the old timers coming to the resort, remember my parents; Dick and Kathryn Simon. Every evening they would eat in the dining room, at the designated "Simon" table, welcoming the guests. That was many years ago, but it is still fun to reminisce.



Kerris Kathryn Stroud

Boyd's closed their 119th season on Monday morning, Oct. 13. Dick has asked me to try to explain the changing calendar and how it messes up the reservations sometimes. It moves one day earlier each year and two days earlier on leap year. Every five or six years this causes us to "reset" our opening to about a week later than the previous year. Because of the possibility of late cold spring weather and the extensive job of opening the resort, we open on a Thursday toward the middle of May. This usually doesn't cause too much inconvenience to anyone when the shift occurs. The problems occur when the holidays "reset". Memorial Day is always the last Monday of May, which could be anywhere from the 25th to the 31st of May, Labor Day is always the first Monday of September which could be anywhere from September 1st to the 7th, and Columbus Day (usually our closing) is always the second Monday in October. As an example, this year Labor day fell on Monday September 1st, but next year it will arrive on Monday, September 7th. This is a week later, and with a busy fall and most cabins being reserved throughout the period, and Columbus Day looming on Monday October 12th (our closing), the domino effect has been put in motion and the squeeze is on. We had several families that had their vacations shortened and/or were gracious and understanding enough to move to another cabin. One of the guests wrote a very nice letter suggesting we consider making reservations based on specific weeks in the season, similar to what time-shares do. It is something to think about, but it still doesn't change the fact that the calendar moves and the holidays will remain moving targets. In any event, we do sincerely appreciate everyone's patience and understanding that were affected, and we do apologize for the inconveniences that resulted.

Back to the fun things. At the end of the year, I host an annual halloween party for staff and guests. Next year, I am planning it for Saturday, October 10, of Columbus weekend. Everyone is invited. I must say I go overboard on my decorating. It is very difficult for anyone to carry on a conversation due to all the animated speaking ghosts, skeletons, witches, cats, and zombies. As well as bats flying around, spiders dropping from the ceiling, and walking brooms. Everyone is in costume, and they are always quite creative and fun to see. A couple of pictures I have included, are one of Dick and Patty. Dick came as the big bad wolf, and Patty as Little Red Riding Hood. As the night progressed on, Dick (being very crafty), removed his wolf headpiece, and underneath was dressed as Granny. Two in one. How original, Dick. The other picture is of Amy Wozniak and Holly Masepohl. They are long time coming guests, and so much fun to have them participate. A fun time had by all.



Dick & Patty



Amy & Holly

The other planned event the resort hosts, is our annual staff dinners. We have one for what we call the inside staff, which includes the dining room and kitchen employees, and then one for our outside staff, which includes everyone else, from guides to maintenance, office, boatman, cabin crew, and groundskeepers. The dinners always include spouses and/or significant others. The inside staff dinner is always held before the season ends, and the outside staff dinner is at the end of October when the cabin crew finish closing up the cabins for the winters. If an inside employee is married or attached to an outside employee, they have the choice of which dinner to go to. The picture I have included is the "inside staff" dinner. From left to right we have, myself and my fiance, Kevin, then we have Jan and Frank, (server and guide). Then we have Greg, a server, with Jay next to him. Jay is our baker on Sundays and Mondays, when Jean is off. He is known as our "pie" baker. At the end of the table is Faye, a dishwasher. Then way at the end on the right is Anna, (a server), then Anna's sister April, (a server), with Brett, April's husband, next to her. Brett is my chef. Then we have Jim (a fishing and hunting guide) and finally, Jean (my baker) and wife to Jim. There are a few of the employees missing, due to returning to school, or for other reasons. But for the most part, everyone does attend.



I do have to mention a few words about my staff this year. They have been with me for a few years now, which I can't emphasize enough how gracious and thankful I am for them. They are a wonderful bunch, not just for each and everyone of them individually, but as a team working together, they are incredible. I can leave for a few days, and not have to think twice that things are not running smoothly and up to speed. Years past, I could never, and would never even think of leaving for a period of time. And I know, all the guests, recognize this, especially in the dining room, of how well everyone clicks together.

I would like to make note of our chocolate chip cookie baker. Yes, we do have a baker just for making our cookies. With the demand during the season, there would be no way that Jean and/or Jay could keep up with them, with all the daily baking needs. Her name, is Mary Dezotell, a local woman from Park Falls, who worked at Boyd's years ago. Mary left us for a few years, and has now returned to us to help us out. She is also our swing girl, relieving the dishwashers on their days off. If you would like to order cookies during the summer to take home with you, she is the one to contact. The cost is \$15.00 for a bag of a dozen cookies. We do use the same recipe for the Christmas cookies, which we will be doing again this year. We package a dozen cookies in a green tin with a "Boyd's Cookies" label on top and if walnuts are included, there is an ingredient label attached to the bottom. The cost is \$20.00 plus shipping. For all orders, please call 715-762-3469 by the 15th of December.



Mary Dezotell

Another employee I would like to mention, is Mary Best. Everyone knows Mary. She is the one who greets you in the office when you arrive, she is in the office all day to help you in anyway or form, she is in the office in the evening, again to be of assistance to you, and she is there when you check out. Mary is, for the most part in the office all the time. She has been with us for 35 years, being part of all the jobs we have at Boyds, and for the last 22 years, has been the office manager. Mary is one of those employees, that you are forever thankful for.



Mary Best

Speaking with Dick, he wanted me to touch a little bit on fishing. The resort contracts with a fisheries biologist to manage our four lakes for specific fisheries. He is on Long lake and Little Bass at least twice a year, and keeps us informed and offers recommendations based on his findings. Everything goes along as planned for the most part. However, every so often we get a surprise. This season, our

surprise was a good one. The fishing was better than normal, and the musky fishing was very good in Long lake. There were 111 muskies this year that made the fish board - 34" or longer. This compares with 65 in 2013, 59 in 2012, 51 in 2011 and 2009, and 56 in 2010. The total musky count from all waters came to 239 which compared with 220 in 2013. We don't know why they became so active, but it's very nice to have happen. One musky, I do want to mention was caught by Jeff Patterson. It was caught and released in Long lake on July 11, this past summer. It was 49" long; the last time I can remember a fish of that size being caught in Long Lake was about 6 years ago. Jeff's musky is shown being held by Steve Patterson, Jeff's son. Dick will go into much more detail about the fishing, when he writes the cover letter for the fish record.

A favorite activity that the kids seem to enjoy, is ringing the dinner bell. Kids will diligently wait for 20 to 30 minutes by the bell, just waiting for the opportunity to ring it at meal time. I happened to have a camera, when Calvin Fein, Mitchell Fein, and Noah Fein were getting ready to pull the string to mark another dinner being served at Boyds.

Thank you boys.



Jeff Patterson (Held by Steve Patterson)
49" Released Longlake
7-11-14

Many of you remember Alexis, who worked for us a few years ago. She started out here as the wigwam girl, and then became a server for a few years. Alexis went on to college and became a preschool teacher. When Katie, this past summer's wigwam girl, became ill, Alexis returned to Boyds to help out. Many of the guests remember her from years past. I was on the playground one day looking for a perspective picture, and immediately the slide was loaded with kids posing for that picture. Alexis is in the front holding Kerris.

Before I wrap up the newsletter, I want to mention the different projects we did last year, and some of our plans for this winter. Last year we extensively remodeled the Terry Annex. Frank and Bill worked on it through the winter, and did an outstanding job. It's so nice, it could be a separate cabin of its own. We also roofed Oattie in December, and roofed Mohawk in May.

This year we are planning to roof Girls and Wicker. We are also replacing Ferndale logs, redoing the bedrooms similar to the Mohawk cabin, which we did two years ago. We are rewiring the cabin and putting light outlets down to the dock. Then we will move on to the Fargo porch, and do some needed work there. Tyler and Eddie Erdman (a painting contractor), pressure washed and stained and trimmed the office this fall. We hope to do the hotel deck next spring. Tyler and Leon are in the process of replacing logs at the Ryan cabin. The trees were cut by Walt, who does a lot of logging for us throughout the year. Once the tree is cut down, it has to be cut again to get logs to fit the cabin. I have a picture included of Leon and Tyler cutting the logs to make the perfect fit. Another project planned for this fall is to gravel roads from Bross to the old airport and Bross to Patterson, and to stockpile 12 loads of gravel for use to maintain the roads throughout the summer.

Years ago, we had many father son groups that would vacation at Boyds. Then it kind of dropped off for awhile, but this year we noticed those kids returning back to Boyds with their sons. It's a neat experience for us to see the many trends of families throughout the season. In the spring we see couples and groups of men and women. And then summer comes, and the families come with their children, grandchildren, and even great grandchildren. Fall comes, and we are back to the couples and groups of fishermen and grouse hunters. Seeing the father/son groups again was uplifting. It warms my heart to see this continuum. Boyds would also be a fun place to consider a destination wedding. It would have to be for smaller weddings, but with the different wedding locations from the lakes, to the walking bridge, the barn, the fields, and the trees, there are many sights that would accommodate a beautiful wedding.

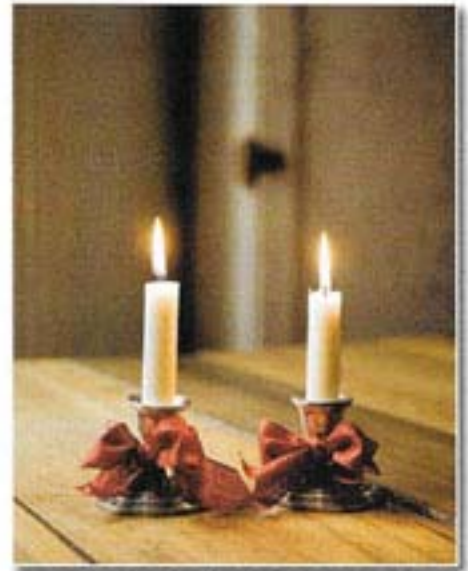


Leon & Tyler

I know many of you know my son Tyler, who has now worked at Boyds for a few years. Tyler is a huge asset to the resort. However, he is a professional pilot, and I know he is itching to return to flying, at least on a part time basis. He flew some during the summer, switching off between that and Boyds. This winter he is flying two weeks out of each month, and two weeks working at the resort. Tyler is a flight instructor for Cirrus aircraft, out of Duluth, MN. He finds himself in many different parts of the country with his flying, and I know it is an exciting adventure for him, but we do miss him when he is not here with us.

On a very sad note, which I intentionally waited to the end of this letter to mention, is that Lisa Kowalski, our head cabin lady, passed away this past August. She came to work in April for spring cleaning and became ill in June, and we lost her in August. Lisa was a wonderful woman, and we will miss her very much.

As I close, my family, and everyone at Boyd's, hope this newsletter reaches all of you in good health, and that you enjoy the best of everything that 2015 has to offer. Thank you for a great 2014 and we are looking forward to seeing you next season.



Chris • Kevin
Jack • Patti
Tyler • Laura
Ryan, Sherry
and Kenna

BOYD'S MASON LAKE RESORT