

The Lake's Sherriff's Patrol

A discussion was held in regards to the absence of the Sheriff's safety patrol on the lake. It was a result of the county expenses being cut. A letter from the Perry Board showed their concern. The SLCOA made a request of the Wyoming County Board of Supervisors for reinstatement of the weekend safety patrol. The SLCOA will relay their concerns to the County Board of Supervisors and efforts to coordinate a safety program would be initiated.

A letter again was sent to the Wyoming County Board of Supervisors as concerned taxpayers. The letter detailed the immediate need of Sheriff's supervision on the lake. The increasing number of boats using the lake unfortunately had a rising number of complaints regarding unsafe and illegal boating practices. The response from the Sheriff's Department explained the matter with a letter sent to President of the SLCOA Dr. Humphrey. ***"I am sure that you are aware that the county has provided safety patrol and law enforcement of Silver Lake for many, many years. The State reimburses the County of Wyoming for 50% of all costs incurred in enforcing the navigation laws on the lake. Because of the curtailment of revenue for local government it was felt two years ago they could no longer fund their half of this project. It was therefore removed from our budget. As of a result from your association, particularly Mrs. Bellamy, contacting us when it was time to adopt our 1982 budget, we were able to restore enough funding to this project to pay for the repairs and maintenance of the boat. However, there was no money appropriated for salaries. Therefore a boat is being operated by a volunteer Special Deputy David Mahaney. Since he donates all of his time he has only been on the lake on holidays and certain other weekends"***. It was then explained how the budget would go to the appropriate committees for approval. If the budget approved the financing of a patrol on the lake, it was scheduled for five selected per week for the two month boating season. The Sheriff's Office thanked the SLCOA for their support and hoped it would be acted upon favorably by the Board of Supervisors. At the September 25, 1982 meeting the status of the Sheriff's Patrol was read: The Directors agreed that they would accept the Sheriff's Committee on the time of patrolling on the lake. It was then recommended to put the phone number of the Sheriff's office in the newsletter for those who saw any violation on the lake.

It was noticed that the boats were unusually loud in July of 1983. The associations' complaint was filed with the Sheriff's office and asked for increased patrol supervision again. Sheriff Capwell and Supervisor Norman Smith came to talk with the SLCOA. They were not optimistic on having a patrol for the 1984 season at Silver Lake. Other options were discussed: A) Have volunteers go through a 7 month training course to run the boat as a Deputy. B) Get the Town of Castile to contract for a Sheriff's Deputy for the town. C) Have the Association hire the Sheriff's Deputies during their off hours to run the boat. Tony and Jim Bellamy would attend the Sheriff's Committee Meeting as a follow up. At the last meeting in 1983 it was reported that Sheriff Capwell had put \$4000 for navigation patrol for the summer of 1984. It was also mentioned that the Sheriff and Supervisors were getting letters and telephone calls from individual cottage owners as well as the SLCOA. The Sheriff will patrol the lake starting July 4th and continue through the week. It was reported that the Sheriff's boat was on the lake only 3 times through July 14th which included the "Ring of Fire". It was recommended to send a letter questioning why the patrols were not on the lake seeing that funds were approved for coverage from Memorial Day through Labor Day.

Jane Bellamy reported that 30 youngsters passed the Boating Safety course. Seven signs posting boating safety regulations were distributed. It was decided to give Anthony Fricano a nautical gift in appreciation for his time and talent in teaching the boater's safety courses on the lake. Tony had given the Boat Safety Course each year and was asked to include an adult course in 1984. It was brought up at the July 11th, 1987 meeting that Senator Floss was trying to pass a law that would require all boat operators to take tests and obtain licenses. This information was not received well and would be further investigated

Bob Moscicki covered these points with the Sheriff; 1) there were submerged rocks around the lake that was hazardous to boats. The Sheriff was going to place buoys at these locations. 2) Floats must be within 100 feet of shore. The sheriff suggested painting the floats white and placing reflectors on the sides. 3) The Sheriff warned boaters that registration stickers must be affixed next to the registration numbers. He would issue tickets to violators.