

# Sequanota Club

Charlevoix, MI

## \*\*\*\*\* Spring Letter \*\*\*\*\*

June 1, 2012

Dear Sequanota Family -

I hope that this letter finds everyone well and in good spirits. Spring is here and that means that summer and fabulous long days on Lake Charlevoix are just around the corner.

Charlevoix experienced a mild winter this year. There was one day with more than 20 inches of snow. I understand from Joe Thorp that it was a very heavy, wet snow and a number of trees on property were badly damaged. Luckily, there appears to have been no damage to the clubhouse or individual cottages. Now it is early summer there with June flowering bushes already in full bloom. Weather.com last week indicated that it was warmer in Charlevoix than it was in Knoxville. 85 degrees in May - very strange indeed.

So what do you need to know to prepare for the summer.....

### **Annual Meeting:**

The 2012 Annual Meeting will be held in the clubhouse at 9:30 am on Saturday, July 28. Chad Ervin will distribute proxy forms prior to the meeting to ensure that we are prepared for all votes that will take place.

### **2012 Committee Leadership**

Annual Meeting Games:	Simon and Kevin Vance
Beach:	Pete Trantow
Building & Grounds:	Doug and Pete Vance
Communications:	Chad Ervin
Community Service:	Heidi Stevenson
Compensation:	Mike Heroy
Dining Room:	Ann Holtz and David Loving
Fire Marshal:	Chad Ervin
Flowers:	Beverly Rudolph
History:	Kathy Vance

Library:	Teresa Vance
Marina:	Christine Heroy
Nominating:	Pete Vance
Sailing:	Christine Heroy
Tennis:	Renee and Beth Hall
Vespers:	Emily Beynon
Work days:	Lisa Wilson & Andy Cornwell
Bylaws Revision Task Force:	Erwin Schulze

**Miscellaneous messages from the committee leaders:**

- Kathy Vance is ready to start working on gathering histories from Sequanota families. If you would like to work with her - or if you have any suggestions on how or where to store digitized (scanned) materials, please contact her at [kathyvance917@gmail.com](mailto:kathyvance917@gmail.com) or at Sequanota this summer.
- At last year's annual meeting, Heidi Stevenson presented the idea of doing a service project for the Charlevoix community. A service project would be a way for Sequanota families to give back to the area we love. If anyone would like to join a task force to brainstorm ideas, please email Heidi at: [heidicstevenson@me.com](mailto:heidicstevenson@me.com).
- Kevin and Simon Vance have accepted the job of organizing the games for annual meeting. They only said yes with the provision that others continue to step up to lead some of the community favorites like the spider web, the sand castle competition, and fire marshal games. If you have led games in the past or have ideas to add new ones and are willing to help please contact Kevin [ktvance@gmail.com](mailto:ktvance@gmail.com) or Simon [ssvance@comcast.net](mailto:ssvance@comcast.net) .

**Bylaw Revisions Task Force:**

Erwin Schulze and his task force of Alan Ballew, Chad Ervin, Jeff Hall, Josh King, and Kathy Vance have worked very hard throughout the winter to update the Sequanota Club Bylaws. Their task was to ensure that:

- 1) our Bylaws are in compliance with the Michigan Summer Resort and Park Associations Act of 1897 (the act under which we are incorporated)
- 2) our Bylaws reflect the traditions of our community
- 3) our Bylaws are simple and understandable

Erwin and his team have done a great job. The board has reviewed their work and plans to have the revised document in the hands of all club members by July 1. The revised Bylaws will be presented at the Annual

Meeting for a vote. As outlined by the Michigan Summer Resort and Park Associations Act of 1897, a vote to change the Bylaws must be a vote by share.

The Bylaw Revision Task Force also reviewed the Club Rules and Regulations to make sure that they are in line with the Bylaws. The task force has made some recommendations for revisions and have passed these on to the board. The board has several meetings scheduled in June with the hopes of having revised Rules and Regulations in place before the beginning of the season. Club rules are the responsibility of the board and do not require a vote at Annual Meeting.

### **Dining room:**

#### **The summer meal schedule-**

The dining room will open for dinner on Tuesday, June 26, and will open for full lunch/dinner service on Friday, June 29. The dining room will remain open with full service through Saturday, August 18. Meals will be served Tuesday through Saturday.

#### **Pricing-**

Our meal prices continue at the same rate as last year (actually all meal prices have stayed the same since 2008 except for the child's lunch price changing to the same as an adult lunch — a cheeseburger is a cheeseburger). The prices are:

- Lunch - \$5
- Adult dinner - \$8
- Child dinner - \$6

In 2008, we initiated a new method for managing the costs for the dining room. The board, reflecting the consensus of the membership, decided that the dining room is a central part of what it means to be at Sequanota. There are start up costs to open the dining room, hiring a staff (for an 8 week season), buying propane, maintaining equipment, cleaning supplies, etc. The board decided that if the Club wants a dining room, then the cost to open — before we even serve the first meal — should be shared by all cottages. The dining room assessment is set to cover these “open the door costs.” Whether your family chooses to eat in the dining room or not, we all share in maintaining this piece of the Sequanota tradition.

The meal prices are supposed to cover the cost of the meals served with the expectation to break even for the season. The charge is \$8 for dinner whether the meal is spaghetti and meatballs or prime rib. The way this works out — and it has for the last several years under the careful eye of Larry Briggs — is the actual meal cost averages out to what we charge. It is important to remember that this is a community dining room

not a restaurant. We would lose a lot of money if families only signed in for lamb chops and out for chicken quesadillas. This is why we have a policy of not publishing the menu ahead of time. Unlike when many of us were growing up, there are lots of dining choices in the area. I hope, the board hopes, that you continue to choose the club house dining room often.

**Staffing:**

Larry Briggs will be returning as our head chef and Cindy Martin is returning as our chef's assistant. Emily Letts will be our dining room supervisor and book keeper. Nick Hall and two friends, David Alberts and David Baker, will share the two chore person jobs as well as the lifeguard job. I am very excited about the staff and look forward to kicking off the season with a staff meeting and clubhouse cleaning on Thursday, June 21.

**Wait staff:**

As always, it would be wonderfully helpful to have a rough idea of when we will have waiters on site. Please email David Loving [dloving1@comcast.net](mailto:dloving1@comcast.net) or me [jannholtz@att.net](mailto:jannholtz@att.net) to let us know when your children or grandchildren will be available to wait.

Waiters must be between the ages of 14 – 18 (under 18). All waiters must have a work permit in order to work. The Charlevoix County School system is responsible for the permits. The process requires an original birth certificate or a driver's license. Linny needs a copy of the waiter's social security card and an accurate address to process their pay. We regret that we cannot allow non-permitted kids to work in the dining room.

**Vespers:**

Our first Vesper Service of the season is July 1. Our final service will be August 12. Emily Beynon continues this year as our Vespers Chair. Emily says she has most of the season filled for 2012 and even some dates filled for 2013 – for that she sends out a huge THANK YOU. However, she still has several openings for Vespers in July of this year. If you want (or are willing) to do a Vespers service on July 1, July 15 or July 22 please email Emily at [emily@gratefulimages.com](mailto:emily@gratefulimages.com). Emily will post the Vespers schedule on the Clubhouse bulletin board.

**Building and Grounds News:**

This spring the club contracted with Performance Engineers, Inc. to preform a survey of the sewer system and a four month monitoring study. The work will also include a video inspection of the system. When the results of this work are in, we will have good data to make informed decisions about our sewer system.

Several years ago we initiated the proactive practice of “roto-rooting” the club sewer line (not individual

cottage lines) before the season starts. This practice means that we start the year with a clean line. After the work was completed last week Joe showed Emily Beynon what had been pulled out. He told her that the organic material (tree roots, etc) was half of what was pulled out last year. The bad news was that there was a wash rag and many diaper wipes. No matter what product labels may say, **diaper wipes or any other wipes are not flushable at Sequanota.** Please continue to educate your family members and guests that nothing can go down our system except toilet paper and bodily waste.

Every year there are issues of contractors and vendors coming on to club property without proper notification to Joe. This puts him in a difficult situation. Joe has no way of knowing if you want a contractor in or around your cottage. This is primarily an issue for off season, but it is also relevant for the early season when you and your family members are not yet in residence. Doug and Pete Vance have written a document for the club addressing this issue. I have attached it to this letter.

**Marina Reminder:**

Last year the board instituted a rule prohibiting the rental of marina slips. If you allow someone else to use your slip please do not have a monetary arrangement. It is critical that we are not viewed as a commercial marina by regulatory agencies.

**Sequanota Club's 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:**

It has been noted that this year is the 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Sequanota Club. The club has had significant celebrations for the 50<sup>th</sup>, the 75<sup>th</sup>, the 90<sup>th</sup> and the 100<sup>th</sup>. The board has discussed the opportunity and/or need to have special events this year. We could not generate much energy around a 110<sup>th</sup> celebration. If someone is interested in doing something to mark this milestone please contact me with a proposal at [jannaholtz@att.net](mailto:jannaholtz@att.net).

This is all the news that I can think of at this time. I will distribute the Bylaws and the new rules late in June. I will send “electronic bulletin board” messages as the season gears up to make sure that important information is shared with everyone — on the property or not.

Be well and see you soon.



J. Ann Holtz

President, Sequanota Club

From Doug and Pete Vance -

## SECURITY OF SEQUANOTA CLUB'S GROUNDS, FACILITIES AND COTTAGES

Sequanota is a private property. The concerns we have around the use of our bay and water front pale in comparison to the unwanted, unknown people who can come through our front entrance. A secure, safe environment is something we all cherish and value. We need to be active and supportive as a community to retain this sense of security.

We have chosen to not have a locked gate, at least during the season. Our private, secure community has had exceptional success in deterring unwelcome people from inappropriately accessing our grounds. Over the many years, that success is partly attributed to the Club's caretaker living on the grounds and maintaining vigilant security throughout the year. This is the primary reason the Caretaker lives on the grounds.

Cottage owners need to do their part in supporting this role of the Caretaker. We are expected to alert the caretaker when renters or workers (cleaning people, contractors, laborers, utility or cable tv technicians, propane suppliers, etc.) are going to be on the grounds. Such alerting supports the Caretaker in ensuring people on the grounds are invited and have a legitimate purpose. Absent that notice, visitors, whether scheduled or not, may be asked to leave. It also is expected that cottage owners inform the Caretaker when they are arriving so activity in or around the club and respective cottages is anticipated.

During the off season, when the Caretaker is the only representative present on the grounds is also when our cottages are the most vulnerable. Basically, people without legitimate purposes are not welcome and are discouraged. Taking a person's word that they have appropriate purposes puts the Caretaker in a difficult position. Notice should come from the cottage owner in advance of a party's arrival.

There have been some recent instances in lacked alerting of the Caretaker of anticipated legitimate visitors. Please make every effort to call Joe when you have arranged for or anticipate someone coming to Sequanota or your specific cottage. This courtesy will help Joe do his job and may prevent embarrassment when visitors you want are asked to leave.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact Ann Holtz or Doug or Peter Vance

When calling Joe, provide name, company, contact phone number, purpose and approximate date / time of their arrival. 231-547-9517, leave message if no answer.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and assistance.

## ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

Cottage owners are certainly in control of their cottage and who can and cannot occupy it. If there is occasion where you are not available or present and you want someone to enter your locked cottage, it is recommended to arrange with Joe a scheduled unlocking so the vendor or who ever can gain access. If someone, such as a vendor is given a cottage key the caretaker cannot be responsible for the security of a cottage.

Most understand this but it is worth reinforcing the following – The caretaker - an employee of the club, is expected to "close" cottages - shutters, water, electricity etc. Individual cottages are billed for his per cottage hours with a portion going to the club to help defray the caretaker's salary. The Club strongly prefers to use the caretaker for this purpose as each cottage is uniquely plumbed and most familiar to the caretaker.

Caretaker Resource – The Caretaker is a resource for / about things like the sewer, dishwashers, plumbers, electricians etc. and members are encouraged, not required, to consult with the Caretaker for information, assistance or recommendations for repairs. As stated above, at a minimum, the Caretaker should be informed of a vendor's scheduled or emergency visit.