



We are the Detroit Finnish Cooperative Summer Camp Association, founded on the principle of cooperation, working and living together to preserve our Finnish heritage.



John O. Niemi (right), Dave Niemi's grandfather, raking leaves around the camp area.

As we begin a new summer camping season, it is important to remember that it is the membership that makes the Finn Camp what we all want it to be. Members are required to work a *minimum* of 24 hours per year. We recognize that everyone has a busy schedule. However, we are eager to work with you to get projects done. Despite the recent improvements around the grounds, there are still many projects that need attention this spring and summer. Please cooperate with the works administrators to help make these happen. Check the newsletter and website often for updates on projects that need to be completed. If you cannot do a job by yourself, put a team together and make it fun.

Camp owners: Over the past few years, I'm sure you've noticed the great strides that have been made in improving our buildings around the Finn Camp. Continuing along these lines, we would like to see extra efforts made to help maintain our campgrounds in a manner that invites people to become a part of our organization. In order to achieve this goal, camp owners need to do their part. Please join us in our efforts to improve and maintain our facilities by doing your part with your camp. Repair and clean up around your camp in order

to bring it up to the standards that we would like to portray as the cooperative organization that we are.

Also, please remember that there is an enormous amount of general maintenance that needs to be done throughout the summer months to keep our place looking attractive to our friends and neighbors as well as current and prospective members. Most notably, we need help from volunteers to keep the grass mowed and the grounds clean. If you are interested in helping with the mowing, please find someone who can set you up to do this. There are many people around who would be happy to show you how to get started. If everyone does just a little bit each week, an overall project becomes much more manageable. If you're walking around the grounds, take a few seconds to pick up any trash you might see. Keeping our grounds clean and inviting is very important in making our membership proud of Finn Camp.

Thanks to the hard work of our founding members, we have a wonderful organization that we can all be proud of. We own what we all consider to be the best lake in Oakland County. We have beautiful forest lands. We have a nearly 85-year history of cultural events and tradition. And we have acres of recreational land available for our year-round use. We must all work together to maintain and enhance what we have in order to save it for future generations of Finnish-Americans.



Installing the new shutters on the dancehall.



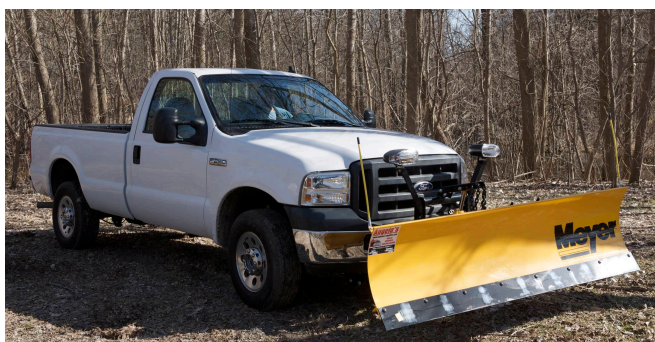
We look forward to a wonderful summer spent working and relaxing with our friends and families of the DFCSCA. Let's all remember to be kind, respectful, courteous—and make the summer of 2009 a great one.

Thank you,

Jeff Pype, President

Board of Directors

New (Used) Truck and Plow



The Finn Camp got a new (used) Ford F-250 Super Duty truck with plow.

Camp Country Opening

On March 27, the camp gates open for the season. Let's start getting ready soon for the summer. Portable toilets will be available until the bathhouses become operational.

Donations

During these tough economic times, the places that help the needy are running short on food and other nonperishable goods. The board of directors has decided that it would be a nice gesture if the Finn Camp could help out. We would like to ask that when you come to the annual meeting, try to bring some canned foods or other nonperishable goods. (Paper goods and cleaning supplies are especially welcome, as these are usually not covered by food stamps.) We will donate all such goods to the Hospitality House on Maple Road in Walled Lake. Thank you in advance for your help.

Beach Manager

The board is entertaining applications for Beach Manager. Starting day (negotiable) is

from Memorial Day to Juhannus; end date, Labor Day. See the Blue Book for the job requirements.

Friday Night Grill Chef Needed

The board is also looking for a volunteer to replace Jason Evans as Friday Night Grill chef. The grill runs every Friday night during the softball season. The first game is April 24. The chef needs to start by about 5:30 p.m., prior to the first game at 6 p.m. Help to get you started will be available. This is a great way to contribute and to put in your work hours.

St. Urho's Day



Members celebrated St. Urho's Day on Saturday, March 14, in the Clubroom. A new king and queen—Erick Leskinen and Joni Sennhenn—were crowned. These two members will reign over the kingdom until next year's St. Urho's celebration. Great food, fun and live music were

enjoyed by all who attended this early spring celebration.

Welcome to Camp Country



Maxine Halperin from Southfield, Michigan is the proud new owner of camp #50, on the west side. Welcome, Maxine, to camp country.

**2009 UPCOMING EVENTS****Forest Cleanup**

April 5, 10 a.m., Sun Lake

Help us clean up the Sun Lake Forest to help rid it of the invasive vines that are killing the trees. We need people of all ages who are strong of body to work on this project. Please bring a bag lunch, drinking water, gloves, cutters, saws, pruning tools, etc. Be sure to wear long sleeves and long pants. Phoenix Honka will announce a contest and have more information at the time of the gathering.

Email her with interests or questions at phoenixhonka@gmail.com.

Dance Hall to Be Jazzed Up

April 18, noon, Dance Hall

Come get your kicks at the kickoff for upgrading the dance hall, Saturday, April 18. Have you been pining to spruce up the well-worn dance floor? Bring your ideas also on redesigning the bar, organizing under the stage, and in general reconditioning the whole dance hall, beyond just the new shutters. Bring us your talent; we'll put you to work! Future work dates will be selected at this first meeting.

For more information, contact one of the following:

Tammie King, 248-313-9334,
tammie@tammieking.com

Mary Burck, 248-471-0144, mburck@mi.rr.com
Jodi Dernberger, 248-819-8964

First Softball Game

April 24

The first softball game is scheduled for April 24 (time and location to be determined). Please look for schedules posted in the sauna, Clubroom and on the website. We are excited to be starting the season and trying to improve upon our third-place finish of last year. Come grab a bite to eat at the Friday Night Grill and cheer on our 2009 Voima Boys!

Annual Meeting

April 26, **noon**, Clubroom, registration at 11 a.m.

All members are encouraged to attend this very important annual meeting. Many key issues will be discussed and voted on. If you wish to have your voice heard, you need to attend. We are a cooperative organization and thus need everyone to contribute in the discussion and voting to make Finn Camp a better place. The May newsletter will be available there for pickup.

Sun Lake Cleanup

May 16, 11 a.m., Sun Lake.

Sponsored by the Sisterhood

Put in some of your work hours Saturday, May 16, starting at 11 a.m. and continuing throughout the day. If you cannot make it right at 11:00, feel free to come at any time. Please bring rakes, gardening implements, gloves, and such for beach cleanup and flower planting. Come on out and help us ready the beach for summer. The board will provide flats of annual flowers, but any donations of perennials would be appreciated.

Fun and Games Night

Sunday, May 24, is part of a long weekend, and if you are free on Sunday evening, come on out to the Clubroom for fun and games. We will have a potluck dinner at 7:00 and a euchre tournament at 8:00 (\$3 entrance fee). We also hope to learn how to play Hand & Foot (a card game enjoyed by many members), dice and assorted other board games. There may even be an outside activity, if the weather permits, so bring a flashlight. To answer the time-honored question, yes, the Clubroom will be open.

Prom Night

June 6. Sponsored by the Sisterhood



Step back in time and enjoy the prom that got away!

Doors open at 5 p.m.; cash bar

Appetizers at 6 p.m.,

dinner at 7 p.m.

Dance the night away with music



from Buck Nekkid. Dinner and dance tickets only \$20 per person. Dance-only tickets \$5 per person. Hurry—advance reservations *are* required.

Deadline is May 31. Call 248-313-9334 or email prom@finncamp.org.

Annual Fishing Derby June 14

Applications being accepted for volunteers.

Duties include

- Prepare buckets
- Count and place worms in containers
- Set up and clean up
- Handle registration and welcoming
- Run games (3)
- Count and measure fish
- Scale fish
- Filet fish
- Cook french fries
- Serve as photographer

Four work hours are given for each job listed. Fruits, salads and dessert donations to serve with lunch are needed.

Thanks bunches,
Sue Slaughter, Fishing Derby Chair
theslaughterhouse@wowway.com

Juhannus June 20

(see details in June newsletter)

BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Future Planning Committee

April 2, 7:30 p.m., Boardroom

Board of Directors

April 15, 7 p.m., Boardroom
No visitors at this meeting

Sisterhood Committee

April 15, 6:30 p.m., Clubroom

Bar Committee

April 18, 6:30 p.m., Clubroom

FOR SALE

Camp #118

Located on the west side. It has a large deck for barbecues and built-in beds that sleep four people comfortably. A new roof was installed in 2008. A very nice camp for \$4,600.

Call Eric Feldt, 248-926-6669
or cell, 734-320-2632.

FROM THE NEWSLETTER EDITORS

Finn Camp Newsletter by Email

To date we have been sending out both printed and emailed newsletters. To lower the printing and mailing costs of the newsletter, a number of members have now signed up to receive their newsletters by email. Starting with this April issue, members who are on the list to receive emailed newsletters will no longer receive a paper copy also. To sign up to receive newsletters via email *only*, send us an email giving your first and last names, saying "Subscribe to Newsletters" in the subject line, to newsletter_editor@finncamp.org.

Newsletter Items

Finn Camp members are welcome to submit items of news to be published in the newsletter. Calendar items should include a brief description of an upcoming event or meeting and contact information.

Items for the next newsletter are due by:

April 16 (date was moved up so we can get newsletters to you sooner)

Email copy to: newsletter_editor@finncamp.org

Or mail it to:

Newsletter Editor
c/o DFCSA
2524 Loon Lake Rd.
Wixom, MI 48393-1654

Or place items in the Clubroom mailbox.

Newsletter committee member are:

David Hall, Sherry Kurin, Erick Leskinen
Brian Pelto, Jeff Pye