



# FINN CAMP NEWSLETTER

April 2021



Photo by Erick Leskinen

This winter Erick Leskinen, Neil Leskinen and Mike Honka trimmed the trees away from the power lines near the dancehall and in camp country. In the past, we had power outages due to tree limbs hitting the power lines. Thank you for taking the initiative to do must-needed maintenance.

## Annual Membership Meeting

The 2021 Annual Membership Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, April 25 beginning at 12:00 noon. Registration begins at 11:00 a.m. The annual meeting will be held outside at the dance hall, weather & state restrictions permitting. In order to expedite the meeting committee chairs will not be giving oral reports.

The board is asking for all committee reports to be submitted in writing by April 10th (email [board@finncamp.org](mailto:board@finncamp.org)).

Copies of reports will be available.

There will be no food at this year's meeting. *Face masks are highly recommended.* It is very important that all members attend the meeting and be part of the decision making process of our association. Many issues will be discussed and voted on.

Motions will be proposed to spend special projects money: not more than \$15,000 to cover expenses & lost revenue due to COVID closures and not more than \$20,000 to have natural gas lines installed at both camp bathrooms (to replace the propane).

## CALENDAR

### April

- 7—**Future Planning Committee**,  
7:00 PM, Clubroom
- 11—**Board Meeting**, 9:00 AM,  
visitors at 11:00 AM.
- 11—**Forest Management Committee**  
10:00 AM, meet at the pole barn
- 25—**Annual Membership Meeting**  
12:00 noon, outside the dance hall  
Registration begins at 11:00 a.m.

### May

- 1 & 2—**Talkoo**
- 5—**Future Planning**  
7:00 PM, in the Boardroom
- 8—**St. Urho's Party**
- 16—**Board Breakfast**  
8:00-11:00 AM, (Menu TBA)
- TBA—**Board Meeting**

**Clubroom:** Closed until further notice

**Sauna Hours:** Saturdays & Sundays  
12:00 Noon to 9:00 PM by Appointment

### UPCOMING EVENTS;

*Note: Not all events are listed on this and other DFCSCA calendars. If you are planning an event, check availability of the specific facility on a certain date, please call 248-882-4626*

**All newsletter material is due on the 15th of the previous month.**



## St. Urho's Party

The St. Urho's Committee is planning to reschedule the Saint's Party for May 8th, if possible. Look for further information in the May newsletter!

— THE SAUNA IS OPEN BY APPOINTMENT ONLY! —



**The sauna remains open Saturdays and Sundays from 12pm-9pm by appointment only (first come first serve) using Signup Genius with only 6 people allowed per side per 2-hour time period - no walk-ins.**

**Sauna is limited to one 2-hour slot per person per day.** A new sign-up link will be emailed and posted on the Members Only Facebook page at the beginning of each week. ***Due to consistently open slots, 1 guest per 2-hour period per side from 2pm-9pm will be permitted (only 1 guest per membership, per day).***

Members sponsoring a guest must be attending sauna during the same time period as their guest but may be using the opposite side. Please use the designated "GUEST" sign-up slot for your guest and indicate the sponsoring members name in the comments. It is the sponsoring members responsibility to make sure guests follow all sauna rules and state COVID-19 regulations. **12pm-2pm is reserved for those 65 years and older and those with health risks for MEMBERS ONLY.**

Children of all ages count as 1 person so please include them on the sign-up if they are attending sauna.

If you are on the delinquent list you will not be permitted to sign-up for sauna until your delinquency status has been lifted. Do not attend sauna if you are ill. Each person will be asked COVID-19 screening questions

upon entry. Please check in with the sauna manager before entering the building. A 24-hour notice to cancel your sauna appointment is required; otherwise you will be billed for the standard sauna fee. Please arrive promptly at your scheduled time, not earlier (*please wait in your car if you are early*). You must be out of the dressing room by the end of your scheduled time. Please be courteous to your fellow members. The sauna will be closed 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. for sanitation.

The lounge area remains closed. You may walk through to the dressing rooms but do not congregate in the lounge. Everyone is required to wear a mask upon entry / exit and inside the dressing rooms and in the bathrooms. It is recommended that masks be worn inside the sauna but not required.

If you are not receiving the email blasts and would like to be added to the list, please email [newsletter\\_editor@finncamp.org](mailto:newsletter_editor@finncamp.org).

Thank you  
for your cooperation and understanding.

## **In Finland**

There are approximately 2.2 million Saunas  
- That's one Sauna for every 2 1/2 people  
There are more Saunas than there are cars  
*Even a Sauna in a Helsinki Burger King!*

## **PRIVATE SAUNA RENTALS**

If you are interested in renting the sauna for private use outside normal operating hours, you can make arrangements through the social director, Joni Sennhenn, at 248-882-4626. The number of occupants for private rentals is limited until further notice to 6 people per side. It is \$25 per hour per side to rent (minimum of 2 hours) with a refundable \$50 cleaning deposit. You can rent one or both sides. The renter is responsible for cleaning the sauna, dressing room, bathroom and shower area after use in order for the cleaning deposit to be refunded. The member must be in good standing (zero balance on Finn Camp account) to rent the sauna. The contract and payment must be submitted to the social director prior to the date of rental.



## FIRST AID KIT UPGRADE



**By Gary Delavan**

With our Centennial celebration fast approaching in 2025, we recognize that we've evolved over time. When Harry Kansman and other leaders spearheaded the effort to get the Finn Camp listed as a Michigan State Historic Site in 2007 and subsequent listing as a National Register of Historic Places in 2007, our legacy was preserved for future generations. There would be no paved parking lots with strip malls, and no motorboats on Sun Lake. We've continued to embrace our Finnish heritage and culture while welcoming new innovations to improve and enhance our way of life. Our camps have gone from canvas and candlelights to shingle-roofed wooden structures with electricity. We have hot water showers in our bath houses. Our woodsmen have gone from using two-man ripaws to powerful chainsaws and electric log splitters.

Even our board room has gone from pencil and paper to a modern office with computers, printers, and copiers. We will continue to evolve as we embrace new innovations.

One such innovation is in the medical world. As you know, the opioid crisis has spiraled out of control in major cities and small communities. We can't pretend that it can't happen in our small community. We hope that it never does. However, we must be prepared. One of our members, David Grogan, has taken a big step in our preparedness for such an occurrence. He has generously donated a NARCAN (naloxone HCL) inhaler to our First Aid Kit at Sun Lake. This is a life-saving device that we would hope we never have to use. However, if one of our members or guests were to fall victim to an opioid overdose, we should be prepared. It is an easily administered inhaler that doesn't need a medically trained person to use, however a subsequent call to 9-1-1 is absolutely necessary even if the victim is resuscitated. This is a very important donation from David. With relaxed laws surrounding the NARCAN prescription, hopefully we'll be able to add subsequent inhalers to our supplies, if needed. The newsletter staff will also look to make sure our First Aid Kit is stocked with the basics. It's better to have these supplies and not need them, than to need them and not have them. Thank you, David Grogan.



Lauri Taipala, Lindsey Taipala, David Taipala, Jody Dernberger, Karina Garland, Brenna Gooden, Kayla Jokinen, Crystal Darwin and Linda Gooden worked over the winter months to paint and clean the clubroom.



## WORK HOURS OPPORTUNITY!

The spring Talkoo is Finn Camp's annual tradition of its' members coming together to prepare the grounds for the summer. Please come out for this event. All ages are invited to join in.

This year's Talkoo will be held on Saturday and Sunday, May 1st and 2nd , from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**Sign in at the Clubroom upon arrival.** Work hours cards must be signed on the day work is completed.

No sauna, food or beverages this spring

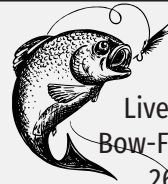
### Need a Seamstress?

For All Your Alterations  
Custom Work & Mending  
Call Cindi Maddick at 248-303-7337



### Your Classified Ad could be here

If you're a member it's free to run a Classified Ad  
See the last page of this newsletter for details



### Lakes Area Bait Shop

Live Bait • Reloading • Fishing Supplies  
Bow-Fishing & Archery • Hunting • Camping  
2600 Benstien Rd. Wolverine Lake  
We're just south of Glengary Road  
248-624-3333

[LakesAreaBaitShop@yahoo.com](mailto:LakesAreaBaitShop@yahoo.com)

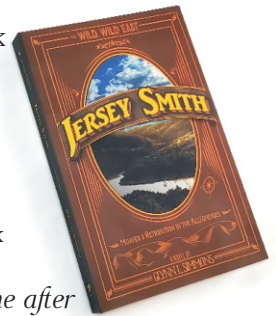
Suppliers to the Finn Camp Fishing Derby

**Jersey Smith**, the new book  
by Finn Camp's Glynn Simmons  
is now available on Amazon



link to the page

in Paperback or E-Book



"Mister, we can see you got someone after  
you, if it's Jersey, well you're in for a hell of a afternoon."

**Cords of Firewood For sale**  
**\$55 for members.**

*Delivery is extra*  
to schedule loading and pick up.  
Call or text Mike Honka at  
248-860-5109

### Affinity Promotions

Specializing in corporate awards and incentives,  
promotional items and apparel. If your business  
is looking for new ways to motivate, reward or  
thank your employees, we can help.

**Call Denise at 248-640-0481**

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**248-595-3725**

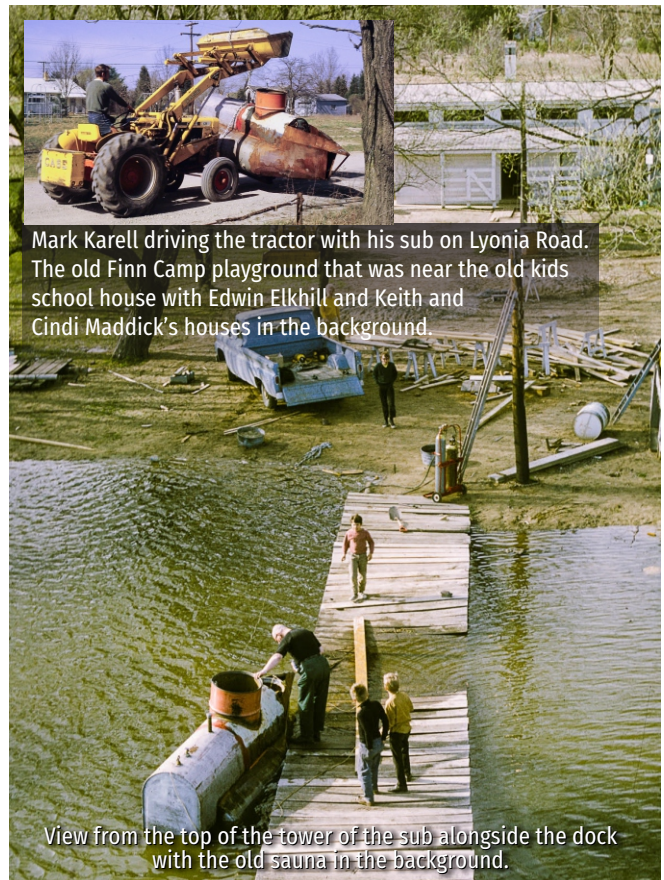


# Submarine in Sun Lake

A long time ago, I heard a story about a submarine that was built and tested in Sun Lake. It was hard to believe if it was true or was it fiction. Just recently, Russ Matero gave me some photographs in the form of slides to scan and one had an object in the water from the top of the tower view. "Ah, there is that sub I read about." I told myself. I asked Russ about it and he found two more slides. There was little known about it, but what I found out is that Mark (Markku) Karell built it in 1969 with help from Dan Aro and Toivo Rentola. It was welded up mostly at Dan's house. Mark used the Case tractor to move it to Sun Lake for testing in the spring before the beach was open for the summer. The sub didn't have any leaks and lead weights were added for ballast to test how far the sub would sink down in the water. This was the only time the sub was put in the lake for a test. Mark decided that the sub was not practical and the project was discontinued.



Mark in the water with his sub at Sun Lake with the kids looking on.



Mark Karell driving the tractor with his sub on Lyonia Road. The old Finn Camp playground that was near the old kids school house with Edwin Elkhill and Keith and Cindi Maddick's houses in the background.

View from the top of the tower of the sub alongside the dock with the old sauna in the background.

Mark was a member as a child of members Jack and Aini Karell. During my research, I found out that Mark died at 73 on July 11, 2020. Here is a link to his [obituary](#).

-Erick Leskinen with Russ Matero, Tina Santti and Karl Santti help.



Photo by Mary Burck

## SISU Sisters

### Hyvaa Kevaa Kaikille

We are so excited to fire up the Butterfly & Herb gardens. There will be gift bags of Milkweed Pods in the Little Library Box by the Clubroom by April 1st. Please help yourself • While supplies last. We hope you plant some seeds and help save the Monarchs.



## Loon Lake & Leppi's Landing

We are continuing our focus on cleaning up Loon Lake & Leppi's Landing this year. If you're interested in getting some early work hours. We are looking for help to pull vines, down trees, broken branches and rake the leaves along the road side fence line on Loon Lake Rd.

We are going to start across from the Caretaker's house. Working our way down to the Westside bathrooms. We will have the dump truck available to pick up debris. *This project works well for social distancing concerns.*

- You will need to bring your own tools & gloves. Please keep the sidewalks clear, so the walkers can get by safely.

If you have any questions or need help please call or email

Tammie King 2486246691  
or [tammie@tammieking.com](mailto:tammie@tammieking.com)

As always...thanks for your help to beautify our beloved Finn Camp! 5

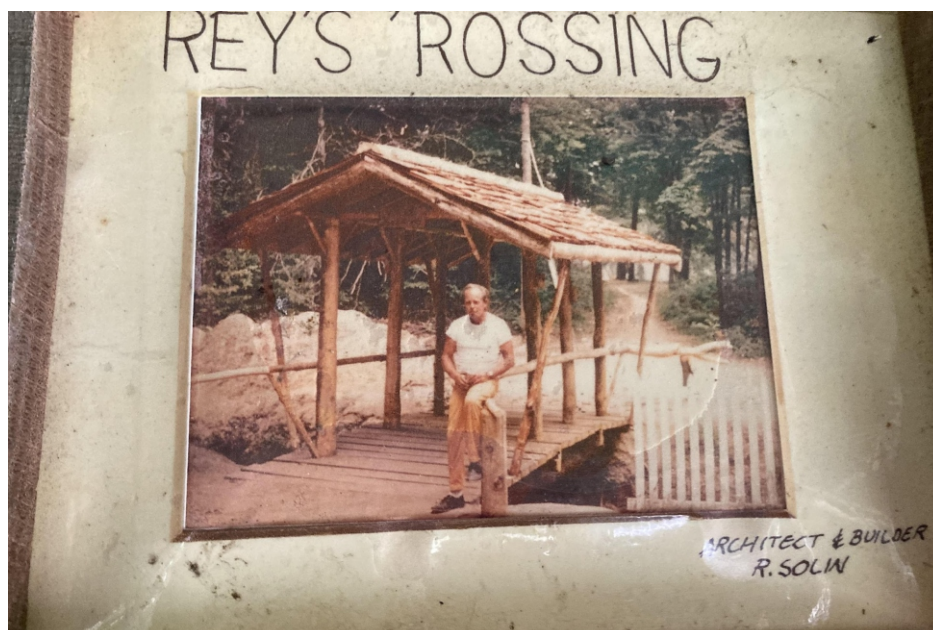


# THE EASTSIDE COVERED BRIDGE

Bridges are the theme of popular songs, of favorite books; they even feature in movies. For centuries they have served an important role in civilization: from connecting neighborhoods, cities, countries and culture to serving as meeting points for idle teens and romantic encounters. They serve double-duty as landmarks and aesthetic structures. At Finn Camp we are fortunate to have our own miniature version: a ruggedly-handsome covered bridge connecting the Eastside camps to the *kenttää*!

Walk over the bridge to the *kenttää* in the spring as the tender green buds begin to emerge on the branches; listen to the notes of the cheerful birdsong. Stroll over it in the dense verdant foliage of summer; watch a snake slither into the woods. Wade through the dense mass of leaves underfoot in the fall; spot an owl up on a high branch. Or trudge over the bridge when it's piled high with drifted snow and follow the tracks of a rabbit or squirrel. Irrespective of the season, it's always a special spot!

If you look up at the rafters you'll see a small photo of a middle-aged man, sitting casually on the handrail, a peeled sapling. The heading: REY'S 'ROSSING. A short explanation of the spelling: since these initial combinations of consonants don't occur in Finnish, some first-generation Finnish speakers of English had some difficulty pronouncing the initial consonant clusters containing an *r* [br-, cr-, pr-, tr-], so **B**ruce's **C**rossing became '**R**uce's '**R**ossing [my grandparents lived in this small town in the UP]; **T**ROUT **C**reek became '**R**out '**R**eeK. And so on. Eventually it became a kind of joke among second-generation Finns.



The Rey of "Rey's 'Rossing" is Reino Solin, whose sons Reino and Eric are both Finn Camp members. The bridge was both designed and built by Rey [fondly known at the campgrounds as "Rey Dad"] and stands close to the original family camp, now owned by Eric. In an effort to stem the rising water from Sun Lake, a trench had been dug between Sun Lake and Loon Lake. As water from Sun Lake filled the trench, the need for a bridge soon became apparent.

Simple planks originally provided a crossing, but persistent moisture eventually decayed the wood. Member Russ Mattero suspects that Rey chose to cover the present bridge--built in 1969--as protection from rain, snow and leaves. According to him, the roof's cedar shingles lasted about 40 years and were replaced by Reino and Erik. A little TLC is necessary for maintaining its beauty, and an occasional board or two has of necessity been replaced over the years.

Rey was a master of brick and mortar, as well. A bricklayer and mason, he also built the massive Clubhouse fireplace in the 1960s, the Voima Boys' flagpole stand, and the cement-block wall surrounding the sauna dressing rooms [early 1980s].

Thanks to Eric Solin, Russ Matero, Carol Melancon and Harry Kansman for their contributions to this article.





## BOARD NOTES & REMINDERS

The Board is accepting applications for all paid positions such as Bookkeeper, Caretaker, Bar Manager, Assistant Bar Manager, Beach Manager, etc. All applications should be in writing and submitted to the Board of Directors by April 1.

New work hour cards are now located at the sauna building and the clubroom.

In April 2021 there will be three seats open on the board. Please consider running for a position. We need YOU!

The Board would like to remind all members that the use of heavy equipment must only be done with approval of the mechanical committee. Contact the board for permission to use the equipment.

Members with suggestions, comments or board-related business are asked to e-mail [board@finncamp.org](mailto:board@finncamp.org). General questions may be answered by visiting [www.finncamp.org](http://www.finncamp.org).

**Attention all committees:** The Board would like for you to communicate with us regarding events, projects and fund-raises you are planning. We would like to support your endeavors and projects and would like to make sure that multiple committees are not planning on tackling the same area to prevent overlapping, or we can connect those committees so they can work together. The social director should also be contacted prior to scheduling events to prevent conflicts with other events or activities.

**Trash Rules:** Dumpsters are for members use only! Do not put in large or long items that may wedge or jam the dumpster when being tipped into the garbage truck. No major dumping on festival weekends. No overfilling. No furniture, propane tanks, wood, construction materials or other large items are to be left in, by or around the dumpster. Large items can be placed at roadside near the tractor garage on Tuesdays for Wednesday pickup. The dumpster at Sun Lake is for Finn Camp projects only. No personal or camp debris is allowed.

The board is looking for a volunteer to be the head of the maintenance committee. Please contact the Board of Directors.

The Finn Camp has a member's only group on Facebook. If you are not a member of the group and would like to be added contact Linda Gooden at [gooden\\_71@hotmail.com](mailto:gooden_71@hotmail.com) with your email address and she will add you to the group. This group will include private members only events. Work projects can be another form of communication to our members.

You can now pay your Finn Camp bill online with PayPal by using [treasurer@finncamp.org](mailto:treasurer@finncamp.org). You must select "Transfer to friends & family" and pay directly from your PayPal or bank account to avoid a fee. All fees incurred by Finn Camp will be charged to that member's account. Fees will be charged if paying with a credit card or selecting "transfer for goods or services."

The camp social director is Joni Sennhenn. Please contact Joni at 248-882-4626 to make a reservation for the beach and sauna area, the Kenttä, Dance Hall or Clubroom. Note: There is no rental fee for committee sponsored events. You will need to go through the social director however to ensure the venue is available.



### Automotive Repair

If you are looking for a great mechanic and want a fair price look no more. I am a certified automotive technician. If you are in need of light auto repairs please give me a call!

**Rob Zewatsky 248-877-0601**

Estimates will be provided with every request!

## Finn Camp Store



*Come shop at the Finn Camp store.*  
Lots of new tee shirts, mugs, hats and back packs.  
For access to the store during off hours,  
call Patti Leppi, Ph: 248-921-1432,  
or email, [Store@finncamp.org](mailto:Store@finncamp.org).

### Free "Classified" Ads

All members are invited to list here any services—for pay or barter—that they would like to advertise, whether it's a service such as handyman or seamstress or pet care or seasonal activities like garage sales. All you have to do is provide the following information:

- The type of service offered; a description of just what you do as the service provider;
- Your price (hourly rate, job rate, to be negotiated, or whatever);
- Your name; and your contact information (preferred method and times: phone, email, etc.).
- Total length, including spaces, should not exceed 50 words, not counting the headings. (Over 50 word copy will be edited to fit.)
- The deadline is the same as the date for newsletter copy: the 15th of each month.



### BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

#### Future Planning

Wednesday, April 7, 7:00 p.m., Clubroom

#### Board of Directors

Sunday, April 11, 9:00 a.m., visitors at 11:00 a.m.

#### Forest Management

Sunday, April 11, 10:00 a.m., meet at the pole barn

### ANNUAL FINN CAMP ASSESSMENT

Your annual Finn Camp assessment was invoiced on February 1 and was due by March 1. If you chose to receive your invoice via email you will not receive a paper copy in the mail and it will be emailed from

[quickbooks@notification.intuit.com](mailto:quickbooks@notification.intuit.com).

*If you have not received your invoice please email [treasurer@finncamp.org](mailto:treasurer@finncamp.org).*



## I'm Looking for a Handy-Person

*I'd like some help with a few projects on my camp*

Contact Connie for details: 313-492-8862

or e-mail at: [cclynny@aol.com](mailto:cclynny@aol.com)

*It's camp #154, Thank You.*

# FINN CAMP

### Newsletter

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*All material for newsletter articles is due by the 15th of the month. Please visit the Finn Camp website at [www.finncamp.org](http://www.finncamp.org).*

### CORRECTION

In the March newsletter story about the power house, we misspelled the name of former member and electrician **Corky Korhonen**. We regret the error. Thank you, Tina Santti for setting us straight