



# FINN CAMP NEWSLETTER

July 2021



Photo by Tammie King

by Madeline Salonen

What's the profile of a true Finn? Hardworking, committed, reserved, speaks Finnish [yes, really?], enjoys sincere friendship, loves nature, kahvi, pulla, and ruisleipä [rye bread]. If you've had the opportunity to get to know Jouni here at Finn Camp, you know he's the real deal!

You may have seen him with the Loon Lake fence clean-up crew, planting a tree, with the Voima boys, at the Sauna, working with the Forest Management Committee, or scraping and painting the tractor garage-- always with a smile and huge amounts of *sisu* and *voima*! He seems to be energized by work!

Somehow he balances his zeal for work with play: he skis, exercises, rides a bike, travels. So how did a Finn from Helsinki/Tampere end up spending time here in Wixom at Finn Camp? It's an unusual story...

Three years ago Jouni accepted a customer program management position with TomTom in Farmington Hills. He and his wife Hanna (a fellow Finn whom he met in Germany!) and their children chose to live in Walled Lake near Walled Lake Western High School for the duration of their stay in Michigan. It was a convenient location for schools for their son Viljami and daughter Lilli and not far from Jouni's workplace.

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## CALENDAR

### July

- 5—Swim Lessons Begin (TENTATIVE)
- 9—Voima Boys Softball, 6:00 PM
- 14—Board Meeting, 6:00 PM, No Visitors
- 16—Voima Boys Softball, 6:00 PM
- 17—Movie Night, Outside Dancehall 8:30 PM
- 23—Voima Boys Softball, 6:00 PM
- 25—Board Meeting, 9:00 AM, Visitors at 11:00 AM
- 30—Voima Boys Softball, 6:00 PM

### August

- 6—Voima Boys Softball 6:00 PM
- 7—Movie Night Outside the Dance Hall 8:30 PM
- 7&8—Children's Weekend
- TBD—Board Meeting
- Finn Fest cancelled (see page 6 for details)

#### • The Clubroom

*is now open to Members & Guests  
on Wednesday, Friday & Saturday Nights  
7:00 PM - 11:00 PM*

#### • Sauna Hours:

**Saturdays & Sundays:** 1-3pm for Seniors & High Health Risk Individuals. 3-9pm is open for anyone.

**Wednesdays:** 3pm-9pm for anyone  
(there are no senior hours on Wednesdays)

#### UPCOMING EVENTS;

*Note: Not all events are listed on this and other DFCSA 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 each month.**





## Recreation Committee News

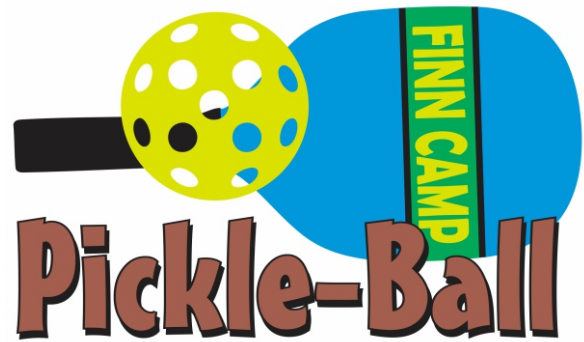
Fishing Derby: 201 fish caught! Congratulations to Denny Shaheen on his 18" bass and Scott Taipala on his whopping 63 fish caught. Best part was seeing all of the little fishers that came out and even helped clean some of the fish!!



- Swim Program: We have yet to secure arrangements to provide for swim lessons.

- Children's Weekend: We are on the look-out for kids of all ages and experience, to join our **Finn Camp Kids Chorus**.

First performance will be Saturday, August 7<sup>th</sup> as part of Children's Weekend. A packet of songs will be provided, practice dates will be set and songs will be sung!!  
*Solo artists welcome!!*



### 1st Annual Pickleball Tournament

Winners - Denny & Faith

2nd Place - Iggy & Steve

3rd Place - Robert & Gavin



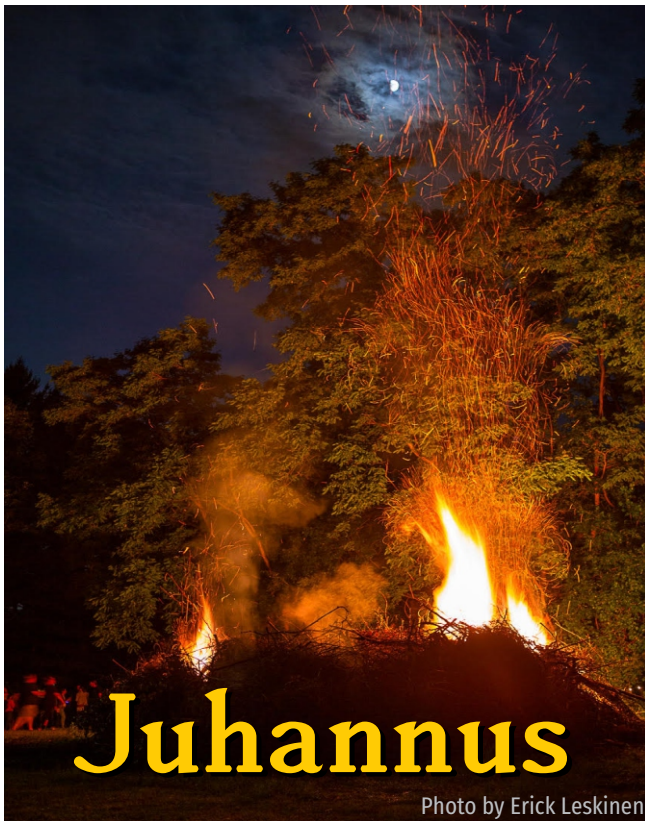
Unfortunately the rains came and put a damper on things at first but then Faith & Denny brought the heat! They won both games to take home first place. Iggy & Steve kept the game close in their loss to the champions but walloped Gavin & Robert to take home second place. Watch out for future tournaments! Also, there's plenty of equipment in the softball shed and the net is always up! Give it a try!



Last fall Amber & Rob Pisha built two sets of Cornhole Game Boards. One set will be at Sun Lake Beach and the other will be at Loon Lake. This spring Amanda and Israel Nordin worked their creative magic and did a sweet urban camouflage paint job. Amanda also sewed together sets of the bean bags for both locations. Bean bags will be stored in the Sauna building Office. At Loon Lake we will store the bean bags in the Little Library Box on the Westside Bathroom building. We can only afford to provide the first set of bean bags. Amanda Nordin will be making more bean bags if you would like to buy a set for your personal use. We hope you enjoy some Cornhole Fun! --another project idea of *The Sisu Sisters*

**UP FOR A GAME?**





This years Juhannus celebration was a huge success despite the downpours we had throughout the day - thank you Ukko! A brief history lesson: before the midsummer festival was renamed to Juhannus (after John the Baptist during the advent of Christianity) it was known to Finlanders as "Ukon juhla" or "Ukko's celebration". Ukko is the Finnish God of the sky, weather, harvest and thunder. He definitely gave us a show on Saturday! Despite Ukko's multiple appearances, there was an estimated crowd of about 300 people! A pickleball tournament was had, although slightly rain-delayed. Winners were Denny Shaheen & Faith Kepler, followed by Iggy Taipala & Steve Clements, with Robert Taipala & Gavin Wing, Jr. taking 3rd. There was also a horseshoe tournament with Jacob Hill & Marty Hill taking first place. The recreation committee arranged wish stick making which was a huge hit among all age groups. An impromptu jam session in the ravintola took place before the live Finnish music. They really got the crowd going! The live Finnish music continued at the Kokko, an essential part of the celebration that was enjoyed by everyone, young and old. The Wixom Fire Department attended the Kokko with one of their fire engines, which the kids loved. I would like to thank everyone who helped make this event happen: those who sold raffle tickets, Sherry the button seller, those who ran the games, those

who played music and entertained the crowd, and those who worked in the kitchen. A special shout-out to Jim Santti for managing the kitchen for the weekend. We could not have done it without all of you! Next Year's Juhannus celebration is scheduled for June 25th so mark your calendar and tell your friends! We have Ismo (a Finnish Comedian) scheduled to perform after multiple cancellations due to COVID-19. It will be the greatest Juhannus celebration yet! Kiitos!

-Amber Martin



*Joni shows her wish stick to Denny. Wish sticks were made to toss into the kokko and make a wish! Supplies provided compliments of the Recreation Committee.*



**St. Urho 2021 King Scott Taipala  
and  
St. Urho 2021 Queen Karina Garland  
at Juhannus kokko.**



On a warm Sunday morning in July, the recently-relocated family was enjoying breakfast on the patio. His wife Hanna inquired aloud, "I wonder if there are any Finnish places around here?" To answer her own question, she picked up her cell phone and did a Google search. "You won't believe it. There's a Detroit Finnish Cooperative Summer Camp Association just a few miles from here!" Within minutes they were on their way to check out this curious destination.

They drove the short distance to the clubhouse, where they were greeted by the "Tervetuloa" plate at the entrance and smell of breakfast being served at the *ravintola* or *kesäkeittiö* [summer kitchen]. At the *kesäkeittiö* they happened to meet Harry Kansman who was enjoying breakfast and they asked, "Are there any Finns around here?"

After chatting a bit together, Harry led them to the Board of Directors' meeting, where he introduced Jouni and Hanna to the Board. Bob O'Brien, then president, suggested, "Tell us about yourselves." Jouni responded, "We're from Finland and we just found you guys by accident!" Harry sponsored the couple and Finn Camp welcomed their new Finnish members!

We asked Jouni what his impressions of Finn Camp were; his response: "It's an amazing experience. I really appreciate this place. It's so active as a community in maintaining its Finnish heritage."

**Me:** What do you find special about Finn Camp?

**Jouni:** The land and the property on the lake, the huge area. The clean lake. It would be unaffordable now. It's so unique.

**Me:** What do you find unique here at Finn Camp?

**Jouni:** The sense of community, how people connect, like through Facebook. And how they really care about the place. Doing the work hours together builds strong "Finn Camp" spirit. That is great.

**Me:** What do you find here that is still truly Finnish?

**Jouni:** It's a really good Finnish sauna! It's got a big steam room and lots of air! The steam is soft and enjoyable. And I detect Finnish design here too, like the diving tower.

**Me:** What about the buildings? Do they remind you of Finland?

**Jouni:** Yes, especially the dance hall. It's like old Finland. The time clock has stopped here and the heritage has carried on.

**Me:** Does it remind you of Finland when you see the lakes and trees here?

**Jouni:** Yes, the nature and the simple surroundings. But oak trees aren't that common in Finland. I suggest you plant some white birches here. That would definitely make a special Finland-like impression.

At the end of July Jouni and his 18-year old son Viljami will pack up their belongings and head for a new country and a new culture: Hannover, Germany. That is where his wife Hanna and daughter Lilli moved already last year. And next year his son will go to one year of service in the Finnish Army, which is mandatory for Finnish citizens.

But before he leaves, he'll add what Finn Camp is still missing: a white birch tree at Sun Lake! Each summer when we return to the beach and see "Jouni's birch," we'll think of his joyous and helpful spirit.

#### A few words from Jouni:

*"I hope this birch tree grows strong as the Finn Camp has done. Let it blossom and provide a Finnish-style look and feel to the sauna beach. At some point hopefully the Finn Camp members can enjoy making "Vihta" for the Sauna from its branches. (If you ever have the chance to visit a summer camp in Finland, you know what I am talking about).*

*I want to express my sincere thanks to all Finn Camp members for having our family with you during the past three years. This is a sad moment when we give up our Finn Camp membership but I hope we will have the opportunity to visit you as guests in the future.*

*We wish all the best to Finn Camp and hope to see you soon. Take care!"*

We'll be sorry to see Jouni and Viljami go but happy to know they'll be reunited with Hanna and Lilli. Kiitos!

We wish you all the best on your next adventure!

by Madeline Salonen





Hi Everyone,

We would like to give a shout out to Jim & Brenda Flinkman for tackling the log bench in the Butterfly Garden area. A simple job of sanding off the flaking varnish turned into quite a project.

They noticed all the loose bark revealing hundreds of termites and eggs. Exterminating was necessary to prolong the life of the bench. Once that was completed, they sanded off all the old varnish. Two new coats of Spar-Marine Varnish were applied over the entire surface. We are sooo grateful for all their hard work & determination. Thank you again Jim & Brenda!!!

The Giving Herb Garden has fresh herbs to share with you.



## BOARD NOTES & REMINDERS

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

The Board would like to remind all members that the use of heavy equipment must only be done with approval of the mechanical committee. Rob Zewatsky is the mechanical committee chair. Contact Rob or 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.

**Facility Reservations:** Any member interested in renting the clubroom, dancehall, ravintola, or beach should contact the social director, Joni Sennhenn, at 248-882-4626. Also, all committees should verify venue availability with the social director prior to scheduling events as private rentals may conflict.

**Camp rentals** are handled through the Board of Directors. Any member looking to rent their camp should complete a camp rental form and submit it to the Board prior to the rental date.

Email [board@finncamp.org](mailto:board@finncamp.org).

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.

# FINN FEST

**CANCELLED**

**2021**

**Our 45th FINN FEST has been Cancelled.**

Again this year, after plenty of discussion and review of options, it is with great disappointment that Finn Fest will be cancelled. Unfortunately, we have not been able to secure a replacement team to manage kitchen operations for the weekend and that is the primary component to the success of the festival.

I am so very grateful for the support we have had from our members and friends over the years as well as the memories and stories that will be shared for years to come.

Thank you to everyone!

Robyn Jokinen, Finn Fest Chairman

## Finn Camp Golf Opener



This years annual golf outing was at Riverbank golf course. Chris Nordin took over for Dave Niemi after many years of Dave doing an amazing job holding the helm.

Alongside Chris was Jim Nygord and Dave Shaw. The weather was perfect, the greens were fast and the fairways were long. In the past this outing has been a men's outing but this year we have opened it up to women as well. We had 15 foursomes and had to turn three foursomes away due to late registration. So that's a total of 18 foursomes which was a great success!

Thanks to everyone who participated and we look forward to the fall outing season closer. It will be in late Sept or early Oct the date is being worked out.



This year movies will be outside between the ball field and the horseshoe pit.  
(Weather conditions permitting - if the weather is poor, we will host inside)

- Please bring your own chair or blanket to sit on.
- Movie Selections & Updated Info on Facebook.

We look forward to seeing you all there!

-Jenny and James Emery

## The 1st Annual Lenkki was a HUGE success!!



Thank you to everyone that came out and walked the laps! Also, a GIGANTIC thank you to Cory, Erin & Mile Sturr, Jackson Pye and Cindi Maddick for the help in the kitchen. It was great hearing the comments about seeing new places or it was decades since some parts were seen. I look forward to expanding this event in the future and can't wait till next year!





## — Finn Camp Store —



Finn Camp bag has a water proof lining.  
Also available in khaki. \$25

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



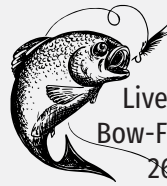
### Need a Seamstress?

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

### 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,  
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## BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

### Future Planning

TBD, Contact Gavin Wing, Jr.

### Board of Directors

Wednesday, July 14, 6:00 p.m., no visitors

Sunday, July 25, 9:00 a.m. Visitors at 11:00 a.m.



## Summer at the Finn Camp



## 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.*

## In Finland

### Freedom to Roam – The Right to Public Access

Just like the neighboring Scandinavian countries, you can enjoy the freedom to roam and have the right to public access. This basically means that you can forage mushrooms, berries, and flowers, camp, walk and enjoy nature as long as you don't litter.

### 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.



### Newsletter

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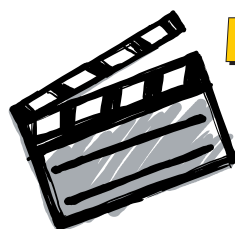
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*All material for newsletter articles is due by the 15th of the month. Please visit the Finn Camp website at [www.finncamp.org](http://www.finncamp.org).*



## MOVIE NIGHTS-OUT

**Back for 2021!**

(see page 6)