



Polar Dippin' at Winterfest 2016.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

*Note: Not all events are listed on this and other D.F.C.S.C.A. calendars. If you are planning an event and wish to check the availability of a specific facility on a certain date, please call Joni Sennhenn at 248-882-4626.*

#### Winterfest 2016 a Great Success

Thank you to all who helped to make Winterfest 2016 such a great success, beginning with our "ice hole" crew of Keith Maddick, Paul Salo, Denny Sennhenn and Robert Taipala. Thanks to Lindsey Taipala for being our sauna master, to Mike and Denise Niemasz and Belinda Hughes for selling buttons, and the button photo by Erick Leskinen. Also thanks to Bev Jokinen for designing and Eric Melancon for making the beautiful buttons. Thank you to Chili Master Chuck Rudzski, Greg Peltó and helpers Mike Niemasz and Millie Packard and Will Allen. Thank you to our beach help Gina (Parisi) Weidman, Crystal Soli, Laina Benestad, our bartenders Pam Linick and Sherri Martin and Jody Dernberger for helping with clean-up. We had a day with beautiful weather and a great turnout. There were more than 66 polar dippers, and we had 21 chili entries. Our chili cook-off winners were: First place, Amber Martin; Second place, Shelly Mazurek; Third place, Will Allen. Again, thank you to everyone who helped and supported this fun wintertime event. We apologize if we missed anyone. —Linda Gooden and Lauri Taipala

#### Family Game Night

Come out Saturday, March 5, at 7:30 p.m. to check out the beautiful new bar top and enjoy a family-friendly game night in the Clubroom. A euchre tournament will start at 8:00 p.m. sharp! Please bring any board or card games you would like to share. And a snack for the food table would be appreciated.

#### CALENDAR

##### March

- 3—Future Planning Committee meeting, 7:30 p.m., Boardroom
- 5—Family Game Night, 7:30 p.m., Clubroom
- 9—Sisu Sisters meeting, 6:30 p.m., Clubroom
- 12—**St. Urho's Day**, 8:00 p.m., Clubroom
- 13—Forest Management Committee, 10:00 a.m., meet at pole barn
- 20—Board meeting, 10:00 a.m., visitors at noon

##### April

- 7—Future Planning Committee meeting, 7:30 p.m., Boardroom
- 13—Sisu Sisters meeting, 6:30 p.m., Clubroom
- 10—Forest Management Committee, 10:00 a.m., meet at pole barn
- 17—Board meeting, 10:00 a.m., visitors at noon
- 24—**Annual meeting**: registration, 11:00 a.m. Meeting starts at noon

Sauna hours: Wed., 6:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m. when volunteer available; Sat., 3:00—9:00 p.m.

**All material for newsletters is due on the 15<sup>th</sup> of the previous month.**

**First Prize: Longest Trip to Attend Winterfest 2016**



Four Grand Valley State University students traveled across Michigan from Grand Rapids to attend Winterfest 2016. Fellow students and friends (*left to right*) Mackenzie McKeever, Holly Davis, Anna Szalay and Rachel Koning took one bus from Grand Rapids to Kalamazoo, then another to Ann Arbor. Mackenzie’s mother, Finn Camp member Michele Ebel, picked up the girls at the Ann Arbor bus station for the final leg of the trip to Finn Camp. All four of the girls did the Polar Dip into Sun Lake. Mackenzie’s grandmother is former member Midge Warden O’Neill.

**St. Urho’s Party**



Current St. Urho Queen Leah Honka Paukovits and King Rob Johnson

The 2016 St. Urho’s party will be held on Saturday, March 12, in the Clubroom starting at 8:00 p.m. There is a \$6 cover. Come enjoy a DJ, prizes, raffles, fun, food and the crowning of the new king and queen. And don’t forget to wear your purple and green, so you don’t get fined! Weather permitting, camp country may be open. —The St. Urho’s Committee

**Camps for Sale**

*Nyt on oikea aika ostaa leirl.*  
Now is the time to buy a camp.



*Camp 103, West Side*  
Charming cottage-style cabin of high-end materials: real stucco exterior, terra-cotta tile, Old World textured walls and ceiling. Under-cabin storage conceals yard tools, larger patio items. Fully decorated. \$5,000 cash. For a tour or more information, call Crystal: 310-990-8509.

*Camp 80, West Side*  
Built in 2006.  
Refrigerator, furniture, new locks.  
Asking \$5,000. Call Carol Wingert:  
248-568-1960



*Camp 106, west side*  
New roof, many extras  
Call Tom:  
586-770-2156



## **FinnFest USA 2017**

FinnFest USA is planning to hold its annual festival in the greater Detroit region in 2017. While the actual date and specific location is still under discussion, FinnFest USA is asking Detroit-area people to join together to bring FinnFest USA back to the Detroit region for the first time since 1987. With the second-largest Finnish population among metro regions in the U.S., Detroit creates an excellent site for the U.S.A.'s national celebration of Finland's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. What better way for Americans to commemorate a Finnish anniversary than to come to Detroit, home of the American automobile industry, where so many Finnish people came to work after their grandparents or parents migrated from Finland. Think Henry Ford Museum and the General Motors campus. Add Cranbrook, the institute through which the Saarinens and their colleagues introduced America to Finland's artistic gifts. Add sites like Finn Camp, one of the few remaining active camps founded by Finns in America. Yes, Detroit provides a wonderful place to celebrate the past, the present and the future of Finland and Finnish America.

FinnFest USA, the nonprofit corporation that creates the annual national festival, invites you to help create the 2017 festival. We want this festival to be about what Americans might enjoy experiencing about Finland and Finnish America today. We need to learn about your knowledge and interests. Help us define local resources. Hockey players, yes, but what else puts Finland and Finnish Americans on the map? We welcome volunteers to work on the different committees forming to create the festival. Join people from across the country to plan a festival that will be both fun and educational, a festival that will make Finland and Finnish America visible and tangible. Help us find the Detroit-area resources that only you know and can help make happen.

If you can't commit to volunteering now, think about volunteering just before the festival, during the festival or just after it. You could volunteer time and reduce your costs to attend the festival. In 2017, FinnFest USA will create in Detroit a Finnish American pop-up town, not just an ethnic festival, and you can be a part of making it happen.

Contact Carol Melancon (FinnCulture@Yahoo.com) to be put on a list of people who would consider volunteering. Volunteer yourself, yes, but also volunteer friends, neighbors, family members. There will be tasks for all age groups, including those in middle school. Nothing too hard or time consuming, but always helpful, useful and fun. Also consider sending an email to FinnFest USA, telling us about your interests and your ideas. Send emails to the president of FinnFest USA, Marianne Wargelin, at kmwargelin@comcast.net.

## **Finn Camp Featured in *Finnish American Reporter***

The February issue of the *Finnish American Reporter*, the de facto newspaper of record for all things Finnish in North America, devoted the whole of a tabloid-sized page to an illustrated history of Finn Camp by the current chairperson of

### **Lakes Area Bait Shop**

Live Bait. Reloading.

Supplies for Fishing,  
including Bowfishing.

Hunting, Camping, Archery

2600 Benstein Rd.,  
Wolverine Lake  
(south of Glengary Rd.)  
Ph.: 248-624-3333  
LakesAreaBaitShop@  
Yahoo.com

Suppliers to the Finn Camp  
Fishing Derby

### **Cords of Firewood for Sale**

\$50 for members, \$60  
nonmembers.  
Delivery extra.

Contact Mike Honka,  
ph. 248-860-5109

### **Need a Seamstress?**

Call Cindi Maddick for all your  
alterations, custom work and  
mending at

248-303-7337

our Cultural Committee, Carol Melancon. (She was erroneously identified in the *FAR* piece as chairperson of the full D.F.C.S.C.A.) The article was heavily researched and written by Carol, then edited by this newsletter's chairperson, David Hall, and illustrated and contributed to by the Newsletter Committee's graphics expert and web master Erick Leskinen.

In June 1925 the precursor organization of the D.F.C.S.C.A. bought a 100-acre farm on Loon Lake under a land contract for \$32,000 and established what we now know of as Finn Camp. Soon scrub was removed around Sun Lake and truckloads of sand dumped for a beach. Then the athletic field was created, on a base of old cars and such junk to stabilize the swampy land. Finn Camp survived the Depression, a calamitous rain in 1934, a collapse of the original four-story Sun Lake diving tower, and many another crises. Today, at the age of 90, it has a fifth-generation membership and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The details that flesh out this story, which includes a full interview with 100-year-old Finn Camper Reino Mustonen, the Finn Camp's oldest member, are worth a subscription to the *FAR* at [www.finnishamericanreporter.com](http://www.finnishamericanreporter.com) or by calling 906-487-7549.

### **Congratulations!**

Gina Parisi and Joe Weidman were married January 26, surrounded by family and friends.



Shop the Finn Camp Store, in the Clubroom, whatever the season! We have t-shirts, hats, hoodies, koozies, and Finnish CDs. For access to the store during off hours, call Patti Leppi, at 248-921-1432, or email her at [Store@finncamp.org](mailto:Store@finncamp.org).

## Member Spotlight: Reino and Shirley Jokinen



Reino and Shirley Jokinen both graduated from Rock High School in the Upper Peninsula. They were married in 1952, then moved to Detroit. Reino served in the U.S. Army. The flags at Loon Lake are in his honor. (Reino passed away in 1991.) Shirley and her mother, Katherine Larson, funded and arranged to have flag poles installed and furnished with the Finnish and American flags that had been presented to her from the VFW in Frazier, where Reino was a member. A plaque is installed at the flag pole base. Reino was with General Motors, retiring after twenty-five years. Shirley worked for the Frazier school district and retired after thirty years. Shirley says, "The first time I was at the Finn Camp was attending the Viola Turpeinen dance in 1949, and she was great!" Reino and Shirley became members in 1983 and bought camp 94. She still owns it. They have four sons: Gary, Dennis, Michael and Wayne are all members and three have camps. Shirley has nine grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. Two of her grandchildren have camps also. The family's custom is that after the raising of the flag on Memorial Day each year, the Jokinens have a family photo taken and then have a party at camp 94. Shirley recalls that "we have all enjoyed all the activities over the years. Now our children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren can also enjoy the camp. I am very proud to be a member at the Finn Camp. And I look forward to any time I get to spend time there. I now have been living at Pine Ridge, a senior home, for the past year and a half."

## Planning Ahead Paid Off

A big wind storm on Friday, February 19, knocked out power to the subdivision near Finn Camp and felled trees along Loon Lake Road. But we had no fallen trees in camp country, because we had been proactive with tree cutting and trimming over the past year. Many camps could have been seriously damaged had we not taken this action. Works Administrator Chris Eilola reports that "we have completed 80 to 85 percent of the tree and limb removal and expect to be completed by March 31."

The band Moonshine Stew played for free at the Finn Camp wine tasting event and at a discounted rate for our Christmas party. They are playing in Royal Oak on March 18<sup>th</sup>.

www.facebook.com/Moonshine-Stew

Friday, March 18th  
9:00 pm  
\$5 Cover  
Boo's inside Mr. B's Pub  
215 S Main Street  
Royal Oak, MI 48067  
248.399.0017

### **From the Auditors**

The Finn Camp Store, Recreation Committee and Sisu Sisters are required to turn in their financial records for the year to any one of the auditors (Greg Pelto, Mary Johnson, Ed Elkhill, Sam Dernberger), or give them to a board member to put on the Boardroom table. Before the end of March we need the records through February 29. For the store we just need the inventory on hand. We need the financial records from both the Sisu Sisters and the Recreation Committee. We will have the records back to you as soon as we can. Please indicate how much money you have in cash. Thank you for your cooperation. —Sam Dernberger

### **BOARD NOTES AND REMINDERS**

The Board is now accepting applications for Bookkeeper, Bar Manager, Assistant Bar Manager, Caretaker and Beach Manager.

The Camp Social Director is Joni Sennhenn. Please contact her at 248-882-4626 if you would like to make a reservation for the beach and sauna area, the *Kenttö*, or the Dance Hall or Clubroom.

Members with suggestions, comments or board-related business are asked to e-mail [board@finncamp.org](mailto:board@finncamp.org). Those looking to add to their work hours should email the Works Administrators at [work@finncamp.org](mailto:work@finncamp.org). General questions may be answered by visiting [www.finncamp.org](http://www.finncamp.org).

Lost and Found: A hammer was found. Call Mike Honka at (248) 860-5109 if you lost one.

### **BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

#### **Board of Directors**

Sunday, March 20, 10:00 a.m., Boardroom, visitors at noon

#### **Future Planning Committee**

Thursday, March 3, 7:30 p.m., Boardroom

#### **Forest Management Committee**

Sunday, March 13, 10:00 a.m., meet at pole barn

#### **Sisu Sisters**

Wednesday, March 9, 6:30 p.m., Clubroom

### **Finn Camp Newsletter**

(ISSN 2154-5545) is published the first of each month by the Detroit Finnish Cooperative Summer Camp Association (D.F.C.S.C.A.), 2524 Loon Lake Rd., Wixom, MI 48393-1654. Contents copyright © 2016 D.F.C.S.C.A. All rights reserved. Reproduction of this publication in whole or in part, in any form, is forbidden without prior written permission.

#### **Board of Directors**

President: Dan Linick

Vice President: Patti Leppi

Treasurer: Amber Martin

Secretary: Linda Gooden

Works Administrators: Larry Gooden, Kevin Homola, Chris Eilola

**Editorial Staff:** Newsletter Committee Chairperson, copy editor, David R. Hall; Production editor and contributor, Brian Pelto; Designer, photographer and website manager, Erick Leskinen; Contributor, Belinda Arbogast.

**Subscriptions:** Printed newsletters by regular mail are \$15 per year. Subscriptions by email are free. To receive newsletters via email (the only version in color) go to [\*newsletter\\_editor@finncamp.org\*](mailto:newsletter_editor@finncamp.org) and write "Subscribe to Newsletters" in the subject field.

**All material for newsletter articles is due by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month.**

Please visit the Finn Camp website at [www.finncamp.org](http://www.finncamp.org).