



Shorelines

Rock River Homeowners Association Quarterly Newsletter

P.O. Box 2813 Loves Park, IL 61132-2813

Volume 24, Issue 1

SPRING 2013

RRHA NEWSLETTER APRIL, 2013 - PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Spring is in the air, it's a cold air but none the less another winter is behind us. As we anticipate another fun boating season on the beautiful Rock River, the Home Owner's Board has been working on projects for 2013. By the time Memorial Day weekend rolls around we will have red and green solar navigation lights on the Auburn, Harlem and Latham bridges. The bridge pillars are marked with red lights and the green lights are located in the center of the pillar spans. We will have extra lights on hand to replace the lights as needed. As you are aware, solar lights have come a long way over the years, but from time to time they stop working and must be replaced. The company we are buying from does warranty some of them.

With the snow melt this spring along with the rain, the river came out of drought level for the first time in over a year. We have an ongoing communication with Paul Calligan of Com-Ed. I have been quite pleased with their response so far this season. I contacted Paul back on 2-25-13 about a problem with 2 gates coming open 5 feet and dropping the water levels at the dam way below spec. The spillway was actually dry. Paul was out within the hour to check and within 3 hours had sent an operator out to manually close the gates to bring the water level back to spec. The dam is designed to maintain water level at 702.5 feet above sea level. Paul said the gauges must of froze up and that is why they didn't receive an alarm at their monitoring station. With that being the case more times than I can count.

Frank Shear of the Rock River Times Newspaper put me in contact with Jim Ryan, City Administrator for the City of Rockford. I expressed our desire to have a web cam installed next to the dam. The Home Owners Association would be willing to pay for and maintain this at no cost to the taxpayers. The Ingersoll building would be an ideal location. Jim Ryan said he would work with us to see that this could be done.

There are many benefits to having this equipment installed. Several years back the Homeowner's Association paid to have a survey done at the dam. We have a bench mark reading that allows us to adjust a gauge next to the dam to monitor the water level upstream of the dam. The purpose of the dam is to open or close the 4 hydraulic gates to maintain a constant 702.5 feet above sea level reading. As floods approach the gates open to allow more water to pass and reduce the impact of flooding. Several board members monitor this gauge by driving down to the dam and then we report any problems to Com-Ed if they have water levels out of spec. By having a web cam at the dam we will no longer have to drive downtown to check the gauge. This will be accessed on our RockRiverHomeOwners.org website. City officials as well as Com Ed and the general public will be able to monitor water levels at the dam.

We would like to personally extend a big thank you to Mr. Ryan of the City of Rockford for allowing this project to move forward to help protect and maintain our greatest community asset. I was contacted by Mr. Ken Daike of the North Park Fire Department this spring. He wanted to help with the Rock River Sweep clean up this year. He informed me that their department is rebuilding their dive team and they are a great asset to the safety of our river. The board approved a \$500 donation to their department to try to help with some training and equipment they need. I can't say enough good things about the volunteer fire fighters that risk their lives to keep our community and river a safe place. I was also contacted by Brian Largent of the Fish a Blend Foundation. He informed us of an event planned for Sportscore on June 29th, 2013. His organization is working in conjunction with the department of Natural Resources to hold a handicap fishing event on that day. Sportscore ramps will be closed to the public on that Saturday to host a day of fishing for between 50 to 100 special needs members to fish from the piers and shore

needs members to fish from the piers and shorelines. Volunteers are needed to take out members with wheel chairs on pontoon boats. We were informed that a normal wheel chair is about 27 inches wide. We encourage any home owners that would like to volunteer their time and boats to help people fish on the river or go out for a boat ride. More information is available on our website.

We have donated funds to the Nicolas Conservatory and River Front Museum dock projects. These are just 2 more places we can take our friends and neighbors to while boating on our beautiful river. We also donate to the Ski Broncs Water Ski Team. They have a busy season this year and will be hosting the National Water Ski Tournament in August. We have not had a price increase since we started our organization and the cost of postage and the newsletter printing continues to rise. To maintain the cost of funding our projects we have decided to raise our membership from \$20 to \$25. We feel that this small increase is needed to have the funds to continue to grow. We are grateful that our membership was at an all time high for 2012. We encourage you to fill out and send in your membership so we can continue to make our river a safe and enjoyable place for all. We also encourage you to fill out the questionnaire so we will know of any areas we need to address. With the low water levels last year we put out warning buoys on many sand bars. We will continue to do so as water levels dictate. May 2013 be a warm and safe time on the river and I look forward to getting back on the water for another great summer. Steve Lucas, President

Addendum to Presidents Letter

When I wrote my first presidents letter, we were not flooding very bad, then came the rain. I closely monitored the water levels at the dam as needed. This is made possible by a survey that RRHA paid for several years back. There is a bench mark of 705.52' at the dam. By measuring current water level from benchmark down to the river, a current water height can be achieved. Water is to be maintained at 702.5' (above sea level). Thursday 4/11/13, the 4 gates were at 9.5'/9.5'/7.5'/5.5' open. After adjustment water level was 702.4'. On Friday 4/12/14 after adjustment the gates were at 9.5'/10'/10.5'/10' open and water level was 702.3'. On Monday, 4/15/13 the gates were at 11'/11'/11'/11' open and water level was 702.4'. Gates and water level in spec, but the surge was approaching. On Wednesday 4/17/13, water level had reached 702.8'. I had been in contact with Paul Calligan and advised gates were behind and needed to be opened ASAP. At 3:00pm I was informed that an operator was in route and gates would be opened to 12' (currently 11' opened). The operator showed up around 3:30pm. It was raining and he was not wearing a rain coat. He spent a total of ten minutes on the dam and only opened the gates 3 inches before leaving. Water level was not brought down to the operating spec. (702.6' and rising) They refused to return with a rain coat and the flood prediction was looking like 2008 levels again. I knew that it was time to open the gates fully. I made numerous phone calls and talked with WNTA to explain problems. I called the Rockford Mayor, Public works for Rockford and Machesney Park, called Loves park Mayor, called Rock River Times' Frank Shear. Com Ed continued to contend that water levels were fine at the dam. Finally, on Thursday 4/18/13 the main dam operator Joel arrived at the dam around 7:00am. Water levels had risen to 703 feet. The gates were then finally opened to 15' open (fully opened). I met with Paul Calligan at the dam. We discussed that the west bank spillway was clogged with all the large trees that had piled up over the winter and during the flood surge. It was apparent to both of us that this problem needs to be addressed when the flood is over and it is safe for them to remove the trees. For now we have to hope that this will not increase water levels. We have reached crest of 712.89' at Latham Bridge gauge. In 2010 the level at Latham was 712.9' and in 2008 the level at Latham reached 714.3'. On the gauge the 7 is not shown, only the 12.89' is listed. Dadum is 700' and the numbers are added to that level. I hope this is clear to all of you. I have been watching floods and dam operation for 28 years and have learned a lot over the past 5 years. Our computers allow us to check what water levels and predictions are going to be. The dam was rebuilt and modified back in 1975. The spillway was raised 12" to allow for better water levels for boating in the summer to compensate for the higher pool level the new dam created. Four 15' tall gates were added to be opened up as needed to maintain water levels as were achieved with the old dam. As long as when water rised the gates open, flooding can be reduced. Past experience has shown that as floods get to be more a normal occurrence, it is very critical that the dam open to reduce the chances of flood damage. We are long overdue to have a gauge at the dam so that all local government agencies and residents of Winnebago County can at the glance of a computer screen, see that the dam is operating as designed. We feel this can be affordably achieved with a donation of equipment and operating expense by the RRHA, with the help of the City of Rockford and a camera on the end of the Ingersoll building roof. We hope that this can be in place by later this summer. It is 4/23/13 and as of 10:00pm water level at the dam is 703.45'. The gates are all opened up to 15' and air is visible under them. As long as they stay open and we don't get more rain, water level will start to fall. We will continue to monitor the gates and make sure that they stay open until water levels get back down to speck of 702.5'. More than ever we need you continued support of membership this year, tell your neighbors we need their help as well! Our boating season is just delayed a little this year!

Steve Lucas, President

RIVER KEY – A Floridian like water community is right here on the Rock River!

By Mike Richter and Pij Richter

The River Key subdivision has a history starting in 1820 when Anson C. Owen received a land patent from the United States Government granting him ownership of 90 plus acres. Since then corn has grown and the 90 acres has been sold and resold numerous times. In 1958 ComEd, bought the 90 acres to build a coal fired power plant. The plant was never built.

In 1988 Aime Baes purchased the 90 acres to build mid-priced homes in a river side development. Problems with right of way, access, and community pressure proved to be too much and Aime Baes traded the 90 acres for 200 acres elsewhere and dropped his dream of the development. In the mid 1990's Paul Slabaugh and partner Gary Schneeman took up the challenge of government agencies and land conditions to build their dream . The River Key.

Nine years later Paul met those challenges and all the pressures from government agencies to realize his dream and built a Floridian-like Development. In 2002 His 1st home on the water was sold. *

River Key is located to the East off Old River Road and Main Street/Ill 2, or by boat just South of Latham/173 Bridge. You'll find our canal community reminiscent of Florida with such street names as Key West Drive, Conch Key, Key Largo, and Looe Key. The River Key is a unique development allowing easy access to the River with river frontage approximately ½ mile long. The canal has reinforced walls of concrete or sheet walls with a side walk that caps the entire canal system for about 1¼ miles. The canal is approximately ½ mile long with river access. The normal depth though the canal is approximately 6 feet allowing larger boats with a deeper draft to enter. Because there is no current in the canal, docks and lifts do not need to be taken out over winter. The canal is a DNR designated NO WAKE ZONE that attracts water fowl and local fishermen both winter and summer.

There are 165 lots in the River Key with 81 home owners. Therefore there are many options available for new neighbors who love the Rock River, with it's easy river access. The development also has a fenced in boat, trailer and dock storage area including an enclosed storage building for secure winter storage. All residents of River Key have exclusive access to the storage options along with a concrete boat ramp.

My wife & I were the first home-owners on the canal in 2002, and we've enjoyed our little slice of heaven ever since. The only problem we have, we no longer take summer vacations, because it's all right here.

*RR STAR Gayle Worland - 6-10-02 page 5A

Photo by Brian Thomas



CRIME ON THE ROCK RIVER

Last summer, many of you may be aware that several Rock River homeowners were the victims of a series of thefts. Our jetski was stolen from our dock and two others were stolen as well as some jetski trailers. The perpetrators posted the jetskis and trailers on craigslist the day after our jetski was stolen, created false registration documents using our identities and three days later, sold the jetskis and trailers to an unsuspecting retired gentleman in Wisconsin who repairs jetskis as a hobby. Luckily for all of us, the Wisconsin fellow contacted Hammertime Sports, which is where we had purchased our jetski. They were immediately suspicious and conveyed the information to me. What ensued was quite an odyssey. Since we lived in the City of Rockford, I contacted them first and they said they don't have jurisdiction on the river. I then contacted the County of Winnebago who also declined to investigate. After several other calls, one agency stepped up and did the job, that being the Northern Illinois Auto Theft Task Force in the person of James Kerns. Mr. Kerns pursued an investigation that ultimately led to the arrest of Evan Watts and Nicholas Brodeski. These two men were issued criminal complaints for two felonies and four misdemeanors, including theft, forgery and false representation in Rock County, Wisconsin. They have been arraigned and are out on personal recognizance bonds. Fortunately for the owners we recovered our property. The Wisconsin prosecutors are taking these crimes very seriously. I want to thank Jim Kerns from the Northern Illinois Auto Task Force, Hammertime Sports and the Rock County District Attorney's Office for pursuing justice for all of us. I can only hope that the outcome of this case will deter others from future thefts on the river.

Carol Bailly, RRHA member


NEED SIGNS?



NO WAKE

 SHOW IN PROGRESS


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 We take **PRIDE**
 In our **QUALITY**
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Safety

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- * Textiles
- * Stickers
- * Double-Sided Banners
- * Magnets

- * Coroplast
- * Styrene
- * Foam Board (Ultra)
- * Acrylic
- * Card Stock
- * Composites
- * PVC
- * Wood
- * Aluminum

- * Cut Letters
- * Stand-Ups
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- * Glass/Mirrors
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A-SIGN DESIGNS

815-877-5096 *We're on the Rock River, just south of the Harlem Bridge!*

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Newsletter Advertising : Ads will be run 3 times a year beginning with our Spring newsletter. Anyone who wants to start advertising at a different time of the year, will pay only the prorated amount for the balance of the year.

<u>Ad Size</u>	<u>Price</u>
Business Card	\$80 1/2 Page \$160
1/4 Page	\$100 Full Page \$280

Make checks to: RRHA Advertising

P.O. box 2813 Loves Park, IL 61132

Email print ready ad or info you want to :

Asigndesigns@aol.com 815-877-5096

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS!

Remember personal For Sale or Want to Buy ads are **FREE** for members!

Note: Ad should be submitted in either Word or PDF file, 30 days prior to publication date. RRHA reserves the right to locate the ad within the newsletter and reserves the right to refuse any ad deemed inappropriate. Call for further details.

FOR SALE: Floating Pier for sale, \$100 or best offer. Needs work. 20'4" x 10' and there is a walkway which is 15' long. The barrels are made of plastic. Also available, free firewood, needs to be split. Can be seen along the river at 9744 Port Dr. Contact Dee Dee Soderberg at 815-871-8313



Bus: (815) 654-1155
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Your Newsletter

Hello, My name is Mary Johnson and I do the Newsletter for our association.

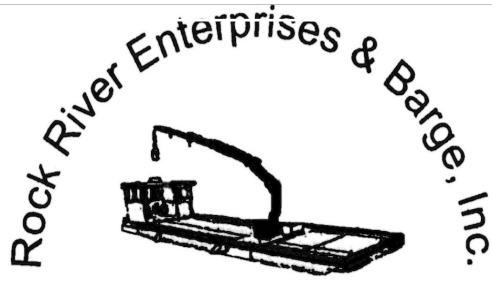
My husband and I have lived on the river, just south of the Harlem Bridge on Wallace Avenue for 10 years. We've experienced many of the joys of river living, and also the pitfalls during the floods. We appreciate what our association has done and hope to continue in our past Newsletter Editor's footsteps in providing news and information. If you have news worthy articles or information, please feel free to forward them to me at asigndesigns@aol.com or call me at 815 877-5096

FOR SALE: Boat lift for medium sized boat, we used it for our 16' Bayliner IO and 16' Sylvan fishing boat with an 85hp motor. 847-757-4705



PAULA SCHWARTZ
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Loves Park, IL 61111
815-654-3500 office
815-988-0111 cell
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Steve Lucas, Owner

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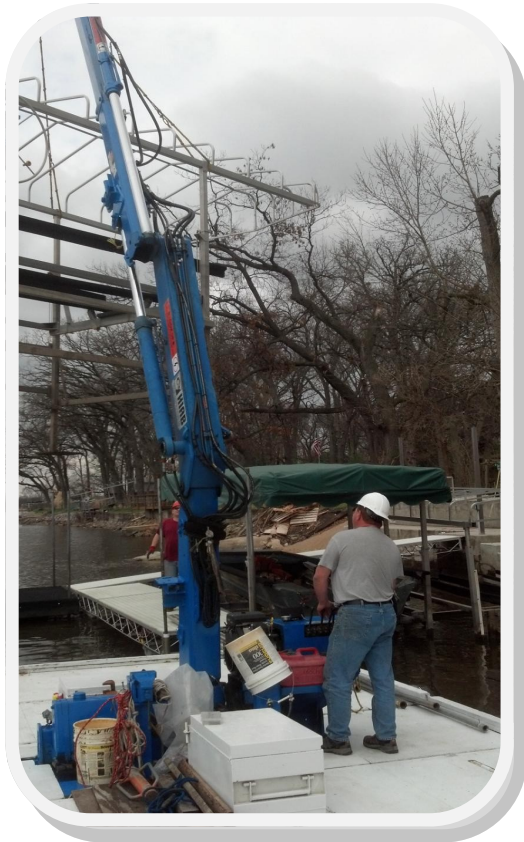


Dear Fellow River Residents,

I would like to thank my many river customers for your support over the last 22 years. I take great pride in my work and every job I have done proves that. The difference between me and the others that want your business is, I live on the river. I'm your neighbor and I'm on the river almost every single day and when I come upon a hazard, I will do the community service and move a tree to a safe location or whatever is necessary to keep the river safe for all to enjoy. I sell the equipment that can take the abuse the mighty Rock River can dish out year after year. We will help you design a custom dock and/or boat lift setup for the specific requirements based on your location of the river. We can design and install a custom vinyl or steel sheet piling seawall or bring in riprap for your shoreline stabilization projects. We have a 50

foot crane barge that we keep stocked with parts and supplies and a warehouse that we stock many other items so most times we don't have to wait to repair an item we can do it right now so you can begin your season or keep your season going without any delays. Our season is short and we want you to get the most out of it. Don't be fooled by out of towners or somebody that is doing this as a hobby to earn extra money, I'm here today and I will be here for many years to come. I have the expertise of over 22 years experience to do the job right and sell you what will work and last for many years. I would enjoy talking with you and if you have any river needs, I would take great pride in helping you with your river project.

Steve Lucas



**Free Shows:
Wed and Fri
7PM**

**Come by
land or river.**

**Please drive
slowly.**



Dear River Friends,

We want to begin by saying thank you for your support in 2012. It was an AMAZING season. With your support we were able to accomplish many goals. Ski Broncs:

–increased membership by 100%–hosted and placed 3rd in Central Regional Tournament– returned to Div 1 Nationals for the first time in a decade–was awarded the Division 1 National Tournament in 2013.

However, the most exciting accomplishment was the return of our community support and home show fans. Because of YOU we were able to provide a bigger, better and more entertaining show.

We still need you. . .providing free water ski shows costs tens of thousands of dollars. Gas alone was \$11,000 for the season. Once again our youth have been working hard collecting money, however, if they have missed you please fill out and return the bottom portion of this letter.

**Sincerely,
Ski Broncs 2013**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Donation amount(please circle)

100 50 25 10 Other_____

**Mail to: Ski Broncs, 8414 N. Second St. Mach. Park, 61115
(Tax donation receipt will be sent to the address you provide)**

THE BOARD		
NAME	TERM	NUMBER
ZONE 1: West side from State St. To Harlem Bridge		
Loyd & Diane Koch	2014	968-6685
ZONE 2: West side from Harlem to Roscoe Bridge		
Ron & Sharon Neuschwander	2014	654-9276
Mike & Pij Richter	2014	654-9621
Chuck & Jane Barber	2013	654-9720
Mike & Nancy Dagefoerde	2013	623-5045
ZONE 3: East side from State St. to Harlem Bridge		
Steve Lucas	2014	654-8742
Jack Sokolski	2014	877-8205
Chris & Jennifer Whiteford	2013	877-1536
ZONE 4: East side from Harlem to Roscoe Bridge		
Tim Hendricks	2014	633-2327
Steve Lineberry	2014	633-0244
ZONE 5: North of the Roscoe Bridge		
Bruce Swartz	2013	624-2465

Don't forget to check out the website for updates on the river! Www.RockRiverHomeowners.org and also "LIKE" our facebook page.



We've just added a smart phone version of the webpage so you'll be able to get the latest on your mobile device, too!

In addition, the newsletter is available on the website in pdf format to look back on if you'd like!

Please turn in your membership dues and fill out the survey so the RRHA can serve our members the best ways possible!



Rock River Homeowners Association
P.O. Box 2813 Loves Park, IL 61132-2813

PRSRT STD
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#700
RKFD, IL 611

Or Occupant

**Rock River Homeowners Association
P.O. box 2813 Loves Park, IL 61132**

The Officers

President	Steve Lucas
Vice President	Diane Koch
Treasurer	Ron Neuschwander
Secretary	Mike Dagefoerde

Committee Chairs

Membership	Chip Gammel
Newsletter	Mary Johnson
Natural Environment	Bruce Olson
Dam Operation	Steve Lucas
Website	Chip Gammel

Telephone Numbers

Sheriff's Dept.	282-2600-Dispatcher
Sheriff's Dept.	319-6317-Shift
Chief Deputy Ditzler	319-6312
Coast Guard Auxiliary	877-6522
Army corps of Engineers	(309)794-4200
Emergency Services	319-6215
River Hotline	316-8888



MISSION STATEMENT

**The Mission of the Rock River
Homeowners Association shall
be to preserve and protect the
Rock River environment, enjoyment
of the river and to promote public
awareness of river safety**

2013 Rock River Homeowners Association

Membership Application

Whether you are joining for the first time, or a long time member renewing, we'd love to have you!

Our mission is to: "Preserve and protect the Rock River environment, enjoyment of the river, and to promote public awareness of river safety."

Membership is \$25 and it is good for one year. It includes the newsletter to keep you informed of events and information, the ability to become a RRHA board member, and to directly make improvements to our great river. We welcome suggestions, and hope to address concerns, as well as to make the river a better place for us all, so please feel free to get involved and fill out the application.

Homeowner(s): _____

Address: _____

City State Zip

Phone: _____ Email: _____

RRHA Zone Number (refer to the board member zones on page 11) _____

Type of Membership: _____ I am a new member _____ I am renewing

Please return this page in it's entirety

With your payment of \$25 by June 1, 2014 to:

RRHA P.O. Box 2813, Loves Park, IL 61132-2813

You can also go to the www.rockriverhomeowners.org website and pay via paypal if you'd prefer—Making it easy for you to be a member!

2013 Questionnaire

What are your major concerns about the Rock River?

Are there any specific projects you would like to see our organization involved in?

Please share any other comments or suggestions you may have for us regarding the RRHA or the river in general.

Rock River Homeowners Association is again making yard signs. These signs are extremely helpful posted on your bank, in addition to helping friends find your home, they also help boaters to know where they are on the river in relation to the roads.

If you would like a sign, please completely fill out this portion even if the information is the same as on the other side. If you don't want your name posted, you can get an address-only sign. When completed, signs will be hand-delivered to your door.

The cost of a yard sign is \$30. Return this form with your payment of \$30 to: RRHA P.O. Box 2813, Loves Park, IL 61132-2813.

Name as you would like it to appear , please print (name is optional):

Address:
