

SITE MAINTENANCE

Vice-President Kurtis Nelson conducted a well organized work party on March 8. The carpet was striped from the dock, and two sheets of plywood were removed from the top of the dock. Then the dock was re-inforced inside because some of the braces were coming loose. Finally, one section of floatation was replaced. Thanks to Mary Garrity and the carpet store she works for we cut and replaced new carpet on the dock. While Chris McKinsey, Brian Smith, Kurtis and myself worked on the dock, the McQueary Family removed litter from the shoreline. Kay Nelson removed the old reflective tape from the 5 mph buoys. It was a very productive day. Thank you everyone!

The next work party is slated for Saturday, April 5 at 10 a.m. There is plenty of work left to do and everyone's help is appreciated!

- 1) Re-mount the boomline and the 5 MPH BUOYS
- 2) The floating sign needs to be anchored near the channel.
- 3) More litter removal
- 4) Kurtis has ordered all new ski-course buoys, they have arrived.

They need to be connected to the course, with new ties and clips as needed.

'08 SKI SEASON WATER LEVEL

Chief of Water Operations for MID, Walter Ward has stated that last summer was a 'critical' water year. The water level at Modesto Reservoir was maintained at only 19 ft. which prevented us from gaining access to the boat dock. This year, he said we have a 100% snow pack and the water level will be maintained much higher, between 22-24 ft!. It looks like we are going to have a great water ski season ahead of us! All we need to do is get our ski site in shape!!!

'08 SKI SEASON WATER LEVEL

A JDT parent-coaches meeting was held at the James' family home on Friday, March 14. The JDT practice and tournament dates were set. A roster for the '08' program was passed around and several kids have signed up. Several of the kids want to attend the "Delta Rats" (River or Reservoir and Tournament Skier) camp. Deadline for registration into that camp is April 15.

Contact JDT Director Nick Martin for more information! Other ski camps are available, check your Western Regional Guide.

DISABLED SKI PROGRAM

The Stanislaus County Society for Handicapped Director Tom Truax, his Secretary Carol MacFarland and I met on March 8 to discuss improving our Disabled Ski Program. Among items of discussion were: Attempt to 'mirror' the highly successful Winter snow ski program already in place. Also, create incentives for volunteers such as free park admission, shirts for all, a ski-a-thon fundraiser, better lunches and free skiing for the volunteers! The Society wants to increase the number of ski clinics to ten! Carol is working very hard on improving the program and Tom Truax may be a guest speaker at our April 9 meeting!

MAY 10 FUNDRAISER DINNER- RAFFLE

SELL THOSE DINNER TICKETS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

It has become impractical and not feasible for our organization to count on the proceeds of only one annual fundraiser to carry us through an entire year! We have a ski site to maintain and insurance to pay! Our members deserve compensation for qualifying for the Western Regionals and Nationals! And finally, we try to give our members as much value for their membership as we can by having an occasional social activity such as themeet/greet/grill and ski, and the annual Banquet.

On May 10, our club will host a tri-tip dinner fundraiser at the Oakdale Saddle Club. Your help is needed NOW selling the dinner tickets before April 27!!! By then we will need a count of tickets sold to order the food!!! This is a great opportunity for us to make a lot of money and not have to spend several days doing it!! The Deputy Sheriff's Association is going to cook the food. They are very experienced and thousands of people have attended dinners they have prepared!!

Our responsibility is to

- 1) Sell as many dinner tickets as you can.
- 2) As we near May 10, ask your local grocery store for donations of our dinner menu items: French bread, salad, rolls, canned beans, and bottled water or soda.
- 3) Contact Connie Chipponeri and help her get donations for the raffle

On the day of the dinner, we will need help to set up the tables and prepare the dinner hall, do some decorations, sell some tickets at the door, serve the food to those who want 'take out!' Assist with the raffle and finally help to clean up.

IF YOU HAVE ANY IDEAS ON HOW TO MAKE THIS EVENT SUCCESSFUL, PLEASE CALL ME WITH YOUR IDEAS!!!

Other fundraiser ideas are selling Avon items (call Terry Lewis for sign ups), and selling candles (contact the McQueary Family for the paperwork).

BOARD MEMBER PROFILE

One of the goals for 08' was to let our members know about their Board Members. The profile for this month's Board Member is Promotions Co-Director Brian Smith.



Terry Lewis was instrumental in Brian joining our ski club. Terry skied with Brian and the Handicapped Society. Brian said that Mid-Valley member Chris McKinsey taught Brian how to ski and Richard Lea has taught him some ski pointers as well. Brian said that it took him several years to learn to ski behind the boat. Brian made a promise to himself that if he learned to ski behind the boat he would ski on Polar Bear Day!!! Well, Brian skied on Polar Bear Day one time and said, "NEVER AGAIN!" Now, Brian skis at every Polar Bear Day to support the club.

Brian said that his cerebral palsy has affected his balance and coordination and that is why it took him so long to learn to ski behind the boat. In fact, Brian said that he once was stopped by the Police who had observed him walking down the street. They thought Brian was 'drunk in public.' Brian told them he was darned sure "stone cold sober" and that he has CP. Brian said he works out at the gym to stay in shape five or six days a week. Brian has trained and completed two 26 mile marathons!!! Brian said that he is at the gym so much, his Caltrans boss asked for the gym phone number because Brian is 'on call' at work. Sure enough, one day, there was a call over the Gym loudspeaker, "Brian Smith, you have a call at the front desk!" Brian is employed by CalTrans as an equipment

operator. In addition to water skiing, Brian enjoys driving race cars at the Altamont raceway!!

Thank you to Brian for all of your hard work volunteering for this organization. Brian is known for his ability to get donations for Polar Bear Day and our other activities. Brian rarely misses helping out at our work parties and DisabledSki Clinics. The Mid-Valley Water Ski Club would not what it is today without the help of this hard working individual!!

Brian truly puts 'ABLE' in the word DISABLED!!!

APRIL MEETING

Our next meeting is on Wednesday, April 9, at 7:00 in the evening at Fuddruckers Restaurant on McHenry Ave., Modesto. As the date to our fundraiser and ski-season events gets closer, we need your attendance and input at the meetings!!

Richard Lea,
President, M.V.W.S.C.