Mark your Calendars!
Annual Meeting Set for
May 17, 2010

The annual meeting of the Austin Lake Riparian will be held on Monday at 7:00 PM on May 17, 2010 in the Lake Center Elementary School gym. This is an excellent opportunity to meet your lake neighbors and become involved in keeping the lake quality up.

Agenda:
• Call to Order
• Pledge
• Introduction of the Board Members
• President’s Report
• Vote to accept 2009 Meeting minutes
• Treasurer’s Report
• Social Committee Report
• News Letter Report
• Website Report
• Old Business
  • Weed Control
  • Pfizer Water Discharge Rate
• New Business
  • GLB Report
  • Presentation by Kalamazoo Drain Commissioner
  • Lake Association Voluntary Contributions
• Election of Board Members

Lake Improvement Funds

On March 16, 2009, your Austin Lake Riparian Board decided to create a fund for social activities and lake improvements, such as eradicating Purple Loosestrife. It is not the intention of the board to duplicate the GLB function. To contribute to the fund please send a check (no cash please) made out to “Austin Lake Riparian” and put “Lake Fund” in the memo line. Note: contributions are not tax deductible. Send to:
Larry Pio (treasurer)
2409 Woody Noll Dr.
Portage, MI 49002

New Web Address

The Austin Lake Riparian’s now have a new web address: www.AustinLakePortage.com. The old address will remain active for six months. Come check us out.

GLB Information on Website

Governmental Lake Board information, including their minutes, can be found on our website: www.AustinLakePortage.com
Zebra Mussels Are Here !!!
Zebra Mussels are now vacationing in Austin Lake. These non-indigenous mussels have been contaminating lakes throughout the US. Individually the mussel is black, usually with white stripes, about a quarter of an inch long. But when they clump together they can make some large masses. The good news is that they actually clean the water. The bad news is that they clog pipes, water inlets for motor boats and they hurt when walked upon. To avoid spreading the mussels to other lakes, be sure to wash the outside of your boat before transporting your boat to another lake. For more information Google Zebra Mussels.

Lake Courtesy
Imagine, if you will, your enjoyment of the lake being disrupted every sunny summer weekend by a dozen or more boats parked for hours in front of your property with the accompanying noise, sanitary and safety problems, swimmers in the water and people and animals trespassing on your property.

This is certainly not a pleasant image, yet this is what lake property owners near the dam report that they face every summer. We urge those who wish to swim to use the sandy beach area at the public access. If you intend to party do it in front of your own property or in the middle of the lake.

Austin Lake Catamaran Association
By Jerry Mohney

If you've ever been home on a Tuesday night in the summertime, you have probably noticed multi colored sailboats on the lake. It looks like chaos on the water, but it is really a sailboat race organized by the Austin Lake Catamaran Association. Please take a look below for some history and information on our fleet.

The Austin Lake Catamaran Association / Hobie Fleet 519 [simply shortened to ALCA] was created in 1984 with 8 members. We were formed with the goal of advancing the sport of catamaran sailboat racing in general and Hobie Cat racing in particular. 2010 will be our 26th consecutive year of racing on Austin Lake in Portage. Our fleet races 2 weekly series with the first 8-week spring series beginning on the first Tuesday in May. We then take a 1-week break and then begin our 10-week summer series.

Fleet members consist of social members, racing sailors and volunteers. Anyone with an interest in sailing, at any age level, is welcome. The skill level ranges from beginning sailors to sailors who have sailed in National and World Championship events. We get together after racing to announce the night's results and to socialize. In the past we've used these gatherings to discuss a different sailing topic each week. We might discuss racing rules, tactics, boat tuning or even specific sailing situations that may have occurred that evening. Or we may discuss more important topics such as what the theme should be at the next fleet party! In that

(Continued on page 5)

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regard, we are as much a social club as we are a sailing club. We organize several parties during the year that may or may not be sailing related.

As important as the social aspects of the club are, it always comes back to sailing. We all have a common interest that we find fun and educational. There is always something to learn. We make a concerted effort to help the newer sailors to learn how to sail or to improve their skills. We put on seminars and our most experienced sailors even offer to crew for the more inexperienced skippers. We realize that it can be very intimidating to a new sailor to come out and race with us. You need to understand how the races are managed, you need to know the basic right-of-way rules and have the nerve to mix it up with 15-20 other boats in pretty close proximity to each other. Heck, we all get a little nervous even after all these years! That’s why we do whatever we can to make the experience a pleasant one. After all, we’re not in it for the money! You might do well enough to win a trophy at the end of the season and get bragging rights over some of your fellow sailors. Some of the top sailors realize and take solace when they lose a race, that they may have made someone’s entire season just because they got beat in 1 race!

ALCA would like to invite anyone interested learning more about us and our love for sailing to give us a call, email or even Facebook. We typically have room on our committee boat for a guest or two to see racing from this perspective first hand. There is also potential to get your feet wet as a crew for an up and close experience of racing catamarans on Austin Lake. Please feel free to contact Dave Dunlap this year’s commodore at 269-330-5496 or DaDWorks@chartermi.net.
Attention Renters:
Please pass this newsletter on to the property owner.
Thank You!

Austin Lake Riparians Board of Directors
Kirk Wolf – President - expires 2012 254-9653 wolfkirk@yahoo.com
Don Mordas - Vice President - expires 2011 484-4419 donald.m.mordas@pfizer.com
Brett Grossman – Secretary - expires 2012 324-5572 brett@vicksburg-law.com
Larry Pio – Treasurer - expires 2011 327-3589 nalcoman1@aol.com
John Crago - term expires 2011 323-2425 jdcretired@peoplepc.com
Seth Giem – term expires 2010 327-4012 giem@net-link.net
Gary Hahn – alternate 323-7175 ghahn@wightmanward.com
Brian Johnson – term expires 2012 321-8536 bjohn3200@yahoo.com
Jim Pearson - term expires 2010 327-9136 jimpearson4@gmail.com

Other Positions:
Dani Kinder - Social Committee Chair 998-3473 danil700@aol.com
Norm Young - Newsletter Editor and Website 324-6199 ndyoung@charter.net

Website: www.AustinLakePortage.com