



# LAKE SAWYER COMMUNITY CLUB NEWSLETTER

LAKESAWYER.ORG

WINTER 2025

## President's Letter

As I reflect on my first year as President of LSCC, I am filled with gratitude. Initially, this role felt like a heavy task, but it grew into a labor of joy and appreciation. The 2024 season of events and connections has been truly remarkable, culminating in the magic of Santa Boat and a season of giving that exceeded all expectations.

On behalf of the board and myself, I want to express heartfelt gratitude to everyone who supported the Black Diamond Community Center during the holidays through their auction and Santa Boat giving. Your generosity and dedication exemplify the spirit of our community. Your contributions enable BDCC to continue providing vital assistance and essential services to seniors, individuals, and families

in need. Every donation—large or small—makes a meaningful impact and strengthens the bonds that connect us all. We are especially thankful for the anonymous donors whose matching gifts inspired us to dig deeper. Together, we rose to the challenge, achieving a record year of giving with total gifts to BDCC reaching \$43,533 when our community needed it most.

To everyone who gave through the Giving Tree or monetary donations, thank you for making a difference. Your support ensures BDCC can foster hope, resilience, and positive change. Together, we're proving that compassion and generosity transform lives.

With gratitude,  
*Ginger Ryder*

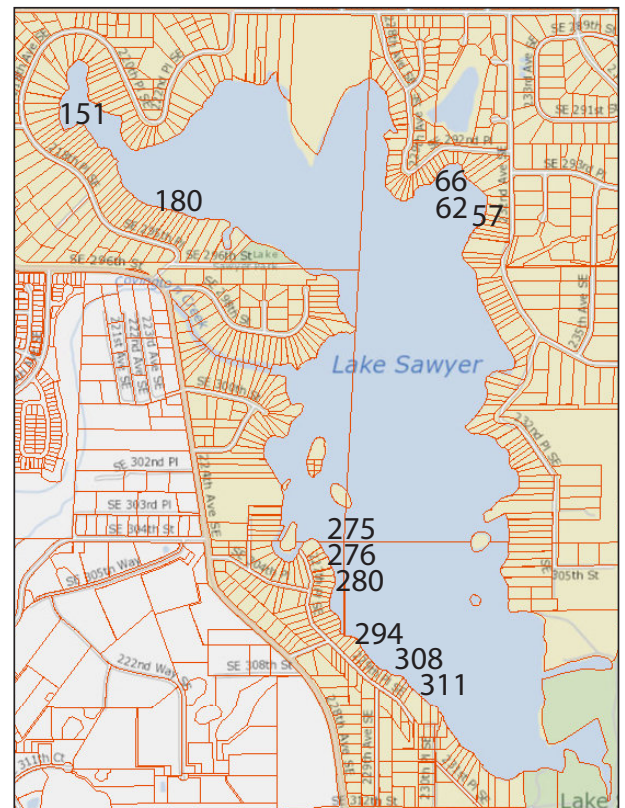
## JOIN MARINE PATROL

The marine volunteer program assists the Black Diamond Police Department with providing marine patrol on Lake Sawyer during the summer months. A marine volunteer is appointed as a volunteer only and is not vested with any law enforcement authority. Individuals interested in volunteering, need to complete an Application, and return it to Commander Martinez at the Black Diamond Police Department either through email, drop off, or mail.

For additional questions contact:  
Commander Brian Martinez  
bamartinez@blackdiamondwa.gov

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb 23 4-6PM	SUN	Annual Lake Sawyer Community Club Meeting	
April 12	SAT	Easter Egg Hunt	
May 4	SUN	Club House Clean Up	
June 28 6PM	SAT	Dock Concert - Death & Texas	#66
June 28	SAT	Fun Run	
July 4	FRI	Independence Day Celebrations	
July 5	SAT	Dock Concert - James Beam	#151
July 12	SAT	Dock Concert - The Bridge Band	#294
July 19	SAT	Dock Concert - Cascadia Big Band	#308
July 20	SUN	Dock Concert - Aaron Crawford	#311
July 26 5PM	SAT	Dock Concert - Steve Olson	#276
Aug 2	SAT	Dock Concert - Rain Light Fade	#62
Aug 9	SAT	Dock Concert - The Lizards	#57
Aug 16 6:30PM	SAT	Dock Concert - Zan Fiskum	#280
Aug 23 6PM	SAT	Dock Concert - Non+Vintage	#180
Aug 30	SAT	Dock Concert - Full Circle	#275



## Renew Your 2025 Lake Sawyer Community Club Membership!

Membership in the Lake Sawyer Community Club (LSCC) ensures your voice is heard and supports the vibrant activities that make our community special. Full membership, with voting privileges, is open to property owners with lots abutting Lake Sawyer or its outlet, provided the lot meets King County Building Code requirements for a single-family dwelling.

Annual voluntary dues of \$75 per household help fund our beloved events and activities throughout the year. Renewing your membership is easy:

- Pay on the Website [Lakesawyer.org](https://Lakesawyer.org)
- Pay via Venmo @LakeSawyerCC, please include your DOCK # and "Membership Dues" in the *What's this for?* section.
- Complete a Membership Application and mail it, along with a \$75 check, to:  
PO Box 191, Black Diamond, WA 98010. Available at [Lakesawyer.org](https://Lakesawyer.org).

Join us in keeping our community thriving—renew today!

## Freshwater Algae Control

If you suspect toxic algae (also known as harmful algal blooms, or HABs) in a lake, take the following steps:

1. Avoid Contact. Keep yourself, children, and pets away from the water, especially if you notice:

- Green, blue-green, or reddish-brown scum on the surface.
- Water that looks like pea soup or paint.
- A strong or foul odor.

2. Report the Algae Bloom

Contact the Washington State Department of Ecology Algae Control Manager to report the suspected bloom.

### **Joseph Teresi**

Aquatic Invasive & Algae Control Grants Manager  
[Joseph.Teresi@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Joseph.Teresi@ecy.wa.gov)

3. Take Photos

Document the bloom by taking clear photos of the affected area. This can help authorities assess the situation.



4. Look for Advisories

Check King County's Lake and Beach Status page or Washington State Toxic Algae Bloom Program to see if there are current advisories or warnings in place. The Freshwater Algae Control Program: <https://ecology.wa.gov/water-shorelines/water-quality/freshwater/freshwater-algae-control>

## Keep Yard Clippings Out of the Lake!

Yard waste like grass and leaves can fuel toxic algae blooms, harming water and wildlife. Compost or mulch yard waste, keep clippings off hard surfaces, and plant native vegetation near shorelines to catch runoff. Protect our lake for swimming, fishing, and future generations!

## Join Us for the Annual Lake Sawyer Community Club Meeting!

February 23 4-6PM Let's come together to discuss our community, share updates, appoint new board members, and plan for the year ahead. Agenda is forthcoming. Please check the website for further details.

## July 4th Activities & Fireworks Donations

Each year, the LSCC raises funds to support our seven annual events and the Fourth of July fireworks show. You can donate online or send a check to:

PO Box 191, Black Diamond, WA 98010

You can also donate on Venmo @LakeSawyerCC, please include your DOCK #.

We kindly ask that donations be submitted by **June 1, 2025**, to help us plan the budget

and recognize our generous donors in the upcoming newsletter. Your support is greatly appreciated!

## LSCC 2025 Fishing Derby

A big thank you to Jason MacLurg for organizing this event over the past few years! We're now looking for a new volunteer to lead the 2025 4th of July fishing tournament. Let us know if you're interested!

## 2024 Marine Patrol Report

The Black Diamond Police have shared their report detailing last year's lake activity.

*On-Water Activity Report:*

On-water hours: 189.5

Ramp inspection hours: 32.5

Inspections conducted: 274 (32 failed, 242 passed)

*Citations issued:*

4 for not having proper PFDs (personal flotation devices)

1 for not possessing a boater's education card

2 for steering violations

*Training Highlights:*

Two officers completed the 44-hour Basic Marine Law Enforcement Training.

Three officers attended NASBLA's standardized field sobriety training to enhance enforcement of boating under the influence laws.

*Community Engagement:*

Hosted 2 boater education classes with a total of 20 students.

Organized a Water Safety Day at the Lake Sawyer boat launch, distributing over 130 life jackets.

Partners included:

Department of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mountain View Fire Department and two local community pools. We provided over 10 hours of instruction to our local elementary school kids on water safety.



# Jack Gucker: A Life Well Lived on Lake Sawyer



Longtime, beloved, and respected “OG” Lake Sawyer resident Jack Gucker passed away on March 6,

2024, at Timber Ridge Briarwood in Issaquah, where he had resided with his wife, Donna, since late 2019. They continued to own their lake home at Dock 38 and stayed connected to Lake Sawyer news. Jack succumbed to Parkinson’s disease at the age of 86.

John Francis Gucker, always known as Jack, was born on February 3, 1938, in Marceline, Missouri, to Francis and Fonda Gucker. He grew up in the small town of Marceline with his sister, embodying Missourian values and upbringing. Jack was an accomplished athlete, excelling in basketball and football and participating in baseball, track, and swimming. He was also a hunter and a self-described “most underrated salmon fisherman in the PNW.”

Jack graduated from the University of Missouri in 1960 with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. He met his wife, Donna, at UM, and they married after his graduation. Donna hailed from Higginsville, Missouri. Jack was recruited by Boeing in Seattle after graduation, and the couple “landed” in Washington State. He spent 40 years with Boeing, while Donna earned her RN degree and worked in the public school system.

In 1969, they purchased their home on Lake Sawyer, moving from Kent in a house swap with their buyers. They raised their children, Mark and Holly, in their modest mid-century modern home, originally built in 1938 and likely one of the lake’s original cabins. Records show a single remodel in 1958. Jack was also a member of St. Barbara’s Parish in Black Diamond.

Jack’s career at Boeing was prolific. He

spent the first 14 years as a designer and the remainder in management. Boeing selected him for the Sloan Fellowship, and he completed an accelerated Master of Business from Stanford University in 1979. During this time, the family relocated to the Bay Area for 18 months.

As a Boeing executive, Jack served as Director of Engineering for the development of the 747-400 and 767-300 airplanes. He was Chief Project Engineer for the 747-300, CATIA, and 777 structure, payloads, and propulsion. Later, he became Vice President for the development of the 737 Next Generation Program, overseeing the -600, -700, and -800 series, as well as the 757-300.

Jack loved his work and approached it with humility. Few knew they had a VIP in their midst. His leadership and intellect were celebrated at his memorial, particularly his ability to adapt to advanced digital design. Jack often combined work with pleasure, taking memorable salmon fishing trips to Alaska with executives to discuss deals—why meet in a boardroom when you could fish? Even after retiring in 2000, Jack consulted for Boeing on new airplane development.

In retirement, Jack and Donna traveled to Africa, Antarctica, and Hawaii and spent time at their second home on Whidbey Island, where they entertained



family and friends and indulged Jack’s passion for salmon fishing.

Neighbors described Jack as “wonderful”—tall, good-looking, smart, and friendly, with natural charisma and a big, easy smile. Jack was active in the community, serving on the Community Club board in the 1970s and volunteering for projects, including as a deckhand on the original Santa Boat. He also facilitated the annexation of Lake Sawyer properties into the Kent Water District, giving property owners the option to connect to a water service previously unavailable in the area.

Jack and Donna formed lasting friendships with many of Lake Sawyer’s original families, including the Perrys, Seresuns, Rohrbachs, Cutlers, Mitchells, Morrisises, Stanfords, Geigers, Lunds, Cassidas, and Van Diests. Jack was also a Boy Scout leader and enjoyed lake activities like boating, water-skiing, canoeing, and swimming with his family.

His greatest joy was spending time with his family. He cherished his wife, supported his children as they matured, and delighted in watching his three granddaughters and one grandson grow. Jack’s family described his love, humor, and zest for life as a key part of their “wonderful life.” Jack was a builder—not only of airplanes but also of relationships, family, and community.

Jack is survived by his wife of 63 years, Donna; children Holly and Mark; daughter-in-law Jen; grandchildren Mataya, Shawnee, Aidan, and Ava; and his sister, Pat Heth. He was predeceased by his parents and infant son, Michael.

We honor Jack Gucker—a remarkable yet humble man—and his contributions both personally and professionally. A life well-lived, Jack is deeply missed by his family, who take pride and joy in the years they shared. The “Next Generation” continues with a great-granddaughter on the way!

## Happy New Year!

Cheryl Hanson

Black Diamond Community Center

I've heard the Santa Boat event was a great success and lots of fun! Thanks to the generous members of LSCC, every tag representing a holiday wish from our neighborhood kids was fulfilled, allowing Santa to deliver gifts to everyone. Every tag was taken, and extra gifts were provided for any parent or grandparent who registered late.



To those of you who went the extra mile by purchasing additional gifts or donating gift cards, I extend an extra BIG thanks. This December, some tragic events deeply affected several families in our community, with life-changing consequences that, unfortunately, impacted the kids, even during Christmas.

With funds from the auction, along with your monthly support, toy donations, and the new clothes you provided, we were able to save Christmas for at least six families who faced sudden eviction or lost financial support. We supplied food and covered a few nights at a hotel for one family until they could move into Vine Maple Place. We also offered rental stipends, food, and gas vouchers to families staying temporarily with friends who volunteered their homes. Thanks to your generosity, our local kids still enjoyed a visit from Santa.

Our clients are incredibly fortunate to be part of such a caring community, and that was evident this holiday season. On the day of our toy giveaway, a local City Council member volunteered to assist our staff. She witnessed firsthand the impact of your generosity, as we were able to respond immediately to calls for help from families in need that very day. This was possible thanks to LSCC and all you did for us in 2024.

As we all know, prices are rising, so my staff and I are committed to using your contributions wisely—no trips to Mexico for my team in 2025! It is a privilege for our community center to have your unwavering support. While I don't yet have the final numbers from the 2024 Santa Boat, I know you've never let us down. I'm confident I can count on you again, and that means our neighbors in need can count on me and my staff to provide support in almost any situation.

This is the true meaning of \*HAPPY NEW YEAR\* for all of us. On behalf of the staff, board, volunteers, and especially our clients, thank you and best wishes for a wonderful 2025!



**\$43,533 Raised!**

## BOATING SAFETY CHECK

- Take the WA Boating Education Class & Test.
- Carry all required safety gear & boating license.
- Carry one US Coast Guard Approved PFD per passenger and a throwable type 4 PFD.
- You need at least two sound-signaling devices on board, such as an air horn, or whistle.
- Check to make sure you have all the required navigation lights and that they are working properly.
- Always carry a U.S. Coast Guard-approved fire extinguisher stored in an accessible place.
- Don't forget to put in the drainage plug!
- Ventilation - Run the blower for 4 full minutes before turning on the engine.
- Be aware of weather and water conditions.

### Courteous Boating Practices

- Boat sober.
- Use caution, and respect the other boaters.
- Be considerate to families, avoid explicit music.
- Travel around the lake in a counter clockwise fashion, but stay closer to the middle of the lake.
- When possible, boats should stay approximately 200 feet away from the shoreline.
- If the lake looks too busy to stay within this area, take some time off and wait for a less active time.
- Avoid Fast Turnarounds. Gradually reduce the speed of the boat, and let your own wake go past the boat. Turn around slowly to avoid creating a large wake. If wakesurfing, turn to the opposite direction of the side you are surfing on. Slowly approach the fallen rider on the driver's side.
- Raise your Orange Flag to alert other boaters a person is in the water.
- Skip the Hot Laps. The high velocity waves unsettle the lake unnecessarily.
- If possible, please wait until the waterskiers have finished to start surfing, tubing or using a PWC.
- City code requires that all paddle boarders and swimmers stay inside the buoy line during boating hours for your own safety.
- Boaters who wish to sit and fish or float do so inside the buoy line during boating hours to avoid using the limited space available for water sports.
- It is *reckless* for a PWC to jump the waves behind a boat that is towing a person on a tube, ski, wake or surf board. Please maintain a safe distance from other vessels.



\*This is purely informational - Each captain is responsible for proper, safe and lawful operations.

**REVIEW THE BLACK DIAMOND  
WATER SAFETY ORDINANCE**

