

# **Area Highlights**

South Shore Sugar Lake

by

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As a part of the SLA plan to build a shared sense of community on the lake, this article is about past history and current events on the south shore of our lake. The land was purchased from Mr. Topfer's farm; and the cabins were built in 1955, 1956, and 1957. Historically a very social area of the lake, families hosted many campfire singalongs, shoreline corn boils, Hawaiian Luau's with live music and song skits, badminton tournaments, canoe races, and several pig roasts. One pig roast memory included the whole beach signing up for 2-hour shifts throughout the night to spray water on the frequent fire flare-ups at the shoreline spit. Another involved the Annandale bakery; they had graciously agreed to roast 3 pigs for another of the pig roasts in their large ovens, and then had to close down for a week to clear out the smell! Creative water-skiing was also a south shore trademark. One water ski spectacular involved two boats (one with a 60 horse mercury, and the other with a 100 horse mercury motor and a prop designed especially for the event) that pulled up 13 skiers. While very exciting, the event was nixed when one of the skiers was caught in a rope and dragged underwater for a ways- events in the future involved slalom courses. The huge walls of spray were beautiful to behold.

Ed Quinn the area communicator for area O also holds the honor of "father of the fleet", the founder of the Sugar Lake sailing club which was a group of sailing enthusiasts from around the lake who held regattas on the lake from 1979 to 1987. M-16s, C-scows, and Catamarans were frequently seen whipping across the waves on Sunday afternoons.

Current events on the south shore include the recently finished 106th street project, a 20 year effort to build a new road behind the cabins nearest to the south shore access with a holding pond to filter the runoff water from the farmer's field before it reaches the lake. Many of the cabin owners on the south shore have also joined the association's efforts to promote buffer strips by letting their hillsides and shorelines grow.