



Winter Festival Review

By Anonymous

There was a great turn out for the Winterfest at Lake in the Clouds on a beautiful winter's day (if there is such a thing). Folks were playing ice hockey, (we noticed John Guthrie had those elbows just a bit high...hey John, they were kids!), ice skating, playing ice golf, enjoying the ice fishing demonstration, and walking on ice. Even the dogs were having a great time on the ice.

Notice ice is the recurring theme here. There was a huge bonfire for warming up "Clouders" and keeping the hot chocolate and cider warm too plus some chairs for thawing out and roasting marshmallows. Everyone, save one, had a wonderful time. That sole one kvetched away the afternoon. When asked how he liked the hot chocolate he complained that by the time he got to the lake and stood on the ice it was cold. Standing near the fire didn't work. The wind knew where he was standing and no matter where he stood it blew smoke in his face. When asked if he was enjoying himself, as everyone else clearly was, he said "I'm standing on ice".

Aside from that chronic malcontent, it was a great day at Lake in the Clouds. There was even a tug-o-war. Well, it was almost a tug-o-war. Chief instigator Mike Foran rounded up the usual suspects. In fact he rounded up everyone. Some suggested that in keeping with the recurring theme of the day, the event be held on the ice. Saner thinking prevailed and after ten minutes or so of cajoling and rounding up, the sides were chosen, the rope was taut (a very educated rope no doubt) and Mike was ready to photograph the epic battle. At a signal, everyone pulled. The rope broke in the middle. This was followed by several minutes of knot tying, untying, nautical advice from sailors on knot tying and a finally, an official final knot. The sides were again lined up. Hands were spit on for a good grip, the signal to pull was given. The rope broke again. Having decided the rope was faulty, someone claimed it had been used fifty years ago to rope off the original property, the rope was consigned to the flames of the bon fire and folks went back to ice skating, ice fishing, ice hockey, and keeping warm until it was time for the Souper Supper.

The finest cooks of LITC contributed their favorite soups and an overflow crowd slurped the night away. As with all the LITC events it was a community effort. Pat McGonigle, Mike McGonigle and Mollie set it all up. They also put things back together when we were done. Including the ice?

Mary and Ernest Henzi, Mike and Linda Foran and John and Stacey Guthrie worked together on the outside events (which was all of them) - games, fire, hot drinks, etc. John, in particular, was responsible for the hockey game set up and play. "Wood guys" gathered and cut the wood for the voracious fire. Others worked hard at sitting in chairs next to the fire. It was a great day for Lake in the Clouds, a great day for "Clouders" and the soups even warmed up the chronic malcontent. The soups were so superb and so varied that any taste was satisfied. No restaurant could ever begin to compare.

Kudos to all!

