Sebring Elks Unveil New Dock on Lake Jackson

The Sebring Elks are proud to announce the opening, for Members, of the dock on Lake Jackson directly behind the lodge at the corner of Lakeview Drive and Kenilworth Boulevard. There has never been a better time to become a member! We are growing at the pace of over 100 new members a year (faster than any Lodge in the State), so feel free to join in.

The project began in 2021 when Ronna Mason, Past Exalted Ruler, found a picture of the original dock from the 1960's and others joined in and started promoting the concept of a new dock. The idea of selling boards was learned from another Elks Lodge. As the Chairman of the Dock Committee, Mark Richardson took the lead on many marketing efforts. Lucy Luck made up a flyer that was posted on Facebook. Buddy Richards made a poster showing the donation thermometer. Lodge office secretaries Darlene Quel and Judy Hanson kept records of the donors. Billy Brown also made sure there was a Bucket in the Bar area labeled BBB: "Bucket in Bar for Boards".

In May 2022, Richard Vosburgh developed a Membership Marketing plan and sent a Postcard in the Mail to 500 addresses that are directly on Lake Jackson. It was an appeal to their potential interest in a Dock tie-up location and asked them to consider both an Elks Membership and to contribute to the New Dock project. In July 2022, Mark Richardson, the Chairman of the Dock Committee, announced that the Sebring Elks were halfway to their goal and reminded us that if we haven't already donated, that we can still "get on board."

Mark Richardson was named Elk of The Month for March 2022 by the Sebring Elks with the following tribute: "This honor is well deserved as Mark is a true and loyal member who is always looking to better the Lodge. For several years he has been promoting building a dock on the Lodge's shore on Lake Jackson and his tenacity has finally paid off. Funds are being raised and he is heading the committee to complete the project. Mark believes in the ideals of Elkdom and is spreading the word on the community involvement by the Lodge and consequently bringing in many new members."

Ken Wheeler (1 yr. Trustee and longtime Board Member) contributed mightily as he first applied for the permit from the DEP (Department of Environmental Protection) in January 2023. After many emails & phone calls and assistance from Lakeview Construction, Mr. Wheeler was able to obtain the necessary permits to have the dock constructed. Gary Germain of Germain Surveying donated the survey; and Bill Barber of Lakeview Construction won the bid for construction and finalized the process of permitting locally and with the state DEP. Construction began and was completed in the first week of June 2024.

Many thanks to so many who contributed to this great project! And most importantly, the Elks Members that bought boards will be recognized by name.

There has never been a better time to be a Sebring Elk! Nationally the Elks are a non-profit fraternal organization that raises more than \$80M every year for benevolent, educational and patriotic community-minded programs. The Order is a non-political, non-sectarian and strictly American fraternity. Proposal for membership in the Order is only by invitation of a member in good standing. To be accepted as a member, one must be an American citizen, believe in God, be of good moral character and be at least 21 years old.







