

Shorelines

Rock River Homeowners Association Newsletter
P.O. Box 2813 Loves Park, IL 61132-2813

Volume 27 Issue 1

Spring 2016

The spring of 2016 is now upon us. The weathermen were somewhat correct about the El Nino, except for the ice jam. I was informed by downtown residents the morning of January 12th of rising water levels. It started at the dam and looked like it was going to get the Ingersoll building. The gates were frozen shut but were opened around 11pm that night to relieve levels a bit downtown. There were then several more jams that occurred from south to north the next few days. Conditions were just right for making ice during that week. When the entire river fills with ice solid from downtown to Roscoe, there is not enough dynamite to help us stop this. Floodwaters reached over a foot and a half above the flood stage for the event. The problem with a winter flood is sandbagging is not practical with below freezing temperatures. Sump pumps don't like ice and frozen sand bags don't work as well frozen.

We have a great network of river residents to monitor river levels and now that we have the river levels at the dam gauge to monitor there is no argument about the correct levels. Gate #1 had stopped working last fall at the dam. This means we are at 75% capacity for removal of flood waters. They are telling us that it is a big project to install steel plates in front of the bad gate to perform the repairs and the other 3 gates need to be closed to perform the repairs. If we can dry out for a time this spring or summer, they may be able to do the repairs. Let's keep our fingers crossed that this is not a flood year.

We would like to thank all of you for donating to the river level gauge fund last year. Due to your added support last year we were able to keep funding additional projects to make the river safer for all. The land slide of trees at Atwood railroad tracks is no longer there, nor is the tree on Latham sand bar. When trees have been in the water that long, they develop a smell that is indescribable when they are removed from the river. We are hoping to get a second danger buoy for both Bridge Street and Latham Bridge sand bar areas this year. We have put bridge lights on Bridge Street in Roscoe. Directional signs will be put up soon. As we get our docks ready to go in this season, I encourage all of you to put solar lights on the poles and the docks this year. The river can get very dark without a moon out at night and the more reference points along the shorelines, the better.

You are receiving this newsletter to remind you that this is our annual membership drive. If you were a member last year we look forward to your continued support again this year. If you have not been a member in the past, please take the time to drop a check in the mail for \$25 to help the RRHA to continue to keep the river a safe place for all. You can also go to www.RockRiverHomeowners.org and pay via paypal with a small convenience fee. If you do not pay your membership, this is the only newsletter you will receive. We have two other news pieces that get published a year with news and advertising all river home owners can use.

FYI, if you have flood insurance through the government you may be paying too much. Several new private insurance companies have gotten into writing policies. AIG, Lloyds of London are a few of them. Your carrier might not have access to these companies because they are not backed by the government, but they are large enough to not have to worry about not getting paid out. People have said that they were able to reduce their premiums in half by switching. Also, some homeowners received notice from their lenders that their property flood zoning had changed and they now need flood insurance when they didn't before. If you feel this is not correct, you will have to get a certificate of elevation from a certified surveying company and file appropriate paperwork.

If you feel we are not doing something that you think we should be doing, please send us a note or email to let us know. The river gauge at the dam is supposed to be at 2.5 for proper recreational pool levels. This is also the level that is supposed to be maintained to reduce flooding. We will continue to work with Com Ed to try to reduce flooding this and every year. As always if you want to donate more than \$25 a year, we would put your funds to good use on our beautiful Rock River. See you on the water!

Steve Lucas, RRHA President

GOOSE GRIEF!

Are you plagued by our abundant goose population wandering on your shore and making every place you step a messy hazard?

Try taking 2 foot tall 1/2" diameter steel re-rod, available from Menards or any other home box store, and pounding them in every 10 feet apart or so near the shoreline, where it's out of the way for walking or mowing. Take a heavy duty colored twisted twine or brick string, available from most dollar stores, we got ours from the new 1\$ Depot across from Nunzios, and tying and wrapping that 10 to 12 inches off the ground along your shore. It's too tall for the geese to hop over, and too low to the ground for them to go underneath it.

It was suggested they're attracted to their favorite food, Kentucky Blue grass that is mowed short, so keep it longer toward shore by 3" to 6" or plant some decorative native plants instead. It is of course illegal to shoot or harm geese, or disturb them while they are sitting on their nest or eggs.

They can poop 2 lbs of poop a day, and when you have a large amount of them dining on your lot, that can add up fast!

Please be careful and make any of your guests aware of the goose line to avoid tripping hazards! There are also some sprays and chemicals that repel them, but they have to be refreshed during the season. Some pricey electronic devices are also available and are said to work until the geese get used to them and then just ignore them. Discourage anyone feeding them also, they remember and keep coming back for more.



Similar tactics can be used on your dock, shiny streamers or a rolled up tarp barrier, anything that makes them suspicious or frightened or think they can get trapped. More and more geese are around with all the available farm fields and food. Good luck with goose patrol this summer!



OFFICE: 1.815.316.4062
 CELL: 1.815.289.3362
 E-FAX: 1.815.231.8529
 OFFICE: 1.815.282.2222
 EMAIL: tshreve4@gmail.com



Teresa Shreve
BROKER

3815 N. Mulford Rd
Rockford, IL 61114



gambino
REALTORS

GoGambino.com




CJwhiteford
ROOFING™


815.243.1999

www.cjwhitefordroofing.com · cjwroofing@me.com

Fast. Reliable. **Honest.**




JEWELRY
CONCEPTS




Bruce Swartz
940 W. Riverside Blvd
Rockford, IL 61103
815-877-2220
RockfordGold.com

CASH FOR GOLD, SILVER & DIAMONDS



PAWN
Daddy

914 W. Riverside Blvd
815-654-7296



While you're at Jewelry Concepts, check out Pawn Daddy, right next door

Heated Storage

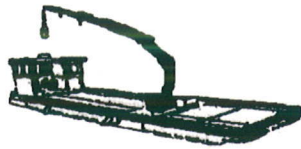
Pontoon In/Out Service

Paul Mills 815-494-2687

Boats, Cars and more...

WWW.ROCKFORDVEHICLESTORAGE.COM

Rock River Enterprises & Barge, Inc.



Steve Lucas, Owner

6212 Park Ridge Rd. Loves Park, IL 61111

815-543-8742 (office) 815-243-8742 (cell) 815-654-8772 (fax)



Retaining wall Stair & Dock system

Steep Hill
aluminum stairs
with landings
system design



My fellow Rock River residents, I have been selling boat lifts and docks for 27 years on our beautiful Rock River. I would have to say I love the river and all it has to offer. Whether having fun on it in the summer or just looking at it on a cold winter day, I would not have asked for a better place to live.

During the summer months after all the docks are in, I am able to help a few residents with shoreline work. Whether it's a small repair or a major job, I take great pride in every job. My goal is to have my work last a lifetime. I also do many odd jobs like trimming river trees that are only accessible by water. I know that I am sometimes hard to get a hold of, but once I commit to a job I make sure the work is done to the best of my ability. I look forward to the remaining summer with great excitement. If I can help you with a project, just drop me a message or send a text. Thanks again for the past 27 years and I look forward to the next 27! *Steve Lucas*

PLEASE USE THE SERVICES OF OUR RIVER HOME OWNER BUSINESSES!

Boat Lettering
Registration Numbers
Canvas Boat Cover repair
Marine Upholstery repair
Custom Graphics
Banners & Business Signs
Truck Lettering
Yard & Political Signs
Trade Show Displays

A-SIGN DESIGNS
GRAPHICS & ADVERTISING
.Fleet graphics. Logo design. Signs

Mary Anna Johnson
125 Wallace Avenue
Machesney Park, IL 61115

Phone 815-877-5096
email. asigndesigns@aol.com
www.asigndesigns.com

NOW OPEN

★ PRAIRIE ST BREWHOUSE ★
DOCKSIDE TAPROOM
EST. 2013

ROCKFORD
BREWING COMPANY

Sunday thru Wednesday: 11AM to 10PM
Thursday: 11AM to 12AM
Friday & Saturday: 11AM to 2AM

200 Prairie Street Rockford, IL

• (815) 277-9427 •

www.rockfordbrewingco.com/dockside

P
A
T
I
O
C
O
V
E
R
S



S
C
R
E
E
N
P
O
R
C
H

Bus: (815) 654-1155
Home: (815) 494-1071
8414 N. Second St

JIM ANDERSON
Fax: (815) 654-1196
Rockford, IL 61115

Jackie Anderson
Independent Sales Director
101 Shoreland Rd.
Machesney Park, IL 61115

MARY KAY

to order products call: 815-633-1173
or go to my website: www.MaryKay.com/janderson34

wrap-it!
shrink wrapping service
As good as inside storage!

815-969-7470
Bob Jakubien

815-494-7080
Jeff (YT) Anderson



PAULA SCHWARTZ
TAD'S BAR & GRILL
Party on the Rock!

10 E. Riverside Blvd
Loves Park, IL 61111
815-654-3500 office
815-988-0111 cell
tadsbar@sbcglobal.net

GUIDE TO THE ROCK RIVER



PROVIDED BY: **THE ROCK RIVER HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION**

P.O. Box 2813, Loves Park, IL 61111

* Safety on the Rock River is our #1 concern.

ROCK RIVER

As shown on this map:

Width: Averages 350 feet

Depth: Varies

4 feet, plus, in channel

Islands: 1

Bridges: 9

Navigatable length: 13 mi.

Tributaries: 4 creeks

Number of river residents:

Approximately (975)

NORTH END OF RIVER

CAUTION: Very shallow water north of the Roscoe Bridge.

MARKERS ON THE BRIDGES

- ↕ **GREEN SIGNS WITH ARROWS** - Mark the direction of passage for boats under bridges.
- **RED MARKER SQUARES** - Mark the bridge supports...Pass between them and under the reflective green and white arrows on bridge.

RIVER RESTRICTIONS - "High Water No Wake"
"River Closings" may also be posted on bridges.

KEY

- (B) Beach
- S Shallow
- (L) Launch/Ramp
- (R) Restrooms
- Known Sandbars

***PLEASE HELP TO KEEP
OUR RIVER CLEAN.....
...AND FREE OF LITTER!!**

*The ducks, wild geese, beaver,
muskrat, walleye, bass, catfish,
and water skiers will appreciate it!

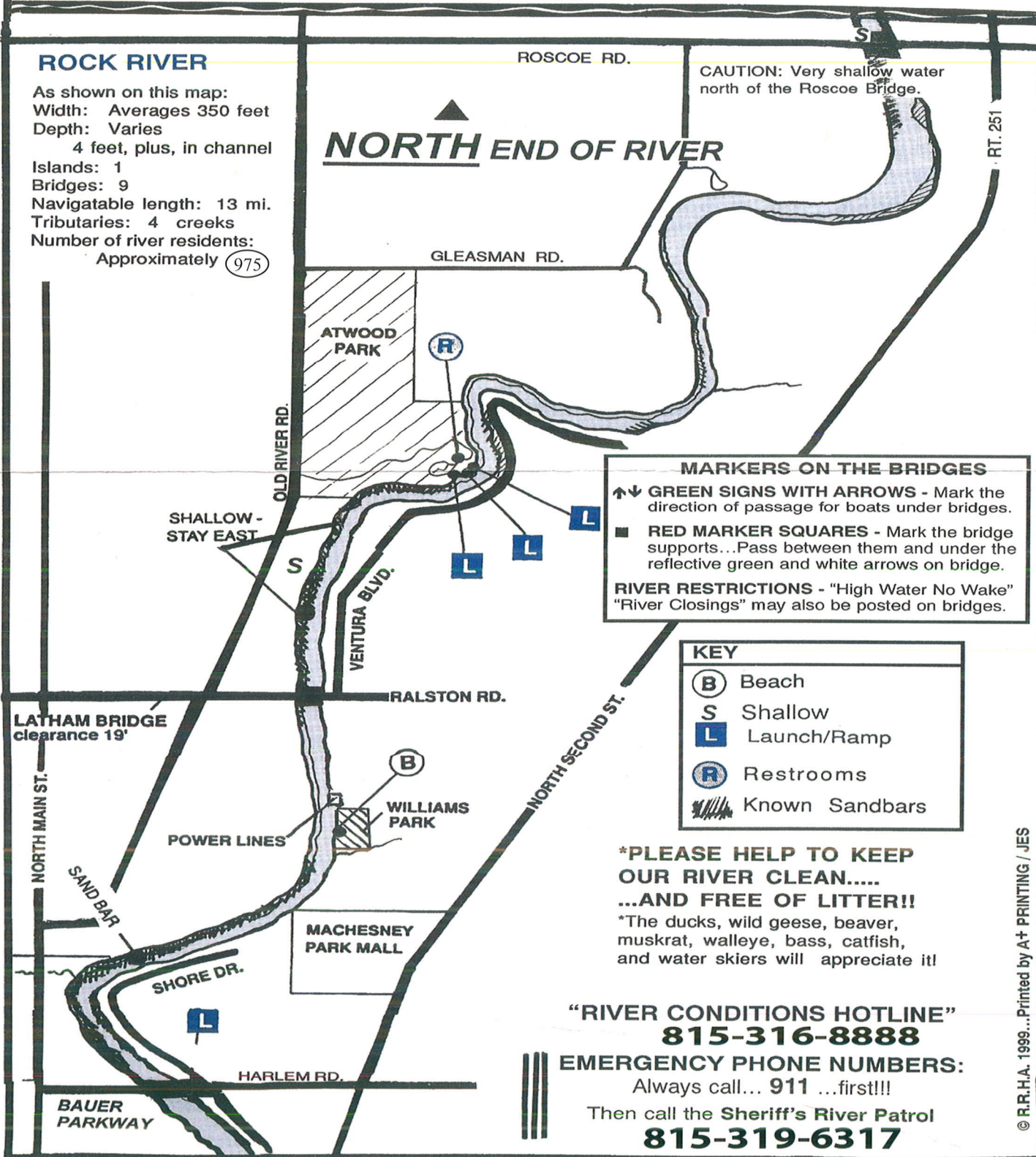
"RIVER CONDITIONS HOTLINE"
815-316-8888

EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS:

Always call... 911 ...first!!!

Then call the Sheriff's River Patrol

815-319-6317



SOUTH END OF RIVER

CAUTION:

- *Use proper lights from sunset to sunrise.
- *No fishing is allowed off bridges.
- * Watch carefully for small water craft, debris and people in the water. (i.e. water skiers)
- *Think of the river as a highway. Stay to the right.
- *Watch for sandbars and shallow areas.

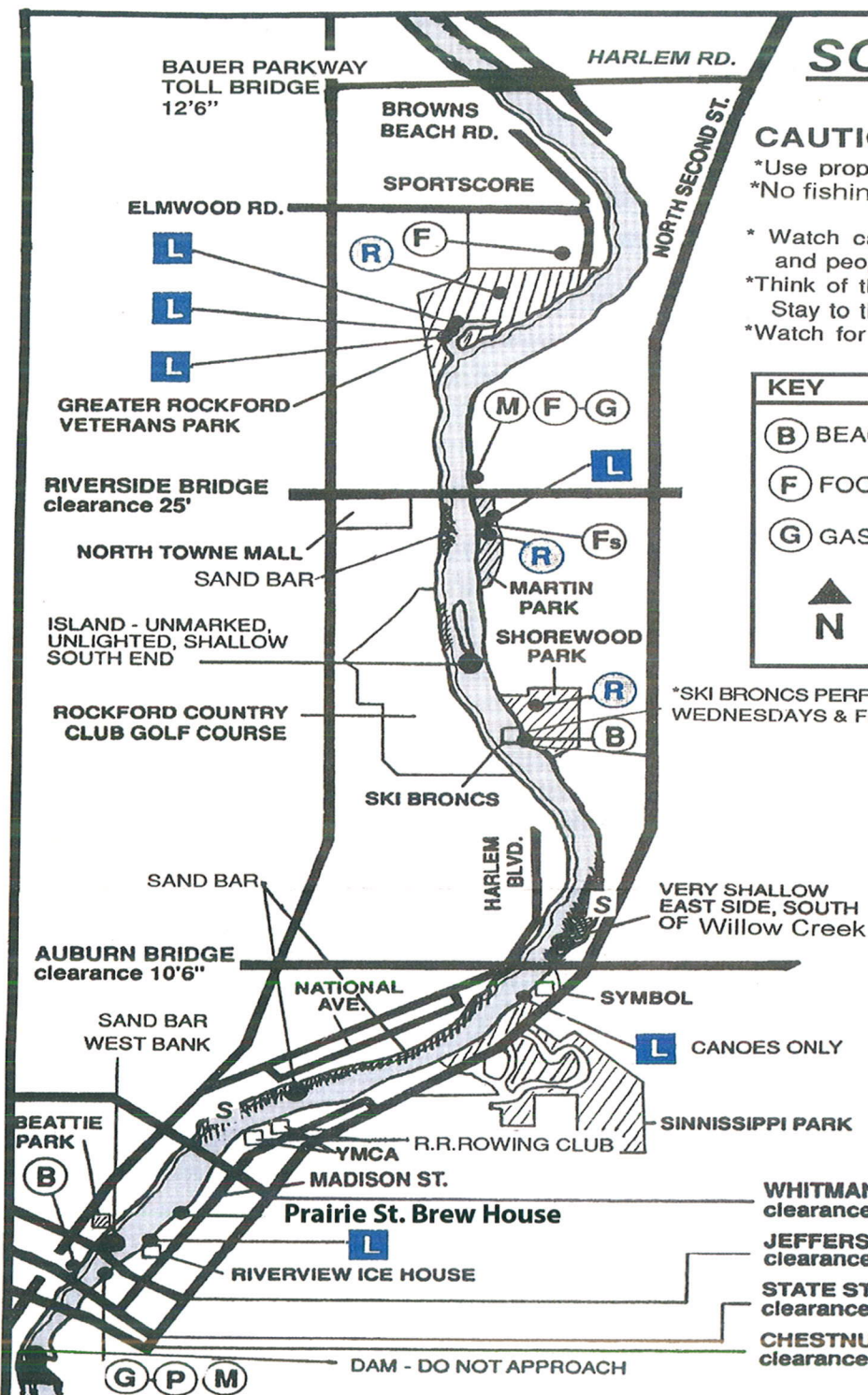
KEY

(B) BEACH	(L) LAUNCH/RAMP
(F) FOOD	S Shallow
(G) GAS	(M) MARINA
	(P) PARTS/SERVICE
▲ N	(R) RESTROOM FACILITIES
	KNOWN SANDBARS

*SKI BRONCS PERFORMANCES
WEDNESDAYS & FRIDAYS, 7P.M.

NOTES:

- * Free boating inspections via U.S. Coast Guard Aux.
- * Bridge clearances are approximations at center and at normal water levels
- * This map is provided by the Rock River Homeowners Assoc. and is intended as a guide to facilities and reference points for boaters. The association is in no way liable for personal or property damage incurred from the use of this guide.
- * For Illinois Boating Safety classes and certification cards, contact Winn. Sheriff's River Patrol.



SAFETY GUIDELINES:

This guide is in compliance with the laws and ordinances of the U.S. Coast Guard and the Winnebago County Sheriff's Dept./River Patrol.

- Speed limits are 45mph during daylight, 25mph from sunset to sunrise.
- Water-skiing after sunset is extremely dangerous and unlawful.
- Open exhaust boats are against State Law.
- Polluting and littering of the river is prohibited.
- Proper boat lighting is required from sunset to sunrise.
- Driving a boat while intoxicated with result in a "O.U.I." citation.
- Children under the age of 10 cannot operated any motorized watercraft; from ages 10-12 they must be under direct control of parent or guardian.
- Young adults (ages 12-18), in order to operate a motorized watercraft, must carry an Illinois State Certification card as proof that they have completed a boating safety course.
- All boaters must observe the "No Wake" zones.
- Safety equipment must comply with the U.S. Coast Guard and IL Dept. of Natural Resources regulations
- No person may operate a watercraft under 26 feet in length unless a Type I, Type II, Type III or Type V personal flotation vest is being properly worn by each person under the age of 13 on board the watercraft at all times in which the craft is underway.

We still are selling RRHA river shore signs for \$40.00 .You can send a check to Rock River Homeowners Association, PO Box 2813 Loves Park, IL 61111 or pay with paypal on the website. (with the convenience fee) Please fill out the information below:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

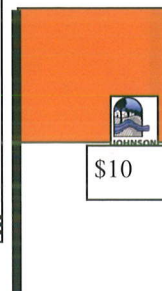
Name on sign: _____ (first or last name, limit to one line)

Address numbers: _____ (will be boldest)

Street name: _____



\$40 each



These are usually displayed on the shore and used for waterfront address location, or emergency boating help. These also make great gifts! For Father's Day, Mother's Day and housewarmings. They are 12" x 18" baked aluminum with a color logo and black name and address.

Ski Flags are also available at Steve Lucas's dock or call Mary Johnson 815-877-5096 for \$10 each. You must use these when pulling any skier, tube or wake board.

NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING: Ads will be run 3 times a year, beginning with our Spring Newsletter. Anyone that wants to start advertising at a different time of the year will pay only the prorated amount for the balance of the year.

Ad Sizes—Business card \$100 1/2 page \$280

Make checks payable to RRHA Advertising

PO Box 2813, Loves Park, IL 61132-2813

Email print ready ad or info you want published to:

Asigndesigns@aol.com 815-877-5096

Please support our advertisers! Remember, For Sale or Want to Buy ads are FREE for members! RRHA reserves the right to locate the ad within the newsletter and also the right to refuse ads deemed inappropriate. Call for further details.

ARE YOU NEW TO THE RIVER??

Welcome and here's your chance to get the scoop on what you need to know about what's going on in that beautiful, wet watery "street" in your back yard! You'll get inside information on concerns being addressed, events going on and get to meet experienced "river folk" that can answer most questions you might have or direct you to someone who can. Plan on keeping in the loop and join the Rock River Homeowners Association today! You don't want to miss any of the excitement and fun! Send your membership application in today!



Past and Present Rock River Homeowners Association Projects

If you're wondering where your dues and other donation monies are being used to improve our Rock River, here are just a few of the completed and on going Rock River improvements your association has accomplished! (Not in any specific order!)

1. Installed commercial marine navigational solar lights on bridges and maintain with new bulbs and batteries when needed.
2. Installed directional arrow navigation signs on the bridges to help guide boat traffic under bridges.
3. Purchased additional buoys for no wake and hazard areas and installed flashing lights on them.
4. Purchased a new Bimini shade top for the Sherriff's patrol boat.
5. Installed and maintain news and information stations at launch areas.
6. Installed navigation solar light for entry to Sportscore launch on shore.
7. Construction and installation of a static river level gauge at Davis Park in 2014.
8. Purchase and installation of an official U.S.G.S electronic gauge at Davis Park at the dam for spring of 2015, this will be of great importance to everyone viewing the water level gauges on the website, as it will give the level at the dam.
9. Create and maintain a professional Website that shows all area river gauges in one page, and other important Rock River information to home owners and boaters.
10. Donate money to the Ski Broncs yearly for their program to further the Rock River's value as an entertainment venue.
11. Publication of the Rock River Homeowners Association Newsletter to keep homeowners and businesses on the river informed.
12. Support by board members and homeowners by volunteering during Rock River cleanup events like Rock River Sweep.
13. Do you have a project you'd like to see addressed? Send us a note or call any of the board members!

INVOICE for 2016 Membership (Please put this in your bill paying pile!)**2016 Rock River Homeowners Association Membership Application**

Whether you are joining for the first time, or a long time member renewing, we'd love to have you!

Our mission is to: "Preserve and protect the Rock River environment, enjoyment of the river, and to promote public awareness of river safety."

Membership is \$25 and it is good for one year. It includes the newsletter to keep you informed of events and information, the ability to become a RRHA board member, and to directly make improvements to our great river. We welcome suggestions, and hope to address concerns, as well as to make the river a better place for us all, so please feel free to get involved and fill out the application.

Homeowner(s): _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

(please give us your email address so we can notify you of current concerns and notices) () check if you'd prefer to receive your newsletter via email to save on postage and printing costs!) thank you!

RRHA Zone Number (refer to the board member zones on the address page) _____

Type of Membership: _____ I am a new member _____ I am renewing

Please return this page in it's entirety with your payment of \$25 by July 30, 2016 to:

RRHA P.O. Box 2813, Loves Park, IL 61132-2813

You can also go to the www.rockriverhomeowners.org website and pay via paypal if you'd prefer—

2015 Rock River Homeowners Association

DONATION PLEA

To support the on-going Rock River improvement and safety projects under the guidance of the Rock River Homeowners Association, we ask that you consider an additional monetary contribution. Last year's big project was the installation of an official U.S.G.S. Real time level gauge at the dam, which will be able to be accessed by the internet on our www.RockRiverHomeowners.org website along with the other area gauges in our area. We have raised the money to fund the \$15,000.00+ gauge and installation by membership dues and private donations. We ask that you PLEASE support these important additions to our area by sending your membership dues in promptly and if you have just read the newsletters, and not ever sent in your dues, PLEASE do it now to help fund this and other projects.

Donations in any amount will be gratefully accepted and appreciated. The Rock River Homeowners Association is a non-profit organization and your donation is tax deductible.

_____ I would like to make a one-time donation of \$ _____

I would like to donate \$100 \$200 \$300 \$400 \$500 \$ _____

Please make your checks payable to: Rock River Homeowners Association and mail with your membership dues to the above address.

Thank you! Your Board of Directors



Rock River Homeowners Association
P.O. Box 2813 Loves Park, IL 61132-2813

PRSRT STD
U S POSTAGE
PAID
#700

Or Occupant

Rock River Homeowners Association
P.O. box 2813 Loves Park, IL 61132

The Officers

President	Steve Lucas
Vice President	Jack Sakolski
Treasurer	Ron Neuschwander
Secretary	Mike Dagefoerde

Committee Chairs

Membership	Chip Gammel
Newsletter	Mary Johnson
Natural Environment	Bruce Olson
Dam Operation	Steve Lucas
Website	Chip Gammel

Telephone Numbers

Sheriff's Dept.	815-282-2600-Dispatcher
Sheriff's Dept	815-319-6317-Shift
Chief Deputy Ditzler	815-319-6312
Coast Guard Auxiliary	815-877-6522
Army corps of Engineers	(309)794-4200
Emergency Services	815-319-6215
River Hotline	815-316-8888

MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the Rock River Homeowners Association shall be to preserve and protect the Rock River environment, enjoyment of the river and to promote public awareness of river safety

THE BOARD

NAME	TERM	NUMBER
ZONE 1: West side from State St. To Harlem Bridge		
Loyd & Diane Koch	2016	815-968-6685
Kim Bailly	2017	815-262-0576
ZONE 2: West side from Harlem to Roscoe Bridge		
Ron & Sharon Neuschwander	2016	815-654-9276
Mike & Pij Richter	2016	815-654-9621
Mike & Nancy Dagefoerde	2017	815-623-5045
ZONE 3: East side from State St. to Harlem Bridge		
Steve Lucas	2016	815-654-8742
Jack Sokolski	2016	815-877-8205
ZONE 4: East side from Harlem to Roscoe Bridge		
Tim Hendricks	2016	815-633-2327
ZONE 5: North of the Roscoe Bridge		
Bruce Swartz	2017	815-624-2465