

Portage Lakes Polar Bear Club Presents

15TH Annual POLAR BEAR JUMP



PORTAGE LAKES



POLAR BEAR JUMP

Saturday, February 17th, 2018



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The Portage Lakes Polar Bear Club thanks KNR for their continued leadership in supporting the Jump and our beneficiary charities!

FirstEnergy®



The Portage Lakes Polar Bear Club thanks FirstEnergy for their continued leadership in supporting the Jump and our beneficiary charities!

Our 15th Year...

Our little jump-started 15 years ago in the back of our homes. In 2004 seventy people jumped in the lake to raise money for charity. In 2017 there were close to 800 jumpers plus Chilly Chicken's at the State Park, raising over \$160,000 for the Akron Canton Regional Foodbank.

So what has happened in the last 15 years?

Co-founder's Kelly and Heather Pariso, went from dating, to engaged to now going on their 12th wedding anniversary. Two children were brought into the Polar Bear Family. They have learned about giving, donating and volunteering, and in 2017 they both jumped with a group of friends for the first time at ages 8 and 9.

Co-founder's Jeff and Debbie Fulkman have watched their children grow up, move away, and move close to home again. They have welcomed three grandchildren. They love being grandparents and now are enjoying retirement.

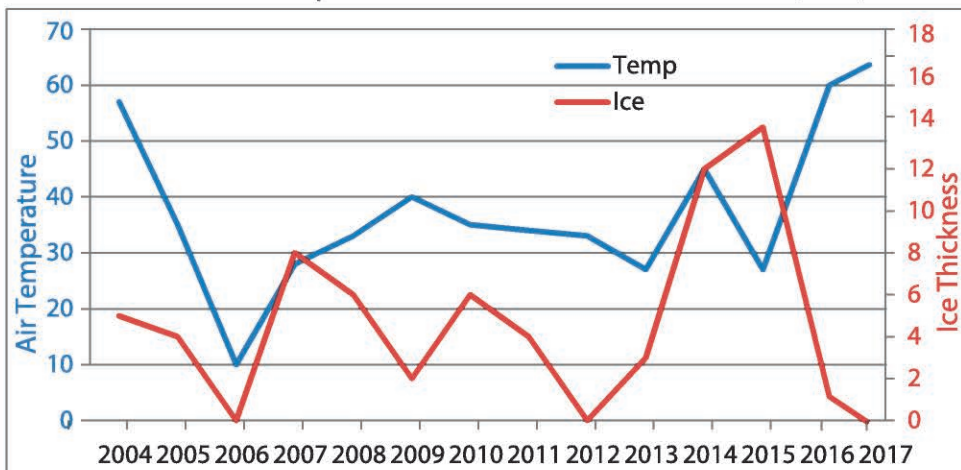
As far as the Polar Bear Club itself, we have gone from a "club" to an official Non-Profit 501(c)3. We have outgrown our back yards, then moved to the State Park launch ramps, grew even bigger and are now at the State Park Beach. We started at \$13,000 raised and 70 jumpers in 2004, to over \$160,000 and 800 jumpers in 2017. Technology! From Facebook, to online registration, and online donation we keep updating to keep up with the demands of our growing event.

Most importantly, our love and dedication for the charities, our jumpers, chickens, spectators and amazing volunteers grows every year. YOU are the reason we spend our time putting on this February event. THANK YOU for all you do. Without you the Portage Lakes Polar Bear Jump would not be a success.

Co-founder - Heather Pariso

Fourteen Year Jump History

<u>Year</u>	<u>Temp</u>	<u>Ice Conditions</u>	<u>Jumpers</u>	<u>Fundraising</u>
2004	57°	5" Solid Ice	74	\$13,000+
2005	35°	4" Sturdy Ice	104	\$16,000+
2006	10°	Open Water	145	\$18,500+
2007	28°	8" Solid Ice	160	\$27,000+
2008	33°	6" Solid Ice	210	\$22,000+
2009	40°	2" Unsafe Ice	220	\$22,000+
2010	35°	6" Solid Ice	400+	\$50,000+
2011	34°	4" Weakening Ice	400+	\$40,000+
2012	33°	Open Water	750+	\$85,000+
2013	27°	3" Unsafe Ice	750+	\$85,000+
2014	45°	12" Solid Ice	800+	\$100,000+
2015	27°	14" Solid Ice	700+	\$110,000+
2016	61°	1" Unsafe Ice	700+	\$110,000+
2017	64°	Open Water	750+	\$160,000+





BEACH BOYZ

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PHOTO BOOTHS

VIDEOGRAPHY

ENTERTAINMENT

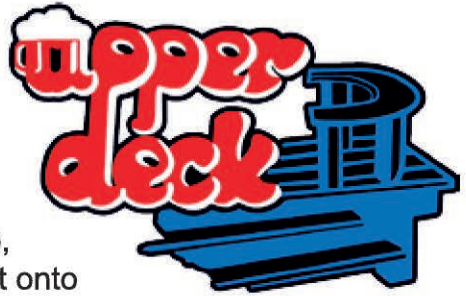
WWW.BEACHBOYZENTERTAINMENT.COM 2017-2018

JOIN US AT THE AFTER PARTY

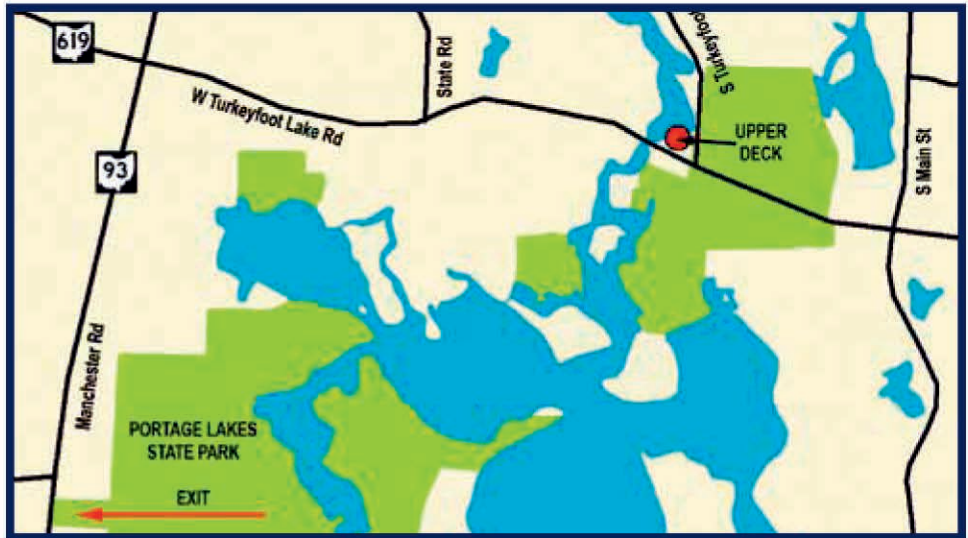
Hosted by the Upper Deck.

**JUMPERS:
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Located only five minutes from the State Park. When exiting, turn right onto Manchester Road (Rt 93), drive 1.3 miles, turn right at the light onto W Turkeyfoot Lake Rd (Rt 619), drive 1.4 miles and the locations will be on your left.



Upper Deck: 357 W Turkeyfoot Lake Rd, Akron OH 44319



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Akron Rotary Camp



Akron Rotary Camp was founded in 1924 to meet the needs of children with physical disabilities, so kids with polio and cerebral palsy had a place to spend their summers. A place where disabilities and limitations did not matter. A place where they could participate in activities that helped build their self-esteem and physical endurance. Since its inception, Rotary Camp has been the primary project of the Rotary Club of Akron. Rotarians are active in volunteering and fundraising for Rotary Camp and many

other local and international service projects. In 1995, Rotary Camp formed a successful partnership with the Akron Area YMCA. The YMCA provides professional staff and manages the daily operations of the camp.

Today, the mission of serving children and families is still very much alive in all our programs staying true to providing the opportunity to enjoy the outdoors in a camp setting. Campers are given the opportunity to experience traditional camping activities, develop relationships, learn life skills and create memories that last a lifetime.

Meet Anthony:

13 year old Anthony Harris has been attending Rotary Camp and Respite Camp for five years. He has Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder and Oppositional Defiant Disorder. His mother Tiana Sprout said Anthony has impulse control issues and he suffered from separation anxiety after his sister passed away when he was eight years old.



When he started Rotary Camp he began learning how to share. He learned how to take turns. He learned how to solve issues with other children without becoming physical. He became very helpful. With his separation anxiety he would cry when it was camp time.

An advertisement for Caston & Main Brew Yard. The background is a blurred image of a bar or brewery interior. In the foreground, there is a glass of beer with the "Caston & Main Brew Yard" logo on it. To the right, there is a circular logo with the text "CASTON & MAIN BREW Yard". Below the logo, the address "5010 S Main St, Akron, OH 44319" and phone number "330.882.CASK (2275)" are listed, along with the website "www.CastonBrewYard.com".

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"But as time passed he was excited for camp and eventually the anxiety became less of an issue for him. He really has a great time and always has a ton of stories when he comes home. Some of the counselors are from other countries so he loves talking and learning about where they are from a well. It really is a great experience for him."



The mission of Akron Rotary Camp is "creating a world where there are only abilities." There are many other campers like Anthony that have the opportunity to do the impossible. Whether it's a first canoe ride, first campfire or the first time away from home, Rotary Camp provides opportunities to help everyone grow.



Donations such as those raised through the Portage Lakes Polar Bear Jump will enable Rotary Camp to continue to strengthen our mission that embraces differences and provides opportunity for children and adults with special needs, regardless of financial background. The generosity of donors makes it possible for us to offer financial assistance to families in need. In 2017, Rotary Camp provided nearly \$200,000 in direct financial assistance to campers and families.

For more information on Akron Rotary Camp visit www.gotcamp.org or call 330-644-4512.



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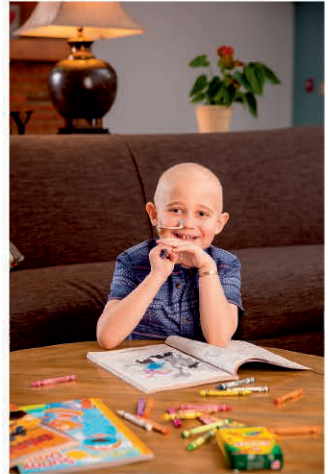
Ronald McDonald House Akron: Keeping Families Close and Comfortable

by Barb Bragiel

Like many families, Alexis and Pat Fiocca never imagined they'd find themselves staying at Ronald McDonald House Akron. Yet, when their son Liam needed a stem-cell transplant to treat aplastic anemia, it became their home away from home for more than 100 days.

Prior to arriving at RMHA in August 2016, Liam had endured several months of testing and sickness before doctors identified what was wrong with him. By the time he was diagnosed, he was in liver failure. Liam's only option was a bone marrow transplant. Fortunately, his older sister Talia was a match and felt honored to save his life.

Although the Fioccas and their three children live in nearby Uniontown, they needed to stay within five minutes of Akron Children's Hospital because of the med port in Liam's chest. Had it not been for RMHA, the family would've been split between Alexis staying in Liam's hospital room while Pat and their two daughters commuted from home.



From the moment they walked through the door, Alexis says that they were welcomed with open arms. "Everyone treated us so well and were very hospitable to us," she says. "We didn't have to explain what we were going through to anyone. They were so good to us! We felt right at home."

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RMHA made it possible for the Fioccas to spend Thanksgiving, Christmas, and the New Year together while Liam was being treated. Something that might not have happened without RMHA's accommodations.

To help them feel even more at home, the family was allowed to put up a Christmas tree in the downstairs family room and even hosted their family there for the holidays, Alexis shares. Throughout their stay, they ate dinner together every night. Most nights, volunteers made meals for them and other residents, relieving that added stress of meal planning and preparation.

"The mom in me was particularly excited about that because I didn't have to cook," laughs Alexis.

And the longer they were there, the more Liam and his sisters grew to love RMHA. They were all making memories there... and good ones, at that. As his condition improved, Liam was able to enjoy being a kid again. He waged Nerf gun battles through the hallways with his friends all the time. And, he would race remote-control cars with whomever dared to take him on.

Today, Liam is a healthy, typical seven-year-old boy, who's a lot to keep up with. He's no longer on any medication and is doing well.

"If you saw him now, you'd never know he'd been through what he'd been through," says Alexis.

Liam and his family left RMHA in January 2017, in the midst of the House's expansion project. Alexis and Pat are extremely grateful for all that RMHA did to support and assist them through the darkest time of their lives.

"Everyone there genuinely cares and they take care of every detail," Alexis shares. "Ronald McDonald House will forever hold a special place in our hearts."



Dragons Return this Summer....

In just a few months, with sunny skies and warm temperatures, it will be dragons, not polar bears, taking over Portage Lakes. On Saturday, July 28, more than 1000 people are expected to return to the beautiful beach at Portage Lakes State Park for the 6th Annual Dragons on the Lake Dragon Boat Festival.

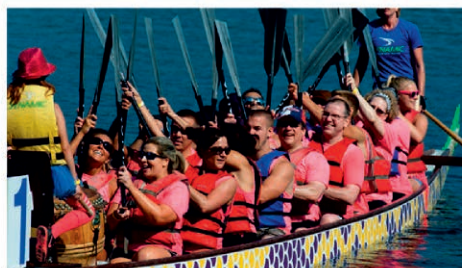


If you think jumping in the ice cold water is exciting, then you need to discover the thrill of dragon boat racing, one of the fastest growing team water sports in the world. Community, corporate and friends and family groups will be teaming up to race 46' foot authentic, colorful dragon boats. All will be participating in a day of community, camaraderie and fun

competition to support breast cancer awareness and the Dragon Dream Team, Ohio's first all breast cancer survivor dragon boat team.



What is Dragon Boating? Dragon Boating is the ultimate team sport. This 2000 year old Chinese sport is a thrilling ride, with a team of 20



paddlers, drummer and steersperson racing in colorful 46'foot Hong Kong style dragonboats. Absolutely no experience is necessary. All ages, genders and skill levels can participate since the key to successful dragon boating is not power, but paddling "in sync."

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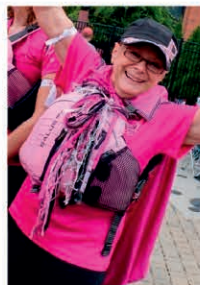
www.SullysRental.com

Create a Team. Gather your co-workers, family and friends to create your team of 16-24 paddlers and a drummer. Most teams are a mix of men and women. All equipment (boats, paddles, life jackets, a professional steersperson PLUS a practice paddling session on the water prior to race day is included. It's a boatload of fun for less than \$50 per person.



Festival Day Activities. The day starts with a ceremonial "awakening of the dragon." Once the racing begins, it's non-stop action with dragon boats heading to the finish line every 12 minute. The races are fast and furious, typically lasting around two minutes.

Paddling with a Purpose. Paddling is the fun part. Sharing a message of hope and supporting breast cancer awareness is the important part. Dragons on the Lake Festival proceeds stay in the community and support all the activities of the Dragon Dream Team including Boatloads of Hope breast cancer outreach, a program in more than 14 hospitals and cancer centers throughout northeast Ohio.



Reserve Your Spot Now.

More information and registration forms for the 2018 Dragons on the Lake Dragon Boat Festival go to - www.dragondreamteam.org or contact **Sara** at dragonsonthelake@gmail.com or 330.310.5259



www.dragonsonthelake.com



www.dragondreamteam.org

Keep

Judge JILL FLAGG
Lanzinger

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THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS & SUPPORTERS

As you could imagine a lot of planning goes into having this event. We at the Polar Bear Club would like to extend our sincere thanks to everyone that has made this event a success:

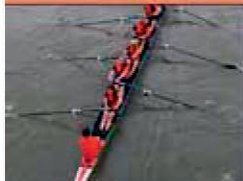
- Dragon Dream Team
- The Staff of Portage Lakes State Park
- Chris Conn for his photography skills
- Al Bollas, Mayor and Steve Leslie, Fire Chief of New Franklin
- Portage Lakes Rowing Association for lending us their floating dock
- Employees & volunteers from Ronald McDonald House of Akron, Rotary Camp of Akron, & the Akron Canton Regional Foodbank
- Beach Boyz Entertainment for DJ service
- Sully's Tool & Party Rental for tables, tents, heaters and chairs
- Caston & Main for hosting packet pickup
- Corporate teams from FirstEnergy, Kisling, Nestico & Redick, Ameriprise Financial, Akron General Orthopedics and GOJO Industries
- Kelly Pariso of Ameriprise Financial for sponsoring this year's t-shirts
- Ad Direct for postcard printing
- Mike Studeny & all of the park personnel
- New Franklin Fire/EMS
- Cintas
- Stitches & Screens
- TMZ Printing

Finally, a **BIG THANK YOU** to all of the volunteers in Bright Green shirts. Without your efforts this event would not be possible.

Please support our local sponsors who placed ads in this program.

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TODAY'S ESTIMATED SCHEDULE

1:45 - Registration Closes

2:00 - National Anthem

FIRST HALF JUMPER ORDER

2:05 - VIPBs (Very Important Polar Bears) with \$500+ raised!

2:10 Red Checker	2:20 Orange Checker	2:30 Green Checker	2:40 Blue Checker	2:50 Purple Checker
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3:00 - Intermission - Selection of 50/50 Drawing Winner!
Chilly Chicken jumps on behalf of all the chickens!

SECOND HALF JUMPER ORDER

3:05 Red	3:15 Orange	3:25 Green	3:35 Blue	3:45 Purple
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Volunteers Jump

After Party at the Upper Deck



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starts with knowing
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