



Denise Parker, president of the HLPA, served her famous chocolate sauce while her daughter Annie dished up the whipped cream at the HLPA Ice Cream Social on July 5.

Photo: Bob Welch

Highland Lake Celebrates The Fourth In Style

By Anne Landini
For the Beacon

Weren't we lucky! The threatening clouds moved around us and left us with nothing but sunny skies for our Fourth of July celebrations at Highland Lake.

Bob Welch sold 120 flares which when lighted gave us a "circle of light" around the lake to start our holiday.

There was no need to leave the lakeside at dusk on the Fourth. There was a fantastic display of fireworks right here. First in one area and then another. If you were out on the water you could have seen it all; if not, a swivel neck would have come in handy.

The boat parade on Saturday featured seven very original entrants. Jim Cooley, last year's winner, presented the \$50 first prize and the Highland

Lake Protection Association flag to the Murphy Teschek family for their Camelot, a poker-playing Nordic float. The second prize went to Emerson Proctor for Christmas in July, and the third prize went to the Kidders for Moo New Hampshire.

Next year the Tescheks will do the judging and presentation to the best 2009 entrant. The enthusiastic encouragement from the spectators on the shore really adds to the fun.

Ice Cream Social Returns

The Ice Cream Social on July 5 was a huge success with the largest crowd ever. And why not? The price was right, the scoopers were generous, and the toppings were delicious.

The Highland Lake Protection Association will present another Ice Cream Social on Labor Day Weekend. Join us at the East Andover fire station on August 30 from 7 PM to 8 PM for another round of delicious treats.

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FOURTH OF JULY INVOCATION BY CHAPLAIN DAVID GROVER

Two hundred and thirty-two years ago yesterday, John Adams, who would become the second president of these United States, wrote these words to his wife, Abigail, right after the Declaration of Independence had been approved:

"It ought to be commemorated as the Day of Deliverance by solemn Acts of Devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with Pomp and Parade, with Shows, Games, Sports, guns, Bells, Bonfires and Illuminations [fireworks] from one End of this Continent to the other from this Time forward forever more. You will think me transported with Enthusiasm but I am not. I am well aware of the Toil and Blood and Treasure, that it will cost us to maintain this Declaration, and support and defend these States. Yet through all the Gloom I can see the Rays of ravishing Light and Glory."

So, let us follow John Adams' lead and begin this 232nd commemoration of the Day of Deliverance with the solemn act of prayer to God Almighty. Whether you, yourself, are a person of faith, or out of respect for those around you who are, please join me in accordance with your own beliefs in exercising our First Amendment Right of Religious Freedom.

O God, on this 232nd anniversary of the birth of our nation, we assemble before you as our ancestors before us in the center of our community, surrounded by friends and neighbors, to pray for our nation and to remember with gratefulness your hand of protection upon our nation. We don't deserve to be heard by you for we fall short of the standard you require, yet we humbly implore you knowing that you are a loving god.

Our forefathers recorded for us their dependence on your providence as they declared their independence from the

British monarchy knowing full well that the rights endowed upon them by the "Laws of Nature and Nature's God" would be challenged by Britain's might. Still they declared that you, O God, had created all men "equal and that they were endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, and that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

Our founding fathers finished their declaration with their signatures and the vow that "for the support of this Declaration, and with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor."

Two hundred and thirty-two years later we still gather every Fourth of July to celebrate our birth as a nation and strive to commemorate our Day of Deliverance in a way that would make John Adams proud by solemnly remembering your providence and the sacrifices of those who have given their lives and fortunes throughout our history to secure for their posterity the liberty and security that we so often take for granted.

In the midst of our activities today, we would be remiss if we did not pause and remember those absent from every community across our nation, because even as we celebrate they are watching our back, securing our liberties, and defending our freedom. Watch over them and protect them while in harm's way and bring them all safely home. Remind us that you, O Lord, are a god who saves, "a refuge and a fortress, our God, in whom we trust." (Ps. 91:2)

We pray for our nation, the Land of the Free, because of the brave, O God, and thank you that you have instilled in the hearts of the American people the value of liberty and the understanding that, as Lincoln said, "Our defense is in the preservation of the spirit which prizes liberty as the heritage of all men, in all lands, everywhere." Deep down inside we know we are not truly free until all mankind is free. We know that we are our brother's keeper. So we pray that you would strengthen the resolve of our nation to continue to support the fledgling freedom of Iraq and Afghanistan, given birth by their patriots through the labor pains of war.

Finally, we pray for peace on earth. Help our race to find its way to peace so that we can lay down the weapons of war and beat our swords into plowshares (Micah 4:3). In our lifetime may we see "justice roll on like a river, and righteousness like a never-failing stream." (Amos 5:24)

We pray this in the name of the one who holds the universe together; yet holds us in his hands. Amen

Happy Birthday, America! Let us celebrate with joy, but let us not lose sight of what it cost to be here today.

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