

Our July meeting took place on Wednesday, July 3, at 6:30 pm at the Bass Lake Firehall on Mink Road. Our August meeting will take place on Wednesday, August 7, at 6:30 pm at the Bass Lake Firehall. All are welcome to attend. We had three guests from East Bass Lake at our July meeting: Lee Leighton, Jimmy Anderson, and SuAnn Anderson. Lee, Jimmy, and SuAnn have been working on two fundraising projects for our fire department. One project involves a beautiful satellite map of Ellsburg Township which includes the roads, trails, lakes, rivers, and addresses in our township. It also includes the GPS coordinates of the helicopter landing zones that have been established throughout the area. These maps are for sale, and are the perfect gift for anyone who has ties to the Ellsburg area. The map was on display at the Melrude Parade and Picnic festivities, and orders were taken. If you would like to see this map and perhaps order one, contact our fire department at 218-482-3777, or email me at [heidiyokel@gmail.com](mailto:heidiyokel@gmail.com). We will also have some on display, and take orders for them, at our National Night Out festivities on August 6.

The second project that Lee, Jimmy, and SuAnn are working on is a money raffle. Raffle tickets are being sold now for \$5.00 per ticket. The prizes are: 1st= \$100, 2nd= \$100, 3rd= \$50, and 4th= \$50. The winning tickets will be drawn at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, August 6, National Night Out at the Bass Lake Firehall. Winners do not have to be present to win! Tickets can be bought from fire department members, the Melrude Whistle Stop, and at National Night Out. Our department is trying to raise the funds to purchase a new Jaws of Life to enable us to extricate victims of an accident. Words cannot express how much we appreciate all the work and financial support that Lee, Jimmy, and SuAnn have put into these fundraising projects for our department! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

The Ellsburg National Night Out will take place at our firehall at 1102 Mink Road on Tuesday, August 6, starting at 5:00pm. The concept of an annual National Night Out on the first Tuesday in August was first proposed in 1984 by the National Association of Town Watch in the United States and Canada. The reason for this event is to bring communities together, develop neighborhood camaraderie, and raise awareness to make our neighborhoods safer. This event takes place in thousands of communities in all fifty states, U.S. territories, and military bases. It began with neighbors turning on their porch lights and sitting in front of their homes, and has evolved into block parties, festivals, parades, cookouts, safety demonstrations, seminars, youth events, and visits from emergency personnel. Our National Night Out event will include food, demonstrations, games, door prizes, toy raffle, money raffle, and toy and literature giveaways. Of course there will be water balloons! It is always a great opportunity to sit and visit with neighbors, and get to know the Ellsburgian people. This community event is free, but bring some \$5.00 bills if you want to purchase raffle tickets. The four winning tickets will be drawn at 7pm, but you do not need to be present to win. Mark your calendars and be sure to join in the fun!

Our department holds a training night every month. This is a good chance to practice working with our equipment to make sure that our skills stay sharp and our equipment is working properly. In June, we trained with our engines. The engines can hold about 250 gallons of water each, but this water can get pumped out of the engine in less than 2 minutes. Therefore, you need a tanker, which holds about 2000 gallons of water, available to provide water to refill the engine. The water is emptied from the tanker into a drop tank, which is like an above ground pool. This water must then be sucked into the engine, and then pumped out of the engine via the hoses. Engines have a minimum of two hoses on each side, except the front. There are hundreds of feet of hoses on each engine. One of our engines also has a deck gun mounted on the top. We each practiced filling the engine with water and then engaging the pump to shoot water out of a hose. It does take some thinking, and plenty of pushing this lever in, pulling this lever out, and turning knobs to set the pressure. Of course, someone has to be at the end of the hose when water is sent through it, or the hose will whip around from the water pressure. Our junior firefighters, Cody Anderson and David Sanders, enjoyed manning the end of the hose. Our deck gun worked well to pump out a large amount of water and was able to hit a tree in the distance. Also, it was evening, which meant that we

could create a rainbow with the deck gun. If you come to National Night Out, you will see us make a rainbow!

August is a great time to enjoy the water. The weather is warm, and the lake water is refreshing. The perfect time of the year to go swimming! There have been a few drowning victims in our county this summer already. Don't be the next! The number one thing to know is your swimming ability. Not everyone is a Michael Phelps. Lakes and rivers have currents which can overpower even a strong swimmer and lead to exhaustion and drowning. Waves can cause water to get into the lungs and decrease the amount of oxygen available to the brain, which can lead to fainting and drowning. Drowning is the second most common cause of death in children under the age of 14. Drowning can occur in less than 2 minutes after the head goes under water. Contrary to what you see in the movies, drowning is not always accompanied by waving arms, cries for help, and repeated bobbing in and out of the water. Most of the time the victim slips beneath the surface and just never resurfaces. Teach your children how to swim, or enroll them in YMCA or Red Cross programs that will teach them. Wear life jackets or have noodles or other floatable objects available when swimming. Never swim alone. Be aware of the possibility of rocks, submerged tree trunks, or lake vegetation that can entangle a swimmer and lead to injury or death. Never dive head first into a lake, pond, or river. You don't know what is below the surface. Even if nothing was there 5 minutes ago, waves bring debris in and conditions can change quickly. Do not swim around docks or piers that have electricity. Electrocutation was the cause of drowning for a teen earlier this summer in Minnesota. If you feel tired or cold, or get a cramp, get out of the water immediately. Drink plenty of fluids so that you don't become dehydrated. Replenish your energy with snacks. Take breaks. Do not put lake water into your mouth or swallow it. Too many bad germs! Get out of the water immediately if you see or hear a storm. Remember that lightning can hit the water before you hear the thunder. Never swim in the dark. Be ready for an emergency by having something nearby that you can reach out to, throw, row, or bring to a swimmer in trouble. People who think that they are drowning will panic and try to grab you if you get too close. Don't be a Good Samaritan Victim! If an emergency occurs, or even if you just think there is an emergency or potential for one, call 911 immediately. Time is critical. We will be there to help!

