

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF LAKE ARROWHEAD

Written by LAYC member and LAYC Historian, Philip Homme

Fourth of July at Lake Arrowhead – 80 Years Ago

Lake Arrowhead has a long history of event-filled and memorable Fourth of July celebrations. 1934 was no exception. Eighty years ago this week, the Lake Arrowhead community sponsored an elaborate and well-coordinated long weekend of activities to be enjoyed by all. Below is the 1934 Fourth of July Holiday Program. The five-day holiday celebration began on Saturday, June 30th and concluded the evening of Wednesday, July 4th:

Fourth of July Holiday Program

SATURDAY—Qualifying trials for speedboats entered in Lake Arrowhead Yacht Club Regatta, 2:00 o'clock.

Regatta Dinner Dance at The Lodge, 7:00 o'clock. Dancing at the Casino, 9:00 o'clock.

SUNDAY—Third annual Regatta of the Lake Arrowhead Yacht Club. Spectators may watch events from Bath House Cove and in front of Boat House.

2:30 p. m.—Inboard speedboat race for B. I. Malouf Perpetual Trophy.

3:00 p. m.—Outboard racing, Classes C, D, and F.

4:00 p. m.—Exhibition of Hawaiian Paddle Boards.

4:30 p. m.—Aquaplaning, Men and Women.

5:15 p. m.—Sailboat race; open.

9:00 p. m.—Dancing in the Casino.

MONDAY—Golf, tennis, riding and other outdoor sports of your own selection.

3:00 p. m.—Special music in Coffee Shop Patio.

9:00 p. m.—Dancing in the Casino.

TUESDAY—Swimming, fishing, canoeing and other water sports.

7:30 p. m.—Moonlight serenade, boats leave from Village Dock.

9:00 p. m.—Dancing in the Casino.

WEDNESDAY—Your own choice of outdoor sports.

3:00 p. m.—Concert in Village Common by Hal Brown and his Orchestra.

8:00 p. m.—Fourth of July Fireworks display—visible from Lodge Terrace or Museum Point.

9:00 p. m.—Gala July 4th Dance in Casino.

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Over the long weekend, Lake Arrowhead Yacht Club staged its third annual Regatta, coordinated by LAYC Commodore Bill Hackley and regatta committee members Staff Commodore Walt Woestman, Bill Rohrer and Cliff Tuttle. The LAYC races and exhibitions provided the core of the weekend's formally scheduled events.

Power boating was extremely popular at Lake Arrowhead in the 1930s, drawing large crowds to view the annual races. LAYC's headlining race was the exhilarating inboard motor speedboat race. In 1934, fifteen entries competed for the B.I. Malouf Perpetual Trophy, racing in Chris-Craft and Garwood boats. The racecourse was laid out such that the speedboats would pass the Village boat docks twice during each lap. This circuit allowed the spectators to see as much of the race as possible from the Village boat docks and the adjacent shoreline. Additionally, LAYC hosted races for outboard motorboats. Entrants competed in classes that were grouped according to the horsepower of their motors.

The photo below shows LAYC Charter Member Edi Jaun receiving a trophy.



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The final racing event of the LAYC Regatta was the Sailboat race, which was an open race for all sailboats. At that time, the LAYC sailing fleet was rather small, compared to the number of members with power boats.



Other unique events were included in the LAYC Regatta schedule. LAYC hosted aquaplaning races and exhibitions. Both men and women showed off their daring and skills for the enthusiastic crowds.

Photo below shows a man riding an aquaplane behind a Chris-Craft.



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1934 saw the introduction of paddle board races to the LAYC regatta. Hawaiian paddle boards were gaining in popularity in Southern California, and were introduced to Lake Arrowhead in June of 1934. At the request of LAYC, the paddle board manufacturer sent a group of five experts from Santa Monica and Venice to Lake Arrowhead to give paddling demonstrations and to assist with a paddle board race hosted by LAYC.

Below is a photo of S/C Commodore Bill Shafe's father Warren Shafe on a paddle board.



The weekend's activities and events extended beyond the aquatic realm, accommodating everyone's recreational interests. For the equestrian, Arrowhead Stables manager Travis Rodgers offered regularly scheduled activities for riders wishing to take advantage of the hundreds of miles of bridle paths in Arrowhead Woods. The popular "steak-fry," overnight camping trips, and breakfast rides were big attractions.

Evenings were filled with music and dancing. Hal Brown and his Orchestra were the resident musical attraction at Lake Arrowhead over the weekend in 1934. The group, comprised of eleven musicians and his featured vocalist Paula Gail, performed nightly at Lake Arrowhead Casino (now the Pavilion building in the Village where Papagayos is located), making the Casino one of "the smartest dance spots," to quote the lingo of the day.

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The annual tennis tournament was once again held at the North Shore Tavern over the Fourth of July weekend. George Cleminson, the resident tennis coordinator and instructor, ensured the tournament was well promoted and attended.

Can anyone name the former LAYC Charter Members shown in the photo below, who just won the father daughter match?



The five days of festivities were capped with an extravagant fireworks show that was arranged by Lake Arrowhead Resort Superintendent H. S. Sanborn. The magnificent display lasted over an hour, during which cutting-edge pyrotechnics of the day were launched from a barge in Lake Arrowhead to the delight of the crowds.