

Well this is finally it! The newsletter and updates that is. There is nothing like writing it twice. We all know I really enjoy doing this, but it is a little nonsensical. Will I learn to back up files? Probably not.

But since every thing happens for reason, we did reap some benefits. We saved on postage, since the envelopes were not overstuffed with news. And since there was initially less material to read, many of you read it, and actually responded with some additional updates. So guess what, now there's more info in the family updates. So if you enjoy this stuff, have at it, and if not, delete it. It all actually worked out well, so maybe I will try it again next year (well not the computer crashing part). So, if you have an e-mail address, make sure I have it, and I will alert you with a "mark your calendar," and remind you to send me all that exciting stuff happening in your life. We'll mail the registration and map, and e-mail the updates. We'll save on the extra postage, not to mention paper and ink. To those that prefer corresponding the old fashioned way, not to worry, we'll get you a copy.

2007 ~ What a year of blessings ~ with four marriages and hopeful futures ahead. We welcome Robert Deykes and Katrina Wrobel to the Dawidowski family; Kristy Stephenson to the Klebba family; Kim Paczkowski and son Brendan to the Paczkowski family; and Matt Lee to the A Kapelczak family. There are seven new twigs, all little girls, and not a Pacz amongst them. Introducing, Madeleine (Sherry & Chris Chapman), Natalie (John & Leslie Holmberg), Kolby (Laine & Shaun Marks), Ava Bella-Rose (Leann & Matt Lee) to the A Kapelczak family; Jordan (Justin Hammond & Rachelle Kraft) to the Rensch family; Adilin (Lindsay & Kevin Stroud) to the Klebba family; Sarah (Tonya & Steve Jespersion) and Kailey (Tiffany Dockery & CJ Brown) to the Dawidowski family. Kailey makes five generations, so Lil sits along side with Virg as one of our two great-greats. Three more babies are on their way. Three Pacz's announce their engagements, so maybe we'll see some jade twigs in a couple of years.

Hopeful futures!

2007 ~ What a year of challenges ~ for many of our loved ones, it has been a difficult year, dealing with jobs lost, maybe working two or three jobs, and some facing tremendous health issues. They say you have nothing if you don't have your health. But drawing strength and courage from deep within, from your faith, from your family is something. Something that is very powerful. Cousins Rene Pietryga & Judy Smiddy are courageous women who both revel in life, their families, and their faith. They are both going through personal battles against breast cancer. There will be good days and bad days, but with the support of family, they will both face it relentlessly with attitude to overcome. I praise their courage.

Our family had a double loss this past year with the passing of our cousin Joe Dawidowski in March, and his wife Joyce, a few months earlier. Joe and Joyce spent their last couple of years nursing & taking care of one another. Joe was the oldest surviving son of our Aunt Theresa & Uncle Leon. He was preceded in death in recent years by this older sister Mary Ann & younger brother Stan. Because of our age difference, I did not have the opportunity to know him well and thought of him as the quiet one of the two brothers. My early years only left me with memories of seeing him at Aunt Wanda's Anchor Bay home, and of course I recall the platinum haired Joyce with the two little girls. Joe and Joyce attended our earlier reunions, until their health kept them away. And like most of that generation, they found their joy by relishing in their grandchildren's excitement. Tina and Tamy, the cousins will truly miss your folks.

2007 ~ What Happened Last August ~ In case you don't remember it rained all day, it was cold, and we wrapped it up early. It was one of a kind. Our count was 144. Plan a picnic, and they will come. Our first time family attendees included Evelyn & Healey Rinke; BoBo & Kate Plegue; and new twigs Daniel Strohecker, Adam Dionne, and Caylen Dickson. There were a few guests joining us for the not so beautiful day. We didn't have a problem finding someone to grill; it was the only warm spot around. We drank more coffee than beer. Whatever we did, it was done underneath the shelter, which means it was mostly a lot of gabbing and eating. Donna Koppesch surprised us again with one of her prized lap quilts. Marsha Hicklin won it (and would you believe her daughter Kirby drew that winning ticket). We raffled away some of Mary Ann's hand crocheted ornaments, generously donated by her family. Hard to play horse shoes under the shelter, so Euchre was the game of choice with Dolly & Virg as the winners. Mona K & Lori H won the granny game. We lost our T-shirt source, but not to worry, we have a new one lined up for this year. Joe Paczkowski & Pauline McClendon announced their engagement. That pretty much wrapped up the events of the afternoon.

2007 ~ Thanks for all Support ~ As always, the picnic could not happen without all of your support and the efforts of a very dedicated team. 2007 was a success (forget about the rain) due to the generous funding from Frank & Gloria Kapelczak; and Jim & Pat Paczkowski. A generous Memorial Contribution was made by the Wrobel family, in memory of their mother, Mary Ann. We also received generous donations from Ron & Donna Koppesch; Aunt Senko; Germaine Larkin; Annie & John Holmberg; and Rita & John Adaszewski. Rosely Gardner, Joe & Ruthie Kruczynski, Bob Radloff, Chris & Ellen Klebba, Phil & Marie Klebba, John & Dee Klebba, David & Lisa Klebba, Tony & Joan Klebba, Leon & Denise Wrobel, and Melissa & Mike Opatik could not attend, but helped in the event with contributions. Considering the tough times in Michigan, families continued with their gifts, and we made it work. Thanks to all for your support & efforts. Lots of hard work goes into the planning, organizing, & execution, but we have a great time doing it. Reunion day is one big team project and many individuals & families need to be recognized. From the get go, Annie, Germaine & I start our network of contacts and draw in as many of you as we can. Thanks to Rose P for donating the grilling meats, thanks to Ted, Brian, CJ & John for keeping that grill fire going. Thanks to Shelley & mom Pennie for doing all that shopping & hauling of the prizes for another group of happy youngsters. Thanks to Mike & Kathi O again for the wine for another group of happy ladies. Thanks to Tonya J for helping with the candy & toys for our treasure dig. Thanks to Brian & Janet B for pictures, water, & miscellaneous supplies. Thanks to all our haulers, Jen & Alex, Brian & Janet, Ann & John, Mona, Lauren & Cassey, and Bernie (with the beer of course). Thanks to Donna R & the rest of our food management crew. Thanks to Annie for organizing the Granny Toss & gift bags. Thanks to the 50/50 sellers, Carol, Pauline, Kirby, & Lucy. Thanks to all those early risers who came to set up, Carl, Janet, Neil & Claire, Jen & Alex, Brian, Janet & Germaine, John & Annie. And thanks to all those Moms & Dads that thought quickly to get the games going & over with before another down pour. As always, Germaine's dedication to keep the family register up to date needs to be recognized. And to anyone I may have forgot (where is my memory) **Thank You**. Well, I can finally put 2007 to bed and resume on 2008. To those of you that replied early for **2008**, thank you, thank you, and thank you. I cannot wait to see you all. Love k

Don't forget to remember our loved ones in your prayers, and oh yes, it wouldn't hurt to ask for good weather for the 17th.