

*\* A Message From the CEO \**

# However You Say It, It's Summer

by John Hawkins  
President and CEO, The Club

Let's just get it over with: It's pronounced *Ponderay*. Lake Pend Oreille, that is. *Ponderay*.

Do you have a Lake Pend Oreille in your life? I hope, whatever it is, wherever it is, that you do.

Every summer, I take my family to the Idaho panhandle, just north of Coeur d'Alene, to a town called Sandpoint, on Lake Pend Oreille. We fish, we rent a boat, we ride bikes, we enjoy the great down-home Fourth of July festival. We go to bed early and get up late. We get ice cream and Starbucks, and we exhale a little. Okay, a lot.

It's summer, and it's awesome!

Spending time with my family like this is not an option, it's a necessity. Some people see vacations as getting away from work. Well, I see it as balance. It makes my work that much more meaningful, that much richer, when I return. I love my work running the Club, and spending time with my family in the summer makes it even more rewarding.

I know you are probably the same. You might go to Big Bear, or the Central Coast, or Vegas, or you might rent an RV and head up toward Oregon. You do what makes you smile. And when you get back, you're ready again to do your excellent work for the City.



John Hawkins, navigating Lake Pend Oreille in Sandpoint, Idaho.

And here's the important thing: You don't have to spend a boatload. I know I don't. I realized that summer is a state of mind, not a state of savings, while reading our main story on Rec and Parks' Golf Division.

The legendary "**Pete**" Frey, herself a golf champ, makes it clear that recreation is about passion, not about payouts. Rec and Parks offers some really great deals on their fees. If golf isn't your thing, take advantage of the Dept.'s great swimming facilities. Or the saltwater opportunities at Hansen Dam or Cabrillo Beach. Go hiking; Rec and Parks offers that, too. Or enroll your kids in a summer camp. Or go camping with them! The important thing is to renew yourself this summer. So get going.

I also thought of that when I hung out at the **RLACEI golf tournament**. I love catching up with our great Club friends there, including **Ed Harding**, **Phil Skarin**, the great **Hal Danowitz**, **Americo Garza**, and on and on. These guys know just a little about getting outside and having some fun.

This time of year, I'm always blown away by the stories that are part of the **LAPD's Medal of Valor honorees**. These stories of courage, bravery and sheer guts are simply amazing. My Club hat goes off to all the 25 who did their jobs and kept us safe from harm. You're the best.

And around the Club offices, we're gearing up for the inauguration of the Club Softball League. The Club's "**Sports Dude**", **Robert Larios**, is going to putting together pretty cool sports news along the way, so stay tuned.

Have you used the Club's awesome e-Ticket system? I know the **Ticket Guy** and **Rachael Brecher** have worked hard to set it up, and deliver another great Club service. So take advantage!

Okay, I'm heading off to have some more summer fun, so that I can keep serving you, our Club Members, to the best of my ability. Take a break, and rediscover your life. You won't be sorry.

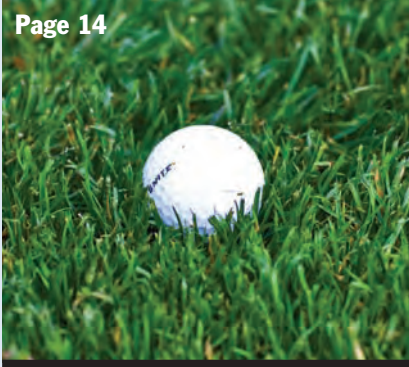
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