



# The Vets Gazette

2021 End of season report | [www.vetscampmn.org](http://www.vetscampmn.org)

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Veterans Campground on Big Marine Lake

End of season report 2021

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Hello to all of our Veterans that have visited the Veterans Campground in 2021.

Please note as you read through this report make notations as there is changes coming in 2022 and 2023 per our Board of Directors as of October 2021 to take effect.

First though I will highlight all the events we had here at the campground for 2021 starting in **January**

We hosted MN National Guard family youth fishing event which drew **210** attendees



### February

Valentines fish fry **60** attendees

Palmer Lake VFW fishing event which drew **100** attendees



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Veterans Campground on Big Marine Lake is proud to be a Yellow Ribbon Campground, helping veterans and their families since 1926.



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Holes for Heroes which drew 50 attendees



Minnesota Softball Military Association made a donation of 5,000.00 towards our new campaign for a new truck and plow and a salter we were able to put a flat bed on our old truck also. See pictures at the end.



Most of our events were cancelled due to co-vid  
Overall though we had managed to serve 1489  
Veterans during our Ice fishing season.  
During the months of March and April we had 1826

visitors

Now comes the busy time of the year

May

Memorial Day weekend was a huge success again with our fly over and service







We had 346 attendees for this event for the long weekend. Our total for the month of May visitors was 1175

### June

St. Paul Firefighters local 21 50 attendees  
133rd Force support Squadron Ft. Snelling picnic 25 attendees  
Last Man Standing Club (Vietnam Veterans) picnic 33 attendees  
Flag retirement was another huge event this year also there was almost 12,600 Flags to retire. Attendees that attended was 350





4th and 5th District American Legion held their annual picnic they had 25 attendees  
Camp Gratitude held their annual event I think their count was around 75 attendees  
Live music from Down the Road Band 100 attendees attended. June visitors total was 2163

## July

Live music from Inside straight drew 100 attendees





Our annual Kids parade was great this year at the Veterans campground Grand Marshall was no other than Bill Morris who retired this year. Bill I hope you and Julie enjoy the retirement life now thank you for your 10 years of service here.

We had 125 kids participate in this event.







Live music from Whiteside Walls drew 250 attendees





Live music by The Fugitives drew 150 attendees

Fire fighters and Police bass fishing event

Home town hero outdoors held their annual picnic event  
drew 100 attendees





Combat Vet's motorcycle association had their picnic with about 50 attendees

MN National Guard had their picnic with about about 50 families joining in this special day

The Arcades returned with live music with 200 attendees





July we had 2253 visitors with all the events

## August

Submariners held their annual picnic with 26 attendees

Live music from Down the road band with 125 attendees

Veterans of UAW Ford plant held their picnic with 100 attendees

Live music from The Fugitives with 125 attendees



Forest Lake VFW and American Legion held their annual picnic with 225+ attendees

D.A.V. Chapter 1 held their annual picnic with 55 attendees

D.A.V. Chapter 2 held their annual picnic with 40 attendees

Veterans Campground held their very first golfing outing which was played at Castle-wood golf course in Forest Lake with 40 golfers attending and returning back to the camp for food and awards and a lot of door prizes we will do this again next year also.

Veterans Campground held their annual Halloween party we had 75 attendees

Mr. Dettmer and Don Bauer help cook hot dogs for the event



First prize for the best decorated rv lot



All the adults costume contest



All kids costume contest



Veterans Campground orders their new Ford pick up truck

## September

We kicked the long Labor day weekend off with our famous casino night we had **225** attendees

Bean bag tournament before the big night at the casino



Sixteen tables of fun let the games begin







And the winners are



Loose Affiliates band performed that weekend also we had 150 attendees

Campers picnic followed by the Arcades band to end the event season of 2021 we had 250 attendees for the grand finale

Front entrance wall construction starts



American Legion riders Forest Lake ride for Toys for Tots I think they had 50 attendees

### October

Veterans Campground closed October 17 to end the 2021 season.

Veterans campground receives the new pick-up that was from our fundraising since February 2021. We are so blessed with all of our organizations that helped us out in our time of need. We were able to raise 80,000 for the new truck, plow, and a flatbed plus a salter on our

old pick-up. A HUGE Thank you for every organization that help us reach our goal YOU ARE THE BEST.







Tom Bishop, Chuck Cronquist, Ken Larson took a road trip to Buffalo American Legion to give them their plaque for supporting else over the years.



Then it was off to Bayport American legion with Tom Bishop, Chuck Cronquist, and Ken Larson to give them their plaque for their support in 2021 season.

Ken Larson made a trip to Home Depot Forest lake to give them their plaque for all their donations given to the Campground in 2021.

Christmas Party for 2021 went very well with 60+ attendees and Veterans brought donations with them that raised 2200.00 dollars. Thank you all that attended



Then it was our final stop of rewarding all of our clubs for their support 2021 was Hugo American Legion



It's time to add up all of our visitors now:

We welcomed new Veterans as follows:

WWII Veterans= 1

Korean Veterans= 12

Vietnam Veterans= 108

Gulf war Veterans= 72

Iraqi/ Afghanistan Veterans= 100

Other Veterans= 23

Total of new Veterans for 2021= 316

We have a total of over 40,000 Veterans registered here in our campground.

Now for the total of visitors we had in 2021 is a new record of 41,313. WOW what a year we had.

Just in the Canteen we recorded a record number of visitors of 9,200

I want to thank all of our Veterans and their families and guest out there that helped in setting our new records here at the campground.

I want to thank all of our 140 volunteers who managed to record 2660 hours of volunteer hours in 2021 season. Thank you all for your dedication to the our Veterans here at the Veterans campground very appreciated very much.

A special Thank you to Krause/Anderson Co. for their volunteers for working a Saturday with our fishing pier area to help get our Disabled Veterans a place to relax and enjoy the lake.

Now its time for the updated news from our Board of Directors updated information that was approved for the 2022 season.

There is a rate increase for the following area of the Veterans Campground:

All cabins will have a rate increase of 50.00 per stay, due to the increase of replacing cabin furnishings every year.

Boat rentals have a rate increase of the following 100.00 a half a day and 175.00 for a full day rental. As you all know they are all brand new in 2021 season so we have increase of insurance costs and gas prices and prop replacements which that group that had rented, end up paying us 150.00 for each damaged prop. There was a total of 6 props damaged.

Pontoon and boat slips also have a increase of the following:

15.00 a day

25.00 a weekend

75.00 a week

100.00 a month

We had no choice here as the docks are showing their wear and tear from people tying up too close and hitting the docks, let alone our muskrats like to call it their home also.

Now here is the biggest change that we have to pay attention to, as this will reflect on multiple families of Veterans and their rentals of cabins:

Policy 2012-001, changes to  
One Veteran - one cabin rental  
One guest of a Veteran sponsored of course one cabin.  
Veterans are only allowed to reserve any cabin for One  
week only, along with their guests cabin.  
This will take effect in the season of 2023 as we have to  
notify everyone in 2022 to the upcoming changes.

We are sorry for this change but our hands are tied by  
all of our organizations that support this  
campground. D.A.V, VFW, and the American Legions  
are all receiving complaints that their Veterans are  
unable to come and enjoy the campground as we have  
too many of the Veterans guests tying up everything in  
the campground.

We having been working on this issue for a very long  
time now and this is the best solution we can come up  
with. So again sorry for the inconvenience but we had to  
change with the times especially now. Like I said earlier  
in the newsletter we had over 41,000 guests this year.

The only activity at the camp is watching the deer at the  
playground.



Too close this end of season report we have 10 inches  
of ice as of 12-29-2021 Now our next group of winter  
campers come in now for ice fishing call if you are  
interested as we are filling up quick in our cabins. Next  
month I will put the winter event schedule out.



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