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BLUE

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The Smiths

• FAMILY KNOTS •



Photograph by Jon Allyn
www.jonallyn.com



THE SMITHS

Family Knots

By Briana Smith

A family can be woven in many different ways, but the best is one that doesn't unwind. This is true for the Smith family, quickly approaching 70 years together on Okauchee Lake. Throughout their time on the lake, many friendships have formed and family traditions have been established.

The Smiths' story begins in Milwaukee. Richard (Dick), the son of Richard M. Smith Sr., grew up on Wells and 29th streets. Richard Sr. founded Lakeside Construction Company and began building homes and apartment buildings in 1936. He also served in the air force during World War II, refurbishing damaged planes. Dick's father always made time to connect with his family and spent time on the water often. The Smith family purchased their first Okauchee Lake property on Road O after a round on the golf course in 1947.

Left: Alana, Briana, Lesley, Shannon and Bridget Smith and Jeffrey Sazama ready for the 4th of July parade, dressed in outfits Grandma Dot made for them



Dorothy after she graduated from high school and married her five years later. They enjoyed 64 blissful years of marriage while raising four children and 13 grandchildren, prior to her passing in 2014.

While Dick was working with his father in Milwaukee, he would often see a young woman walking to work at the bakery after school. He decided to meet Dorothy and went into her family's bakery to purchase an éclair. Dick proposed to



We would like to thank Wendy Ackley for bringing you this month's cover story.

Left: Dorothy Smith caught relaxing by the water at the cottage on Road O

Below, left: Richard and David Smith (the two oldest sons) on the first X (cub) boat

Below, right: Richard, David and Dick Smith



Dick and Dorothy Smith enjoying an evening out

Dorothy's legacy will remain at Okauchee Lake Yacht Club (OLYC) with the donation of a defibrillator, following her passing.

In the early years of their marriage, Dick and Dorothy lived in Elm Grove, while spending summers at the cottage on Road O. Dick introduced sailing to the family by purchasing a wooden cub boat (X boat) after seeing one for sale on Bluemound Road. At that time, the boys did not know the first thing about sailing, but the Okauchee Lake community was eager to help them learn. The Smith family joined the yacht club, and all four children learned how to sail cub boats. Dick spent time sailing on the lake and at many regattas and blue chips, crewing on a C scow with Dr. Henschel.

After outgrowing the cottage on Road O, Dick and Dorothy purchased the family's current property on Bayview Road, where they have resided for 30 years. Dick built the home so that it would be available to anyone in the family who needed it. Over the past 30 years, Dick and Dorothy's four children and their families have all spent time living in the home.

The Smiths have been members of OLYC since the 1950s. Dick served as commodore and Dorothy was actively involved with the



Clockwise from top, left: Joe Sazama with crew Isabelle Booker sailing E-36 X boat; Shannon and Bridget Smith sailing E-66 C scow; Dave, Alana and Lesley Smith sailing E-16 C scow, with Rick Smith judging the race; Dave, Briana and Lesley Smith sailing E-16 C scow

ladies' bridge club. The early years at the bakery must have been why Dorothy made such good cheesecake for the potluck dinner every year.

Dick bought two optis from Congressman Jim Sensenbrenner on Pine Lake when the grandchildren were born. This allowed them all to learn how to sail at a young age. →



Tricia, Jeffrey and Scott Sazama sailing E-36 C scow

The Smith cousins love sailing and proceeded to sail X boats together after graduating from optis.

All four of Dick and Dorothy's children spend time on Okauchee Lake.

Richard A. Smith is the oldest son of Dick and Dorothy and lives four houses down on Bayview Road. He recently built a new home on the property he has enjoyed for 35 years. Rick has five children: Richard Patrick, Kathryn, Kristin, Megan and Nathan. All of Rick's children attended sailing school on Okauchee Lake growing up and still enjoy many activities on

the water today. Rick currently sails an MC scow on the lake.

Dave M. Smith, the second son, lives about a mile east of Dick on Lakeview Lane. He and his wife Lauren constructed their lake home on Okauchee 15 years ago. They have always enjoyed time on the lake with their three children and grandson. Alana, Briana and Lesley are still actively sailing the C scow with Dave on the E-16. Dave serves on the Okauchee Lake Sailing School board and is a past commodore of the yacht club.

Mark M. Smith, the third son, also lives on Bayview Road. He and his wife Maggie have spent 20 years on Okauchee Lake with their daughters Shannon and Bridget. Shannon, Bridget and Mark sail the C scow E-66. Mark is also a past commodore and is actively involved at the yacht club.

Tricia, the youngest daughter, is married to Pat Sazama. Pat and Tricia have three sons: Jeff, Scott and Joe. They spend their summer months with Dick on Bayview Road or at their lake home on White Sand Lake outside of Minocqua. During the winter months, they reside in Elm Grove. Tricia serves on the sailing school board. Jeff and Scott sail the C scow E-36, while Joe sails his X boat.

Dick and Dorothy could never have imagined how close the Smith family would become and all of the memories they would make on Okauchee Lake. Time on the water and the sport of sailing have helped bring the Smith family together and tied them into the close-knit family they are today. ■