

SEBELIUS RESERVOIR RESOURCES:

Sky fire show should prove to be a bang

By VERONICA MONIER

The ninth annual Norton County Fourth of July Celebration and Fireworks Spectacular will be held at the Prairie Dog State Park, four miles west of Norton, Monday, July 4.

This event is sponsored by the Norton Area Chamber of Commerce and is made possible by generous donations from Norton County businesses and citizens.

Free watermelon will be served beginning at 8 p.m. near the bathhouse at the east end of the park near Sebelius Lake. Jamboree Foods has donated all of the cold watermelons to feed the crowd.

Also around 8 p.m., Master of Ceremonies Marvin Matchett will welcome the crowd. Norton Boy Scout Troop No. 181 will present the flag, followed by the National Anthem and then a patriotic message read by Mel Rice. Other patriotic music such as "Stars and Strips Forever" and "America the Beautiful" will be played. The music will be provided by JAM Session. Everyone is invited to go early for karaoke, which will begin around 7:30 p.m.

Kansas Governor Kathleen Sebelius will be speaking about tourism promotion after Mr. Rice gives the patriotic message.

The Chamber of Commerce will recognize the sponsors who made this event possible throughout the evening before the fireworks display begins.

Just before dark, Troop No. 181 will retire the flag.

The spectacular fireworks display will begin at dark over beautiful Sebelius Lake. Russ Erbert, a licensed pyrotechnician, will once again donate his talent to ensure a safe display. Assisting him will be Larry Nelson, Joyce Quinn, Dan Hazlett, Steve Mees, Rhonda Mees, Karla Reed, Tim Kelly, Travis Chisham, Mike Barrett, Harold Shinn and Dustin Burgardt.

Calvin Wright will provide a boat patrol. In keeping with the need for safety, the dam will be blocked to any traffic, vehicle and pedestrian. Boaters will need to remain at least 600 feet from the shooting area. The boat patrol will help enforce this requirement.

The Norton Area Chamber of Commerce

gives special thanks to the Norton County Sheriff's Department, the Norton County Ambulance Service, the Fire Departments and the Prairie Dog State Park staff who have coordinated efforts to ensure the safety of on-lookers as well as those participating in this event.

Entrance to the park will be \$6.50 per carload. If you already have a Kansas Park sticker on your vehicle, you will be admitted free of charge. If you are a Kansas resident and over 65 years of age and do not have a Kansas Park sticker, the cost for your vehicle for the day is just \$3.75.

Because of the generosity of many businesses, individuals and organizations, there is no charge for the celebration activities or fire-

works display.

Annual permits may be purchased at the Prairie Dog State Park Office from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sunday through Thursday or from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. Annual permits are \$45.50 and \$23.25 for those over 65. Buying an annual permit earlier in the week will reduce traffic problems the day of the celebration.

If there is inclement weather or very strong winds, the fireworks will be postponed until Tuesday, July 5. Postponement will be announced on KQNK Radio FM 106.7.

Viewing of the fireworks will be best from Prairie Dog State Park. Bring lawn chairs, a picnic and come early enough to get a good spot for the show.

FISHING REPORT:

Sebelius Reservoir — Temperature: 69°
Lake Elevation: 16.8' below Conservation Pool

Channel Catfish — Good (wide range) Are picking up a few in Leota Cove, the mouth of Schoen's Cove and the North side below the office using shad sides, minnows and worms on the bottom.

Crappie — Fair (10 to 14 inches) Catching crappie off the Public Fishing Dock, Marina Dock and in Schoen's Cove using jigs with minnows under a bobber.

Wipers — Good (3 to 8 pounds) Have been catching some nice Wipers outside of Concrete Cove, off the dam and also the mouth of Leota and Schoens Cove using night crawlers and minnows. Also catching some off the old swim beach and north shore area casting buck tail jigs into the wind. Most of the fish are running in the 18 to 22 inch size range.

Black Bass — Fair (10 to 16 inches) Some Bass are being caught off the Dam and in Leota Cove throwing spinner

baits and crank baits.

Saugeye/Walleye — Fair (18 to 22 inches) Have been catching a few short saugeye near the road bed, east of Schoens Cove using a jig with minnow or worm. Starting to pick up a few trolling Hot-n-Tots. Remember the 18 inch length limit because a lot of short fish are being caught.

General Comments — Currently, the water level is 0.19' higher than it was one year ago at this time. We are currently running a creel census at Sebelius this year so if approached by our creel clerk Larry Johnson please take a few minutes to answer a few questions. Stocked 30,000 saugeye fingerlings on May 19. The fish feeder is now in operation and feeds on 3 hour intervals, starting at 6 a.m. and ending at 9 p.m. Lake wide the fishing pressure has been slow due to the warm temperatures and wheat harvest.

Park News

The Park office is now open 7 days a week — Sunday through Thursday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Friday and Saturday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Please call (785) 877-2953 before making a special trip to the park, due to our annual training requirements the office is sometimes closed during normal business hours.

The cabin is now complete and ready for rent. This new facility sleeps nine, and has electricity, a heating/air conditioning unit, and a refrigerator.

Shower and restroom facilities are located a short walking distance from the cabin.

Don't forget that sites 31-40 are now "Prime sites" and a \$2 fee will be charged in addition to your regular camping fees for those sites.

We have no reservable sites available for the Fourth of July weekend, the rest are all first come, first serve.

Please remember to always wear your life jacket when you're on the water, it could save your life. Wildlife observation, including pheasant, quail, whitetailed deer, waterfowl, and of course, the prairie dogs is excellent this time of year. Saugeye, largemouth, and wiper fishing is currently very good.

Please join us for the following special events at Prairie Dog State Park:

- July 4 — 4th of July Fireworks Display
- July 9 — Denver Bassmasters Tournament
- July 16-17 — 25th annual Busch Carp Derby
- July 21-30 — Baker Family Reunion
- Aug. 6-7 — Prairie Dog Christmas
- Aug. Aug. 6-7 — Pikes Peak Bassmasters Tournament
- Sept. 11 — Angling Nebraska Tournament
- Oct. 8 — Colorado Bass Anglers Association Tournament

If you have questions pertaining to the park, call the park office at (785) 877-2953. Questions pertaining to the Norton Wildlife Area or hunting should be directed to Cris Mulder, Public Lands Manager at (785) 877-2953. Questions pertaining to fishing should be directed to Mark Shaw, Fisheries Biologist at (785) 425-6775.

Norton Travel & Tourism DiscoverNorton.Com
104 South State — Norton, KS 67654 — Phone 785-877-2501

Where the Best Come to Stay!

WELCOME TO NORTON

STATE PARK AND SEBELIUS RESERVOIR —

Camping, Fishing and Wildlife
GALLERY OF ALSO RANS —

Unsuccessful Candidates for Presidency of the United States
STATION 15 —

Leavenworth to Pikes Peak Stagecoach Stop
www.us36.net/nortonkansas

"WHERE THE BEST COME TO STAY"




J & R Liquor

112 N. First Avenue • 785-877-2585
DOWNTOWN NORTON

KANSAS LOTTERY TICKETS SOLD HERE!

WINE ~ SPIRITS ~ CHAMPAGNE
The Store with COLD Beer!
LOW PRICES — FRIENDLY SERVICE



Open: Mon.-Thurs., 9 a.m.-10:30 p.m.; Fri. & Sat.: 9 a.m.-11 p.m.