



Elk Tracks & Tidbits of Rice Lake Lodge #1441

July 2026



Flag Day Ceremony at Rice Lake Veterans Park

Members of Rice Lake Elks Lodge #1441 and the Rice Lake Veterans Center Honor Guard and the Rice Lake Municipal Band performed the annual Flag Day Ceremony at Veterans Park on June 9th.

Thank you to those who attended the ceremony and the members who performed it. Year after year, this ceremony continues to impress those who get the chance to watch it.



Membership Appreciation Dinner

Every Member Matters! The Rice Lake Elks Lodge #1441 invites all members to join us for a special Membership Appreciation Dinner on Saturday, July 11th. Enjoy an evening of fellowship, great food, prizes, and plenty of stories as we celebrate and thank you—our members—for your continued support and dedication to our Lodge.

🍷 Italian Dinner 🕒 Doors Open & Cocktails: 4 p.m. 🍴 Dinner Served: 5 p.m.
All members are welcome to attend.



Please call us to reserve your spot at 715-234-2951. Come reconnect with fellow Elks, enjoy an evening of camaraderie, and help us kick off another exciting year at the Lodge.
We look forward to seeing you there!

Does My Membership Matter?

Yes. It does. When you walk into your lodge, you walk into a place where veterans are honored, children are protected, & communities are lifted. Your membership is not symbolic. It feeds families. It funds scholarships. It supports veterans. It changes lives. Being an ELK means showing up. It means caring. It means belonging to something bigger than yourself.

Thank You

July Happenings

July 1st 8th – CLOSED for Grand Lodge

July 9th – Blood Drive 12:00-6:00 PM

July 9th – Bargo 6:00 pm

July 11th – Member Appreciation 4:00 pm

July 13th – Activity Meeting 6:00 pm

July 13th – BOD Meeting 6:30 pm

July 15th – Bargo 6:00 pm

July 17th – Friday Dining 5-8 pm

July 18th – Deidra Meyer Benefit 1-5pm

July 21st – Lodge Meeting 6:30 pm

July 22nd – Bargo 6:00 pm

July 23rd – Dean's List 6:00-9 pm

July 24th – Friday Dining 5-8 pm

July 28th – New Member Initiation
5:30 pm

Thoughts From The Exalted Ruler

Hello Fellow Elks,

As you read this it will be July, or nearly so, and a number of Lodge officers will be in Chicago for the Grand Lodge Annual Convention. June kicked-off our summer season in a strong manner with multiple Aquafest activities. Our July Lodge meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 21, at 6:30 PM. I encourage you to attend and learn more about your Lodge. Also, please review the calendar in this newsletter for the activities your Lodge is involved with.

One of our significant community activities the past few years is Lunch Bunch, which begins when the school year ends in June, and continues until the new school year starts, generally in late August. Every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday Lodge volunteers prepare, pack, and deliver 100 meals to support the Rice Lake Public Library summer kid's programs. Elk members coordinate the effort with the help of other Elk volunteers. Meal coordinators are: Mondays Kristin Brown, Wednesdays Don Putnam, and Fridays Scott and Sunni Bliese. Please contact the Lodge, 715.234.2951, if you have time to help.

I find it interesting that the first three members of our Lodge that I highlighted in this column in April popped-up again as volunteers: Don Putnam, and Scott and Sunni Bliese. Kristin Brown, in addition to her work with Lunch Bunch, is serving as the Lodge Inner Guard this year and can be found volunteering at numerous functions and activities during the year; basically, anywhere she is needed. Kristin also helps by actively promoting Lodge activities. Thank you Don, Kristin, Scott, and Sunni! On Friday evenings it is helpful to have greeters present to welcome members and visitors to the Lodge. This is an activity that any Elk can do, requires no training, and is low stress. In addition, the Lodge will buy your dinner! Please contact Rita Gronski, 715.642.2566, if you can be a greeter on Friday nights.

Finally, as I close, please consider supporting two functions scheduled at the Lodge during July. The Red Cross Blood drive returns on July 9 and the Dean's List will be playing on July 23. There is no admission fee to hear the Dean's List, but a freewill offering will be collected to support youth scholarships sponsored by the Lodge and the Dean's List.

Fraternally Yours,

Pete Olson, Exalted Ruler



July Birthdays

Henry Ackerson	Arthur Hagen	Douglas Litscher	Darrin Rohde
Dawn Anderson PER	Susan Hauck	Curtis Marten	John Rollins
Paul Arbetan	Mary Hubler	Amanda McGee	Deanne Ruppel
James Bank	LaVonne Hulbert	Steven Moullette	Martin Sandberg
Sonya Bliese	James Jasicki	John Nelson	Peggy Schaefer
Sandra Bohn	Bruce Johnson	Don Palmer	Philip Scherer
David Borgen	Paul Johnson	Daniel Peebles	Robert Schieffer
Clinton Doege	Dan Johnson PER	Matthew Pfaffendorf	Dennis Solie
Merle Endress	Brian Keeler	M Don Quinton	Brenda Voelker
Joseph Erickson	Peter Kramer	Daniel Rademacher	Rudy Walz
Mark Fenske	Scott Kucko	Jim Randall	Brian West
Chris Fitzgerald	Chase Lapcinski	Howard Resnick	
Anne Gallagher PER	Dianne Lihman		



NEW! Lodges Through the Lens

A FUN photo scavenger hunt featuring participating in Wisconsin Elks Lodges! Ready for an adventure? Here's how it works:

How to Play

- Pick up your **Lodges Through the Lens** book at your Lodge for \$5.
- Visit participating in Wisconsin Elks Lodges and hunt for the mystery item pictured for each Lodge.
- When you find it, get your book **stamped**.

Celebrate & Win - On **October 17th**, join us at the **Wausau Lodge** for the big PARTY. For

every stamp you've collected, you'll receive **one entry ticket** for prize drawings.

Why Join? It's a great way to explore our beautiful state and visit Elks Lodges you may have never seen before.

Questions Contact any Lodge Officer for more information.

July 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 Closed	29 Lunch Bunch 11 a.m. Closed	30 Closed	July 1 Lunch Bunch 11a.m.	July 2	July 3 Lunch Bunch 11 a.m.	July 4  Happy 4th of July
			CLOSED for National Convention			
5	6 Lunch Bunch 11 a.m.	7	8 Lunch Bunch 11 a.m.	9 Blood Drive 12-6 pm Open at 5 pm Spinach-Chicken Salad w/Bacon Dressing BARGO	10 Lunch Bunch 11 a.m. Open at 4 pm Fish Fry Friday with Salad Bar Greeter: Need	11 Membership Appreciation Italian Dinner Open at 4 pm Dinner at 5 pm
	CLOSED for National Convention					
12 Closed	13 Lunch Bunch 11 a.m. Activity Meeting 6:00 pm BOD Meeting 6:30 pm	14 PER meeting 5:30-6:00 pm Lodge Officer Training 6:00 pm	15 Lunch Bunch 11 a.m. Open at 5 pm Nacho Grande BARGO	16 Open at 5 pm Nacho Grande	17 Lunch Bunch 11 a.m. Open at 4 pm Fish Fry Friday with Salad Bar Greeter: Need	18 Deidra Meyer Benefit 1 pm
19 Closed	20 Lunch Bunch 11 a.m. Closed Newsletter Deadline	21 Lodge meeting 6:30 pm	22 Lunch Bunch 11 a.m. Open at 5 pm Grilled Chicken Salad BARGO	23 Open at 5 pm Summer Buffet 5:30-8 p.m. Dean's List 6-9 p.m.	24 Lunch Bunch 11 a.m. Open at 4 pm Fish Fry Friday with Salad Bar Greeter: Need	25 Veterans Lunch 11:30 – 12:30 pm OPEN @1p.m - ? Bar Only
26 Closed	27 Lunch Bunch 11 a.m. Closed Fold Newsletters 6 pm	28 Closed	29 Lunch Bunch 11a.m. Open at 5 pm Hot Meat Loaf BARGO	30 Open at 5 pm Hot Meat Loaf	31 Lunch Bunch 11 a.m. Open at 4 pm Fish Fry Friday with Salad Bar Greeter: Need	Aug 1 Closed Knutson/Glaze Wedding

Wednesday & Thursday Specials \$11.95

Rice Lake Elks 1441 2026-27 Officers

Exalted Ruler
Leading Knight
Loyal Knight
Lecturing Knight
Secretary
Treasurer

Peter Olson 715-637-5719
Jody Richter 715-719-4553
Anne Gallagher-PER 715-296-0839
Barb Miller
Marla Gygli-PER 715-205-0911
Sunni Bliese 715-418-3899

Trustee Kyle Birkenmeier 715-790-2325
Trustee Rita Gronski 715-642-2566; ritagronski@vistaprairie.org
Trustee Scott Bliese
Esquire Sherri Shipman
Inner Guard Kristin Brown 715-296-9027
Tiler Linda Brunette
Chaplain Beverly Kramer - Don Putnam

Contact us if you have Questions or to Volunteer

Lodge Phone 715-234-2951



Did You Know?

The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks honors its departed members through a beautiful and meaningful Elks Memorial Ritual. As an Elk member, you may request that this special ritual be conducted at your funeral or memorial service. Family members simply need to contact the Lodge for assistance in making these arrangements.

In addition, the Past Exalted Rulers Association will present the family with a **Remembrance Book** as a lasting tribute and token of appreciation for the members' dedication and service to the Order.

The Elks Memorial Ritual is a cherished tradition that reflects the respect, friendship, and gratitude we hold for our members—both in life and in memory.

For more information, please contact Rice Lake Elks Lodge #1441, 715-234-2951.

Elks Care • Elks Share



In Memorial:

- John E Schroepfer was born April 16, 1945. He was initiated on June 18th, 1975, and received his Honorary Lifetime Member on November 27th, 2013. He was a member for 52 years. John passed away at the age of 81 on May 31st, 2026.
- Donald J Nielsen was born May 23rd, 1933. He was initiated on January 22nd, 1969, and received his Honorary Lifetime Member on April 1st, 1999. He was a member for 59 years. Donald passed away at the age of 93 on May 26th, 2026.

Living or dead, Elks are never forgotten, never forsaken.

PER Meeting

July 14th
5:30-6 p.m.

If you are a PER, please
come to this important
meeting. Questions?

CONTACT RITA
715-642-2566



OFFICER TRAINING

July 14th
6 p.m.

If you are an officer, please
come to this training
opportunity:
New Member Installation

Have you ever wondered what you could do to help at Your Lodge or In Our Community?

Here are some GREAT Opportunities!



Last summer, Elk volunteers delivered more than 3000 meals to children at the Rice Lake Library through our Lunch Bunch Program. We were able to provide these meals because of our great crew of volunteers who cooked, packed and delivered as many as 106 meals a day, three times a week for the summer.

Want to know how you can help? Be one of the volunteers! Come help cook, pack and /or deliver these meals. It can be as little as one time or one time a week up to 3 times a week. We meet at the Lodge at 11 am every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. First Lunch Bunch will be June 3rd. If you have questions, please contact the Lodge at 715-234-2951 or Marla Gygli (715-205-0911 or email gygli@yahoo.com) OR just stop in the Lodge.

WE NEED YOU!



♥ Supporting Our Community: Dort's Compassion Closet ♥

Dort's Compassion Closet is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing free clothing, household essentials, and personal care items to individuals and families facing hardship. Their mission is to ensure that every person who walks through their doors is welcomed with dignity, respect, and compassion. **They are now accepting donations!** You can drop them off Monday through Friday 10-4pm. They are located at 12 W. Marshall Street in the basement.

If you'd like to make a financial donation, please email them compassionclosetRL@gmail.com ! Every dollar helps us with rent for the space. They are a federally recognized 501 (C) 3, so you can deduct the donation from your taxes.

Can **ONLY ACCEPT** the following for physical donations:

***CLOTHING** and shoes ages infant to adult (men's and women's; boys and girls; teenagers)

***HOUSEHOLD** goods

They CANNOT accept anything else. We also cannot take more than a carload of items due to space issues.



We are looking for Friday night door greeters. It is two hours of fun welcoming members and guests to our Lodge. Also, by greeting that night, you will receive a voucher for a FREE MEAL. Contact Rita at 715-642-2566 or any officer.



THE TIME TO
GIVE BLOOD
IS NOW

@ Rice Lake Elks Lodge #1441

July 9th

Noon – 6 p.m.



2026 Wisconsin Elks Association State Golf Tournament

Monday, July 27, 2026

Hosted by Milwaukee Elks Lodge 46

Where: Dretzka Park Golf Course, 12020 W. Bradley Road, Milwaukee, WI 414-354-7300

Cost: \$100 per golfer

Includes: 18 holes of golf w/cart, hole prizes, drink ticket at Lodge #46, dinner, raffles, and many fun events. The lodge will be open on Sunday afternoon for early arrivals.

Format: 4-person Scramble. This tournament is open to all Elks and friends. Foursomes may be coed. At least 1 Elk member is required in every foursome. As in the past, this is a fun event, and there are no prizes for placement, except for the traveling trophy.

**** Deadline for registration:** Monday, July 20, 2026. Late registration is \$110 per player.

Questions: Contact Dave Lang at 262-253-4042 Note: Check-in time for golf will start at 7:30 a.m. with a shotgun start at 9:00 a.m. A \$10.00 fee will be imposed to each player who registers after the cutoff date.

The Dean's List Performs Thursday, July 23rd

★ LIVE SWING MUSIC ALL SUMMER LONG! ★

BIG BAND Music

— FEATURING —
The Dean's List
— AT THE —
★ RICE LAKE ELKS LODGE ★

THURSDAY
JULY
23
★ 2026 ★

DOORS OPEN 5:00 P.M.	SUMMERTIME BUFFET SERVED 5:30 – 8:00 P.M.	MUSIC 6:00 – 9:00 P.M.	BAR AVAILABLE
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\$16 PROCEEDS TO GO TOWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS

★ **FREE ADMISSION** ★ **CALL FOR RESERVATION 715-234-2951**

Great Food! ★ Great Music! ★ Great Times!

The Dean's List Orchestra has partnered with the local Elks Lodge to bring the big band sound to Elk Members and their guests on Thursday, July 23rd from 6:00 to 9:00 PM. The event is for listening as well as dancing and will take place in the banquet hall, with a Summertime buffet dinner served for \$16.00 (tax and tip included). A cash bar will also be available; doors open at 5:00 PM, Food available from 5:30pm-8:00pm.

There is no cover charge; however, a free will donation is encouraged to benefit Rice Lake Elks Lodge #1441 Scholarships.

The event is open to Elk's members and guests as a Community Outreach Event with Rice Lake Elks #1441 sharing the facility with area residents.

The Dean's List was formed as an ad hoc ensemble in 1966 under the direction of Dr. John Meggers for the dedication of the Barron County Campus of Stout State University, now known as UW-Eau Claire – Barron County, the two-year UW campus in Rice Lake. The group continues today as an 18-piece Big Band playing the original swing tunes of the 30's, 40's and much more.

Musicians come from Duluth, Chetek, Cable, Clear Lake, Rice Lake, and points in between. The talent and time of the individuals in the band are donated to continue this type of music for others to enjoy.

The Dean's List often plays for private venues. The event at the Elks Lodge is a partnership formed to provide community members the chance to enjoy this type of music at no cost with the opportunity of fellowship, camaraderie and practicing goodwill, as a community outreach initiative of the local Elks Leadership team as well as the members of the Dean's List.

Joe Erickson serves as the Dean's List performance coordinator and can be reached at

joseph.erickson@gmail.com or by calling 715-296-1248. Anne Gallagher coordinates the performances of Dean's List for the Elks Lodge and can be reached by calling 715-234-2951. Please call and make your reservation, 715-234-2951.

SAVE THE DATE!

RICE LAKE ELKS LODGE #1441

Upcoming Events



**Old Timers All-American Luncheon
& WEA State President Visit**

Saturday, August 15, 2026
11:00 a.m.



Past Exalted Ruler (PER) Dinner

Thursday, September 10, 2026
Cocktails: 5:00 p.m.
Dinner: 6:00 p.m.

Mark Your Calendars and Join Us!



**Rice Lake
Elks Lodge #1441**

Elks Care • Elks Share

RICE LAKE LODGE #1441



CALENDAR RAFFLE

**RICE LAKE ELKS LODGE – 36 E EAU CLAIRE ST.
RICE LAKE WI 54868 | 715-234-2951**

**DRAWING EVERY
FRIDAY
6PM
STARTING
10/2/26**

**TICKETS
\$20**

88 TICKETS TO WIN
\$50

3 TICKETS TO WIN
\$250

1 ON NEW YEAR'S EVE –
DRAWING FOR 1 TICKET TO WIN
\$1441

TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE
RICE LAKE ELKS LODGE
OR ANY RICE LAKE ELKS LODGE OFFICER

All proceeds go towards
RICE LAKE ELKS
Charities & Activities

Do Not Need to be Present to Win

NEW! PER

Scholarship Fund





Scholarships will be offered to
GRADUATING SENIORS
whose parents or grandparents are members
of the Rice Lake Elks Lodge #1441.

**50-50
RAFFLE**

Every
3RD FRIDAY NIGHT,
there will be a
50-50 RAFFLE DRAWING
in which funds raised will be
designated to this Scholarship.





**SCHOLARSHIPS
APPLICATION**
will be available in
AUGUST



**WINNERS
WILL BE
DETERMINED IN
APRIL**

Investing in our youth. Building our future.

★ ★ RICE LAKE ELKS LODGE #1441 ★ ★

COMING SOON!

Come watch

FOOTBALL

PLAY AT THE LODGE!

**SUNDAY
FOOTBALL**

**DOOR PRIZE
DRAWINGS!**

**VIKING FANS ARE
WELCOME TOO!**



Also the
**RICE LAKE ELKS
FANTASY FOOTBALL SEASON**
FANTASY DRAFT TO BE HELD END OF AUGUST
★ ★ ★ DATE TBD ★ ★ ★

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION
★ CONTACT ANY LODGE OFFICER ★**

B.P.O. ELKS
Rice Lake Lodge #1441
36 E. Eau Claire Street
Rice Lake, WI 54868
Lodge Phone (715) 234-2951
Forward Services Requested

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Permit No. 3
Rice Lake, WI 54868

Meetings in July

Activity Meeting July 13th 6:00 p.m.

BOD Meeting July 13th 6:30 p.m.

PER Meeting July 14th 5:00 p.m.

Lodge Meeting July 21st 6:30 p.m.

Meeting
Reminder!



VETERANS
SATURDAY LUNCHEON

— ★ —

Rice Lake Elks Lodge #1441

JULY 25TH
11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

★ ★ ★

Enjoy Lunch,
Fellowship &
Camaraderie

**FREE TO ALL VETERANS
AND ACTIVE-DUTY PERSONNEL**

Elks
usa



**RICE LAKE
ELKS
— LODGE —**

MEMBERSHIP
Appreciation Dinner

★ **JULY 11TH** ★

DOORS OPEN AT 4:00

≡ **DINNER AT 5:00 P.M.** ≡

**ITALIAN
DINNER**

DINNER
PROVIDED FOR
MEMBER /
SPOUSE OR GUEST
\$10

Come join
camaraderie,

★
TAKE PART IN
DRAWINGS!

ALSO
**KICK OFF TO
2026 CALENDAR RAFFLE!**

PLEASE CALL FOR RESERVATIONS
715-234-2951

2026

Thank you for being part of our Lodge Family!