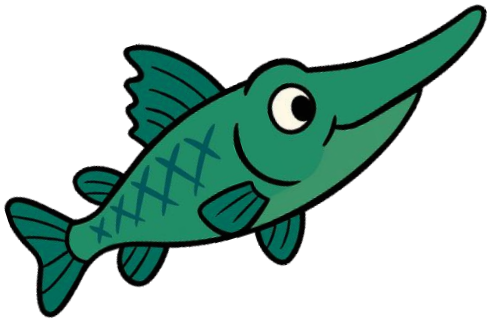


# OLD FINN'S WATER RODEO



## RUNYAN LAKE

# OLD FINN'S WATER RODEO



A Runyan Lake Celebration  
of Splash, Spirit, and Story

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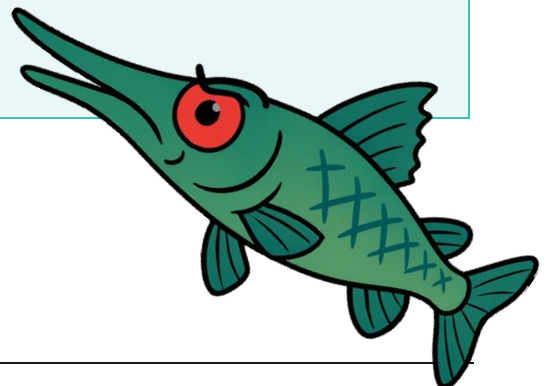
 Saturday, August 1, 2026 — Starting at 10:00 AM

 Runyan Lake Ski Course & Island Vicinity

 Hosted by: Runyan Lake Inc. & Old Finn

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*"Every summer, as the lake warms and the legend stirs, Runyan Lake gathers to honor its guardian through feats of watercraft, creativity, and courage. This is no ordinary contest—it's a rodeo of ripples, a splash of lore, and a tribute to the mythic fish who watches from the depths."*



# THE EVENTS

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## The Wake of the Guardian

### Water Skiing & Kneeboarding

Old Finn doesn't sleep in — and neither should you. Each participant gets 2 runs through the official Runyan Lake ski course, carving wakes worthy of the Guardian himself. Legend has it Finn rises every morning with a slow, deliberate tail swipe that sends a rolling wave all the way across the lake — a greeting, a warning, or possibly just a stretch. Whether you slice the surface like a fish who's been watching ski boats for years, or go down in a spectacular explosion of spray and dignity, you're leaving your mark on the lake's legacy. Finn is said to grade heavily on spray volume. Give him something to ponder at the bottom of the lake.

**Awards:**                      **Best Spray** – Finn's Wake Medallion  
                                         **Best Wipeout** – Ripple Wreck Ribbon

**Lore Tie-In:** *Mimics Old Finn's morning rise and tail swipe.*

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## The Trick of the Tail

### Wakeboarding & Wake Surfing

They say Old Finn's tail alone could put on a better fireworks show than anything launched from the shore — and he proved it once, on a July night nobody on Runyan Lake has ever stopped talking about. Now it's your turn to match that energy. Two runs on the north side of the ski course, wakeboard or wake surf, to lay down your best tricks — spins, grabs, flips, or whatever creative arrangement your body and the lake are willing to negotiate in the moment. Style points count. Dramatic failure points also count. Finn doesn't care how you land, only that you committed fully on the way up.

**Awards:**                      **Best Trick** – Lantern Tail Trophy  
                                         **Best Wipeout** – Garnet Splash Award

**Lore Tie-In:** *Echoes Finn's fireworks finale leaps and aquatic rhythm.*

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## The Surge of the Sentinel

### Jet Ski Freestyle (Stand-Up & Sit-Down)

Old Finn has been clocked circling the cove at speeds that defy reasonable explanation — some say it's the current, some say it's pure stubborn attitude, and at least one family suspects electricity is involved. Whatever the source, that energy is yours to channel for 2 freestyle runs of jumps, tricks, and general aquatic mayhem. Stand-up or sit-down — the lake doesn't care and frankly neither does Finn. What matters is commitment. Half-hearted jet ski runs are an insult to the Sentinel. Full-throttle chaos is an offering. Finn rewards offerings.

**Awards:** **Best Trick or Jump** – Finn's Fury Trophy

**Best Wipeout** – The Ripple Wreck Ribbon

**Lore Tie-In:** Honors Finn's curiosity and electric encounters.

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## The Canoe of Clay & Courage

### DIY Canoe Race Around the Island

Some families have spent numerous summers mapping every cove, inlet, and mystery depth of Runyan Lake. Old Finn spent those same summers swimming directly under their canoe at the worst possible moments — not out of malice, but out of scientific curiosity about what cartographers do when startled. In their honor, you will build your own watercraft entirely from non-navigable materials — no boat hulls, no kayak frames, no paddleboard shortcuts, no clever loopholes that a reasonable judge would raise an eyebrow at. Then you'll race it around Runyan Lake Island in a timed circumnavigation that will be either triumphant or deeply waterlogged. Will it float? Will it hydroplane? Will it make a noble attempt before becoming a very creative submarine? History will decide. Finn will watch from below with tremendous anticipation and zero intention of interfering (we hope).

**Awards:** **Fastest Time** – Finn's Flight Plaque

**Most Creative Canoe** – Blanchard's Ledger Ribbon

**Best Sinking Attempt** – The Clay Curse Medal

**Lore Tie-In:** Honors family's mapmaking and Finn's island patrol.

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# The Old Finn Splashdown

## *Biggest Splash from Double-Decker Pontoon*

The legend is well-documented, at least by the standards of lakeside legend documentation: Old Finn breached the surface during the Fourth of July fireworks display, and his splash was so massive, so complete, so committed, that the entire crowd on shore turned away from the sky and watched the lake instead. The fireworks kept going. Nobody noticed. Now you get your shot at that kind of immortality. From the top deck of a double-decker pontoon, launch yourself into Runyan Lake in whatever fashion feels most worthy of the legend — cannonball, swan dive, running leap, or the time-honored reluctant-shuffle-off-the-edge that somehow produces a shocking amount of water. Biggest splash wins. Most theatrical entry into Runyan Lake also wins. Finn is the spiritual judge of both categories, and he has never once been impressed by hesitation.

**Awards:**

**Biggest Splash** – Finn's Finale Cup

**Most Theatrical Entry** – The Garnet Eye Award

**Lore Tie-In:** Celebrates Finn's legendary splash that paused the fireworks.

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# THE FIVE EYES OF FINN HONORARY JUDGES PANEL



Area	Judge Title	Focus
Area 1	The Ripple Reader	Finesse & flow
Area 2	The Tailwatcher	Boldness & splash
Area 3	The Mapkeeper	Creativity & lore
Area 4	The Wake Whisperer	Rhythm & Etiquette
Area 5	Finnislav the Skeptical	The "Russian Judge" – cryptic, dramatic, and never impressed

Here's the thing about judging a water rodeo on a lake that has its own ancient guardian: Old Finn attends every single event. He just refuses to hold a scorecard.

He watches every run, every wipeout, every cannonball, and every moment of competitive hesitation from his post beneath the surface near the island — those great red lantern eyes tracking the action from below with the patient, unhurried attention of something that has been evaluating human behavior since well before the cement factories arrived and definitely since long after they left. His opinion on each performance is, by all accounts, fully formed. He simply declines to share it in a format the scoreboard committee can work with.

And so, the Five Eyes of Finn were born.

Five judges. Volunteers. Five witnesses together come closest to seeing what Finn sees: the whole lake at once, from every angle, with full knowledge of who earned it and who just got lucky. Their titles rotate yearly, drawn blind from Finn's Fishbowl.

***The Ripple Reader*** — scores for finesse and flow. Like Old Finn himself on a glassy morning when the early morning skiers are the only movement on the water, the Ripple Reader notices everything the lake reveals about a competitor before the competitor even knows they're being read.


***The Tailwatcher*** — scores for boldness and splash. Named for Finn's most legendary body part, which has been documented interrupting fireworks shows, snapping fishing lines clean through, and on one occasion twisting a boat anchor into something the family still displays as a conversation piece. The Tailwatcher wants full commitment. Just as Old Finn has seen what commitment looks like numerous feet below the surface.

***The Mapkeeper*** — scores for creativity and lore. Inspired by the Runyan Lake lost ledger — the hand-drawn charts of Finn's haunts, the guest sketches, the sighting logs, the final cramped entry about two tiny red lights and the feeling of being watched — the Mapkeeper values those who add something new to the lake's story. A safe, forgettable run adds nothing to the legend. The Mapkeeper remembers everything.

***The Wake Whisperer*** — scores for rhythm and etiquette. Old Finn does not appreciate reckless wakes near the reeds. He has expressed this opinion through bent props, missing anchors, and hulls marked by unexplained scratches. The Wake Whisperer is his representative on the judging panel for exactly this reason. They are watching. Just like Old Finn has always been watching.

***Finnislav the Skeptical*** — the Russian Judge. Cryptic. Theatrical. Never visibly impressed. Finnislav carries a role that is equal parts honor and burden: the voice of the lake's oldest, most exacting standard. Scores are announced slowly, after a pause long enough that competitors begin reconsidering their choices — not just in the water, but broadly. The number, when it finally arrives, is always unexpected. The rationale is never explained. This is intentional. Old Finn never explains himself either.

Roles are assigned by the Fishbowl draw at the opening ceremony, and no area holds any title permanently — because the lake distributes its wisdom evenly, and also because nobody should have to be Finnislav two years in a row. That is not tradition. That is a personality transformation.

 Roles rotate annually via "Finn's Fishbowl" draw. No area is permanently cast as the same judge each year, especially not Finnislav the Skeptical.

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## PARTICIPANT SIGNUP

*Complete one form per participant. Return by Friday, July 25, 2026 — one week before the rodeo.*

**Full Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Age:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Emergency Contact Name & Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Select all events you wish to participate in:**

- Wake of the Guardian – Water Skiing & Kneeboarding
  - Trick of the Tail – Wakeboarding & Wake Surfing
  - Surge of the Sentinel – Jet Ski Freestyle (Stand-Up & Sit-Down)
  - Canoe of Clay & Courage – DIY Canoe Race Around the Island
  - Old Finn Splashdown – Biggest Splash from Double-Decker Pontoon
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## PARTICIPATION WAIVER & ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RISK

*Runyan Lake Inc. · Summer 2026*

### Purpose

This waiver ensures the safety, understanding, and mutual respect of all participants. By signing, participants (and guardians, if under 18) acknowledge the inherent risks of water-based activities and agree to uphold the values of Runyan Lake Inc.—including stewardship, sportsmanship, and reverence for the lake's traditions.

### Acknowledgment of Risk

I understand that participation in water-based activities—including but not limited to water skiing, kneeboarding, wakeboarding, wake surfing, jet skiing, DIY canoe racing, and splash jumping—carries inherent risks. These may include:

- Physical injury due to falls, collisions, or equipment failure
- Exposure to changing weather or water conditions
- Risks associated with operating or riding watercraft
- Potential for drowning or near-drowning incidents
- Unpredictable lake conditions, including submerged hazards or wildlife

I affirm that I am physically able and sufficiently trained to participate in the selected activities. I agree to follow all safety instructions, wear appropriate gear, and respect the guidance of event organizers and volunteers.

### Release of Liability

In consideration of being allowed to participate in Old Finn's Water Rodeo, I hereby release and hold harmless:

- Runyan Lake Inc.
- Its Board of Trustees, Officers, and Event Volunteers
- Fellow participants and spectators
- Any affiliated organizations or sponsors

...from any and all liability, claims, demands, or causes of action arising out of or related to any loss, damage, or injury—including death—that may be sustained while participating in or attending the event.

 **Special Clause: DIY Canoe Race**

I understand that the DIY Canoe Race involves homemade watercraft built from non-navigable parts. I accept full responsibility for the construction, stability, and safety of my vessel. I will wear a life jacket and follow all posted guidelines. I acknowledge that the lake may react unpredictably to my creation—and that Old Finn may be watching.

 **Community & Lore Clause**

I agree to treat Runyan Lake with respect, honor the traditions of the community, and participate in the spirit of fun, safety, and shared storytelling. I understand that Old Finn's legend is part of the lake's heritage, and that my actions—on and off the water—contribute to the legacy we pass forward.

**Participant Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**⚠ PARENT & GUARDIAN PERMISSION – REQUIRED FOR PARTICIPANTS UNDER 18**

If the participant is under 18 years of age, this section **MUST** be completed and signed by a parent or legal guardian. The guardian affirms that the minor has permission to participate and that all risks and responsibilities described above are fully understood and accepted. Registration for minors will not be accepted without a completed guardian signature.

*"I, the undersigned parent or legal guardian of the minor participant named above, have read and fully understood the Participation Waiver & Acknowledgment of Risk. I grant permission for my child to participate in Old Finn's Water Rodeo on August 1, 2026, and I accept all risks, responsibilities, and terms stated in this waiver on their behalf."*

**Parent/Guardian Name (Print):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Relationship to Participant:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

*By signing above, I confirm I am the parent or legal guardian of the minor participant and that all information provided is complete and accurate.*