

CRANBERRY LAKE BOAT CLUB

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Newsletter Editor: Allen Splete 301-253-1274 amsplete@yahoo.com Signs of spring are in the air. Soon many of us will be returning to Cranberry Lake for another season of outdoor activity and boating on the lake. It's also time to renew memberships for 2011. The form is attached for your return.

The weather pattern for the winter seemed to be one marked by major temperature variations. During the ice fishing derby on the lake, a truck, camper and attachments went through the ice and had to be towed out. As we know, levels of ice on the lake fluctuate a great deal and can be very dangerous. Fortunately no one was injured and the environmental impact was minimized by quick removal of the truck. We can thank Bill White for his diligence in responding to this matter and are grateful to Peter Van de Water for allowing his beach area to be used for removal of the truck.

Cranberry Lake will be the site for extended water quality research this summer. These efforts will complement studies done by the Boat Club each year. Brad Baldwin from the Biology Department at St. Lawrence University asked the Boat Club for a letter of support for a grant to establish a partnership to examine the condition of regional lakes and their potential influence on tributaries of the St. Lawrence River. The grant recognizes the significant contribution and influence of regional tributary rivers such as the Oswegatchie, Grasse, Raquette and St. Regis. "The major research goals of the study are to: a) more fully describe the

ecosystem structure and water quality status of a subset of medium to large lakes within the Oswegatchie, Grasse and Raquette tributary watersheds (Oswegatchie river watershed consists of Black, Sylvia, Bonaparte and Cranberry lakes; Grasse-Massawepie and Trout lakes; Raquette-Tupper, Carry Falls, Higley Flow and Norwood) and b) assess whether the lake outflows to these tributaries have acceptable levels of nutrients, mercury, and other properties of interest to watershed managers." Baldwin believes that the outcome of this research would be a more holistic view of Cranberry Lake. This will evolve "if we (a) develop a map and describe the land use and geology of its watershed, (b) measure the water quality traits year-round, (c) measure the extent to which the lake is stratified or mixing during the year, and (d) assess the water quality of the lake's inflows and outflows." Baldwin states that "very few lakes have this information which would help lake member associations better manage the health and value of their lake. Likewise, it would allow tributary managers to judge whether lakes contribute to natural or elevated types and amounts of chemicals and other substances to the larger river network."

I did write a letter of support on behalf of the Boat Club believing this effort would enhance current efforts to maintain the best possible water quality for Cranberry Lake. A grant was received from the New York Power Authority to fund the project outlined above. Brad and students from St. Lawrence University will be collecting water samples during

different seasons of the year. If you are interested in working with them and willing to provide boat assistance, please let me know. Baldwin indicates that the end result of this partnership should help us (a) better understand the ecology and water quality of the lake (including mercury levels of the fish), (b) describe and illustrate the watershed that feeds our lake. (c) judge the value of our lake outflow to the larger St. Lawrence River watershed and (d) establish educational opportunities between Boat Club members and students. The partnership is an opportunity for the Boat Club Board to cooperate in the work to be undertaken and fits with our mission statement.

We shall continue our annual Adirondack Lake Assessment Project done by The Adirondack Watershed Institute at Paul Smiths College with water samples being collected during June, July and August.

Recently we also heard from Eric Holmlund at Paul Smiths College that they had received a federal grant to sponsor boat ramp stewards in the western Adirondacks this summer. The aim would be to educate the public about aquatic invasive species. inspect boats entering and leaving Cranberry Lake and remove any organic material found. Fisheries in Region 6 has granted approval for stationing a steward at Cranberry Lake. Holmlund has asked to visit with the Boat Club to discuss needs of the stakeholders on the lake. It is hoped that some Boat Club representatives can meet with him in late April or early May and attend a board meeting to discuss the boat steward function.

All of this activity since the last newsletter indicates that we shall have some interesting projects in motion during the summer which should help us preserve the quality of our lake water. We should profit from expanding our knowledge of the lake that we all enjoy.

To help you with your planning for the summer, I am repeating the dates of Boat Club events for 2011 and adding a schedule of events for the Summer Arts Series provided by Roger Johnson.

Boat Club Board Meetings—May 28, July 9 and August 13.

Race/Walk-June 25

Banquet-July 9

Annual Boat Club Meeting-July 9 or July 14

Boat Show, Parade and Cardboard Boat Race-July 16

Poker Paddle-July 23

Boat Outing-July 27

Picnic-August 13

Ring of Fire-Sept. 3

Depending on interest, we may have another day for float plane rides sometime in July. If you wish to participate, please let Fred Guevara know so that we can plan accordingly. July 3-Atkinson Family Bluegrass Band-Wanakena

July 16-35th Parallel-Cranberry Lake

July 30-Mack Brandon and the Connection-Wanakena

August 1-Romeo and Juliet- Cranberry Lake Beach

August 5-Burns Sisters-Wanakena

Entry forms for our first Boat Club event-the Cranberry Lake Boat Club 5K, 10K Run and One and Five Mile Walk on Saturday June 25th at 9:00 a.m. are available from Virginia Myers and will be placed on the website. She is once again coordinating this activity. Come and join the fun and get some exercise.

Entry materials and instructions for the Cardboard Boat Race will be posted on our website by June 1. (www.cranberrylakeboat club.org). Please remember that we are combining the Boat Show, Cardboard Boat Race and Boat Parade on the same day with special activities at the Cranberry Lake Lodge. We'll do our best to offer reminders about times and dates of events through the Bargain Hunter again this year.

For your information, the Boat Club Committees for 2011 are as follows:

Ad hoc Presidential Advisory-Allen Splete, Lucia Ver Steeg and Clint Farnsworth. Banquet-Virginia Myers, Patty Farnsworth and Bob Raymo.

Boat Show and Parade-Ed Kipp and Bob Raymo.

Cardboard Boat Race-Bob Raymo, Clint Farnsworth, Ed Van Epps, and Bill Gleason.

Community Improvement Projects-Ed Kipp, Randy Hayes, Derek Lough and Dick Narkewicz.

Fish and Game-Randy Hayes and Dick Narkewicz.

Membership-Patty Farnsworth.

Nominating-Peter Van De Water.

Picnic-Sara Ricalton, Sarge Boss, Marg Gray and Sherm Craig.

Publicity Coordinator-Suzanne Liberty with Bob Raymo assisting as needed.

Water Quality and Invasive Plants-Ed Kipp, John Adami and John Englert.

Website Coordinator-Sarge Boss.

E.mail List Coordinator-Sarge Boss.

Merchandise-Marg Gray.

Historian-Bill Gleason.

Directory Publication-Fred Guevara.

This list should prove helpful in responding to questions and provide a contact name if you wish to volunteer to help with any event. Let me close with a few personal notes. Your membership renewal form includes the opportunity to contribute to our Community Improvement Project budget and instructs you how to make a tax deductible gift should you care to do so.

The Close to Home Campaign for the new hospital clinic in Star Lake exceeded its goal of \$750,000. Thanks to all who helped in this effort. I encourage you to visit the new clinic and to attend a special reception planned this summer.

We continue to make progress in compiling a narrative history of the boat club and will be asking persons to review our facts and fill in gaps before we proceed to publication. We encourage members to write up family histories of their time at the lake and have a few in hand.

I hope many of you filled out the St. Lawrence County Survey recently placed on the website.

Please suggest nominations for the board. Ideas and suggestions of projects for the board to consider are always welcome. My continuing thanks to John Farnsworth who serves as our Webmaster.

It is with great sadness that we note the passing of Chuck Gilmore.

I'm looking forward to seeing you soon and toward another great boating season. Thanks for your continuing interest and help.

Allen Splete, Commodore