

News from the Commodores (Halsey & Deb)

It seemed like summer had already started with so many Cranberry Lakers returning for the Total Eclipse. It was a beautiful day with great views. When the eclipse was full, we could hear cheering in town all the way from the end of Columbian Road (over three miles).

Summer activities are just around the corner. We and the Board of Directors are working hard to make sure the Summer of 2024 will be memorable. It is now time to renew your membership and save the dates for all the activities. This Spring Newsletter is full of information, especially the update on the Cranberry Lake Dam. Thank you all for supporting the CLBC.

Donation in Honor of Clint Farnsworth

The Cranberry Lake Boat Club (CLBC) and Board of Directors and the Community Improvement Projects (CIP) Committee unanimously approved a donation of \$10,000 toward the Clifton Fine Hospital Emergency Care Close to Home Campaign in honor of Clint Farnsworth. As most of you are aware Clint recently passed away. Clint had been a Boat Club member since the late 1980's and was a member of the CLBC Board of Directors for 18 years and CLBC Commodore for nine of those years. During Clint's leadership, the Boat Club began to be focused on doing projects to enhance the general welfare of the area. In 2005, the CLBC with Clint's involvement, formally

created the Community Improvement Project Fund and Committee. Until 2023, Clint served as the Chair of the Community Improvement Projects Committee.



Ice-Out 2024 is officially over. Ice-Out was called by Judge Check Yartz at 7:14 PM on 3/12. And the Winner is

SALLY HOLDEN!!!

She wins \$205, half of the \$410. Her guess of 3/12 at 8:30 PM was the closest. Thank you all for participating and helping to donate \$205 to the Cranberry Lake Fire Department.

Save the Dates

CLBC 2024 Events Schedule

Meet & Greet at the HUB	Sunday, June 30th
15th Annual Firecracker	Thursday, July 4th
CLBC Banquet/Annual Meeting	Sunday, July 7th
18th Annual Poker Paddle	Saturday, July 20th
CLBC Community Picnic	Saturday, July 27th
Cranberry Lake Canoe /Kayak Race	Saturday, August 24th
End Of Season Get Together	Saturday August 31st

Update on the Cranberry Lake Dam

Last summer, as most of you know, there were many days of huge rainfall causing the lake level to rise to some of the highest levels on record. Consequently, there were a lot of questions about how the lake level is managed. So, I decided it would be of interest to members to learn more and include this information in our newsletter. Amazingly, during an unrelated activity of updating the Boat Club's website, I uncovered an old Newsletter from 2002 that has an article interviewing Roger Backus about the Dam Commission. I have uploaded this article for your review (see page 3 - 4, Cranberry Lake Water Levels [LINK TO NEWSLETTER 2002](#)) The current Chairman of the Oswegatchie River-Cranberry Reservoir Regulating District (ORCRRD) is Scott McWharf. I recently had a conversation with him to discuss the 2002 article about CL Water Levels and update it.

There are still three commissioners appointed by the St. Lawrence County Judge for life terms; Scott McWharf, Roger Backus and Patricia Visconti, all of Cranberry Lake. There are two employees, Butch Whitmore, Gatekeeper and June McWharf, Secretary. Scott confirmed the information in the 2002 article and stated that the ORCRRD is still responsible for regulating the flow of the Oswegatchie River, to the extent mother nature will allow, with four objectives; flood control, navigation, power generation and recreation.

A chart showing the Cranberry Lake Water levels published in the CLBC Newsletter article of 2002 shows the ten year average of water levels every two weeks from January to

September. Scott confirmed that the levels shown by this 10 year average are the same levels target today to keep the level lower in the winter and higher in the summer. In the summer they try to keep the levels + or - 6 inches of 16.5 feet (The top of the dam is at 17.5 feet). By law, they are required to provide a minimum outflow of 70 cubic feet per second, which is needed to maintain the downstream fishery and assist navigation for downstream users.

There are 19 downstream power generators who rely on the ORCRRD to regulate the head water flow. On a daily basis, the gatekeeper at Cranberry Lake is in touch with the first downstream dam (Flat Rock) to confirm the amount of flow that will be released. This communication is continued from dam to dam all the way to the end of the Oswegatchie. Scott said some days, when we have had a lot of precipitation, the flow could be increased up to 1000 cubic feet per second.

The ability to control the water level is a result of there being 4 "gates" in the dam which can be raised or lowered by the gatekeeper. Mother nature can overwhelm this ability as was the case last summer when there were many days of rain. At that time, the gates were fully open and the lake level still rose over the top of the dam.

One major change to the dam has been the removal of the Generator. Because the dam was a hydroelectric dam, it was under the jurisdiction of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). Last summer, after heavy review, the Commission decided to remove the

generator. The single generator was old and not efficient. Requests for proposals were made to various energy providers to lease the operation and upgrade the generator. Some energy providers did come and review the site and determined it was not worthwhile. So, the commission decided to remove the generator. One positive aspect of this is that the jurisdiction of the dam's regulation changed from FERC to the NYS DEC. None of this generator change has had any impact on the ORCRRD's required regulation of water flow on the Oswegatchie.

If you'd like to learn more about the operation of the hydroelectric power generation at the Cranberry Lake Dam, there was an article published by the Adirondack Explorer back in October 29, 2021 (see the article at: <https://www.adirondackexplorer.org/stories/cranberry-lake-dam-penalties>), which explains how FERC was leveling fines against a company (Ampersand), which held the lease to operate the Cranberry Lake dam's generator. The lease with Ampersand was terminated by ORCRRD in 2021.

Scott mentioned ORCRRD is constantly doing work to maintain the dam. In fact, two of the gates at the dam are being replaced as part of the generator removal project and will be installed this April.

Those of us who are homeowners on Cranberry Lake are fortunate to have the Oswegatchie River-Cranberry Reservoir Regulating District monitoring the flow of the Oswegatchie River at Cranberry Lake.

Membership Renewal

CLBC has 212 memberships. It is time to renew yours for 2024. The membership drive was started by Deb Roberts in February and as of this publication 42.5% (90) have paid their annual dues of \$25. This year the boat stickers are lemon yellow. A thank you goes out to Mark Friden, who researched the CLBC archives and determined this color hasn't been used.

Also, don't forget to donate to our CIP fund. Our goal this year is to reach \$2,000. As of now (publication of this newsletter), we are at \$750. Remember, the funding of the community activities is provided through your contributions to CIP, your membership dues and participation in the various CLBC activities. Thank you for your continued support.



Loon Friendly Lake Certification

On October 8th, Deb & I (Halsey) went to Paul Smith's College's Annual Loon Celebration where we first heard about a Loon Friendly Lake Certification. Deb posted on our CLBC Facebook page and there was such an enthusiastic response, we decided to look for interested people to take on this project. To date, we have twelve people and will start off with some informational virtual meetings and then proceed to work on the actions required to become Loon Friendly Lake Certified. If you'd like to be involved in the Loon Friendly Lake Certification contact Deb Roberts, Vice Commodore at debroberts@gmail.com. For more information goto: <https://www.adkloon.org/adk-loon-friendly-lake-certification-program>

Navigation Wall Maps

The Wall Maps have been well received. Most of the 70 members who reserved them have picked them up. There are still some of these maps available on a first come basis at \$40 each. Now that many members are not at the lake, the challenge is how to distribute them. They are wall map size, 24" by 36", and have to be rolled up to fit in a specially sized box, which is capable of holding up to four maps. We have researched mailing costs and found they will cost \$15 for postage and \$10 for the box, or \$25 total shipping. So, members looking for 1 to 4 of these maps and are willing to pay the shipping please send your order with payment to: Deb Roberts, 315-790-3618 debroberts54@gmail.com



Call For Action

The Bylaws of our club allow for up to 15 directors. Currently, there are 11 boat club members who serve on our board of directors. If you know a member who you'd like to nominate to serve on our board or yourself please make it known to any of our current board members. Being a member of the BOD gives members a chance to help manage the mission of the club and be involved in decision making. As a board member you'll be asked to participate in monthly meetings that last for approximately one hour and to help the team with the various events. So, If you'd like to be more involved in the Boat Club and serve on one of our committees or Board of Directors, please let us know.