

2016 Lake News and Guide



protecting the beauty and quality of merrymeeting lake



The Merrymeeting Lake Association (MMLA) exists to help preserve the beauty and quality of Merrymeeting Lake, to work in cooperation with the New Durham government and community, and to encourage an active and fun community among lake residents.

Board of Directors

Officers

President - Mark Sullivan
Vice-President - Bill Bassett
Secretary – Brenda Mullaney
Treasurer - Norma O'Brien

Directors

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Chap Nystedt	Russ Weldon
Walt Silva	Open

2016 Annual Events

(details inside)

Roadside Cleanup
Sunday, May 29th

Fireworks!
Saturday, July 2nd
(rain date, July 3rd)

Annual Member Meeting
Saturday, July 9th

Meet & Greet Social
Saturday, July 30th

MMLA
PO Box 468
New Durham, NH 03850

From the Desk of the President

In early spring of each year, the MMLA Board of Directors meets to discuss and debate the right mix of activities necessary to attract members and active participants to this voluntary organization.

We all come to the lake to enjoy its beauty and the options it provides for enjoyment with friends and family. Since summer goes by quickly, it's not easy to willingly give up personal time to work toward the good of the organization. However, the MMLA cannot continue its most important activities (water quality monitoring, Lake Host Program, advocacy for lake protections, etc.) without a robust membership and volunteers to oversee these programs.

Becoming a board member can be a rewarding endeavor when plans come together and you know you've helped enhance the Merrymeeting Lake experience. It also can be discouraging when membership goals fall short or attendance at some of the events is less than anticipated.

I urge you to consider offering to help the MMLA in some way, no matter how small or large an effort you can make. We always can use an extra pair of hands, and, as is often the case, the more the merrier!

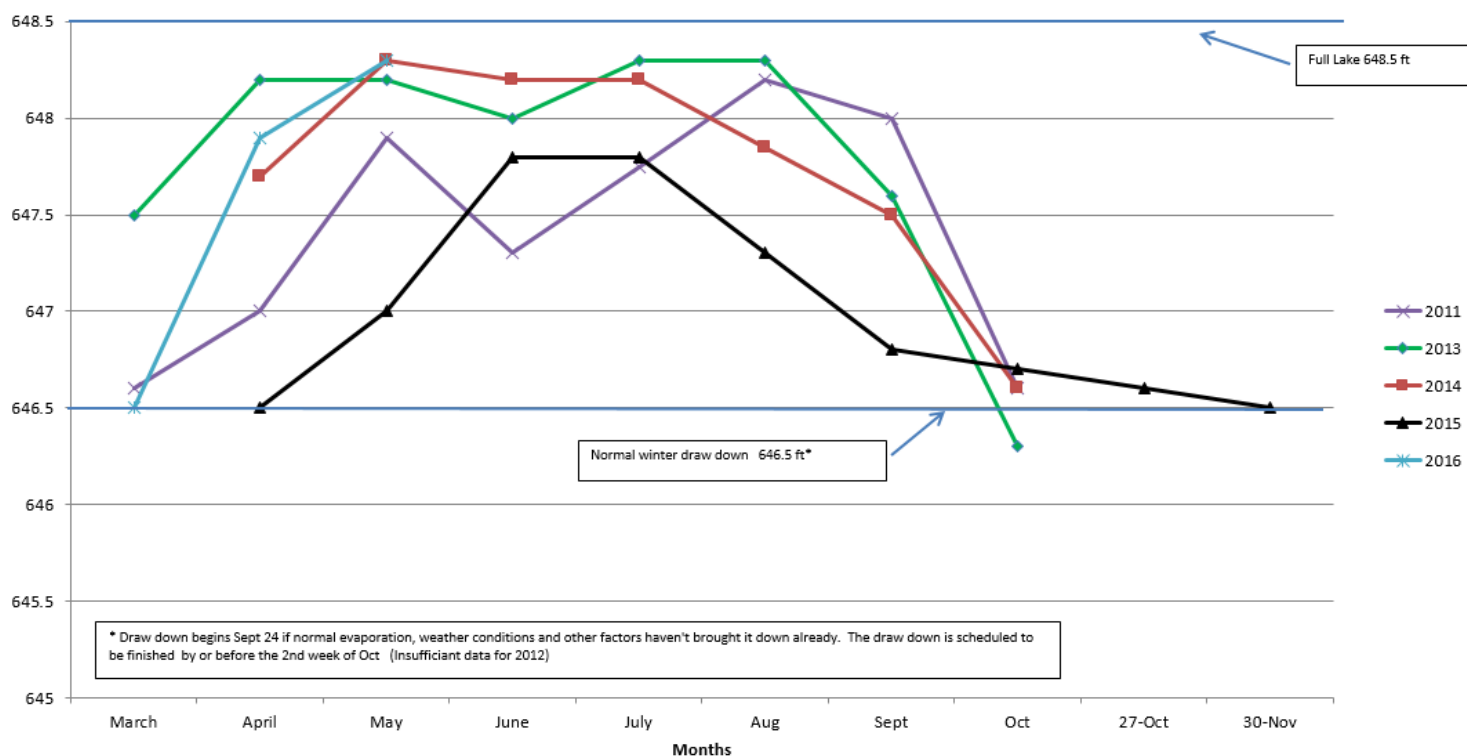
In increasing order of time and effort required, here are some important ways in which you can contribute to the ongoing success of the MMLA:

- Become a MMLA member and send in your dues. The annual dues remain our primary source of income to support key programs and other initiatives.
- Make optional donations to the Water Quality and Watershed Conservation funds (as always, see our website for forms, descriptions, and more details).
- **Attend the Annual Meeting** on Saturday, July 9. Set aside this one morning, and you can learn more about the lake we all love, ask questions, and help set the direction and future events of the MMLA. This year, two guest speakers will give brief presentations on topics that should interest many.
 - Harry Vogel from The Loon Preservation Committee (LPC) will be on hand to discuss the status of the loon population in NH and answer any questions you may have.
 - Tom O'Brien, President of the NH Lakes Association, will discuss the NHLA and key issues for lakes at the state level.
- Volunteer to assist with one of our many activities.
- Join the MMLA Board of Directors. We will have several openings this year. The time commitment is not onerous, usually involving four to five one-hour meetings each year, many of which are done via phone conferencing, and taking the lead on one or two of our efforts. We are in particular need of people with marketing, writing, or accounting skills.
- Join the Water Quality Testing team. The current team is shrinking, and members aren't getting any younger!

While this is my first letter from the president's desk, it also will be my last. I will be stepping down in July and hoping to take on the Treasurer duties. Thanks for your support during the past several years.

Managing the Lake Level

Merrymeeting Lake Water Level
(feet above sea level)



Produced by MMLA

In cooperation with NH Fish & Game, the MMLA is now charting the lake level to give all members a perspective on the level changes from one year to the next. Many variables affect the lake level from month to month, and year to year, with rainfall and snowpack being the most obvious.

The level also fluctuates based on the usage demands of the fish hatchery. The hatchery needs to provide a continuous flow of water to the fish regardless of rain, etc. The outflow also can be dependent on downstream conditions in the Merrymeeting River and Lake Winnepesaukee. For example, if Winnepesaukee is full, the outflow from Merrymeeting must be restricted as much as possible to help prevent potential downstream flooding.

We have a good working relationship with the people in charge of the hatchery. They have agreed to keep us informed of any changes they may have to make that would affect the lake level.

As of the publication date of this newsletter, we are working with F&G on a plan for a lower-than-usual drawdown of the lake in the fall, starting around September 24, and continuing through late October. This will enable dock repair and other shorefront tasks allowed by permit that normally cannot be done with the higher water level.

Please check for updated details on our website – www.mmlake.org

Lake Host Program Update

Stopping Aquatic Invasives

Last year, Merrymeeting Lake Hosts found 11 specimens on boats preparing to launch at the dam. The specimens were each sent to the state lab for identification. Ten of those were native plants, but one was variable milfoil – an invasive aquatic plant. Lake Hosts will continue to educate boaters and provide courtesy boat inspections at the boat launch this summer. This program remains our best defense against invasive species taking hold in Merrymeeting Lake.

Recently, the Lake Host Program expanded its focus to include invasive animal life as well as invasive plants. Unfortunately, there are now four bodies of water in New Hampshire with Asian Clam infestations. Zebra mussels, spiny water flea, and several species of plant life can also be spread from lake to lake. Once invasives take hold in a body of water, they are nearly impossible to remove. Our lake hosts will now be inspecting for all these threats.

Remember to clean, drain and dry your boat between visits to other water bodies. **Copies of NH Lakes Association's brochure "Arrive Cleaned, Drained & Dry" will be available at the marina.** Help us spread the word by picking one up the next time you stop for ice cream and keeping it in the camp for guests and renters to read.



The Lake Host Program on Merrymeeting Lake is made possible through a grant from the NH Lakes Association, with financial support from the Merrymeeting Lake Association. You can support the Lake Host Program by being a member of the MMLA and by making an extra donation to the Water Quality Fund. You can also help by volunteering as an unpaid lake host. For more information, contact Sue Kowalski at suekowalski@comcast.net



NH Lakes Association



Tom O'Brien, President of the NH Lakes Association, will address MMLA members at the Annual Meeting on July 9, 2016, focusing on how we all can protect the beauty and future of Merrymeeting Lake.

The NHLA's mission is to protect New Hampshire lakes and their watersheds through education and advocacy. Their vision is that future generations will get to enjoy the quality of New Hampshire's lakes. The MMLA is proud to be a member and supporter.

The MMLA's very vibrant Lake Host Program, designed to prevent the spread of aquatic nuisance species, is supported through a grant from the NHLA. The NHLA also provides organizational and management support for the program. This partnership helps ensure the ongoing integrity of our beautiful lake.

We encourage anyone who has a love for Merrymeeting Lake to consider joining the NHLA. Their website is nhlakes.org.

FUN LOON FACT

Loons exhibit amazing physical capabilities, diving to depths in excess of 100 feet and flying at speeds over 100 mph

DOING YOUR PART TO HELP PROTECT OUR LOONS

Many people anxiously anticipate the arrival of loons on Merrymeeting Lake every spring. Their presence is a strong indicator of the good health of our lake and watersheds. Despite increasing activity and development, MML continues to provide loons with what they need to survive and thrive – good water quality, a healthy aquatic ecosystem with abundant prey, native vegetation along irregular shorelines, and nesting areas with minimal disturbance.

Still, even under the best of circumstances, loons face a tough world, and their plight takes many forms. The good news is that most challenges have solutions, and, with your help, Merrymeeting Lake can support a steady loon population for many years to come.

- Observe loons from a safe distance (the Loon Preservation Committee recommends at least 150 feet) and never explore a loon nest site. Close encounters can be deadly to swimming and nesting loons.
- Never chase loons or operate any watercraft in areas where loons have been seen. Adults and chicks have died from being hit by boats and propellers.
- Never fish or cast near nesting or swimming loons, don't use toxic (and now illegal) lead sinkers and jigs, properly dispose of unused bait and all trash, and remove monofilament line.
- Keep dogs and cats away from loons and nests to avoid disturbance and egg destruction.



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Meet & Greet Social

Have your kids ever complained that they don't know anyone their age at the lake? Ever been in search of a young teen for babysitting duties? Wondered who some of your neighbors are and where they are from?

The answers to these and many other questions can be answered by attending the MMLA Meet & Greet Social on July 30th, from 7 PM to 9 PM, at the Merrymeeting Lake Association clubhouse (across from the dam).

Unlike the more organized social events of the past few years, this will be a low-key affair, with a later start time to allow for full enjoyment of the lake while the sun shines. We will welcome donations of simple hors d'oeuvres or hand foods for all to share, but all that is required is your presence, along with your favorite beverage, and maybe a chair. Bring the kids, other family members and friends to enjoy a relaxing social evening with others from around the lake.

Annual Roadside Cleanup – May 29th

The MMLA-sponsored roadside clean-up was a big success last year so we did it again this year. On the Sunday of Memorial Day weekend, many MMLA members joined together to clean up the roads around the lake.

Volunteers met at the Town Beach parking lot on Sunday, May 29th. Each team was assigned a section of either Merrymeeting Rd, South Shore Rd, or North Shore Rd to clean, and all were given bags and gloves for collecting trash/debris in their section.

Volunteers earned a priceless MMLA t-shirt for aiding in this important cause. We plan to make this an annual event, so mark your calendars for next year. Everyone gets a little morning exercise and the satisfaction of knowing they performed a valuable community service.

Preserving Merrymeeting Lake's Shoreline And Water Quality

The water quality of every lake is directly affected by everything that takes place along its shores. Fortunately, the State of New Hampshire had the foresight to enact The Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act (RSA 483-B), which regulates use and development around the state's public waters. Since Merrymeeting Lake is one of the water bodies subject to this legislation, it is imperative for everyone to have a basic understanding of what is and is not allowed, and of the projects that necessitate a state permit.

Generally speaking, minimum standards and restrictions apply for most types of land and water impacts, with areas nearest the water having the strictest regulations. Compliance is required for activities involving tree/vegetation removal, impervious surfaces, setbacks, septic systems, sheds, retaining walls, sandy beaches, docks, and boat lifts.

Visit des.nh.gov/index.htm to become familiar with the New Hampshire Dept. of Environmental Services. The "A to Z List" link will help you find the exact topic you need. Also, be sure to follow these best practices to protect the lake:

- Preserve native vegetation along the shoreline and elsewhere on your property. Trees and other plants absorb water and help prevent runoff into the lake.
- Use only phosphorus-free fertilizers – and, better yet, eliminate the use of fertilizers altogether.
- Maintain a well-functioning septic system. Uncontained contaminants can leach into the groundwater and eventually into the lake.
- Clean up pet waste that also can contribute to unwanted nutrients and bacteria in the water.

If everyone acts responsibly in these regards, Merrymeeting Lake will continue to be the pristine gem that it is.

In Memoriam



Our long-time MMLA Secretary and colleague **Richard "Dick" Duffy**, 67, of Bedford, NH, died Nov. 23, 2015, surrounded by his loving family, after a courageous battle with cancer.

Born in Ithaca, N.Y., on Sept. 15, 1948, he graduated from John Jay High School, Cross River, N.Y., and earned a bachelor of science degree in business from New Hampshire College.

During the Vietnam War, Dick served with the U.S. Army. His service to our country continued for many years with the U.S. Army Reserve, eventually retiring with the rank of lieutenant colonel. His post-military career included working with procurement and contract management with various manufacturing and high-tech companies.

For many years, Richard enjoyed spending summers at Merrymeeting Lake, devoting many hours to the MMLA to insure the protection of the lake he loved. He was an avid New England sports fan and enjoyed reading and playing cribbage. Dick devoted himself to his family and provided for them with utmost humility, selflessness, and endurance. He especially enjoyed time with his grandchildren.

Family members include his wife of 42 years, Laila (Yapur) Duffy; his two sons, Kevin and Michael; three grandchildren; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.



Mr. **Harold "Red" Hobson Jr.** 87, of Danvers, MA, died on Dec. 10, 2015. He was born and educated in Lynn, MA. A veteran, he served his country as a member of the United States Navy.

After an honorable discharge, Red had a long and successful career with the General Electric Company until the time of his retirement.

The beloved husband of the late Barbara Hobson, he was a loving father and grandfather. Red was an active member of the First Church of Danvers, Congregational. He enjoyed spending his free time bowling, woodworking and watching sports. He loved his lake home and time with family and friends at Merrymeeting.

New Durham Activities for All Ages

The New Durham Parks and Recreation Department has several activities for all ages planned for the summer. For the younger generations, swim lessons are offered at the town beach. The lessons will run for three sessions of Monday through Friday, with instruction beginning on June 27th. Details regarding times and fees can be found on the Parks and Recreation website <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B3aJeGOwgHsDR3RFbUk0czA3WDA/view>

The town is offering 10 field trips to Great Bay Discovery Center, Hilltop Fun Center, Whale's Tale Water Park and the McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center. There is also a Mount Major hike and a day at Bear Brook State Park.

The New Durham Parks and Recreation website includes links for all of the offerings that will be available this summer, including the 2016 Fun, Games, and 5K, which will take place on July 30th. The Parks and Recreation Department has worked hard to plan these events so take advantage of what this wonderful town has to offer.

More details and updates can be found at http://www.newdurhamnh.us/Pages/NewDurhamNH_Recreation/Index

Welcome to Merrymeeting Lake



Many thanks to Nick and Casey of Sharper Image Landscaping for the nice job cleaning up our landscaping by the dam.

It makes for a more welcoming entrance to Merrymeeting Lake!

Fireworks Cautions

The annual MMLA fireworks show is one of our most popular events. Almost everyone likes fireworks, but not necessarily all the time. We host the fireworks show with the hope that it will help reduce the number and frequency of private shows shooting out over our lake and water during the rest of the summer.

A report from the NH DES documents the harmful effects of ongoing fireworks shows on water quality. <http://des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/pip/factsheets/bb/documents/bb-60.pdf> . In addition, these private displays impact our nesting loons, disturb other pets and wildlife, and can annoy neighbors, depending on their frequency and hours.

Please consider reducing or eliminating your use of pyrotechnics around your dock area or shooting over the water, and be considerate of others (both human and otherwise) when planning any events.

Drone Restrictions During July 2 Fireworks - and Thereafter

On Saturday, July 2, 2016, the MMLA fireworks display will be captured by a professional photographic drone. Due to the potential risks associated with flying multiple drones in the same area, especially at night, we are requesting that no other drones be flown in the vicinity of the lake for the time around and during the MMLA fireworks show, between 8 and 10 PM (with a contingent rain date of the same hours on Sunday July 3rd).

Actually this is much more than just a request. There is a registered seaplane base at Merrymeeting Lake, and FAA regulations require that all drone flights within five miles of the lake be cleared first with the owner/operator of that seaplane base, Dennis Thorell (603-859-4011h, 207-280-0246). In compliance with FAA regulations, a planned drone flight for the MMLA fireworks show has been approved by Mr. Thorell, and he will not approve any other drone flights that night. Hence, anyone flying a drone in the area that evening would not only be creating a real safety hazard, but also be violating FAA regulations.

What Drone Pilots Need to Know

By law, all drones must be registered and marked with registration numbers. If you crash a drone, you must report the crash to the police, and the FAA must investigate the undisturbed crash site. Operating a drone within five miles of Merrymeeting Lake without prior approval is unlawful anytime and can be dangerous to boaters, swimmers, and seaplanes.

Please note that the FAA can impose heavy fines and felony charges in connection with unapproved or unauthorized drone flights, not to mention one's personal liabilities resulting in damage, death or injury when operating a drone. Fines for unregistered or unauthorized drone use can be up to \$27,500 civil, or \$250,000 criminal, or up to three years in prison.

Merrymeeting Marina News

Marina makes major improvements to benefit the lake and customers.

Last fall the Merrymeeting Marina added a large 50,000 gallon underground water treatment and filtration system below the parking lot in front of the boathouse. This engineered system collects, processes, filters and settles all water from the marina property before releasing it into the lake. In addition, before water reaches the final filter it travels through as many as 11 engineered settling ponds on the property.



The outflow water going to the lake will be independently tested a minimum of four times per year, insuring that all discharge water meets guidelines of the EPA and Federal Clean Water Act.

A new-state-of-the-art boat repair and boat washing building also was completed this spring. All boat washing and boat/jet ski repairs have been moved up the hill where 5,000 gallon water storage tanks were installed to contain wash water and any residual gas or oils associated with boat repairs and engine operations. This is a zero discharge system that exceeds EPA requirements and will protect the lake from any discharge associated with boat repair and detailing. All collected wash water and repair water will be pumped out annually and taken to a treatment facility away from the lake.

A new boat gasoline system will be installed at the marina this fall after water drawdown, as not all of the parts were received in time to complete the job before this season.

Finally, all marina customers will appreciate the new all-aluminum docks, which are more stable and have easy-to-reach posts and cleats for docking and tying up. The docks also are equipped with a secure handrail that extends all the way to the end for added safety!

Hours

Through end of June

Saturday & Sunday
9am-5pm

June 26th thru July 10th

Open daily, 9am-dusk

July 11th thru Labor Day

Friday, Saturday, Sunday
9am-dusk

September 25th

Last call for boats
(early due to lake drawdown)

Sunday, October 9th

Closed for the season

Gas Always Available

While the marina store has limited hours, the gas pumps are available 7 days a week. Marina employees are usually working somewhere on the property. Just ask and they will be happy to help you.

Call the marina at 603-859-2000 for the following services:

- Mooring Service - scuba divers available to check, install or repair moorings
- PWC Service - all makes and models serviced by trained technicians
- Summer Dock Slip Rentals
- Fishing Bait - worms and night crawlers
- Boat Repair – most repairs done on site and pick-up/delivery available
- Summer & Winter Storage - arrange a drop-in and storage date for your boat with one call
- Propane Tanks for Gas Grills - simply swap your empty for a full tank

July

2016

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
				1	2 Fireworks Dusk	3
4	5	6	7	8	9 MMLA Annual Meeting, 9AM	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30 Meet & Greet Social 7-9 PM	31

KEY EVENTS

Saturday, July 2nd
Fireworks
Dusk

Saturday, July 9th
MMLA Annual Meeting
MMLA Clumbhouse, 9AM

Saturday, July 30th
Meet & Greet Social
MMLA Clumbhouse, 7-9 PM
New Durham 5K, 8AM

Swim Lessons: June 27-July 8, July 11-July 22, July 25-Aug 5

August

2016

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

KEY EVENTS

Swim Lessons: July 25-Aug 5