



Inside & Upcoming

July 4th Parade

Please join us in representing the association. Each year, our friends and neighbors around Salem join the village of Derby in celebrating Independence Day. We sponsor a float, decorated accordingly the day before by several dads, kids, moms and other neighbors. Many hands make light work and somebody's bound to put a fresh pot of coffee on. For more information, call Andy Major. (802) 766-2662.

July 21 Meeting

Coutts-Moriarty Camp. Potluck supper starts at 6 p.m.. Bring your chicken, pasta, casserole or your best dessert. Don't forget your own settings. Business meeting follows with guest speaker Eric Hanson, Vermont Loon Recovery Project.

A Fowl in My Fuel

When you own a summer camp, you're bound to experience a guest critter at some point, but a duck in your wood stove? It happened to Doug and Cathy Davis Memorial Day weekend. Apparently the dopey duck got in through the vent pipe on the roof and slid down into the dormant wood stove in the fireplace below. Fortunately Doug was able to disconnect the unit from its vent pipe and give the beast a chance to make an escape some hours later, ruffled and dusty, but alive and quacking.



LakeFront

Volume 5, Number 1

The official newsletter for the Salem Lakes Association

Never too Far Away to be Halfway Home

Whenever a flatlander asks me where our summer place is, I usually give them a vague answer. Something along the lines of "Oh, it's way up north." If they push the issue for curiosity's sake, I ask them how well they know Vermont. Most often, I'll get references to Killington, maybe Stowe. Skiers. Just recently, I've run into people who've surprised me. One works at a private school on the north shore of Long Island; Meredith her name is.

"Oh you have a place up there," she asked. "Where?"

"Oh it's up north, pretty much at the Canadian border," I replied.
"Derby Line?" she said.

I was floored. Nobody ever had drilled right to that reference so directly before. But Meredith did and once she was done chuckling at my dumbfounded expression, she explained that her home town was Troy. Small world.

"So you have quite a hike to make when you go up," Meredith said. "Do you go all the way up, or do you stop halfway?"

For many years, "halfway" was Brattleboro, VT, simply because it was midpoint on the route between our Long Island home and Derby. We'd pull off the highway to stretch our legs and get breakfast at the Howard Johnson right off the road. Dad would check on the trunk to see what was rattling, while we would take our house cat Max out for a few minutes of fresh air. "Don't let him chew on that grass," my mother warned us. "He'll get sick to his stomach!"

Of all the pets we've traveled with, Max was by far the gloomiest companion in our midst. The dog, other cats, even turtles...all of them appreciated the joy of back seat driving and rest stops.



Up north on Interstate 91, near the Canadian border.

Gold fish, not so much.

But the trip up these days is much easier now. Air conditioning helped, as did Interstate 91. And even though the linear distance hasn't changed door to door, our halfway mark has, creeping steadily south with each year. I first noticed this trend a couple of years ago when my cousin's husband – himself an avid camp owner – made a business trip to Boston. He had it all figured out too. Make the run up to Waltham, MA on Thursday night, do the business thing Friday morning, and then get on the road up to the lake right after the meeting ended. Since Interstate 93 is right there, he'd be at his camp by dinner. Lucky man.

However, the next time a New England business trip came up, my cousin's husband was in Hartford, CT. Now, if you view the New England map, Hartford is probably five to six hours due south of Derby, assuming you're cruising at a steady pace without pressing the good will of the state troopers along the way. Hartford. Now if you think about it, that's not all that far from Springfield, MA really, once you're in Springfield, you're not far from Greenfield, MA. And if you've come all that way north, you could cross over into Vermont and make a straight run right on in to the lake. What's that, 27 exits? Easy.

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The Salem Lake Association—It's About Community and Camaraderie

There's a plaque golfers like. It says 'A bad day on the golf course beats even a good day at the office.' The same could be said about our days at the lake, rain or shine.

You wake up on that cool morning, make the coffee and tip toe around the creaky spots on the camp floor to avoid waking the kids. You ping the spider off the screen door before slipping outside to steal a few minutes outside under the morning sun. Somewhere across the lake, somebody's heading out to fish; you can hear the low hum of their outboard.

My grandmother would have been up for a while now, probably since 6 a.m. She'd have walked Mugsy up the dirt road and back, and was about to brush out the knots from the fur of her tough old coon cat Tammy. I know this because I can hear her reprimanding the cat for making a protest. Voices travel easily across open water and you're just a few camps away.

The weather today is absolutely stunning which means the July 4th parade will be well attended. About an hour from now, Roger and Jim will make their way down the hill with the pontoon boat so we can decorate it for the parade later on in town. We haven't seen everyone yet since we only got up the other day, but I know as soon as we wander over, it will seem like we just did this a week ago.

We won't talk about jobs and bills. We won't get all aggravated over the price of gas. No. We'll talk about the bass Norm nabbed around the point last night. We'll rib the Yankee fans about their terrible stats this year. The girls will get bored and bug Pete to go tubing.

The association's annual meeting comes up in a couple of weeks, so there's a little buzz



Association members decorate July 4th float last summer.

about the milfoil program. So far, we've been free and clear though our monitors at the access did spot pieces of the weed on a trailer before it got into the water. So that program is working well, thanks to their vigilance.

Dave's been watching the water quality at Salem for several years and milfoil is a real concern. Other lakes in Vermont have a real hard time with the stuff once it gets into the water. Harvesting doesn't necessarily



Roger Cartee, proud Sox fan.

work and you don't want to dump any chemicals into the lake. Last thing you want to do is ruin the environment and lose what we enjoy so much. The clean water. A healthy walleye population. Common loon activity.

We're in a good place, among good people. No one tries to be the alpha male, or the ultimate hero. There's no need for that in a lake association. No. There is however a need for more people and more members. Dues have been down in recent years and grant money remains elusive, which puts greater stress on a conservation effort run by volunteers.

The remedy for this is simple: get involved. Put your membership in. Be in touch and be willing to pitch in a little.

Decorating a boat is easy, and enjoyable. Scanning the water for milfoil indicators can be relaxing, especially when you take your kid out with you and it's a day like today.

Come to the annual meeting if you're available. We went to our first one years ago and felt like we had been welcomed into a family reunion; only better because we could pick these friends.

This year's meeting is July 21 over at the Coutts-Moriarty camp. Everything you'd need to know about the state of our lake will be available right there. The food will be outstanding, the view always incredible, and the camaraderie will be contagious.

Beats a day at the office too.

Common Loon Coming Back

Ten years ago, observing a loon on any lake in Vermont was a treat, even in the Northeast Kingdom.

Today, loon sightings are common in the Northeast Kingdom. Loons are now nesting on Brownington, Long, Newark, Bald Hill, and May ponds and Seymour and Echo lakes. Lake Salem has had regular loon activity but no nesting has been confirmed. Dave Wissman observed some territorial behavior a few years ago, so he has helped place a nesting raft in the south-east cove because natural nest sites are limited.

If you observe consistent pair activity in one region of the lake, or see a loon sitting on shore, please contact the

Vermont Loon Recovery Project (VLRP) right away (802) 586-8064.

The VLRP, a program of Vermont Institute of Natural Science (VINS) and the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department, promotes nesting success with a variety of field conservation programs, public education and collaboration with hydroelectric companies. This work has helped to restore the loon population statewide and get the bird off the endangered species list. In 2006, 58 nesting pairs were recorded in Vermont.

Donations support more than half of the loon conservation activity.



For more information, to volunteer, or to send a donation, contact Eric Hanson, VLRP biologist, P.O. Box 22, Craftsbury, VT 05826 (802) 586-8064, Email: ehanson@vmlink.net

Check out other loon information at www.vinsweb.org/cbd/vlrp.html or see Eric's presentation yourself at the annual meeting on July 21.

Want help cleaning your camp this summer? Derby resident Vicki Carpenter is available. Call (802) 766-4937. \$15/hour



Halfway Home...

(from page 1)

It's easy to get sucked into this mindset when you have such an affinity for a place like the summer camp. I get teased now, particularly by my kids. "Hey Dad, you're going over to Westchester tomorrow? Might as well hop on over to the cabin while you're at it. What about Port Jefferson? Ya know, if you catch the six o'clock ferry, you're already halfway home to the cabin as soon as you get into Bridgeport."

I was in Boston just a few weeks ago; drove up for business just for the day. It was a Friday and there I was, traveling northward on I-91 with Hartford in sight. To get to Boston from that point, you have to veer off to the right onto I-84 which leads you to the Mass Pike. And that's what I did, resisting all instinct to push on northward. And as I crossed over the Connecticut River, I glanced longingly over my left shoulder at the small city skyline. It was such a shame; so very sad; to have come so close to the lake and not be able to put in just a little time there. To have come all this way, on such a beautiful day; a Friday too.

My barber has an expression for moments like this. He says "it ain't fair and it ain't right." His shop is just down the road from where we live, a block or two north from our house. In fact, I'm due for a hair cut and I was thinking maybe if I schedule this for a Friday, I could stop in for a trim on my way up to the lake. Seems like the right thing to do since I'm heading that way anyway. It's not like I'd have to take the house cat along, and we don't have any goldfish. So why not? I could be at the lake and have the dock in before dinner.

by Timothy Votapka

LakeFront

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Publisher - Dave Wood

Editor - Tim Votapka

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Officers

President—open post

VP—Roger Cartee

Treasurer—Jan Cartee

Secretary—Marlene Wood

Directors

Norm Miller, Jim Ritson, Ross Ogilvie,
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1 Vacancy

Final Note on the Numbers

The 2006 lake management program ended the year with a \$512 balance thanks to the Derby voters approval of the \$8,000 allocation. This year the State of Vermont will only reimburse us 27% of our total budget, or \$8,497. This is \$3,324 less than what we received this year. Each year we receive less state assistance which puts a strain on our budget and capabilities.

Our lake management program is vital to the quality of our lives and our properties around Salem Lake. To ensure its continuity, we are asking for financial and voluntary support from anyone interested in pitching in. If you haven't become a member, please consider joining. The annual fee is not an onerous amount to contribute toward a most precious resource, particularly the one at the end of your dock or beach.

For more news, plan on attending our annual meeting—July 21.

Visit us online at www.Salemlakesvt.org

LakeFront is published for our neighbors around the greater Salem Lake area.

Annual Membership Dues, \$10 (Jan 1—Dec. 31) (Fill Out & return by mail or in person at annual meeting)

Name: _____

Mailing Address:

Street: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Possible areas of involvement:

Lake Monitor: _____ Director: _____

Fundraising: _____ Recruitment: _____

Communications: _____ Other: _____

To pay dues and other contributions, contact Treasurer, Janet Cartee, Salem Lakes Association, P.O. Box 134, Derby, VT, 05829

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