



To Protect  
and Preserve

SEBEC LAKE ASSOCIATION, INC.

P.O. Box 303  
Dover-Foxcroft, Maine 04426-0303

MID WINTER NEWSLETTER  
1/30/99

RANDOM THOUGHTS REGARDING SEBEC LAKE.....

The good news is ... NO DUES BILLS until August, 1999

The jet ski questionnaire is complete and included with this newsletter. Our THANKS to Julie Flanders.

Progress has been made by John Daubenspeck on our lake level devise. I't's been an uphill battle all the way, but John has prevailed and we should have the devise installed by early spring. ATTA BOY, JOHN !!!

We're heading into the millenium by joining the computer age. We should be on line by the time you receive this newsletter. We need the planned computer in conjunction with the lake level devise and can put it to good use in compiling the newsletter and other office duties.

Bill Larrabee of the Sebec Lake weather station is on line. He can be reached at: [www.sebeclakeweather.org](http://www.sebeclakeweather.org)  
Bill has a super weather site , you can check out the weather at the lake from the comfort of your home.

BOWERBANK DAYS, 1999 is schedualed for July 30/31. This is promised by Bill and Dianne Quigley and their committee to be BIGGER and BETTER than the first BOWERBANK DAYS five years ago. The committee is seeking all the help they can get. They are selling raffle tickets to help defray expences. Do buy some! Win an Old Town canoe plus other prizes. The group can be reached at; BOWERBANK DAYS COMMITTEE, P.O. BOX ,SEBEC VILLAGE/BOWERBANK 04481

Rumor abounds that some of the older camps owners are planning 100 year celebrations in the coming summer. Parties will prevail. More details next time.

The Bad news is .....

Joanne and I spent New Years at the lake as usual, woke up thursday the 31st to find -19 F. with 8" of snow, the car wouldn't start, the wind was blowing about 40mph..... You get the picture.....  
The days are already getting longer and I can't wait to get all of my boats back in good old SEBEC LAKE !!!!!!!

Bob,  
Dave

area businesses. Many in attendance purchased those that the president had on hand.

Bertha Fitzgerald questioned the fairness of charging back fees on boats that were not registered in previous years. Since this is a state regulation, the Association could take no action.

The final item of new business was the election of officers for the new year. Bob Pride presented to the Association the same slate of officers that have served this year, and this slate elected for another year is as follows:

President	David Raymond
Vice President	Bob Pride
Recording Secretary	Marie Woodbrey
Corresponding Secretary	Tom Lizotte
Treasurer	Mac Blanchard

Directors

Sherry Brown	Dick Johnson
Larry Chase	Maurice Marden
Roger Clukey	Ruth Mason
John Daubenspeck	Ruth Meierdierck
Becky Engdahl	Don Page
Dale Flanders	Elaine Page
Julia Flanders	"Bud" Edgar Prouty, Sr.
Phyllis Foss	Lois Reynolds
Mary Fredricks	Elizabeth Snyder
Rich Halpin	Gene Snyder
Art Hansen	Gary Wakeland
Donna Hathaway	Fred Wappler

Vic Woodbrey

President Raymond adjourned the meeting at 8:31 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

*Marie G. Woodbrey*  
Marie G. Woodbrey  
Recording Secretary



## SEBEC LAKE ASSOCIATION

### Annual Meeting

August 12, 1998

President David Raymond called the annual meeting of the Sebec Lake Association to order at 7:10 P.M. at the Y.M.C.A. meeting room in Dover-Foxcroft. Fifty-two people were in attendance. President Raymond's opening remarks concerned the water level this summer, newspaper clippings on display, and his representation of the Association at three area parades. The secretary's report was approved as read. In the absence of Treasurer Mac Blanchard, Tom Lizotte read the treasurer's report. There is a current balance on hand of \$10,675.86, up from last year's balance by \$3,334.90. Part of the reason for this is that a water level meter, voted on last year, has yet to be purchased. The treasurer's report was accepted by the Association.

Moving on to old business, Julie Flanders gave a report of water quality in Sebec Lake this year. Her monitoring has shown that the quality is continuing at the desired level, and the flushing rate is higher than usual, creating a higher oxygen level. She requested that someone volunteer to continue the monitoring during September and October.

Pertaining to the water level meter voted on last year, John Daubenspeck outlined the problems he has encountered in finding a meter that will meet the Association's needs. At present, he has located one which will be available in the fall. The price is more than the amount voted on at the 1997 meeting, and in addition, money will be needed for installation and supporting equipment. He moved that an estimated \$5900 be spent on the project. Following discussion, Gene Snyder seconded the motion, and it was so voted. President Raymond expressed his thanks to John for all his efforts.

Continuing with old business items, the matter of personal water craft again came under discussion. Our president reported that he had attended a very interesting hearing on this subject, one of several held state-wide. In order for these to be banned on Sebec, all of the bordering towns would have to pass such a ban. Following considerable discussion, Allen Reamer moved that a survey created by the board of directors be sent to all dues-paying members by September 15th, regarding their feelings about personal water craft on Sebec Lake. He also included in his motion that the results of this survey be printed in a fall newsletter. After a second, the motion carried.

New business included a presentation by Bill Larrabee explaining his weather station at Greeley's Landing. He now works with the National Weather Service and has created a Webb site because of many requests and interest nation-wide.

President Raymond pointed out that hazard buoys on the lake have been updated and charted by the State Inland Waters Association. These charts are now for sale and available at some



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PRE 2000

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**FROM THE NARROWS**

Ice fishing ended yesterday (March 15th), and most of the ice shacks have been hauled away. The buoys are frozen in, and one can just barely see the orange stripe around the top peeking up in the snow. Living here year 'round, we are just about ready to see the flat, white blanket yield to dark waters spotted with white caps rolling through the Narrows.

This has been some winter. With a mile and a half of fire road to plow, we've been quite busy. We've had about 90.1 inches of snow this season so far, but there have been some differences from other years. We've not had the usual January/February thaw, so it's left us with a snow pack of about 28 inches.

Because of seasonal winter temperatures, with very few warm rain events, the snow is light in texture, but even so, I'm told the snow pack translates into about 7 or 8 inches of water, should it be melted. One guess is that when we have the first spring rain (any day now), the snow may absorb the brunt of it; when we get the second rain event, however, the brooks and streams will really run.

Now, whether you step out on your deck with your morning coffee and look up at Granite or Ragged Mountains, Grapevine Ridge toward the Buttermilks, Ladd or Moulton Hills, or at Benson Mountain...whatever your view...all that snow and new rains are going to run off into Sebec. You see, we have a watershed area of some 327 square miles which feeds directly into the lake. This is one of the largest watershed areas in relationship to the size of the lake in Maine.

President Dave Raymond appointed a committee to enter into a dialog with the Swift River folks who operate the dam in Sebec. We met in early March for the first time, and we learned a lot about how the dam functions, about the mutual interests that camp owners and the power generators share, and about the realities of the above-mentioned quirks of nature.

The lake right now is at about the level it is when the water is lowered in the fall. That puts things in a good position to accept the inevitable melt-off. The splash boards are off at the dam, and the river can accept more water downstream. One of those quirks of nature, though, is that in early December we had a wicked rain, raising the lake, which then froze, leaving ice kind of high on the shoreline. The lake subsequently was drawn off and has remained at its low mark under the ice. When the eventual melt-off occurs, the lake will rise, and may lift that ice, along with whatever is attached to it.

By this time a year ago, we had a terrific rain around March 1st and another around the 12th which really raised havoc with the ice which was breaking up on the lake. So far this year the warmth of spring has been graceful, and we haven't seen the inevitable rain event. But rest assured, it's coming...it's not "if," but "when."

The committee and the operators of the dam are committed to maintaining a safe balance between nature's wrath and man's love for his property. There's one gate open at the present time, and there's a temporary equipment repair underway at the other gate to try to get us safely through the spring. Parts for permanent repair are on order and, assuming the temporary repair holds, the permanent repair will be done when drier weather comes and the turbine gate can be closed for the necessary time.



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The facts are that there's a lot of snow to melt, there's a lot of land mass to leach into Sebec Lake, and spring rains are inevitable. It's also fact that the operators of the dam are prepared and committed and they share the interests of those who live on Sebec's shores. Now it appears to be a question of how benevolent nature will be to us.

Our committee will continue to meet with the Swift River Company and we hope to become the liaison between the company and the Lake Association members for improved communications regarding lake levels and dam operations year-round. We welcome your comments and suggestions, which should be sent to David T. Lockwood, P.O. Box 575, Dover-Foxcroft, Maine 04426.

Swift River Liaison Committee  
David T. Lockwood, Chair  
Maurice Marden  
Edwin Treworgy

SEBEC LAKE ASSOCIATION  
FINANCIAL REPORT  
JULY 28, 1999

Cash on hand - checking account      July 15, 1998    \$4,447.51

Cash in 7/16/98 - 7/28/99

Dues received	\$2,910.00	
Int. on Ck. Acc't	28.81	
Sale of Charts	470.50	
Total cash in:		\$3,409.31
Transfer from saving to checking account		3,138.45

Total cash available	\$10,995.27
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Cash Out:

Insurance	\$ 500.00
Filing fee -state	25.00
Water monitor	5,234.68
Newsletter	2,576.14
Postage	3.20
Computer-printer	1,846.52
Charts	318.00

Total cash out	\$10,503.54
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Balance checking account - July 28, 1999	\$ 491.73
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Balance in C/D, including interest - July 28, 1999    \$3,283.34

RE-Cap:

Balance checking - July 28, 1999	\$491.73
Balance in Saving(C/D)    "    "	3,283.84

**TOTAL CASH AVAILABLE    \$ 3,775.57**

Malcolm E. Blanchard, Treasurer  
July 28, 1999



## QUESTIONNAIRE FOR THE PROPERTY OWNERS ON SEBEC LAKE, INCLUDING MEMBERS OF THE SEBEC LAKE ASSOCIATION

The 118th special session of the Maine State Legislature enacted a law, summarized below:

1. Personal watercraft (jet ski) operators must be 16 years of age or older,
2. Imprudent operation of personal watercraft includes: engaging in prolonged circling, informal racing, wake jumping, or other types of continued and repeated activities that harass another person.
3. This is enforceable by any law enforcement officer, or a person may bring a private nuisance action for a violation of the law.
4. The Maine Land Use Regulation Commission (LURC) in conjunction with other state agencies, have designated specific great ponds upon which personal watercraft are banned. A provision has been made for any municipality to submit legislation to regulate further use, operation, and type of watercraft on any other great pond bordering it.

To summarize, the towns of Dover-Foxcroft, Bowerbank, Sebec, and Willamantic can agree to submit legislation to ban personal watercraft from operating on Sebec Lake. The window of opportunity is limited. Legislation must be enacted before the end of October, 1999.

The purpose of this questionnaire is informational only, to find out what the property owners on Sebec lake feel about personal watercraft, and what, if anything should be done. PLEASE SUBMIT THIS QUESTIONNAIRE TO THE SEBEC LAKE ASSOCIATION BY OCTOBER 31, 1998. Your opinions are important for the future of Sebec Lake.

### QUESTIONS

1. I come to Sebec Lake: (check appropriate boxes)

- ☐ to fish
- ☐ to enjoy non motorized recreational boating
- ☐ to go to the beach
- ☐ to party
- ☐ to waterski
- ☐ to get together with friends and family
- ☐ to rest and relax
- ☐ for the peace and quiet
- ☐ to enjoy motorized recreational boating
- ☐ to enjoy nature
- ☐ to get away from it all
- ☐ to explore the wilderness
- ☐ for exercise
- ☐ to make noise
- ☐ to drive my power boat as fast as it will go
- ☐ to do nothing
- ☐ to do what ever I want, when ever I want to do it
- ☐ to sleep
- ☐ because I paid alot of money for my camp.....

2. I own a personal watercraft (jet ski) YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

3. I allow friends and/or family to use their personal watercraft from my camp.  
YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

4. Do you understand the new law pertaining to personal watercraft? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

5. Do you think the current legislation regulating the operation of personal watercraft will effectively address the issues of people who object to jet skis on Sebec Lake?  
YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

6. Do you think the Sebec lake Association should develop a brochure which educates personal watercraft operators as to the terms of the state regulations, basic boating techniques, and courtesy-in-operation of jet skis on Sebec Lake? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

7. Do you think Sebec Lake property owners should tolerate personal watercraft operated within the current law? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

8. Are you someone who would confront a jet ski operator who was breaking the law by asking the person's name, registration number of the jet ski, and report it to the authorities?  
YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

9. Do you think personal watercraft have had an adverse effect on the loon population of Sebec? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

10. Do you think personal watercraft have had an adverse effect on your life style at Sebec?  
YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

11. Do you think it would better Preserve & Protect Sebec Lake if personal watercraft were banned from operating on Sebec? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

12. Do you think the Sebec lake Association is the appropriate organization to petition the four towns to ban personal watercraft from operating on Sebec? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

13. If a majority (as defined by the bylaws) of the paid membership of S.L.A. were to vote in favor of petitioning the towns to ban personal watercraft from Sebec :

\_\_\_\_\_ It would bring people together who can take positive action to preserve and protect Sebec

\_\_\_\_\_ I would support the decision of the majority, the officers, and the board of directors

\_\_\_\_\_ It would be divisive and bad for the association

\_\_\_\_\_ I would discontinue membership in S.L.A.

14. Are you in favor of a ban of personal watercraft (jet skis) from Sebec?  
YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_



Thank you for your prompt response to this questionnaire. Your opinion is important.  
Please return to : Sebec Lake Association

P.O. Box 303

Dover-Foxcroft, ME 04426-303