

FALL OF '74 NEWSLETTER
Alton-Barnstead Halfmoon Lake Association

The Fall meeting was held August 18 with 100% area representation. The big maps of the lake with all the property owners' names have been printed (thanks to Allen McCready) and are being distributed to all paid-up Association members. A corresponding list of names, home addresses and telephone numbers will be available soon. This and a "Winter Theft Protection Plan" will be mailed to all paid-up members this fall.

The name list will be given, with map, to the police and firemen for your protection. Another purpose of the list is to give your neighbors a way of reaching you in the event of an emergency at your cottage. A neighbor found the water running out of a cottage in the winter. He shut the pump off from outside but couldn't call the owner because he didn't know where he lived. The list is also an integral part of the "Winter Theft Protection Plan." If for some reason you wish to have your name omitted from the list please notify me before September 15. The next phase of this program is to number each cottage. All the roads now have names (see your map). The cottage numbers will be added to the maps and name lists. These will be provided to firemen and police so you can phone in an emergency condition and they can locate you quickly.

The "Winter Theft Protection Plan" is in its first trial year of protecting you against the increasing rate of break-ins. It has been coordinated with the Alton and Barnstead police. We are soliciting your input for improving this program. Send your ideas directly to me.

Both the "name list" and "Winter Theft Protection Plan" are expected to be mailed out before the end of September. If you are a dues paid-up member and don't receive one, then please contact me.

We owe Eleanor Watson a heap of "thanks" for typing the mailing list stickers and the directory list. There are 150 names, phone numbers, etc. to keep straight.

A report of airfield landing information has been forwarded to Barnstead's Attorney McManus by the chairman of the committee, John Hayward. Please report all landing and take-off information, particularly dates and aircraft numbers to John Hayward or George Hetu for the next report to the attorney.

Area representatives attending the fall meeting got a fine rundown on septic tanks and water pollution from an authority on the subject. The following is a summary of the highlights:

1. We have been advised that the septic tank dye mentioned in the spring letter should not be used by other than an authority from the state water pollution board. If you have a septic system problem you will probably know about it either by the strong odor when it comes to the surface or by the purity level of your or your neighbor's well if it travels underground. If it runs underground to the lake you may not know about it.

If you have a septic system problem it is your responsibility to do something about it. The fact that it is an old system does not excuse you from the health laws. If you need state professional help in evaluating your system you should call or write:

State Water Pollution Dept.
Prescott Park
Concord, N. H. 03301

If you wish to test your well drinking water the state will do it free. You pick up a sample bottle at the Water Pollution Laboratory, State Laboratory Bldg., Hazen Drive, Concord, N.H. and upon return they will analyze the water and send you a report.

Our authority recommends that you do not drink any lake water, including ours, without either boiling or chlorinating it.

2. The Association is coordinating a lake purity test program to evaluate our problem. We have a plan for sampling 8 select lake locations this fall. We will keep you informed.

It is recommended you use soaps with low phosphates because of algae growths that could result in wells and the lake from excessive phosphate deposits.

Two representatives of your association met with the Town of Alton Selectmen to discuss the lake pollution problem from the lack of sanitary accommodations at the Alton Beach. The selectmen maintain that it is not a public beach but a beach for the town residents. They have agreed to put a pair of portable toilets there for the remainder of the season to evaluate the results. It is up to the adjoining property owners to watch for acts of vandalism and report them to the police.

An area representative from the association is looking into the possibility of getting the state to stock the lake with fish again. Reports from fishermen in our group indicate less catches this year.

The "Alton Liberty" newspaper returned our subscription money because "circumstances the past year has placed a great burden on us: medical and legal bills are mounting." They are the target of a \$900,000 libel action by Locke Development Cooperation. The Liberty was strong on environmental and civic issues in Alton and surrounding towns. The association voted to contribute \$50 toward their plight in view of their courage to stand up and report the news on controversial items as they saw it.

The lake boat inspector is Lawrence Chagnon of Pittsfield, telephone #435-8150. He is willing to accept boat related calls at home. Remember, ski traffic is counter clockwise. Swimmers should be accompanied by a boat when swimming out into the lake. A head in the water is hard for a ski boat driver to see, particularly in choppy water or when driving into the sun.

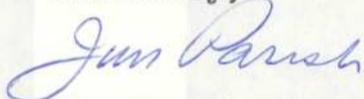
The boat parade is August 31, starting at George Geers' cottage (2nd cottage up from the boys' camp) at 8:15 p.m. Bring a 3 ft. long stick to hold your flare. Your association has donated the flares.

The association has contacted the telephone company about replacing the pay phone at Halfmoon Store. They first promised it the next week but a lake family had acquired the line in the interim. Since that was the only private line left they are bringing in a new cable and will have the phone back soon.

A work of thanks to Martha Parish for the typing (and editing) of newsletters.

As we get to know more about other lake associations we realize how well off we are relative to good organization, communications and strong treasury. These assets are all important to you the property owners for protection of your property values and improvement of the lake conditions. We continue to need your support both actively and financially.

Sincerely,



Jim Parish, President
5 Fletcher Rd.
Lynnfield, MA. 01940

Tel. 617-334-4455

DEAR AREA REPS.

IN OUR FALL NEWS LETTER WE PROMISED TO SEND THE NAME AND ADDRESS DIRECTORY AND THE WINTER THEFT PROTECTION PLAN TO ALL DUES PAID UP MEMBERS. (WE HAVE ALREADY GIVEN THEM THE MAP)

BOTH THE DIRECTORY AND PLAN ARE COMPLETE. WE ARE HOLDING OFF MAILING UNTIL SEPT 15, THE DEADLINE WE SET FOR ANYONE WHO WANTED HIS NAME DELETED FROM THE LIST.

ENCLOSED IN THIS LETTER IS A LIST OF THE "PEOPLE IN YOUR AREA. WILL YOU PLEASE MARK, "PAID", BESIDE THE NAME OF EACH PERSON WHO HAS PAID HIS DUES AND, "WILL PAY" BESIDE THE NAMES OF PEOPLE WHO ARE REGULAR DUES PAYERS BUT FROM WHOM YOU HAVEN'T AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO COLLECT YET.

THE MAP AND DIRECTORY WILL GO TO ALTON & BARNSTEND FIRE & POLICE. THE THEFT PROTECTION PLAN HAS BEEN DISCUSSED WITH BOTH POLICE DEPTS AND THEIR INPUT WAS USED IN WRITING IT. IT IS HOPED THAT WORD WILL GET AROUND TOWN THAT HALF MOON LAKE IS GETTING ORGANIZED AGAINST BREAK-INS AND IT WOULD BE SMART TO STAY AWAY FROM THERE.

PLEASE RETURN YOUR LISTS AND ANY COMMENTS YOU HAVE WITHIN A DAY FROM WHEN YOU RECEIVE THIS.

SINCERELY
Jim Cawth

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