

**HOORAY!**

## **OPENING DAY FOR SWIMMING! THIS SATURDAY JUNE 15TH**

We've been awaiting this day, always the third Saturday in June for when we can finally swim in our lake. And we will have our traditional Opening Day Ceremony, where we join together to sing our Lake Song, and toast with fresh strawberries to an "uneventful season". Not that I'm superstitious, but that toast has been working for 18 years now. We are scheduling it for 10:30AM, and we can plunge in at 11AM.

I say "I" because usually Stephanie and I collaborate on letters to our members. She will be writing to you with her own thoughts about opening day, but I do want to make this personal. It is going to be a challenging summer for all of us, just getting into the park without a long wait. We will have to really come very early or pretty late on weekends, and we'll have to see how it goes on weekdays, given the fact that all the construction has limited parking spaces to one third of what has been available for years.

But for those of us who are of more limited mobility it will be even harder as there will no longer be handicapped parking up the hill by the old Ranger station. I was only sixty seven and very mobile when our first season began in 2002, after two years of hard negotiating. Well, do the math. I am very fortunate to still be alive and well, but the legs surely aren't what they used to be.

### **OUR CANOE TAXI**

So for me and others in the MDSA who love to swim and can still do so, we now have another option: A canoe "taxi," parked all season at the Boat Launch (aka Diver's Cove) at the north end of the lake.

This canoe is 17 feet long, quite heavy and quite stable. In its younger life it carried three of us down the Allagash Waterway in Maine, through river and lakes for ten days, and was the workhorse for many other canoe camping trips. Now in its retirement it is about to provide alternative transportation to our beach, primarily for those who most need it. Because we have for the very first time permission to park a boat at the put-in, as SUNY has for years, we are going to have to work out arrangements for its use so that it can serve the most MDSA swimmers. Right now it is locked up and the combination is the same as that for our locker at the beach.

**So, I plan to get to the Park Saturday really early, in time to meet as many of you as possible at 10:30AM at our beach.**

**Yours for the long swim,  
Judy Mage, MDSA Co-coordinator**

# OPENING DAY for the MDSA 2019 SEASON

**WHERE:** Our MDSA Beach at Minnewaska

**WHEN:** Saturday, June 15th, at 10:30 AM

**As Judy Mage noted in her recent message, we will have our traditional song and a toast with fresh delicious local strawberries to “An uneventful season” at 10:30 AM.** Some strawberries will be saved for members venturing in late in the day!

The weather report this week sounds like we are finally getting some sun and warmth on Saturday, enough to entice us to swim!

I want to welcome our new members and to remind us all about 3 rules we are mandated to abide by in addition to following Park regulations. They are only a few and keep us in good stead with the Park, allowing us to enjoy Lake Minnewaska.

- 1. To swim** (counterclockwise, please, around the buoyed line) **only while there is at least one other MDSA member** at our beach during the hours allowed. We are not allowed to swim much further out beyond the bouyed line.
- 2. Always** post your membership card and put out the red life saving buoy (kept under our locker).
- 3. Hours:** ALL swimmers MUST be out of the water by 7:00 PM, no exceptions.

**There are also some common courtesy and safety considerations** we ask all our members to follow. Please go to our MDSA website under the tab Current Member Login and click on and read the 3 emails from last season.

- 1. Storms:** Be aware and look up to our beach to see if members are waving you in out of the water. At the first rumble of thunder ALL swimmers must get out of the water and not return until 20 min after the last sound of thunder. (This is also a Park rule.)
- 2. Sunscreens, lotions, perfumes, and the like:** Sunscreens need to be put on well before you go in the water, otherwise they just wash off and pollute the Lake. Likewise, avoid the use of lotions, perfumes, powders before going in the water. Let's keep the Lake water clean and not offend other swimmers.
- 3. Dogs:** Park rule is no dogs allowed in the water where people swim. We ask that if you bring a dog, keep it tethered (another Park regulation) and away from our beach where members are coming and going (noting that not all of us are comfortable around dogs and we want to avoid accidents). There is room further down the path beyond our beach.
- 4. Enjoy the peace and quiet** and please avoid loud conversations.
- 5. Keep the bench locker open** (unless it is raining!) **Note:** we have a defibrillator in the locker with instructions for use should the need arise.

You've already been made aware of the limited parking at the Lake this season, so if you can **carpool**, please do!

**I hope to see you at the Lake and get to know more of you!**

**Take care and ENJOY the Lake,  
Stephanie Bludau Tor, Co-coordinator**

**PS: Parking lots fill up fast on weekends, so arrive at the Park as early as possible.  
PPS: DON'T FORGET TO VOLUNTEER for SWIM TESTING AND WEEKEND GUIDES!**