

OPENING DAY for the MDSA 2020 SEASON

WHERE: Our MDSA Beach at Minnewaska

WHEN: Saturday, June 20th, at 10:30 AM

The 2020 MDSA Opening Day and Swim Season will be different this year because of current circumstances. The restrictions aren't great, but they're the best we can hope for right now.

This season especially we need to all think of ourselves as Guides and politely remind nonmembers who wander down to our beach of the "new normal" and their need to qualify and be insured to be allowed to swim in the deep waters at the MDSA beach.

No swim tests are as yet scheduled. Our web site will have updates.

Our traditional opening day ceremony will be distanced and with a BYO strawberry or fruit of any kind to toast to another "Uneventful Season" at 10:30AM. For anyone who wants, there will be individual white and dark chocolate dipped strawberries available for the toast.

Until further notice, the Park now closes at 7:00 PM. If this changes you will be notified. We recognize the hardship this is as some of us like to swim and enjoy a leisurely walk back to our cars or maybe witness the sunset. Regretfully, the early Park closing is part of our "new normal" for this season. Morning hours are still the same: 9:00 AM weekdays and 11:00 AM weekends and holidays.

As noted in the addendum sent with your renewal sticker there are not only delays getting into to the Park, but because of construction traffic, also as you'll be driving up the hill to park. Be patient, please, and carpool if you can. Not only on weekends, but during the week as well, arriving early will be your best bet for getting into the Park.

We ask that all members respect distancing from other members and wear a mask if 6 ft distancing on the beach is not possible. COVID-19 is no joke. We're all vulnerable and need to look out for each other.

Only a limited number of our MDSA chairs will be available and should be sanitized before and after use. There will be sanitizer in the bench locker. You may bring your own chair but it cannot be left at the beach, by order of Park Management.

Once again as we noted in the addendum, because the beach is limited in space, we ask that you do not bring a dog nor bring nonmembers to remain on the beach while you swim.

Because of sanitizing regulations, MDSA will not station a port-o-john above the entrance to our beach. Park facilities will be open. Please, let's keep the Lake clean!

Let's make this season another successful and uneventful MDSA swim season.

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

We 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 permitted to swim much further out beyond the buoyed 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 6:45PM, 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. Enjoy the peace and quiet** and please avoid loud conversations.
- 4. 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!

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

**Take care and ENJOY the Lake,
Judy Mage and Stephanie Bludau Tor, Co-coordinators**