

OPENING DAY FOR SWIMMING on our 23rd Season!
SATURDAY JUNE 15TH 2024, 11:00 AM
Stickers and Info Letter are being mailed May 31 2024

PLEASE READ THIS ENTIRE EMAIL and see Stephanie's note at the end.

AND, VOLUNTEER: We really appreciate the members who year after year have been volunteering and we cannot take MDSA for granted.

We cannot continue without members volunteering. We need Volunteer Guides IMMEDIATELY. Here's the link to volunteer:

<https://www.minnewaskaswimmers.org/volinfo>

"Over the 23 years of MDSA's existence we have always held a little ceremony on our beach on opening day, always the third Saturday of June. RAIN or SHINE, our toast is just before 11AM, the earliest we can enter the water on a Saturday. If there are thunderstorms, we'll wait out the lightning in our cars before we head down to the MDSA beach. Before we swim, we toast with strawberries, to an 'uneventful season'. Whether it's the magic of our toast, or just the skill and care of our hundreds of members, but we have enjoyed all those 'uneventful' seasons when the main event was our long swim, alongside the beauty of the cliffs. And if we are fortunate there will still be mountain laurel in bloom lining the lake shore. If it rains, bring an umbrella. We've been waiting since last September for June 15th. Be at the Park by 10:30 to be able to attend our ceremony."

A possible second ceremony will be held later that afternoon to accommodate our loyal swim testers on that Saturday and any new members who joined that day.

**See you at the lake,
Judy Mage, Founder and Co-coordinator**

PLEASE NOTE:

We have 3 large "boulder benches" down by the Lake where we go into the water. So now we have something to sit on while taking off our shoes! Try not to keep your "stuff" on top of them. MDSA will also have a number of new chairs available. You may bring your own chair but it cannot be left at the beach, by order of Park Management.

Policy regarding dogs remains as last season:

- If at all possible, please do not bring a dog.
- If you do bring a dog, take it to the far end of the MDSA area, **without delay**. Dogs are not allowed in or near swim areas (Park Rule).PLEASE
- Never leave a dog unaccompanied while you go off to swim and always have it tethered (Park Rule).
- Because someone must stay with your dog while you swim, cannot that person walk your dog around the Lake?

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

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, permitting us to enjoy Lake Minnewaska. **We are a swim club that expects its members to abide by the rules.**

Last season, several members were in the water later than the Park 7PM deadline and this has given Park Management reason to deny our swimming beyond Labor Day this season.

Let's abide by Park rules.

1. To swim (**counterclockwise, please**) within a reasonable distance 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 put up your membership card **and** put out the red lifesaving buoy that is kept under our locker.
3. Hours: **All swimmers must be out of the water by 7:00PM, no exceptions.** Week days we may start at 9:00, but on weekends and holidays not until 11:00. Watch for posts on the Minnewaska State Park web site for extended hours due to excessive heat days. Stephanie will email active members if there's enough notice.

There are also some common courtesy and safety considerations we ask all our members to follow. Please go to our MDSA web site under the tab Current Member Login and click on and read the emails from previous seasons.

1. **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.
2. **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 (Park Safety Rule).
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.**

OUR "CANOE TAXI" at the Boat Launch (aka Diver's Cove) at the north end of the lake is available with advanced planning and with preference given to members for whom the walk to our beach has become a physical challenge. Any member who might want to make use of it, should email info@minnewaskaswimmers.org and your message will be forwarded to a member who can help you. This canoe is 17 feet long, quite heavy, and quite stable and must be kept locked up; the combination is the same as that for our locker at the beach.

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

A note from Stephanie: I am among the many who recognize that Climate Change has affected our swim season and will cause another hot summer and hot swimmable September. I will try this year to deliver our message of wanting (and needing) to swim longer hours and well into September at the lakes in New York State, including Minnewaska and Awosting. I'm not sure how, with whom, or where or when I'll be successful, but I plan to try. I welcome any suggestions sent to our info email. Thanks!