



Winter

# NEWSLETTER

Winter 2026

Protecting Lake Placid Water Quality Since 1893



Photo provided by A. Mayberry

## SOA PRESIDENT'S LETTER -Roger Smith

Dear SOA Members,

While the bears and woodchucks of the Adirondacks are down for a long winter nap, your SOA leadership team is actively engaged on many fronts. We've had a return to a traditional Lake Placid winter with deep freezes, few winter thaws and consistent snow.

The 2025 annual SOA Lake Placid Clean Water Fund has concluded. Please see a report in this newsletter which demonstrates both growth in participation and several larger gifts. Thank you to all of who committed to support the fund. Supporting the long-term health of our waters is our common objective and I encourage everyone to participate.

We have a new family at the end of Mt. Whitney Way, at "Antler Ridge," and those of us on the road are making sure they get connected with the SOA. If you have new neighbors, please let either Ashleah Mayberry (SOA Administrator) or Julianne Bertagna (Membership Chair) know if a camp has changed hands so we can reach out and extend an invitation to join.

Please read Scott Donnelly's report on the wake-sport webinar that many of us attended in January. It is increasingly likely that regulations are on the horizon, and Lake Placid may be impacted.

I am very grateful for Nancy Begier's leadership of the Nominating Committee. We have several exciting new candidates lined up to join the SOA Board next summer at our Annual Meeting. Speaking of which, please mark your calendars for Saturday, August 8th. The meeting is one week later than usual due to conflicts at the High Peaks Resort.

If you are a history buff and enjoy the history of North Elba and Lake Placid we are seeking a member willing to bring energy and passion to organizing and updating our historical materials. Please reach out if this sounds like you.

Finally, I want to once again thank Ashleah Mayberry and Cristina Lussi for keeping the SOA on track with tax filings, payments, memberships, and grant proposals. Our organization is deeply indebted to them for their hard work and dedication.

See you in a few months!  
Roger



# 2026 ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

Saturday, August 8, 2026

High Peaks Resort



Photo provided by A. Mayberry

*Save  
the  
date*

Registration and light refreshments start at 8 am with the meeting commencing at 9 am.

SOA members who have paid 2026 dues will be eligible to attend and vote.

Invitations to the meeting will be sent early summer.



## Membership Dues

For those who would like to get a jump on paying their dues, we've included a PayPal link and QR Code below. In the coming weeks, we will also be sending invoices to make the payment process easier.

**Membership Dues: \$225**

2026 SOA Member Dues



[2026 SOA Membership Dues](#)

Thank you for your continued support.



### OFFICERS & TRUSTEES

#### OFFICERS

**Roger Smith**

*President*

**Kip Testwuide**

*Vice President*

**Cristina Lussi**

*Treasurer*

**Lendy Barnard**

*Secretary*

#### TRUSTEES

**Nancy Begier**

**Julianne Bertagna**

**Kevin Bette**

**Deanna Donnelly**

**Fred Jubitz**

**Ashley Kasperzak**

**William Kaufman**

**Jaideep Khanna**

**Hilary McDonald**

**Keith Olsen**

**Roby Politi**

**Tom Walden IV**

#### HONORARY TRUSTEE

**Georgia Jones**

#### ADMINISTRATION

**Ashleah Mayberry**



[www.lpsoa.org](http://www.lpsoa.org)

# 2025 SOA LAKE PLACID CLEAN WATER FUND RESULTS

**Total Raised: \$48,000**  
**Number of gifts: 34**  
**Average Gift: \$1,396**  
**Gifts of \$1000 or more: 12**  
**Largest gift: \$15,000**

Your longstanding support has been essential in preserving and protecting the quality of Lake Placid Lake.

Through our Invasive Species Program, we fund lake stewards who monitor incoming boats and educate boaters, as well as divers who remove milfoil and other aquatic invasives. The lake is also monitored annually for water clarity and bacteria levels to safeguard public health.

Working with the Town of North Elba, we helped establish mandatory septic inspections prior to property transfers—an important step in protecting water quality. Each summer, we also provide complimentary use of the Barge for septic pump-outs to support clean drinking water for all lake homeowners.

Our efforts extend to maintaining the Dam, which recently underwent major rehabilitation.

This important work is made possible by your continued support. Thank you for helping us protect Lake Placid Lake.

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Tax-deductible donations may be made by visiting the SOA website and clicking the DONATE button at the top of the page.

To access the website,  
scan the QR code or click the link below.

[\*\*DONATE NOW\*\*](#)



You may also mail a check payable to:  
Adirondack Community Foundation  
Memo: SOA Lake Placid Clean Water Fund  
PO Box 288  
Lake Placid, NY 12946

# *Thank You* for helping us protect Lake Placid Lake.

Mrs. Martha Reiss Acworth, in memory of Barbara Walden

Anonymous

Andrew and Lendy Barnard

The Begier Family at Fidelity Charitable

Sandy E. Bissell and Arthur D. Bissell III

David and Heather Bumsted

B. Lees and Susan Divine

Scott and Deanna Donnelly

Diane and Peter Fish, in memory of Frederick C. Calder

Haneman Charitable Fund at Fidelity Charitable, in memory of Jeffrey Volmrich

Ms. Susan Hirschfeld

Georgia E. Jones, in memory of Jeffrey Volmrich

Fred Jubitz

Kenneth & Martha Knowles

Rich and Katrina Kroes Fund at Adirondack Community Foundation

Love Family Foundation Inc.

Caroline and Serge Lussi

Cristina F. Lussi Fund at Adirondack Community Foundation

Cristina Lussi, in memory of Barbara Walden

Ted Marcy and Kim Hornung-Marcy

Mr. Patrick R. and Mrs. Hilary C. McDonald

Jay & Jane McGraw

Mr. & Mrs. James H. McGraw IV, In Memory of Barbara Walden

John M McMillin Foundation

Mr. Keith Olsen

PACCC Charitable Fund at YHB Charitable Endowment

Meredith M. Prime Fund at Adirondack Community Foundation

Sibyl and Randy Quayle

Mrs. Elizabeth S. Reed

Ms. Antonia Scott Ness Ryckman, in Memory of Barbara Walden

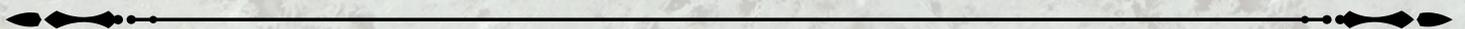
Margaret Jackson Smith

Mr. Roger K. Smith

Roger K. Smith and Rachelle Bose

UBS

Doni & Michael Urfirer





# Wake Surfing Update

-Scott Donnelly



Photo provided by A. Mayberry

Wake surfing use and its impact to our lakes continues to get significant attention in the Adirondacks and across the country. The Adirondack Lakes Alliance recently held an update call which discussed a number of impacts resulting from wake surfing. The environments impacts include Shoreline Erosion (loss of shoreline and re-release of mercury and phosphorous sequestered in the soil), impact on nesting Loons (Loons cannot walk on land so nests are on the water's edge), lake bottom sediment disturbance (has not been an issue in Lake Placid due to our water depth), impact on other users (canoes, kayaks, paddlers and swimmers) and transfer of invasive species (hard/impossible to inspect/clean ballast tanks).

Our neighbors in Vermont passed state wide rules restricting wake surfing use owing to the environmental impacts and the impact on other users of the lakes. These rules included restrictions on depth of water, minimum acres and clearance to shore and other users. The rules were enacted in April of 2024 and are currently being modified to further increase the use criteria based on feedback that the state did not go far enough to protect the environment and other lake users. It is important to note that regulations are applied to the act of wake surfing, including use of the ballast tanks, not to the boats themselves.

Fortunately New York does not require state wide regulation. New York has delegated towns the jurisdiction to regulate lakes within 1500ft of their shoreline and/or to protect the health and safety of its residents. The alliance is recommending that wake surfing not be permitted in water less than 30ft deep, be restricted to areas of the lake that are at least 3000ft long and at least 1000ft from the nearest shore and that any boat with ballast tanks have the tanks cleaned and dried before entering the lake.

The SOA will continue to address this issue and provide further updates at the annual meeting this summer.

# MEMORIAL TRIBUTES:

## *Karen Delaney*



Karen Delaney, passed on January 15, 2026, at her home on Paradox Bay overlooking the mountains. She grew up in southeastern Michigan and attended the University of Michigan School of Nursing. After visiting the Montreal 1976 Summer Olympics, Karen was inspired to move to Lake Placid prior to the 1980 Winter Olympics. She fell in love with her future husband Brian Delaney after he noticed Karen while skiing at Whiteface Mountain and then at St. Agnes Church. After working as a nurse in Cazenovia, they returned to Lake Placid to establish High Peaks Cyclery - High Peaks Mountain Guides. While their business was still in its infancy, Karen and Brian grew their family with the birth of four children in six years.

Even with the time requirements of operating a family-owned, small business, Karen maintained her nursing license and worked, as time permitted, as a school and camp nurse. She taught swim lessons to children for many years and guided trips for the Lake Placid Outing Club, encouraging students to embrace the outdoors and try new activities. Karen was passionate about seeing Lake Placid's next generation learn and develop and was instrumental in forming of the Lake Placid Community Nordic Ski Program at Scotts Cobble that has seen 100+ K-6 students get on skis every Friday in the winter with free equipment and lessons led by volunteers.

Karen was an accomplished athlete, hiking all 115 mountain peaks above 4,000 feet in the Northeastern U.S., completed the Boston Marathon and competed at the World Masters Championship and the American Birkebeiner in cross country skiing. When not participating in a Lake Placid athletic event, Karen could often be found volunteering including as a life guard on Mirror Lake for the High Peaks Cyclery mini-triathlon series or assisting at the Olympic ski jumps and cross country ski venues. As a devout member of Saint Agnes Church, Karen volunteered at Saint Agnes School and quietly helped many individuals in need within the Lake Placid community through her generosity and resourcefulness.

In addition to her husband she is survived by her children, Shannon Delaney, Matthew (Emily) Delaney, Katherine (Tyler) Socash, and Colin (Caitlin) Delaney as well as her grandchildren, Phoebe Socash and Tessa Delaney, with two additional grandchildren on the way in 2026.

# *Claudia Razook*



Claudia Razook passed away on December 8th, 2025. Claudia attended The Packer Collegiate Institute and graduated from Lasalle Junior College. Claudia married the love of her life and very best friend, George Razook and moved to the Westchester Country Club grounds in Rye, New York. Claudia quickly became a well-loved and active part of the Rye community, as a member of the Apawamis Club and American Yacht Club and volunteering with the Twig Organization and agencies helping children in need.

Claudia and George lived a life full of fun and adventure, traveling the world to golf and ski with friends. They made an annual buying trip to Paris fashion shows for Razook's, the eponymous family stores where Claudia's infallible sense of style was invaluable. She particularly looked forward to family summers at the Lake Placid Club and at Camp Colburn with generations of families who were more like family than friends.

She loved playing bridge, swimming in Lake Placid, the mountains and lakes, and each full moon. Her greatest joy remained her beloved children and grandchildren - Leslie Razook Eschricht, Bradley (Mary Jo) Razook, Lauren Razook Roth (John M.); grandchildren George, Charlie, Christopher and Harry, Nicholas, Peter and William, Henry, and four great-grandchildren.

# *Fred Calder*



Fred Calder passed away on November 4, 2025 . He spent his early childhood in Brooklyn before moving with his family to Garden City, Long Island and then Concord, Massachusetts. He graduated from Middlesex School, Harvard College and later earned his master's degrees in education and administration from the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

He began his career teaching American history at Belmont Hill School before becoming Head of the Town School in New York City in 1965, at just 29. He later served as Head of Germantown Friends School in Philadelphia (1970–1986), and as Executive Director of the New York State Association of Independent Schools (1986–2007). Following his retirement, he continued to consult with schools and served on numerous educational and nonprofit boards. Fred was a gifted writer and communicator, admired for his insightful bulletins to school leaders across New York and beyond.

Fred had a lifelong devotion to Lake Placid, NY, the community and the lake. As a boy, his family stayed at the Lake Placid Club and later rented camps on Lake Placid. In 1973, Fred purchased Camp Alouette and in 1977, Camp Blackhawk on the west shore, which Fred owned for 39 years. He fell in love with classic wooden boats early on, owning and pampering three Chris-Crafts over the decades.

In addition to his long association with the Shore Owners Association, he served on the boards of the Lake Placid Center for the Arts and the Adirondack Community Foundation (ACF). Fred was chair of the Lake Placid Education Foundation when it provided essential seed money to launch the ACF.

He is survived by his partner of 27 years, Meredith Prime; his first wife, Lelia Calder; his brother Bart and sister-in-law Kathy Calder; sons Grant, Wynn, and Max Calder; stepdaughter Alison Wald; daughters-in-law Phyllis Dininio and Suzi Morrison; grandchildren Sophia, Alexa, John, Roxy, and Nadia Calder.

# *Bernard Connors*



Berne Connors, passed away peacefully on the morning of October 28, 2025 surrounded by family at his home in Loudonville. A graduate of St. Lawrence University, where he met his wife Catherine, he excelled in football and boxing and was later inducted into the St. Lawrence University Athletic Hall of Fame. Berne went on to serve in the U.S. Army, attaining the rank of lieutenant. During that time, he won military and civilian boxing championships including both novice and open classes of the Golden Gloves.

In the 1950s, he served as an FBI agent in charge of the night operations of the Chicago and New York Divisions. During his business career, Berne owned the largest franchise of Canada Dry/Seven Up soft drinks and the real estate development company British American. He was a best-selling novelist, most notably "Don't Embarrass the Bureau" and "Dancehall". Berne was also the former publisher of The Paris Review and a producer of films and television shows.

Active in the community, Berne was a trustee of the State University of New York Board of Trustees, and served on the Olympic Regional Development Authority, the Nelson A. Rockefeller Empire State Plaza Council, and the 825 Fifth Avenue Corporation. He was a member of several clubs including The Fort Orange Club, Albany; The Schuyler Meadows Country Club, Loudonville; and The Shaker Ridge Country Club, Albany. An avid golfer, Berne enjoyed his time on the golf course with friends. He loved spending time with his children and grandchildren at Camp Underwalden on Buck Island and later Camp Morning Sun on Moose Island.

Berne is survived by his wife Catherine; his son Christopher and wife Kendall; his daughter Sarah and her husband Norman Livingston; his daughter Jane and her husband Antony Loupessis; and his grandchildren - Lila and Christopher Jr. Connors, Jack, Gregory and William Livingston, Alexander, Catherine and Parker Loupessis.