



Newsletter

President's Letter

-Roger Smith

Dear SOA Community,

The ice has melted. The bubblers are out of the water. More boats are being launched every day. Ethan Weibrecht has already been waterskiing for weeks. Summer has not yet fully arrived at Lake Placid, but it eventually will. Hopefully by the time you are reading this!

Our annual meeting has been scheduled, and we are already working on an exciting agenda. We are also holding another new member reception, where members who joined during the past five years can gather to meet members of the Board and each other. Community building is critical for the long-term health of the SOA and, one could argue, the Lake itself.

Now is a great time to perform an annual safety check on your boats. Checking navigation lights is a good place to start. It is common for stern light poles to fail. They are more exposed than bow lights and may also endure the added stress of a flag flapping in the wind, which can disrupt an otherwise solid electrical connection. I occasionally see boats operating with only the bow light functioning. While this may seem sufficient — or at least better than nothing — it is impossible for another boat to see you properly from behind. The worst time to discover your lights are not working is when you need them most. Be sure to check yours now. Obviously, flotation devices, whistles, flares, paddles, and anchors should also be inspected.

You may have noticed that the 2026 dues request arrived via a QuickBooks invoice this year. While this may seem like a simple upgrade, it is the culmination of significant thought and effort by our treasurer, Cris Lussi. What was once a labor-intensive process involving invoices, payment processing, and reminders has now been largely automated. I found it remarkably easy to simply press the pay button in the email, and my payment was immediately logged into the SOA accounting system. Reliable dues collection is one of the foundational administrative functions of the SOA, and modernizing this system is a significant achievement.

If you have a new neighbor on the Lake, please reach out to welcome them and encourage SOA membership. Julianne Bertagna, our Membership Committee Chair, is ready to help make them feel welcome and part of the community.

Thank you for your support of the SOA. I look forward to seeing you at the annual meeting, if not before.

Warm regards,
Roger

Protecting Lake Placid Water Quality Since 1893

Spring &
Summer

20
26

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



2026 Annual Meeting of Members



**Saturday,
August 8, 2026
High Peaks Resort**

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.

2026 Membership Dues

On May 7, 2026, membership dues invoices were emailed to members using SOALakePlacid@gmail.com. Thank you to those who have already paid! For those who have yet to pay, a reminder will be sent out on June 7. Please check spam if the email is not in our inbox. If you aren't sure if you have already paid, please reach out to SOALakePlacid@gmail.com. Thank you!"



HONORARY TRUSTEE

Georgia Jones

ADMINISTRATION

Ashleah Mayberry

Septic Pump Out Date



This year's pump out will be the first or second week of August. Please contact Lendy Barnard to sign up. She can be reached at LendyBarnard@gmail.com or 203-912-3058.

Septic Laws Update

-Lendy Barnard



Photo provided by Crissy Lussi

The towns of North Elba and St Armand amended their Septic laws in 2025 to include the following key points:

- All Seasonal Properties must be inspected every 5 years and year-round properties every 3.
- All Properties must be inspected prior to closing the conveyance or sale of any property within the past year.
- Town inspector has the right to inspect property at any time if there is any doubt of functioning system.

A septic system is considered to have failed if any of the following are observed:

- Lack of a pretreatment vessel.
- Discharge of effluent or direct surface discharge of gray water or sewage back up.
- Dye test results showing dye in surface water or groundwater.

Those who fail to comply with the local law will be issued a violation notice by the code enforcement office and may face a fine of \$950, up to 15 days of imprisonment or both.

The SOA is not involved with the enforcement of the new code. With the help of the town, the SOA sponsors free barge service once a year over two days. To participate the camp owner is required to sign up and pay the fee to remove the waste. This is imperative to keep our lake free of pollutants and our water clean.

This year's pump out will be the first or second week of August. Please contact Lendy Barnard to sign up. She can be reached at LendyBarnard@gmail.com or 203-912-3058.

Clean, Drain, Dry



Photo provided by A. Mayberry

Boating in the Adirondacks? Know Before You Launch!

Boaters in the Adirondack Park—and within 10 miles of the Blue Line—are required by New York State law to help prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species. Before launching, all motorized watercraft operators must have proof that their vessel has been inspected or decontaminated at a DEC-designated inspection station, or they must complete and carry a self-issued Clean, Drain, Dry certification.

Aquatic invasive species can hitchhike on boats, trailers, fishing gear, and other equipment, threatening the health of Adirondack waterways. To protect our lakes and rivers, boaters should follow the Clean.Drain.Dry. process:

- **Check** boats, trailers, and equipment for plants, mud, and debris.
- **Clean** all visible material from boats and gear before transport.
- **Drain** all water from bilges, live wells, ballast tanks, and other compartments.
- **Dry** equipment thoroughly before launching in another waterbody—5 to 7 days of drying time is recommended.
- **Disinfect** gear that cannot be completely dried.

Boat stewards and decontamination stations are available throughout the Adirondacks to help boaters comply with these regulations and keep our waters healthy.

Protecting Adirondack lakes starts with every boater. Please do your part to stop the spread of invasive species and preserve our waterways for future generations.

For more detailed information, Visit the NYS DEC Website: dec.ny.gov

Lake Placid Vessel Regulations and Boater Safety

-Hilary MCDonald



Lake Placid and surrounding Adirondack waterways are shared by boaters, paddlers, anglers, residents, and visitors. Safe and courteous boating helps protect shoreline property, wildlife habitat, water quality, and recreational enjoyment for all users. Please reference the lake map for further information to learn more. We encourage all SOA members to share this important information with your friends, family and guests.

Safe Vessel Operation

All vessels operating on Lake Placid and surrounding Adirondack waterways must be operated in a safe and prudent manner at all times. Operators are responsible for maintaining proper control of their vessel, avoiding hazardous wake, and protecting other lake users, shoreline property, and environmentally sensitive areas. Safe operation includes consideration of visibility, weather conditions, vessel traffic, shoreline proximity, swimmers, paddlers, fishing boats, and wave impact.

No-Wake and Reduced Speed Areas

Operators are expected to reduce speed to idle/no-wake operation in narrow channels and straits, near docks and marinas, areas with swimmers or paddlers, congested shoreline zones and environmentally sensitive areas. A no-wake speed means operating slowly enough that the vessel does not create a breaking wake or excessive wave action.

Sunset Strait Regulations

Sunset Strait is recognized as a narrow and environmentally sensitive waterway where reduced-speed operation is especially important. Boats should be fully off plane before entering the strait due to confined water, residential shoreline proximity, and frequent canoe, kayak, paddleboard, and recreational traffic. Operators should maintain idle or near-idle speed. No water skiing or tubing should occur within the strait. Excessive wake that affects docks, shoreline property, paddlers, or nearby vessels should be avoided.

Wake and Shoreline Responsibility

Boat operators remain responsible for damage or unsafe conditions created by vessel wake. Excessive wake may contribute to shoreline erosion, dock and property damage, reduced water clarity, disturbance to wildlife habitat, unsafe conditions for paddlers and smaller craft. A practical guideline is: "If a wake noticeably impacts another boat, dock, shoreline, swimmer, or paddler, vessel speed should be reduced."

Lake Placid Vessel Regulations and Boater Safety -Continued

Wakeboard and Wake-Surf Boats on Small Lakes

Modern wakeboard and wake-surf boats are significantly different from traditional recreational ski boats. Many newer vessels use ballast systems designed to create large artificial wakes for surfing and wakeboarding activities. On smaller Adirondack lakes, concerns have increased regarding larger wave energy near shorelines which can result in accelerated shoreline erosion, sediment disturbance affecting water clarity Impacts to loon habitat and fisheries plus safety concerns in narrow waterways. Responsible operation includes staying well offshore before creating surf wakes, avoiding surf operation in narrow channels or close to shore and reducing speed early when approaching residential or congested areas. It is strongly recommended to disengage surf systems before entering no-wake zones.

New York Boater Safety Certificate Requirement

New York State requires operators of motorized vessels to possess a valid boating safety certificate. All operators should carry proof of certification while on the water. Approved courses are available through the New York State Parks Boating Safety Program Boat US Foundation U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Registration and Required Safety Equipment

Boat registration documentation must be carried aboard registered vessels at all times. New York law also requires properly sized personal flotation devices (PFDs/life jackets) for every person aboard a vessel, including motorboats, kayaks, canoes, paddleboards, sailboats. Life jackets should be readily accessible and maintained in serviceable condition.

Lake Constable

The Town of North Elba is responsible for hiring the Lake Constable. The Constable's job is to patrol the lake during busy times while providing education to boaters about the Vessel Regulations and Boating Safety Rules. They will work with the SOA to inform residents and visitors of any specific trends or issues that may arise involving boater awareness. If you have an emergency please contact the Lake Placid police or 911.



www.lpsoa.org

Lake Placid Vessel Regulations and Boater Safety -Continued

NEW YORK STATE BOATER SAFETY LAW STAY SAFE ON LAKE PLACID

WARNING BUOYS

Danger zone: White buoy with orange stripes
No wake zone (5 mph speed limit): White buoy with orange marker
Channel: Stay between green and red buoys

REQUIRED EQUIPMENT

Life preserver for each person on motorized and non-motorized boats and boards
Navigation lights (ALWAYS HAVE LIGHTS ON AFTER DARK)
Horn, whistle, paddle, anchor, anchor line
Fire extinguisher for inboards

RIGHT-OF-WAY

Boat on right
Boat being overtaken by another boat
Non-motorized boat

WATERSPORTS

Minimum of two people must be onboard in addition to the skier/tuber/boarder

Every skier/tuber/boarder must wear a vest-type life preserver

No waterskiing/tubing/wakeboarding:

- Between sunset and sunrise
- In Sunset Strait

Jet Skis and Wave Runners are prohibited



SPEED LIMITS



Paradox Bay
Sunset Strait
Within 100 feet of shore, dock, raft or any other boat



Between 100 and 300 feet from any shore



When navigating in fog, mist or heavy rain
Within 100 feet of any canoe, rowboat, kayak, or swimmer
Sunset Strait from sunset to sunrise



Anywhere else



PLEASE KEEP LAKE PLACID CLEAN
CARRY IN, CARRY OUT!