

Sand Script

SUMMER 2007

A New Season, A Vibrant Community!

Springtime has arrived at Mamanasco Lake. For those of you who are new to this area or may not know about us, Mamanasco Beach Club (formally known as the Eight Lakes Community Association) is a non-profit social organization open to residents of the Mamanasco watershed and neighboring areas. We operate and maintain the association's beautiful beach property, including an assortment of recreational offerings, and organize various social events throughout the spring and summer seasons.

Our membership, made up of families and individuals of all ages, continues to flourish. I've witnessed the growth of a real community spirit, as each year more and more members actively take part in the association, whether it's at the three membership-wide parties we host every season, or the weekly Friday-night barbecues, or in the small, everyday happenings at the beach.

Preparations have been furiously under way for the past couple of months to make 2007 another banner year on the lake. I'd like to briefly share several thoughts with you as we launch this year's programs and activities:

Amazing Value

1. **This is still the best deal in town!** The board of directors has de-

ecided to keep this year's membership dues at last year's levels, while continuing to make investments in our facilities and in the upkeep of the property. Be sure to check out the articles inside these pages outlining the plans of our social and operating committees. Last year we installed a new boat rack and storage system, which will be expanded with additional capacity this year. We will be putting in a drainage system to mitigate the runoff from the road which can sometimes cause unwanted erosion of sand into the lake. And we plan to replace a few of our aging picnic tables, just to highlight a few planned improvements.

Getting Involved

2. **There are many ways, large and small, for every member to get involved with our beach and we rely on your help.** Whether it's volunteering to serve on our board of directors, pitching in an hour of time at the opening work party (Sunday, May 20!), helping out with one of our social functions, or simply taking a few extra minutes to clean up the beach as you leave it each day, your collective contributions are what make this association viable and what keep this little oasis of ours so beautiful. Please contact anyone on our board if you'd like to learn more about getting involved.

It's Up To You!

3. **Being good stewards of the beach and lake is what makes this all possible.**

Last year the water quality of the lake was exceptional, and we wouldn't be able to enjoy all the great swimming, boating and fishing otherwise. Mamanasco Lake Improvement Fund (MLIF), in cooperation with the town, has continued to implement its critical watershed-management plan—aimed at reducing the flow of pollutants into the water and restoring the lake—and to regularly treat the lake for aquatic weeds.

Again this year, the beach association will conduct and post weekly bacteria tests of the water (last year we never had a week of unacceptable levels!). So I urge you to support MLIF and its annual fund drive, and to do your part to maintain the integrity of our lakeside property.

And always feel welcome to call upon me, or any member of the board, if you have suggestions, ideas or concerns. In the meantime we look forward to renewing old friendships and welcoming new neighbors as the 2007 season arrives. We'll see you down at the beach!

—Doug Morrison
Mamanasco Beach Club President



Party at Mamasasco Beach!

In addition to our usual parties, the social committee has added two events this season: the last day of school celebration and a clambake. It looks like the summer of 2007 at Mamasasco Beach will be tons of fun!

Please contact Michelle Desimone at michelledesimone@sbcglobal.net or 438-8173 if you have any questions, ideas or wish to volunteer.



Opening Day BBQ June 2 at 4:00 p.m.

Come celebrate the start of a new season!! The Beach Club will provide beverages (beer, wine, soda, juice and water) and charcoal. Members should bring their own picnic/food for grilling. Please feel free to bring an appetizer, salad or dessert to share. (Raindate June 9.)

Friday Night BBQs June-September



There's no better way to start your summer weekends than by meeting down at the beach for MBC's informal Friday Night BBQs. Bring the whole family and experience what has become a beach club tradition.

Every Friday night (weather permitting) is a free-for-all. Just pack a picnic supper or something to throw on the grill and BYOB. Things usually get started around 6:30 p.m. but come anytime. We end the evening sitting around the bonfire roasting marshmallows—Life doesn't get any better than that!!!

July 4th Spectacular 4:00 p.m.

If fireworks happen at the high school this year, Mamasasco Beach Club will sponsor a barbeque for members. Hamburgers, hot dogs, and veggie burgers will be served promptly at 6:00 p.m. Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share. If it rains, the BBQ will be rescheduled according to the fireworks date.

In order for this event to take place, many volunteers are needed for the following: shop for the food, ice, beverages, and paper goods; help set-up/decorate; grill; organize games; and cleanup. Please contact Phyllis Deegan at phyllisd@us.ibm.com by June 20th to let her know how you can help! RSVP by June 29 if you plan on attending the barbeque portion of the evening.

Volleyball



Last year, Thursday night seemed to be a popular night for pizza and volleyball at the beach. Let's keep serving, bumping, setting, and spiking the ball this season once school and spring sports are over. We look forward to seeing you on the court!

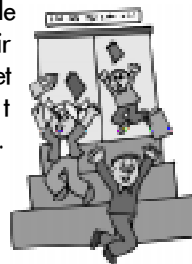
End-Of-Summer Campout September 8 at 4:00 p.m.

Mamasasco Beach Club's farewell-to-the-summer-bash. This themed and catered beach event lasts all night long so bring your tents and pull an all-nighter! This is a great way to introduce children to camping. The beach club provides the food, beverages and fun! Look for an email later in the season with all the details...

EVEN MORE SUMMER FUN

Last Day Of School Celebration

The last day of school is scheduled for Wednesday, June 20. Let's start celebrating right away! Parents of children who ride bus #8 can meet their child(ren) as they get off the bus at Mamasasco beach. Members who ride other buses, please join us as fast as you can! PARENTS MUST BE PRESENT TO SUPERVISE THEIR CHILDREN.



Volunteers are needed to donate popsicles, beverages, and snacks; and to help organize games. If families want to extend the fun, feel free to

bring your own dinner to grill and stay for adult volleyball. If it rains, the event will be cancelled. Please contact Michelle Desimone to RSVP and volunteer.

Clambake

Our lake is due for a clambake! The beach club will hire the caterer. Most clambake caterers require a minimum of 20 couples/families to participate. Costs are about \$30 per adult. Possible dates include July 21, August 18 or August 25. If you are interested, contact Michelle Desimone with your preferred date. She will email members the menu and exact costs. If you know of a caterer who handles clambakes, please let Michelle know. We want to patronize our members' businesses!

Helping Hands

You've heard the saying "it takes a village" to raise a child. Similarly, it takes a community to keep a beach club thriving! That's why your fellow beach club members depend on you.

We ask all adult members to volunteer for three hours each season. You are on the honor system to volunteer and you can choose your tasks. You can help clean the beach, attend a work party, help organize a social event, perform a task from the list of volunteer chores or any combination of these. This can be a terrific way to get to know your neighbors better, too.

Your membership dues enable us to subsidize some of the regular maintenance and improvements to the beach.

However unless we can enlist all of our members to volunteer a few hours each year to help out, we will be forced to adjust our membership fees significantly over the next several years in order to support a growing and vibrant association.

So please consider volunteering at least three hours of your time this year, and give a little back to the beach club in consideration of all the many great benefits of your membership. We believe the annual membership for the beach club remains one of the real bargains in this area, and we'd love to keep it that way!

For more information on how to volunteer, see the side bar at right.

Registration For Boat Owners

Only members in good standing are permitted to keep boats, canoes, kayaks or any other watercraft on association property. The association will be periodically surveying the property to ensure that only members' boats that are registered with the association are stored on its lakeside property.

Member boat owners must register their boats with the association. Members should identify the type of boat and its location on the beach grounds and Sticker Number on their membership application. Once membership payment is made, each registered member boat owner can pick up their two MBC Decal Stickers (if they don't have one) by contacting Phyllis Deegan (*phyllisd@us.ibm.com*) or Michael Zachary (*Michael_Zachary@ca2.uscourts.gov*). Registered member boat owners should apply the MBC Decal Stickers on the

outside of their boat in a visible place.

All boats on the association property must be registered with the association and have the current MBC Decal Stickers applied on them by June 30 of each year. Any boats without current MBC Decal Stickers on them after that time may be removed by the association.

If you would like to store a boat on association property for the first time after the June 30 deadline, please contact either Phyllis Deegan or Michael Zachary.

The association may periodically install new boat racks on association property. Storage on these racks is available on a "first come first serve" basis only to properly registered boats with the current MBC Decal Stickers on them.

The association is not responsible for, or liable for, any boating crafts kept on its property.

How Do I VOLUNTEER?

There are many places we need your help...

Social committee: Help plan and coordinate our parties and special events.

Work parties: At the beginning and end of each season we spend an afternoon cleaning, raking, painting, prepping, refurbishing, refinishing, and much more!

Special projects: Throughout the year we have ad-hoc projects related to physical improvements, renovations and repairs.

Your own special skills: Are you handy with a saw and hammer? Are you a gourmet cook? Can you design Web sites? From time to time we need all sorts of unique skills.


Who Do I Contact?

To help with our Social Committee, contact Michelle Desimone. If you'd like to volunteer for one of our work parties or sign up to be called for that special project, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Grace Duffield.

Special Volunteer Needs

The association is looking, in particular, for two professionals who might be willing to offer legal and accounting/tax services, as required from time to time in the course of routine association affairs and administration. Those individuals would be extended free annual membership and—depending on exact time and requirements—some remuneration (of course, at a rate commensurate with our not-for-profit fiscal condition!). Please contact Doug Morrison if you or someone you know may be interested.

Members & Guests Please Remember To Sign In!

 Our sign-in policy is in effect once again this year. There will be a sign-in sheet at the beach gate; when you arrive please sign yourself in and any guests you have with you.

You may bring a guest or guests (up to nine) with you up to five times each season. If you have guests after that there is a charge of \$10 per guest family or \$2 per guest each day. Please insert the

money into the lockbox.

A group of 10 or more nonmembers constitutes a party. You must reserve the beach in advance by contacting Phyllis Deegan. This will ensure we don't have too many guests at any given time.

The beach caretaker will be there to enforce the sign-in rule and provide any assistance you may need.

Water Quality and the Beach Club

From time to time the Mamasasco Beach Club receives questions or concerns about weed control and water quality in Mamasasco Lake. Here's a summary of the division of responsibility between Eight Lakes Association (the beach club) and the Mamasasco Lake Improvement Fund ("MLIF")—and how you can support all of our essential efforts to preserve this most beautiful of resources.

Support MLIF

Mamasasco Lake Improvement Fund (MLIF) is the sole organization responsible for maintaining the quality of Mamasasco Lake. MLIF works under the guidelines and regulations of the CT Department of Environmental Protection (CT DEP) and the CT Fisheries Department (and other State agencies). MLIF has responsibility for weed control in the lake, but it cannot put any chemical treatments into Mamasasco Lake without permits from the CT DEP.

MLIF is a completely independent organization from our beach club. Because MLIF is a non-profit organization,

your donations to MLIF are essential to the health of the lake and, therefore, the beach club and property values of homes in the watershed.

Bacterial Testing

The beach club will continue this year a program it initiated last year of bacterial testing of the water in and around the beach. We will utilize the services of Aqua Environmental Lab (the same company that tests Ridgefield's other swimming areas). The results of each week's test will be posted on the bulletin board in front of the beach. In addition, beach groundskeepers employed by Mamasasco Beach Club will regularly remove weeds to the extent practicable from the Beach Club swimming area.

As a member of the boards of directors of both MLIF and the Mamasasco Beach Club, and charged with "lake management" for MLIF, Alan Marcus is available for any questions or comments that you might have regarding the health of our lake. Al can be contacted at rualthan@yahoo.com or 438-3478.

MAMANASCO BEACH BOARD MEMBERS

PRESIDENT

Doug Morrison 894-8824

VICE PRESIDENT

Michael Zachary 438-6706

TREASURER

Tom Johnson 894-8237

SECRETARY

Bob Liu 438-8503

DIRECTORS AT LARGE

Grace Duffield 894-1968

Phyllis Deegan 894-9320

Jon Lee 431-2131

Wendy Curran 438-3419

Al Marcus 438-3478

Michelle Desimone 438-8173

Gordan Bryant 894-8534

WEBSITE

www.geocities.com/mamasasco_2000

EMAIL ADDRESS


mamasasco_2000@yahoo.com

Board Meetings are held at the beach (weather permitting) at 7:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month. In bad weather, please call a board member for meeting location. All members are welcome!

Membership

Membership includes year-round use of the beach and boat storage. The facilities include: 800 feet of lakefront property, a playground, a volleyball net, a basketball hoop, a fishing dock across from Ninth Lane and more. Whether you feel like sitting in one of our Adirondack chairs and watching the sunset, building a sandcastle, or joining some friends for one of our Friday night barbecues, there is something for everyone—and the best part is that it's practically in your backyard.

Extreme Makeover: Beach Edition

 You may not even notice it. Maybe it's a new coat of weather sealant on the wood swing set. Perhaps it's a new wheelbarrow for the groundskeepers. Sometimes it's just over your head (a new roof on the bathhouse) or just below the surface (a new drainage system for parking-lot runoff). But they all help to make our time at the beach more comfortable and enjoyable! Your membership dues go a long way toward regular maintenance and continuing efforts to improve the grounds.

Last season the bathhouse received a fresh coat of paint and hand sanitizers were installed. This season you can expect a truckload of beautiful, soft sand to repair the erosion caused by the spring rains, and a drainage system will be installed to discourage future ero-

sion. Bring a shovel or rake to our May 20 work party and spend an hour helping to rejuvenate your beach!

Other improvement proposals include: building bench seating for the fire pit, new picnic tables, landscaping and new fencing at the water's edge (don't tell the geese), and beach toy and chair storage. Is there something you'd like to see at the beach? Make a suggestion and help make it happen!

The Club is fortunate to have Ryan Bossis returning as a groundskeeper. Weekly mowing of the grass, daily raking of the sand and many other chores keep the beach looking great all summer. Ryan is only available part-time, so if you know of a responsible high school student who may be interested in working a few days a week, please contact The Board now.

IMPORTANT DATES

MAY

8	Board Meeting	7:30 p.m.
20	Work Party	1:00 p.m.

JUNE

2	Opening Day Party	4:00 p.m.
12	Board Meeting	7:30 p.m.

JULY

4	July 4th Party	4:00 p.m.
10	Board Meeting	7:30 p.m.

AUGUST


14	Board Meeting	7:30 p.m.
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SEPTEMBER


8	Season End Campout	4:00 p.m.
11	Board Meeting	7:30 p.m.
TBD	Beach Closing Work Party	
TBD	Volunteer Party	


*** Work Party May 20 ***


Beach Party Policy


 The association does permit members to host private parties on the beach grounds, provided that certain rules and guidelines are respected. The beach is never closed to its members during any private party, so it's important that any private party not infringe on the use of the beach facilities by other members who may be on the beach at the same time.

If your party size will exceed 15 persons, please follow these guidelines:


 All parties must be pre-booked by contacting Phyllis Deegan.


 A \$50 fee (paid in advance) will be assessed for any party with more than 10 non-members.

 Parties may be booked for any time beginning at, or after, 4:00 p.m.

 Parties for kids gatherings, e.g.,

birthday parties, may be booked anytime on Monday-Friday and on Saturday between 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

 No parties may be booked on the same day the beach club is sponsoring a party.

 Parties may not be booked on holiday weekends, e.g., 4th of July.

Rules and Guidelines

1) Because the beach remains open to members, the activities need to be adequately supervised to avoid undue interference with use of the beach.

2) Participants are responsible for leaving the beach in the same condition as it was found. (Clean-up papers, decorations, put tables and chairs back, etc.)

3) Trash and recyclables must be removed from the beach in participant


provided receptacles. (Use of the black garbage bin is not permitted because it cannot accommodate a weeks worth of trash and the trash from large events.)


4) All Beach Club rules apply.


5) The Board reserves the right to modify these guidelines generally (or address specific issues caused by any activity or event on a case-by-case basis).


How to Reserve

To book a party, contact Phyllis Deegan at phyllisd@us.ibm.com with the following information:

 Name and phone number

 Date (Rain Date, if any)

 Start Time and End Time

 Total Number of Guests (include number of member guests and number of non-member guests)

Mamasasco Beach Club Rules



lease observe the following rules to ensure a pleasurable time for all members using the beach.

1. Do not feed the geese or other water fowl.
2. No pets on the beach.
3. No glass on the beach.
4. Use of the beach, beach facilities, and water is at your own risk. Water shoes are recommended.
5. Only dues-paying members may use the beach. Guests of dues-paying members must accompany members and must be checked in with the caretaker.
6. All minors must be accompanied and supervised by an adult, especially after hours.
7. No fires outside of the grill area

without a board member present. Campfires in the fire pit area require approval by a board member. All minors at any campfire must be accompanied by their parent.

8. No diving from or roughhousing on the raft or docks.
9. No boats in roped-off swimming area.
10. No fishing from any portion of beach, grass or raft dock. Members and guests may fish from land owned by Mamasasco Beach Club (Eight Lakes Community Association) along Mamasasco Road from the south end of the beach parking lot to the clearing across from Ninth Lane.

Members and guests may also fish at Hidden Lake (a.k.a. Turtle Pond) on

Old Sib Road.

11. **Parties of more than 15 individuals** (including immediate family members) must be approved by the board.
12. **No classes or instruction** (e.g., swimming lessons) may be held at the beach without board approval.
13. Members and their guests **are responsible for removal of all waste and garbage** from their visit/gathering
14. Be courteous toward others and respect their peaceable use of the beach. Anyone causing a disturbance may be asked to leave.
15. **All violations are subject to review and adjudication by the board.**

Mamasasco Beach Club
(Eight Lakes Community Association)
P.O. Box 281
Ridgefield, CT 06877

Current Resident or: