

## **SLACK RESERVOIR ASSOCIATION**

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### **SLACK TIMES - Spring / Summer 2017**

Welcome to the Spring edition of the “**SLACK TIMES**” (the original name given to the Association newsletter) - Winter (we hope) is now well behind us although there are still some lingering doubts! The winter wrappings have been peeled off some of the boats and a few hardy boaters have ventured out to enjoy our lake. Fisherman are again active, hoping to catch the big one that got away last year.

The contents of this newsletter include notice of the Association’s June General Meeting, the Format of the new Board following the Association General Meeting in February, an update on the ongoing Dam maintenance program, weed/algae treatment, a reminder of the main boating rules, a nostalgic look back from a long time lake resident, an obituary and a welcome to new members.

### **GENERAL MEETING**

The next General Meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 13<sup>th</sup> 2017 at the Johnston Senior Center, 1291 Hartford Avenue, Johnston, RI 02919 beginning at 7.00 pm. Please bring a Pot Luck Dessert.

In addition to the usual Agenda items a progress report on the Dam maintenance program (including Knotweed treatment), together with the proposed scope of this year’s weed/algae treatment program (a matter of concern expressed by several residents). Please attend - the Board welcomes residents’ input and feedback.

### **NEW FACES ON THE LAKE**

We welcome Emile & Tina Giguere who have recently moved into 16 Countryside Drive, Johnston.

### **IN MEMORY**

Phyllis Reedy, formerly of 79 Coolridge Avenue, Greenville passed away in March of this year. Our condolences to her family. Flowers were sent on behalf of the Association. Mrs. Reedy was a long term resident on the lake.

### **DUES - 2017**

Just a polite reminder to those residents who have not paid their Dues and Boat Sticker fees for this year, these are now due for payment in accordance with the Associations Bye-Laws. Remittance Advices can be downloaded from the Association’s website - [www.slacksreservoir.com](http://www.slacksreservoir.com). using the Download tab.

Many Thanks to those residents who have already paid.

## **JULY 4<sup>TH</sup> PARADE**

The traditional July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade will take place again this year with boats congregating in the beach area at **9.00 am** - please bring your flags and hooters and join up again with old friends and neighbors!!!!!!

## **FORMAT OF THE BOARD**

At the Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday February 21<sup>st</sup> 2017, the members present elected the new Board as follows:-

<b>President -</b>	Tim Quigley
<b>Vice President -</b>	Kathleen Gustafson
<b>Treasurer -</b>	Bill Schiefen
<b>Secretary -</b>	Malcolm Griffin
<b>Board Members -</b>	Tom Autiello
	Nicholas Caccia
	Gerry Critz
	David Lombardo
	Joe Polisena
	Stacy Rappoport

The new Board and members would like to express its sincere appreciation to both Mark Barnes (former President) and Joe Maggiacomo (former Chairman of the Trustees) for their long and loyal service both to the Association and residents of our lakeside community. THANKS!

## **A NOSTALGIC LOOK BACK on a former Slacks Resident (written by Carl Critz)**

In the evening, the hum of a radio tune can float effortlessly across nearly a mile of water and end up in your front yard. Conversations, boat engines, everything can be heard. But for Ernest Potter, those tunes were the ones he and his friends created - along with a healthy rivalry among rock bands - during his time living on Slacks Pond from 1970 to 1976.

Recently married and returned from Vietnam, Potter found a rental to move himself and his wife at 43 GreenLake Drive, just south of the sandbar on the eastern shore near the town beach. There, he found a perfect location in the walk-out basement of their small cottage to rehearse for one of his two jobs: rock musician.

“What I loved that there was a built in wet bar in the downstairs portion of this little four room cottage. That was part of the cool stuff, having a place like that for the band to get together and have a beer after. There was plenty of parking and it was easy to get in and out, we didn’t bother the Gustafsons too much.” Working construction, Potter was employed by the Gustafsons to build two houses nearby. But rehearsing twice a week, Potter’s band came together and they soon found work playing out six nights a week at local nightclubs.

“It became a profession”, says Potter. “We started out trying to get a band together while working a regular job and then the regular job went by the wayside”.

The band was named Molly McGregor, and they weren’t alone. Potter estimates that during his time at Slacks there were no less than five working bands that rehearsed in houses along the lake, and when they rehearsed with their doors open Potter says that you could hear each band, distinctively, as their sounds traveled across the water.

“All bands were competitive, and other people would hear us on the lake and comment on it, you could hear Naked Truth, Steve Smith’s band, playing across from us, and this band, Morning, down the way. I’m still friends with Steve, we see each other and talk, but back then they were the competition. Every band wanted to think that they were the best band.”

The lake even became the backdrop for one of their more ominous musical effects. “One night during a thunderstorm I could hear the ducks outside so I recorded it, the rain slapping on the patio and the ducks quacking and along with the thunder we used it in a show, slowed down because it sounded so ominous. Each raindrop was like 50 gallons of water hitting the ground, ‘pow pow.’ We used that for what we called the satanic show at Rhode Island Junior College.” With lead singer Hank Castonway leading the charge, all members donned costumes and began their show with sounds recorded on the lake, before diving into their repertoire of the more sinister Jethro Tull, Black Sabbath and Rolling Stones tunes.

“Just living on the lake, back then there was smoking in the clubs and you would come home reeking of cigarette smoke,” says Potter, “and it was beautiful to come home from a gig, jump in the lake, or walking into the water by the sandbar that everyone would drive over. It was a nice relaxing thing to do. We also went for band and family parties, kids would swim, parents would chat.”

Potter would eventually buy a house in Pascoag and move away from the lake in 1976, but his passion for music never ended. He still plays for the Doors tribute band ‘Through the Doors’, which began in 1980 and has become one of the most popular tribute bands in the area. Potter speaks longingly about playing with some of the rock and roll greats, including gigs at the Famous Cabo Wabo Cantina in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico.

“It’s cool to think that all this started over 40 years ago at 43 GreenLake Drive,” reflects Potter.

Can any of you long-time residents remember these early days?

## **A REMINDER OF SOME OF THE MORE IMPORTANT BOATING RULES & REGULATIONS**

Last year in the Spring Newsletter we enclosed a Rhode Island State publication giving detailed information on their current Boating & Safety Regulations as information to all lakeside residents with particular emphasis to boat owners.

As you are all aware the Association also has its own set of regulations which are available to download from our website. Rather than print all of them in detail (and using legal jargon) I am listing below some of the more important ones for your information. The rules have been prepared for the safe enjoyment of all who use the lake, whether it is cruising in a pontoon boat, speedboat, jet skis, kayak or just a relaxing swim. It is important that we all take other people’s lives and property into consideration - **excessive wake can be dangerous to people in small boats or swimming and in more confined areas can cause excessive erosion to our shore line.**

In no particular order I would like to highlight the following:-

No person shall operate any vessel in a manner so as to endanger the life, limb or property of any person(s).

There is a maximum speed limit of **35 mph** in force throughout the lake and boaters should slow down to a speed not exceeding **10 mph** when passing other **non-motorized vessels**.

All motorized vessels speed is limited to **10 mph** when operating within **75 feet** of the shore line including docks, swim rafts, swimmers or divers.

Water skiing and tubing closer than **75 feet** from the shore line is prohibited except when starting and finishing.

The use of any vessel on the reservoir is restricted to active members of the SRA and their guests. Any motorized vessel of a size that requires a trailer for launching and recovery used on the reservoir shall be owned by the property owner or resident. (This is aimed to reduce potential third party liability and the introduction of invasive weeds into our lake environment).

Activities on the reservoir from **10.00 pm to 8.00 am** shall maintain a reduced noise level to minimize disruption to residents.

Every motorized vessel should display regulation lights (as designated in the R I State Regulations) from Sunset to Sunrise.

All persons maintaining or using a vessel on the reservoir must maintain liability insurance on that vessel.

US Coast Guard personal flotation devises (PFD's) sufficient to accommodate the number of persons occupying the vessel.

Current Year SRA Sticker labels should be permanently affixed to your vessel.

Enjoy your experiences on our lake and most importantly **BE SAFE**

#### **FALL EDITION OF SLACK TIMES**

I hope you all enjoyed the Board's Spring edition of Slack Times. If you have any comments or suggestions regarding future issues or an article about the lake which you feel would be of interest to the members please contact the writer (or any Board Member).

M.T. Griffin - Secretary to the Board.

May 17<sup>th</sup> 2017