



CHINA LAKE ASSOCIATION

Newsletter

Summer 1996

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The China Lake Association has proclaimed 1996 the **YEAR OF THE CAMROAD**. The restoration project has addressed both lakefront and off-lake pollution problems in the last six years. One major area that has not been addressed is run-off related to fire roads. With forty plus access roads around the lake there is significant silt-laden water travelling along the fire roads into the lake.

In 1993, a survey of all of the fire roads was conducted and a scoring system constructed that rated problems on the fire roads. This data was analysed by Brian Dueley of the Kennebec Water District and the worst roads were identified regarding lake pollution related to runoff. Based on the scoring, the worst roads were thought to be Fire Roads numbered 12, 36, 1, 2, 24, 41, and 48. With money and expertise provided by the Water District, solutions to the road problems will be addressed. The funds are limited and based on local road user interest and willingness to contribute matching funds to complete the road repairs.

The Lake Association has available a civil engineer through the Americorps Volunteer Program to do design work free of charge for road associations. The camp road program is a great chance for road associations to get needed work done with free expert advice and possibly matching funds from the Lake Association. For more information including papers on how to organize your road association call David Preston of the China Lake Association at 968-2526.

The Lake Association has been an active organizer of a larger lake group, the China Region Lakes Alliance made up of members of the China Lake, Webber Pond and Three Mile Pond boards of directors. The goal of this group is to provide self-sustaining staff with expertise to guide the component lake associations in a time when state funds have disappeared.

Members of The Association were recently called upon to round up floating islands, help with school based environmental education programs and provide temporary funding to Project Learning Tree. The Lake Association has represented the concerns of members about the spreading of manure close to the lake and has discussed this matter with field owners. We have arranged for a portable toilet at the landing area with the generous assistance of Christy's and The Landing. Additionally, the Lake Association will be paying for the ongoing water quality in both basins of China Lake. We have represented the membership on many important issues the best that our busy schedules will allow. Most of the active board members have demanding careers and young families yet still make time for lake related work.

The final item is a hearty thank you for all of the concerned members who support The China Lake Association with their membership dues, especially those friends that send along more than is required. Your donations are utilized well. We still need a few people willing to work for The Association in a leadership capacity. Please contact me if you can help out.

David E. Landry, President
China Lake Association

China Lake Association

President	David Landry
Treasurer	Andre Boutin
Secretary	David Preston

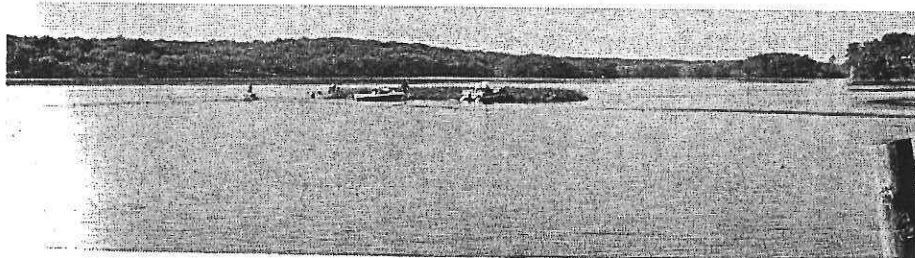
Floating Islands

China Lake has been host to four floating Islands this past spring and early summer. The Islands are really sections of marsh that have broken off of some of the wetlands around the lake. The reason for this is uncertain but boat wave action and high water may be a factor. These floating islands have been noted in other lakes including Snow Pond in Oakland. While somewhat amusing to watch float past, the islands can create havoc with shore frontage, capsize moored boats and be nearly impossible to move.

In response to multiple complaints members of the lake association went on an island round-up on the first weekend of June. The target was the largest island which measured over 150 feet across. Starting at 6 am, five powerful boats were used to push the supertanker island slowly from the area of the landing to the marsh in Wentworth Cove (near the Church Camp). The push took three hours to go 1.5 miles and used many gallons of gas. The rotation and movement of the island as it moved up the lake was carefully controlled by applying variable power with each of the boats.

The landing zone for the errant island was the marsh pond from which it had strayed. As the target approached, final adjustments were made in angle and speed in an attempt to force the island up the channel it had floated down. At the channel entrance the island hung up on the bottom despite the boats pushing until mud threatened to shut down the engines. The island drew quite a bit of water since it has stumps and tree trunks embedded in the underside. Having moved as far as it would go, the marsh island was further secured with stakes and 2 by 4's up to 12 feet long. However, high water and a strong south wind could dislodge this mobile marsh again next spring.

Two smaller islands were also anchored in place leaving one moderate sized island still to be captured at press time. This is shore frontage that can be purchased at a very reasonable price!



Water Level Survey Results

With the summer 1995 Newsletter, a water level survey was distributed to all members. Of the 260 surveys mailed, 31 were returned. The results were as follows:

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| Question #1 | Do you think the water level is too high in China Lake? |
| Response | Too high, 39%; Level OK, 45%; Too low, 16% |
| Question #2 | Should the Lake Association initiate changes in the current water level management plan? |
| Response | Yes, 19%; No, 39%; Uncertain, 42% |

At the current time a group led by Al Althen of South China is petitioning the state to review the order setting water levels with the aim of lowering the water level in China Lake. As a result of our survey and because of the lack of hard data to support a move from the current water level plan, the Lake Association will monitor the situation but not actively advocate a change from the current plan. Please, if you have strong views on this, contact David Landry, P.O. Box 194 China, ME or 968-2856.