



INDIAN LAKE ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 973, Sabael, New York 12864

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2016

ANNUAL MEETING REVIEW

The Indian Lake Association held its 37th annual meeting on August 8 at the Byron Park pavilion. Once again we combined the annual meeting with a cookout, for discussing lake issues, playing horseshoes, and socializing with neighbors. Joe Hancock and Russ Evatt manned the grill while we held the business meeting. The members elected two new directors to the board, Autumn Blanchard and Maggie Evatt. Autumn has lived on the lake since 1966, is a former park ranger, and now is a facility supervisor for DEC. Maggie grew up on the lake and is a business school graduate. She is the daughter of two former board members, Russ and Peggy Evatt. Directors Paul Coppock and Rich Vincelette were reelected to their third three year terms. Eric Hanson stepped down from the board as his term expired, and we are grateful for his past service and continuing support.

The treasurer reported an account balance of \$3,626 as of the annual meeting, a significant increase over the prior year's balance of \$2,814. This reflects revenue of \$1,940 in the prior year and expenses of \$1,128. Voluntary enhanced payments under our two-year-old revised membership dues program continue to strengthen our treasury. There were 108 memberships as of the annual meeting, including 41 renewals and 3 new. Our main expenses were for the 2014 annual meeting, a membership to the newly formed Adirondack Lakes Alliance, testing of the lake water quality, the ILA Scholarship, printing and distribution of the newsletter and 500 copies of the ILA Boater's Guide.

Over two decades ago, our association and the Hudson River Black River Regulating District established target water levels for Indian Lake. While those targets have helped provide lake users more predictable levels throughout the season, our board felt that it was time to reexamine the targets with the Regulating District and determine whether the lake could be drawn down

slightly earlier in May and June to reveal beaches sooner and held slightly higher into October. Paul Coppock read a draft letter to the Regulating District proposing these changes. After a discussion, the members unanimously approved the letter.

Our guest speaker was Bryan Rudes. He is the Adirondack Lakes Alliance Regional Director for our area and also President of the Piseco Lake Association. Bryan and his team at the Adirondack Lakes Alliance helped coordinate the efforts of lake associations across the Park to stop the spread of aquatic invasive species. Our association, other lake associations and the Alliance worked with DEC to obtain state funding for boat launch inspection stewards and boat decontamination stations, and succeeded in securing \$1 million of funding for the launch of those programs last season. Bryan discussed the implementation of the program and future plans. Also joining us was Jaime Parslow, who supervises the boat inspection and decontamination stewards in our region. She described the inspection and decontamination processes, and reported on examples of invasives that her inspectors had found and removed at the Indian Lake ramp.

The minutes of the August 8, 2015 meeting are available for your review on the Indian Lake Association web site: www.ila-ni.org.

NEXT ANNUAL MEETING & PICNIC

Please join us for the 2016 annual meeting and picnic Saturday August 13 at the Byron Park pavilion. This year, issues that we expect to discuss include the revised target lake levels, invasive species prevention and the boat steward program. We also have as a guest speaker Roy Reehil, local author and amateur historian who has published books about Adirondack hermits, French Louie, and other characters of the region. Roy will present a slide show featuring vintage photographs of the Adirondacks and its colorful back

country inhabitants with commentary that will take us back to another era. You can find more about his work and background at <http://reehil.com>. This year we are having the cookout before the business meeting and guest speaker. So please see the information about the meeting on the back of this newsletter and RSVP with the enclosed mailer or by e-mail.

LOCAL NEWS

One year it's too cold, the next it's too warm. The one thing you can depend on with the weather is that it will always give something you can complain about. The almost complete absence of snow this past winter toppled 2014-15 from its "worst winter for business ever" throne. The business normally generated by a robust snowmobiling trade was down due to the shortage of snow. Fortunately, snowmobilers are a determined lot and many did find higher ground and marginal trails to keep riding.

Indian Lake didn't freeze over until January 5 - the latest ever. Ice looked to be out in early April, not the earliest ever, but close. And despite concerns over low snow pack, the lake has refilled nicely.

When the envelopes are passed out this fall, you'll be pleased to see that both the town and school labored valiantly to keep this year's taxes within the virtually unchanged cap on property tax. However, all is not well on the other side of the horizon.

After years of painstaking planning, the Town Board had finally arranged funding and approvals for the much needed Abanakee dam replacement. Work was scheduled to commence this coming fall, and would have resulted in no extra burden for local taxpayers. However, the state decided that rather than draw the lake down in the fall to perform the work, the Town would be required to build a coffer dam around the work area adding an extra \$250,000 to the Town's cost. The Town has now accepted a bid to do the work for \$1,230,000. The state is contributing \$750,000 and the Town anticipates receiving additional grant money to reduce the amount of bond financing that will be required.

Abanakee, by the way, benefits not only its own shoreline property owners. It is a valuable recreational resource for the entire community. Among other things, the Town beach is located there, and it provides

a critical surge of water for rafting on the Indian and Hudson rivers. As such, it is a key to the local economy. The Adirondack Lake dam is next in line for repair.

Despite some positive achievements, we may remain relatively unprotected against zebra mussels, water chestnuts, milfoil, spiny waterflea, hydrilla, asian clams, and fanwort, to name a few; because the state has not yet committed to locating a wash station on the eastern edge of the Park along the Rt. 28 corridor, or placing full time stewards (inspectors) at the state boat launch site on Indian Lake. While Indian Lake is the largest Adirondack lake with no known invasive species contamination, the DEC guidelines score our lake lower for purposes of funding boat decontamination stations due to the absence of infestation. The thinking is that boats will be cleaned as they leave the other infested lakes, and that will protect Indian Lake. We will continue to seek placement of a boat decontamination station along the Route 28 artery to Indian Lake.

No business establishments that we know of folded this past winter. Although there is talk of Chrissy's Café relocating to North Creek if they can work a deal for the old Smith's Restaurant building. The Indian Lake Fire Department is pursuing plans to buy the former Indian Lake Market property for housing its operation. Ed Bennett did retire from his tree service work to full time logging. That may not sound like retirement to flatlanders, but that's the way it is up in the Park. If you can work, then you best keep on working. Best of all though is that Dale Roberts is reopening what was King's Collision. Of course, that's only the good news part of that story. He has been Dan Batt's replacement as local plumber.

On the planning front, the Town of Indian Lake is using DEC grant funds to revise its Comprehensive Plan, which has not been updated since it was adopted in the 1970s. When completed the Plan will provide guidance for future growth and implementation strategies. The Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee has completed preliminary research and is holding a series of meetings where individuals can participate.

The APA has approved a recommendation to Governor Cuomo to make major revisions to the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan that will allow certain recreational activities on recently acquired state land. Once approved by the Governor, the revised

Plan would allow bicycling on former all-season roads in the Essex Chain Lakes and Pine Lake Primitive Areas.

Finally, on April 12 this year, Hamilton County turns 200 years old, and the County is preparing activities to mark the anniversary. As far as we know, there are currently no plans to install a stop light in Hamilton County within the next 200 years. Happy spring!

ILA DICK MERRILL SCHOLARSHIP

The 2015 scholarship of \$200 was awarded to Victoria Moore, a 2015 graduate of Indian Lake Central School, for use in her pursuit of a degree in hospitality. The scholarship was named after Dick Merrill, a long time board member, educator and lake advocate. It is awarded to graduates of Indian Lake High School who have exemplified good stewardship of the lake and the environment.

BOARD CHANGES

Joe Hancock will be completing his third and final term as director at the August meeting. In addition to his service as a director, for years Joe has worked with Russ Evatt to conduct the annual water quality sampling program, and we look forward to his continued contributions in the future.

This will leave one open director position at this year's annual meeting, and we will have more openings in the future. We continue to seek individuals who would like to serve as a member of the Board or serve in some other volunteer capacity such as surveying for invasive species, communications, web site maintenance, newsletter publication, member recruitment or the annual picnic. Please contact any Board member if you are interested.

INCORPORATION OF ILA

The Board is proposing that we change the legal form of the Indian Lake Association from an association to a corporation. This will allow the ILA to act as a distinct legal entity for purposes of taking on any legal obligations, and signing documents from vendors and the bank. It will serve to limit potential legal liability for directors and members, and facilitate our banking. We will minimize any changes to existing operations, memberships, director's terms and By-Laws. Paid memberships will continue in effect until the expiration date. Dues rates will remain the same for the coming

year. The current directors will be the directors of the corporation for their existing terms. All funds of the association will become assets of the corporation.

The Indian Lake Association, Inc. will be a New York State not-for-profit corporation. Initially, it will not be a 501(c)(3) corporation, but the Certificate of Incorporation is written to allow application to the IRS for 501(c)(3) qualification later if it appears to be worth taking on the ongoing extra administrative work involved. The proposed Certificate of Incorporation and By-Laws are posted on the ILA website: www.ila-ny.org. Thanks to the generous, free legal assistance that Paul Kietzman is providing, the cost of incorporation should be less than \$500, including state filing fee, filing service, corporate kit, legal notices, etc.

The Board asks that you approve the proposal to incorporate by signing and returning the enclosed proxy and RSVP mailer. You can also vote in person at the meeting.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Dues are unchanged from the rates that went into effect in 2014. The basic membership options are \$15 for one year or \$35 for three years. In 2014 we instituted voluntary higher levels for members who would like to contribute more, and so far we have received thirty membership payments at the higher levels. This generosity is helping the Association strengthen its financial position and better prepares us to respond as issues that concern our membership arise. The current membership dues levels are:

- Lake Level - \$15 for 1 year or \$35 for 3 years
- Baldface Mt. - \$25 for 1 year or \$60 for 3 years
- Dug Mt. - \$40 for 1 year or \$100 for 3 years
- Snowy Mt. - \$50 for 1 year or \$125 for 3 years

Please note that your membership expiration date is printed on the address label on the last page of this newsletter. Please check to see whether you are due to renew your membership.

AQUATIC INVASIVES

CLEAN IT, DRAIN IT, DRY IT!

I am again happy to report the aquatic surveys found no plant or animal invasives in Indian Lake.

Last summer we were visited upon by Paul Smith's Adirondack Watershed Institute's Regional Response Team in coordination with the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP). We also, for the first time, had a lake steward inspecting watercraft at the NY DEC launch 4 days a week, also under the auspices of these two organizations. They also covered the boat launch on Lewey Lake as needed. The stewards found and removed 6 aquatic invasive species from boats launching into Indian Lake during inspections of well over 1300 watercraft. The Regional Response Team, comprised of four surveyors, spent four days on Indian Lake and one on Lewey surveying for all plants and invasive animals. They found no invasives. APIPP is paying particular attention to the risk of spiny waterflea spreading to Indian Lake given the infestation of neighboring lakes such as Little Sacandaga, Lake Pleasant and Piseco Lake. These tiny crustaceans measuring less than a half inch in length cling to fishing lines and equipment, and their eggs can lie dormant over the winter. This coming summer, the Response Team plans to repeat its survey for this invasive. Indian Lake was most fortunate to have been chosen for this combined lake steward and Response Team program.

Things change and this year is different. As in so many cases, it comes down to the money. The Indian Lake Association, the Towns of Indian Lake, Arietta, and Lake Pleasant have joined in a new statewide competition for New York DEC funds to combat invasives (i.e. stewards for Indian Lake) with a percentage of matching funds required. As I write this the determination of winners and losers has not yet been announced. We may or may not have a steward this coming season to protect our lake.

Our survey volunteers were somewhat relieved of duty by the Regional Response Team. Eleanor Menz and her son Jonathan Menz had already completed their section which was a good thing as I cannot find on the Response Team's maps where they did the extreme northerly end of Indian Lake. Ellie had it covered. I had done part of my section before I found out about

the Response Team survey and spread the word to the other volunteers. For the first time, Timberlock involved their Voyageur youth program in the survey process, completing all of the Jessup River. Led by Dan Dipaola and Julia Riback, they were an enormous help. Many thanks to everybody for your efforts in taking care of our lake. If anyone is interested in joining the volunteer effort please contact the lake association.

See you on the water.

~Jeremy Gorss

BOAT INSPECTION PROGRAM

Continuation of the boat steward coverage at the Indian Lake NY DEC boat launch and Lewey Lake this summer will be dependent on winning a grant from DEC. In January, our association and the Town of Indian Lake joined a consortium of municipalities and organizations to submit coordinated grant applications to provide boat launch stewards and decontamination facilities for Indian Lake, Lake Pleasant, and Piseco. This approach was based on DEC award guidelines which favor applications that take a regional approach and have broad community support.

The applicants are the Towns of Indian Lake, Lake Pleasant and Arietta. Grant recipients are required to provide 25% of the funding. Indian Lake's application requests \$11,625 a year for 3 years to fund one boat steward for the Indian Lake DEC ramp. The Town would be required to provide a local match of \$3,875 per year, which the Town would like to offset in part with donations. The Town of Lake Pleasant has applied for two boat stewards to serve three sites including the Indian Lake DEC ramp, giving Indian Lake additional coverage for the three year term. Lake Pleasant's application also includes a request to fund two boat decontamination stations located near Speculator and Piseco. We believe that a decontamination station should also be located along or near the Route 28 corridor between I-87 and Indian Lake to intercept invasives carried by trailered boats that travel this major artery into the Central Adirondacks. Unfortunately, the DEC grant guidelines favor stations located adjacent to contaminated lakes, and thus give a very low priority to placing a station in the Route 28 corridor.

We expect announcement of the award decision some time in April.

WATER QUALITY

During the summer of 2015, Joe Hancock and Russ Evatt took samples of lake water from the “deep hole” area 3 times. The samples were frozen and sent to the Adirondack Watershed Institute at Paul Smiths College. This is the 12th year that we have participated in the program. The samples were analyzed and a report was generated that is available to all via the internet. The program is run at Paul Smiths College and the direct administrator is Protect the Adirondacks. There is a link on Protect’s web site to access our lake’s report as well as the 74 other participating lakes in the Adirondack Park. Go to: www.protectadks.org. This is the first year of this format and it is very interesting to compare our lake’s data to the others. The good news is the water quality has remained consistently good for the past few years. Factors in our favor include a high water turnover rate or flush rate, very little runoff into the lake that would include fertilizers, both residential and agricultural, and a generally low population density for both the lake shore and the surrounding watershed. The AWI has classified our lake as Oligotrophic, which means there are low amounts of algae and organic matter that would tend to produce cloudy water and promote weed and algae growth. An enhanced focus this past year has been about the influence of road salt on the participating lakes. Data from our lake suggests that at this point there is not a significant impact. With the recent mild winter this trend should continue this year. This will continue to be a concern as our lake is surrounded by about 25 miles of State and County roads that are salted in the winter. Russ and Joe will continue to do the testing this summer and we encourage everybody to be good lake stewards by keeping our septic systems in good working order and keeping any lawn or garden fertilizers away from the lakefront.

~Joe Hancock

NEW TARGET LAKE LEVELS

At the annual meeting last August, we discussed a draft letter to the Hudson River Black River Regulating District asking that they re-evaluate the target lake levels that have been in effect for over two decades. Our proposal called for a slightly earlier draw down after the spring flood to reveal beaches earlier, and a slight slowing of the rapid draw down in the late summer to extend the boating season. The members at the meeting unanimously voted to send the letter.

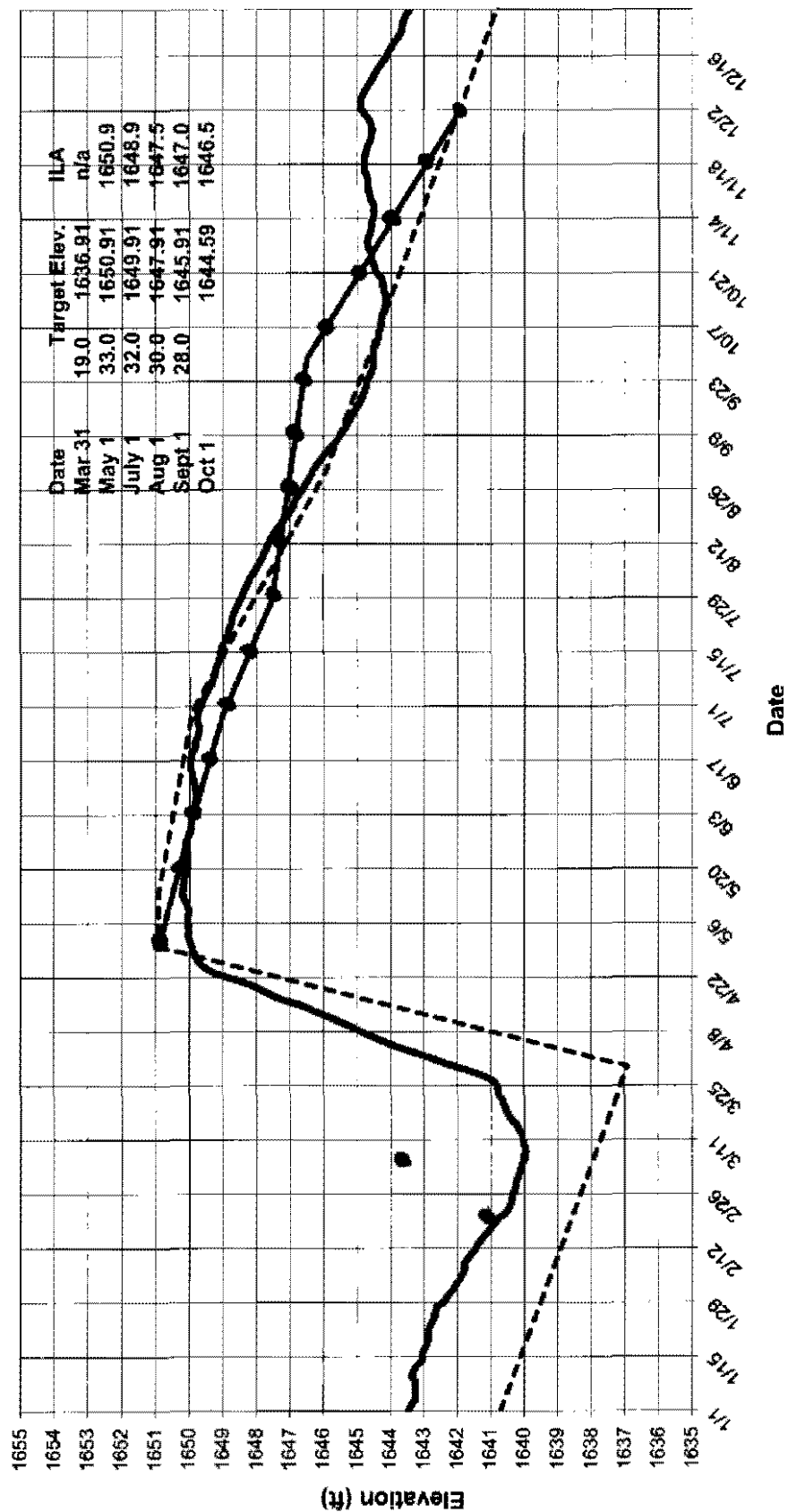
We met with the Regulating District in September and they agreed to do some analysis of the dam release rates required to hit the proposed targets under a range of conditions.

In February, we received word from the Regulating District that this spring and summer, they plan to attempt to follow our proposed target levels on a trial basis. This involves increasing the draw down rate slightly on May 1, reaching a target on July 1 that is a foot lower than the existing target, and on August 1, slowing the draw down so that on September 1, the lake is a foot higher than the existing target level. On October 1, the draw down would be accelerated to increase the lake’s collection capacity. Of course this is all subject to change due to unusual weather conditions and events. The Regulating District must perform a balancing act, particularly late in the season, to keep a sufficient flow in the Upper Hudson and support dam releases from Abanakee for white water rafting, while slowing the outflow to hit the higher targets. They also need to quickly get the level down after October 1 closer to 1644’ (about 26’ by the painted rock gauges) to prepare for heavy autumn rains.

We are pleased that the Regulating District is trying to accommodate our concerns, but we need to remember that the District’s primary statutory mandate is to regulate the flow of streams and rivers as required for downstream benefits such as prevention of flooding, and providing sufficient water flow for wastewater treatment, and hydroelectric plants. Below is the graph that HRBRRD provided showing historic, current target, and new target levels.

Our main point of contact with the HRBRRD for years has been Executive Director Michael Clark. You may remember that he was the guest speaker at our annual meeting in 2013. He recently left the HRBRRD and a search is now on for his successor. In the meantime, Chief Engineer Rob Foltan has continued the cooperative relationship that our association had with Michael and the organization.

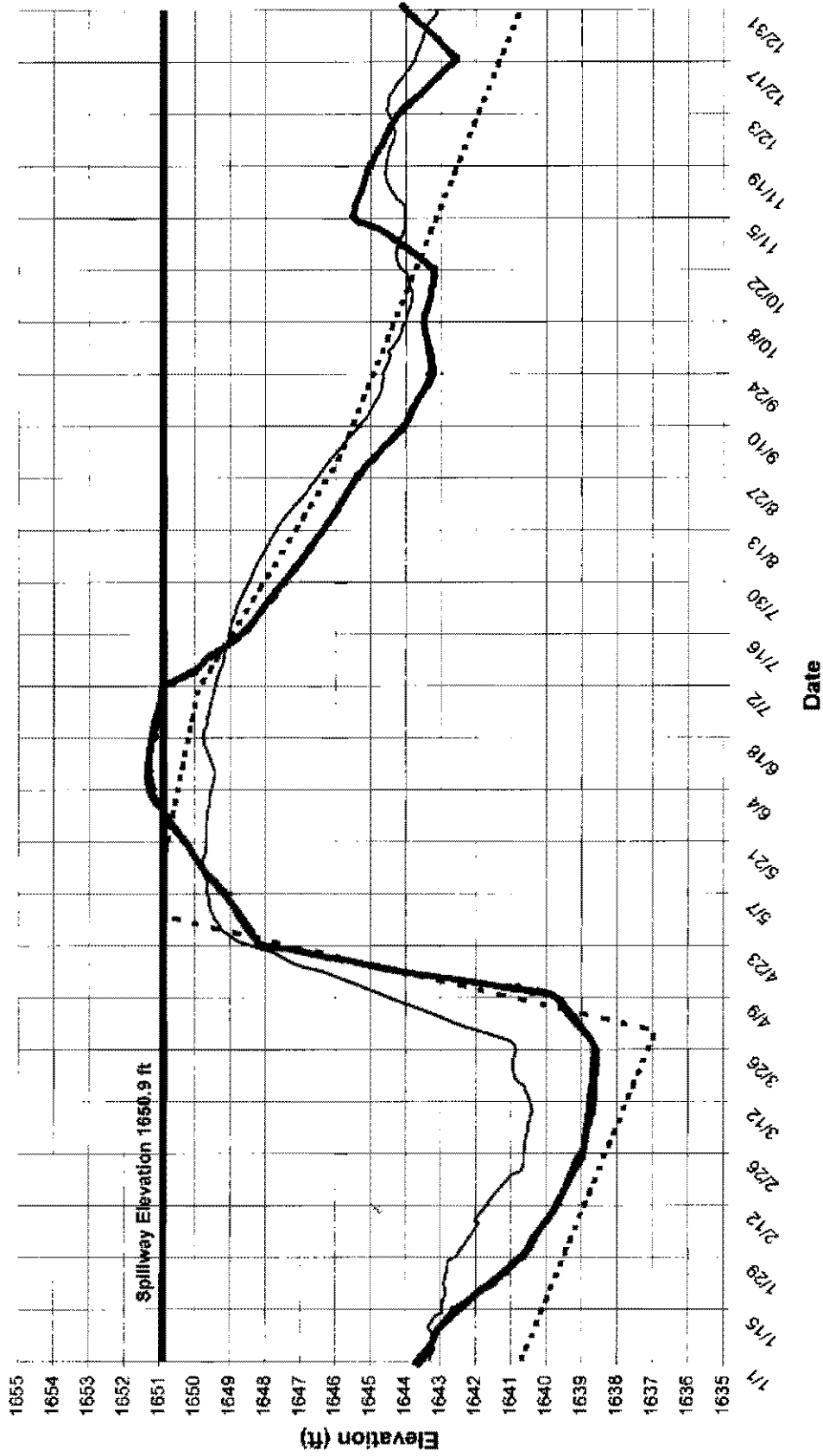
NEW TARGET LEVELS FOR INDIAN LAKE



NEW TARGET ELEVATION - heavy dotted line
 HISTORIC AVERAGE ELEVATION - thin solid line
 OLD TARGET ELEVATION - thin dashed line

INDIAN LAKE WATER LEVEL ~ 2015

Below is a graph from the Hudson River Black River Regulating District that shows the target water levels agreed on between the Indian Lake Association and HRBRD for the lake (dotted line) and the historic average water levels (thin solid line). Added to the graph are the actual levels from USGS data (heavy solid line). The combination of the large drainage area and the relatively small outlets on the dam mean that a large rain event or rapid snow melt can make the lake rise significantly even with the gates fully open.



2015 ACTUAL ELEVATION - heavy solid line
 HISTORIC AVERAGE ELEVATION - thin solid line
 TARGET ELEVATION - thin dashed line

INDIAN LAKE ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 973, Sabael, New York 12864



INDIAN LAKE ASSOCIATION
Board of Directors 2015-2016

President – Paul Coppock 648-0762
Vice President – Joe Hancock 648-5934
Secretary – Carmen Adler 648-5395
Treasurer – Richard Vincelette 648-5542
At-Large – Autumn Blanchard 648-5409
At-Large - Maggie Evatt 796-3964
At-Large - Pete Sinski 648-5980
At-Large - Jon Voorhees 648-0300
At-Large - Don Woodmansee 648-5649

ILA website: www.ila-ny.org

INDIAN LAKE ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL MEETING & PICNIC
BYRON PARK PAVILION
SATURDAY, AUGUST 13, 2016

4:30 pm – Barbeque Picnic
5:30 pm -- ILA Business Meeting
6:30 pm – Guest Speaker – Author Roy Reehil

ILA will supply the burgers, hot dogs and veggie burgers FREE to ILA members. There will be a \$5.00 charge for non-member guests. The guest fee will be applied to a new annual membership for anyone not currently an ILA member so please invite your friends and neighbors. Each family should bring a dish to share (appetizer, salad or dessert) as well as drinks of your choice.

Please RSVP with the enclosed mailer or contact:
Pete Sinski – psinski@gmail.com