

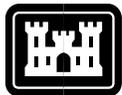
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Reservoirs too small, too shallow

Corps of Engineers bans tube kiting at its federal recreation area lakes in New England for safety

by Timothy Dugan
Public Affairs

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District issued a ban as of July 28 on tube kiting at its 31 federal recreation flood control reservoir projects in New England.

Signs will be posted detailing the prohibition. Most of the reservoirs are too small and too shallow to support any type of speed boating use.

Of the seven lakes where the Corps allows boat operation at speeds that would support tube kites, the lakes are not of sufficient size and depth to allow the activity and ensure public safety.

Additionally, most of the lakes have competing activities such as swimming, canoeing/kayaking and fishing that would conflict with this type of water sport creating safety concerns.

For these reasons the New England District commander has determined that it is in the best interest and

safety of the public to ban the use of tube kites, or inflatable flying watercraft, at all Corps-managed federal recreational projects in New England.

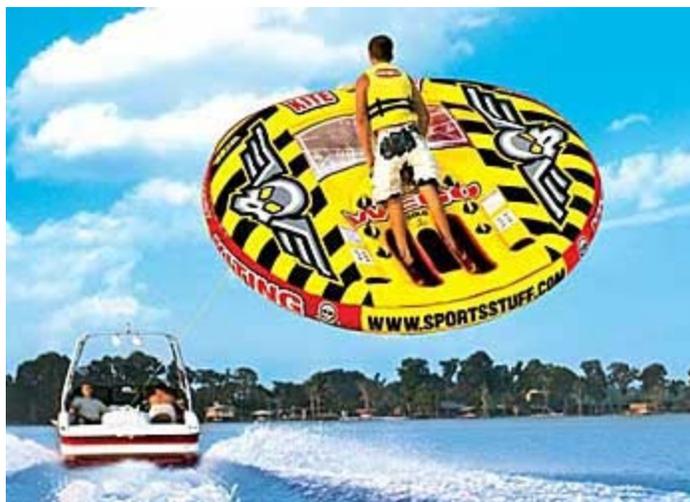
Federal projects managed by the Corps are located in the following areas.

In Connecticut: Black Rock Lake in Thomaston (Route 109); Colebrook River Lake in Colebrook (Route 8); Hancock Brook Lake in Plymouth (Waterbury Road); Hop Brook Lake in

Middlebury (Route 63); Mansfield Hollow Lake in Mansfield (Route 6 or Route 195); Northfield Brook Lake in Thomaston (Route 254); Thomaston Dam in Thomaston (Route 222); and West Thompson Lake in Thompson (Route 12).

In Massachusetts: Barre Falls Dam in Barre and Hubbardston (Route 62); Birch Hill Dam in South Royalston (Route 68); Buffumville Lake in Charlton (off Route 12); Cape Cod Canal in Buzzards Bay (I-195 from Providence and Route 3 from Boston); Charles River Natural Valley Storage Area in Eastern Massachusetts; Conant Brook Dam in Monson (off Route 32 on Monson-Wales Road); East Brimfield Lake in Fiskdale (Route 20); Hodges Village Dam in Oxford (off Route 12); Knightville Dam in Huntington (off Route 112); Littleville Lake in Huntington (off Route 112); Tully Lake in Royalston (Route 32); West Hill Dam in Uxbridge (between Route 16 and Route 122 on East Hartford Ave.);

Continued on page 3



Wego promotional photo provided courtesy of CPSC

Kite tubing, as demonstrated in this Wego promotional photo, has been banned at all New England District recreational sites.

Yankee Voices

Sue Holtham
Engineering/Planning



Congratulations

...to **Matt Walsh**, who has been named the WE Committee's August Employee of the month..

Over the past few years the Corps has transitioned to a performance based budget requiring a series of metrics for each project. One such metric the New England District was required to report for the FY08 budget was the number of people in the entire 100 year flood plain for each of our 31 flood control dams and two hurricane barriers. This was a huge task and there was very limited time in which to develop the information.

Walsh, using GIS, was able to provide the information on all the projects within a few days.

Without the information on the number of people in the 100 year flood plain the New England District projects would not have been able to compete well with projects from other districts and divisions.

Cool exercises during hot summer months

If exercising during the hot summer months isn't appealing, water aerobics may be the answer for you. Water aerobics classes are offered at many community pools and recreation centers. Water, being 12 times more resistant than air, gives your muscles a better workout and burns more calories than similar movements on dry ground.

But because the water makes you buoyant, your joints and muscles are subject to far less stress. Studies at Boise State University show that buoyancy reduces the risk of injury, making water aerobics a good choice for overweight individuals and those who have arthritis or other joint problems. Plus, the water keeps you cool. (*Ideas Unlimited*)

The benefits of walking on sand

If you're heading for the beach, you can improve your fitness and build up your calf muscles by taking a walk. A Belgian study found that walking on dry sand requires 2.1 to 2.7 times more exertion that walking on hard surface.

According to the Kerlan-Jobe Orthopedic Clinic in Los Angeles, walking on sand requires extra effort to position and roll the foot, leading to better coordination and more muscle mass. (*Ideas Unlimited*)

Choosing Sunscreen

The American Academy of Dermatology recommends using a broad-spectrum sunscreen year-round with an SPF (sun protection factor) of 14 or higher. It also recommends looking for a product that contains the chemical avobenzone, also known as Parsol 1789.

This protects against ultraviolet A and B rays. The UVB rays, which can be blocked by window glass, are the main cause of sunburn and skin cancer. UVA rays, which can pass through window glass, penetrate deeper into the skin and can also contribute to skin damage. For the most effective protection, check the label before you buy. (*Ideas Unlimited*)

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Commander's Corner:

Why year-end closeout is like football

by Col. Curtis L. Thalken
District Commander



As the short New England summer begins to cool down, my favorite time of year is about to begin: football season. Last night, as I was watching the Patriot's first preseason football game, I was struck by an analogy between football and our program execution – fiscal year closeout is more like a first down than the end-zone. Please bear with me as I

explain.

Excluding Army OMA dollars, which are an annual appropriation, most of the funds we use do not expire at the end of the fiscal year. Therefore we should see no letup in our efforts as the end of the fiscal year approaches. Most of our projects, civil works, MILCON, support for others have funds that span the fiscal year.

Therefore, unless we have exhausted all available funds, which in most cases should mean we've completed a phase of a project, work on Oct. 1 should continue just like it was on Sept. 30. We don't reach the end-zone until the project is complete. We can celebrate at the ribbon cutting.

Now there are things that we have to do at the end of the year. Just go down to RM or contracting and see all the effort they put into wrapping up the year's loose ends. We have to account for what we spent by fiscal year and then we have to reset our accounts and get ready for the next year. However, I equate that to the referees moving the chains and resetting the down marker.

If I'm on the field I don't stop running because I've made a first down. I keep pushing for every inch I can with no intention of stopping until I reach the end-zone (project completion). There may be impediments between me and the goal line: contractor problems, quarterly fund allocations or even requested changes by our local cost share partners. They may slow us down or even tackle us momentarily, but our ultimate goal remains the end-zone.

So my challenge to you all is to be like Cory Dillon (I'm partial to hard hitting running backs) – don't stop running at the 1st down marker.

Year end closeout is an intermediate goal towards project completion, but it shouldn't cause us to lose a step. Keep your legs moving and keep your projects headed up field. Don't look at the sidelines.

Thanks for everything you do each and every day and let's hope for a great season for the Pats. Essays!

Tube kiting banned at Corps recreation area lakes in New England

Continued from page 1

and Westville Lake in Southbridge and Sturbridge (Wallace Road off Route 131).

In New Hampshire: Blackwater Dam in Webster (Route 127); Edward MacDowell Lake in West Peterborough (Route 101); Franklin Falls Dam in Franklin (Route 127); Hopkinton-Everett Lakes in Hopkinton (Route 127); Otter Brook Lake in Keene (Route 9); and Surry Mountain Lake in Keene (Route 12A).

In Vermont: Ball Mountain Lake

in Jamaica (Route 30 or Route 100); North Hartland Lake in North Hartland (Routes 4 and 5); North Springfield Lake in North Springfield (Route 106 and Reservoir Road); Townshend Lake in Townshend (Route 30); and Union Village Dam in Thetford (Route 132).

There are no Corps-operated flood control reservoirs in Rhode Island or Maine. For more information about individual Corps recreation projects check the website at: <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil> and select "recreation" and then state. Or go directly to the site at

<http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/recreati/recreati.htm>.



Wego promotional photo provided courtesy of CPSC

Chemist retires with 45 years of federal service

New England District chemist, Forrest Knowles, decided to end his distinguished 45-year federal career by joining the retirement community. Over 60 friends, family and co-workers gathered in the Concord Park cafeteria on June 30 to celebrate with Knowles and wish him well.

Bill Hubbard, Chief Evaluation Branch, served as Master of Ceremonies. He remarked on Knowles' amazing career and his professionalism. Hubbard introduced Knowles' wife, Betty and son David who attended the event. "Betty has a list of chores for Forrest to do once he retires," said Hubbard.

Representatives of Envirosystems, a toxicity testing lab out of Hampton, N.H. were only a few contractors who came to Knowles' retirement celebration to wish him well. Lisa Lefkovitz from Battelle wished Knowles luck on his retirement and presented him with some gifts from his friends at the company. "I'll be lost without you," she said. "I won't know who to call once you retire."

Phil Nimeskern was next to say a few words and wished him the best of luck. "I'm not really sure what we're going to do when he's gone," he said.

Hubbard presented Knowles with a copy of the handbook, "The Regional Implementation Manual for Ocean Disposal of Dredged Material," which was signed by his friends in Regulatory and in Evaluation Branch.

Jay Mackay, Bob Davis, and Pete Trincherro arrived at the front of the room as a group. Mackay said that Knowles' expertise in chemistry will be missed. Davis presented him with a sign that read, "Warning U.S. Property Do Not Disturb," because "after 45 years you become U.S. Property." Davis also presented him with a beaker full of candy and a turtle figurine. "Forrest is part of the Turtle Team," explained Davis. "He helped save 16 turtles this year."

Trincherro's gift was a little more

unusual – he presented Knowles with some knee-hi panty hose to remember a time when the two were out testing at Fox Point Hurricane Barrier and lacked the equipment to obtain samples. "Forrest and I went to the store and got some knee-hi's," he said. "Coming up with that solution is a testament to his creativity to ensure that his work was on time and within budget. He's a real problem-solver."

Knowles also received a plaque that listed the 10 best things about retirement from the trio as well as a Bunker Hill plaque in recognition for his many years of dedicated service.

Col. Curtis Thalken, New England District Commander, stepped forward to present Knowles with a Commander's Award for Civilian Service, which is the 4th highest award that can be given. "Forty-five years of service is quite a lot," said Col. Thalken. "You're a model of what can be done. In a time when people go from company to company, you chose to make the Corps of Engineers your home."

Col. Thalken ended the official part of the ceremony by presenting Knowles with his retirement certificate and pin.

Knowles said a few words to attendees. "It's been quite a journey," he said. "In all my adventures, it was the

people that made it more enjoyable. We really are a family, and contractors and state agencies are a part of that family. I'm going to miss this place. I won't disappear I promise to visit. I like you all."

Knowles began his career with the Corps of Engineers in December 1972. Prior to that, he worked for BB Chemical Company in Cambridge, Mass., the U.S. Public Health Service in Winchester, Mass., and the Environmental Protection Agency in Needham, Mass.

Following his high school graduation, he spent one year of active duty in the U.S. Army, and then joined the U.S. Army Reserves from 1956 to 1963. Knowles is a 1961 graduate of the University of New Hampshire and holds a BA in Chemistry.

During his tenure with the Corps of Engineers, Knowles received many honors for his outstanding work to include performance awards, special act or service awards and special commendations.

In addition to the list of chores Knowles wife has for him when he retires, the couple also plan to do some traveling. They plan to begin with a trip to Holland. When he finishes his traveling, Knowles would like to do some consulting work.



Photo by Brian Murphy

Forrest Knowles (right) cuts his retirement cake while his wife, Betty and son, David, look on.



Ellie Colucci (right) fastens Joe Colucci's retirement pin on his shirt during the retirement celebration.

Joe Colucci models some of his retirement gifts for the audience.

Joseph Colucci retires with 37 years of service

A retirement celebration honoring Joseph Colucci's career took place June 29 at the Minuteman Lounge at the Officer's Club at Hanscom Air Force Base.

Colucci, Engineering/Planning, and 78 friends and family members celebrated his retirement after 37 years of federal service.

Jennifer Flannigan served as Mistress of Ceremonies for the evening. Other speakers included Bill Holtham, Dave Descoteaux and Tom Rosato.

Colucci received a framed photo of the Bourne Bridge from Fran Donovan, as well as a moose hat and

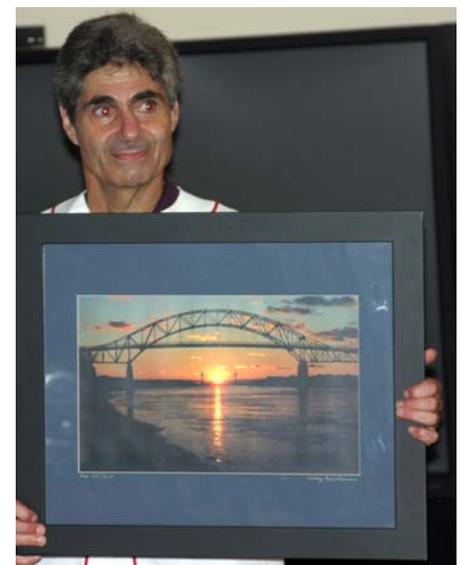
Limoncello from Tom Rosato. Other gifts included a Red Sox Jersey with Colucci's name embroidered on the back with number 37 to represent his years of service; a "Keep on Running" T-shirt; a Survey Disk engraved with his name and the year 2006; and a "Seabreeze Kit" bucket.

Tony Mackos presented Colucci with a Commander's Award for Civilian Service, a Bunker Hill plaque, as well as his retirement certificate. After all of the speakers and presentations, Colucci thanked everyone for coming to his celebration.

Family members and friends who

attended were his wife, Ellie; son, Michael; daughter, Debby; daughter-in-law, Anne; grand daughter's Elena and Julia; brother-in-law, Tony Caruso; and Jack and Nancy Mooney, Colucci's golf partner and his wife.

Retirees who welcomed Colucci into the New England District retirement community were Jack Caffrey, Bill Coleman, George Norton, Jim Hanabury, Distinguished Civilian Gallery Member Dick Reardon, Tony Seigel, Distinguished Civilian Gallery Member Andy Lamborghini, Bill Kavanaugh, Sr., Joe Bocchino, and Dave Dulong.



Dave Schafer, Joe Colucci, and Tony Mackos look at a photo collage featuring some old photos of Colucci.

Photos by Brian Murphy

Joe Colucci shows off his gift from his friends at the Cape Cod Canal.

Corps of Engineers proposes dredging federal navigation project for the Patchogue River

by Timothy Dugan
Public Affairs

At the request of the town of Westbrook, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District is proposing to perform maintenance dredging of the federal navigation project for the Patchogue River in Westbrook, Conn.

The proposed work in the federal navigation project at the Patchogue River involves maintenance dredging of the existing channel and anchorage, both of which have authorized depths of -8 feet at mean low water (MLW). The authorized channel has a width of 125 feet from deep water in Long Island Sound, extending northerly about 1,850 feet through the inlet to the confluence of the Patchogue and Menunketesuck rivers.

The channel then narrows to 75 feet wide and continues upstream about 3,480 feet to the U.S. Route 1 highway bridge at Westbrook. The channel is widened to 80 feet through the bend abreast the Westbrook town wharf. An anchorage area is located along the east limit of the channel opposite the town wharf. The anchorage is approximately 500 feet long, has a width of 75 feet in its northern portion and 45 feet in its southern portion, and has a total area of about 0.8 acres.

“Natural shoaling processes have reduced available depths in parts of the channel and anchorage since the last maintenance dredging in 1997-98 making navigation in this harbor difficult,” said Project Manager Jack Karalius. “Maintenance dredging of about 30,000 cubic yards of material will restore the project to its authorized dimensions.”

The town of Westbrook has requested maintenance dredging of the federal navigation project. The federal channel provides access to and from Long Island Sound to the public and private boating facilities of Westbrook

along the Patchogue River. The entrance channel also serves the boating facilities located on the Menunketsuck River.

The original project was authorized by the River and Harbor Act of Sept. 3, 1954 and was completed in 1956. The project was modified by the Chief of Engineers on April 12, 1983, under the authority of Section 107 of the River and Harbor Act of 1960, to widen the entrance channel from Long Island Sound to 125 feet. The Water Resources Development Act of 1996 further modified the project to its present configuration.

“Maintenance dredging was last performed from October 1997 to February 1998 when 29,000 cubic yards of material were removed by mechanical dredge and disposed of at the Cornfield Shoals Disposal Site in Long Island Sound,” Karalius said.

The proposed maintenance dredging will be performed by a private contractor under contract to the government. A mechanical dredge will remove the material from the bottom and place the material in scows, which would then be towed by tug to the Cornfield Shoals Disposal Site in Long Island Sound. The disposal site is lo-

cated 3.3 nautical miles south of Cornfield Point in Old Saybrook, Conn.

The dredged material has undergone physical, chemical and biological testing and has satisfied the criteria for ocean disposal of dredged material as specified in the Ocean Dumping Act regulations. It is the Corps preliminary determination that the material is acceptable for unconfined open water disposal at the Cornfield Shoals Disposal Site, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) has concurred with this determination.

The dredged material consists of predominantly fine-grained silt, with minor amounts of sand. Testing of the material indicates it to be too silty for possible beach nourishment.

“The work will be performed during a three- to four-month period, between about Oct. 1 and Jan. 31, and will be accomplished in the year or years in which funds become available, contingent upon availability of necessary approvals,” Karalius said.

An Environmental Assessment for this work is being prepared and will be made available for review upon request. Public comments on this proposed maintenance dredging project were accepted through Sept. 2.



Photo courtesy of Westbrook Harbormaster

Aerial photo of Patchogue River in Westbrook, Conn.



The crew of the Cape Cod Canal patrol boat "Marion" tows the "Better Than Nothing" passengers to dock and to safety.

Cape Cod Canal team keeps boaters safe

Passengers on the 18-foot pleasure boat, "Better Than Nothing," were enjoying a nice ride through the Cape Cod Canal on July 3 when their vessel lost power and went adrift in the current. As the captain of the vessel tried to restart the engine, a Corps employee on land noticed that "Better Than Nothing" was in trouble and called it into the Marine Traffic Control Office. Within minutes, the Corps of Engineers patrol boat, "Marion," operated by Robert Blackwell and Ryan Jones, came to the rescue and towed the boat to the New England District's West Boat Basin.

This "routine" rescue is one of hundreds that members of the Cape Cod Canal team make each year. In 2005 the team handled over 300 small boat assistance cases. This

year, the patrol boats have already handled over 200 cases, and the tug "Manamet" has been called out 3 times to assist large commercial vessels.

The team has a vessel at the ready in the event of any emergency in the Canal. "Our duty patrol boat is on duty 24 hours a day, seven days a week until Sept. 16, and then we will go back to 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and 4 p.m. to midnight coverage," said Roger Mathurin, supervisor of the Marine Operations Center. "We try to run the 24 hours a day, seven days a week from Memorial Day until the next watch rotation change after Labor Day. We also run a second patrol boat at the east end of the Canal from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday through Sunday and also on holidays that land on a Monday."



Boaters adrift in the Cape Cod Canal wait patiently for assistance with another civilian vessel.



The patrol boat "Marion" comes to the rescue.

Photos by Kevin Burke

Dredging up the past . . .



Fred Hugo, Personnel Office, makes a presentation at the 1970 Annual Dam Operators Conference while his supervisor Mary Ward looks on.

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