



Fathoms

The Newsletter of The Sebasticook Lake Association

Volume 22
Number 2

*Our association was formed in 1972 to improve and maintain
water quality and the general conditions of Sebasticook Lake*

October 2014

President's Message

With winter soon upon us, spring must surely be on the way! Looking forward is preferable to looking backward, especially since "The Curse of the Sebasticook Dam Gate" has been levied upon us once again. Yes, hard to believe that the dam gate, the NEW-ish, 2 year old dam gate is broken. Whipps Incorporated, the company from Massachusetts is working with a local metal fabricator to remedy the problem before ice out. (For Town Manager Jim Ricker's take on this, see page 7)

The summer's water-sports fun was somewhat marred by an algae bloom and green water in July, which was disappointing to all of us who had gotten used to having clear water all summer long. Astoundingly, the lake rallied and the water clarity improved in August, just in time for some late summer fun, and the water remained clear up until the drawdown. I have walked miles of exposed shoreline so far this fall and I have not found any plants that caused me alarm; I hope some of you are scouring your shoreline for any invasive plants as well.

Approximately 80% of the lake bottom has been photographed via ultrasonography by a professor at the University of Maine. This has been a months-long undertaking and there have been a few surprises which will be made public in the near future.

Soon there will be a DVD available capturing all of the excitement of all the week long events for the bicentennial celebration, including the entire parade and the fireworks. Keep your eye peeled for its arrival.

As we batten down the hatches here in Newport, I bid you all a healthy, safe winter, and know we will keep you all updated on changes as they occur.

Muf



Lake Association Officers

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Dam Committee – Deb Ferrell 368-4769
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Nominating Committee - Sally Dwinell 368-5886
Social Committee – Barbara Cloutier 368-5601
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Rick Perlmutter 368-2225
Thelma Vining 368-5853
Barbara Cloutier 368-5601
Chris Fowler 368-2393

Share Your Lakeside Stories

Have any interesting stories or facts about our lake. Why don't you jot them down and send them to us so we can share them with other members of the Lake Association. Send them to

Rick Perlmutter
PO Box 12
Newport, ME 04953

Or send your contribution via e-mail to:
Perlmutter@MSN.com

TRANSFER STATION HOURS

Tues, Wed, Thurs, Fri, and Saturday
8 am to 4 pm
Closed Sunday and Monday

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIPS

For those of You
Who Wish To Be Part of
The Sebasticook Lake Association
Yet Do Not Live on the Lake
\$8 Per Year
Includes
“The Fathoms” Newsletter

Sebasticook Lake Association
Caps and Shirts and Canvas Bags
Make Great Christmas Presents

Show off your membership in the Lake Association
and support it at the same time!
Check them out at the annual meeting July 7, 2012 or
Contact Muffy 368-5424

Shirts \$20 **Caps \$10**

Lake Association E-Mail Data Base

We are continually building an e-mail database of Sebasticook Lake Association members. There will be an e-mail sign-up sheet at this year's meeting. If you are unable to attend, please send your e-mail address to
PERLMUTTERS@MSN.COM

Of course, e-mail addressed will be used only for Lake Association business and will *never* be given out.

SEBASTICOOK LAKE ASSOCIATION MINUTES

July 12, 2014

The meeting was held at the American Legion Hall in Newport on Saturday at 10:00 a.m.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Secretary's report was accepted as typed and written

Mr. and Mrs. Vining received a Christmas gift from their son. It is a clock that is laser burned and also lists the street names. Muffy contacted Lake Art, the company that makes it and we have some information on the organization. Lake Art would provide us with a 10% discount for 3-10 purchases or a 15% discount for an order of 12 or more. If anyone is interested, please sign up.

Mrs. Stone has been the treasurer for 25 years and she is retiring. We would like to say thank you for your dedicated and uncomplaining service. Mrs. Stone received a standing ovation from everyone. Mr. Berry has been gracious enough to accept the position of Treasurer. It is not a voting year but our by-laws might allow for the exception. Muffy says she isn't worried about Mr. Berry being frugal as he has a 1972 boat and his motor is a 1973. Mr. Berry was voted in as the new Treasurer.

We will continue to pay the VLMP \$250 and the Maine Lakes Society formerly known as the Maine Congress of Maine Lake Associations of \$200. We also paid \$100.00 to the Ferrell's towards boat fuel for doing the Water Quality Testing and we had also approved \$1000.00 for a new computer and GPS system but it wasn't quite that much. A paddle boat was found down by Durham Bridge. Did anyone lose one? No one was missing one but someone spoke up that wanted one.

Committee Reports

BBQ Committee - Barb Cloutier - The committee had a 15 minute meeting held at the Vining's. Cliff is in charge of the onions, Dick is in charge of all the paper products. Thelma and Lorraine are the note takers. Gene and Floyd are the "idea" people. They come up with any efficient ideas. Barb saw that Lorraine was retiring and Barb thought about it too but she would miss the others on the BBQ committee. We have a great crew. Everyone is willing to help. Tim Horton's donated the coffee and Darcy will send a thank-you to them for the coffee. I hope you brought the most important ingredient which is a healthy appetite. Please enjoy the BBQ.

Fireworks Committee - Mike Vining - Mike wasn't in attendance so Muffy spoke about them. The fireworks were in conjunction with the Bicentennial. Everyone donated a little extra money so there would be a nice show for the Bicentennial. There was also Newport Ale at the Beer tent which sold out. The people that donated towards the fireworks were: Tony and Lorraine LoConte, Ed & Susan McLaughlin, Robert Berg Enterprises, Inc., Technology Solutions, Inc., Gilman Electric Supply, Peoples United Bank, Anglers Restaurant, Lovley's Financial Group, Inc., Newport Entertainment Center, Lovley's Motel Inc., Lovley Investment Inc, Newport Fireworks, LLC, Maine Fireworks, LLC, Claudette & John Amoroso, Hartley's, Jones Eye Associates, Frank & Francine Dobler, Newport Chiropractic, Reny's, Crosby Funeral Homes, Dan & Barbara Dangler, Mo and Muffy Pare, Peggy Porto and Norine Santarpia.

Mr. Vining and Mr. Michaud prepared the land by mowing so a big thank- you to them also.

The Canoe and Kayak race went well. Only one capsized. A good turnout and a lot of SLA members participated in helping. There were a total of 22 kayaks and five canoes. It was also pouring rain. It was 2.7 miles long. The age range was 7-70 years old. There were lots of boats around to mark the course and assist.

Membership Committee - Allan Fernald - The total is 319 possible dues payers. It dropped by two. The total number who paid was 238. That is up to 75%. We are up five from last year. Maplewood took over this year as the worst paying area. There are 20 people that aren't paying from that area. Camp Benson improved this year. Grove Street and Durham Bridge area are tied for third with 10 not paying their dues each. We have six new members this year. Half of them are inheritances and three new owners. Allan sent out a letter to the 154 who have not paid and after the letter went out, 81 paid. Question by Leone Sullivan- on the last newsletter, Muffy had said that people don't have to live on the lake to being a dues paying member. Maybe set up a little table to try and bring on new members for those that use the lake but don't necessarily live on it? Leone might have just gotten herself a job to do.

Buoy Committee - Dick Stone - The buoy committee is going well. Dick put a couple of pictures out on the table. They saw five eagles sitting in a tree. Two of them were adults and three were young ones. We had some problems with the boat this year. It was a \$60 fix and it set us behind a few days. We notified the state about being behind a little bit. The boat, motor and crew are very old. We don't own a trailer. We have always had to borrow a trailer. Dick spoke with Tim Thurston and wondered if we might be able to have the state take it over. When the state does it, the markers are four or five inches around and they are left in all year long. It almost has to be on a moment's notice and

See *Minutes*, page 4

(Minutes from page 3)

it is hard to coordinate sometimes. We would like to find some younger blood. Cliff and Dick are getting a little old. The buoys have to be in Memorial Day to Labor Day. Sometimes we are a little bit late because of the weather. Dick will put a sign-up sheet out on the table. We have to have a pretty powerful motor in order to do it. The boat is a tank and if the state took it over it would save us \$10-15,000 dollars down the road.

There is a letter to the effect of Mr. Stone's request and the states reply out on the table if anyone would like to read it. It sounds like we will have to continue doing it ourselves.

Water Quality Committee - Debbie Ferrell - The readings haven't been good but it all depends on the day. The only thing that looks bad right now are the snapshots. The quality wasn't that good and it was 2.3 meters. It became windy while we were out there though. This summer Jack Carson is going to be our lake monitor. Debbie will still be doing the data and analysis but Jack will be doing the water testing. When phosphorus goes into the lake, algae grows from it but we don't actually know when it is going to happen. Weeds growing can actually be from the good water quality because that means the sunlight is able to reach further into the water. A member has green scum and is wondering what it might be. Debbie will go take a look.

Dam Committee – Debbie Ferrell - Water level - Debbie says that Muffy is the contact person and liaison with the town on the dam. The gates are open but there is a problem with the flashboards.

Water Regulation Committee – Debbie Ferrell - About the 3rd week in August we meet and decide. The last few years it has been around September 21st. If it continues to get worse, we might go back to making it earlier.

Newsletter Committee - We actually have the person here, Rick Perlmutter, that does the newsletter on Publisher. The members are: Leone Sullivan, Muffy Pare, Thelma Vining, Debbie Ferrell, Chris Fowler and Barb Cloutier. Would anyone like to see something different in the newsletter? Would you like to be part of the newsletter committee?

SLA Website - If you have any input about the website, please let Debbie know. The newsletter is online so if you would just like to read the newsletter online and not receive the paper version, just let Debbie know. There are drop downs and other info on the website. The cost for the website was \$272.15. The future yearly cost will be much less. There were 24 pictures e-mailed to Debbie for the website and she has them on a slider. The top three are on the home page. If you have any pictures for the website, please send them to Debbie and she will add them to the gallery. Darcy brought up the website on her computer and will have the pictures available for anyone to look at while Mr. Spiess is setting up.

Miscellaneous Business

Lynn Cianchette wanted to make sure we had thanked Mrs. Stone for her many years of service as she came in a few minutes late to the meeting and wasn't sure if we had or not. We gave Mrs. Stone another round of applause. At that time, we also accepted the Treasurer's report and printed as we had skipped over it inadvertently at the beginning of the meeting.

Leone Sullivan asked if anyone else was affected by the cattails floating in the water. Muffy took action and had Mr. Vining bring four trailer loads of cattails to the dump as well as Muffy's dad. The town tried to help some but the equipment they had kept breaking.

Ed McLaughlin said that the ice destroyed part of his rock wall this spring and pulled some rocks from his wall back into the water and asked if it was okay to put the rocks back on his wall. Muffy has names and numbers on who to contact to be sure it is okay.

We have had a lot of water and rain.

Every year when we have the drawdown, who decides when the gate should be closed? A few years ago we had a gentleman here who said to keep the water as low for as long as we can. Mr. Spiess said that if you let the water freeze at a low level, it destroys the fish weir. The water doesn't have to be very high; it could be just a few feet. The optimum level would be about 2/3 full. Why the concern all of a sudden with the fish weir? It doesn't seem like it was a concern before. We used to be able to go down 10 feet but we can't go down that far anymore. We can only go down eight feet. In talking with DEP, they said anywhere between five and ten feet is sufficient. The last few years it has been filling right up and been high. Debbie said that the town has to control the dam not the lake association. Pam Newcomb said her property has flowers and a flag pole under water and has lost part of her property. The rocks along the shoreline are under the water now. Debbie asked if she wanted to be part of the water regulation committee. It is now \$72.00 for a permit to move rocks. The Water Regulation Committee is a town committee and not a lake association committee. Mr. Ricker is still in charge and he reports to the Selectmen. Pictures before and after would certainly help. Years ago the agreement was to keep the water level at the height of the concrete on the dam. This isn't happening. There doesn't seem to be any foresight. New splashboards might need to be looked at. The committee should go to the town and pay for having the motors put on the splashboards as they are sitting in the town garage. We have responsibility but not authority. Also, Dexter and Corinna don't let us know when they are opening their dams. They need to. We always let Burnham know.

Chara/muskgrass is taking over the lake in certain areas. There is also algae floating around it like a cloud. Overnight a member's beach went from sand to grass. Muffy will call the DEP. (See *Minutes*, page 6)

Water Quality and Dam Operation for 2014

By Deborah Ferrell

Water quality for Summer 2014 was, unfortunately, less than desirable.

The graph below shows an abrupt reduction of clarity just after June 13th. This continued to degrade until early July, after which time the clarity improved somewhat for the remainder of the summer. The Water Regulation Committee met August 12th to discuss concerns posed at both our annual meeting and in a later meeting.

Jim Ricker gave the committee a brief history of lake level controls and the often opposing concerns of shorefront owners. As you may know, owners on one side of the lake will complain that the lake level is too low while at the same time, owners on the other side will complain that it is too high.

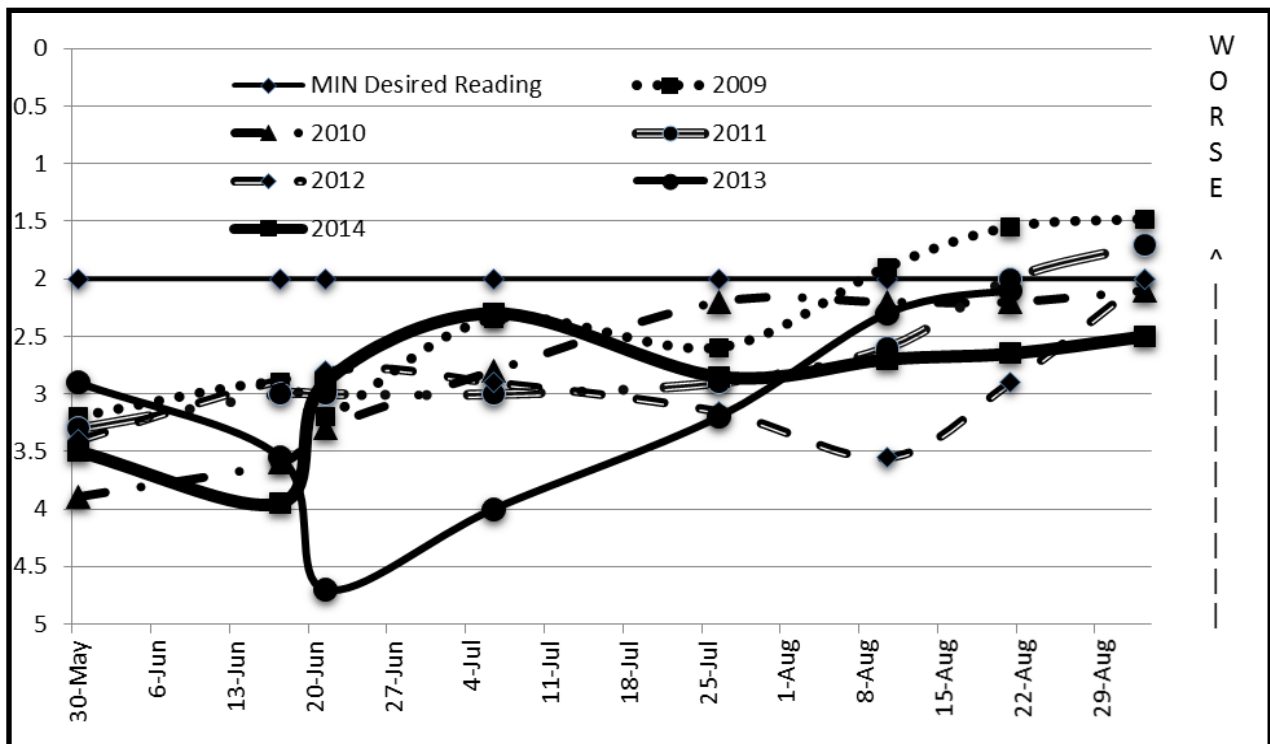
The reality is that some lakefronts' water access requires a higher level due to rocks and "normally" shallow water. Other shorefronts, while at "normal" water levels, will flood with even a minor rise. Many other shorefronts, however, are able to handle the rise and fall of the lake levels without problems. It follows that the town has had difficulty keeping everyone happy while lake level control remains a careful balancing act.

This summer, however, our lake levels were frequently higher than even the town desired, causing some lake owners to believe that the town simply had failed to adjust the gate opening as needed. This is simply not correct.

The town has had a difficult time *controlling* lake levels even with frequent daily adjustments. Factors affecting this difficulty include the large size of our watershed, the many rainy days our area experienced this past summer, and the unexpected upstream draw downs from both Corinna and Dexter. A gate adjustment log has been instituted to track gate changes in the hopes of developing better lake level controls.

The committee also decided to address spring ice-out damage by lowering the lake in the fall and keeping it low until after ice-out. This is expected to remove more phosphorous and to keep properties from flooding next spring.

One idea discussed was to install a camera with a remote gate control in the town hall. The consensus was that while the camera might be a good idea, the operator needs to be *at* the dam to ensure debris or other issues can be seen. Another idea was to install a large ruler to show the lake level with a marked level band that would be considered normal. Jim mentioned that the Sebec Lake normal lake level band is 3 feet and Moosehead Lake is 6 inches. The town and the Lake Association need to decide together what the normal low to high band should be for Sebesticook Lake.



A Big "Thanks" To All 2014 Fireworks Sponsors!

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Dan and Barbara Dangler
Mo and Muffy Pare
Peggy Porto
Norine Santarpia

(Minutes from page 4)

Last year we had some concerns about muddy areas. It was said that it was thought because last year we had such an early spring. Mr. Fernald asked about it again this year. It is squishy early in the summer but by the end of the summer, it hardens up.

Dr. Spiess – Senior Archaeologist with the Maine Historic Preservation. He would like to talk about pre-historic Indian life in Maine and the fish weir. He will also talk about environmental changes. The first wooden stakes of the fish weir are 6000 years old. It is the oldest fish weir in North America! We are supposed to keep the lake high enough to protect the weir in the fall and winter so that the ice won't freeze around the weir.

Next year's meeting date and location - What day is better? Some people like it around the 4th and some don't. The 4th is on a Saturday next year anyway, so the meeting will be held on July 11th at 10:00 a.m. at the American Legion. The fireworks should be on the night of the meeting next year, July 11th. Rain date is always the week after. Motion passed for the date.

We had a total of 75 people in attendance.



New Around Town


One new and welcome addition to Newport is *Crossroads Beverage*. Located at 66 Main Street, next door to RiteAid, this business features an impressive selection of both beers and wines as well as breads, cheeses, meats, and a large selection of olive oils. Free wine tastings are featured on the third Friday of every month and Crossroads Beverage will also feature occasional wine dinners in conjunction with a local restaurant. For more information, see the store's website at <http://www.crossroadsbeverage.com/page/2-750/crossroadshome>.

The Front Porch Restaurant has new owners and has morphed into *Headed North*, a restaurant and lounge. Also new to town is *Joe's Furniture Warehouse*, located in the industrial park on Route 2 east of town.

Out on Route 7, near the site of the old miniature golf course, will soon be a large RV, trailer, and campsite park. This lakeside Greg Lovley project will be a full-service RV park with first-class amenities, including high-speed internet.

Other changes around town include some businesses moving to new locations. *Bubba's Food Service Equipment* has moved closer into town and is now located at 192 Elm Street. Word has it that *Aubuchons* will be moving in December into its new (and significantly larger) building, directly across the street from its old location.

The Doghouse Drive in is now up for sale or lease and the Burger King in the Triangle is undergoing a



2014 Annual Loon Count
For Sebasticook Lake: 8 Loons

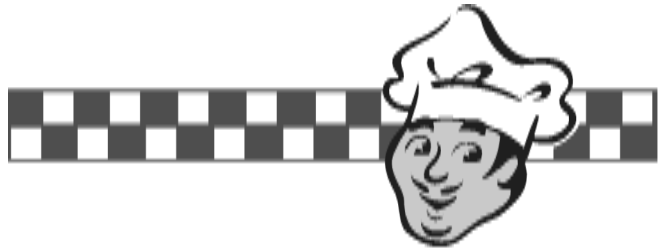
LOON COUNT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
For Maplewood, Outer Grove St.,
Camp Benson, and "Boy Scout Land"
Please Contact Darcy Parlee

"The call of the Common Loon is one of the wildest and most striking of all the wilderness sounds, a strange, sad, mournful, unearthly cry, half laughing, half wailing."

John Muir

Cooks Corner

OLD-FASHIONED PEANUT BUTTER COOKIES



INGREDIENTS

1/2 Cup Peanut Butter
2 Tablespoons Brown Sugar
1 Tablespoon Flour
1 Tablespoon Beaten Egg

1. Preheat oven to 325 degrees
2. Mix all ingredients well
3. Divide in half, roll into balls
4. Place on baking sheet, flatten with fork to make traditional peanut butter cookie "stripes"
5. Bake until lightly browned. Cool on baking sheet for 10 minutes. Eat.

Sebasticook Lake In State Cyanobacteria Study

Sebasticook Lake is one of several lakes in central Maine that is being studied on a bi-weekly basis during August-October as part of a New England US-EPA cyanobacteria study. *Cyanotoxins* are toxins produced by bacteria called cyanobacteria (also known as blue-green algae). Cyanobacteria are found almost everywhere, but particularly in lakes and in the ocean where, under certain conditions, they reproduce exponentially to form blooms. Blooming cyanobacteria can produce Cyanotoxins in such concentrations that they poison and even kill animals and humans. Cyanotoxins can also accumulate in other animals such as fish and shellfish, and cause poisonings such as shellfish poisoning. It is important to note that *no instances of blue-green algae have been reported in Sebasticook Lake this year.*

Linda Bacon, Lake Assessment Section Leader, Bureau of Land & Water Quality, Maine Department of Environmental Protection, was contacted for more information and she stated "Sebasticook Lake has been visited four times by Maine DEP staff since mid-August.

In addition to the routine parameters collected, DEP staff collected samples which will be analyzed for Cyanotoxins as part of a Central Maine study to evaluate risk to humans and pets. Results will be shared when available."

Maine DACF To Takeover Lake Buoys

The Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry (DACF) has notified the Lake Association that the DACF will assume care and maintenance of the Sebasticook Lake buoy system, effective this past September. The plan is to leave our current system of markers in year-round until they get worn out and then to replace with the department's own buoys.

In a letter send to Buoy Committee chairperson Dick Stone, Tim Thurston, Navigational Aids Supervisor thanked Dick and his entire committee for their years of work maintaining the Sebasticook buoy system.

I want to thank you, your assistants, and your organization for the waterway marking efforts taken on by the Lake Association over the years. Nobody knows better than me what a dirty, nasty, and hazardous job that marking hazards in a lake can be. You and your organization should be proud of itself for taking the initiative and doing what was best for the users of the lake. We recognize that this is difficult work and although it is impossible to track, I'm sure that property damage (and possibly someone's life) has been spared through the Lake Association's efforts. I am glad that we are able to take this burden off your shoulders, so that the organization can concentrate its efforts and limited resources in another direction.

*Sincerely,
Tim Thurston, Navigational Aids Supervisor,
Maine DACF*

JIM RICKER, TOWN MANAGER ON THE DAM GATE DAMAGE AND REPAIR

During our annual drawdown this year, we noticed that the bottom of the stainless steel gate appeared to be broken on the east side. Further examination revealed that the entire base of the gate is damaged and has several breaks. The gate manufacturer was called and upon their examination concluded that ice had formed on the lower section between the louvers, expanded and caused the damage. Currently there is a difference of opinion as to what actually may have been the cause and we are talking with other engineering firms for an opinion.

The town is making arrangements to have the gate lifted out of the slides and taken off-site for repairs. The actual repair will not be that costly, the crane and rigging will be the real cost. We are hopeful to have everything completed this year, however repairs will be contingent on what the engineers determined caused the damage. This information is crucial to prevent a re-occurrence. (Haven't I said that before?!)

Jim Ricker, Town Manager



Sebasticook Lake Association

www.sebasticooklakeassociation.org

Membership Form

Name _____
Address (Summer) _____
Address (Winter) _____
Telephone (Summer / Winter) _____
E-Mail Address _____

Please check if this is an address change

Dues for July 2015—July 2016:
Regular \$10.00 Associate \$8.00

Make Checks Payable To:
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The Villages FL 32163

FALL 2014 ISSUE

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