

Navigation Information

The Fulton Chain of Lakes

The Story of Our Lake Waters

The Fulton 'Chain of Lakes' is part of a river system originally dammed at Old Forge in about 1798. Water flowing through the Fulton Chain starting at Eighth Lake enters the Middle Branch of the Moose River at the Old Forge Dam. The North Branch of the Moose River joins the Middle Branch below the dam. The river then flows past the town of Lyons Falls to the Black River, northwest to Carthage, then on to Watertown, and finally into the Black River Bay on Lake Ontario.

The present dam at Old Forge holds back 6.8 billion gallons of water. This reservoir is managed by the HR-BR Regulating District. In the late 1800's, the State Water Power Commissioner made an agreement with Fulton Chain cottage owners and recreational users to maintain the water level during the summer season, an agreement still in effect.

The lower Fulton Chain starts at Old Forge Pond, travels the 1 mile channel or "Narrows" to First Lake then to Second and Third, through a channel to Fourth Lake then 7 miles to the towns of Eagle Bay and Inlet - a 14 mile trip.

The Chain continues through to Fifth Lake, from there one must portage their boat to Sixth and Seventh Lakes, which are navigable from one to the other. Eighth Lake is accessible once again by portage only.

Please, as you use the lakes, be respectful of the environment and help us continue to keep our waters clean.

We hope you will enjoy these waters and that you will find this region of the Adirondacks a special part of our world.

NYS Law Operating Certificates

New York law requires boaters under 18 years of age either to be accompanied by an adult or, if between 10 and 18, to have obtained a safety certificate from an approved boater's safety course.

Personal Watercraft

Operators of PWC (Personal Watercraft) must operate their vessel in a reasonable and prudent manner. Weaving through traffic, wake jumping and following another vessel closely, shall constitute reckless operation.

To operate a PWC, persons between the ages of 10-14 must have earned a boater safety certificate and **MUST** be accompanied by a person 18 years of age or older who has completed the boater safety course.

In addition to the Chain of Lakes 5 mph speed limit within 200' of the shoreline (Sixth & Seventh Lakes 100'), New York State law requires a speed limit of 10 mph within 500' of any designated bathing area.

Reminder

- All persons while operating personal watercraft **MUST** have a Boater Safety Certificate available for inspection. Our Sheriffs suggest having a copy of the original certificate in a zip lock bag.
- Herkimer County Sheriffs **WILL BE** patrolling the lakes on a regular basis, enforcing all the laws pertaining to watercraft operations.

Noise Level

- 82-86 decibels (noisy vessels are ticketed)

Local Law

Effective Only in Town of Webb

Use or operation of personal watercraft and specialty prop-craft is permitted only between the hours of 9:00 am and 6:00 pm daily.

Alcohol/Drugs Boating While Intoxicated

A new state law has toughened the penalties for boating while intoxicated (BWI) so that they generally parallel those for driving while intoxicated (DWI). Under the new law, boat operators suspected of being drunk would be forced to take a breathalyzer test or face a \$200 fine and suspension of boating privileges for six months. The penalties for conviction vary according to the circumstances but can include one or more of the following:

- Fines
- Imprisonment
- Loss of boating privileges
- Revocation of boat registration
- Enrollment in a boating safety course

New penalties have also been established for those who operate a boat while the privilege has been suspended.

For More Information

For more detailed information on the rules and regulations affecting boating in New York State, to request NYS Boater Guides, or to locate available Boater Safety Courses, you may contact:

**The Marine Service Bureau
Agency Building #1
Empire State Plaza
Albany, New York 12238
(518) 474-0445
www.nysparks.com**

You may also contact the Herkimer or Hamilton County Sheriff's Department for a schedule of their courses.

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*Compliments of
The Fulton Chain of Lakes Association*

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www.fultonchainoflakesassociation.org

Spring 2011



Printed on recycled paper

Life Jackets (PFDs) . . . It's The Law

Every pleasure vessel including canoes, kayaks and row boats operated upon the waters of NYS must have on board one U.S. Coast Guard approved wearable PFD for each person on the vessel. In addition, vessels 16 feet and greater in length must also carry a type IV throwable PFD. All PFD's carried on board your vessel must be serviceable, readily accessible, and of the appropriate size for the wearer. A serviceable PFD must be free of rot, tears, punctures, or water logging. All straps and buckles must be attached and fully functional. Readily accessible means that the PFD must be quickly reachable in an emergency situation.

Youths under 12

Any youth under the age of 12 on boats 65 feet or less in length must wear a securely fastened U.S. Coast Guard approved personal flotation device of appropriate size.

Personal Watercraft Riders

Anyone riding on a personal watercraft must be wearing a securely fastened U.S. Coast Guard approved personal flotation device. Type III jackets with a high impact rating are recommended for this activity.

Persons Being Towed

Anyone towed behind a vessel must wear a securely fastened U.S. Coast Guard approved personal flotation device. This includes being towed on water skis, tubes, sails or similar devices.

From November 1 until May 1

LIFEJACKETS MUST BE WORN BY ALL PERSONS ON ALL Boats <21 feet While Underway Includes Canoes, Kayaks, Rowboats and Motorboats. Commercial Vessels are Exempt.

Sanitation

The Fulton Chain Lakes is protected by law. The water is used for drinking and cooking. It is illegal to:

- Discharge sewage into the lake or adjacent ground.
- Dump garbage or refuse into the lake, its tributaries, or on frozen surfaces.
- Use soap or detergent for any purpose in the lake, on its shores or in its tributaries.
- Discharge holding tanks into the lake!
If you bring it in - take it out with you!
Please do not litter our islands or shorelines.

Courtesy

- Drive at a safe speed.
- Avoid playing loud radios.
- Observe shoreline regulations.

Emergency Numbers

POLICE - FIRE - AMBUANCE

OLD FORGE, INLET & EAGLE BAY

CALL 911

NYS Police (315) 369-3322

Sheriff Hamilton (518) 548-6111

Sheriff Herkimer (315) 867-1167

Safety

- Have a flotation device for each person on board.
- Know location of horn whistle, anchor, and fire extinguisher.
- Use running lights between dusk and dawn.
- Visual distress equipment - State law requires all motorboats, 18 ft. and greater in length, operating on protected (state) waters, to carry a distress flag and three hand held type flares.

Water Skiers & Tubers

Always wear a vest-type life preserver. Must have a spotter in the boat over age 10, when towing a tube, skier or other device.

The Fulton Chain of Lakes Association, Inc.

What is the F.C.L.A.?

The Fulton Chain of Lakes Association is a non-profit organization formed in 1968 by a group of concerned camp owners in response to extremely high levels of pollution in the lakes. Its membership now consists of homeowners, camp owners, campers, tourists, renters, and businesses on or near the Fulton Chain of Lakes.

The objectives and purposes of the organization are to preserve and protect the unique environment of the Fulton Chain of Lakes and surrounding woodlands. Interests of members are considered so that the beauty and natural resources will be kept healthy and desirable.

The goal of pure water through dye testing of septic systems and testing of lake water for bacteria, heads our list. We also work to preserve and protect fish, wildlife, and forests in the area. We promote safe, sensible and fair use of our lakes for navigational purposes.

FCLA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION - Please Print

P.O. Box 564 • Old Forge, NY 13420

I want to help keep the Fulton Chain of Lakes clean, beautiful, and enjoyable

\$10 Basic

\$25 Family

\$35 Sponsor

\$50 Friend of the Lakes

\$100 Patron

Name _____ Spouse _____

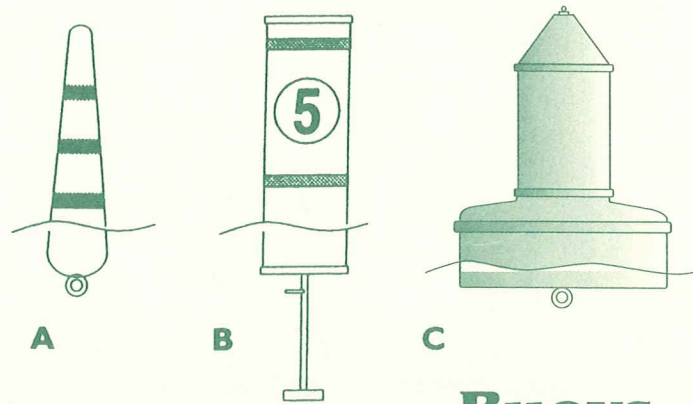
Address _____

Home Telephone _____ Email _____

Fulton Chain 911 Address _____

Local Telephone _____ Camp Sign or I.D. _____

Date _____, 20____ Signature _____



Buoys

A - White w/Orange Stripes - marks HAZARDS - two or more white buoys parallel to shore mark a HAZARD AREA - stay on the LAKE SIDE OF BUOYS.

B - Orange/white - 5 mph areas and/or obstructions - BEWARE.

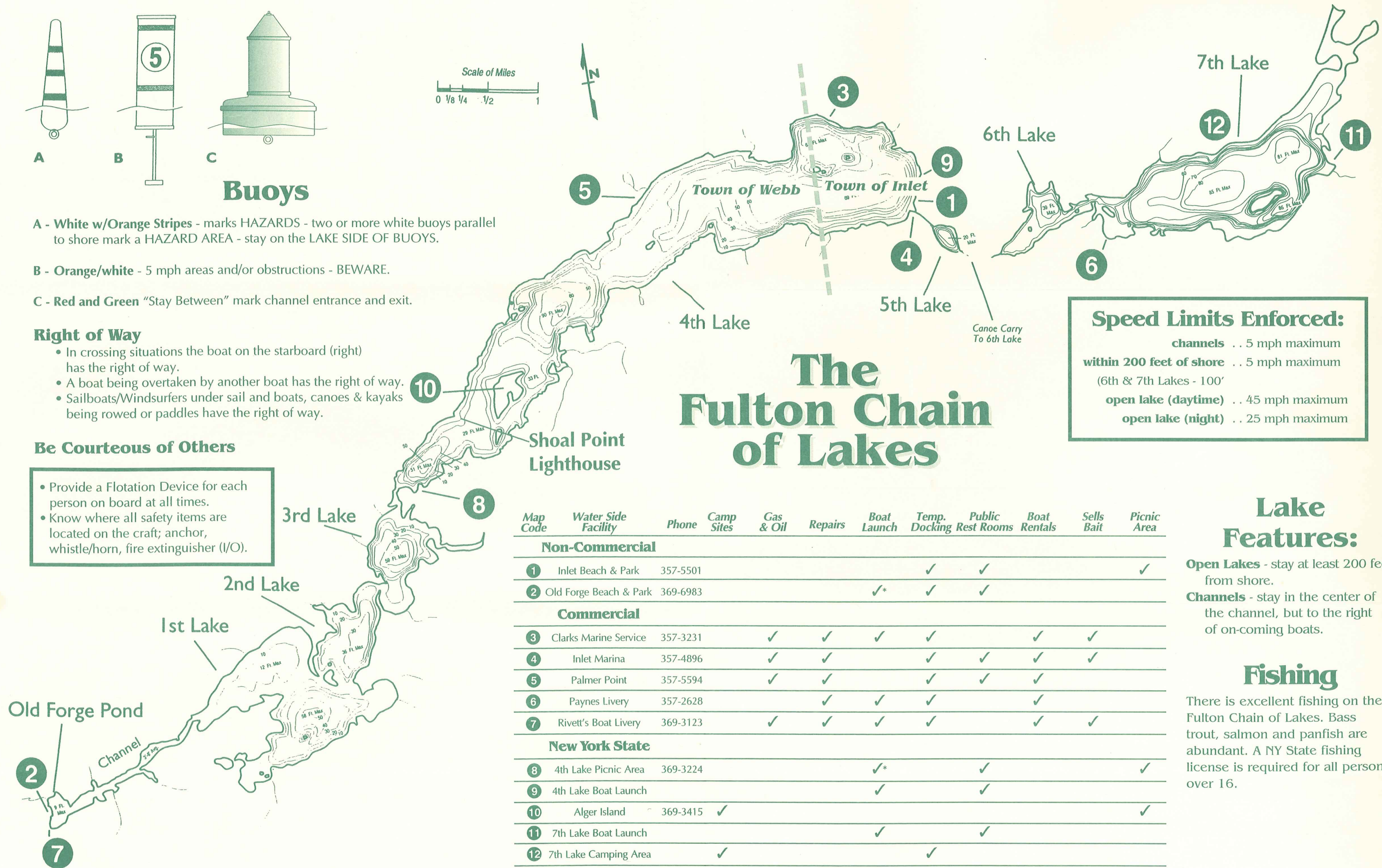
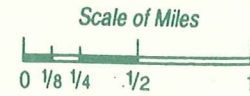
C - Red and Green "Stay Between" mark channel entrance and exit.

Right of Way

- In crossing situations the boat on the starboard (right) has the right of way.
- A boat being overtaken by another boat has the right of way.
- Sailboats/Windsurfers under sail and boats, canoes & kayaks being rowed or paddles have the right of way.

Be Courteous of Others

- Provide a Flotation Device for each person on board at all times.
- Know where all safety items are located on the craft; anchor, whistle/horn, fire extinguisher (I/O).



The Fulton Chain of Lakes

Speed Limits Enforced:

channels . . 5 mph maximum

within 200 feet of shore . . 5 mph maximum
(6th & 7th Lakes - 100')

open lake (daytime) . . 45 mph maximum

open lake (night) . . 25 mph maximum

Map Code	Water Side Facility	Phone	Camp Sites	Gas & Oil	Repairs	Boat Launch	Temp. Docking	Public Rest Rooms	Boat Rentals	Sells Bait	Picnic Area
Non-Commercial											
1	Inlet Beach & Park	357-5501					✓	✓			✓
2	Old Forge Beach & Park	369-6983				✓*	✓	✓			
Commercial											
3	Clarks Marine Service	357-3231		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
4	Inlet Marina	357-4896		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
5	Palmer Point	357-5594		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		
6	Paynes Livery	357-2628			✓	✓	✓		✓		
7	Rivett's Boat Livery	369-3123		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
New York State											
8	4th Lake Picnic Area	369-3224				✓*		✓			✓
9	4th Lake Boat Launch					✓		✓			
10	Alger Island	369-3415	✓								✓
11	7th Lake Boat Launch					✓		✓			
12	7th Lake Camping Area		✓				✓				

* car top only

Lake Features:

Open Lakes - stay at least 200 feet from shore.

Channels - stay in the center of the channel, but to the right of on-coming boats.

Fishing

There is excellent fishing on the Fulton Chain of Lakes. Bass, trout, salmon and panfish are abundant. A NY State fishing license is required for all persons over 16.