

Mollyockett Day Duck Race



The 16th Great Duck Race, a Mollyockett Day classic, drew a crowd of about 250 people to Artist Bridge on Saturday, July 18, 2009. The river was at its seasonal normal level and warm enough for at least the natives to wade in for handling race set up, duck launch and duck collection. Sunshine even made the afternoon feel like real summer on vacation. Racing ducks hit the water nearly on time slightly after 5:30 PM. As volunteers collected the ducks, the judges, Robin Zinchuk and Sue Driscoll, sequestered themselves to figure out who won. Thirty prizes in all were handed out.

In 1994, the 4th of July fell on a weekend and a special program of events was organized by the chamber of commerce to celebrate the 4th including traditional fireworks, usually part of the annual Mollyockett Day event. George Driscoll who was head of group sales at Sunday River Resort had the idea of a duck race. It would be held at Artist Bridge, the covered bridge over Sunday River.

As it turned out the 2009 Great Duck Race was the last one. Photos that follow record stages of the annual Great Duck Race.

Bethel Maine History – Annual Events – The Duck Race



Robin Zinchuk and Steve Wight ready the “ducks” for launching into the river just above the bridge.



Reconnoitering the upstream launch area below covered bridge

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Ducks away.... The race begins



Go ducks, Go

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The crowd cheers the ducks on down stream



Sunday River resident emeritus Alan Fleet heads out to retrieve ducks

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Race is over. Crowd waits to hear results.