

## **INDIAN LAKE (NY) WEATHER**

In 1900, long before talk of “climate change,” or, per recent presidential re-branding, “climate disruption,” high & low temps started being tracked by Indian Lake Dam keepers. They're still at it, and their findings may surprise: Hottest-ever at our Dam – to this day free of Urban Heat Island asphalt, cars, heat ducts & tall buildings – was way back in 1911, not the 1990's, let alone more recently.

All that water in our lake (March 1913 peak: 43.2 *billion* gallons/167.4 *B* liters; Feb. 1948 low: 1.5 *B* gal./5.8 *B* lit.) *greatly moderates* nearby air temperature. Hot days naturally get hotter far from shore. On clear, windless nights lake-warmed air stays put, while the air chills out in sheltered valleys away from the lake. The same moderating effect is at work in winter: Water warmth filters up (“sublimates”) even through ice.

Point is, you're in the mountains, on a ball of dirt called Earth unevenly warmed by the rather petite star it keeps circling. What goes 'round, comes 'round, so, as you venture afield, in whatever season you're visiting us, be ready for encores of the “disruption” our star-performer months have staged. Illustrative highlights for these “Fab Five” are next, then their day-by-day readings.

### **January 1994**

A ho-hum opener, then two days of mini-thaw, gave way to one of the most relentless & extreme North Country assaults our Dam and guests have ever braved: 23 mornings at **0F/-18C** or lower, 2 days entirely below zero F plus two consecutive **-35F/-37C** marks, counterpointed in less than 24 hours by a staggering 78F/43C slingshot up to **43F/+6C**.

### **February 1979**

At Camp Driftwood, Jon Voorhees notched a tad under -50F/-45.6C (not “wind-chill”), paralleling the **-52F/-46.7C** with which Old Forge (western Adirondacks) tied the NY State all-time low, first set February 1934 at Stillwater Reservoir (near Old Forge). The frozen battery wouldn't let Jon start his car, so, hands aching, he extracted the battery, hauled it down to the office and thawed it out. Hours later, sure of triumph at last, he painfully put it back in and did start the car...only to discover the transmission oil was frozen so hard, the gears refused to engage. Game over: Nature wins again.

### **July 1962**

Back then, soon after the Voorhees Family had taken over Camp Driftwood, cabins still were primitive: no hot water, no showers, no central shower, toilet access from back porches. Week-long a.m. 30's at the Dam, starting with **32F/0C [20's/-2 to -6** in the usual-suspect valleys], drove one disgruntled camper to coin a new Driftwood motto: “Dirty people freezing!”

### **July 1911**

Soaring from **42F/5.6C** to **89/31.6**, day one signaled history aborning. **Four 100F/37.8C-or-more** scorchers followed, including our Dam's **highest-ever-recorded 103F/39.4C**. Extreme stayed the theme: Lake-side lows crashed to low 40's (near +5C) in week #3 and **38F/3.3C** on the 27th, with Big Brook & Cedar River valleys hitting **33F/0.6C to 29/-1**, then rebounding to 95F/35C at month's end.

### **February 1908**

This roller-coaster soon plunged to **-42F/-41.1C**, **lowest ever recorded** at the Dam, rocketed **77°** in under 24 hours to **35F/+1.6C**, plummeted within a day back to **-22F/-30C**, soared in 24 hours back up to **35F**, racked up more thaw highs for the whole week following, stayed above freezing *all day* the 15th and even vaulted to **48F/8.9C** that afternoon...only to crater again, to **-23F/-30.6C**.

Following are day-by-day readings for the stand-out months just summarized:

<b>January 1994</b>			<b>February 1979</b>				<b>July 1962</b>		<b>July 1911</b>		<b>February 1908</b>		
Indian Lake			Indian Lake		Old Forge		Indian Lake		Indian Lake		Indian Lake		
1/1	24	6	2/1	9	1	8	-5	<b>83</b>	52	<b>89</b>	42	25	-10
1/2	<b>33</b>	22	2/2	11	1	15	-16	73	<b>32</b>	<b>100</b>	61	24	-3
1/3	<b>33</b>	-4	2/3	19	-13	20	-25	72	<b>33</b>	<b>103</b>	59	13	-6
1/4	15	-4	2/4	22	-7	10	-5	77	<b>33</b>	<b>102</b>	61	10	-20
1/5	20	2	2/5	11	-9	6	-17	75	<b>36</b>	<b>102</b>	51	8	<b>-42</b>
1/6	16	-20	2/6	8	-14	22	-24	71	<b>34</b>	<b>95</b>	65	35	4
1/7	16	-20	2/7	17	-10	18	4	75	<b>35</b>	86	55	23	5
1/8	11	0	2/8	18	-9	4	-16	79	40	85	<b>40</b>	7	-11

1/9	6	-10	2/9	6	-25	-10	-45	87	45	99	62	5	-13
1/10	10	-12	2/10	0	-25	-10	-45	75	49	96	60	33	-22
1/11	29	8	2/11	0	-34	8	-47	72	44	91	69	35	5
1/12	29	8	2/12	8	-34	0	-38	75	47	83	58	37	-11
1/13	32	21	2/13	1	-19	-1	-48	75	54	80	46	35	22
1/14	26	15	2/14	1	-18	11	-24	74	42	81	40	42	32
1/15	-4	28	2/15	11	-15	12	-10	79	45	82	42	48	34
1/16	1	24	2/16	12	-21	-10	-28	74	45	84	44	45	16
1/17	22	0	2/17	-2	-36	16	-52	76	45	72	57	23	3
1/18	8	15	2/18	14	-25	26	-14	73	52	75	54	19	-4
1/19	-2	23	2/19	28	-9	30	8	75	46	80	40	25	-3
1/20	6	-23	2/20	38	-4	40	5	74	39	76	58	21	10
1/21	14	-3	2/21	43	18	32	25	79	41	80	44	25	-2
1/22	16	-15	2/22	32	6	40	16	75	47	78	40	24	10
1/23	32	8	2/23	33	9	41	30	70	46	77	42	17	-23
1/24	31	-4	2/24	42	26	43	26	65	46	79	51	25	-21
1/25	16	-6	2/25	41	27	36	25	78	43	65	49	29	-17
1/26	6	-35	2/26	30	25	29	18	69	48	70	44	35	19
1/27	30	-35	2/27	33	12	43	5	63	48	76	38	35	6
1/28	43	23	2/28	45	16	47	18	71	49	78	45	29	5
1/29	25	-6						7/29	73	80	54		
1/30	15	-14						7/30	78	81	58		
1/31	14	-14						7/31	78	95	46		