

CLOSE TO PUTIN

Ozero (Lake) dacha cooperative is the most famous microgroup related to Vladimir Putin. This year it is going to celebrate its twenty-year anniversary. Dacha consumer cooperative "Ozero" (Lake) was registered on November 11, 1996 by Priozersk division of the Leningrad region Register Chamber.

The lake in question is Komsomolskoye Lake in Karelia, named after Komsomol, the mass youth organization in the Soviet Union, which was wholly controlled by the Communist party. Till 1948 its name was Kiimajärvi (Finnish Karelia was ceded to the Soviet Union following the Winter War of 1939-1940). It is fed by the river Pionerka (Pikojoki in Finnish), the name meaning a female member of the Soviet schoolchildren organization. Konnitsanjoki, now the Gay (Veselaya) river flows from the lake. The plot belonging to Lake cooperative is fenced, preventing access to the shoreline in violation of Russia's law.

Article 6. Public water bodies

1. State- or municipality-owned surface water bodies are public water bodies, i.e. publicly accessible water bodies, except as otherwise provided in this Code.

2. Every person has the right of access to public water bodies and can use them free of charge for personal and domestic needs, except as otherwise provided in this Code and other federal laws.

6. The strip of land along the shoreline of a public water body (shoreline strip) is for public use. The width of shoreline strips of public water bodies is twenty meters except for shoreline strips of canals as well as rivers and streams which are not longer than 10 kilometers measured from the outlet to the mouth. The width of shoreline strips of canals as well as rivers and streams which are not longer than 10 kilometers measured from the outlet to the mouth is five meters.

8. Every person has the right to use (without any motor vehicles) the shoreline strip of public water bodies for moving along or staying at such water bodies, including for amateur or sport fishing and mooring watercraft.

OZERO COOPERATIVE

The chairman of Lake dacha cooperative was Vladimir Smirnov.

Other **founding members** were (in order set in the registration papers):

- Smirnov Vladimir Alekseyevich
- Shamalov Nikolay Terentyevich
- Putin Vladimir Vladimirovich
- Yakunin Vladimir Ivanovich
- Kovalchuk Yury Valentinovich
- Myachin Viktor Yevgenyevich
- Fursenko Sergei Aleksandrovich
- Fursenko Andrey Aleksandrovich

Полное_наименование: Дачный потребительский кооператив Озеро
Краткое_наименование: ОЗЕРО ДАЧНЫЙ ПОТРЕБИТЕЛЬСКИЙ КООП. ПО
Юридический_адрес: 643,188750,РОССИЯ,Ленинградская обл,Приозерский
р-н,Соловьевка п,
Фактический_адрес: 643,188760,РОССИЯ,Ленинградская обл,Приозерск
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Регистрационный_номер: 03901
Дата_регистрации: 10.11.96
Дата_актуализации: 27.03.97
Место_регистрации: Приозерское территориальное отделение ЛОРП
Орг_правовая_форма: ПОТРЕБИТЕЛЬСКИЕ ОБЩЕСТВА
Форма_собственности: ЧАСТНАЯ СОБСТВЕННОСТЬ
Окпо: 43501451
ИНН: 4712013920
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СООГУ: 7734

Руководитель: Смирнов Владимир Алексеевич
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Фамилия_физ_лица: Ковальчук Юрий Валентинович

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Счета:

Номер_счета: 180461008

Банк: ЛЕНИНГРАДСКИЙ ОБЛАСТНОЙ БАНК СБ РФ

Тип_счета: Расчетный счет

Дата_открытия: 02.04.97

Twenty Years of Lake

Name	Born	Education	Occupation in 1996-1997	Occupation now	Earnings / fortune (from publicly available sources)
Yury Kovalchuk	1951	Physics at the Leningrad University (PhD)	Main shareholder of Rossiya (the name means Russia), a small regional bank honorary consul of Thailand in St. Petersburg	Main shareholder of Rossiya/Russia Bank, one of the top 20 Russia's banks, via ABR Management Ltd, owner of the National Media Group, one of the leading media holdings in Russia	\$ 650 million (2015, Forbes)
Viktor Myachin	1961	Leningrad Electrotechnical Institute	Chairman of the Board of Rossiya Bank, CEO of Abros, its investment company	Co-owner of NZL Development plc (real estate and hotels in St. Petersburg)	1.65 bn rubles (2015, Delovoy Peterburg, a St. Petersburg business paper)
Vladimir Smirnov	1957	Leningrad Aeronautical Engineering Institute	CEO of Russia-German joint venture Inform-Future and Znamenskaya ltd, both subsidiaries of the German SPAG holding, CEO of the St. Petersburg Fuel Company (Vladimir Barsukov-Kumarin, the leader of the Tambov organized crime group, was one of his deputies)	Till May 2015 – member of the Board of NK-bank; before that – CEO of Techsnabexport, Russia's exporter of uranium and uranium enrichment services, wholly owned by Russia's Rosatom, state nuclear energy corporation	No data

Vladimir Putin	1952	Law at the Leningrad University	After his patron, St. Petersburg's mayor Anatoly Sobchak, lost election on June 19, 1996, Putin was a deputy of Pavel Borodin, the head of the Kremlin's property department, till March 27, 1997. Before that – first vice mayor of St. Petersburg	Russia's president since 2000 (in 2008-2012 the president's seat was formally occupied by his junior associate Dmitry Medvedev)	Official earnings in 2014 – 7,654,042 rubles
Andrey Fursenko	1949	Math at the Leningrad University (PhD)	CEO of the Regional Foundation for Scientific and Technical Development	Assistant to Russia's president, before that – minister of education and science	Official earnings in 2014 – 12,300,958 rubles
Sergey Fursenko	1954	Leningrad Polytechnic Institute	CEO of TEMP, a small business in St. Petersburg	Chairman of the Board of Gazprom-Gaz Fuel, a Gazprom subsidiary, since 2013 – member of the Board of Gazpromneft, CEO of Kamenny Ostrov, a luxury housing coop in St. Petersburg	No data
Nikolay Shamalov	1950	Dentistry	He was a Siemens salesman, supplying medical equipment to St. Petersburg dental clinics	Owns more than 10 percent of Rossiya/Russia Bank via ABR Management	173 bn rubles (2015, Delovoy Peterburg, a St. Petersburg business paper)
Vladimir Yakunin	1948	Leningrad Mechanics Institute	Member of the Board of Rossiya bank, a small regional bank	Before August of 2015 – CEO of Russia's Railroads Chairman of the board of trustees of the Center for the National Glory of Russia and of the St. Andrew Foundation	Official earnings— \$2.4 million (2014)

Yury Kovalchuk's brother Mikhail is the president of Kurchatov Institute of Atomic Energy. He was a driver for setting up Rosnano state corporation.

The Regional Foundation for Scientific and Technical Development where **Andrey Fursenko** was the CEO had been co-founded by the St.Petersburg administration represented by its committee for managing the city property (the chair of this committee was deputy mayor Mikhail Manevich murdered on August 18, 1997), the state Foundation for Furthering Development of Small Businesses in R&D, the Foundation for Regional Development of St. Petersburg, Bank Rossiya, Association Russian House of International R&D cooperation, Svetlana plant (a Soviet manufacturer of electronic components) and Granit (a Soviet R&D center).

Rudolf Ritter, a co-founder of SPAG and a brother to former vice prime minister of Liechtenstein, was arrested in May 2000 on charges of money laundering and links to organized crime (however, he was acquitted on both counts and convicted only of petty fraud – he embezzled funds totaling 300,000 Swiss francs).

Sergei Fursenko was the president of the Russian Football Union and UEFA Executive Committee in 2011-2015.

Lake, meaning the dacha cooperative with wooden dachas and all, is still alive and kicking, but its original founders mostly left. From its founding fathers only **Vladimir Smirnov**, **Nikolay Shamalov** and **Vladimir Yakunin** remain.



AB RUSSIA

Most members of Lake have been somehow related to dealings of a bank named Rossiya/Russia (it is also known as ABR, AKB Russia, AB Russia and even as Russia Bank - not to be confused with the Bank of Russia, Russia's Central Bank).

The present AB Russia is a descendant from a mutual commercial bank Russia established in 1990 with the participation of the Leningrad regional executive committee of the Communist party, or obkom (St. Petersburg was renamed Leningrad, after Lenin, first head of the Soviet state, in 1924 and reverted to its old name in 1991). Its first CEO was Arkady Krutikhin, chief of the staff at the Leningrad obkom. After the attempted coup against Soviet president Mikhail Gorbachev failed in August of 1991, this Communist party bank was transformed into AKB Russia due to assistance from the reformist Leningrad/St. Petersburg mayor Anatoly Sobchak. AKB Russia was registered on December 29, 1991.

РГАНИ, фонд 89, пер. 5, док. 15.

Рассекречено.

Секретно.

Постановление Секретариата ЦК КПСС № Ст-21/34 г от 6 апреля 1991 года.

О просьбе Ленинградского обкома партии.

Разрешить Управлению делами ЦК КПСС выделить Ленинградскому обкому партии из страхового фонда КПСС 50 млн. рублей сроком на два года для внесения на депозит коммерческого банка «Россия» с выплатой шести процентов годовых.

Зам Генерального секретаря ЦК КПСС.

(from the site Gaidar's Archives; Yegor Gaidar, a Russian reformer, was the architect of Russian market reforms in 1990s)

This note, dated April 6, 1991, says that the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee approves the allocation of 50 million rubles from "the party insurance fund" to the mutual bank Russia.

In 1996 capital of AB Russia amounted to 11,184,267 thousand old rubles (1000 old rubles became 1 new ruble in 1998); for comparison, Sberbank's capital at the moment – Sber was then, as it is now, the top Russian Bank – amounted to 6,099,889,000 thousand old rubles. It was a small regional bank; with assets totaling 22,389,289 it was nowhere near the top 100.

As of January 1, 2016, capital of AB Russia amounted to 547,311,800 rubles and with assets totaling 510,275,762 thousand rubles it was 16th bank in Russia.

Shareholders of Russia the bank

	2007	2016 (February)
Yury Kovalchuk (Lake)	23.878%	39.685%
NP PPI, owned by Yury Kovalchuk and his wife Tatiana	2.421%	2.495%
Nikolay Shamalov (Lake)	9.8886%	10.247%
Sergey Roldugin (the cellist)	3.109%	3.223%
LLC Transoil-CIS (Gennady Timchenko)	7.492%	10.421%
LLC Aktzept (Mikhail Shelomov)	3.0845%	6.133%
LLC Platinum (Mikhail Shelomov)		2.271%
LLC Oberon Estate (Ivan Mironov)		6.001%
Severgroup (Alexey Mordashov)	5.619%	5.825%
LLC Overpas Invest (Tatiana Svitova)		5.358
LLC Relax (Svetlana Krivonogikh)	2.865%	2.950%
Dmitry Gorelov	9.886%	
Andrey Katkov	2.480%	
Yevgeny Malov	2.480%	
Affiliates of Mezhrefiongaz, a Gazprom subsidiary which supplies natural gas to consumers in the Russian Federation	Gazpromregiongaz plc – 11.529 % LLC Peterburgregiogaz – 2.129 % LLC Gazprom Mezhrefiongaz – 0.014%	LLC Gazprom investgazifikatsiya – 1.144% LLC Gazprom Mezhrefiongaz Belgorod – 2.207%

According to official data as of February 2016, **Gennady Timchenko** was a Finnish citizen residing in Switzerland. In 2014 Timchenko was worth \$15.3 billion.

Sergey Roldugin is the godfather to Maria, Putin's elder daughter. He is a well-known cellist and presides over the St. Petersburg House of Music. His brother Yevgeny has been Gazprom's representative in Riga, Latvia.

Mikhail Shelomov's mother was Liubov Shelomova, a cousin of Putin.

Ivan Mironov has a stepbrother Kirill Seleznirov who sits on Gazprom's Board as well as on the Board of AB Russia. Kirill's father Gennady Seleznirov (1947-2015) was the speaker of the State Duma, Russia's lower house, from 1996 to 2003.

Svetlana Krivonogikh owns Leningrad Center in St. Petersburg. The venue, earlier used as a movie theater, was renovated by Ricardo Bofill in 2015.

Tatiana Svitova's mother Yelena was a vice president of Gazenergoprombank. The bank has been servicing gas suppliers within Russia. It was bought by Yury Kovalchuk and merged into AB Russia.

Dmitry Gorelov, president of Petromed holding, has been member of the Board of AB Russia till 2012. He was a business partner of Shamalov (Lake) in UK Modul, a St. Petersburg-based company.

Andrey Katkov chaired the Board of AB Russia in 1998-2004. He and Gennady Timchenko were business partners in Kinex, an oil trading company. Now he co-owns Sillamae Sadam AS (Sillamae Port) in Estonia.

Yevgeny Malov was another business partner of Timchenko in Kinex. He co-owns Andersen Hotel in St. Petersburg with **Viktor Myachin** (Lake). He co-owns Sillamae Sadam AS (Sillamae Port) with Katkov and Tiit Vahi, head of the Silmet Group and a former Estonia prime minister.



On June 23, 1998, in St. Petersburg, two AB Russia shareholders, Gennady Timchenko and Andrey Katkov founded a foundation under the name Sports Judo Club Yawara-Neva. Arkady Rotenberg, who was once a judo sparring partner of Putin's, became its director general. Vladimir Putin is, of course, the club's honorary president.

St. Petersburg Judoka: Then and Now

Name	In the end of XX century	In XXI century
Vladimir Putin , who was taught judo by St. Petersburg coach Anatoly Rakhlin	till 1996 he advised St. Petersburg mayor Anatoly Sobchak on foreign relations, then he became his deputy and chaired St. Petersburg government's foreign relations (that meant foreign investment) committee	Everybody knows
Arkady Rotenberg , who was taught judo by St. Petersburg coach Anatoly Rakhlin	Sova (Owl) co-operative, Shield, a small bodyguard company	In 2014 he was worth more than \$4 billion (main assets – SMP-bank, Stroygazmontazh, Mostotrest)
Boris Rotenberg , Arkady's brother who is six years his junior	a judo coach in Helsinki (Finland)	His elder brother's junior partner, in 2014 he was worth more than \$1.5 billion.
Vasily Shestakov , who was taught judo by St. Petersburg coach Anatoly Rakhlin	Antey, a small bodyguard company	An MP for the ruling United Russia party
Anatoly Turchak , who was a judo sparring partner of Putin's	Director general of Leninets, a dying defense plant named after Vladimir Lenin, the father of the dead and buried Soviet Union	Main owner of Leninets holding, in 2015 he was worth 12 billion rubles, according to Delovoy Peterburg, a local business paper

Time flies and twenty years passed away since 1996. Members of Lake and their business partners have raised successful daughters and sons. Some of these children fell in love and married each other. Many are now following in their fathers' footsteps.

Lake: Generation Next

Name	Born	Family Connections	Achievements
Kirill Kovalchuk	1968	Son of Mikhail Kovalchuk, nephew of Yury Kovalchuk (Lake)	President of the National Media Group, a media holding belonging to Kovalchuk family
Boris Kovalchuk	1977	Son of Yury Kovalchuk (Lake), nephew of Mikhail Kovalchuk	CEO of Inter RAO UES, an energy holding, before that – deputy CEO of Rosatom, Russia's state-owned nuclear corporation
Igor Rotenberg	1973	Son of Arkady Rotenberg, nephew of Boris Rotenberg	His father gave him \$500 million in 2014. Besides, he is chairman of the Board of Mosenergo, the largest Russian power generating company, and owns 50% in RTAS, the operator of Platon Road Toll Collection System introduced in 2015, protests of truck drivers and transportation companies notwithstanding.
Roman Rotenberg	1981	Son of Boris Rotenberg, nephew of Arkady Rotenberg	Vice President of SKA Ice Hockey Club (Gennady Timchenko is its president). His father and uncle gave him their shares in Hartwall Arena, a multifunctional indoor arena in Helsinki, in 2014.
Katerina Tikhonova	1986	Daughter of Vladimir Putin	Head of the Center for National Intellectual Reserve of the Moscow State University, director of the National Intellectual Development Foundation. Married to Kirill Shamalov, son of Nikolay Shamalov (Lake)

Boris Turchak	1971	Son of Anatoly Turchak	CEO of Leninets holding company
Andrey Turchak	1975	Son of Anatoly Turchak	He has been governor of Pskov Region of Russia since 2009.
Maria Faassen	1985	Daughter of Vladimir Putin	She works at the Scientific Center of Endocrinology, a clinic under Russia's Health Ministry. Married to Dutch citizen Joost Jorrit Faassen, who used to work at Gazprom.
Ksenia Frank	1985	Daughter of Gennady Timchenko	She sits on the Board of Transoil, one of her family's companies. Married to Gleb Frank, who co-owns Russian Aquaculture, one of the leading companies in Russia's fish market, with Maksim Vorobyev, brother of the Moscow region governor Andrey Vorobyev, and chair the Board of Sroytransgaz, another company owned by the Timchenko family. Gleb's father Sergey Frank used to be Russia's transportation minister; now he is CEO of Sovkomflot, the state-owned maritime shipping company.
Yury Shamalov	1970	Son of Nikolay Shamalov (Lake)	President of Gazfond, the largest Russian pension fund
Kirill Shamalov	1982	Son of Nikolay Shamalov (Lake)	Shareholder in Sibur holding, in 2015 he was worth \$1.2 billion. Married to Putin's daughter Katerina
Ilya Shestakov	1978	Son of Vasily Shestakov	Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Head of the Federal Agency for Fishery
Andrey Yakunin	1975	Son of Vladimir Yakunin (Lake)	Co-owns a British investment company Venture Investments & Yield Management (VIYM).
Viktor Yakunin	1978	Son of Vladimir Yakunin (Lake)	Used to work for Timchenko's Gunvor and for his elder brother's company VIYM where he was the head of infrastructural investment department.

Prosperity of Lake members, their friends and relations has been slightly marred by personal sanctions imposed on some of them in 2014.

Some entities controlled by members of Lake, for instance, AB Russia, SMP-Bank, Stroygazmontazh and Transoil were hit by sanctions. In their trouble they were relieved by the government contractors. For instance, according to Forbes Russia, in 2015 Rotenbergs' Stroygazmontazh got 426 billion rubles in the government contracts, without tender.

Brotherhood of the Lake and Sanctions

Name	EUC	The US
Dmitry Gorelov	ok	ok
Andrey Katkov	ok	ok
Boris Kovalchuk	ok	ok
Kirill Kovalchuk	ok	ok
Mikhail Kovalchuk	ok	ok
Tatiana Kovalchuk	ok	ok
Yury Kovalchuk	no way	no way
Svetlana Krivonogikh	ok	ok
Evgeny Malov	ok	ok
Ivan Mironov	ok	ok
Alexey Mordashov	ok	ok
Viktor Myachin	ok	ok
Vladimir Putin	ok	ok
Sergey Roldugin	ok	ok
Arkady Rotenberg	no way	no way
Igor Rotenberg	ok	ok
Boris Rotenberg	ok	no way
Roman Rotenberg	ok	no way
Tatiana Svitova	ok	ok
Vladimir Smirnov	ok	ok
Gennady Timchenko	ok	no way
Katerina Tikhonova	ok	ok
Anatoly Turchak	ok	ok
Andrey Turchak	ok	ok
Boris Turchak	ok	ok
Maria Faassen	ok	ok
Gleb Frank	ok	ok
Ksenia Frank	ok	ok
Andrey Fursenko	ok	no way
Sergey Fursenko	ok	ok
Kirill Shamalov	ok	ok
Nikolay Shamalov	no way	ok
Yury Shamalov	ok	ok
Mikhail Shelomov	ok	ok
Vasily Shestakov	ok	ok
Ilia Shestakov	ok	ok
Andrey Yakunin	ok	ok
Viktor Yakunin	ok	ok
Vladimir Yakunin	ok	no way

In twenty years Lake cooperative had expanded and turned into a huge financial and industrial empire. Its founders did not parted ways. They established a mighty network consisting of public officers, prominent billionaires as well as of persons hidden for now from public eye. Most prominent persons within this network, besides Vladimir Putin, are ultra rich Gennady Timchenko, the Rotenberg family, Yury Kovalchuk and Kirill Shamalov. They feed upon the state sector of the national economy, the government contracts and deals involving assets from the state-controlled corporations. Links of Lake people with state corporations such as Gazprom, Rosatom and Russian Railways are obvious. Still, there are plenty of more secretive persons and of less clear links.

READ MORE IN A BOOK
BY VLADIMIR PRIBYLOVSKY
'CLOSE TO PUTIN'
(in Russian)

<http://scilla.ru/works/knigi/vokrug.pdf>