



# LAKE LINES

[www.LMRA.info](http://www.LMRA.info)

SEPT. 2011

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings LMRA members and friends. I trust that you have had a pleasant summer and had many opportunities to enjoy our beautiful lake. Those several cool days in August were just a sample of the beautiful fall season that is approaching. There is still time to get your boat out and spend some time just wandering and taking advantage of the pristine nature of Lake Martin and the surrounding environment. Yes, Lake Martin is almost back to its pristine state that we have come to expect prior to the April 27th tornado. After two months of hard work by many individuals and agencies, the lake was certified as "clean" on July 27th by the Governor's office. LMRA has its regular cleanup date set for October 7th and 8th to finish picking up anything that was missed. See related article. Many of you have already heard by now that Alabama Power Co (APCO) filed its final license application (FLA) for the operation of Martin Dam on June 8th. LMRA has been involved in this process for four years. The FLA does not include all that we requested but there is some room to claim victory and there is still an opportunity to further influence the final decision. We cover this in great detail in a separate article. LMRA is considering several new initiatives that will improve communication to and from members and help to increase membership. We are also considering ways to influence and improve future development on Lake Martin. As 2011 concludes and we enter 2012, our Board will be working to implement some of these ideas and you will hear much more as we progress. To conclude, I want to encourage all that live on or around Lake Martin to take advantage of the many opportunities to participate in our community events. Some of these include the performances through the Alex City Arts Council, the many Children's Harbor events such as Art on the Lake and Cruisin for Kidz, the Amphitheater performances, Alex City and Dadeville Chamber of Commerce events and the events at Russell Crossroads. I'm sure there are many others. These events need our support and we can meet friends and have fun participating. So get out there, join in and support our local agencies and businesses. See you around the lake. J. Charles Borden

### A Very Special Thanks to the Following Businesses and Groups

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <b>Alabama Allergy &amp; Asthma Clinic</b><br>Montgomery | <b>Dixie Sailing Club</b><br>Lake Martin        | <b>Montgomery Outdoor Power Products, Inc.</b><br>Montgomery |
| <b>Aliant Bank</b><br>Alexander City                     | <b>Economy Gas Service, Inc.</b><br>Talladega   | <b>Olympia Sporting Goods, Inc.</b><br>Montgomery            |
| <b>Archer Septic Services, LLC</b><br>Jacksons Gap       | <b>Gilliland, P. C.</b><br>Sylacauga            | <b>Pleasure Point Park &amp; Marina</b><br>Dadeville         |
| <b>Ballard Const. Co.</b><br>Alexander City              | <b>Rhonda Jay Real Estate, LLC</b><br>Dadeville | <b>Russell Medical Center</b><br>Alexander City              |
| <b>Best Western Horseshoe Inn</b><br>Alexander City      | <b>John Kingsley, N. D.</b><br>Birmingham       | <b>Russell Lands, Inc.</b><br>Alexander City                 |
| <b>Children's Harbor</b><br>Kowaliga                     | <b>Lake Martin Dock Co., Inc.</b><br>Eclectic   | <b>Russell Marine</b><br>Alexander City                      |
| <b>Dr. Cooper</b><br>Alexander City                      | <b>Madix, Inc.</b><br>Eclecti & Goodwater       | <b>Russell Do-It-Center</b><br>Alexander City                |
| <b>Davco Dev. Co.</b><br>Montgomery                      | <b>Markle, LLC</b><br>Birmingham                | <b>Herring Outsource Fabricators</b><br>Dothan               |
| <b>Ken Rase Plumbing &amp; Electric</b><br>Eclectic      |   |  |



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Here are the directors and officers who have been elected to move LMRA forward.  
J. Charles Borden, President  
[cborden@LMRA.info](mailto:cborden@LMRA.info)  
John E. Thompson, VP  
Environmental Education  
Will Denton, Secretary  
Community Relations/Publicity  
Tom Lamberth, Treasurer  
Steve Forehand, Legal Officer  
J. B. Barnett  
William Brown  
Jerry Bynum  
Rendell Clark, Boating Safety  
Philip Gidiere  
Bill Harper  
Tammy Jackson  
Ben Russell  
C. Wayne Shell, Membership  
Larry Tuggle, Reward Program  
Steve Windom, Legislative  
Norman White

## MEMBERSHIP

LMRA is working on a number of initiatives that are designed to increase membership. Currently our membership stands at 1100 individuals and businesses. As you are quite aware, expenses are increasing for everyone and our revenue is derived from member's dues. The cost of our Boating Safety Program (buoy placement) has increased by almost 100% in the last 4 years. We will spend over \$17,000 for buoy purchases, placement and maintenance this year. We know that there are many lake property owners and lake users that are not aware of the mission of LMRA and our primary effort to make the lake safe. We need their support. We are asking that you tell your friends, club members, church members and any other contacts about the work of LMRA and suggest that they join our efforts. In January, you will receive notice of membership renewal and we hope we can continue to count on your support. For membership information, call Karen at 256-212-1422 or go to our website [www.lmra.info](http://www.lmra.info).

## E-MAIL ALERT

Your correct e-mail address is vital to our communication process. We often send out information that we believe our members need to know between the publication of our newsletter. Routinely, we get about 20% back as non-deliverable. Help us correct this problem by **calling Karen at 256-212-1422** with your correct e-mail address. Or, you can send it to [LMRA@LMRA.info](mailto:LMRA@LMRA.info). We don't send out junk and we don't disclose your e-mail address to anyone else.



## Alabama Power Company's Final License Application

On June 2nd, LMRA officials met with Alabama Power (APCO) officials and were advised of the contents of the Final License Application (FLA) that the utility would file with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on June 8th. Those who attended LMRA's annual meeting on June 4th received this information first hand. If you receive our e-mails, you were notified of this decision on June 6th. As you will recall, LMRA, as one of many stakeholders, has been working with APCO for almost four years in the relicensing of Martin Dam. Early in the process, LMRA formally requested an early spring fill (April 1st rather than May 1st), an extension of the 491' msl level until October 15th and a higher winter pool level. After many studies and input from all interested stakeholders, APCO recommended the following:

1. No early spring fill

APCO's studies indicate a substantial increase in the possibility of downstream flooding with an early spring fill.

2. Conditional fall extension of higher water levels

APCO has proposed a formula containing several components that trigger the fall extension but the formula depends upon having sufficient rainfall and inflows to meet the desired water level. APCO estimates that the formula would provide extended fall water levels approximately 25% of the time.

3. Winter pool level of 7' drawdown (rather than 10')

APCO's studies show little difference between a 6' drawdown and a 7' drawdown.

Obviously, LMRA did not receive all that we requested. We understand the reasons for no early spring fill and believe that no amount of appeal will result in any changes to this request. A higher winter pool level, however, will cause the spring fill to start from a higher level. Therefore, by default we should see some improvement in the spring water level.

LMRA has carefully reviewed the formula for the conditional fall extension and we believe its components are too restrictive. We have met with APCO officials and we believe the formula can be adjusted to provide higher water levels in the fall a greater percentage of time. APCO officials have agreed to review their studies and the models for the fall extension. Of course, if there is insufficient rainfall, no formula will produce more water in the fall. The bottom line is that there must be sufficient rainfall and APCO must have sufficient water in its reservoirs to accomplish its required minimum flow releases. We also consulted with APCO officials regarding the 7' drawdown in the winter. The studies reflect that a 6' drawdown can be accomplished without negative impact to any elements of the lake. This additional 1 foot of water during winter months would greatly increase potential for lake activity and economic impact to the lake community. Therefore, during the comment period as permitted by FERC, LMRA will address the 6' vs. 7' winter drawdown as well as the "conditional fall extension".

You should know that a group of downstream landowners believe Lake Martin should be operated solely as a flood control reservoir. Those landowners have advocated controlled releases of water from Lake Martin in anticipation of a predicted rain event to prevent downstream flooding of their property. The fallacy of their position is that weather prediction still is not an exact science. If APCO releases water from Lake Martin in a controlled manner in anticipation of heavy rain, and the predicted rain fails to materialize, the water would be lost and it is unlikely that the lake would recover that year. If these stakeholders convince FERC that pre-evacuation of the lake should be a license requirement, lake property owners would see drastic changes in the lake level and the potential for lower water in spring and summer. These same downstream landowners sued APCO for money damages for 2003 flooding. The Alabama Supreme Court ruled that APCO has no obligation to prevent floods in the downstream flood plain. The downstream landowners are using the Martin Dam relicensing process to try to convince FERC to do what the Alabama Supreme Court refused to do, that is, to impose anything more than seasonal flood control responsibilities on APCO. The position of the downstream landowners puts the recreational use of Lake Martin at serious risk. LMRA will take all necessary action to see that the Final Approved License will protect the interests of lake property owners.

This has been a long, difficult and expensive undertaking and LMRA is pleased that we have reached this point in the process. We recognize that there are some stakeholders who are not satisfied with the recommendations in the FLA. We also recognize that the final decision on the water level of Lake Martin is still a long way into the future. After the comment period, stakeholders will have the opportunity for legal intervention. LMRA is prepared to take legal action if necessary and will make every effort to protect the interests of our membership. You will not see any change in the license requirements for the water levels until all appeals are final. APCO is still operating by the existing guidelines that have been in existence since 1978. We believe our members want higher water levels over an extended period of months and LMRA will continue to work toward that objective. Even though there is some satisfaction with the results of the FLA, we believe there is still an opportunity to make improvements. We are working toward that end and will keep our members informed of any changes. J. Charles Borden

### **Lakeside Address Sign**

Many LMRA members have taken the opportunity to place their address on the lakeside of their property by purchasing a sign through LMRA. If you would like to purchase an address sign, you can find the order form at [www.LMRA.info](http://www.LMRA.info) or call Karen at 256-212-1422.

**123 LAKE ROAD**

## • LMRA INFO and EVENTS •



### Lake Martin "Renew our Rivers" 2011

Lake Martin Resource Association (LMRA) is again working with Alabama Power Company, Russell Lands and Advanced Disposal in preparing for the annual "Renew our Rivers" clean up. The event, which is especially important this year, is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>.

#### Shoreline

The primary focus for this year's shoreline cleanup will be to "mop up" the areas that were ravaged by the tornado and later cleaned by the Corps of Engineers. While the COE did an excellent job, some debris will be evident when the lake level is lowered. The effort will also include picking up litter and trash along the shoreline and islands east of highway 63 over to the main river channel. LMRA and Alabama Power Company will provide boats for transporting bagged trash and debris to the dumpsters provided by Advanced Disposal. Volunteers will meet at 8:00 AM on Friday (7<sup>th</sup>) at either The Ridge Marina or the public boat ramp located next to highway 63 bridge, for shoreline assignments.

#### Roadside Litter

Volunteers who are interested in removing roadside litter in the Lake Martin area can join the Russell Lands employees on Friday (7<sup>th</sup>) as they participate in their semiannual clean up along the highway 63 corridor from Our Town to the Amphitheater. Additionally, support will be offered to volunteers who may be interested in organizing neighborhoods or making individual efforts. Prior notification and approval will be required to receive support.

#### Public Boat Ramps/Boy Scouts

The area Boy Scouts will gather on Saturday (8<sup>th</sup>) at each of the public boat ramps to remove litter and trash from both roadways and shoreline. When completed, they will meet at the Alex City ramp on Coley Creek Road for a hot dog cookout sponsored by Marshall Griffin, manager of the Alabama Power Company office located in Alex City.

#### Volunteers needed

If you are interested in participating in this year's clean up or desire more information, please contact John Thompson by email at [john.thompson@hcsinc.net](mailto:john.thompson@hcsinc.net)