

## A NEW SERVICE ON THE LAKE - A NEW MEMBER OF LMRA

**TowBoatU.S.** has come to Lake Martin! As part of the nations largest network of on the water towing services, **TowBoatU.S. Lake Martin** offers an unlimited membership for \$58/year. This covers things like towing, battery jumps and fuel delivery. Captain Jackson Dozier is pleased to be back in Alexander City where he was raised, and to bring both his family (wife Nicki and 9 month old Morgan) and this new business to the area. When Capt. Jackson said he wanted to support LMRA he ment it. Within days of joining he participated in the Women on the Water training event at River North Marina. For additional information about **TowBoatU.S. Lake Martin** Call the office at 256-307-1313 or cell at 256-827-9570.



### LMRA ANNUAL MEETING

**June 2, 2012, 9 AM**  
**Harbor House at Children's Harbor**  
**Speaker: Jim Crew**

“ The lake is full and the weather getting better. Traffic in the areas is increasing and with it will come more trash on our roadways. To report littered areas call the following numbers:  
State Highways—Coosa & Tallapoosa Counties—256-234-8484  
State Highways—Elmore County—334-567-4379  
Coosa County Roads—County Commission Office—256-337-2420  
Elmore County Roads—Highway Maintenance Office—334-567-1162  
Tallapoosa County Roads—Sheriff's Department—256-825-4264



2544 Willow Point Road, Alexander City, Alabama 35010

BULK RATE  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Alexander City, AL  
35010  
Permit No. 7

*“Working for the Betterment of Lake Martin”*



# LAKE LINES

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

MAY 2012

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In the fall of 2007, I was approached with the idea of trying to revive an old organization that had become somewhat dormant. It was my belief that there was a place on Lake Martin for an organization like LMRA, so I took the challenge to breathe new life into it. A new Board of Directors was formed and I was elected President at that first board meeting. 2008 was very difficult and required all the work and challenges of a new organization. We sent out several thousand letters to prospective members and were quickly rewarded with over 1000 members. We took on the task of making our interest known to Alabama Power Co in the relicensing of Martin Dam. LMRA quickly became a force to be reckoned with as we strongly advocated for more water in the winter and extended high water into the fall. Our board updated the property protection program by increasing the reward from \$1000 to \$5000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of someone breaking into a member's home. Our boating safety program was revitalized by the acquisition of 2 pontoon boats for our volunteers to better perform their work. We are now marking approximately 400 underwater hazards to provide for greater boating safety. We have added several new projects and have been at the forefront of the flood plain issue, environmental protection of Lake Martin, and the 2011 tornado cleanup of Lake Martin. Our name is very prominent in the lake community and we are viewed as a source of information for our members and the media. And, we have handled ourselves with class in the manner that we have gone about accomplishing our mission. Now, I have decided that it is time to turn over the leadership of this great organization to someone else to continue to move it forward. At the end of 2012, I will retire from the job of President. To identify your next leader, a search committee has been formed. This person should possess leadership ability, desire, passion and a strong love for Lake Martin. As a member of LMRA, you can help with this process. If you would like to be considered for the job as President, contact the search committee. Or, if you know of someone who possesses leadership traits, have them contact the committee. Steve Forehand, Search Committee Chairman, can be contacted at 256-212-1464 or e-mail him at [sforehand@russellands.com](mailto:sforehand@russellands.com). This committee will be working to fill this position in the near future so that he or she can work with me before taking the reins in January 2013. The committee would like to hear from you. You can also contact me at [jcborden39@comlinkinc.net](mailto:jcborden39@comlinkinc.net) or by phone at 256-496-4980.

*J. Charles Borden, President*

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

Are you aware that LMRA has a new redesigned website? Hopefully, you are and we hope you have visited it. If you haven't, take a few minutes and check it out. We've added much new and valuable information for members and visitors alike and we expect the site will be a primary destination for those seeking information about the lake. We have archived current and past *Lake Lines* newsletters that provide the history of all that happens on Lake Martin. We include reports on various LMRA projects and we provide a means via Pay Pal to join LMRA electronically. The site also provides a huge amount of information about the many interesting visitor sites around Lake Martin including the new Smith Mountain Fire Tower and the Cherokee Ridge Alpine hiking trail. The bottom of each page includes the current lake level and a link to the local weather. We expect that our website will demonstrate the economic importance of the lake to the entire region and will encourage membership in LMRA. We're excited about the new look so check it out and let us know how you like it. E-mail us at [LMRA@LMRA.info](mailto:LMRA@LMRA.info).

### Lake Martin Resource Association says “Buoys R US”

When you get in your boat this summer and take out across the beautiful waters of Lake Martin, will you ever consider that there may be underwater hazards that might cause you danger? Probably not! You have the faith that the lake is safe and that underwater hazards have been identified and marked. The dictionary defines “faith” as a belief in something unseen. Whether you realize it or not, your faith is in an organization known as Lake Martin Resource Association (LMRA) and its many volunteers who are responsible for identifying and placing hazard buoys and pole markers on the potential danger spots. Boaters on Lake Martin have faith that underwater hazards are identified and their “day on the water” will be safe and enjoyable. Your faith is supported by a group of guys with names such as Rendell, Bobby, Bud, Larry, Will, Darrell, Jim, Norm, Gary and others and the members of LMRA whose dues go to purchasing, placing and maintaining the almost 400 hazard markers on Lake Martin. There was a time over 25 years ago when the lake was not as safe as it is today because the underwater hazards were not marked. LMRA’s founder, Ben Russell, remembers that his father Robert Russell placed the first buoys on Lake Martin in the early 1950’s. They were made of a series of light weight metal cylinders bound together and secured to a weight. These were “home-made buoys” but they served to mark shallow water spots in the Big Kowaliga basin. Then in the 1970’s, the leadership of LMRA realized the hazard to safe boating and working with the authority of the Alabama Marine Police, began the task of identifying trouble spots and marking them with a white and red buoy. Thanks to this vision, today you can boat on Lake Martin with reasonable assurance that you will not be in danger of hitting something underwater. The LMRA website ([www.LMRA.info](http://www.LMRA.info)) contains a map which identifies all hazard markers, a chart containing information about the depth of water, type of hazard and the GPS location. We encourage boaters to go to this website and learn the location of buoys in the area they will be boating. Safety on the lake is also the responsibility of the boat operator. LMRA has prepared a list of “Buoy Guidelines”, that if followed, will enable the boat operator to better understand the significance of buoys and how to approach them. The following points should be considered when operating a water vessel:

#### **I. AUTHORITY:**

Buoys are placed on Lake Martin by LMRA under the authority of Alabama Marine Police (AMP). Hazard markers are placed at the discretion of LMRA. Boats Keep Out or No Wake buoys must be specifically authorized by AMP. If LMRA receives a request for placement of either Boats Keep Out or No Wake buoys, the person making the request will be directed to contact AMP. If the request is approved by AMP, the buoy will then be placed by LMRA and there may be a charge for the buoy. See Sec. V below.

#### **I. DEFINITION OF HAZARD:**

A hazard is defined as any underwater obstruction that interferes with the safe navigation of a vessel on Lake Martin. This may include a rock, stump, sunken object, underwater shoal or any other item that would be harmful to navigation. A buoy or pole marker with a white background and a red diamond indicates a hazard. On Lake Martin, there are many underwater obstructions that qualify as a hazard. It is physically and financially impossible to locate and identify all such hazards. **LMRA assumes no liability for injury or damage caused by unmarked underwater hazards.**

#### **III. SAFE BOATING REQUIREMENTS FOR AVOIDING HAZARDS:**

Boating on Lake Martin requires that the boater use *common sense* and *good judgment* for safe navigation. Common sense would suggest that boaters stay a minimum of 100’ away from a hazard marker in all directions. Boaters should not boat after daylight hours without a good knowledge of the boating area. Only a few hazard markers are identified by a strobe light. Where a hazard is identified by a buoy visible during daylight, that buoy/hazard may not be visible after dark. The boater is navigating at high risk if not completely familiar with the boating area. **The boat operator assumes all risk associated with boating. LMRA assumes no liability for damage or injury caused by boats hitting a buoy or pole marker.** It is unlawful to tie up to a hazard marker (buoy or pole marker).

#### **IV. GUIDELINES FOR PLACEMENT OF HAZARD BUOYS:**

##### **1. DEPTH TO BE MARKED:**

LMRA will make a reasonable effort to identify and mark hazards that are at a depth of 2’ below the winter Flood Control Guide. Under the current Alabama Power Co. Martin Dam License, the winter Flood Control Guide calls for an elevation of 481’ (msl) (mean sea level). Therefore, the guide that LMRA will follow for buoy placement will be hazards at 479’ (msl). If the Flood Control Guide is subsequently changed, LMRA will consider and may adjust accordingly.

##### **2. SHOALS AND LAND POINTS:**

There are many places on Lake Martin where a land point protrudes underwater laterally for 50’ to 200’ or more from the visible land point. LMRA will mark these hazards at approximately 100’ from the visible land at full pool. Boaters are advised that navigation should not proceed between the buoy and the visible land point without high risk. There are many places on Lake Martin where there is a totally submerged island that is hazardous to navigation. LMRA will mark these locations at the highest point on the submerged island with either a buoy or a “pole marker”. If the submerged island is unusually long, at the discretion of LMRA, such hazard may be marked with more than one buoy. Boaters should stay a minimum of 100’ away from such marker in all directions or be subjected to high risk. When a boater approaches within 50’ of a shoreline at high or low water levels, caution should be used. The water close to the shoreline is shallow, contains rocks, boulders and stumps. Boaters approach shore at their own risk. LMRA does not normally mark hazards at the shoreline.

##### **V. NO WAKE AND BOATS KEEP OUT BUOYS**

As noted in the “AUTHORITY” section, No Wake and Boats Keep Out buoys are authorized solely by the AMP. These are termed “Private” buoys and are usually buoys that are placed at commercial establishments, marinas, a personal residence or in a slough. When approved, LMRA will purchase and place these buoys. At the discretion of LMRA, a charge will be made for placement of these “Private” buoys. (In 2012, the charge for a non-lighted buoy is \$200)

## • WE’RE WORKING FOR YOU •

#### **VI. REQUEST FOR PUBLIC’S ASSISTANCE:**

Frequently, a buoy is hit by a boat or breaks away from its moored location and needs repair or replacement. LMRA requests that the public assist by contacting our office to report the missing buoy or one that has floated to a homeowner’s shore. LMRA will make every effort to pick up the wayward buoy and replace it at the underwater hazard. All LMRA buoys have identifying letters and numbers that identify a specific GPS location. Occasionally a boater will identify a hazard that has not previously been marked. A call to our office with specific locations will enable LMRA to assess the hazard and determine if proper marking is needed. The public’s assistance is very important for a safe boating experience. All calls pertaining to buoys should be made to our office at 256-329-0835. A copy of this Buoy Guideline can be obtained at many of the marinas on Lake Martin or at our website. Now, when you get on the lake this summer, we hope you will realize your boating is a little safer because of an organization known as Lake Martin Resource Association.

### Martin Dam Relicensing Update

On April 9, LMRA filed with Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) a “Motion to Intervene” and “Comments and Recommendations” on Final License Application for the Martin Dam Project. The “Motion” is a protective measure which will allow LMRA to continue in the intervention process if needed. The “Comments and Recommendations” filing reiterated our proposal for a winter pool elevation of 485’ msl ( 6’ winter drawdown from the 491’ msl full pool level) and the summer full pool extension into October. Modeling by Alabama Power Co (APCO) for the winter pool elevation has shown that a level of 485’ msl is achievable without adding significantly to the risk of downstream flooding. Alabama Power Co has proposed a winter pool elevation of 484’ msl. ( 7’ drawdown) The formulas proposed by APCO for the fall extension show that the fall extension can be accomplished only a small percentage of time (approx. 20%). LMRA has proposed changes to the formulas that would permit the fall extension to be accomplished a greater percent of the years if there is sufficient rain fall. We believe that both recommendations are reasonable and should be considered by FERC. Comments filed by other stakeholders appear to place clouds on the horizon and are generally skeptical and displeased with the proposals by APCO in the Final License Application submitted to FERC. It should be noted that some of the comments come from stakeholders who would prefer that Martin Dam not exist and that the lake level of Martin be permanently lowered several feet year round. Some of the issues addressed are as follows:

1. Assertion that APCO has not conducted adequate studies to protect downstream interest and that the proposals do not adequately address flood control and property protection of downstream interest. These concerns were the subject of a suit against APCO where the complainants lost when the case went to the Alabama Supreme Court.
2. Assertion that APCO has not performed an Environmental Impact Study but will rely on an Environmental Assessment, in violation of a Federal law which requires the EIS where there is “major federal action”. This is not the case since FERC’s notice that it had accepted the application indicated that it would conduct an Environmental Impact Study.
3. Assertion that APCO has given inadequate consideration to the water level and flow requirement for the spawning of the paddlefish.
4. Assertion that APCO has not provided adequate information about water temperature for the spawning of the paddlefish and that the testimony of a “water quality expert panel” is insufficient to make this determination.
5. Assertion that studies and analysis by APCO are generally insufficient to make adequate determinations of many areas under consideration by FERC. (It should be noted that the licensing process has been going since 2007 with many opportunities for consideration of all areas of concern.
6. Assertion that APCO has provided inaccurate and misleading information regarding some of the studies and that the process has been less than transparent.

The matter is now before FERC to consider the Final License Application filed by APCO and the comments made by stakeholders on April 9th. The license for operation of Martin Dam is up for renewal in June 2013; however, action by stakeholders or FERC can delay this approval. Stay tuned. We’ll keep you informed of the progress.

### **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**