



LAKE MARTIN

www.LMRA.info

JANUARY 2014

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear LMRA Member,

If 2014 is anything like 2013, we will plan to stay busy and work hard to ensure great successes with LMRA initiatives. Though we have no definitive response or indication of when or what to expect in a ruling from FERC, we are optimistic that they observed and listened as the stakeholders turned out in big numbers and spoke loud and clear in favor of the proposed changes in Lake Martin water levels.

The overwhelming response from the LMRA membership was a very positive reinforcement for your President and other LMRA board members as to the value of our organization.

You were well informed and up to date on the issues and you responded in magnificent fashion when asked to do so. With this issue being unresolved and other continued threats to both the quantity and quality to the water in Lake Martin, I can almost guarantee that another similar response will be necessary in the future. We are most grateful that our membership has increased during the year but serious threats are a reminder of the need for a strong organization with good lines of communication.

Advocacy will always be a primary LMRA focus as plans are being made by a construction company named Sabal Trail Transmission to build a pipeline to transport natural gas from a location in Tallapoosa County to central Florida. This pipeline will cross the Tallapoosa River just above the shoals near Jaybird Creek. We will monitor the planning process and inform you if concerns over environmental issues arise.

With the drowning death of a young man from Montgomery that occurred as 2013 was ending, boating safety will always be at the top of our agenda making use of both educational opportunities and by marking or removing potential hazardous areas.

We have experienced an increased usage of our web site at www.lmra.info with messages being sent notifying of potential hazards. Rendell Clark, Jim Koeppen and the buoy maintenance team react quickly when notified. Newly created hazards such as the one that appeared when the long pier at the old Dixie Sailing Club was removed are a high priority in order to avoid major mishaps in a high traffic area.

We appreciate your continued support and we value the feedback that we receive. Feel free to contact myself or any of our board members with suggestions or ideas of how we might improve.

Happy New Year,

John

Time to renew membership

We are hopeful that you recognize the value of LMRA and you will renew your membership promptly. We need your support.

Mark your calendar

Saturday June 7-LMRA Annual Meeting-Children's Harbor Lighthouse

2014 OUPV Captain's Course Hosted by TowBoatUS Lake Martin



TowBoatUS Lake Martin Owner's, Captain's Jackson and Nicki Dozier, will be hosting the 2nd Annual OUPV Captain's Course in February 2014. TowBoatUS will once again working with Sea School out of Atlanta to bring an instructor to Lake Martin to teach the class for our Local Residents interested in obtaining their Captain's License. Upon completion of this course, students then can submit their passing test along with a list of additional requirements to the USCG in order to receive their United States Coast Guard OUPV (Operator of Uninspected Passenger Vessel) License, also commonly referred to as a '6 Pack' License. Many areas require the vessel operator to have a valid Captain's License's when working for hire, for example Charter fishermen or a vessel hired for Transportation or a 'booze cruise'. TowBoatUS requires all of the Captain's they hire to have their Captain's License and their Towing Endorsement which will also e offered as part of the course this February.

Schedule - The course is a total of 56 hours and will be divided into 2 long weekends as follows:

- Class time – Friday Feb 14th – Sunday Feb 16th from 8:00am – 6:00 pm with a one hour lunch
- Towing Endorsement Class and Test - Monday Feb 17th
- Class time – Friday Feb 21st – Sunday Feb 22nd from 8:00am – 6:00 pm with a one hour lunch
- OUPV Test – Monday Feb 23rd

Cost –

- OUPV Class \$550
- OUPV Testing Fees: \$105
- Towing Endorsement Class and Test: \$90
- Class Materials: Approximately \$50

Additional costs that are required to obtain prior to sending in your application to the USCG:

- Physical
- Drug Test
- CPR Class
- TWIC Card

The course will be held at the 'Harbor House' at Children's Harbor this year thanks to their generous donation of the space. The space is limited to the first 17 people to sign up. The course filled to capacity last year and with the interest that they have already received they are expecting another full class this year.

One can sign up by simply calling Sea School at 800-237-8663.

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 or call Karen at 256-212-1422.

123 LAKE ROAD

WILL IT EVERY END ?????? FERC GRANTS 120 DAY EXTENSION

Alabama Power Company recently requested and received an extended deadline to provide FERC with additional information that had been requested back in November of last year. The additional information would allow FERC to further assess the downstream effects of the proposed 3-foot increase in the winter pool level of Lake Martin. FERC had originally allowed 60 days in the request which was issued on November 8, 2013.

“The additional information is quite extensive and requires data collection, modeling runs, mapping exercises and additional field work,” said Jim Crew, the Alabama Power Company manager who has managed the project from the beginning. “All of that is going to take time to put together, analyze, compile and put in a report,” Crew said. Obviously the original 60 day deadline was not adequate to accomplish the request and now an additional 120 days is available. “We want to make certain we provide FERC with the information they need to adequately address the issue and, hopefully, agree with the position we have made, which is to approve our winter pool and fall extension request.” Crew said.

• LMRA INFO and EVENTS •

Lake Martin Renew our Rivers 2013

More than 225 volunteers responded to the call this year and over a 2 day period removed trash and debris from the shores of Lake Martin and some adjacent roadways.

On Friday November 8, boats furnished by LMRA, Alabama Power Company and Tow Boat Lake Martin met at the Kowaliga public boat launch and ferried volunteers to designated areas that were known to be littered. Aluminum cans, plastic and glass bottles and a large amount of scrapped building debris made up most of the trash but it also included automobile tires, burned out grills and blocks of beaded Styrofoam.

Russell Lands' associates turned out in force and cleaned roadsides that extended from Our Town to Children's Harbor.

In addition to the Real Island community, neighbors in Windermere, The Ridge and Trillium as well as others joined together and cleaned shorelines and roadways within their neighborhoods.

On Saturday November 9, more than 125 young people which included Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Brownies and other groups cleared trash from roadsides and public boat launch areas. Collectively they removed 33 automobile and truck tires that were dumped on the roadsides. At noon, they met at Coley Creek public launch for hot dog cookout compliments of Marshall Griffin, Manager of the Alabama Power Company in Alexander City.

The 2 day effort produced 9 tons of trash and filled 4 large dumpsters. We are most thankful to the volunteers, Alabama Power Company, TowBoat Lake Martin, Advanced Disposal, Horseshoe Bend District Boy Scouts, Tallapoosa Publishing and Stephens School for their contribution.

A very special thanks is offered to Russell Lands for providing prizes and promoting the event.

Sincerely,

John

2014 Tallapoosa County Water Festival

March 18-19, 2014 Planning for the 2014 Tallapoosa County Water Festival is underway!



The 2nd annual Tallapoosa County Water Festival is around the corner. Please mark your calendars for March 18-19, 2014. Dadeville, Reeltown, and Horseshoe Bend 4th graders will take part in the activities on March 18th. Stephens Elementary 4th graders will participate on March 19th. Wind Creek State Park has again agreed to allow us to host the festival inside the park, on the shores of Lake Martin. The students will rotate through stations and participate in hands-on activities that relate to our greatest natural resource— WATER. Teachers will learn valuable information and receive instructional classroom materials. Every student, teacher, and volunteer also receives a water festival t-shirt!

WE NEED YOU!

The Tallapoosa County Water Festival is offered to fourth graders free of charge. This is made possible by generous sponsors and volunteers. We cannot have too many! Sponsorship of \$250 or more will be recognized on the t-shirts given out to volunteers, students, and teachers.

Special points of interest:

- Last year students rotated through five fun and exciting activities.
- Nearly 500 students participated in the 2013 Festival.
- Over 50 volunteers worked hard to make the first festival a huge success

A Very Special Thanks to the Following Businesses and Groups Who Support LMRA

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