



LAKE LINES

www.LMRA.info

MAY 2014

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear LMRA Members,

It doesn't take but one trip across the Kowaliga Bridge with a view of a sunset over a nearly full Lake Martin to quickly make you forget the brutally cold winter we experienced this year. It's hard to believe that just a few weeks ago this bridge was closed for several days due to icy conditions.

With that as a fading memory, we are excited about all of the many great activities that are planned for the Lake Martin Community over the next few months and we look forward to seeing old friends and making new ones as we enjoy as many of the activities as possible.

Make certain you pay a visit to the LMRA web site at www.lmra.info and view the 2014 Calendar as you plan your summer fun. You will also find additional links available to provide you full coverage of all the activities throughout the entire community.

Of course everyone is most excited about the prospects of getting back on the water and enjoying all that our treasured Lake Martin has to offer in the way of boating and swimming activities.

Be certain to pay close attention to the changes around the area where the Dixie Sailing Club once stood.

The 300 foot pier that was a landmark has been torn down over the winter and the LMRA buoy team has placed 5 hazardous area buoys to warn the boating public of the potential dangers, particularly if the lake level is low.

As you plan your summer activities, we hope you will include the LMRA Annual Meeting on Saturday June 7th. Our guest speaker this year is our friend Jim Crew who will bring us up to date on where we are with FERC and the Martin Dam relicensing project.

Thank you for supporting LMRA.

Sincerely,

John

LMRA ANNUAL MEETING

LMRA annual meeting to be held on Saturday, June 7th at 9:00 AM in the Harbor House located in Children's Harbor.

Guest speaker will be Jim Crew, Manager Hydro Services, Alabama Power Company.

Jim is the manager of the Martin Dam re-licensing project and will provide information on the status of the pending decision by Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)

All members are invited to attend.

**CAPTAIN MATT BROOKS
MARINE POLICE DIVISION
CENTRAL DIVISION COMMANDER**

2014 is shaping up to be a very busy year for the Marine Police Division, and it's also going to be a year of some pretty important transitions that are currently taking place. After 55 years of being located in the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, on January 1, 2015 the Marine Police Division will move to our new home alongside our sister agency, the Alabama Highway Patrol, as the two uniformed patrol components of the Alabama Department of Public Safety. The Alabama Department of Public Safety will in turn be one of the major components of the newly formed Alabama State Law Enforcement Agency, created in an effort to streamline government, increase efficiency and better serve the public by placing more officers on patrol.

One of the biggest changes for us has already occurred as we have gone from four geographical Districts to three larger Divisions. Lake Martin is now situated in our Central Division, which stretches from Demopolis and Tuscaloosa in the west to Eufaula and Opelika in the east. As of this writing the Central Division will now cover 32 counties and have 14 patrol positions, 1 sergeant position, 1 lieutenant position and 1 captain position. The Central Division office will continue to be located at our facility at Wind Creek State Park on Lake Martin.

Our primary patrol responsibility will continue to be public safety on Alabama's lakes and waterways, but another part of the streamlining process will see us taking on added duties as well in times of emergencies and whenever special events occur that need additional human resources. In the past year alone, our officers have worked details at both Talladega NASCAR races, patrolled the roads during and after the recent winter storm and were mobilized most recently to patrol areas affected by severe thunderstorms and tornadoes. You will also see our officers stopping to assist stranded motorists on the road, helping at the scene of any traffic accident they encounter and yes, writing traffic tickets and making arrests on the road if necessary. These duties will not replace our current primary patrol responsibilities, but supplement what we already do.

Marine police officers receive some of the most intensive and well-rounded training offered to any law enforcement officer in Alabama. In most cases they are issued and responsible for hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of state equipment. Many of our officers are drawn to this line of work as a calling and are extremely dedicated and professional. They are experienced at working alone in difficult situations and making decisions under pressure. Why not utilize the valuable resources we have now in every way possible? There are sure to be some bumps and hiccups along the way, but our officers are looking forward to the consolidation and to the new challenges and opportunities that await us. It makes sense and going forward, I think the consolidation is going to be a good thing for law enforcement in Alabama and an even better thing for our citizens.

As always, please remember that if you have a call for service from the marine police on Lake Martin, please call (256) 234-2601. All other calls can go to our Central Division office at (256) 329-2268. Feel free to E-mail me as well at matt.brooks@dcnr.alabama.gov.

I hope everyone has a safe and happy summer.

Directors and Officers of LMRA

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jthompson@LMRA.info
Rendell Clark, Vice President
Will Denton, Secretary
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Ben Russell, Founding Board Member Emeritus

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. We don't send out junk and we don't disclose your e-mail address to anyone else.



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

• LMRA INFO and EVENTS •



Rendell Clark offers docking instructions to a participant in the “Women on Lake Martin” boating class that was recently held at River North Marina. Seventeen ladies completed the class, which included instructions from the Marine Police and ‘hands on’ opportunities in boat handling with the assistance of LMRA.

TALLAPOOSA BASIN CONFERENCE

LMRA members,

These are exciting times with regards to water, water resources management and water policy. Stay informed, up-to-date, and involved! An excellent way to do this is to participate in the Eighth Annual Tallapoosa Basin Conference!

Please join us for the Eighth Annual Tallapoosa Basin Conference to be held here at the Hubbard CASIC Building, **Friday, May 30th 2014**. Topics to be covered during this FREE conference include:

- An update on efforts to develop state water management policy.
- An update on FERC relicensing in the Tallapoosa Basin.
- An overview of water quality, biodiversity and university-based outreach and research in the Tallapoosa Basin.
- A presentation on the award-winning environmental education program at Radney Elementary School in Alexander City.
- Updates on watershed stewardship activities in the Upper, Middle and Lower Tallapoosa sub-basins, and,
- How-to for basin residents who want to do their part to minimize polluting our streams, rivers and lakes.

This year’s organizers and sponsors include the Auburn University Water Resources Center, Alabama Water Watch, the Alabama Cooperative Extension System, and the AU College of Agriculture.

For conference information and registration, go to the AU Resources Center homepage, <http://www.aes.auburn.edu/water>, and under EVENTS, click **8th Annual Tallapoosa Basin Conference**

We hope to see you there!

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

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