



LAKE MARTIN

www.LMRA.info

SEPT. 2014

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear LMRA Member,

This summer has been like most of our recent summer boating seasons; great water levels, many fun events and lots of good people enjoying the wonderful waters of Lake Martin.

Our buoy maintenance team with able leadership from Rendell Clark has continued to do a great job of installing and maintaining more than 440 buoys spread over the lake.

With the welcome assistance of LMRA member, my good friend Bill Thompson and I removed several hundred beer cans and bottles from a secluded shoreline across from Willow Point golf course.

We have also received reports of other littered areas in the Camp ASCCA vicinity which we will focus on during our fall "Renew our Rivers" cleanup scheduled for November 7 & 8.

One thing that has increased this summer has been the number of calls and complaints that we have received about large wakes created by careless drivers who have no regard for the damages that are resulting when they motor too close to the shoreline. Many residents have become totally frustrated with this issue that seems to be getting worse.

LMRA has been extremely active for a long time in trying to resolve this problem. I asked former President, Charles Borden to combine a couple of great articles that he wrote a while back to describe what was done and the results of those initiatives. See that article in this issue.

In addition to the article by Charles, I invite you to read Captain Matt Brooks timely article on this same subject.

After reading these two articles, you will probably still be frustrated but at least you'll know where we are in addressing this issue.

Sincerely,

John

As an accompaniment to the Alabama Power Company's "Shoreline" publication, random surveys will be submitted to determine customer satisfaction with the shoreline permitting program. Please assist by completing the surveys and respond according to directions.

APCo is always very supportive of LMRA and we need to be as responsive as possible whenever we have an opportunity.

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. New price \$25.00.

123 LAKE ROAD

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

The Alabama Marine Police is the permitting agency in regard to the restriction of any portion of a Public body of water to Idle Speed Only/No Wake. It is our responsibility to mark such zones and maintain the buoys around State-owned public launching areas and facilities.

If an individual or a group of individuals wishes to make an application for the restriction of a portion of a public body of water to Idle Speed Only/No Wake then they need to contact our office at (256) 329-2268. We will discuss the application process and forward an application to that person. Once we receive the completed application, our officers will inspect the location to see if it meets any of the criteria set by our policy for approval. If approval is granted for the restriction, then the permit holder is responsible for purchasing, placing and maintaining the buoy(s).

In order to meet the criteria, the area in question must contain a public launching facility where any member of the public may launch a boat free of charge (AND/OR) must contain a gasoline dispensing facility (AND/OR) must present a paramount risk to public safety as determined by the reviewing officer(s).

That being said, it is the duty of the Marine Police Division to safeguard public waters for the use of the entire general public. The overwhelming majority of applications are denied due to the fact that the area in question does not meet our criteria for approval. Under the public safety consideration, we use the number of complaints regarding the area, the number of accidents or incidents that have been reported there and our own observations of traffic flow to make our decision.

From time to time people may place unpermitted Idle Speed Only/No Wake buoys on the lake. It's illegal to do so and our officers remove unpermitted buoys when they're found.

The Marine Police Division does not permit Hazard Buoys, but all Hazard Buoys must be approved for placement by us. We also place and maintain some buoys. We work very closely with the Lake Martin Resource Association on the placement of other Hazard Buoys. The LMRA bears the costs for the placement and maintenance of such buoys and provides us the GPS coordinates of every such buoy on the lake. These folks really are to be thanked for their hard work at keeping boaters on Lake Martin safe.

A number of people place "swim buoys" or mooring buoys off the ends of their docks. We don't have a problem with this as long as these buoys don't interfere with the normal flow of traffic for the slough and are not placed more than 25-feet from the end of the dock.



FOG

**Do we have a
FOG problem?**



What is FOG? Fats, oils and grease from food preparation, packaged foods and food scraps. **Where does it come from?** Meat fats and juices, lard, cooking oil, shortening, butter, margarine, food scraps, baking goods, olive oil, dressing, sauces and dairy products. **Why shouldn't FOG go down the drain?** Fats, oils and grease stick to the insides of sewer pipes when washed down the kitchen plumbing system. This solidifies and blocks pipes. Clogged pipes cause septic tank backups on residential property. **How does it affect me?** Improper FOG disposal leads to costly sewage backups and overflows and increased repair costs. It also causes environmental and public health hazards as it washes down storm drains into our lake, river and creeks. FOG does not break down in septic tanks and disrupts the tank's bacterial life. The only way that it can leave the system is to be pumped out at a costly rate.

How Can I Help?

- ✔ Wipe down greasy pots and pans with a dry paper towel and dispose of it in your kitchen trash.
- ✔ Do not pour FOG down the garbage disposal or sink drain.
- ✔ Do not use hot water to wash the grease down the drain.
- ✔ Pour cooled oil, fats and grease into a can or other container with a tight lid (coffee can, glass jar or plastic container) and dispose of it in the garbage.
- ✔ Use baskets or strainers in sink drains to catch food scraps and other solids. Dispose of them in the trash.



Information provided by the Middle Tallapoosa Clean Water Partnership

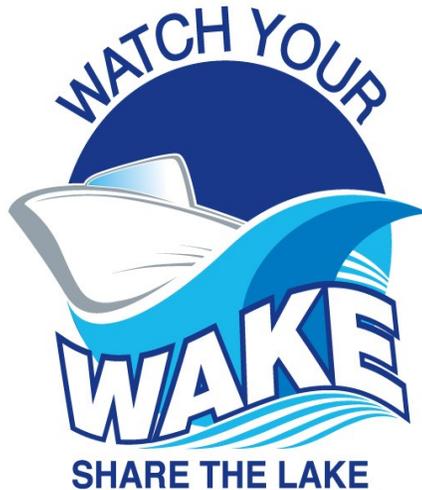


• LMRA INFO and EVENTS •

UPDATING THE BOAT WAKE ISSUE

J. Charles Borden

The first plank in the mission of LMRA is “to improve the safety and security of the lake” and our most visible effort to do that is by our buoy program. But, for a number of years we have been concerned about the danger and damage caused by boat wakes too close to docks, other boats, swimmers, etc. In 2008, LMRA supported the issuance of a ruling by the Alabama Department of Conservation (DCNR) that would have called for idle speed within 100 feet of docks, other boaters, swimmers, etc. Because of pressure from the fishing interests, this ruling was not issued. LMRA continued to receive complaints about the damage caused by unsuspecting boaters from their boat wake and in 2012 we brought together interests from throughout the state to address the problem. Included were representatives from DCNR, Alabama Marine Police (AMP), Lake Martin HOB and boater organizations from all the major lakes in Alabama. Members of the fishing interests were invited to participate. Our group recommended changes to the 2008 proposed ruling that would address the concerns of the fishing interests and at the same time, be a win-win for all boaters and property owners. Several meetings were held to insure that all would be satisfied with our proposal. At that point, DCNR decided to study the issue and consider possible solutions implemented by other states with the similar problem. After months of study, LMRA was advised that no ruling would be issued but an effort would be made to “educate” the public on the damage and danger caused by a boat wake. We wanted a “100 foot Proximity Ruling” but instead we got a sign “WATCH YOUR WAKE, SHARE THE LAKE” education effort. Needless to say, LMRA won’t attempt to obtain the parties change but for now we are aware that their boat wake can cause damage to sea walls and yards. We have learned of instances where adults to be thrown off floating docks and where moored boats have been washed up on piers. We often hear of the damage that the boat wakes cause to sea walls and yards. Intentional and without any apology, the operator could state that a boater is responsible for his wake and that the operator must not operate a boat in a reckless manner or cause harm to people or property. But, more often the cause is boater irresponsibility or ignorance. This is where boater education becomes important. Some points that the boat operator should keep in mind to avoid wake problems are:



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- 1. Be courteous and practice the golden rule when operating a boat.**
- 2. Be aware of your wake and the area in which you are boating.**
- 3. Don’t operate above idle speed in narrow sloughs, close to docks, shoreline or other boats at idle in the water. Don’t pull skiers or wake boarders in narrow sloughs or near shore. Stay in the open water.**
- 4. Place a “WATCH YOUR WAKE, SHARE THE LAKE” sign on your dock so that it is visible to boaters as a reminder. These can be purchased at Russell Marina’s on Lake Martin.**

As a home owner, if you continue to have wake problems and damage is caused to your property or person and you can identify the description of the boat and the license number, report this information to the Alabama Marine Police and be prepared to swear out a warrant. Frustrated? Yes, we are too! But for now, this is the best we have. Put up a sign. Give a copy of this article to your children, neighbors and friends. Help LMRA get the word out to **WATCH YOUR WAKE SHARE THE LAKE!**

Lake homeowners often think that a “No Wake “ buoy placed in front of their property will be the answer to their wake problem and call LMRA to get approval. This is the responsibility of the Alabama Marine Police and I am aware of only two such approvals on Lake Martin in my many years of working with the Marine Police.

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

Alabama Allergy Clinic, PC Montgomery	Dixie Sailing Club Montgomery	Lake Martin Dock Co. Eclectic	Rhonda Jaye Lake Martin Realty - Dadeville
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