



LEESVILLE LAKE ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

February 2009

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Sherwood Zimmerman

The January General Membership Meeting was very well attended. Our Association is strong and we are getting stronger each year with more members volunteering to participate. Since our inception as an association literally thousands of volunteer hours have been spent to make our lake a safer, cleaner and more recreationally friendly. We have made great strides and are making a difference. However, much remains to be done and you can be a part of this important effort by volunteering some of your time to work with your neighbors to make our lake a more enjoyable place to live and play.

An ongoing task for all of us is lake cleanup. After 40+ years of debris collecting in the lake with no organized effort to remove it, we as an association took on this formidable task. Each year since 2003 we have addressed this challenge with new methods and renewed energy. We are very pleased that Bedford, Campbell and Pittsylvania Counties have recognized the need for a clean and safe lake and financially and legislatively support debris removal efforts. Appalachian Power Company also supports this effort. In partnership with these organizations, our association continues to address this ongoing challenge. To this end I am asking for your support by volunteering to serve on the Debris Committee. We have been blessed to have excellent leadership on this committee in the past and we appreciate all who have served. All members who are able need to take a turn serving our association in some capacity. If you might be willing to take a turn serving on the Debris Committee, I would be happy to talk with you about what needs to be done and how you might be able to help. We will begin planning our annual Leesville Lake Beautification Day very soon. We could use your thoughts and ideas as well as your participation. Please contact me or any board member if you can help by serving on Debris or any other committee.

Additionally, we ask all members to fill out the registration form (to be provided in the April newsletter) and pledge to work with your neighbors on Leesville Lake's 6th Annual Beautification Day, Saturday, May 16th. Then, come on the following Sunday afternoon to the celebration picnic to celebrate what we accomplished together.

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

By: Julie Moore

We currently have 336 members with a renewal rate of 83%. We have 1,058 property owners on our roster. Talk to your lake neighbors and friends about joining. Our goal for this year is to reach 350 members.

I would like to thank our newest members who've joined since our last newsletter:

Mark & Nicola Rooney

FROM THE TREASURER

By: Gerry Caprario



The checking account is balanced with the statement from Wachovia Bank. The IRS form 990-EZ for the 2007-2008 fiscal year has been filed.

Thank you to the kind folks who have notified me of any LVLA property in their possession. If there is more that I have not yet been made aware of, please let me know.

FROM THE SECRETARY

By: Phyllis Garlick

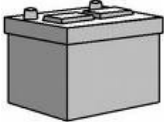
The minutes of the last meeting were approved as read. I just wanted to remind property owners that meeting minutes are available on our website at www.leesvillelake.org. They are a great way to help you keep up with lake activities between newsletters.



SAFETY COMMITTEE

By: Gerry Caprario

This information is taken from COMPASS, an on-line service of the United States Power Squadrons. Why talk about batteries in a safety article? Consider the consequences of your engine not starting when you are "out upon the water" somewhere and: someone has chest pain; dangerous weather is approaching; a fall results in severe bleeding or a broken bone; a fall overboard into cold water; any or all of these, you NEED to get back to dry land.



Therefore I submit the following and caution you to

BE GOOD TO YOUR BATTERIES

Next to the grating sound of your prop trying to chew a channel in a hard bottom, nothing is quite as sobering as the silence following an attempt to start your engine when the battery is dead.

Just like your oil level, engine temperature, and draft, your batteries require regular attention:

Flooded Batteries

Flooded batteries have caps that can be removed to add distilled water. Never add tap water to flooded batteries because the dissolved minerals can cause the individual cells to discharge when the engine is off.

Although the least expensive type of marine battery, flooded batteries require more care. They must be mounted upright to the electrolyte won't drip. Mainly sulfuric acid, the hazardous electrolyte can

quickly eat through skin and clothes, and when mixed with seawater it generates equally hazardous chlorine gas. In case of contact, immediately flush the area with clean water.

Flooded batteries must always be topped off because exposed plates soon become sulfated. As a battery discharges a chemical reaction takes place. The lead dioxide (positive plate) and the lead (negative plate) both change to lead sulfate, and the sulfuric acid turns to water which is why you shouldn't store discharged batteries in subfreezing temperatures. When the battery is recharged the water changes back to acid and the lead sulfate changes to lead dioxide and lead. The uncovered part of the plates can't be converted back to lead dioxide, which reduces the battery's capacity. When the lead sulfate hardens, the battery won't regain its original capacity even if you refill the cells.

Keeping batteries charged on moored boats can be a problem. However, photovoltaic cells can use the sun's energy to keep the batteries charged. A specially designed regulator is required to keep the charging voltage within battery specifications. Some regulators also contain circuitry to periodically equalize the batteries by allowing a higher charging voltage to be applied to convert the lead sulfate back to lead dioxide in all the cells. This is usually done monthly.

Special attention should be given to the electrolyte levels when this is done as gassing is a result of equalization and some of the electrolyte is lost in the process.

Topping off is very important in this operation. It's easy to forget about batteries in out-of-the-way places, but your diligence will pay off in extended battery life.

WILL YOU, YOUR CHILDREN OR GRANDCHILDREN STILL BE 20 OR YOUNGER BY JULY 1, 2009?

(Lucky Duck)



VIRGINIA BOATING SAFETY EDUCATION REQUIREMENT

1. If you will still be 20 or younger by July 1, 2009, you must take the safe boating course to continue to operate a PWC. After July 1, if you have not been certified and are stopped while operating a PWC, you will be fined.
2. PWC (jet ski) operators 35 years or younger must be certified by 7/1/2010
3. PWC (jet ski) operators 50 years or younger and motorboat operators 20 years or younger must be certified by 7/1/2011
4. All PWC (jet ski) operators, regardless of age, and motorboat operators 30 years or younger must be certified by 7/1/2012
5. Motorboat operators 40 years or younger must be certified by 7/1/2013
6. Motorboat operators 45 years or younger must be certified by 7/1/2014
7. Motorboat operators 50 years or younger must be certified by 7/1/2015
8. All motorboat operators, regardless of age, must be certified by 7/1/2016

For more information regarding boating safety education or to schedule a class, visit the DGIF website at www.dgif.virginia.gov or call (804) 367-1125 or locally, contact Gerry Caprario at (434) 656-9082 or capgerry@hotmail.com.

Navigational Aids Committee

By: Pete Pettit



We hope everyone enjoyed the holidays and wish all a happy and healthy New Year. The committee has some great news concerning navigation on Leesville Lake. APCo has agreed to install, own, and maintain responsibility for the navigation system to include lights. LVLA applauds APCo's decision to add navigation lights. With our unique situation on Leesville Lake, APCO has agreed to meet with LVLA to work out a suitable design for a fixed navigation aid some time this year. The signage will be Coast Guard approved and mirror Smith Mountain Lake's system. The timing of a navigation system is dependent on APCo's license approval and funding with the earliest time frame being 2010. Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, who is the approval agency for the State, has also agreed to support lighted aids. LVLA has requested \$25,000 from the State's approved navigation budget for future use in navigation on our lake. Progress has been made on "Adopt a Mile Post" marker with two more volunteers. See the article "Adopt a Mile Post" for more detailed information. If you have any concerns or questions for navigation on Leesville Lake, please contact our committee chair by email at petepettit@aol.com or phone 540-296-1514. Our committee wishes you a safe recreational boating experience in 2009.

*****!!!!!!! ADOPT A MILE POST MARKER PROGRAM !!!!!!!*****

Adopt a mile post marker! It's a fun way to keep our mile post markers visible and in good condition. If you adopt a marker you will be asked to trim back overgrown trees and bushes occasionally as well as report any damage or defects to Pete Pettit at petepettit@aol.com or (540) 296-1514. We would like to thank those who have volunteered to care for the following markers:

- | | | | |
|------|-------------------------|-----|------------------------|
| # 3 | Richard and Lynn Beaton | # 4 | Al and Nancy Whitehead |
| # 5 | Doug and Julie Moore | # 6 | Bud and Kathy Adkins |
| # 10 | Pete and Julie Pettit | | |

If you live near numbers 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, or 17 please consider adopting them.

WATER MONITORING

By: Mike Lobue -- Co-Chair

The 2008 Leesville Lake Water Quality Monitoring Report has been completed and is available on the Association's web site: www.leesvillelake.org. We had another successful water monitoring year thanks to (1) all the time and effort put in by the monitoring volunteers, (2) the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality for the use of a water monitoring probe and (3) the Association for funding the program.

The year 2008 was a good year for water quality.

- The water quality was excellent for swimming and water sports. The primary potential problem for swimming and water sports is bacteria. We tested for bacteria by using a test that detects E. coli, which is the state bacteria indicator organism. None of the lake water samples that were tested in 2008 exceeded the state standard for E. coli. The general rule of thumb is: Don't swim in the lake if it is muddy. The mud is caused by silt and the silt carries the bacteria into the lake. Because of the below average rainfall in 2008, bacteria levels were very low.
- Low dissolved oxygen levels and high pH levels adversely affect fish and other aquatic

organisms. In mid-summer, dissolved oxygen (DO) levels from about Mile Mark 6 down to the dam were below the state standard for DO below about 20 to 30 feet of water depth. This means that the fish likely moved closer to the surface during mid-summer where DO levels were higher. So, fisherman should note that they will not likely catch fish near the bottom of the lake in the lower portion of the lake in mid-summer.

- The overall health of the lake is excellent, but we have to be vigilant about keeping it that way. Excess nutrients such as phosphorus are the primary cause of unnecessarily fast aging of lakes. The excess nutrients cause algae blooms, which result in murky water, large swings in pH and depletion of oxygen in the water. Large pH swings and low oxygen levels are detrimental to aquatic life. To minimize nutrients that get into the lake, do not over-fertilize your lawn—fertilize once a year in the fall. Also, use low phosphorus fertilizer, pump out your septic tank at least once every five years and pick up pet waste. Many retailers in the region sell low phosphorus fertilizer. If the place where you buy fertilizer does not stock low phosphorus fertilizer, please ask them to order and sell it.

The water is great—enjoy the lake!!

WATER MONITORING

By: Doc & Kitty Wasicko -- Co-Chairs

We will be joining Mike Lobue as co-chairs of the Water Quality Monitoring Program, concentrating on sediment and the bacterial count of the lake. We will also be working closely with the Virginia Department of Health, and Virginia Game and Inland Fisheries Department. With this in mind we want to update you on the current guidelines for fish consumption. While the Department of Health has no specific fish consumption guidelines for Leesville Lake, you may wish to consider observing the guidelines for Smith Mountain Lake: no more than 2 servings per month are recommended, except for those who are immune compromised, are pregnant, or nursing, or young children in which case the consumption would be zero. The sediment from the run off makes it advisable to avoid flathead catfish greater than 32 inches. In general, larger fish contain more contaminants than smaller fish. With the advent of warmer weather and lake use on the rise, it is advised not to swim when the water is "dirty" or muddy looking because of increased sedimentation and the possible resultant rise in the bacterial count. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at kittydoc312@yahoo.com.

HEALTH CORNER

By: Sue Glasscock

As we travel the path of life, at some point we will probably have to call 911 for assistance—either for ourselves, a family member, or neighbor. Making the decision to call 911 is very stressful and can cause feelings of being overwhelmed. It is truly difficult to make a mistake calling 911. The 911 operators are trained to guide callers through the experience, but knowing what to expect can get emergency assistance where and when it is needed. You should also be aware of the differences when calling 911 from a land line or a cell. (When using a cell phone on the lake you may reach any of the three counties surrounding the lake. The information requested by the dispatcher will be the same whatever county answers and they will immediately begin transferring the information to the closest unit.) Providing/developing EMS services to the lake is an on-going project of the Board in conjunction with our local counties.

The following is a guide for making a call to 911:

1. Stay calm. It is important to take a deep breath and not get excited. Any situation that requires a 911 call, is by definition, an emergency. A 911 dispatcher knows this is an emergency and will move the call along as needed.
2. Know the location of the emergency and the number you are calling from. You may be asked to repeat the location or other information several times—don't get frustrated. The emergency crew needs as much information as you can provide. There may be clicking noises but do not hang up. Answer clearly and calmly. Use yes and no answers as often as you can.
3. Let the call-taker guide the conversation. He or she is typing the information into a computer and may seem to be taking forever. There is a good chance, however, that emergency services are being sent while you are still on the line.
4. Follow all directions.
5. Keep your eyes open. You may be asked to describe victims, suspects, vehicles, or other parts of the scene.
6. Do not hang up until directed to do so by the 911 dispatcher. No matter what happens, stay calm, take deep breaths, keep your answers steady and simple.
7. Even if you realize you've dialed the wrong number by dialing 911, stay on the line to tell the 911 dispatcher you made a mistake.

As we enjoy our beautiful lake with our friends and families, a few simple rules will make life at the lake much safer and more secure for all.

LAKE WATER LEVELS

By: Richard Beaton

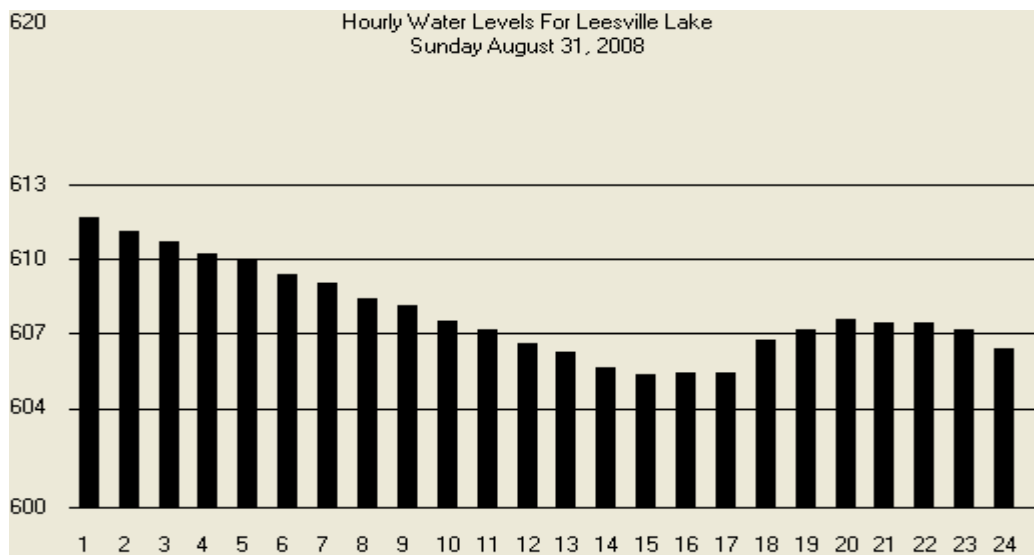
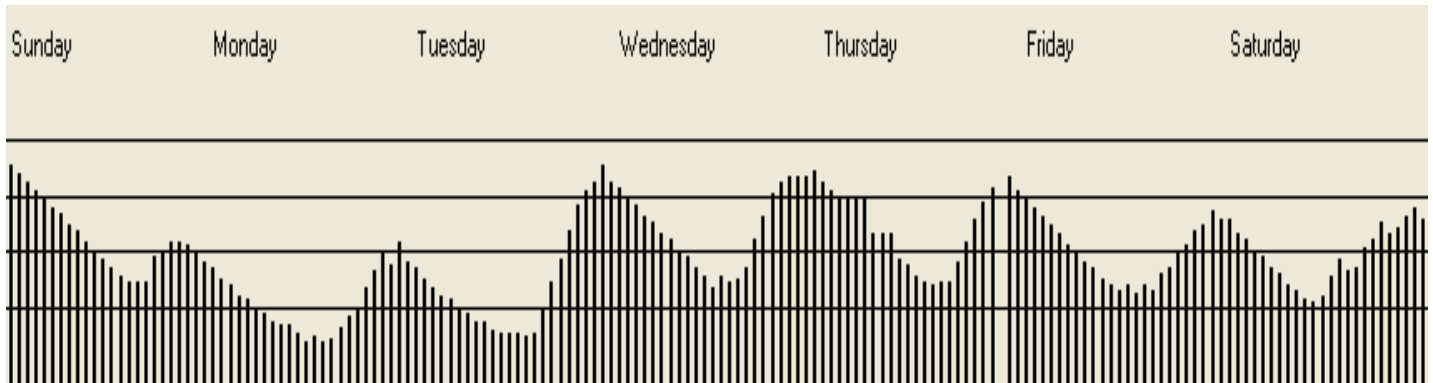
I got this idea soon after getting my always on, always fast DSL internet connection. I wrote an application that downloads the AEP water levels web page every hour and extracts the lake levels for Leesville and Smith Mountain Lakes. I left my computer on all night and then the next day also. Soon I was leaving it on for a full week, collecting data faithfully each hour. Then I asked my computer to make the graphs seen below. The unmarked lines marking the water level on the week graph corresponds to the similar lines on the day graph, which mark the contours 620, 613, and 600 among others. The power went out late on Thursday for a while during a storm leaving the one hour gap in the data.

The 620 foot contour is the project boundary and the highest flood contour. The normal highest water level is 613 feet and the normal lowest water level is 600. No week is alike in its water levels graph because of the various demands for power generation and collected rainfall. A typical summer week would be much as this week (see the graph) but with a more gradual rise through the week making Friday levels the highest. Saturday morning levels are lower--maybe half way down, and Sunday levels even lower, with Monday having the lowest dips for the week.

Leesville Lake was down at 600 feet for a few weeks this past fall because of an archaeological survey just below Smith Mountain Dam. At one time Native Americans quarried the site for stone points and tools. I have read reports about how the economic situation has people consuming less electricity. The warmer weather at times this fall and early winter also decreased the demand for electricity. All these things affect the water levels of Leesville Lake. The recent frigid temperatures have raised our lake to full pond on some mornings as well as iced the trees.

Smith Mountain Lake has been down for the past summer and fall but rainfall this winter has it back to full pond just in the past few weeks as of this writing in January 2009. Smith Mountain Lake's normal full pond of 795 feet above sea level is 182 feet above Leesville Lake full pond of 613. One foot of Leesville pumped back water gives approximately 1 ½ -2 inch rise in Smith Mountain's water level.

You can get current lake levels from the AEP web site yourself by going to the following web link: <http://aep.com/environmental/recreation/hydro/>. You can also click the lake levels link on the Shoreline Management page on www.leesvillelake.org.



ANY DUMPING IN LAKE A CLASS 2 MISDEMEANOR

Bedford County laws are very definitive about what is considered illegal dumping and littering. Please be aware that if you are caught putting trees, stumps, limbs, branches, and/or ANY other type of trash, garbage or debris in the lake, you will be subject to the penalties for a Class 2 Misdemeanor. A Class 2 Misdemeanor results in up to a \$1,000 fine and/or up to 6 months in jail. If you see anyone putting debris in the lake in Bedford County please call Bedford County law enforcement. We will have further updates regarding the laws in Pittsylvania and Campbell counties and who you should contact. For any of the counties surrounding the lake you may also call Ken Stump at AEP (540) 489-2543 to report the offense.

CALENDARS, HATS, SHIRTS



Our 2009 calendar is gorgeous and available. The profit we make on the calendars helps fund our projects. Buy one for yourself and/or they make wonderful gifts.

Calendars can be purchased at any meeting or from a Board member for \$10.00. If you would like to order by mail they are \$10.00 for the calendar plus \$3.00 for shipping for a total of \$13.00. Your check should be mailed to Leesville Lake Association, PO BOX 68, Altavista, VA 24517-0068.

Hats are \$10 if picked up from Julie, (434) 369-6630, or at any meeting. They can be mailed for \$13.00. Contact Sherwood (434) 656-1826, to purchase t-shirts from this past Beautification Day. If picked up in person or from a meeting they are \$5.00.

NEWSLETTER

Any of our readers are welcome to submit an article for the newsletter. The topics could be any lake related subject that you think should be shared with readers or that readers would enjoy. Our newsletter is quarterly and articles are due the 15th of January, April, July, or October. Submit articles to lakedoughbegone@msn.com. We look forward to hearing from you.

2009 Meetings and Events

- **Annual Meeting & Picnic:** July 11, 4 pm to 6 pm, Tri-County Marina
- **Board of Directors Meetings:**, February 12, March 12, May 14, June 11, August 13, September 10, November 12; 7 p.m., Altavista Train Station
- **General Membership Meetings:** January 8, April 9, October 8, 7 p.m., Altavista Train Station
- **6th Annual Lake Beautification Day:** May 16

THANK YOU!!

The Association thanks Cathy Dalton and Chris Lobue for their time and effort in getting this newsletter to you.

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LEESVILLE LAKE ASSOCIATION

NEW MEMBER ENROLLMENT

All Leesville Lake residents, property owners, and lake users are encouraged to join the Association.

We are working on:

- Lake clean up/debris removal
- Mile markers and navigational aids
- Safety
- Water quality monitoring

Your membership dues go toward helping accomplish these goals.

Thank you for your help.

_____ \$25 tax deductible, annual dues (make check payable to Leesville Lake Association and mail to address below)

_____ Optional tax deductible donation (list amount and include with your dues check or write a separate check)

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

County where lake property located _____

Preference for receiving quarterly newsletter: Regular mail _____ E-mail _____

_____ Corrections to information if already a member

_____ Comments: What issues surrounding the lake are of concern to you?

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