



SMITH MOUNTAIN LAKE ASSOCIATION

400 Scruggs Road, Suite 2100, Moneta, VA 24121

www.SMLAssociation.org

Protecting the Investment of SML Residents

Lake Matters: Summer 2018

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Ask SMLA

I read that SMLA does not charge for pumping the sewage from boats. Why? This has to be expensive.

Just Wondering...

Dear Wondering,

What a good question. We're glad you asked. A little history on the pump out program, formerly known as Royal Flush, follows.

The 17 year old Vessel Pump Out Program is a cooperative effort between the Virginia Department of Health (VDH), SMLA, and TLAC. There is **NO COST** to boaters for this service as a condition for accepting funds from VDH. Total expenditures for the 2017 season were about \$30,000. A grant from VDH covered 75%. TLAC supplied funds to cover the administrative costs. SMLA paid the balance.

Boaters who use the service are mailed a letter, after each use, letting them know that donations are accepted. A few are kind enough to send donations. Most don't.

To Report Debris on Smith Mountain and Leesville Lakes

Please go to
www.smithmountainproject.com

- Click the tab for the Debris Management Plan.
- You will need to fill out the online form.
- Please be as specific as possible describing the location of debris.



The Program operates each weekend; this year from Saturday, May 16 through Saturday, September 16. Boaters can call (540) 597-9834, Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., to schedule their vessel pump out for the upcoming weekend. Additionally, the crew will try to work in other pump out requests by boaters who call Friday through Sunday.

During 2017 the program over 5,000 gallons of raw sewage was removed from 311 separate pump out operations. Though costly, SMLA feels this worthwhile service must continue. Discharging sewage into the lake is prohibited. We want to do all we can to make sure this does not happen.

You can help by making a donation. Go to www.smlassociation.org or you can mail a check to our office (address in the Masthead above) and designate it for Vessel Pump Out. Your support of this program, and of SMLA is greatly appreciated.

***With Gratitude,
SMLA***

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The summer is passing us by so quickly! SMLA has been quite busy. Many of us have observed a much busier summer season with respect to the traffic on the lake. We live in a blessed place.

Take Pride in SML took place in May with excellent results. Residents collected 23.12 tons of debris compared with 6.43 tons in 2017. We had 222 participants compared with 92 participants in 2017. We are most grateful for our sponsors, management team volunteers and all those contributing to this event. We co-sponsored Take Pride with the Chamber and TLAC. A celebratory event was held at Mango's. This event represents wonderful volunteer efforts to keep our lake clean and navigable.

The Water Safety Council has been hard at work educating the public on boating safety as it relates to life jackets and wakes. We have had numerous unfortunate incidents to-date. The drowning death of a two-year old toddler was devastating. I wish to express my most sincere thanks to the 150 volunteers involved in the search; fire and rescue teams and the dive team. Our hearts and prayers are with this family. I cannot emphasize enough the need to be educated; being observant of others on the lake; consideration of large wakes as they relate to those paddle boarding, canoeing, those being towed, property damage; and ensuring everyone is wearing a life jacket. Our lake is to be enjoyed safely and in consideration of others.

SMLA is continuing our efforts to increase membership and volunteerism. I have been privileged to speak to POA's, the Newcomers' Club, Kiwanis and an upcoming opportunity with the Chamber. These opportunities have been most helpful in citizens understanding the programs that SMLA performs and the value of these programs to the health, safety and economy of the lake. If you are interested in having us present to your POA/HOA or club, please contact me. (540) 524-9220

Our Vessel Pump-Out program has been in progress. We will report our results this fall. This program provides value in keeping effluent out of the lake. It is also free to the boat owner!

The Water Quality program sampling efforts have been ongoing. We could not perform these activities without our volunteers. Thank you! Mike McCord, our newest Board member, has been working with Larry Iceman to lead these efforts in coordination with Ferrum College. The sampling results allow us to understand water chemistry and clarity and to take measures to remediate any identified problems when possible. We have had trended healthy water results with the exception of recent suspicious conditions in the upper Blackwater near channel marker B49. We provided an e-blast to properly notify everyone with recommendations. These circumstances are exacerbated by high water events, as we have had recently.

I am most grateful for our members, volunteers and Business Partners. SMLA could not provide these services without you. A healthy lake translates to stable property values, a good economy and healthy neighborhoods.

Please consider asking your friends, family and neighbors to join our efforts. We all have a stake in SMLA's ability to deliver quality programs.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorie Smith

SMLA President

*
* *You can join SMLA by going to www.smlassociation.org and clicking Join Now. While* *
* *you're there, check out our programs; or order lake maps, T-Shirts or No Wake Signs!* *
* *Membership Matters!* *
*

Have you been to the new, easier to use, SMLA website? It includes hot topics and news releases right up front on the home page. You can also access the latest newsletter from the home page. If you would like more information about SMLA, a new separate tab entitled “What SMLA Does for the Lake” describes the variety of historic efforts accomplished to enhance Smith Mountain Lake. Additionally, it includes a “Store” that has the ability for you to buy not only *maps*, but also our new *T-Shirts* as well as our *No Wake Signs*... and if you have children and/or grandchildren, call the office and ask about our *“Safety Sam” dock signs*.

Keep checking in on smlassociation.org as we continue to refine the new site.

WATER QUALITY WATER QUALITY MONITORING

As we are coming to the end of another great summer at Smith Mountain Lake, we want to thank all of the conscientious and responsible people who help keep our beautiful lake clean and safe for everyone to enjoy in their own way. We are talking about you when you:

- ⇒ haul away your trash rather than throw it in the lake;
- ⇒ collect debris in the lake when you see it;
- ⇒ don't over fertilize your lawn to avoid excess phosphorous that could run into our lake;
- ⇒ have your septic system inspected regularly to ensure it does not seep into the lake;

and many other common sense activities to keep SML clean and safe.

In addition to being sites for recreational activities, lakes and other freshwater resources also provide other important services, including power generation, water for bathing, and important fisheries. Declining or low water quality impacts the value of lakes – economically, ecologically, and socially. For example, if pollution enters a lake overtime, it can reduce the water quality enough such that it is unsafe to drink as well as harm organisms that live in the water. This reduces the ecological value of the lake. These changes can alter perceived value of the water body and hence reduce recreational activity and nearby land values.

Keeping the lake clean and unpolluted is not just a summer activity—it is important all year round.

Samples taken by our 60+ water quality monitors get analyzed by our partner, Ferrum College. Despite heavy rains at the beginning of the season, only twice during the summer did E.coli testing results exceed the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) standards for recreation waters AND these two instances were in specific locations. The vast majority of the lake tested well below VDH standards during each testing cycle.

If you would like to be part of the Smith Mountain Lake Association (SMLA) efforts to keep the lake clean and safe please consider joining and becoming an active member of SMLA. If you would like to become more “hands on” in helping to protect our lake please contact the SMLA office to volunteer as a Water Quality Monitor or a volunteer in one of several other important programs.

Michael McCord
Water Quality Monitoring



Greg Hicks, a rising junior at Ferrum helps WQM, Sam Easter take water samples on the Blackwater. Greg hopes to continue to help with sampling and to learn more about opportunities for interning with the program.

TLAC is collecting data regarding the impact of wake incidents and issues caused by various boating activities on Smith Mountain Lake. If you would like to provide information regarding a specific experience that might be helpful in our research, please complete the Boating Incident form at:

<http://sml.us.com/navigation/boating-incident-form/>

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS

We are working hard to obtain email addresses to send newsletters to you, via email, in full color, and at NO cost to SMLA.

This is necessary to continue to support the ever rising cost of the many programs we support. We hope you will understand, and share our concerns about using your money wisely.

Please email theoffice@smlassociation.com if we do not already have your email address on file, and include your name/s and mailing address so we can match your email to your account information.

We will never share your personal information with anyone else. This information will only be used to send the newsletter and/or important notifications from SMLA.

Kroger and Amazon have agreed to contribute to SMLA!

It won't cost us, or you, anything, but you do have to take the time to register. Won't you help us?

First, sign up for Kroger's Community Rewards Program (NOP number RF748)

You will need our new NPO number RF748, and your Kroger Plus Card.

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- Sign up for a Kroger Rewards Account. Enter your zip code, click on your store, enter your email address, create a password, and agree to the terms and conditions.
- You will get a message to check your email inbox. Click on the link in the email.
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- Click on *Edit Kroger Community Rewards* information and enter your Kroger Plus card #.
- Update or confirm your information.
- Enter NPO RF748, or our name, and select us from list. Click confirm.
- To verify you are enrolled correctly, you can check for your information on the right side of your information page.
- REMEMBER, purchases will not count for us until you register your card(s).

Next, sign up for AmazonSmile.com

Upon your first visit you will be prompted to search for and select a charitable organization from their list (Smith Mountain Lake Association, Inc. please!) then, shop away! This works for Amazon Prime members too. ***Is there a catch?*** Well, sort of – you must always remember to log into the **Amazon Smile** site in order for us to get the contribution. That's all. And we get a 5% reimbursement of your eligible purchases! This site gives you all the same choices as the regular site, and at no additional cost to you. It just allows you to share the wealth.

WATER SAFETY COUNCIL: Comfortable, Secure and Cool

What a great sense of freedom we get from being on the water. In most cases it seems that the destination is secondary--it's all about the journey. Ah, the motion, the breeze, the sun, the friends aboard. We see no hazards so no need to wear a life jacket. Oops, that's where we go wrong!

According to the U.S. Coast Guard, "One-half of all recreational boating fatalities happen in calm water. These fatalities occur close to shore and are caused by drowning. Also, in most cases, life jackets are stowed on board, but not worn. And all accidents are unexpected."¹ When boating accidents happen, they happen suddenly and there's no time to put on a life jacket. It's like hoping to put on a seat belt after your car starts skidding towards a tree—there's just NO WAY!

Today's inflatable life jackets remove many of our objections to wearing a flotation device. These jackets are compact, don't restrict movement, are comfortable, and they look cool. Boaters can choose from manual inflation, automatic inflation, hybrids and belt pack types. We'll look at each type below, but there are some features that they all have in common. When worn, they are deflated and contained in protective cases until flotation is required. They all use a gas cylinder to inflate the air bladder when needed. Each has a "pull cord" that can be used to activate the gas cylinder, plus an oral inflating tube that can be used to blow additional air into the bladder if needed. After an inflation, they can be deflated and rearmed using a kit that's readily available on line for about \$20.

Auto Inflatables: This type will inflate automatically when it is immersed in water—which means a wearer who is unconscious or incapacitated will be kept afloat with the face out of the water. Auto inflatables also have a pull cord for manual activation as a back-up. There are two types of auto inflatables, distinguished by the way the auto feature is activated:

Bobbin Style Auto Inflatable: The inflator mechanism has a bobbin that dissolves very rapidly when immersed in water and releases a spring driven pin that opens the gas cylinder. This is a good system and inflates quickly and reliably. While these jackets will generally resist a little splashing and light rain, if the bobbin gets wet, it will self inflate without being immersed. When using this style jacket, it's a good idea to keep it dry and change into a conventional vest if weather turns foul.

Hydrostatic Style Auto Inflatable: The inflator mechanism is triggered by water pressure, sensing even a couple of inches of immersion. This style of jacket can be worn in wet conditions without inadvertent inflation. It's a really good idea but comes at a cost, as prices are generally more than twice that of the bobbin styles.

Manual Inflatable: This type looks the same as the auto-inflation styles, but only inflates when someone pulls on the inflation cord. This has the advantage of not being sensitive to wet conditions. Sailors who are consistently wet or fisherman who go out in the rain may prefer this type. The obvious disadvantage is that, should the wearer be knocked unconscious or incapacitated in the water, the jacket will not inflate and thus will not provide any flotation.

Belt Pack Inflatable: These are generally manually activated but there are some with auto-inflation mechanisms. Contained in a belt pack worn around the waist, they are very comfortable and do not cause tan lines. But they require assistance from the user. Most are pull-cord activated, requiring user inflation. And since they are worn around the waist, their position may have to be adjusted after inflation to keep the wearer floating comfortably face up. Confident swimming skills are a must for use of this style.

Hybrid Inflatable: These are specialty models that have some inherent flotation and are augmented with smaller inflatable bladders. They look more like conventional PFD vests but are cut to be less restrictive and are popular for some paddle sports like Kayaking. These are not well-suited for general pleasure boat activities, however.

Inflatables have many advantages, but boaters should be aware of the following considerations:

- Inflatables must be inspected as per their user manuals to insure the inflator mechanism is armed (new vests must be armed before the first wearing) and the air bladder is in good condition
- USCG approval labels detail approved uses of the PFD.
- The user should be familiar with PFD operation.
- Inflatables are not approved for users less than 16 years of age.
- They are not recommended for swift water sports (white water) or any activity where the user will likely wind up in the water.
- They are not approved for water skiing, wake sports or PWC operators and passengers
- They provide no protection from hypothermia.
- They MUST be worn as the outer most layer. Never wear rain gear or a coat over these vests.
- Users must read and follow the instruction manual.

So there's the scoop on inflatable lifejackets: They are a great new choice for safer boating and I wear mine every time I'm on the water. You should too, because whatever your preferred lifejacket, the key safety precaution is to WEAR IT!

¹ *How to Choose the Right Life Jacket, United States Coast Guard*

By Randy Stow, SML Water Safety Council



SMLA Business Partners

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Please support lake area businesses that support SMLA!



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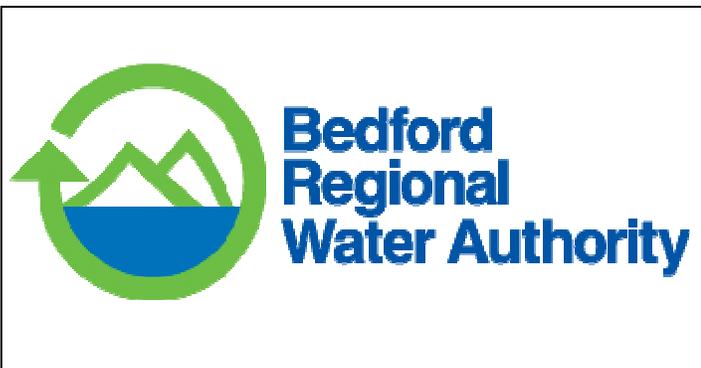


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WESTERN VIRGINIA WATER AUTHORITY

SMLA Office Hours: The secretary is in the office on Tuesday and Friday from 9 to 5. We are open most Mondays and Thursdays from 9 to 1, staffed by volunteers. The office is closed on Wednesday.

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Not a Member? Go to www.smlassociation.org to read our newsletters in the future, or consider joining! Just click “**Join Us**” to pay the tax deductible dues online.

Membership Matters!

AEP DEBRIS REMOVAL UPDATE FOR JULY 2018

Appalachian Power removed the following amounts from Smith Mountain Lake (in tons):

Lake Crew: 80; Total: 80 tons

Appalachian Power removed the following amounts from Leesville Lake (in tons):

Lake Crew: 210; Contractor: 300; Total: 510 tons

As a result, the total amount removed from the Smith Mountain Project for the year to date is 1,902 tons. Broken down by lake, that amount equates to:

Smith Mountain Lake : 690 tons

Leesville Lake : 1212 tons

An AEP representative is in the SMLA office on Friday afternoons from 1:00 to 4:30.

This is an opportunity for property owners to ask general questions about shoreline management at Smith Mountain Lake.

No appointment is needed.

For Information about the Shoreline Management Plan go to www.smithmtn.com.