



SMITH MOUNTAIN LAKE ASSOCIATION

400 Scruggs Road, Suite 2100, Moneta, VA 24121

Website: www.SMLAssociation.org Phone: 540-719-0690

Protecting the Lake & the Investment of SML Residents

Lake Matters: Summer 2019

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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As you are aware, we have lost three individuals recently who made significant contributions to our community, Stan Smith, Larry Iceman and Slim Crawford. Stan was a former President of TLAC and the Smith Mountain Lake Association. He was instrumental in raising funding for the Westlake Library. Larry Iceman was a former President of Smith Mountain Lake Association, known for his leadership and dedication to the water quality management program. He was also a proud Lion. Both of these men cared deeply about the ecological health of the lake. Slim was the long-time Fire Chief of the Scruggs Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department. Slim loved his community and served it honorably. We mourn the loss of these three leaders and pray for their families in their time of loss.

Take Pride in Smith Mountain Lake just completed its 2019 season. We had another banner year with increased participation and debris removed from the lake. As of this writing, the collection weight total is not yet available, but I can provide an impressive comparison to last year, shown in the box below.

I would like to sincerely thank everyone who participated in Take Pride! This event continues to be highly successful and is growing each year. I would also like to thank the committee for all of their time, coordination and hard work. We continue to have dedicated sponsors: AEP, Capps Home Building, Carilion Clinic, Glenda McDaniel, SMLGP Development Turner Building Inc, Western VA Water Authority and Berkshire Hathaway. Thank you! I would also like to extend a very special thank you to Vicki Gardner, Paula Shoffner, Pam Alford and Andie Gibson for your leadership. It is a privilege to have served with everyone involved in this event.

Finally, please 'Save the Date' for **SMLA's Annual Meeting**. It is scheduled for **Thursday, August 1, 2019** with doors opening at 5:30 p.m. and program beginning at 6:30 p.m. It will be held at Trinity Ecumenical Parish. This year's program will be focused on water safety. We will have presentation tables, door prizes and our awards. This year's event promises to be improved and informative.

It is my hope that everyone will be safe on the lake this summer. Please ensure everyone wears their life jackets and to watch your wakes. Be vigilant in watching for people in the water and having a safe boating distance from other vessels. And, of course, please do not drink and drive on the water.

Have a lovely and safe summer!

Respectfully Submitted,

Lorie Smith

Lorie M. Smith, President

Take Pride in SML: 2018

32 Registered Events
222 Participants

Take Pride in SML: 2019

49 Registered Events
312 Participants



SMLA

Office Hours :

Our office is located in **The Plaza** on Scruggs Road. We are on the Lower Level, right beside the Discovery Shop Annex.

Teresa Picking, SMLA Office Administrator, is in the office on Tuesday, and Friday from 9:00 to 5:00, and on Wednesday from 9:00 to 3:00. We are open most Mondays and Thursdays from 9:00 to 1:00 (staffed by volunteers).

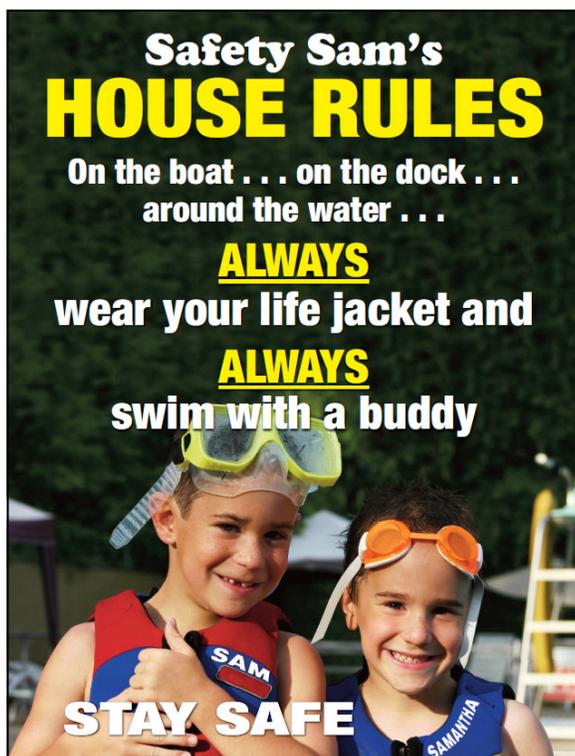
WATER SAFETY: Water and Dock Safety at Smith Mountain Lake

Have you noticed that the month of May is National Water Safety month? You might ask why when the water is quite cool as well as the air. The idea is, **prepare** to be safe in and around the water.

The United States Center for Disease Control, in their latest statistics, place accidental drowning as the second leading cause of unintentional death in children age 1 to 14 years, and fifth for all ages.

While boating on the Lake I am shocked at the number of children under the age of six playing on docks and on boats without a life jacket (PFD). You might ask, "What's the big deal?"

Many of us who live on the Lake chose this location as a magnet for our children, grandchildren and friends to visit and enjoy. During fair weather our docks, boats and water toys keep everyone happily entertained. The younger ones, under our watchful eyes jump off the dock in an array of positions that would make an Olympic diver cringe.



A good friend of ours was enjoying such an idyllic day. While preparing dinner, their granddaughter announced, "Look, Jackson is on the dock." The two-year-old had unlocked the front door, walked down a steep incline and was standing on the floating dock where he had been jumping in the water an hour before. He was quickly retrieved and a bookcase was placed blocking the front door for increased security.

OK, bottom line: The vast majority of drowning occurs within six feet of safety. Most drownings occur when a person finds themselves in water over their head, where they never intended to be. Even if you are a proficient swimmer, hitting your head on a dock, boat, or submerged pole or rock, makes your swimming ability useless. A lifejacket (PFD) should be worn by all those in a boat. "But it's not a law," you say. How fast do you operate your boat? If your boat runs aground, hits a submerged object or another boat, you and your passengers become unguided missiles. According to the Virginia DGIF; of those that drowned in boating accidents, 86% of them were not wearing a life jacket (PFD).

Here is what you can do. Take the "Safety Sam" pledge. Make kids wear a lifejacket (PFD) "On the boat, on the dock, and around the water." It sometimes is difficult to enforce rules around your home when your loved ones and friends visit. Having a sign that reflects "Best Practices" gives you the opportunity to blame it on someone else. You can be a good example and wear one as well. "But I know how to swim, they are so cumbersome, and they ruin my tan," you say. There are PFD's that are smaller and flatter, and either are manually or automatically inflated when you enter the water. No Excuses now.

The Smith Mountain Lake Water Safety Council is selling 12"X18" metal signs for \$10 at the Smith Mountain Lake Association office at 400 Scruggs Road. They announce *Safety Sam's "House Rules"* and can be placed on a dock or the path leading to the water. To sell them at your business, call 540-719-0690, and we will deliver them.

Make the pledge to be safe. Experts agree, with a little forethought **every drowning** could have been prevented. Give yourself and Smith Mountain Lake an enjoyable and safe summer.

Patrick Massa is the chair of the SML Water Safety Council



WATER QUALITY MONITORING

The water quality monitoring season is under way! Volunteer monitors met on May 8th to kick off the 2019 season! As always, strawberry shortcake, prepared by the Ferrum team, was enjoyed by all! SMLA is grateful to the volunteers who sample each season. This information is critical as we strive to maintain and promote excellent water quality through best practices and education.



EMERGENCY DOCK IDENTIFICATION SIGNS: A message from the SMLA Water Safety Council

With warmer weather upon us, one of the best spring spruce-up things SML homeowners can do for their families is to purchase and install a light-reflective dock address sign. Available from the SML Rotary Club, your sign will announce your location to friends who visit by boat, but more importantly, it will act as a homing beacon for Marine Fire and Rescue teams in an emergency.

Todd Ohlerich, Chief of the Smith Mountain Lake Marine Fire Department, states: "Many times we have been out on the lake at night, searching to try to locate the dock associated with an emergency call address. In emergencies when every second wasted reduces the chances of a favorable outcome, wasting time looking for the right dock is a very frustrating experience. I can only imagine how upsetting this must be for those waiting for our help."

Smith Mountain Lake is one of the few lakes in the country that has several ISO-rated fire /rescue boats positioned strategically around the lake. These volunteer-operated vessels can often respond to an emergency quicker than land-based units due to the size of our lake and its complex shoreline. Since the rescue boat teams are dispatched by street address, finding the correct location by water can be difficult. Remember: many neighborhoods have numerous streets that lead to homes on the water. For rescue boats to find the right unmarked waterfront property can be very difficult and time consuming.

Fire and Rescue Teams and the SMLA's Water Safety Council agree that emergency dock signs are a tremendous aid to locating an emergency in a hurry. The metal signs are available from the Rotary for \$30.00--or \$50.00 for a sign installed by Rotary members. Applications for the signs are available online at www.smlrotary.com/fundraising/dock-signs/.

Chief Ohlerich concludes by saying: "I hope we never have to respond to your location. But if we do, your dock sign will be the best investment you have ever made for the safety of you and your loved ones."

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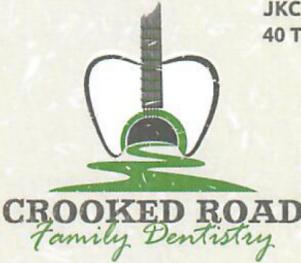
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★
★ **TLAC continues to collect data regarding the impact of wake incidents** ★
★ **and issues caused by various boating activities on Smith Mountain Lake.** ★
★ **If you would like to provide information regarding a specific** ★
★ **experience that might be helpful in our research, please complete the** ★
★ **Boating Incident form at:** ★
★ **<http://sml.us.com/navigation/boating-incident-form/>** ★
★

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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.

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