



Bulletin

YOUR PRIMARY VOICE ON LAKE ISSUES

With a mission to identify issues affecting our members and pursue resolution with the responsible organizations.

www.lakegastonassoc.com info@lakegastonassoc.com

(252) 586-6577 or 1-888-586-6577

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President's Corner

The Lake Is Full of Water!

I sincerely hope this newsletter finds each and every one of you in good health.

We have seen a lot of high water here on Lake Gaston and we are not alone. In the last two months, parts of the Roanoke River basin upstream from us (which is the principal water source into LKG) have seen the number 1 and number 4 highest rainfall totals in the past 91 years! In the month of June alone, Kerr Reservoir (or Buggs Island Lake) had inflows that were 376% of the historical median for that month. All that water has to go somewhere and that somewhere is down hill.

The impacts are distributed all up and down the river. Cotton crops have been lost downstream, fields are too wet to plant, some homes can be damaged or made inaccessible. Campgrounds and boat ramps have been flooded up in Kerr Reservoir. Here on Lake Gaston we see higher water levels that sometimes cover docks and breach bulkheads. Wind and boat wakes exacerbate the problem. Many ask, "Who's fault is this and why is it happening to us?" Here is the Who and the Why.

As many of you know, the primary purpose for US Army Corps of Engineers building Kerr Dam was for flood control. Lake Gaston (LKG) also shares some of that role, but to a much lesser degree, as does Roanoke Rapids Lake (RR). Dominion's predecessor VEPCO built the LKG and RR dams primarily for power generation, with secondary purposes of flood control and recreation. Dominion owns the shoreline all around the lake.

Unlike many lakes, LKG water levels are strictly regulated through Dominion's license with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and they must (and do) coordinate with the Corps. There are four operating states for Lake Gaston:

- Normal: 199–200 feet of elevation
- Fish Spawning: 199–201 feet of elevation
- Flood Control: up to 203 feet of elevation
- Drought: No lower than 197 feet (60.0 m) feet of elevation

Some years ago, Dominion, in response to LGA and community input, began a voluntary "Good Neighbor" Policy to limit Flood Control lake levels on LKG to 201.5 feet of elevation when at all possible. They have been remarkably good at sticking to that policy. Even at 201.5 feet, though, some docks and bulkheads are swamped.

So, who decides what state of operation we are in? Basically the Corps makes that call in their role in mitigating the flooding of the Roanoke River. As you would expect, during Flood Control, Kerr, LKG, and RR all release water at much higher rates than at normal times.

Managing the flood control of a major river like the Roanoke River, all 410 miles from the Appalachian mountains to the Albemarle Sound, is a demanding coordination of a very complex system. Sitting in the middle of these three lakes, Lake Gaston enjoys the "best" lake level control of them all.

(Continued on page 2)

President's Corner

(Continued from page 1)

Several years ago, the management plan for the Roanoke River (referred to as QRR) was updated. The result was a significant reduction in the number of days that the system was in Flood Control. That reduction means an equal number of extra days that LKG was in the normal range. It was a win for us.

In the end, Mother nature is driving the whole system. We have had a lot of rain this year. The Corps and Dominion are dealing with it as best they can.

Lastly, the LGA is continuing to track the recommendations of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as well as State and local Departments of Health as they may apply to our activities. Our highest priority is the safety and wellbeing of our members and the community.

So far, we have postponed most of our activities and meetings until such time as the threat has subsided and are evaluating how we might conduct our activities as the situation evolves. Even when restrictions are relaxed, we will be mindful of balancing the benefit of our activity and the potential impact on our community and our volunteers (many of whom may fall into the At Risk category).

Enjoy the lake, be safe and be healthy.

Don

Lake Gaston – Special Place, Incredible People!



10th Annual Lake Clean-Up

Unfortunately the 10th Annual Lake Clean-Up Day did not officially take place this year due to the COVID-19 Virus. BUT as I have said so many times, any AND every day is Lake Clean-Up Day.

So whenever you have a chance and see some trash along the road, please help yourself (safely) to picking up the trash and disposing of it properly. Be careful of the high grass along the roads....ticks and chiggers seem to be plentiful this year (I speak from personal experience).

Also, with the high water recently, many things have washed up along the shorelines. It is important to keep those things from floating back into the water and possibly causing damage to a vessel. Please check your shorelines.

Hoping you and yours are keeping safe and doing what must be done to eliminate this virus that is keeping us from enjoying our normal lives.

SUSPENDED - We are always looking for interested persons to join us on the Lake Clean-Up monthly committee meetings that are held the last Wednesday of the month at 10:30 a.m. at Little Food & Spirits, 235 N. Mosby Ave., Littleton, NC 27850. Everyone is invited to participate.

Contact them at LakeCleanup@LakeGastonAssoc.com

Education Committee Update

We hope all are enjoying your summer vacations and outdoor lake activities.

There are no Education activities this summer. We are waiting on hearing what the local school policies will be for the upcoming school year to determine what if any programs we may support to help our local students. Our Education Committee meetings have been canceled for the near future. Stay healthy!

SUSPENDED - Monthly Education Committee meetings are held the third Tuesday of the month at 8:30 a.m. at the Littleton Food & Spirits, 235 N. Mosby Ave., (Hwy 903), Littleton, NC 27850. We welcome your participation at these meetings even if it is to learn more about our programs.

Contact them at Education@LakeGastonAssoc.com .

Lake Environment Committee Update

While social distancing requirements have prevented our committee from meeting in person, we are now meeting using the Zoom platform. If you would like an invite to join us please let me know. Jzimmer2216@gmail.com

Vegetation Exclosures Project

Covid work restrictions placed on NCSU and Wildlife Resource Commission folks have required LGA to modify our plans for revegetation in 2020. Typically a survey is conducted in the spring and fall of each year to determine the success of transplanting, organic spread of vegetation and the need for repairs to the exclosures, or "cages".

We conducted a fall survey in 2019 and had planned a spring survey in April. Work alone restrictions has delayed this survey and we now hope to conduct it in late July. Results will then allow us to develop a very limited work plan for 2020 with a focus on preventing any significant degradation of cages, "hold what you have". With limited resources and the concern for everyone's safety, we will not be asking folks to volunteer this year.

This collaborative effort with NCSU, the Commission as well as Virginia DGIF is how LGA members can directly develop and maintain a healthy lake ecosystem based on a diverse plant community dominated by native plant species.

If you have volunteered in the past, we thank you. We hope to resume our full efforts in 2021.

Weed Control Council Treatments

The Lake Gaston Weed Control Council (LGWCC) continues to fund herbicide treatments based upon recommendations from a Technical Advisory Group with support from the Lake Gaston Stakeholders Group. PLM Lake and Land Management was once again selected as the application contractor for these treatments in 2020.

Four treatments for Lyngbya have already been conducted (through July). Plans are for an additional treatment August 19th-21st, with another the end of September.

The first treatment for Hydrilla was done on July 1st. This same area will be treated again July 29th and August 26th. Maps showing the specific treatment areas can be found at: <http://www.lgwcc.org>

E. coli testing

We distributed 90 plus Coliscan Easy gel water test kits to volunteers recently. This is a simple, accurate and quantitative way to identify and differentiate coliforms and E. coli (true fecal coliform). The presence of fecal coliform bacteria indicates contamination by human and/or animal fecal material.

If E. coli is present in water, disease-causing bacteria may also be present. With the exception of Miles Creek in the upper reaches of the Lake our tests have not detected significant amounts of E. coli.

Contact Al Potter to make arrangements for the test equipment: apotter11@gmail.com. We ask that you provide your test results so we can track results by location over time.

Fall Vegetation Survey Plans

Plans for our fall volunteer vegetation survey are now underway. Jessica Bauman, Extension Associate for Lake Gaston with NC State University's Aquatic Plant Management Program is developing a training program that can be accessed and viewed on the web.

While we all like to get "hands on" with the plants, we think this will be a great start for new volunteers and serve as a refresher for those continuing from past seasons. We will bring more information to you on this in August. We hope you can take time this fall to help with this important project.

NCSU Aquatic Management update

Our partners at NCSU continue to conduct bio based sonar to detect and record submersed vegetation development. They are continuing their water quality sampling and are now also conducting E. coli tests at eighteen tributary locations. They are developing a water quality presentation for stakeholders to help educate us on this important topic.

Our partners

Along with NC State, the NC Wildlife Resource Commission and the Lake Gaston Weed Control Council we are fortunate to work with Dominion Power, Virginia Wildlife Resources, and NC DEQ to help monitor and improve the Lake Gaston environment. We feel very fortunate to have these partners and appreciate all their hard work.

To learn more about this and other Lake Environment volunteer opportunities contact them at the email below.

SUSPENDED - Monthly Lake Environment meetings are held the third Wednesday of the month at 8:30 a.m. at the Kitchen Table Café, 4111 Gasburg Road, Gasburg, VA 23857 (across from Dollar General). Everyone is invited to participate.

Contact them at Environment@LakeGastonAssoc.com

Public Safety news ...

This is the time of the year that we start seeing the hurricane and hazardous storms pick up in occurrence. In order to ensure that members have timely, location specific hazardous weather information, please make use of the emergency information from the counties around the lake by signing up for notifications:

- For Brunswick County, VA, go to https://www.brunswickco.com/government/departments/emergency_services .
- For Halifax County, NC go to <https://local.nixle.com/signup/widget/i/5331> .
- For Mecklenburg County, VA go to <https://member.everbridge.net/index/453003085615049#/signup> .
- For Northampton County, NC please go to <https://public.coderedweb.com/CNE/en-US/248EB5E66275> .
- For Warren County, NC, please go to <https://public.coderedweb.com/CNE/en-US/722FDAD749F7> .

The information available from the county emergency services offices is local to the county and areas of the affected county. It is also potentially the timeliest source of information tied to a specific address. As a for instance, the counties all receive up to date, accurate weather information from the National Weather Service and the state governments. Dominion Power has the counties' emergency services offices in its notification tree. The Lake Gaston Association will still provide high water warnings and other critical information, but our communication is not as timely as that available through these official emergency services sources.

As we near the end of the most popular season for being at the lake, please start planning for the cold months and coordinate with neighbors so that they can look out for you and you can look out for them. The Fall is when we all need to get into the Watch Out for Our Neighborhood role, and the time to make sure we keep our neighbors in mind when extreme weather strikes. Have cell phone numbers as backups for hardline phones. Check on your neighbors and let them know that you are safe.

We are trying to schedule a Community Shred late August. We will advertise when scheduling is complete, and we have set up a complete plan for doing this safely with COVID-19 in mind.

Now is the time to schedule needed maintenance on heating systems and ventilation, change the air filters, check the batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, and get the chimney cleaned. Buy the salt for the walkway and stairs and put it where it is handy to get to.

Enjoy this beautiful time of the year on the water and be safe.

SUSPENDED - Monthly Safety Committee meetings are held the second Friday of the month at 8:30 a.m. at the Littleton Food & Spirits, 235 N. Mosby Ave., (Hwy 903), Littleton, NC 27850. Everyone is invited to participate to give us fresh ideas and viewpoints.

Contact us at Safety@LakeGastonAssoc.com

Weed Control questions ...

Do the property owners in your subdivision have questions about weed control? Feel free to contact Jeff Zimmer our Lake Environment chair at jzimmer2216@gmail.com .

Wanted!

What does it take to be a Director?

- You are welcome to sit in on any of our committee meetings and decide what is best for you – look for the committee meeting grid in the Bulletin for when they meet.
- Join us the first Wednesday of each month for the LGA monthly meeting at 9:30 a.m. (Lake Gaston Baptist Church, across from Subway), to see what is being done and what can be done.

Contact Nominating@LakeGastonAssoc.com

A Tough Time

Yes, it has been a tough time for our household members during the pandemic but particularly for our business members. Some may be just hanging on and contemplating if they can continue to operate. Please consider visiting them, they are listed in this bulletin starting on page 12, and tell them how important they are to the lake community.

And remember that we are now in that period when any new member you sponsor will receive all LGA membership benefits for the rest of this year as well as 2021. Also both will receive a \$5.00 discount on the dues cost. Want another incentive? The member sponsoring the most new members will be awarded a \$50 gift card at Water's View Restaurant.

Have some other ideas to increase our membership? Join us at our next Marketing & Membership Committee Meeting - provided we are over COVID-19.

SUSPENDED - Monthly Marketing & Membership Committee meetings are held the third Thursday of the month at 8:30 a.m. at the Littleton Food & Spirits, 235 N. Mosby Ave., (Hwy 903), Littleton, NC 27850. Please join us. We are a small group and would appreciate your input.

Contact them at MarketingMembership@LakeGastonAssoc.com

News from the Government Relations Committee

The dust has settled and the County budgets have been approved for FY2020-2021. The local county fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30.

The information below is our annual posting for each county of the total budget, the ad valorem tax rate, and funding to the Lake Gaston Weed Control Council (LGWCC) for noxious weed control.

County	Total Budget (1)	Tax Rate per \$100 (2)	LGWCC Funding (3)
Halifax, NC	\$ 46,956,893	\$0.76	\$ 58K
Northampton, NC	\$ 34,138,435	\$0.91	\$116K
Warren, NC	\$ 33,522,088	\$0.81	\$116K
Brunswick, VA	\$ 43,513,345	\$0.53	\$ 90K
Mecklenburg, VA	\$128,650,365	\$0.42	\$116K

(1) Note that Virginia counties are funded differently than North Carolina counties, which results in higher budget totals, but lower ad valorem tax rates.

(2) NC: Halifax went down 1 cent, Northampton went down 1 cent, Warren went up 2 cents

VA: Brunswick and Mecklenburg stayed the same as last year.

(3) All five counties continued with the same LGWCC funding as FY2019-2020

The Government Relations Committee is a non-partisan activity that focuses on monitoring and interacting with our local and, to some extent, state governments. Our common goal is to represent the interests of our membership on matters that affect the Lake Gaston area.

You can help by joining us at our monthly meetings or by volunteering a small amount of your time. For example, members can attend a local county Commissioner/Supervisors meeting and witness your government in action. It only takes an evening a month or less (we can switch off with other members) and can be very interesting.

SUSPENDED - Monthly Government Relations Committee meetings are held the third Tuesday of the month at 8:30 a.m. at the Littleton Food & Spirits, 235 N. Mosby Ave., (Hwy 903), Littleton, NC 27850. Everyone is invited to participate.

Contact them at GovernmentRelations@LakeGastonAssoc.com.

Need to know who are your Government Elected Officials

Lake Gaston NC & Lake Gaston VA

US, State and County... <http://www.lakegastonassoc.com/GovRel/ElecOfficials.htm>

LGA Government Relations Committee keeps this page on our website updated for you.

(It's the best kept secret under Committees, Government Relations. Check out who represents you at the lake and email them direct from our website. Telephone #s are listed as well. Use the link above to check out this information. You can also get to the County websites from the same page.)

From the Desk of the Executive Director

Well where do I start ... Firstly, I never thought we would be deeper into the COVID-19 virus when it came to pulling together our August/September 2020 Bulletin in July. So many annual events at the lake have been cancelled, including the Littleton-Lake Gaston Festival in Littleton on Labor Day weekend.

Although our LGA committees haven't been meeting you'll see that there is still activity going on as you read through this issue:

- **Lake Environment Committee** has always plenty going on out in the lake: Vegetation Exclosures Project, Lake Gaston Weed Control Council Treatments, E. coli testing, Fall Vegetation Survey Plans, NCSU Aquatic Management update, and who our partners are. We can always do with more volunteers. How about it! See page 3.
 - **Marketing & Membership Committee** has started their membership drive for 2021 where new members joining from September 1st will get the rest of this year thru 2021. And members can receive \$5 off their 2021 dues for bringing in a new member. See page 5.
 - **Government Relations Committee** see Total Budgets, Ad valorem tax rate per \$100 & Hydrilla Funding for your county's FY2020-2021 Budget. Their common goal is to represent the interests of our membership on matters that affect the Lake Gaston area. See page 5.
 - **Public Safety Committee** who to call, by county, as we start to see the hurricane & hazardous storms pick up, planning for cold months, Shredding event, etc. See page 4.
 - **Education Committee** waiting to hear what the local school policies will be for the upcoming school year. See page 2.
 - **Lake Clean-Up Committee** Although our 10th Annual Lake Gaston Clean-Up day was cancelled, every day is Lake Clean-Up day. See page 2.
 - **Wanted! What does it take to be a Director?** How about it? We have a wonderful group of directors to work with. While ... there is no pay to take home, the hours are flexible and we're a great group to hang with. See page 4.
- As for me, I've been staying busy with the quarterly LGA Bulletins, welcoming new members, supporting the LGA committees, sending out emails to our membership (our email list to all our members is nearing 2,000 at one email per membership record), answering questions from our members and/or forwarding them to our committee chairs/president.
- And ... before I know it, it will be time to send out our renewal notices for 2021 dues at the beginning of October – our membership dues year is January – December.
- Please take care of yourselves and stay safe.

Moir

***LGA welcomes a new business member:
Triple R Tree Service***

LGA Dues Discount:

Sponsor a friend or neighbor and they will get a \$5.00 discount off of their 2020 membership dues and you the same during the next renewal period.

Want more information?

Contact Moira Underwood, Executive Director at 252-586-6577.

Lake Gaston Lost & Found items ...

If you have **lost any property or found any property** that may have floated away like a canoe/kayak, jet ski, boat, paddle board etc. call/email the LGA office at 1-800-586-6577 or (252) 586-6577 or info@lakegastonassoc.com and let us know, describe each item(s) and give us contact information for you. Lost & Found items would be listed in this section of our bi-monthly bulletins but rest assured we would not list your contact information.

US Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 93 - 2020 training dates

August 22, Sept 26, Oct 17

America's Boating Safety Course is an eight hour course covering the basics of boating and is appropriate for youth as well as the adult boater. Successful completion of this course satisfies the education requirement for youth to operate a PWC in both Virginia and North Carolina.

Remember: **Virginia now has a law** that all boaters in the waters of Virginia will have proof of taking a Boating Course. All Motor Boat Operators operating a vessel with a 10 HP engine or greater, must meet these requirements. All PWC Operators regardless of age must have proof of taking a Boating Course.

North Carolina Law effective January 1, 2014 requires that all PWC and Motor Boat Operators who were born after 1 Jan 1988 will have proof of taking a Boating Course, if they are operating a vessel with a 10 HP engine or greater.

Clarification: Boaters on Lake Gaston need to be in compliance with their state of residence for Boater Education Certification. This is true whether the boater is a resident of North Carolina, Virginia, or any other state as recognized by both states' enforcement officers.

The fee for the course is \$30.00, **Preregistration and prepayment are required.** Courses are now taught at the Long Bridge VFD, 1678 Eaton Ferry Rd., Littleton, NC 27850. All classes are on Saturday from 8:30am to 5:00pm, with the exam given at the end of class.

Please bring your lunch. Bottled water and sodas can be purchased for 50 cents. It is a busy day - but rewarding. Remember – **Preregistration and Prepayment are required.**

For more information on these classes, or to register call (252) 535-3335. If you get the answer machine, leave a message with your name and phone number and an Auxiliary member will call you back.

On-line courses & Classroom by NC Wildlife & VADGIF:

For North Carolina Boating Safety course options go to

<http://www.ncwildlife.org/Boating/Marina-Resources/Boating-Education-Courses>

For Virginia Boating Safety course options go to

www.dgif.virginia.gov/boating/education/requirement/steps-to-requirement.asp

Free Vessel Safety Check

Flotilla 93 will perform a free Vessel Safety Check on your boat at your home. The boat can be in the boatlift or on a trailer and does not need to be running. To receive a free safety check, call John Dyckman at (252) 537-9877. Flotilla 93 will also provide a Vessel Examiner at your Home Owners Association Meeting to inspect boats after your business meeting. Call John Dyckman.

Need a Children's Loaner Life Jacket?

The PERFECT solution when guests show up and you don't have children's life jackets of the correct size for all of them. The Lake Gaston Water Safety Council's FREE loaner program makes children's sizes available at the following locations:

Bracey, VA

Holly Grove Marina - (434) 636-3455
Americamps - (434) 636-2668

Gasburg, VA

The Club - (434) 577-2935



Henrico, NC

Washburn's Marina - (252) 537-1335
Sherwood Forest - (252) 537-2526

Littleton, NC

Morningstar Marina - (252) 586-4661
Thousand Trails/Outdoor World - (252) 586-4121
Stonehouse Timber Lodge - (252) 586-3012



Hazard buoys ...

Hazard buoys provide warnings, information, mark underwater hazards and provide a system for navigation. They are there for your safety.

For most boat and PWC operators, these markers help to successfully navigate the waters at Lake Gaston. For a few out there, they are targets either due to drinking and driving, inattentive at the wheel or even worse, it's fun to target.

Each has been tethered to the lake floor for a purpose. Each also cost money and requires time and effort to replace.

Please be on the look out for these markers. If you see a damaged or missing hazard buoy:

- County of Brunswick waters (Pea Hill Creek and Poplar Creek) call 434-848-3107.
- County of Mecklenburg waters call 434-738-6191.
- North Carolina waters contact NC Wildlife at 919-707-0150.
- A Mile Marker off course, damaged or the strobe light isn't functioning, call Dominion Energy at 252-535-6161 Ext 4.

Please visit www.LakeGastonWaterSafetyCouncil.com to learn more about water safety and what you can do to help promote the water safety message.

Thanks for reading.

Brian Goldsworthy, President, Lake Gaston Water Safety Council

Buoys placed in Lake Gaston need state & federal approval

Dominion Energy as well as the Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries and North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission have received complaints concerning buoys being placed in the lake to deter boats near boat docks.

Both Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries and North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, as well as Dominion, do not allow buoys to be placed in the lake without state and federal approval. Any buoys placed in the lake will be considered an obstruction to navigation and will be required to be removed.

Wear Your Life Jacket! They Float, People Don't!

Staying current with Lake Gaston's water level

Whether you are full or part-time at the lake we recommend that you have the following link to Dominion's website as a 'favorite' on your computer or hand-held gizmo. Rest assured we will still send you water level alerts from Dominion when they occur but if you want to know on any given day what the water level is, then click on the link - <https://www.dominionenergy.com/community/lakes-and-recreation/lake-gaston-water-levels>

AF Wake

Adam Fields message about considerate boating

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT!!! Please please please! EVERYONE with boats, especially Wakesurf boats, people tubing, fishing boats, pontooning, jet skiing, and folks sightseeing on boats 21' and up..

Be aware of the waves that you're making and know that people are concerned for their shorelines and docks, their boats, and the safety of their children while swimming and doing water sports.

When at all possible, **WAKESURF** way out away from everyone, ideally in the main lake somewhere vs in the tight spaces like creeks. People hate the waves you are making. You will also feel way safer this weekend to be out there further away from other boats instead of the higher trafficked tight spaces, even if it IS a little bit rougher out in the main lake. You'll be in deeper water which helps your surf wave and you'll be less likely to get ran over out there between falls.

Tubers! You boat patterns are erratic and confusing to other boaters, plus your riders typically like waves. If you're driving a wild boat pattern to whip the rider, or are looking for waves to launch off of, Get out of the tight spaces where people want it calmer!!! You ruin it for the skiers and wakeboarders who want it calm. Please Share the lake well so everyone isn't as jammed into the creeks.

Obviously waterskiing and advanced wakeboarding require calmer water for safety and enjoyment. As a multi-time world champion and coach of champions, we literally CANNOT do what we are trying to do if the water is rough. Plus, that's how you get hurt... When you tell us to go away and ride out in the middle of the lake that really isn't a doable option, like 95% of the time. We need it calm. So, we encourage all of you wakeboarders and skiers to get up early and get out there and again use the main lake and open space early before the wind and boat traffic pick up. That's a great time to ride and the main lake is the best when it's good because you don't have to turn the boat so much, like you have to in the creeks. And then too, the residents can enjoy their peace in the mornings before it gets packed in their creeks.

Sightseers! It's way better to see the beautiful homes when you drop the speed down to 10-14 mph on your deck boats and bow riders, but that's the speed that makes the biggest waves! While you're driving by admiring someone's home you are often swamping their dock and shoreline as you pass by. Look out for that to not accidentally appear very disrespectful.

Fisherman. You scare people when you rip through a tight space. Please be aware of that fear factor and know that that is why people fuss about your boats. Keep it chill and be extra careful this weekend and beyond. You'd hate to whip around a corner and a fallen child wakeboarder be in the water right in front of you, knowing you can't steer those boats well at high speeds. That'll be a scary if not deadly occurrence. I've personally seen two people get ran over by boats. It was horrific both times.

Fishermen, you are the foolish looking ones when you slam into a big sightseers wave or a wakeboarders wave at high speed and smack your boat. Look ahead and mind your speed when approaching a MASSIVE wave. It's better for your boat anyways to take that wave a certain way.

Fisherman! If you do post up in the middle of the creek, and someone drives around you, between you and the shore.. um, well, that's about their only option. Essentially, don't block a space then be mad when someone drives around you! Plus, the way wave building works, if a boat drives around you, the kink in the wave they built will be biggest heading right towards you. Please share the space.

With that said, surfers, don't be in there in the first place, and wakeboarders once you go by once or twice and realize a fisherman is there, keep moving on to a new spot so you aren't making repetitive passes by the dude who is trying to fish. Please share the space!

Pontooners! Careful not to put all your biggest passengers in the front and then be riding too bow heavy. It's makes for quite a mess when you're front-weighted and you smack into a wakesurfing wave. And (in my opinion) that's not the big wake maker's fault in that scenario if you see a massive wave and drive right into it with all your weight in the front and then nearly sink..

Kayakers and Paddleboarders. If you're worried about safety on your boards, go early, go late, and for sure stick close to the shorelines. Go where other boats can't. Don't be out in the middle and then be mad when a boat drives by you.

Jet skiers! Oh Geez! You are the scariest of all. You scare other boaters, skiers, surfers, boarders, moms, dads, etc.. Please stay further away from other boats and people in tight spaces. Please keep your speed down in tight spaces. It's too easy to zip up on someone or something in the water and create a super dangerous situation. It only takes an

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(Continued from page 9)

instant. In addition, the wakeboarders and skiers and surfers prefer great water. You zipping around near us not only scares us but also ruins the water conditions for us to do what we are out there to do. Please share the space and keep our safety and enjoyment in mind!

Many of these scenarios could happen in the main lake OR in a creek or other tighter space. So, regardless where you are, try to drive observantly and conscientiously. With the water higher than normal, many homeowners are more on edge about the waves than they normally are. Let's all try to work together so everyone has a good time, feels safe, and does get to enjoy whatever thing they like to do on the water.

Have a safe and happy Memorial Weekend everyone. Thank you for reading this, for passing this along to your lake neighbors and friends, and for trying to hear and help all sides. Also, please send those oblivious, kook wakeboard/surf boat owners who are driving bad to us and we'll get them straight with our coaching.

Reprinted in the Lake Gaston Association's August/September 2020 Bulletin courtesy of Adam Fields.

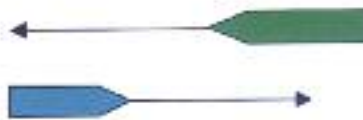
RULES FOR PASSING AND OVERTAKING OTHER VESSELS

MEETING HEAD-ON



ONE SHORT BLAST
Pass to Right (Starboard)

PASSING



ONE SHORT BLAST
Maintain Course

PASSING



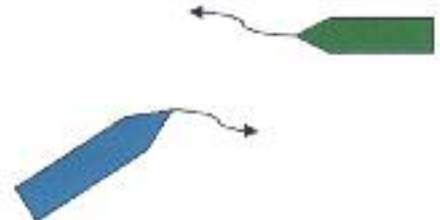
TWO SHORT BLASTS
Maintain Course

OVERTAKING



ONE SHORT HORN BLAST FROM RIGHT
(Starboard side)
TWO SHORT HORN BLASTS FROM LEFT
(Port side)

CROSSING



Pass Astern of Boat on Right
(Starboard side)

Information in above diagrams courtesy of the Lake Gaston Water Safety Council



LGA Monthly Committee Meetings:

Committee	Meeting Day	Time	Location
Public Safety	2 nd Friday	8:30 am	Littleton Food & Spirits **
Education	3 rd Tuesday	8:30 am	Littleton Food & Spirits **
Government Relations	3 rd Tuesday	9:30 am	Littleton Food & Spirits **
Environment	3 rd Wednesday	8:30 am	Kitchen Table Cafe *
Marketing & Membership	3 rd Thursday	8:30 am	Littleton Food & Spirits **
Lake Clean-Up	Last Wednesday	10:30 am	Littleton Food & Spirits **

* Kitchen Table Cafe is located at 4111 Gasburg Road in Gasburg, VA 23857 across from the Dollar General Store.

**Littleton Food & Spirits is located at 231 N. Mosby Ave., (Hwy 903), Littleton, N.C. 27850

Occasionally a LGA scheduled committee meeting may need to be cancelled. If you are on that committee the chair will inform you via email of its cancellation and it will be reflected on the LGA's calendar on our website at <http://www.lakegastonassoc.com/Organization/Calendar.htm>

A great link for your favorites list.

Calendar notes ...

Aug 5 – CANCELLED LGA monthly meeting, 9:30 – noon, Lake Gaston Baptist Church (252) 586-6577

Aug 5 – CANCELLED Lake Gaston Striper Club, 6:30 p.m. Lake Gaston Lions Den, Henrico 586-7112

Aug 22 – US Coast Guard Auxiliary Boater Safety Course, 8:30 – 5 p.m. Long Bridge VFD 1678 Eaton Ferry Rd. (252) 535-3335

Aug 11 – CANCELLED Lake Gaston Computer Club, 1 p.m., Lake Gaston Lions Den, Henrico (252) 537-7091

Aug 20 – Sunset Sounds, Centennial Park Amphitheater, 6:30 – 9:30 p.m., \$3 admission (434) 447-4547

Aug 21? – American Legion Post 308 Spaghetti dinner at 5-7 p.m. Hwy 903, Littleton (252) 586-2558

Aug 26? - Lake Gaston Water Safety Council, 6 p.m. social/6:30 p.m. dinner, Kennon House, Gasburg (252) 586-4705

Aug 29 – “Labors of Halifax: 18th Century Trades Fair,” 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Historic Halifax (252) 583-7191

Sept 2? – LGA monthly meeting 9:30 – noon, Lake Gaston Baptist Church (252) 586-6577

Sept 2? – Lake Gaston Striper Club, 6:30 p.m. Lake Gaston Lions Den, Henrico 586-7112

Sept 8? - Lake Gaston Computer Club, 1 p.m., Lake Gaston Lions Den, Henrico (252) 537-7091

Sept 12 – Fuel I-95 Late Model Challenge Racing Series 6:30 p.m. start, 32674 Hwy 561 East, Littleton, NC 27850, (252) 532-2632

Sept 12 - ON HOLD “ON THE BORDER – The Ultimate Eagles Tribute”, 7:30 p.m., Colonial Center, South Hill (434) 262-4170

Sept 17 – “Sunset Sounds,” Centennial Park Amphitheater, 6:30 – 9:30 p.m., \$3 admission (434) 447-4547

Sept 18? – American Legion Post 308 Spaghetti dinner at 5-7 p.m. Hwy 903, Littleton (252) 586-2558

Sept 26 – US Coast Guard Auxiliary Boater Safety Course, 8:30 – 5 p.m. Long Bridge VFD 1678 Eaton Ferry Rd. (252) 535-3335

Sept 25,26 - Halifax County Harvest Days, 25th 9a.m.–2p.m.; 26th 9a.m.-4 p.m., 4-H Rural Life Center, (252) 583-5161

Sept 30? - Lake Gaston Water Safety Council, 6 p.m. social/6:30 p.m. dinner, Kennon House, Gasburg (252) 586-4705

Oct 3 – CANCELLED Seafood Festival, 1-5p.m., Lake Gaston Lions Club, 139 Stanley Rd, Henrico (252) 535-5308

Oct 10 – CANCELLED Taste of Brunswick Festival, 10 – 5 p.m., Lawrenceville VA Airport (434) 577-2971

Oct 17 – US Coast Guard Auxiliary Boater Safety Course, 8:30 – 5 p.m. Long Bridge VFD 1678 Eaton Ferry Rd. (252) 535-3335

www.lakegastonchamber.com www.warren-chamber.org www.northamptonchamber.org

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