

## In the Community



### Alcoa Launches Water Safety Campaign

Alcoa-Yadkin has unveiled a new water safety campaign aimed at encouraging recreational swimmers and boaters to “play it safe” on the lakes by always wearing a life jacket.

The water safety campaign, sponsored by Alcoa-Yadkin and the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, features a combination of print and radio ads, produced in both English and Spanish.

One ad tells the tragic story of Anthony Zanolli, a

35-year-old Mooresville resident who drowned at High Rock Lake last year when his fishing boat capsized in rough waters. He was not wearing a life jacket. Anthony’s widow, Patricia Zanolli, agreed to share Anthony’s story in hopes of preventing similar tragedies.

“ I know Anthony would want others to learn from what happened to him. That’s why I wanted to tell his story and encourage people to wear a life jacket,” Zanolli said. “If this campaign can save just one person, it will be a tremendous success.”

The campaign was introduced at a event featuring Safe Kids in Davidson County, the US Coast Guard Auxiliary and the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission. Local law enforcement agencies representing Davidson, Montgomery, Rowan and Stanly counties attended the event to show their support.

Alcoa-Yadkin is sponsoring the campaign in an effort to prevent drowning incidents at the Yadkin Lakes. Five people have drowned at the Yadkin lakes in the past three years and nearly 20 people have drowned on the lakes since 2000.

Earlier this month, a 43-year-old Davie County man drowned at High Rock Lake when he fell from his boat. The body of John Kalish Jr. of Mocksville was discovered on June 10 following a three day search.

## Yadkin Relicensing News

### RELICENSING UPDATE

*As Alcoa-Yadkin prepares to file its license application with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in April 2006, it is holding a series of voluntary settlement negotiations meetings with organizations representing recreational lake users, state and federal agencies, environmental groups and other stakeholders. We will provide regular updates on the progress of those meetings in this space.*

Alcoa-Yadkin hosted a negotiations session with representatives from more than two dozen organizations on June 9, 2005 at the Alcoa Conference Center in Badin, NC. The group reviewed a series of model runs — recommended by a joint modeling subgroup — that demonstrated how proposed operating scenarios would impact water levels, downstream water flows and hydropower generation.

Following a discussion of energy pricing (including peak and off-peak generation), a significant portion of the meeting was devoted to the presentation and discussion of an initial settlement proposal by Alcoa-Yadkin. The group will hold its next meeting in August 2005.

## WATER SAFETY TIPS

- If you can't swim, learn how.
- Never swim alone.
- Always stay in designated swim areas.
- Keep a close eye on all children.
- Watch for storms. Don't swim in severe weather conditions.



## STUDY FINDINGS: RECREATION ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY

Alcoa-Yadkin has released a draft report of a Recreation Economic Impact Study, conducted by an independent consulting firm as part of the ongoing relicensing efforts. The study was designed to quantify the economic contribution of recreational lake users in a five county region — Davidson, Davie, Montgomery, Rowan and Stanly counties — along the Yadkin River.

### Notable findings include:

#### **\$9.6 million**

Recreational use of the Yadkin reservoirs by visitors and residents currently generates an estimated \$9.6 million in economic output and supports approximately 175 jobs.

#### **0.04%**

The revenue generated by recreational use of the Yadkin lakes represents less than one half of 1% of the total economic output of the five-county region.

#### **10%**

Maintaining higher water levels to support an extended recreation season at High Rock Lake could increase recreational use of the reservoir and boost economic output by as much as \$300,000 per year.

## Around the Lakes

### US Army Special Forces Conduct Training Exercises at Yadkin

The US Army is using Alcoa-Yadkin property to help prepare its elite soldiers for combat. The 1st Special Warfare Training Group (Airborne), based in Fort Bragg, conducts regular training exercises as part of "Operation Robin Sage." The annual training is designed to provide prospective Special Forces soldiers with realistic training in unconventional warfare, and is the capstone training exercise for the Special Forces Qualification Course.

As a sign of gratitude, Alcoa-Yadkin received two certificates of appreciation for "patriotic and dedicated support" to the US Army's special warfare training group. Operation Robin Sage has been conducted for more than 40 years with the help of both civilian authorities and the citizens of central North Carolina.

### High Rock Bridges Now Feature Reflective Warnings

New warning markers designed to help boaters at High Rock Lake navigate at night have been installed on bridges, thanks to a partnership between Alcoa-Yadkin and the North Carolina Department of Transportation. The bridges feature reflective tape provided by NCDOT that make it easier to spot bridge structures.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### 7.4.05 Fireworks at High Rock Lake

Don't miss the 8th annual fireworks show on July 4 at Abbot's Creek on High Rock Lake. The free fireworks extravaganza, hosted by the High Rock Lake River Rats, begins at dark. It is always a special treat. Alcoa-Yadkin is a proud sponsor of this event. Other sponsors include Danbee Aerospace and Marine Tooling Technology.

## Did You Know?

When the Narrows Dam was completed in 1917, forming Badin Lake, the dam was the tallest concrete structure in America at the time.

## Explore! Take a Hike.

In each issue of The Yadkin Report, we'll highlight a popular hiking trail, campground site or other favorite spot around the lakes. We'd love to hear about your favorite spots. [Click here to recommend a trail or site.](#)

#### **BADIN LAKE TRAIL**

The Badin Lake Trail is a loop trail in Uwharrie National Forest that follows the shore of Badin Lake for half its distance, then loops back through hardwood forest to the US Forest Service's Cove Boat Ramp. A short loop of 2.5 miles can be hiked as well as the entire 5.6 mile trail. The trail was constructed by the Youth Conservation Corps in 1979 and 1980. High water levels cause some stretches to get boggy, especially near the creeks that empty into the lake. It is a great place to fish from the shore. Easy access and gentle terrain make the Badin Lake Trail a good choice for family hikes. Keep an eye out for the bald eagles that fly over the lake.

**Length:** 5.6 miles; 2.5 mile short loop

**Recommended Seasons:** Year Round

**Use:** Medium to Heavy

**Difficulty:** Easy

**Trail Beginning:** Cove Boat Ramp and Picnic Area 15 miles NW of Troy

**Access:** From hwy 109 North of Uwharrie follow signs to Badin Lake and Cove Boat Ramp and Picnic Area.

**Attractions And Considerations:** Badin Lake Trail skirts coves of Badin Lake and offers scenic views of the lake. The area has abundant cedars, mosses, and wild flowers. Evidence of past gold mining can be seen along the trail. Badin Lake Trail ties into the Dutch John trail which goes 3.4 miles to FS 553. Access to the Badin Lake Trail can be made at the Badin Lake Campground.

## **Tip of the Month**

With the July 4 holiday just around the corner, it's a popular time to cookout hamburgers, hot dogs and more. Here are a few safety tips to ensure you and your family enjoy the holiday:

- Never use any flammable liquid other than lighter fluid to start a charcoal fire. Materials such as gas, paint thinner and similar gasses are hard to control and contain toxins that may damage your food.
- Never start a gas grill with the lid closed. Gasses can build up and literally blow the lid off your grill.
- Clean your grill regularly to avoid blockages in the gas lines that can make the grill hard to start.
- Keep a fire extinguisher inside your home in case of an emergency.

This electronic newsletter is designed to keep the community informed about important issues related to the relicensing of the Yadkin Project.

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# **Balancing Energy Generation, Recreation *and* Environmental Resources**