



## In the Community

### Alcoa-Yadkin Donates Boat to Davidson County Sheriff's Department

The shores of the Yadkin lakes are now safer, thanks to a \$25,000 grant from Alcoa-Yadkin. The grant was donated to the Davidson County Sheriff's Department for the purchase of a new boat dedicated to patrolling area lakes.

"By supporting the Davidson County Sheriff's office, we can ensure law enforcement officials have the resources they need to monitor the lakes and assist local residents," said Robert Smet, environmental & natural resources manager at Alcoa-Yadkin.

The 21-foot Mako center console boat will help the Sheriff's Office establish a more visible presence. "We can increase shoreline patrols, better assist stranded boaters and provide additional support during search and rescue efforts," said Sheriff David S. Grice. "Alcoa has been a strong supporter of local safety and rescue organizations, and we are grateful for their continued support."

The new motorboat will help increase the safety and rescue efforts along the shores of High Rock, Tuckertown and Badin Lakes, in addition to Lake Thom-a-Lex, a municipal reservoir.

While this grant illustrates Alcoa's commitment to providing a safe environment for those who enjoy the area lakes, it also promotes their continued efforts to conserve energy. The boat is equipped with a 225-horsepower Suzuki four-stroke engine, which burns only about half of the fuel of a traditional motorboat.

### Alcoa Foundation Gives \$20,000 to United Way

The Alcoa Foundation has provided the Rowan County United Way with a \$20,000 grant to help assess community needs.

The United Way conducts a needs-assessment survey every few years to better understand the changing needs of the community. The survey data will help the United Way determine where it should focus funding and volunteer efforts. It currently provides funding and support to 17 agencies.

"We thought it was a great way to support Rowan County, the community and the United Way," said Sonya Elam Harden, a public affairs manager for Alcoa.

When Alcoa opened a Sub-Assembly and Logistics plant in Rowan County earlier this year, it began looking for new ways to support the community. Local business and community leaders suggested the United Way opportunity.

## Yadkin Relicensing News

### Relicensing Update

Alcoa-Yadkin continues to work with stakeholders in an effort to reach an agreement regarding the future operations of the Yadkin Project. The goal is to reach an agreement on key issues such as lake water levels and downstream flows that reflect an appropriate balance between power generation, recreational opportunities and environmental protection.

During the latest settlement negotiations meeting on October 5, participants received updates from subgroups evaluating potential changes to the Shoreline Management Plan and working on the development of a "Low Inflow Protocol" to guide operations during extremely dry periods. In addition, the group learned about studies taking place downstream of the Yadkin Project that will be a part of determining flow requirements there. Finally, the group discussed key settlement activities that need to occur during the next six months.

While settlement negotiations continue, Alcoa-Yadkin is preparing to file a final license application with FERC by April 30, 2006. One of the milestones leading up to the filing deadline is the development of a draft license application (DLA). Intended for review by state/federal agencies and Indian tribes, the DLA was distributed earlier this month to those and other relicensing stakeholders.

You can view the draft license application on the Alcoa-Yadkin web site. [Click here to review the DLA.](#)

## Upcoming Meetings

## Around the Lakes

### Alcoa-Yadkin Conserves Fuel with New Hybrid Vehicle

Alcoa-Yadkin is now sporting a new hybrid vehicle to conserve fuel and it transports personnel and equipment between its four dams in the Yadkin Project. The leased all-wheel drive Hybrid Ford Escape gets an average of 30 miles per gallon and yields cleaner emissions than a conventional vehicle.

"It's a priority for Alcoa to operate in a safe and environmentally responsible manner every day," said Mark Gross, Alcoa-Yadkin Project Manager. "We hold a firm expectation to practice what we preach, and the use of the hybrid vehicle makes perfect sense in terms of yielding cleaner emissions out of our vehicles."

The Ford Escape hybrid has a conventional engine as well as a large battery and electric motor. The car runs off of electricity, and the engine kicks in to supplement the power. The hybrid offers economic benefits as well as being environmentally friendly.

Alcoa-Yadkin will see how the hybrid performs and then consider converting more of its vehicles to hybrids in the future.

### Wondering About Lake Water Levels?

#### How Alcoa-Yadkin Aims to Get The Word Out

The days are getting shorter. The leaves are changing colors. And boaters are beginning to wonder about water levels at High Rock Lake.

These are a few of the rituals this time of year. As the recreation season winds down — and the lake's annual drawdown begins — Alcoa-Yadkin makes a concerted effort to keep recreational users informed about how lake levels may fluctuate.

Throughout the year, you can receive current lake level information and a one-day forecast for the Yadkin lakes by calling Alcoa-Yadkin at 1-888-886-1063 and selecting option 6. Information is updated each weekday, excluding holidays.

For those who want more detailed information, you can visit the [Alcoa-Yadkin web site](#) for a comprehensive look at lake level elevations. The site provides lake level information for all Yadkin lakes (updated hourly), severe weather alerts, graphs showing the water levels during the past 24 hours or past 30 days, monthly historic water level graphs back to January 2000, tables with average historic lake level data since 1986, and much more.

### Many recreational users have asked for a longer range forecast of lake levels.

The nature of the hydropower business, however, makes conditions as variable and unpredictable as the weather. Hydropower operations constantly change based on the amount of water flowing into the lakes, regional electric reliability needs and electricity markets. These dynamic factors combine to make it very difficult to accurately forecast water levels beyond a day in advance.

It's not a situation that is unique to Yadkin lakes. Hydropower operators do not generally provide long-range forecasts of lake levels. In fact, the Alcoa-Yadkin web site has one of the most accessible and comprehensive databases of lake level information available.

"We recognize that people want to know when the lake levels are rising and falling. It's our goal to provide as much information as possible to help recreational users make informed decisions so they can enjoy the lake," said Gene Ellis, Alcoa-Yadkin licensing and property manager.

### Settlement Negotiations Meeting\*

November 1-3

Badin Conference Center

*\*Authorized Representatives And Participants Only*

## Upcoming Events

### The 22nd Annual Barbecue Festival Saturday, October 22

8:30 am – 6:30 pm



Lexington, "the Barbecue Capital of the World," will host the 22nd Annual Barbecue Festival on Saturday, October 22. The celebration, noted as one of the top 10 food festivals in the United States by Travel & Leisure Magazine, promises fun for all ages. Throughout the day, Uptown Lexington will be hopping with live entertainment, including General Johnson and Chairmen of the Board, on five stages.

Highlights will include a family area with carnival games and rides, an antique car extravaganza, a lumberjack show, and the Hogway Speedway racing pigs. You won't want to miss this legendary event, not to mention some of the best tasting barbecue in the world. For more information, visit [www.barbecuefestival.com](http://www.barbecuefestival.com) or call 336-956-1880.

## Did You Know?

The U.S. Department of Energy recommends hybrid vehicles to improve fuel economy. It says better fuel economy can save consumers money, reduce our dependence on foreign oil, protect the environment and conserve natural resources.

[Click here](#) to read more about "Why Lake Levels Fluctuate."

## 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.](#)

### FALLS MOUNTAIN TRAIL AT MORROW MOUNTAIN STATE PARK

Morrow Mountain State Park, located in Albemarle just below the Falls Dam, boasts more than 30 miles of hiking trails and bridle paths. One of the trails, Falls Mountain Trail, provides excellent views of some of the park's highlights. The 4.1-mile moderate trail begins at the Lake Tillery boat ramp and loops around Falls Mountain. Along the way, hikers can see the Kron house, home to Dr. Francis Kron, the first known medical doctor to set up a practice in the southern piedmont of North Carolina. The house, his office, and infirmary have each been reconstructed to appear as they were in 1870. The trail provides a fantastic view from a mountain ridge before winding back down to the boat ramp.

Hikers may also consider combining this trail with the Three Rivers Trail, which creates a 5-mile, moderate to easy trek. Morrow State Park is located at 49104 Morrow Mountain Road in Albemarle. For more information, call (704) 982-4402.

## Tip of the Month

**Has a tree fallen near your shoreline into the lake? Make sure you leave it there. Natural riprap like fallen trees make great habitat for fish and wildlife.**

Downed trees, lap trees, logs, stumps and brush create excellent cover for juvenile and adult fish and are the places most likely to be inhabited by important game species. These habitats, especially those partially exposed to the air, are also important to birds, turtles and other wildlife.

Alcoa-Yadkin has adopted several protective measures to protect valuable fish and wildlife habitat in and around the reservoirs. For instance, the relocation or removal of dead trees, lap trees, stumps or other woody or natural debris from the lakes or buffer area is prohibited without written permission from Alcoa-Yadkin. The removal or relocation of woody debris may be granted for purposes of safety or recreational access.

In addition, Alcoa-Yadkin works closely with the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) support its efforts to enhance fish and wildlife habitat in and around the reservoirs. NCWRC improves habitat conditions by creating lap trees from trees in the buffer area and installing living plant material and underwater structures.



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