

THE HYCO LAKE REVIEW

VOLUME FOUR

DECEMBER 2008



SEASONS GREETINGS

The Board and Staff would like to extend to you and your family best wishes for the Holidays, and a Happy New Year.

PARK FEES LAKE RULES CHANGE

Patron fees and Rules for use of the Park and Lake were reviewed by Board Members at the November 2008 meeting and revised as follows:

1. Annual Boating Permits will be \$50.00 effective January 1, 2009.
2. Gate fees will be \$5.00 per car effective January 1, 2009.
3. Community Building daily use will increase \$25.00 effective January 1, 2009.
4. Fishing in no wake zones will no longer be permitted.
5. Annual Shoreline Lease fees will increase to \$75.00 per 100 feet and \$.05 per foot for all over 100 feet. Effective July 1, 2009.
6. Effective June 1st, 2009 any water craft located below the 420 contour line must display a current Annual Permit. An expanded copy of these changes are enclosed.

JUSTIFICATION FOR FEE INCREASE

It has been several years since fees have been increased for use of the lake and park facilities. During this time cost of providing these services and patrolling the lake have increased significantly. Cost of operating equipment, keeping salary scales comparable to other law enforcement agencies, material and contract labor cost, and insurance has been key factors in having to increase fees to stay abreast of increased costs.

COTTAGES ADDED IN THE PARK

Demand for cottage rentals have been strong during 2008. This prompted the board to add three additional ones making a total of seven cottages for rent to patrons. Cottages rent for \$50.00 per night. All have heat pumps and both bunk and full size beds. Also, outdoor showers have been installed for cottage patrons.



PICNIC SHELTERS UPGRADED

The three group picnic shelters for rent to family and church groups were upgraded during the summer with new roofs and painting. New lighting and electrical fixtures were installed. Also, all shelters now have running water.

AMPHITHEATER COMPLETE

The new Amphitheater was completed in July in time for the Annual Jaycee Beach Music Festival. The Festival was attended by the largest crowd the Jaycees have had. The Bands had high praise for the stage and facilities. The Amphitheater is available for rent to any promoter or group to conduct an event.



IRRIGATING FROM THE LAKE

The Board took some heat from lake residents regarding the crackdown on irrigation pumps found during the low water level during this past summer. Randy King, a former associate with CP&L and Progress Energy has written a good article we found posted on his web site regarding this issue. We thought it worthy of sharing with all Lake Property Owners. A copy of that Article is enclosed.

NATURE TRAILS PAVED

Since our last newsletter the main trails and access trails to the Natural Learning Area have been paved. This was made possible by a cost sharing grant from the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund. Paving of the trails greatly improved the area and made walking much easier especially for older adults and persons with scooters and wheelchairs. Also families who walk the trails with small children and strollers.

COMMUNITY BUILDING FOR RENT

Great for weddings, receptions, retreats, family reunions, birthday parties, graduation parties. No entrance fee to enter park. Capacity for 120 people, Gas log fireplace, Color TV, 14x60' deck on lake side, 2 charcoal grills, 125 chairs, 15-8' tables, private restrooms, large dining/ballroom area, Full kitchen (incl. microwave).



**PERSON-CASWELL LAKE AUTHORITY
POLICY AND RULES AMENDMENT
REGARDING FEES AND RULES FOR HYCO LAKE,
RECREATION PARK AND CAMPGROUND**

The Person-Caswell Lake Authority Board, meeting in regular session on Monday, November 10, 2008 considered and voted unanimously to make the following changes to the Fee Schedule for use of the Recreation Park, Park Facilities and changes in the rule for water craft using the waters of Hyco Lake and shoreline area below the 420 foot contour line.

RULE CHANGES

1) Change the current date for all water craft using Hyco Lake, stored in boathouses, lifts, and stored anywhere below the 420 foot contour line must display either a Daily Boating Permit, or Annual Boating Permit. Owners of any water craft not displaying the current permit after June 1st. of each year will be issued a citation by the PCLA Rangers.

2) The fee for Daily Boating Permits will remain at \$15.00. The fee for Annual Boating Permits will increase from \$45.00 to \$50.00 effective January 1, 2009.

3) The fee for entry to the Park will increase to \$5.00 per car week days, holidays and weekends. Windshield stickers will be available for Patrons who would prefer to pay an annual fee of \$50.00 rather than \$5.00 each time they visit the Park. Stickers will run from January through December each year.

4) The fee for use of the Community Building during the day will increase \$25.00. The evening fee will remain the same.

5) Annual Lease Fees for shoreline property will increase \$15.00 plus .05 for each additional foot over 100 feet. This increase will be effective with Invoices mailed May 15, 2009.

6) Effective January 1, 2009 anyone observed fishing in a No Wake Zone will be issued a Citation.

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(Note: Below is my response to a homeowner who replied to me concerning the "crackdown" on irrigating from the lake)

I can't speak for the Lake Authority but I can relate some of the history of the lake having been responsible for the lake some years ago when I was employed by Progress Energy.

First, P.E. built the lake under permit issued by the NC Dept of Environmental Management. NCDEM is responsible for maintaining public waterways and airways in NC. As part of the permit, PE was required to institute certain measures some of which are:

- 1) the water entering the lake by the 3 rivers has to be maintained within 3 degrees temperature upon release back into Hyco River below the afterbay dam. This is the reason for cooling towers.
- 2) downstream flow has to be maintained at no lower than 4 CuFt/sec thus the reason for the afterbay below the main dam.
- 3) no irrigation is allowed from the lake unless permitted by NCDEM, the Corps of Engineers and other governmental agencies - the reason primarily for this was not the use of water from the lake but was to alleviate watering of lawns and tobacco fields due to the resulting run-off carrying nitrogen, phosphate and other fertilizer nutrients into the lake. These cause algae, hydrilla and other harmful situations that endanger the fish, clog the canals and ultimately affect the power plant. THIS is the main reason for not allowing irrigation from the lake and not the use of the water. And, if there are people who irrigate from a well, then NCDEM and PE are still not happy since the fertilizer is still being washed into the lake so that may not even be an option down the road.

Now the question is "who controls and is responsible for enforcement"? P.E. is charged with enforcing the laws of NCDEM who in turn holds the permit for P.E. to use the lake so in effect, PCLA is the "eyes and ears" for P.E. and ultimately NCDEM. So, if there is an issue with PCLA not allowing irrigation from the lake, the controlling people are NCDEM. Believe me when I say that P.E. does not want to "rock the boat" with NCDEM and they will not pursue allowing irrigation from Hyco since it is not in their best interest as far as water usage, current or future permitting with the State or plant operation.

That's the background of the permitting issue. Of course the State can elect to fine P.E. or even not renew the permit if they find that the waters are not being used as permitted. The homeowner owns the land above the 420' mark, PCLA manages the land from 420' to 410', the State owns the water and PE owns the land under the water.

Now your question of why a few are getting notices about removal of irrigation equipment is based on the PCLA riding around the lake noticing who is irrigating and then sending them letters. I know in the past they have reminded owners that irrigation is not allowed but the recent drought has raised the awareness level especially at P.E. and thus with the PCLA. I don't think any lobbying or organizing or complaining will do any good unless you get the State to allow irrigation - and if the State becomes more involved due to the heightened awareness, my bet would be that even tighter rules would be forthcoming. We don't want to be like Mayo where no development can happen below the 420' line including boat houses, lawns, or even clearing the weeds! Of course Mayo has a different permit that is more stringent due to the displacement of "fur bearing animals" which is a whole story in itself.

Now you know about as much as I do about the lake. As far as the number of people irrigating, I would say out of the 1200 homes or so, less than 25% irrigate.