

Hunters News

J. Strom Thurmond Lake Hunting Areas

Approximately 55,000 acres of public land around Thurmond Lake are suitable for hunting, including over 28,400 acres of project lands leased to the Georgia and South Carolina Departments of Natural Resources for wildlife management. Maps showing the location of project lands suitable for hunting are available at the Thurmond Lake Visitor Center located at 510 Clarks Hill Highway, Clarks Hill, SC or on-line at <http://sas.usace.army.mil/lakes/thurmond/>.

Both South Carolina and Georgia state hunting regulations apply to project lands and waters. Hunters must possess a valid hunting license and permits for the state in which they are hunting. Also, deer hunters in both states are required to wear International Orange while hunting on public property.

For state hunting regulations and wildlife management area information, visit the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources web page at <http://water.dnr.state.sc.us/> or the Georgia Department of Natural Resources web page at <http://georgiawildlife.dnr.state.ga.us/>. The use of motorized vehicles, including four wheelers, off designated roadways is prohibited.

The dates for the Bussey Point managed deer hunts are: Sept. 22-23 (archery only); Oct. 13 (archery only); Oct. 14 (muzzleloader); and Nov. 17-18 (muzzleloader). For additional information concerning the hunts, contact Park Ranger Lori Brewster at the J. Strom Thurmond Project Office toll free at 1-800-533-3478 ext 1159, or (864) 333-1159.



Photo by Jonas Jordan

US Army Corps
of Engineers®



Resource Manager
J. Strom Thurmond Resource Office
510 Clarks Hill Highway
Clarks Hill, S.C., 29821

FIRST-CLASS MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SAVANNAH, GA
PERMIT NO. 89



Fall 2006

Lake Times

J. Strom Thurmond, Savannah District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



"WHERE CAN I LAUNCH MY BOAT SAFELY?"

by Jay Weidman, Park Ranger

Fall and winter mean lake levels are normally lower, sometimes quite a bit lower, than boaters are accustomed to seeing during the spring and summer months. A favorite ramp that was once safe and easy to use can become difficult or unsafe with just a couple of feet fluctuation in lake elevation. Not only can launching pose a problem, but there is also real potential for damage to boats, trailers, and tow vehicles in the process.

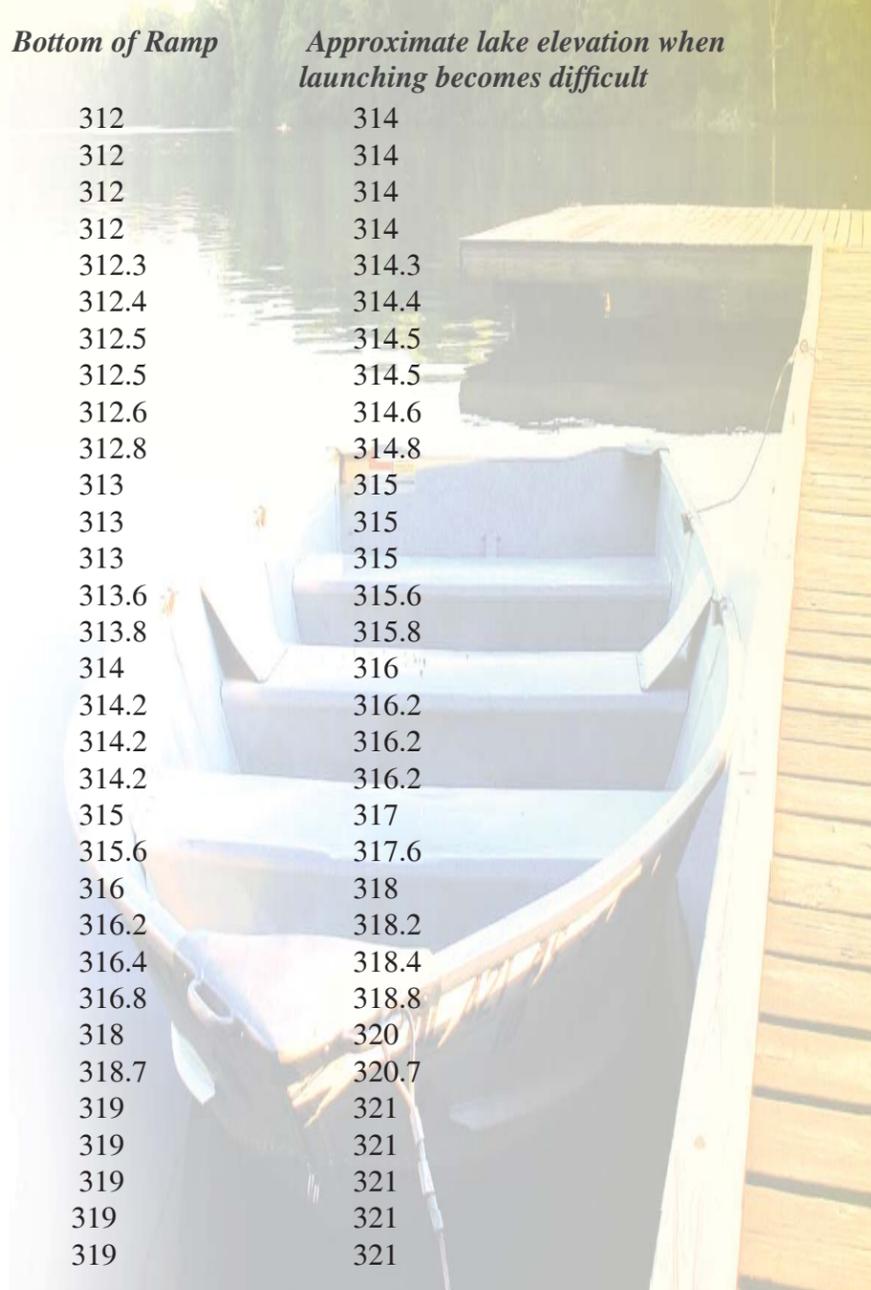
Take a look at the following list of Thurmond Lake boat ramps and the lake elevations at which they become difficult to use. Hang onto the list, put it on the refrigerator or in your tow vehicle or boat, and use it to check lake elevations against the "launching difficult" depths at your favorite ramp. Spending a few minutes to check lake elevation, which is as easy as calling 1-800-533-3478 and following the prompts to option 4, could save you a lot of aggravation and perhaps serious damage to your rig. Who knows...maybe not being able to use your old standby ramp will get you to try another one and open up an unexplored area of the lake for your pleasure. After all, the fish don't hang out in the same place all the time, why should you?



| Area Name | Lane No. | Bottom of Ramp | Approximate lake elevation when launching becomes difficult |
|----------------------------|----------|----------------|---|
| Leathersville Ramp | 1 | 304.3 | 306.3 |
| Lake Springs Park | 1, 2, 3 | 306.7 | 308.7 |
| Keg Creek Ramp | 1 | 307 | 309 |
| Scotts Ferry Ramp | 1 | 308.7 | 310.7 |
| Mt. Carmel Campground | 1 | 309 | 311 |
| Winfield Campground | 1 | 309.7 | 311.7 |
| Raysville Campground | 1 | 310.3 | 312.2 |
| Hesters Ferry Campground | 1 | 310.9 | 312.9 |
| Modoc Ramp | 1 | 311.5 | 313.5 |
| Clarks Hill Park | 1 | 311.5 | 313.5 |
| Hawe Creek Campground | 1 | 311.5 | 313.5 |
| Petersburg Campground | 1 | 311.7 | 313.7 |
| Mt. Carmel Picnic | 1 | 311.7 | 313.7 |
| Amity Recreation Area | 3 | 311.8 | 313.8 |
| Big Hart Recreation Area | 1 | 311.8 | 313.8 |
| Hamilton Branch State Park | 1, 2 | 312 | 314 |

* NOTE - Looking down at multiple lane ramps, ramp lanes are numbered left to right

| Area Name | Lane No. | Bottom of Ramp | Approximate lake elevation when launching becomes difficult |
|----------------------------|-------------|----------------|---|
| Little River Marina | 1 | 312 | 314 |
| Baker Creek State Park | 1 | 312 | 314 |
| Tradewinds Marina | 1 | 312 | 314 |
| Morrahs Ramp | 2 | 312 | 314 |
| Amity Recreation Area | 2 | 312.3 | 314.3 |
| Dorn | 1,2,3,4,5,6 | 312.4 | 314.4 |
| Little River/Hwy 378 | 1 | 312.5 | 314.5 |
| Parksville Recreation Area | 1 | 312.5 | 314.5 |
| Cherokee Recreation Area | 1 | 312.6 | 314.6 |
| Gill Point Ramp | 1 | 312.8 | 314.8 |
| Ft. Gordon Recreation Area | 1, 2 | 313 | 315 |
| Plum Branch Yacht Club | 1 | 313 | 315 |
| Bobby Brown State Park | 1, 2 | 313 | 315 |
| Holiday Park | 1 | 313.6 | 315.6 |
| Ridge Road Campground | 1 | 313.8 | 315.8 |
| Elijah Clark State Park | 1, 2, 3 | 314 | 316 |
| Landam Creek Ramp | 1 | 314.2 | 316.2 |
| Dordon Creek Ramp | 1 | 314.2 | 316.2 |
| Hickory Knob State Park | 1 | 314.2 | 316.2 |
| Soap Creek/Hwy 220 Ramp | 1 | 315 | 317 |
| Raysville Marina | 1 | 315.6 | 317.6 |
| Soap Creek Marina | 1 | 316 | 318 |
| Cherokee Recreation Area | 2, 3 | 316.2 | 318.2 |
| Wildwood Park | 1 | 316.4 | 318.4 |
| Scotts Ferry (New Ramp) | 2 | 316.8 | 318.8 |
| Soap Creek Subdivision | 1 | 318 | 320 |
| Fishing Creek/Hwy 79 Ramp | 1 | 318.7 | 320.7 |
| Bussey Point | 1 | 319 | 321 |
| Chamberlain Ferry Ramp | 1 | 319 | 321 |
| Modoc Campground | 1 | 319 | 321 |
| Murray Creek Ramp | 1 | 319 | 321 |
| Parkway Ramp | 1 | 319 | 321 |



FALL'S A COMIN', KEEP YOUR BOAT A RUNNIN'

by Jay Weidman, Park Ranger

Summer's over, cool weather is coming and many boaters are about ready to call the season over and park their boats, jet skis or other watercraft 'til next spring. Whoa, not so fast there!

Just parking your ride and doing nothing until next spring when the water itch starts again is a recipe for disappointment. Water toys are a huge investment and can cost serious money. However, a little time and effort and a few bucks invested now will pay big dividends and save a lot of time, frustration and even more dollars come next year.

Check your manufacturer's handbook or owner's manual for the care and feeding of your baby. Every handbook or manual will have a section on routine maintenance. Maintenance that you may have put off to keep your summer on the water rocking and rolling.

Now is the time to catch up on these items because they're not going to fix themselves over the fall and winter. Batteries, trolling motors and engines left over the fall and winter have a way of not working when you try to start your craft next spring. This usually occurs when you're sitting on the ramp in everybody else's way.

The same goes for that old gas you didn't drain or put stabilizer in that has turned to a goopy sludge clogging your engine and fuel system...or the spark plugs you were too lazy to clean or too cheap to change.

Preventable maintenance issues like this not only raise your blood pressure, they empty your wallet. Steering cables get neglected because they can be a pain to check and expensive to replace. "Ah... I can get one more season out of 'em." is a false economy because cables have a way of failing at high speed causing the boat to turn radically or flip over, throwing the occupants into the water where they could get run over, or worse, drown.

Speaking of being thrown into the water – what are you going to do with your life jackets and other boating safety equipment over the off season? These items require your attention too! Leaving them damp and under the seats is not the way to keep them

serviceable. Make sure they are dry and properly stored to protect them. They're your life insurance should something go wrong on the water one fine day! They only work if kept in top shape and worn when you're on the water!

While you're at it, check other items you should carry; like fire extinguishers, paddles, anchors, ropes, maybe a small tool kit and other required or recommended items. Check your state and Coast Guard regulations for the things you need. Off season is a

good time to shop for these items because they're often on sale and you can save some money for other things you need...well, okay - want.

And hey, don't forget the trailer either! Hitches, rollers, lights, tires, including the spare, trailer brakes if you've got them, all need attention. A little time spent now beats sitting on the road side in the hot summer sun with an unhappy family.

If fall and winter are your time to get on the water and do some serious fishing, waterfowl hunting or other activity after the summer

folks have gone home, don't think all this doesn't apply to you! Good maintenance is even more important because there are far fewer people on the water to come to your aid should something go wrong!

Weather in fall and winter is more unpredictable, with cold fronts bringing higher winds, precipitation and lower temperatures. You may find yourself in real trouble and no one around to help. Sure, you've got a cell phone but coverage around the lake is marginal or nonexistent in many areas.

So, check out your watercraft, catch up on maintenance and keep all your safety equipment in top shape, accessible - and above all, use it! Make sure a spouse, friend, a relative, or someone, knows where you are going and when you plan to return. File that float plan so if something happens and you're missing, people know where to start looking. It could save a whole bunch of folks a lot of time and trouble trying to find you. IT COULD EVEN SAVE YOUR LIFE!



Dangerous Tube Kites Banned on Corps Lakes

Two Deaths Attributed to New Water Sport

There is a dangerous new type of water recreation known as "tube kiting." The Sportsstuff Wego Kite Tube® was recently withdrawn from the market after reports of deaths and injuries.

Tube kiting is a relatively new form of extreme water sport which is fast growing in popularity, but also extremely dangerous. The US Consumer Product Safety Commission is aware of at least two deaths associated with tube kiting this year. A 33-year-old Texas man was killed in late April, 2006 while tube kiting, and a 42-year-old man died from injuries associated with tube kiting on June 26, 2006 in Wisconsin.

The US Consumer Product Safety Commission is



Tube kites can rise to more than 35 ft. in the air and reach speeds of 35 miles per hour.

also aware of more than 50 serious injuries associated with tube kiting. The injuries include a broken neck, punctured lung, broken ribs, broken femur, chest and back injuries, and facial injuries, such as jaw fractures. A 14-year-old girl who was tube kiting lost consciousness when it fell about 15 feet and struck the water.

Tube kites are very large, sometimes round, inflatable water devices that can be more than 10 feet in diameter. The tube is hooked to the back of a boat by a tow rope, and the tube rider pulls back on a rope as the boat travels at speeds between 25 and 35 miles per hour. The ride begins when

Continued on page 3

Continued from page 2

Tube Kites Banned on Corps Lakes

the tube is lifted into the air trailing the boat.

Possible reasons for incidents and injuries include: 1) rider's difficulty in controlling the tube, 2) boat operator inexperience, and 3) how the tube reacts in certain weather conditions. The conditions of highest concern are wind gusts that can cause the tube to spin out of control, or sudden slowing or stopping by the boat operator, which can cause the tube to nose dive into the water. In some cases, the sudden stopping of the boat might cause the tube rider to continue past the boat and hit it or hit another boat or stationary object, such as a bridge.

Numerous National Park Service lakes and US Army Corps of Engineers lakes have banned the inflatable devices. The commander of the US Army Corps of Engineers-Savannah District

banned the use of tube kites on all three Corps-managed lakes on the Savannah River, Thurmond, Hartwell and Richard B. Russell, due to its association with serious and fatal injuries.

The tubes were imported and sold through marine distributors, mail order catalogs, and various retailers from approximately October 1, 2005 to July 11, 2006 for about \$500 to \$600 each.

Consumers should immediately stop using all brands of tube kites and may contact Sportsstuff regarding their recall at (866) 831-5524 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. CST Monday through Friday. For additional information, contact the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission Recall Hotline at (800) 638-2772.