



LAKE JAMES

# TRAILHEAD



## TABLE ROCK TO SHORTOFF TRAIL

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE



If chased by 6 WV natives, where would you hide? I like the choice of this retired NY Police Lieutenant. When asked to pose, he never gave the precarious position of this photo a second thought. Often referred to as "Big Guy", Russ' addition to the crew has been a blessing.

Standing in the line of gunfire may have been a typical day for the past 29 years, but a 2000' vertical to the Linville River ... hmmm... he may have a little WV in him.

We arrived at Table Rock Mountain Road with full intentions of unloading at the Table Rock Picnic area and a slightly disturbed taxi driver. A quick check at the Grandfather District Ranger Station the day prior confirmed our plans. Unfortunately,

their assurance of a re-opening of Table Rock Road that afternoon was, well, with good intentions.

Planning for a 6.6 mile venture from the picnic area to the Shortoff Trailhead at Wolf Pit Road, took an undesirable turn, as we approached a locked gate 1.5 miles below the intended departure point. The extra footage, entirely uphill, would've waned heavily on the group, originally planning an overnight outing.

Fortunately, Mother Nature had thrown a curve in the Doppler, promising thunder and lightning as a late afternoon occurrence.

We had eliminated all of our overnight gear and with lighter packs, all were well in tact. With an average age of 52, you can imagine. With canes, walking sticks, daypacks and minimal supplies, we assaulted another wilderness trail.

Attitude and banter definitely lightened the load... that and the looming threat you could end up like Chad.

Once again we were blessed with a great group of people. On every hike people ascertain different roles. You have your follow-



ers, like 15 year-old Austin. Your leaders, sometimes the organizer, your leaders by positive attitude, Jimmy Dunn and Russ Hennessy, and your wisdom, stemming from years of experience in the outdoors, Jim Dunn, Don & Bob Boarman.

There are no better experiences than to spend a day or weekend with people you love or enjoy. I think this hike brought both. All in attendance agreed they thoroughly enjoyed every aspect... and sometimes those unintended miles make the hike worth recollection.

Ask any... I don't think even one of us would've done anything different... Thanks Jack!!! The Angry Taxi Driver!

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## LAKE LEVEL

# 97.3'



# EVENTS CALENDAR

[Go here for Lake James State Park Events:](http://www.ncparks.gov/Visit/parks/laja/events.php)

<http://www.ncparks.gov/Visit/parks/laja/events.php>

## Camp Lake James Events

### **MOTHER'S DAY OFF & KIDS CAMP**

*Date: Saturday, May 8*

*Time: 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.*

### **WALKING CLUB**

*Date: Monday, May 10*

*Time: 8 - 9 a.m.*

### **PHOTO SCAVENGER HUNT**

*Date: Saturday, May 15*

*Time: 1 - 3 p.m.*

## Marion Events

<http://www.marionnc.org/>

## Morganton Events

<http://www.downtownmorganton.com/index.php/TGIF-Free-Friday-Night-Concerts/>

## THREE MORE REASONS YOU SHOULD HIKE



## ROCK CLIMBERS AT THE CHIMNEYS

"The Chimneys" are a strand of beautiful rock formations protruding along the Table Rock to Shortoff ridgeline. Located about halfway between Table Rock Picnic Area and Chimney Gap, rock climbers frequent them to practice various climbing techniques. This group was present during our latest hike. Because this is on the Northern side of the ridge they can only be witnessed from overlooks like Wiseman's view or on hiking trails in the Linville Gorge. If you can't partake, at least be a witness!

Table Rock, Little Table Rock, NC Wall, Devil's Cellar, Shortoff, Amphitheater, Hawksbill and Sitting Bear are all rock climbing destinations in the Linville Gorge Wilderness Area and Pisgah National Forest.



# VIEWS FROM THE LOFT

Raw Data II or as they say, "Part Deux". Due to the overwhelming response from my previous "closet" report, I have decided to continue the statistics report. Never mind that the response was a borderline complaint demanding statistics on the other neighborhoods, I am just pleased that I have one alert reader.

Before my article gets too interesting for the rest of my "alert" readers, I would like to address the hijacking of my April Closet that occurred in the last paragraph. No doubt that most of you did not make it out of the coma that the first half of the article put you in. But just in case, for any of my readers that had consumed their 3<sup>rd</sup> can of Jolt Cola, I caught 3 bass to Gary's 2. I do not, in clear conscience, count caught fish that were foul hooked or "gaffed" as they say around the trout-fire. The total stats for the Linville Gorge Fishing and Camping Expedition were as follows. Bryan - 3 Bass. Gary - 2 Bass and 2 suspicious, minnow-like fish.

Gary did insist on eating them, thus leading me to believe that he hiked them in, or found them swimming "belly up"? Also, average time that Li'l Gary went to bed, - 1 hour before sundown.

Now, back to the rest of the statistics, since SouthPointe was left off the last article due to budgetary cutbacks, I will start there. SouthPointe was the final Crescent development that divided that majority of the lot into 1 acre or less. A lawsuit brought forth in 2002 halted Crescent from any more high density development on Lake James, at least for the time being. SouthPointe has a total of 260 lots. 152 of the owner hail from great home state of North Carolina. Florida owners hold 19 lots and Virginia is in 3<sup>rd</sup> place with 9 lots. SouthPointe has owners from 21 states. Tennessee is the only adjoining state that has no owners. In fact, only one person from

Tennessee owns in any of the communities that I have covered. It also happens that this one Tennessean, was from North Carolina, but just recently took a job there, so I am not sure they should count. SouthPointe has reached around 37% build out. Considering that the community has been around 13 years, this is a little slower, percentage wise, than some of the other communities. SouthPointe does boast an extremely low POA fee of only \$650 per year, and \$1050 per year if it is an interior lot. are from NC. Florida is second with 3%. 17 different states are represented here.

\*Footnote: Minnow-like means large Brown Trout & bass fishing is what rednecks do when they run out of Budweiser & graduate 8th grade.

## BRYAN'S CLOSET

### IT'S THE SEASON TO HAVE SOME FUN!

Spring is the time when we all come out of hibernation and return to doing some of our favorite outdoor activities. It is time to start enjoying the fresh air and warm weather. We are finally starting to see activity on the lake. There were even brave skiers and swimmers testing the waters this weekend.

Friday, May 7 starts the free concert series in Downtown Morganton at 7:00, so bring your lawn chair to the Historic Burke County Courthouse Square to enjoy some free music.

If you're looking for something new to do with the kids, the Morganton Recreation Foundation recently purchased the adventure

playground, a ropes course/walkway/zip line and climbing tower for Catawba Meadows Park. The equipment should be installed by the end of June.

Springtime is also the perfect time of the year to enjoy a picnic. It is the perfect time of year to get the family together and spend some quality time together. If you're looking for some spring or summertime recipes, I will have a new recipe to try throughout the Spring and Summer issues of the newsletter.

<http://www.downtownmorganton.com/index.php/TGIF-Free-Friday-Night-Concerts/>



## KAREN'S CORNER

One of the greatest parts of living in North Carolina is the diversity of the wildlife. Pictured right are some gulls that were visiting Lake James a few weeks ago.

Not long ago I was in Cherokee, NC with Melissa & Madison and we had a cow elk cross the meadow, while we were trout fishing.

This winter we took thirty trail cam pictures of a large male black bear. I would venture to guess that near dawn or dusk you'd be hard-pressed to drive a circle around Lake James and not see turkey and deer. I've seen coyotes, river otters,

peregrine falcons, bald eagles, copperheads and I have a cardinal at the office and a bluebird at home trying to knock the windows out of the sashes.

We can attribute it all to the people and planning of our conservation programs. NC Wildlife Resources Commission, NC Wildlife Federation, NC Wildlife Habitat Foundation, NC Chapter of The Wildlife Society and many more have done a wonderful job of managing conservation programs throughout our great state. Next time you see one of the enforcement personnel... thank them!



## GARY'S CORNER

LJCH MOTTO:

FARMERS ALMANAC

*"You can't build integrity into a contract"*



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**MAY 2010:** temperature 64° (4° above avg.); precipitation 2.5" (1.5" below avg.); **May 1-3:** Sunny, very warm; **May 4-7:** T-storms, then sunny, seasonable; **May 8-14:** Scattered t-storms, warm; **May 15-20:** Sunny, then t-storms, very warm; **May 21-23:** Sunny, cool; **May 24-28:** T-storms, then sunny, cool; **May 29-31:** Sunny, hot.



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