



# LBCA

February 2009

## Newsletter

### President's Comments

It is wintertime at Lake Burton and we are receiving some much needed rainfall. Carol and I hope that each of you had a wonderful holiday season, and that the new year brings you and your family great enjoyment on the lake.

Your Officers, Directors, and past Presidents continue to work on matters that are essential to the betterment of Lake Burton. Hopefully, the articles in this newsletter will answer some of the questions you might have.

Siltation continues to be one of our major concerns. If you see a problem, or a perceived problem, please contact us.

Your Board and Officers are always receptive to your comments and concerns, and we will continue to do all we can for our lake.

Jim Higdon

### Burton Fire Departments Evaluated

We are happy to report that, after months . . . and months . . . and months of waiting, the Insurance Service Office (ISO) has finally found its way to Rabun County. ISO spent December 8th through 12th evaluating all of our volunteer fire departments. We should know by April 1, 2009 whether or not our fire departments have achieved the necessary rating to lower our homeowners insurance premiums. Lake Burton's present rating is nine, on a scale of one to ten - with ten being the

worst. We hope to achieve a rating of at least six. If this occurs, our insurance premiums could be lowered by 30 to 40%. We will keep you informed of the outcome. Hopefully, Christmas 2009 has come early to Rabun County!

This has been a long process, but let us keep in mind that whatever success we enjoy will be a result of the dedication and hard work of the men and women who make up our volunteer fire departments.

### LBCA Officers and Directors

#### Officers

President	Jim Higdon
President Elect	Linda Dixon
Vice-President	Becky Hunter
Treasurer	Tom Downs
Secretary	Becky Callahan
Past President	Steve Barrett

#### Directors

Charlie Boyd	Through 2009
Jim Pope	Through 2009
Mike Walters	Through 2009
John Barnett	Through 2010
Sam Dixon	Through 2010
Bill Markert	Through 2010
David Bacon	Through 2011
Bob Fink	Through 2011
Janis Stapleton	Through 2011

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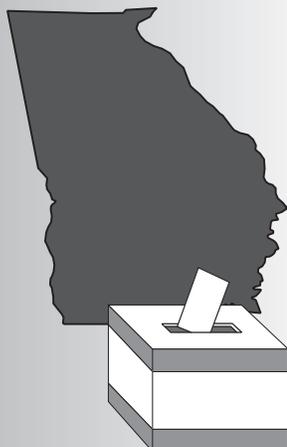
## Politics in Rabun County by Bob Fink

Another year in Rabun County politics has proven to be anything but the usual. A number of firsts have occurred. We have, for the first time, a Republican State Representative in Stephen Allison. He represents us in the State House. A new Republican State Senator, Jim Butterworth will be in the Senate. For the first time in Rabun County history there will be a Republican Sheriff – Frank Andrews. Katheryn Granberg, a Republican, was also elected to the Rabun County Board of Commissioners, along with Will Nichols and Tom Garrison.

All of the party designations mean very little when it comes to local politics. As the chairman of the Republican party, I have voiced my opinion regarding our need for non-partisan elections in Rabun County, and I will continue to request the state to allow us to at least vote on the issue. We will have little or no affect on national or international issues. Our main concern in Rabun County is to provide the best and most effective governing body we can, regardless of political affiliation.

As a full-time resident on Lake Burton, I feel it may be time for a “tea party” – based on our taxes vis-a-vis our

services. Our fire services are based on how much chicken we can sell. Since we live in a more affluent part of the county, we have better equipment. Totally unfair. When was the last time you saw a law enforcement vehicle on your road? We recycle with due diligence and provide the county with an income from our trash. If you added up all the children attending Rabun County Public School from Lake Burton you would be hard pressed to fill a classroom. We provide the majority of the fuel for the county government and receive the least amount of services. We even pay for our own private police force. These are all issues that pertain to our local government. There is a better way. Our county operates on a tax income of about \$19 million per year. We cannot build on, nor are we responsible for about 60% of our land (U.S. Forest Service). Our population is about 16,000. We spend about 38% of the taxes collected on administrative services compared to the State of Georgia averages of 19% for a county of our size (ref. University of Georgia). Habersham County, our neighbor to the south, has a population of 42,000 and also operates on a budget of about \$19 million.



## Boathouse Signs

Presently, 260 of our members have purchased boathouse signs. We know this greatly improves location identification for emergency responders (as well as for individuals) if they are in a boat. The LBCA has made the signs available at our cost of \$65.00 each to its members as a nonprofit item. We also continue to be grateful to Mountain Patrol for delivery of the signs. New signs may take a while because we now wait until there are ten orders and then

the signs are made and delivered. If there is a sign on your boathouse and you need to change the name please take the sign to “The Sign Shop” in Mountain City. For a nominal fee, the proprietor, Chuck Crawford, will make the name change on your existing sign. Janis Stapleton is now in charge of the sign orders; so, if you have any questions, please e-mail her at [jastapleton@windstream.net](mailto:jastapleton@windstream.net) or call her at 706-778-8278.





## Lake Burton Cablevision

On December 1, 2008, Lake Burton Cablevision ceased providing service to Lake Burton area residents. At that time, there were 498 homes served by the cable provider. Many people had prepaid for the service and “the Buzz” has been told that some customers, if not all, will receive a refund. An alternative for many of our residents is satellite television provided by DirecTV (888-795-9489) or Dish Network (888-825-2557). Due to the terrain around the lake, some residents have run into problems receiving a satellite signal. We have been in touch

with Mr. James Johnston who owns Satellite City, a company in Habersham County. Mr. Johnston contends that his company can install either Dish Network or DirecTV in almost any location. He may be reached at 706-939-1866. (Keep in mind that this information is provided as a convenience to LBCA members. LBCA does not recommend Satellite City or guarantee their work.) We are exploring alternatives, but at this time we do not have any other solutions. We will keep you informed if we get any more information.



## Positive Changes at Rabun EMS

In the past year there have been several very positive changes at Rabun County’s EMS department. First, Mike Carnes has been appointed the full-time manager at EMS. In the past Mike worked part-time at EMS – his regular position was with the Rabun County police force. Mike is extremely qualified for the position – as he helped establish the current EMS team. Secondly, with help from the LBCA Foundation, Rabun Medical Foundation, and Ronnie Green Heart Center (at Northeast Georgia Medical Center), an all new EKG equipment monitoring system has been added to each of the county’s ambulances. Once a patient has been attached to the EKG, technicians at the

Ronnie Green Center can directly monitor the patient via cell phone transmission. Medical staff at Ronnie Green will then be able to prescribe medications and continue monitoring the patient. This new system can be used with any medical facility that has fax equipment. According to Rabun EMS, these new capabilities have already saved several lives.

Georgia Power Company has recently completed construction of a new helipad across from their land office. Additionally, the LBCA and Rabun EMS are exploring the feasibility of constructing a concrete emergency helipad located at the north end of Lake Burton.



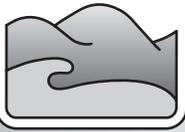
## Rabun’s New 911 System

Rabun County has a new and improved 911 system. In the past, the system would display the caller and the land line address from which the call originated. The new system will display a map showing the address and exactly where the driveway starts. The system

will also provide a cell phone caller’s name and identify the location of the cell phone. Also displayed are the closest fire hydrants, fire stations, and landing zone rescue locations. The upgraded system is expected to further reduce dispatch errors.

# 911

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## Road Improvements & Conditions

Rabun County has completed all necessary clearing and grubbing, subbase repairs, and acquired right-of-way and easements for the paving of Cat Gap Road this summer. This paving project will remove another approximate 2.5 miles of unpaved roads from west Rabun County. The county resurfaced Timpson Cove Road this past summer with their equipment and personnel. An independent contractor will resurface Acorn Creek Road during this spring or early summer.

The county is getting ready to submit final erosion control plans for Dicks Creek Road to acquire a land disturbance permit. Once the permit is approved, the county will start clearing, grading, subbase repairs, and widening of that road – probably in the early spring.

Plans are to have the preliminary work completed by late spring so that Dicks Creek Road and Cat Gap Road can be paved at the same time.

East Wildcat Road has several new construction sites which have caused problems with its unpaved surface. Additional gravel has been added in various sections to alleviate some of the bad road conditions. We will be monitoring the new construction to make sure the contractors and county keep the road maintained.

Please e-mail your comments (good or bad) about current road conditions and needed repairs in your area to the attention of David Bacon at [lbca@lbca.net](mailto:lbca@lbca.net).



## Burton Buzz

- ☑ The Moccasin Creek Pavilion has been condemned as unsafe. A group is raising money to build the Lake Burton Chapel. If you would like to contribute, please contact J.P. Miles at 706-947-3246.
- ☑ Georgia Power Company will be sending a letter to all lease holders in the first quarter of 2009 explaining the tax assessment for this year.
- ☑ If you are rebuilding or remodeling, Habitat for Humanity will take any useable furniture or appliances that are in working order. Habitat will arrange to pick up the items, if necessary. Please contact Jim Holmes at 706-947-3646. Habitat is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization.
- ☑ Remember to keep your septic system in good working order. No one wants a problem that will damage their property or pollute the lake. Septic systems need to be drained every 5-10 years, depending on usage. If you need help, contact Gotta Go at 706-782-7114 or Welch Construction at 706-746-2423. If you think your system may be leaching (leaking), you can perform your own test. Call Nor-Lab at 800-247-9422 and ask for the yellow liquid dye. You will just need to flush the dye down the toilet. Better safe than sorry.
- ☑ The West Rabun Property Owners (WPRO) team once again provided valuable election information. Their sample ballot was outstanding. The Buzz recommends that all LBCA members consider joining the WRPO association. You may contact them at P.O. Box 377, Tiger, GA 30576. The current dues are \$10 per year – but may be raised to \$15 to cover increased costs.
- ☑ The state of Georgia was considering closing the Lake Burton Fish Hatchery as a way to save money. The Buzz is happy to report the State has decided against this closure. Please watch your newspaper, though, as the legislature is in session and anything can happen.
- ☑ In the November election, one race was decided by 56 votes and another by 150 votes. In Rabun County every vote counts. Please remember to register. If you have questions regarding voting in Rabun County, please contact Jim Holmes at 706-947-3646.
- ☑ As of January 10, 2009, the Atlanta Journal Constitution is no longer available in Rabun County or any area north of Gainesville. The paper is available online at [www.ajc.com](http://www.ajc.com).
- ☑ Quite a number of Lake Burton homes off of Murray Cove Road are too far from Windstream's existing telephone switching equipment to receive DSL broadband Internet service. If you have a home in this area, we encourage you to contact Tim McCabe at [palduck@bellsouth.net](mailto:palduck@bellsouth.net). He is compiling a list of homeowners requesting DSL service along Murray Cove Road. His list will periodically be sent to Windstream management.
- ☑ If you have ideas or questions relating to the LBCA newsletter, please contact the Buzz at [buzz@lbca.net](mailto:buzz@lbca.net).

