

Wilmington DISTRICT NEWS

Volume 22, Number 5

November - December 2002

Special Edition:
John H. Kerr
50th
Anniversary
Celebration



US Army Corps
of Engineers.
Wilmington District

Wilmington DISTRICT NEWS

Volume 22, Number 5
November - December 2002

Wilmington District News is an unofficial publication authorized under the AR 360-1. It is published monthly by U.S. Army Engineer District, Wilmington, reproduced, and circulated through distribution to CESAW employees. Submission of articles, photos, letters, and graphic arts of interest to the general readership is encouraged. Letters to the editor are welcome. All manuscripts are subject to editing and rewriting prior to publication. Deadline for submission of copy is the eighth of each month. All photos are official U.S. Army photos unless otherwise stated. The views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Corps of Engineers or the Department of the Army. Printed circulation: 750.

Address mail to:

U.S. Army Engineer District,
Wilmington

ATTN: CESAW-PA
P.O. Box 1890
Wilmington, N.C. 28402-1890

Telephone: (910) 251-4626

Email:

Penny.Schmitt@usace.army.mil

Commander and District Engineer:

COL Charles R. Alexander

Chief, Public Affairs:

Penelope Schmitt

Managing Editors:

Sherrie Storm
Kevin McDaniels

Layout and Design:

Susan Benton
The Graphic Triangle
Rocky Point, North Carolina

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Detailed planning for John H. Kerr Celebration.....	page 1
Labor of Love	page 2
Military Units Celebrate	page 3
COL Alexander thanks dam builders	page 4
John H. Kerr marks 50 years of service.....	page 5
Tanner Dedication.....	page 10
Waterworld Exhibit.....	page 11
Lake Region History in Clarksville	page 12
Boydton welcomes COL Alexander.	page 13

Saturday, September 28, 2002 marked an historic occasion: The 50th Anniversary of the Dedication of the John H. Kerr Dam. Inside this special edition of the Wilmington District News, readers will meet some of the folks who helped to plan the event, see snapshots of this historic day, and relive some of the highlights. Special thanks to Sherrie Storm, Kevin McDaniel, and to other members of TEAM Kerr, who contributed so much to the event and to this special newsletter.

Speaking Out



Hydraulic Engineer **Eric Farr** presented Wilmington District Drought operation at the drought management meeting in Raleigh, NC

Ben Wood, Chief Technical Services Division, represented the Corps of Engineers at the UNC-Wilmington Masters of Public Administration, Advisory Board meeting.

Lillette Granade of the Wilmington Regulatory Office gave a presentation to the Environment Law Class and one to the Environmental Class at UNCW on the Wilmington District's regulatory procedures.

Timothy Smith of the Asheville Regulatory Office gave a presentation on the Corps of Engineers Regulatory Program to the Northwest Chapter of the North Carolina Society of Surveyors in Boone, North Carolina.

Mickey Suggs of the Wilmington Regulatory Office spoke with Onslow County Planning Board and Staff on regulatory issues, and how to integrate wetlands in the County planning review process.

David Franklin of the Wilmington Regulatory Office presented the NCDOT process improvement initiatives to the American Council of Engineering Companies, the state of North Carolina, and the Department of Transportation.

Major Randy E. Powell, Deputy Commander, spoke at the Lion's Club meeting in Carolina Beach. He gave the group an overview of the Wilmington District's operations.

Hydraulic Engineer **Mike Wutkowski** gave a presentation on Wilmington District Beach Projects that included Operation and Monitoring at the 74th meeting of the Coastal Engineering Research Board in Duck, NC.

Cover:

Parade of Flags on the Dam to celebrate John H. Kerr's 50th Anniversary.
Photo by Scott Maners

Team Kerr envisions a Three-Ring Circus

By Terry A. Ramsey, Operations Manager, W. Kerr Scott

We had just turned the page on a new millennium: the year 2000. Those who worked at and managed the John H. Kerr Dam and Reservoir knew we were approaching another major milestone. We were about to see Kerr Dam complete 50 years of service. For many of us who had spent 15 or 20 years working at Kerr, it was like planning our grandmother's birthday. The dam, it seemed, had always been there, strong and tall. The waters, too, were a constant that you knew could be counted on. Yes, we knew it had to be a 'big one': a great big birthday party for all, young and old.

We started talking to the nearby

communities. We quickly learned that all wanted to help and be part of the special events. So we invited community leaders to attend a party-organizing meeting. Trying to describe to the group what I was envisioning, I used the phrase 'three ring circus.' Little did I know that we would end up with three major event areas and a huge circus tent would actually cover the crowd for the main event. In all my years at Kerr, I never saw anything quite like the enthusiasm of our community leaders and friends. Everyone seemed to have a great idea for the party. For me, the 50th Anniversary Celebration was not just a great tribute to our dam and lake, but

even more a celebration of community volunteerism and pride.

The stories that follow detail the contributions and hard work of our big Kerr Lake community. We hope you'll enjoy these pages. Still more, I personally hope you'll share in my own experience: More than ever before, I found myself extremely proud of our military and the fact that we WERE the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. We have kept the dam functioning well for all those 50 years, and here it stands, ready for another 50. We are proud! We should be proud!

Detailed planning leads to a great day for all

By Sherrie Storm, Park Ranger

The 50th Anniversary of Kerr Dam presented many challenges. Some seemed overwhelming, others minor inconveniences, and others took months to resolve. We made plans, changed them, and changed them yet again. The motto 'be flexible' took on new meaning, as daily phone calls changed whole concepts several times. Near zero hour, a hurricane off the coast dumped inches of rain on the region, soaking the grounds. But the day of our celebration, the sun shone gloriously, the temperature rose to 80 degrees, a light breeze blew, and the day went off without a hitch.

Once the plans were laid out for what was going to happen on our big day, Team Kerr had to plan how it would occur. Here are a few of the 'hows' we resolved as we continued to operate and provide full service to our customers during the busiest season of the year:

- **Parking:** Planners estimated parking would be needed for a crowd of 3,000 to 5,000 people. They set aside all group camping areas for parking. They designed signs and coordinated color-coded maps with passes for different types of visitor parking.
- **People-moving:** The team planned on-site transportation for 5,000, using contracted tour buses. The six buses ran routes through the parking areas to the three major event areas from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The free shuttles offered air conditioning and video screens showing the film "Titan in Concrete the Making of Kerr Dam."
- **Publicity:** The team provided local newspapers and other media with frequent information, historical and contemporary photos, and news of the upcoming anniversary and associated events. In turn, local media told the Corps story and Kerr Dam's history to their readership. Planners also sent formal invitations and printed posters inviting the public.
- **Three ring timing:** The teams dovetailed the formal rededication ceremony, the Tanner Center dedication and the afternoon concert so that no event would compete

with others. Team members planned protocol and wrote speeches for the event, and arranged for photo support.

- **Landmark Postmark:** A special stamp cancellation was created in partnership with the US Postal Service's Boydton, Virginia, Post Office. A special Post Office substation was set up at the Joseph Tanner Center on the anniversary date, and postal employees helped 1200 people get a special cancellation cover.
- **Special tours:** The dam's powerhouse has been closed to the public since September 11, 2001. For this special occasion, the Wilmington District Security Office and the local Sheriff's department coordinated to provide security. With an X-Ray machine and a bag check in place, hundreds would be able to see inside Kerr Dam.
- **Out of town guests:** Speakers, special guests, staff and others needed places to stay and meal accommodations. Through the local chambers of commerce, hotels set aside rooms for special guests and provided government rate rooms for the weekend to visiting Corps employees and members of the 82nd Airborne Chorus, the 20th Engineer Brigade Color Guard and the Army Chaplain.
- **Staff support:** The logistics staff needed to cover the day's events exceeded the Kerr staff. Sister projects at Falls, Jordan, W. Kerr Scott, and Philpott Lakes along sent support from their ranger and management staffs.
- **Last minute shelter:** When tropical storm rains threatened to drench our parade, logistics folks contracted for a circus tent that would seat 500 people, a stage, sound system and lighting.
- **Feeding the troops:** Local volunteer organizations raised money and good will by selling food to visitors, while the 301st Signal Company, Army Reserve, Fort Pickett, Virginia, fed meals to more than 300 Boy Scout Volunteers.

Many other tasks were completed to prepare for a perfect day. The super event would never have been possible without the teamwork of people from all over Wilmington District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. HOOAH!

Local communities offer a 'labor of love'

By Sherrie Storm, Park Ranger

Planning for the John H. Kerr Dam 50th Anniversary included local communities from a two-state, six-county area. Kerr staff contacted community leaders, law enforcement, chambers of commerce, natural resource agency partners, local newspapers, television and radio stations. In February 2002, the 'Big 5-0 Planning Committee' met for the first time, continuing to convene every two to three weeks until mid-September.

Local radio and TV personality Greg Thrift began referring to the Big 5-0 as a 'labor of love.' The far-reaching and tremendous contributions volunteers certainly proved to be big-hearted.

- Frank Malone, Director of the South Hill Chamber of Commerce, agreed to serve as Master of Ceremonies.
- Fifteen spectacularly decorated birthday cakes came from local communities and businesses, with Team Kerr members and retirees and their families serving as cake servers.
- Five newspapers in the region published special editions dedicated to historical accounts and photo essays on the building of Kerr Dam. Corps staff provided many photos from our archives.
- George Stevenson, a local vocalist, sang a rich and beautiful rendition of Jerome Kern's song "Old Man River," which had also been sung at the 1952 Dedication.
- Mecklenburg County's Board of Supervisors made an official proclamation celebrating 50 years of

community involvement with the Dam. Mr. W. P. Hudgins, Chairman, read the proclamation, and presented a framed copy.

- Vance County's Department of Tourism and the Roanoke River Basin Association booked and paid for music by "Magic," a 9-piece band from Atlanta.
- Danville, Virginia, Toyota donated a 30 x 60-foot flag which draped the powerhouse façade.
- The Office of Congressman Virgil Goode donated 28 American flags, which proudly waved on the lightpoles topping the dam.
- Eckerd Youth Camps donated red, white, and blue decorations.
- Five local natural resource management agencies provided exhibits and displays at the Joseph S. J. Tanner Environmental Education Center.
- Greg Thrift of WSKS, interviewed and filmed 17 people who had worked on the Kerr Dam construction project, incorporating his footage into "Titan in Concrete". He donated his film "The Making of a Titan" to the reservoir archive. Kerr staff and local citizens and newspapers helped to find and contact former project workers.
- Fifty surviving workers on the mid-century dam construction project were invited to participate as Guests of honor.
- The Historic Boydton Revitalization Committee developed Commemorative Kerr Dam plaques, with proceeds from sales at the day's events going to the town, Mecklenburg's County Seat.

Continued...



Corps and Community partners planned for months.

A 'labor of love' continued

- The Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office took the lead in security, donating more than 30 deputies and arranging for assistance from the Virginia State Police, Alcohol Law Enforcement, and State Game Wardens. They also provided metal detectors for the powerhouse lobby entrance.

The 50th Anniversary celebration brought our communities together in a unique way. Local communities dedicated annual festivity themes to the dam. Local businesses took out ads in the special edition newspapers to congratulate the dam and staff on the anniversary. Local economies benefited from the attention and the interaction of the communities, their people, and the Corps of Engineers.

As MC Frank Malone put it, "Almost all of our tourism is here because of this big slab of concrete, and for that we owe thanks. This birthday is truly a 'labor of love.'"



Virginia Forestry Department is ready for visitors.



Kerr staff and family served birthday cake.

Military units bring out big guns to salute 50th

By Rangers A. Mike Large and E. Tyree Robertson

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the military side of the house teamed up to provide posting of the colors, speeches, presentations, entertainment, cooking, displays, recruitment information and security, during the Kerr Lake 50th Anniversary.

The formal ceremony held at Tailrace Park involved soldiers from Fort Bragg, North Carolina. The 20th Airborne Engineer Color Guard posted the colors. Chaplain Jeff Botsford, 37th Engineer Battalion, 20th Engineer Brigade, led the invocation.

The 82nd Airborne Division Chorus were the hit of the day with an outstand-

ing concert of a capella music that earned them two standing ovations from the crowd. They brought cheers, tears, and laughter with Airborne 'fight' songs, favorites like "Under the Boardwalk" and "My Girl" Lee Greenwood's great hit "I Love the USA," and a rousing chorus of "Happy Birthday Dear Dam!"

The Virginia National Guard provided interactive exhibits of military equipment at North Bend Park.

The 301st Signal Company, Army Reserve, out of Fort Pickett, Virginia, cooked and served up meals for more than 300 scout volunteers. They also

served lunch to South Atlantic Division Commander, Brig. Gen. Peter T. Madsen, Congresswoman Eva B. Clayton, and other visiting dignitaries.

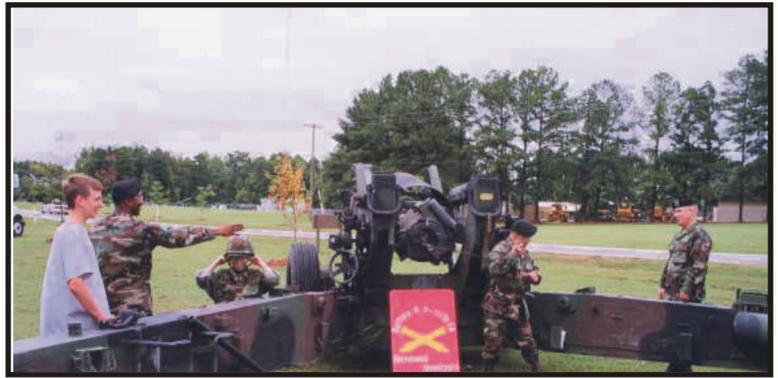
At the Tanner Center, recruiters from the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines talked to people and provided information on military careers.

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary provided boat patrols for security on the upstream side of the dam during the busiest parts of the day.

The rewards of this great day shone from faces of visitors and workers who were 'Proud to be an American' and loving the USA on this great day.



301st Signal Company cooks served 300.



Kids enjoyed displays of military equipment.

Old Glory makes a glorious display

By Rose Sullivan and Joyce Taylor



Flags, flowers and bunting abounded at this red, white, and blue celebration.

From center stage to the farthest campground, America's colors expressed the day's spirit for the John H. Kerr 50th Anniversary celebration. The speaker's platform highlighted the impressive patriotic theme, so appropriate to the Corps and Army ideals with bright flowers and also red, white, and blue pleated fans donated by the Eckerd Youth Camp, Nearby, 28 American flags donated by Congressman Virgil Goode's office flew boldly over the dam. A huge American flag provided by Danville Toyota, blanketed a 30 x 60 feet swath of the powerhouse. Red white, and blue ribbons decked out the pavilion where brightly decorated birthday cakes were on display. Patriotic banners and dozens of small flags fluttered throughout the amphitheater. Red, white, and blue bows and bunting adorned the Joseph S. J. Tanner, II, Environmental Education Center. North Bend Park continued with the patriotic theme, as tables and shelter sported red, white, and blue for the Boy Scouts, Volunteers, and Dignitaries who would meet there for lunch.

Joyce Taylor served as the great decorations chairperson for this special day. We also thank Jan Humphries, Sharon Hemrick, Rosemary Hudson, Renay Haskins, Peggy Conner, Rose Sullivan, Sherry Oenbrink, Mike Humphries, Raymond Lawson, David Marriner, Buddy Sikes and Cube Corporation employees for their help.

Col Alexander thanks dam builders

I am especially honored to be able to express our nation's gratitude to some of the many people who built this great dam. We know that most of the 2000-plus workers on this project are no longer with us or are unable to come today. We remember and honor them too.

But we are fortunate today to have with us representatives from almost every aspect of the dam's construction: We have acquisition personnel, surveyors, those who cleared the land, concrete plant workers, train drivers, crane operators and oilers, the nurse, the contractor's timekeeper; engineers, carpenters, and rod-busters. All of you worked hard, and did your best. We are glad you are here. We are proud because, just like you, the dam you built has stood the test of time.

When you worked on this project, you worked in faith that it would live up to its promise.

Indeed, the John H. Kerr Dam and Reservoir has delivered on its promises! In 50 years, the dam has fulfilled its original purpose to generate hydropower and protect communities from flooding. The dam's generators have powered out more than an average



Builders of the original Dam Project join the celebration.

of 425,000 Megawatt Hours of electricity every year. The dam has held back floodwaters many times, averting more than \$400 million dollars worth of flood damages.

But who would have dreamed of all the unexpected benefits that have come from the John H. Kerr Dam and Reservoir? For the past two years, the dam has played a huge part in reducing the damaging effects of drought on water quality and fisheries in the Roanoke River Basin.

The builders knew that John H. Kerr Lake would offer recreation benefits, but we surely didn't know that North Carolina would become an urban boom state, and that interstates would make it easy for literally millions of people to

get here from Richmond and points north for relaxation and fun every season.

No one guessed the huge value we would come to see in public lands, healthy ecosystems and clean water. In 1950, most people probably didn't even know the word 'ecosystem,' and we assumed there would always be enough good, clean water for us to use. Today, we can see that places like John H. Kerr Reservoir and the land around it are precious resources, and that

we must be wise stewards for its future. Today, we are engaged in a long-term study to ensure that we work with your communities, and with state and national resource agencies and other interested groups to make the best uses of the reservoir for the future. All of you who built this dam, built a structure that was every bit as good as you planned. You also built something far more important than you ever dreamed.

We thank you for your work, and for all you have passed on to us. As Commander of the Wilmington District, US Army Corps of Engineers, I pledge that we will carry on into the future, the work you began 50 years ago with so much dedication and energy.

The John H. Kerr Project marks 50 years of service

By Sherrie Storm, Park Ranger

Nestled in Virginia's southern piedmont, the John H. Kerr Dam has provided pollution-free hydroelectric power and flood control to the Roanoke River Valley for 50 years. During this time, not one major power outage was caused by equipment failure.

Construction began in March 1947, in a spot on the Roanoke River a few hundred feet upstream from an island belonging to the descendants of Samuel Bugg; hence, the during construction, it was known as the "Bugg's Island Project." The 82nd Congress later passed Public Law 203, renaming the project "John H. Kerr Dam and Reservoir", after the North Carolina Congressman instrumental in obtaining funding and approval for its construction. Virginians continue to refer to the lake as "Buggs Island Lake".

Three shifts of 700 men worked seven days a week, 365 days a year for four and a half years. Even with these 2,100 men working around the clock, records show only four lives lost. Jones, Tompkins & Wright carried out construction of the dam and powerhouse substructure, and Donovan, Lovering, and Boyle built the powerhouse and switch yard. Many other contractors completed excavation, surveying, clearing, concrete, cemetery relocation, and built an access railroad, the rails of which may be seen today.

Kerr Dam contains 624,000 cubic yards of concrete, 578,000 barrels of cement, and 1,200,000 tons of crushed stone and sand used for concrete aggregate. Its seven main generators average 425,000 megawatt hours of electricity annually. The cumulative flood damage savings since 1952 is \$400 million.

An operator is on duty continuously to run the Kerr dam and powerhouse and, by remote control, to operate Island Creek Pumping Station (near Clarksville) and Philpott Dam near Bassett, Virginia.

Today, Kerr Reservoir is abuzz with activities boating, fishing, water sports, hunting, wildlife viewing, hiking, camping. The US Army Corps of Engineers, along with the State of North Carolina and the Commonwealth of Virginia manage the lands and waters for the people of the United States. Plans for the future include adding more bank fishing areas, completing the regional environmental education center, and continuing to provide recreational opportunities for the region.





"Glad I had the pleasure of being involved in such a well planned and enjoyable occasion that was clearly such a delight to visitors." Earl Wright, Philpott Ranger



"It's a great day to be Operations Manager of John H. Kerr." Dianne Batson



"It was such a fun time cutting all the cakes and putting them on display. From the decorations to the 'cutting of the first cake' by General Madsen to the cleanup-what a great celebration." Rose Sullivan

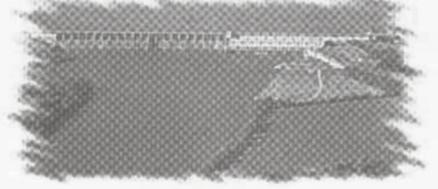


"Being the present employee with the longest tenure here, I enjoyed seeing those that have retired or transferred away. What I did was for love of the project, pride in my job and wanting to make this day a success; not to impress anyone." Peggy Conner



"I was very glad when the day was over because my feet were killing me from standing so long." Shannon Boyd





The Wilmington District
 United States Army Corps of Engineers
 requests the pleasure of your company
 at a 50th Anniversary Celebration
 in honor of
 John H. Kerr Dam and Reservoir
 Saturday, the twenty-eighth of September
 10:00 a.m.
 The Fairtrace Area
 John H. Kerr Dam
 Boydton, VA

RSVP by: September 14, 2002
 434-738-6143 ext. 151
 sherrill.c.storm@saw02.usace.army.mil

Please note! Enclosed map is your VIP PARKING PASS!



October 10, 2002

Dianne
Dear Ms. Batson:

Congratulations to you and your entire team for a flawlessly executed, world-class 50th Anniversary celebration of the construction of the John H. Kerr project.

I enjoyed having the opportunity to participate in the celebration and I also appreciated the opportunity to tour the project and powerhouse. I now have a much better appreciation for the challenges you face.

Please convey my thanks and appreciation to all who contributed to the event. It was a wonderful visit. Your team performed magnificently!

Essays!

Sincerely,

Anthony F. Leketa
Anthony F. Leketa, P.E.
Director, Civil Works and Management

Ms. Dianne B. Batson
John H. Kerr, Project Operations Manager

Copy Furnished:

Mr. Eugene Tickner
Deputy District Engineer for Programs and Project Management, Wilmington, District

Mr. Jim Bulter
Wilmington District – Corps of Engineers





"The John H. Kerr 50th celebration was a joyful event enjoyed by thousands. When you saw so many faces, you knew all of the preparation and hard work by so many employees was worth it all." Nancy Cox



"The teamwork and pride shown by all elements of the Corps and contractors involved in the celebration was outstanding." Eric Edwardson



"It was great to see the Scouting recruitment flyer I had prepared later modified and used a project-wide Celebration announcement flyer or poster." Roger Anderson



"I appreciated the opportunity to be a part of the celebration; its success reflected team work and the many hours of hard work by all the staff." Alverta Sandy



"I had the most important job of all. I made arrangements for 'Porta Potties' and placed them at strategic locations for public use." Gordon Westenhaver



"Overall, it was a beautiful day and I'm glad that I played an interesting part in history." Alyson Parker

Tanner Center dedication signals a bright new future

By Emily Gross, Park Ranger

The sun peeked out from behind clouds onto the crowd gathered for the most forward-looking moment of Kerr Dam's 50th Anniversary celebration. A building that had once served as the lake's management center was about to begin new life as a regional environmental learning center. Such a facility had long been a dream of the late Joe Tanner, who was Kerr Lake's Operations Manager until shortly before his untimely death in 2001.



Mrs. Tanner receives flag from Rick Carroll.

Now, after a complete face-lift in the past year with a new roof and interior remodeling, the building was ready to be officially dedicated as the Joseph Speed Jones Tanner II Environmental Education Center.

Jim Butler, Director of Operations for the Wilmington District unveiled

the portrait of Joe that now hangs inside the building, presiding over a wide variety of activities and informational displays. Kerr's Powerhouse Superintendent, Rick Carroll, presented Verna Tanner, Joe's widow, with the flag that flew over the powerhouse as Joe took his last trip across the dam en route to his final resting place. Outreach ranger Sherrie Storm spoke of future plans for the center. "In this place," she said, "children will laugh and learn, and we know how much Joe loved children."

Capping the occasion, Col. Alexander and Mrs. Tanner cut the ribbon to the entrance of the Environmental Education Center together.

Tugboat DAN lives on

Another veteran of long service to the Wilmington District was dedicated at the Tanner Center. The Corps Tugboat DAN, decommissioned in 1996 after 55 years of service, now rests near the Tanner Center, sporting a new coat of paint and a new sign that tells of her World War II history and of her time at the John H. Kerr Reservoir. Even her red and green running lights have been fixed to glow in the dark of night. Terry Ramsey, former Assistant Operations Manager at Kerr, and newly selected Operations Manager at W. Kerr Scott

Lake, was instrumental in reviving the memory of DAN's role in Kerr's day to day activities. "The old tug sat rusted and dejected for about 10 years," Ramsey explained. "Only a few knew of her long history and vital role in the management of Kerr and waterways around the lake." The original crew of

50th Anniversary Celebration



JOHN H. KERR DAM DEDICATION

September 28, 2002
Kerr Lake Dam Station
Boydton, VA 23917

the boat were on hand to 'launch' the DAN in her new role as an interpretive display. Crewmembers performed the ceremony in true nautical fashion, breaking a bottle of champagne across her bow to make the ceremony official.

Postmark highlights the day

After the dedications, the crowd packed the inside of the newly named Tanner Center, eager for a special 50th Anniversary Commemorative Cancellation stamp featuring an image of the dam. The U.S. Postal service of Boydton, Virginia, cooperated with the Corps to create the cancellation and offer it to the public.



Crew members of DAN re-dedicate the tug.



Crew members of the DAN re-dedicated the tug with champagne.

Young people played a big part in making the John H. Kerr Anniversary an interesting and special day. These short stories highlight activities by scouts. We also appreciated the talents and showmanship of two participating high school bands and drill teams, the Bluestone High School Marching Bands and the Park View High School Marching Dragons.



Kerr Project Operations Manager Dianne Batson presents service patch to Boy Scout Marshall Atkinson.

Waterworld floats in to educate visitors

By Shoreline Ranger A. Mike Large

Ten Boy Scouts from the Robert E. Lee Council volunteered to present walk through tours of the National Scout Jamboree water conservation exhibit, Waterworld. The scouts conducted 763 visitors during the six-hour operation. They also assisted Kerr staff and contractors in setting up the huge display.

Each volunteer tour guide received a set of US Army Corps of Engineers National Jamboree exhibit pins from 1989, 1993, and 2001 as mementos of their outstanding efforts.

Volunteer scouts also attended a special evening campfire and ranger program called "Retiring Old Glory." Fourteen scouts helped to retire three American flags.

Young volunteers add service to birthday celebration

By Park Ranger Roger Anderson

What service! 178 scouts and adults from ten Boy Scout troops, one Girl Scout troop and a Venture Crew helped with the John H. Kerr celebration. Scouts helped to conduct visitor parking and handed out programs.

Coordinating the scout efforts were Terry Ramsey, Roger Anderson, Mike Large and Tyree Robertson from the Corps, and Robert E. Lee Council Project Coordinators Steve and Sue Humphries. All scout participants were issued specially designed 50th Anniversary Patches.

In a major effort, fourteen Landmark Volunteers from Sheffield, Massachusetts, installed a new hiking trail from the Tailrace Park up to the parking lot of the new tanner Environmental Education Center. Each Landmark Volunteer contributed about 80 hours to the project during a two-week stay. Park Ranger Tyree Robertson took charge of the Landmark Volunteers, who received a US Army Corps of Engineers South Atlantic Division Certificate of Appreciation and a blue 50th Anniversary Celebration Volunteer Patch.

A distinguished Eagle Scout, Matt Dildine of Boy Scout Troop 7454, La Crosse, Virginia, led the Pledge of Allegiance during the formal 50th Anniversary ceremony.



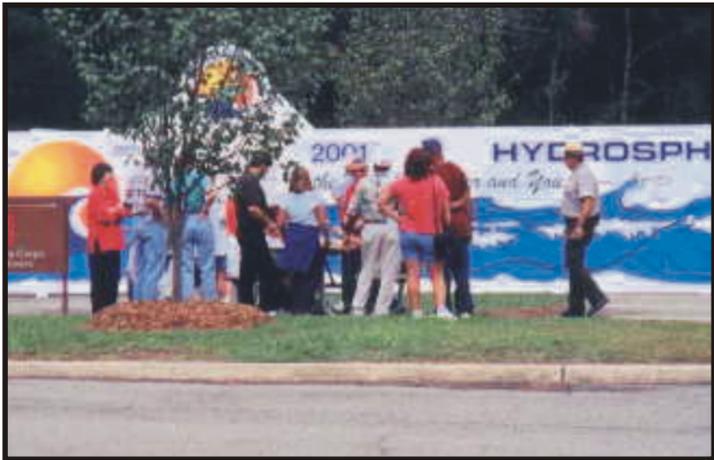
Waterworld drew more than 750 visitors.



Scouts build a trail to Tanner Center



BG Madsen congratulates Scout leader.



Public enjoying Water World Exhibit under watchful eye of Ranger.

Lake region's history comes to life in Clarksville

By Michael Dodd, Chief of Natural Resources

To commemorate the John H. Kerr Dam's 50th Anniversary, Team KERR initiated a partnership with the Clarksville Heritage Foundation to sponsor a series of historical lectures in the Virginia town.

The foundation is provided the meeting places and advertising; the Corps provided speakers. Programs included:

- Early navigation on the Dan River: Dr. Lindley S. Butler described bateau and steamboat navigation on the river in the early 1800s. Dr. Butler showed slides of the sluices built by the Corps in the later 1800s to help river traffic. The sluices are still used by canoes today, he explained.
- Buffalo Springs Lithia Spa: Lawrence E. Abbot presented a slide lecture about the Buffalo Springs spa based on his report, "What Adam Drank in Paradise" which resulted in nomination of the springs to be on the National Register of Historical Places. He explained the southern 'spa culture'



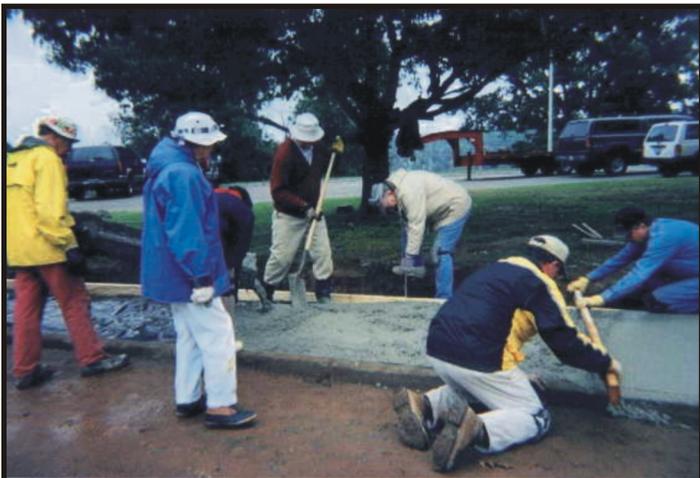
Michael Dodd talks with participants in the regional history series.

which supported this Lithia water resort and many more throughout the south in the 1800s and early 1900s. Some of the 75 attendees brought along Buffalo Springs memorabilia for the gathering to enjoy.

- Battle of Staunton River Bridge: James E. Zonarini, Park Manager of the Staunton River Battlefield State Park, talked about events leading to this Union Cavalry Raid to cut supply lines. The Union troops cut supply lines by burning the railroad bridge over the Staunton River at Randolph, attempting to deny supplies to Confederate forces in Richmond and Petersburg. Instead of moving rapidly, the cavalry took three days to get to the bridge, stopping to destroy railroad as they traveled. The delay enabled Confederate reinforcements from Danville and many local men and boys to rally against the 'damn Yankees.' The Union cavalry could not overcome them, and returned to Petersburg defeated.

Caravan Club adds beauty and space to Tanner Center area

By A. Mike Large, Shoreline Ranger



Members of the Wally Bynum Caravan Club make a concrete contribution to the Tanner Center.

The Wally Bynum Caravan Club International began pulling into John H. Kerr Reservoir on October 15th, 2002, to participate in the Take Pride in America Service Rally in tribute to National Public Lands Day.

Planning for the event had begun the previous summer

when Chuck Gregory contacted Terry Ramsey, then Kerr's Assistant Project Manager, to suggest that the Corps partner with the Caravan Club in enhancing public lands at John H. Kerr.

The Club focused on the newly dedicated Joseph S. J. Tanner, II, Environmental Education Center. The center will provide visitors an opportunity to gain a better understanding of the value of natural resources entrusted to the Corps.

The Club's planned projects included construction of a deck, an amphitheater, concrete walkways, and landscaping. They also aimed to paint buildings at North Bend Park. Their rally was a great success, due to great coordination among members of the Wally Bynum Caravan Club, Corps staff, and the Cube Corporation, which provides Operations and Maintenance at the reservoir.

The Caravan Club sent 55 volunteers who worked for 2,430 hours. Their work provided some great facilities for the public and represented \$24,200 in labor savings to the government.

Nationwide, the US Army Corps of Engineers greatly appreciates the service to America offered by so many skilled and dedicated volunteers. Thanks to you all!

Boydton Day 2002 welcomes Colonel Alexander

By Justin Elmore and Roger Anderson

Boydton Day 2002's theme was "Celebrating 50 Years of John H. Kerr Dam," so it was fitting that Col. Ray Alexander, Commander of Wilmington District, serve as Grand Marshal of the day's parade. Wilmington District oversees the operation of the John H. Kerr project, near Boydton, Virginia. The October 26th event was a homecoming for local citizens and others with ties to the area. Some attendees worked on the dam construction project in the late 1940s and early 1950s.

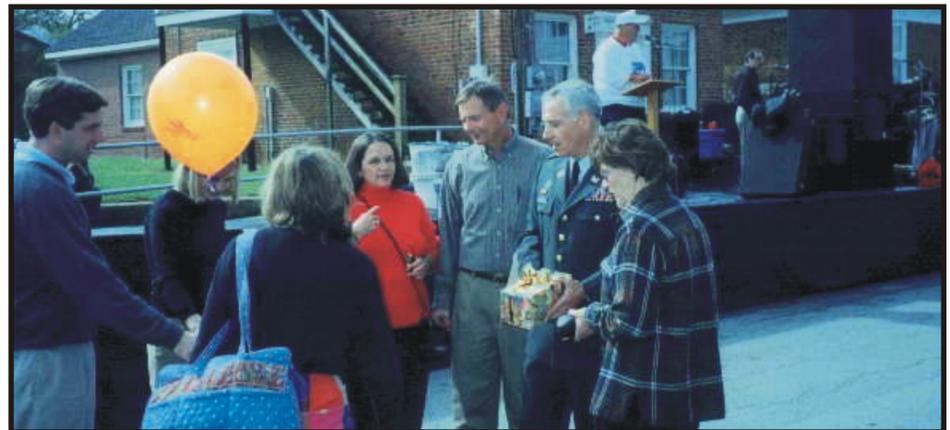
Col. Alexander rode in a red convertible, and greeted the crowd of more than 2,000 people. Mayor Charles Reamy followed, along with floats featuring Native Americans, horseback riders, Air Force Junior ROTC cadets, local high school bands, and others.

Col. Alexander, among the day's speakers, expressed his appreciation to local citizens for their support for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the John H. Kerr Dam.

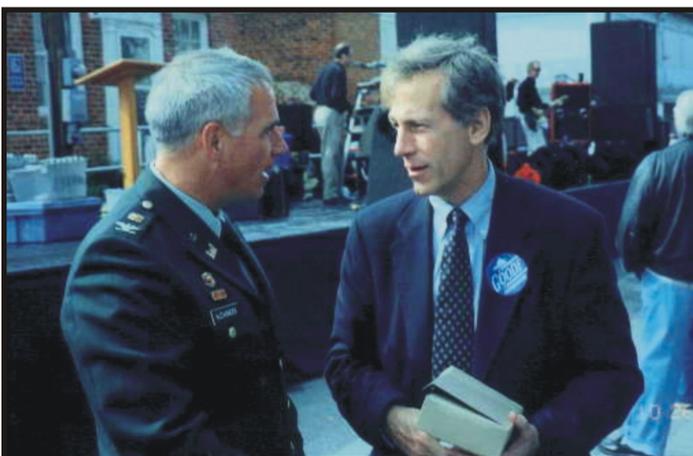
Boydton Day is held every year on the last Saturday of October. The event provides an opportunity for all to come to Boydton and celebrate with crafts, food, drinks, class reunions, foot races, dancing, music, and fun. The barbecue and Brunswick stew were hard to beat. Col. Alexander took a few quarts home for his family.



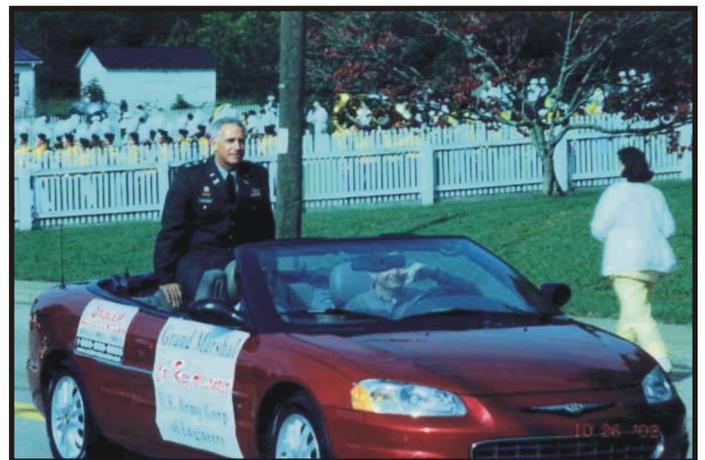
The annual celebration brings out the best in local youth.



Parade-goers speak with Wilmington District Commander.



COL Alexander speaks with Congressman Virgil Goode.



COL Alexander rides the Boydton Day parade route.

'Tis the season for the Corps to SHINE

By Joyce Taylor and Elizabeth Huffines

One of the more enjoyable ways for Team Kerr to participate in local activities and community outreach is by appearing in local Holiday parades.

The team has fun deciding on a theme, designing and decorating a float, and has found the perfect opportunity to spread water safety messages along with good cheer.

To incorporate the 50th Anniversary of John H. Kerr Dam, this year's theme is "Join us for 50 more years of Lake Fun and Safety."

In 2001, the float theme was "safety is our year-round wish" and featured a camping scene on the 'shoreline' complete with a tent, campfire, and campers roasting marshmallows; a

paddleboat in the water with riders wearing their lifejackets (PFDs), and a Christmas tree. The tree was decorated with lights and souvenir floatable key chains shaped like lifejackets. Under the tree were gifts of PFDs and the message 'Give a Lifesaving Gift.'

The colorful floats are intended to appeal to children and adults. Children of Corps employees participate by riding on the float with adult team members. Safety Sam, our 'talking tugboat,' will lead the float again this year. He has been very popular in past parades. Rangers and other team members, dressed in their official



Corps roles, walk along the parade route distributing pencils, key chains, and other items carrying our water safety message.

A photo of last year's float recently received national recognition. Park Ranger Sherrill Storm won first place for John H. Kerr in the Special Events Category for the National Water Safety Committee-sponsored photo contest. You can view the winning photo at <http://watersafety.usace.army.mil/photocontest.htm>

U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT,
WILMINGTON
CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 1890
WILMINGTON, N.C. 28402-1890



**Wilmington
District News**