

Dale Hollow Marina



Celina Lodge and Boat Dock (Dale Hollow Dock), early 1950's

Dale Hollow Marina started its days much like the rest, as a fishing camp. At that time, it was called Celina Boat Dock. It quickly escalated into a thriving business. A boat dock and lodge were completed fairly early on, and their business grew steadily in the 1950's. It first started in 1945, with a fellow by the name of Slim Serrells, of Nashville. One year later, Mr. Lewis Wells and Bill Wicker of Richmond, Kentucky, purchased the marina. One more year later, Wicker sold his portion of the dock to Mr. Bill Irvine (1947).



Mr. Irvine kept the marina until 1952 when it was bought by Tom Adams of Marion, Pennsylvania. Not long afterward, Tom passed away and the marina fell into the hands of then-girlfriend Hazel Heist. After a court battle, Tom's sister managed to obtain the marina. Finally, in 1958, she sold the marina to Mr. Bob Maywald. For over twenty-five years, Bob ran the dock, building on and renting many of the old Westmoreland/Stevens type flat-bottomed houseboats of the time.



Dale Hollow Marina

In 1985, he sold out his beloved marina to Steve and Jan Chapin. Jan's brother, Denny, was involved for a number of years before moving on to a job with the Better Business Bureau. Steve and Jan still own the marina, and have let some of the newer employees take over some of the reins of the business. Several young faces fill their roster (pictured below, left to right). Josh Frieler, Tammy Price, Kelly Scott, Linda Lovell, Jason Upton, and Amber Sager head up the organization in place of Steve and Jan.

Steve has enjoyed a well-deserved sub-retirement in the Hot Rod field. He has lovingly built a number of fat-fendered old rods in his little shop. With the blues softly playing in the background and the grinding and welding of hot-rod steel in the foreground, Steve is a

happy man. Steve's wife, Jan, has held onto her place in the business a little longer than Steve. She still checks the desk on a regular basis and keeps up with the dock-oriented comings and goings of Dale Hollow. She has written a number of articles and bits and pieces of local history, especially of the lake variety. The two keep their residence a few miles south of the marina, with a pleasant view of the water that they have chosen to make their living upon. I'm certain that right now, above the occasional rumble of an old Chevy, the tunes of Keb Mo are playing softly, as this couple overlooks the lake that they love...and, that's a wonderful place to be.



Crew of Dale Hollow Dock, 2005

Left to right, Josh Frieler, Tammy Price, Kelly Scott, Linda Lovell, Jason Upton, Amber Sager