



## ANNUAL REPORT 2018

# Thank You

Events and activities of the LRRTC, a non-profit 501c3, are made possible by our financial Sponsors and Donors like you, and our family of excited VOLUNTEERS. Your support in the past and future will continue to make these events available to grow the Recreation and Tourism involvement of the upstate area. Following are a few of those who have made it possible to date. Your continued support is appreciated.

## WCTEL

Abbeville First  
Hope South  
Senator Floyd Nicholson  
Fresh Water Coast Foundation  
Harris Funeral Home  
CF Pentecostal Church  
Abbeville First Bank  
Abbeville Area Medical Center  
Pro Towels  
Town of Calhoun Falls  
Abbeville County Public Works  
Abbeville County EMS  
Lindler Distribution LLC  
7 Eleven - Calhoun Falls  
US Corp of Engineers  
Market Place Grocery of CF  
Pettigrew Hardware  
Calhoun Falls Rentals  
Hwy 28 Farm and Garden  
Prysmian  
Grady's  
White Jones  
Academy Sports  
SCDNR  
GADNR  
Calhoun Falls Charter FFA  
WZLA  
Carolina Fireworks  
Abbeville Wellness Center  
Calhoun Falls Fire Dept.  
CF Chamber of Commerce  
Italian Ice  
Ingles  
Bi Lo  
DeLisle & Associates, Inc.

## LRRTC Board of Directors

Ms. BeBe Wesson , President  
Ms. Mindy Rogers, Vice President  
Ms. Carrie Caldwell, Secretary  
Ms. Marian Tinsley, Treasurer  
Ms. Faye Crocker, Past President

## Event Coordinators

Lake Russell Hustle- Ms. Olivia Crawford  
Fishing Derby- Ms. Annette Dotson, USCOE  
Paddle Fest- Ms. Elaine Barrett  
Freedom Blast- Ms. BeBe Wesson  
Blue Hole Fall Jubilee- Mr. David Rice

## LRRTC COALITION IMPACT

Dear Friends, Partners, Sponsors, Donors, and Supporters,

Moving forward to a new year, we want to celebrate with you the many ways you have helped transform our Lake Russell area and Abbeville County in 2017. We are very excited at the support given by so many to make it possible to provide opportunities to show case our "Greater Outdoors" and make all of our events an overwhelming success. Special thanks is given to Ms. Faye Crocker, CEO of Hope South Credit Union , who provided outstanding leadership as President, from inception of LRRTC for the past 5 years.

You made it possible to have four major events and support three other activities in our area. These are described in words and pictures on the following pages.

As we continue our efforts in 2018 we are focused on impacting more lives by providing better events and opportunities. How can this be accomplished you might ask? We need you to continue your support, increase it if possible, and encourage others to become a part of our Network, of Sponsors, Donors, and Supporters.

Our Web Site and Facebook Site are being reworked to make us more visible to the area. Also, we are linking our sites to other venue in order that our footprint will be in a larger geographical area and reach those looking to find the "Greater Outdoors". Please check these out and LIKE and Share our information to your friends.

We are extremely thankful for your continued support and look forward to 2018.

*Ms. BeBe Wesson, President*

Lake Russell Recreation and Tourism Coalition

## Mission Statement

The Lake Russell Recreation and Tourism Coalition was formed to encourage, facilitate, and develop Lake Russell focused activities, events, and opportunities that will enhance the quality of life for all of the Lake Russell communities.

The LRRTC will increase and promote public awareness of the opportunities available through events on the shores of Lake Russell.

Abbeville County and her Lake Russell Communities are becoming an epicenter of "The Greater Outdoors" due in large measure to the accomplishments of the Lake Russell Recreation and Tourism Coalition. This organization has touched the lives of thousands of locals and tourists with the many events and activities over the past years.

During the past year, Young and old runners participated in the Lake Russell Hustle which produce championships in various age categories. Some walking, some pushing babies, some running. Hope South provided the resources to make this a great family oriented spring event that brought recognition to the outdoors and the need for healthy outlets of discovery. Sponsors made it healthy with bananas, water and apples.

Lake Russell is being discovered as a mecca for paddling and boating. Our Paddle Fest has brought much attention to the beauty of Lake Russell and her unspoiled shoreline. Many attend our Paddle event, but most noticeable is the proliferation of Kayaks, Canoes, and watercraft of the visitors to our area. We now have an outlet for rental of Kayaks from either LRRTC or a local vendor.

What could give any more pleasure to a parent, guardian, or kid than to either see the action or actually catch their first fish. Hundreds of kids flocked to Lake Russell for over 25 years to catch fish

provided by the State of South Carolina in a Corps of Engineers provided fishing event. LRRTC depends on generous donors and sponsors in support of our events and goals. We, however, pitch in and do our part in raising volunteer funds to help out. Many teams participated in our LRRTC golf outing which gave much attention to our events and involved many in supporting our efforts. Similarly, we held a Chili supper fund raiser that brought many to eat in or take-home chili to help us fund our efforts. The beauty of these LRRTC fundraising events is that it promotes family and friends in community support activities. Some of this past year's activities that involved LRRTC were the Town Wide Eggstravaganza Easter Egg Hunt, the famous Calhoun Falls Town Wide Yard Sale, and the support of our local schools by providing a scholarship for an FFA student to a summer outdoor camp. A special action this year was to further our environmental involvement with SCDOT Adopt a Highway Litter Pick up.

Everyone loves action, flashing lights, music and food. LRRTC provided much of this at our

Premier Event, FREEDOM BLAST. WCTEL sponsored this event as Thousands of visitors jam packed the Blue Hole Recreation area at Lake Russell the Saturday before July 4, the same date each year, to listen to great West Carolina Tel Pavilion stage music, dance a jig, view the swinging ladies doing the best of clogging, sing along, have hearty food from vendors such as the Boy Scouts of America BBQ, and others, and visit many vendors and displays. One of, if not the largest, displays of evening fireworks over Lake Russell brings these folks to the shores but also is a venue to hundreds of boaters that come from all over the lake to see this beautiful sight. Our Sponsors receive much recognition at this and all our events.

Fall is a hunting and fishing prime season each year in the Lake Russell and Abbeville area and fall is in the air everywhere with our fall JUBILEE. Would you like to see hundreds of kids either participate in a Tug O War, like the good old days, or do a hay ride behind a tractor? We did. Both listening to stories in an Indian Ancestry setting or shooting a bow and

arrow? We did. Food, music and dance; face paint and balloons; vendors and crafts; so much more bringing people to our area to have fun and fellowship. Abbeville First Bank made sure we had the resources to get it done.

Yes, these activities and events take much volunteer time and money. Our operating budget this past year was over \$10,000 dollars which was met by our Donors and Sponsors, and volunteer fund raisers. We know we can depend on them and you for our future. Our volunteers donated hundreds of hours of their time, and enjoyed every minute of it, we hope! But you, and many like you, can help make it a better world for so many by joining our volunteers in pulling for our area; Lake Russell focused events and activities; and a better quality of life for all. **WE NEED YOU. VOLUNTEER AND DONATE.**

**LRRTC will be soliciting Donors, Sponsors and Volunteers.**

**Please give us your consideration and agree to become a part of this positive force for our AREA, COUNTY AND STATE. Thank you for your past and continued support.**

## Lake Russell Hustle

The Lake Russell Hustle, held in March, is a timed Run or Walk. It can also be a stroll for the entire family. The event begins at the Blue Hole Recreation Area and meanders through the streets of The Sanctuary Development. Awards are presented to the various age groups of children and the top Male and Female runner receive recognition for their efforts.



*"The Lake Russell Hustle is a family friendly 5K walk/run for all ages.*

*Winners by age categories are awarded cash prizes and medals. A professional timing company is used to certify results."*

**Ms. Olivia Crawford,  
Lake Russell Hustle Coordinator,  
LRRTC**



## Paddle Fest

In May each year—come paddle with us on Lake Russell. Kayaks, paddle boards, paddle boats and canoes, when available, are provided for free use to introduce this growing sport to those in the area.

*"I am very supportive of the LRRTC because of the great job they are doing to promote tourism and recreational activities in the Lake Russell, Calhoun Falls area and I would ask that you support this great organization."*

State Senator  
Floyd Nicholson



## Kids Fishing Derby

The Fishing Derby is held in April of each year at the Blue Hole Recreation Area for all youth 15 and under (no fishing license required), from 8 am until noon. Fish are stocked behind a huge net by SCDNR and the Corps of Engineers which allows the youngsters, accompanied by parent or adult, to catch fish. A safety course is provided to all to enhance safety on the water. Lunch is provided free to all youth fishermen and is available for a fee to others as available. To register, call 800-944-7277



[lakerussellrecreation.com](http://lakerussellrecreation.com)

*Effectively promoting a community is the key to its success. The LRRTC does a great job of creating a reason for people outside of the area to come, visit, and enjoy the wonderful natural resources of Lake Russell and Abbeville County.. An investment with the LRRTC multiplies as interest and tourism dollars are attracted to the community."*

Andy Timmerman, President  
Abbeville First Bank

**LAKE  
RUSSELL**  
RECREATION & TOURISM COALITION





## FREEDOM BLAST

The Premier Annual Event of LRRTC is held on the Saturday BEFORE July 4th each year at the West Carolina Pavilion at the Blue Hole Recreation Area in Calhoun Falls, SC from 6 to 9 pm. **FIREWORKS** - The largest display of Fireworks over Lake Russell culminates an evening that begins at 6 pm. Live music provides listening and dancing enjoyment which, when coupled with Antique Car Display, Crafts, Vendors, water slide and games for the kids, and great BBQ and other food items prepared locally makes for a great family evening. 2016 saw the Wheels of Time Auto Club, The Blood Connection Mobile, Music, BBQ by the Abbeville Boy Scouts of America, and other vendors on hand. Each year has shown a marked increase in attendance with a huge crowd on land and several hundred boats on the lake for the Fireworks Show.



*"The Lake Russell Recreation and Tourism Coalition plays a vital role in the development and support of the Calhoun Falls area by creating and facilitating meaningful community events. These events offer the surrounding areas unique opportunities to get outdoors and enjoy the natural resources with which we have been so blessed."*

**Jeff Wilson, WCTEL CEO**

## Blue Hole Fall Jubilee

Held in October each year from 11 am until 3 pm, the Jubilee is a fun filled Fall Season event. Live Music, Clogging and dancing, Silent Auction, Pumpkin Painting Contest, Pie Baking Contest, Kids Games . Listen to our Story Teller and learn about our ancient Indian ancestors and other history in our area. Taste a piece of homemade Apple Pie or witness the artistic abilities of our young pumpkin decorators. For the young at heart you may wish to toss a ball to dunk a local celebrity. Something for all.

*"When you put a bow and arrow in a child's hand, you are keeping traditional archery alive! AIM. DRAW. RELEASE."*



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RUSSELL**  
RECREATION & TOURISM COALITION

## 2018 EVENTS

Lake Russell Hustle  
March 17

Fishing Derby  
April 21

Paddle Fest  
May 26

Freedom Blast  
June 30

Blue Hole Jubilee  
October 13

## Sponsors

The Lake Russell Recreation and Tourism Coalition (LRRTC), is a non-profit committee. Some of our events attract over 200 children and families from the surrounding areas. Your donations of money, prizes, and other items will facilitate making a memorable event. Some of our current annual sponsors include:

### Platinum:

Abbeville First Savings  
WCTEL  
Hope South  
Senator Floyd Nicholson

### Gold:

Prysmian

### Silver:

Harris Funeral  
Construction Techniques, Inc.  
Fresh Water Coast Foundation

### Bronze:

Abbeville Nursing Home  
Hite and Stone  
Abbeville Area Medical Center

### Friends:

Edward Jones  
First Citizens  
Market Place  
Smith's Termite  
Tom Howie  
Ken Tinsley

### Partnerships:

Pro Towel  
Lindler Distribution LLC  
Delisle & Associates, Inc.  
Old Ninety-Six Tourism  
Calhoun Falls Pentecostal Church  
Carolina Fireworks  
SC National Heritage Corridor  
US Corps of Engineers  
SC Dept of Natural Resources  
GA Dept of Natural Resources  
Abbeville County Public Works  
Abbeville County EMS  
Calhoun Falls Public Works  
Calhoun Falls Fire Department

## Who We Are

On January 17, 2012, a group of nineteen members of the Lake Russell community gathered together to dream and make plans for the future of the community and quality of life in Lake Russell.

Lake Russell features so many natural resources that are simply not getting the amount of attention that they should. From the gorgeous lake to the lush woods surrounding it, many people are only just now discovering the vitality surrounding them, and the LRRTC takes seriously the responsibility of engaging the community with the beauty in which it lives. The core beliefs of the Lake Russell Recreation & Tourism Coalition (LRRTC) are faith, family, and heritage, the bases for any thriving community.

The LRRTC works in conjunction with the Town of Calhoun Falls and Calhoun Falls Chamber of Commerce. Together with the community and different organizations, the LRRTC strives to publicize and proudly exhibit the natural resources of the community, enhance the quality of life in the community, create positive synergy, and create and sustain an engaged community.



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Abbeville First Bank



Senator  
**Floyd  
Nicholson**

**Prysmian**  
Group



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