

LakeFest 2020 Announcements & Information

The Lake Amphibian Club regrets to announce that LakeFest 2020 has been rescheduled due to the Coronavirus, and will now take place between Monday, October 19th and Thursday, October 22nd, 2020 at the historic Hotel Bentley in Alexandria, Louisiana. LakeFest is the Club's now sesquiennial safety seminar and fly-in and is a "must go" for anyone who owns, flies, maintains or is just interested in Lake Amphibian aircraft. As always, we are planning on having entertaining and informative speakers on hand.

This exciting change in venue and time of year is part of a continuing effort to attract club members to attend LakeFest from varying parts of the country (and the world) by having the event more centrally located.

Both LAC members and members of the LakeFest Committee visited the Hotel Bentley and the nearby Pineville Airport (2L0) earlier this year. At the Bentley, we had the opportunity to experience the gracious hospitality, the lavish designs & décor, comfortable accommodations and tasty local cuisine that this historic hotel has to offer. We were all very impressed. Please visit: www.hotelbentleyandcondos.com for more information. Pineville (2L0) is a quiet municipal airport/seaplane base that offers a lighted 3000' paved runway along with a 3000' chartered water runway on adjacent Lake Buhlow, with a new seaplane ramp on the southwest corner of the airport. There is sufficient parking area on land for at least the 50+ Lakes we are hoping for. The airport also offers a full service FBO with full and self-serve fuel, maintenance, flight planning, restrooms, etc... During these trips to Pineville, to get an idea of the number of suitable water landing areas, members, including myself, flew with local Louisiana SPA Field Director, David Lewis, who operates a small seaplane instruction business there. We found that there are numerous areas for water work and potential fly-out possibilities.

The airport is a short 12-minute car ride away from the hotel. Near constant transportation between the hotel and the Pineville airport has been arranged and will be provided by both a hotel-operated vehicle and an outside transportation company that will be hired by the Club to provide the constant back and forth shuttle service between the hotel and airport. Any cost for this transportation will be included in your room rate and/or registration fee.

Additionally, Alexandria Airport (KAEX), about a 15-minute drive from the hotel, does have airline service for those desiring to airline to the event. Currently, Delta flies there four times a day from Atlanta, GA. American goes there twice a day from Dallas/ Ft. Worth, TX and United has two/three flights from Houston, TX. A full array of rental car agencies are available at AEX also.

We have secured a room block for LakeFest at the Hotel Bentley. A special set of "LAKEFEST" rates has been negotiated for the event. The majority of the rooms in the block have been set at \$109.00 per night for single king rooms and \$119.00 per night for double queen rooms. There are a handful of corporate/specialty suites and bridal suites available in our block, too. The "LAKEFEST" rate on those are \$130.00 & \$250.00 per night respectively for attendees desiring more opulent accommodations. These rates are available for three nights prior and post the event nights (3/24/20-4/1/20) for those wanting or needing to stay at the hotel before or after

LakeFest. The room block will go back to general inventory 10 days prior to the event. If rooms are still available, reservations can be made inside the 10 days and the "LAKEFEST" rate will be honored. The Hotel Bentley will allow cancellations up to 24 hours prior to the reservation time without any penalty to the guest or the LAC. At last check with the hotel there have been dozens of LakeFest reservations already made but still plenty of rooms in our block!

The Hotel Bentley is accepting and is prepared to take your reservation. Please only CALL them at (318) 442-2226 to make your reservation and tell them you want the "LAKEFEST Rate" in order to get the discounted special rate. DO NOT MAKE RESERVATIONS ONLINE! You will only receive the discounted rate if you CALL to make the reservation.

As in prior years, there will be a registration fee that will need to be paid to the Lake Amphibian Club prior to the event. This fee has been set at \$150 US per attendee and \$250 US per couple. Please see Adrian's article immediately following this one for more details and registration instructions.

As always and mentioned previously, we are planning to have many speakers on hand for informative presentations. If you or someone you have heard has a Lake related or other suitable aviation topic that might make for an entertaining presentation, please let one of your board members know!

We are also planning a couple of unusual activities: a Young Eagle event in co-operation with the local EAA chapter, and a crawfish boil to experience a little local flavor.

More information will follow as we continue to plan for the event. Please do not hesitate to contact me at: hapjet51@gmail.com if there are any questions I can answer at this time.

Look forward to seeing everybody at LakeFest 2020!

Greg Bradford
LakeFest Director
Lake Amphibian Club