

# What A Move!

## Cave Springs Marina



Aerial view



Grand opening of Cave Springs Marina

**C**ave Springs Marina, tucked away in the scenic Kentucky countryside along the shoreline of Lake Cumberland, is a tranquil destination for boaters. Yet, it hasn't always been this way. Its present site boasts an impressive moving story.

In January 2007, the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers placed Wolf Creek Dam under a failure designation of "high risk." A long-term solution to the problem called for a multi-stage project to repair the dam, with completion by 2012. However, to reduce the current stresses and risk from the dam, the Corps undertook the extraordinary task of lowering the water level of the lake.

The Corps' water-level-reducing project, which began in October of 2007, necessitated moving the large boats and marina infrastructure of Alligator Dock No 1 to a new home some six miles down the lake. It was a huge adjustment for a newcomer to the marina business.

Ed Slusser owns the facility. He's a long-time Lake Cumberland boating enthusiast who acquired the Alligator Dock No 1 marina in June 2006.

"I've been coming to this marina most of my adult life," he explained. "We had a houseboat here. When I sold my business, I checked into buying the marina."

His son, Dale Slusser, serves as general manager and described the massive moving process.

"It was nearly 10 months, seven days straight," he said. "We took every piece of the docks apart and as part of the docks were re-assembled, then we could move a few houseboats down at a time."

The renamed Cave Springs Marina became a reality and welcomed boaters to its new locale at the mouth of Wolf Creek on Memorial Day Weekend of 2008.

Although the at-their-own-expense move significantly impacted the business, it also provided a mutually rewarding incentive.

"Because we had to move, it hurt our business. However, we pride ourselves on customer service," Dale said. "We

try to help every boater, whether a customer or not."

Ed Slusser is pleased with the features that his new facility offers the boating crowd.

"We have an outstanding family owned restaurant (Sadie's Sunset Café), where breakfast, lunch and dinner is served weekends during the season," he said. "We have deep, clean water and plenty of room between slips to maneuver those houseboats. We have a brand-new 60-foot-wide boat ramp and we're a friendly fuel stop on the Lake."

No boat? No problem. You can rent single or double-deck pontoons equipped with 90-hp engines to enjoy a day on the lake, while a fishing guide is on hand to help land the catch of the day. The marina is well known for its pizza, too.

"We're trying to find a way to deliver it on the water," Dale said.

In the meantime, this speciality must be ordered via VHF radio Channel 9, or by phoning the marina. Boaters then pick it up dockside.

For those who want to stay a while, air-conditioned cottage and cabin



The marina is a friendly fuel stop on Lake Cumberland.

rentals are available at the old Alligator Dock No 1 site.

Cave Springs Marina, located in Russell County, is situated toward the end of a peninsula, some 17 miles southeast of Nancy. Somerset lies 30 minutes to the east with a variety of things to see and do. Surrounded by the beauty of Kentucky's south-central region and the majestic Lake

Cumberland waters, Cave Springs Marina has found a wonderful new home.

It bids boaters to come and enjoy its friendly atmosphere. 🇺🇸

**Bobbye Kenyon** calls Miami, Fla., her homeport. Her stories of boating adventures, high-performance events and destinations have appeared in a variety of publications nationwide and, via the Internet, worldwide.

## AT A GLANCE

### CAVE SPRINGS MARINA

"Where the water is clear and the people are cool!"

Ed Slusser, owner—Dale Slusser, general manager

782 Island Ramp Road

Nancy, Ky. 42544

(270) 866-3634

[www.cavespringsmarina.com](http://www.cavespringsmarina.com)

**Hours:** Open April 1-Sept. 30, handicapped accessible

Shoulder season 8 a.m.-5 p.m. every day, from April 1 through Memorial Day weekend and from Labor Day weekend through Sept. 30

Summer 8 a.m.-10 p.m., Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend

Closed winter, Oct. 1-March 31

**Sadie's Sunset Café:** From May 1-May 31—11 a.m.-10 p.m. Fridays, 8 a.m.-10 p.m. Saturdays, 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Sundays

From Memorial Day weekend to Sept. 15—11 a.m.-10 p.m.

Wednesday-Friday, 8 a.m.-10 p.m. Saturdays, 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Sundays, closed Monday and Tuesday

**Ship store:** Open May 1-Sept. 30, same hours as marina

**Credit Cards:** Discover, VISA, MasterCard, and American Express

**Slips:** 400 covered and open slips ranging from 24 to 100 feet long; 45 designated transient docks

**Fuel:** Premium diesel, marine grade (non-ethanol) 92-octane and 89-octane

**Water Depth:** 60-80 feet at all docks

**Amenities:** Floating docks, electricity, water hook-up, telephone, shower-restroom facilities, Wi-Fi hot spot at café complex, Sadie's

Sunset Café, ship store, cottages and cabins for rent, launch ramp, nearby grocery store

**Monitors:** VHF Channel 9 during marina hours

**Other Attractions:** Mills Springs Battlefield and National Cemetery

**Getting There:**

From Somerset, Ky., take Highway 80 West. It becomes Cumberland Parkway. Exit at Nancy, No 78. At top of exit ramp, turn left and go about .4 miles. Turn right onto Route 3262. Look for a green sign "Lake Cumberland 4H Educational Center," and above it a small Camp Wahoo-Cave Springs Marina sign.

Set your odometer to 0 and follow these directions: Go three miles to the junction of 196 and turn right past the stop sign. You'll pass Mount Pisgah Baptist Church and Faubush Nazarene Church.

At 7.8 miles, cross the Russell County line and at 9.5 miles, look for a Jabez, Ky., sign. Continue straight onto the junction of 3277 at Harris' Grocery. Do not follow Route 196 to 4H Camp!

At 11.2 miles pass the cemetery on left, at 12.5 miles Hicks Lane on left and Annie Lou's gas-grocery on right. At 13.5 miles, the road changes to Cave Springs Road, which is mostly a single curving lane.

At 16.1 miles, turn right onto Island Ramp Road, and follow the road to lake.