**Florence’s Impact on High Rock Lake**

Considering the disastrous flooding caused by the hurricane, High Rock Lake fared very well. Cube Yadkin used an abundance of caution by drawing High Rock down more than 6 feet below full prior to the storms arrival in this area. River, stream, and runoff flows into High Rock Lake reached an estimated 60,000 cu.ft./sec. This flow, although very high, is only about 12% of the maximum flow the flood gates on High Rock Dam can handle. That’s why FEMA flood zone maps show most waterfront property around High Rock as having a worst-case probability of rising only about 1-2ft. above normal full pool elevation 623.9 USGS (655.0 Yadkin Datum). The Lake came up to 623.6 (654.7 YD) Tuesday after the storm had passed, about 4” below full pond.

The Yadkin River at Yadkin College reached a peak flow of 33,100 cfs at 8:00 AM Tuesday, September 18, 2018, rising 2.82’ above the gage level of 18’ that the USGS has designated “Minor Flood Stage”. That flow brought a lot of debris, floating logs, stumps etc. into the lake, but the water velocity carried a lot of this on toward the dam. Wednesday morning (9-19-2018) the lake was 6” below full, beautiful, silky smooth, and no trash in sight on the main channel.

If the flow rates in “cubic feet per second” (cfs) don’t mean much to you, the maximum inflow into High Rock was about 450,000 gallons per second, or 38.8 billion gallons per day on the 18th. It’s also interesting to note the highest recorded Yadkin River at Yadkin College flow was 80,200 cfs, 33.75’ on gage, on Aug. 15, 1940. The Yadkin College flow station is on the Yadkin River’s west shore just south of the US Hwy 64 bridge in Davidson County.