

BOATING

The Village will once again utilize boat patrol to monitor lake activities. Along with added patrol time, the police department will be taking the position of Zero Tolerance in dealing with violations of the boating laws.

Please note that no person may operate in excess of slow-no-wake within 200 feet of the shoreline for personal watercraft and 150 feet for all other motor boats, pursuant to state law. Also, please review the state law and discuss it with all legal operators of your boats and personal watercrafts, **including your guests, to avoid any embarrassing situations with the Village police officers.** Some of the most common boating violations are listed below for your reference.

We wish everyone a safe boating season this summer. Please respect the rights of your neighbors, demonstrate good boating conduct, and obey the boating laws. If you have any questions about boating laws, please call Don Wiemer at the Village Hall or flag down your boating safety specialist on the patrol boat.

SELECTED BOATING REGULATIONS

SPEED LIMIT

- Night: 10 mph or less, one hour after sunset to one hour before sunrise.
- Boats must maintain a speed no greater than Slow-No-Wake when within 150 feet from shoreline, person, raft, diving flag, sailboat, canoe, rowboat, stationary motor boat or bridge.
- Personal watercraft must maintain a speed no greater than Slow -No-Wake when within 200 feet from shoreline.
- Must be at Slow-No-Wake when the lake is at flood level.
- Must be at Slow-No Wake when driving in a circular course with a diameter less than 200 feet.

WATER SKIING

- Skier must be 150 feet away from swimmers, canoe, rowboats, sailboats, non-operating sailboats, rafts or piers.
- Prohibited between sunset and sunrise.
- An observer must be in the boat and be at least 12 years of age.

PERSONAL WATERCRAFT (PWC)

- Personal watercraft are classified as Class A (less than 16 feet in length) inboard boats. Operators must adhere to above speed limit regulations in addition to the following:
- Operators must wear a personal flotation device of proper size.
- No person may operate a personal watercraft equipped by the manufacturer with a lanyard without the lanyard attached to the operator.
- It is illegal to operate a personal watercraft facing backwards.
- **No person may operate a PWC from sunset to sunrise.**

Operation of a personal watercraft within 150' of another boat is *only* allowed if:

Operation does not exceed a Slow-No-Wake speed, and neither boat is involved in any type of water skiing or similar activity.

- Operation of a personal watercraft must be 200 feet or more from shoreline.
- Must be at Slow-No-Wake speed when driving in a circular course with a diameter less than 200 feet.

It is illegal to operate a personal watercraft within 150' of the following:

- Another boat towing a skier or person engaged in similar activity.
- The tow rope of another motorboat towing a skier or person engaged in similar activity.
- A person involved in skiing or similar activity

BOAT CERTIFICATE OF NUMBERS & DECALS

- Must be displayed on each side of the forward half of the boat or PWC.
- It is unlawful to operate or use any registered boat without having the certificate available for inspection at all times on such boat or PWC.

NAVIGATION LIGHTS

- Must be on from sunset to sunrise
- Every moored, anchored and drifting boat beyond 200 feet from shore shall have white light visible all around the horizon.

BOAT BATTERY

- It is unlawful to operate a motor driven boat equipped with a storage battery unless such battery is secured against shifting.
- Both positive and negative terminals need to be covered.

ALCOHOL

- It is unlawful to operate a motorboat or use water skis, aquaplane or similar device while under the influence of an intoxicant or a controlled substance or with a blood alcohol concentration of .08% or higher. Did you know that drinking 4 alcohol drinks with operator weight of 180 pounds, you may be under the influence?

SLOW-NO-WAKE NOTIFICATIONS

Whenever the lake level rises above 862.10 feet above sea level, the Slow-No-Wake order is issued, per authority of Ordinance 197 of the Village of Oconomowoc Lake. Notification of the Slow-No-Wake order is made to property owners in the following ways:

- A flyer is placed in the paper box of each residence.
- Metal signs are posted at the entrances to the Village when the order is issued. When the order is lifted, the signs are removed.
- Flyers are posted at the boat launch and at the Oconomowoc Lake Club.
- The issuance of the order, and the lifting of same, will be posted on the Village website. **Please check our website for updated information.**
- The order that was issued on June 9, 2008 was also mailed to residents, and will continue to be a regular method of notification.