



Lake Tippecanoe Property Owners Inc.

President's Message

August 2006

Laws are laws, but only for others. Recent experiences this summer on our lakes have left me troubled by the actions of a few that endanger many. I was actually happy to see 4th of July week reach an end with a number of inexperienced, inebriated, and uninformed boaters leaving (hopefully) until next year. A condensed version of Indiana boating laws can be found in the Lake Tippecanoe Property Owners (LTPO) directory beginning on page 40. What follows are some specific regulations that have been observed by myself and others that are being regularly ignored.

Navigation (IC 14-15-2-10 through 15):

Boat operators must make sure that their boats are equipped with the proper navigation lights and USE the lights during these conditions: When away from the dock between sunset and sunrise. During periods of restricted visibility such as fog or heavy rain. Additionally speed between sunset and sunrise is limited to 10 miles per hour (IC 14-15-3-8)

Dangerous operation (IC 14-15-3-6; 14-15-12-10):

Operating a boat or Personal Water Craft (PWC) in manner that unnecessarily endangers a person or property of another person is considered dangerous. Examples of dangerous operation on a PWC are:

- Weaving through congested traffic. Following a watercraft that is towing others.
- Jumping the wake of another watercraft.
- Crossing paths with another vessel when vision is obstructed.
- Additionally passengers are not allowed to ride on the gunwale or, if the motorboat is less than 21 feet in length, on the bow (IC 14-15-3-24).
- Boat and PWC speed is restricted to idle speed within 200 feet of the shoreline (IC 14-15-3-7).
- "Idle Speed" or "No Wake, Idle Speed" (IC 14-8-2-129) means the SLOWEST possible speed, not exceeding five miles per hour, so as to maintain steerage and the wake is MINIMAL.

Requirements for towing skiers (IC 14-15-3-20; IC 14-15-12-7):

Every boat or PWC towing a person(s) on water skis, an aquaplane, or a similar device must have a person on board, in ADDITION to the boat operator, observing the towed person (s) at ALL times.

If towing behind a PWC, it must be at least 9 feet in length and rated for 3 people- the driver, the observer, and the skier.

All persons being towed behind a boat or PWC on water-skis or ANY other device must WEAR a U.S. Coast Guard-approved Personal Flotation Device (PFD). Ski belts are not USGC approved.

Persons should be towed behind a boat or PWC ONLY during daylight hours!!

While many lakes mandate that boats travel in a counter clockwise direction, ours do not. A simple courtesy of doing so makes lake enjoyment safer for all. The LTPO lake patrol is there to educate and make boating safer for all. Please call the Kosciusko County Sheriff's Department at (574) 267-5667 or 911 to report any dangerous situations. Until next month, I'll be skiing you.

Mark Ennes, President