

Wake Boat Issues in Bella Vista Lakes

Information provided by Lakes
Joint Advisory Committee

Concerns brought forward by Bella Vista Property Owners about Wake Boats

- Waves that cause damage to docks and sea walls
- Waves pose a safety issue
 - Over wash docks
 - Capsize small boats, SUP, canoes
 - Wash over swimmers
- Boaters not following rules
 - Too close to docks
 - Ski or tube in no ski area
- Complaint mostly precipitated from Wake boats that are designed to make wakes to surf or wake board (additional ballast)

Wake boat owners defended use

- We bought here because we can use our boats and wake board, surf, ski and tube
- Informal review by one wake boat owner showed wake lakes(Ann, Windsor and Loch Lomond) have a higher selling price per sq ft
- Most of the lakes in Bella Vista are no wake thus offering many opportunities to avoid wake area

History

- Complaints to JAC from Loch Lomond lake front land owners in 2017 about same issue
- Lakes JAC recommended (and Board adopted)
 - Increase stand off for wake boats from 100' to 150'
 - Increase budget for rangers for additional enforcement
- POA Staff did analysis on size of waves from wake boat operating with ballast

Draft Proposal to Bella Vista POA Board of Directors concerning wake boating (Outline version)

- **New Rules**

- Identify wake boats and all boats with water ballast at the time of registration
- Recommend wake boats (all boats with ballast) be issued a separate sticker indicating that the boat is capable of producing a wake
- Require members registering wake boats (boats with ballast) to watch POA or other industry produced safety video
- Incorporate the new 200 ft from docks and shore rule based upon the industry recommendation for water skiers or tubers as well as any water sport with someone behind the boat. (Maintain 100 ft from shore rules for all other boats operating normally.)
- Require that the wake be thrown toward the center of the lake.
- Ski, tubing and wake boarder boats are required to operate in a counterclockwise rotation

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- **Buoy's**

- Consider placing a 200' marker buoy off ramps at ski lakes to demonstrate distance required for wake boats, skiers, and tubers.
- Modify existing buoys to better depict what is required (no wake, no ski, danger zones) consider large colored panels and larger words on the buoys.

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- **Enforcement**

- Increase ranger training and briefings so that rangers become the authority on wake boat issues and safety concerns
- Increase enforcement at key times throughout the year.

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- **Signage**

- Develop color coded maps depicting the water activities that are prohibited in certain areas of the lakes.
 - Clearly designate no wake areas, no ski, tube, or wake surfing or boarding, and all activity areas with a color-coded map of each area clearly depicted for each of the wake lakes (Loch Lomand, Windsor, and Ann)
 - Add coordinates to lake maps so that boaters with capability can clearly see activity areas clearly on their depth finders.
 - Post the map at ramps, marinas and disseminate them when boat registration takes place.

Current Water Sports Industry Association recommends 200' standoff

WAKE RESPONSIBLY

- 1 Stay at least 200 feet away**
from the shoreline, docks, or other structures.
- 2 Keep music at reasonable levels.**
Sound travels well over water. If it's loud enough to hear at 80 feet back, it is likely loud enough for homeowners to hear, too.
- 3 Minimize repetitive passes**
on any one portion of shoreline. Once you've run the same line for a while, move on to another area.

REMEMBER, YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR OWN WAKE.



wsia
WATER SPORTS INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
"To Promote & Protect"

Have wake boats changed much in past few years?

Wake Boat used in 2015 WSIA study

Make	Model	Typical Additional Ballast Weight	Total Boat & Ballast Weight
Nautique	G23	1,400	10150

Newest boats in 2019

Nautique	G23	500	10250
Mastercraft	X23	500	10350
MB	G52	400	11050
Supra	SL550	700	11100
Moomba	24	1000	11800
Centurion	FI25	500	12950