

Bad Medicine Lake Safety, Education & Etiquette (S.E.E.) Committee



Be a GOOD neighbor

- Talk to your neighbors. There are a lot of GREAT people on the lake.
- Try not to operate in the same area for a long period of time.
- Operate far from shore and other boaters whenever possible.



The goal of these memos is to help keep everyone safe while, at the same time, maximizing the enjoyment of the lake for as many as possible in a positive manner. We are all blessed to be able to spend time on Bad Medicine Lake. Let's all be safe and good neighbors at the same time. These are a short list of considerations but are not a complete list of the DNR regulations. Attached and via the link below is a full listing of MN DNR Boating Guide.

MN DNR Boating Guide

<https://files.dnr.state.mn.us/rlp/regulations/boatwater/boatingguide.pdf>

Overall Safety/Education/Etiquette:

- Please wear a Life Jacket. For adults they are to be 'readily available', this includes a throwable on boats 16'+ For the children, any child under 10 years old or older must have a lifevest on while underway. Please be safe and take care of the little ones. This applies to all watercraft from boats to PWCs to Pontoons to Non-motorized crafts.
- Please Don't Drink and Boat - Alcohol and boats don't mix. MN laws are the same as driving an automobile. Please be safe.
- Stay out of the Bay(s) – When 'at speed' stay out of the bays. One, it's safer for your prop. Two, most of the bays do not allow for 150' from shore. Three, it's easier on the lake.

Boat Specific:

- When 'at speed' try to stay 150+' from shore and other watercraft whenever possible (larger wakes 200'+). It's key to note larger wakes are produced at slower speeds. Many believe faster speeds produce bigger waves, but it is just the opposite.
- Be cognizant of the narrow parts of the lake and use as a straight away to get from one side to the next.
- Reduce repeated passes on the same shoreline when possible. At times weather will make this a challenge but be reasonable with the amount of time in the same location.
- Skiing, wakeboarding, tubing, etc... is allowed between sunrise and ½ hour after sunset. There has been at least one example of a skier being pulled at 10:15pm. Neither the boat or skier had a light on. This is very dangerous for all involved, please be safe.

PWC(Jet Ski):

- Operation of PWC is allowed from 9:30am to 1 hour before sunset.
- When at speed please stay 150+' from shore, other watercraft, swimmers, etc... This includes jumping wakes from boats and other PWC.
- Watch your speed – boats, people, land, docks, other PWC's come up quick and Jet Skis do not have brakes.
- As much as we love our children, know they act differently when they are out of our sight. Have a serious conversation both on the safety and etiquette of Jet Ski use. These machines are powerful and a ride can go from fun to the opposite in a matter of seconds.

Pontoon:

- Pontoons are some of the safest boats on the water. A few tips to make them even safer.
 - Be cognizant of the capacity of your pontoon. There should be a sticker with the maximum number of people and/or maximum weight. Spread out the weight of passengers evenly when out for a cruise. A few too many people in the front can lead to waves coming over the bow.
 - Keep everyone inside of the pontoon when moving. While it's appealing to sit on the front and dangle your legs in the water, it's very dangerous if someone were to fall off and go under the pontoon.

Non-Motorized Craft(Canoe, Kayak, Paddle Boards, etc...):

- The safest place for these watercraft is near the shore, especially during busy lake times.
- There have been a few of these watercraft out well past dark with no lights. This is very dangerous as they are nearly invisible. If out past sunset, please have a light kit.

Protect our Lake: For boats coming from outside Bad Medicine please follow the below. We have a great team checking boats at the landing but every one of us can do our part.

- **CLEAN** – Any boat, trailer or water related equipment. This is a MN Law which helps to protect our lake from aquatic invasive species. Talk to your friends and family before they arrive with their boats.
- **DRAIN** – Water-related equipment (ballast tanks, portable bait containers, motor) and drain bilge, live well and baitwell by removing drain plugs and keep them out while transporting.

Please send anything you'd like to see considered in the future to seebadmed@gmail.com.

Be Safe and make sure to wave to each other on the lake.

Thank You,

The Bad Medicine Lake S.E.E. Committee