



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.

Overall Safety/Education/Etiquette:

- PLEASE TURN YOUR LIGHTS ON - There have been multiple concerns raised about boats under power and floating without navigations lights on, and a few close calls. To the right are the regulations from the MN DNR in regards to boat lights.

NAVIGATION LIGHTS

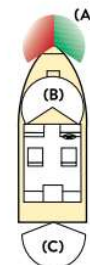
Navigation lights must be on from sunset to sunrise.

MOTORBOAT NAVIGATION LIGHT REQUIREMENTS

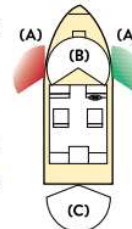
Most motorboats 16 feet or longer will likely be equipped with the correct navigation lights by the manufacturer. Only U.S. Coast Guard-approved lights will meet the following requirements.

Motorboats less than 65 feet long while underway, including sailboats operating under engine power, require lights that are:

- Either separate 112.5" red and green side lights **or** a combination 225" red and green bow light. **(A)**
- A 225" masthead white light on the forward half of the boat, placed at least 3 feet above the red-green lights, showing 112.5" to each side and visible for three miles. **(B)**



Less than 65 feet long.



Boat Specific:

- When 'at speed'(above idle/no wake speed) try to stay 150+' from shore and **other watercraft whenever possible, especially smaller watercraft.** Most often this is boats surfing or pulling tubes but can be caused by any midsize to larger boat depending on how it is being operated.
- For boats producing larger wakes 200'+ is supported by the MN DNR but whenever possible stay in the middle of the lake(West to East) which allows for 300-800'+ from shore. Surely there are times when other boat traffic needs to be maneuvered around which is understandable.
- Please use as much of the length of the lake as possible rather than going round and round in the same area.
- Resident: *'We have had a few boats going between our dock and swimming raft this summer. I had a pontoon and a fishing boat drive through this area when I was ready to go swimming.'* If anyone sees something like this happen, please write down the registration number and contact the Becker Co Sheriff. This is extremely dangerous.
- Below are some highlights of the MN DNR's Own Your Wake Program:
 - Almost every motorboat can create a wake, which is why boaters must be aware of the danger wakes present and the damage they can do. While common courtesy dictates boaters should control their wakes,

there are consequences beyond how wakes may affect people. So, what do boaters really need to know when it comes to owning their wake?

- Under Minnesota law, the damage your wake causes is treated the same as damage caused by an actual collision. Personal watercrafts (PWC) must stay at least 150 feet from shore. There is no required distance for boats, but by staying at least 200 feet from shore or other structures boaters can reduce the likelihood their wakes will cause damage.
- **Be aware of your environment** and what's going on around you – this applies to everyone on and around the water.
 - Have a designated lookout to keep an eye out for other boats, objects, and swimmers.
 - If crossing a wake, cross at low speeds and keep a close lookout for skiers and towables.
- **Stay at least 200 feet away from shorelines**, docks or other structures. Travel slowly in shallow waters.
 - Travel slowly in shallow waters and avoid boating in water less than 2½ feet deep. High speeds near shorelines lead to large wakes that cause shoreline erosion.
 - Minimize repetitive passes. Once you've run a line, move on to another area. Comply with all signs and respect barriers.
 - Respect the rights of others so everyone can enjoy their time on the water – keep the noise down, be courteous to other boaters, and show consideration to all recreationists on and around the water.
 - Noise Specific: Sound travels far over water, especially when it is calm. Please be cognizant of this both on the lake and from shoreline. Surely there will be some 'lake noise' but try to limit as much as possible, especially in the morning and evening.

PWC(Jet Ski):

- Resident: *'We had three jet skis operated very aggressively in the bay near Bad Medicine Resort, the sand bar area and close to our dock.'* As was mentioned in Volume #1 'Stay Out of the Bays' when 'at speed'. Also, in this instance the PWC setback of 150' was not being maintained (below).
- When at speed please stay 150+' from shore, other watercraft, swimmers, etc... This includes jumping wakes from boats and other PWC.

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

- Repeat - The safest place for these watercraft is near the shore, especially during busy lake times.
- A vest should be worn at all times. This last weekend there were children in the middle of the lake on paddleboards without life vests. We all know the temptation to 'just go out a little bit' but end up going further than we planned. Please be safe!

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