

Keep Safety Top of Mind by Jack Ardoyno

This is my first Water Safety Newsletter contribution. I would like to introduce myself. My wife, Lyndia, and I built our home on Round Lake in 1987 and moved to live here full time in 1997. We had been vacationing on the Lake with friends since the late '70's and so have a familiarity with the Lake going back over many years. The RLPOA has evolved over those years into a significant force in the care of our lake and I am happy to contribute what I can as the Chair of the Water Safety Committee to continue that excellent effort.

I want to acknowledge the selfless effort exerted by Bob Strachota, the current President of the RLPOA, who served as Water Safety Chair for the last 10+ years. Bob really does care about Round Lake and has worked hard for a very long time to enhance the value of our lake. Thank you, Bob!

While it is beneficial to remind lake enthusiasts of the statutory rules governing conduct on the lake, I would like to focus this issue on the common sense topic of alcohol and boating.

Perhaps contrary to conventional wisdom, I believe that drinking while boating can be more dangerous than drinking while driving a car.

I do a lot of flying in amphibious airplanes and I frequently examine the question that passengers pose about where to land the airplane in the case of the incapacity of the pilot. I always tell them to crash the plane at the airport instead of the lake. Chances are that you will walk away from the wreckage at the airport while you will most probably drown when you crash the plane in the lake. I think the same can be true in boating. Every year we witness the loss of friends and acquaintances to accidents with boats, snowmobiles and four-wheelers that either would not have occurred or would have been far less serious had alcohol not been involved.

So I would simply like to reiterate some sentiments offered in previous newsletters about drinking and boating:

- Treat drinking while boating at least as seriously as drinking while driving.

- Be ready to turn the helm over to your designated Skipper when you exceed your limit.
- Use common sense regarding boating and drinking not just to avoid a BUI citation (which would be rare unless there is an accident) but for the sake of friends, family and others enjoying the pleasures of lake boating.

There are few things more pleasurable than the sunset cocktail cruise on a beautiful evening on Round Lake. Exercising common sense can only enhance the experience.

I would like to encourage those who have ideas on enhancing water safety on Round Lake to contact me. (715)634-2984.



“Adopt A Shoreline” Interest Grows by Terry Kingston

At the recent Fall Homeowners Meeting a number of additional volunteers signed up to participate in the Adopt a Shoreline Program designed to prevent the spread of Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM). In the spring newsletter, we will provide an updated map indicating the shoreline that is being monitored. It will be a reminder to existing volunteers what part of the shoreline for which they will take responsibility. Additionally it will give other potential volunteers information

on what parts of our lake still remain unmonitored. All members of the board appreciate the volunteerism exhibited by these people which ultimately results in a better quality of lake for all of us.

Last August the LCO Conservation Department reviewed portions of the lake that are subject to EWM. Based on their review and the input of volunteers there were a number of sites identified. Those sites were treated around Labor Day and subsequent inspection

showed that the treatment was substantially effective. As in years past EWM was found in Little Round and School House and Leader Bays. In addition to those areas, EWM was discovered in Hinton Bay. This new location demonstrates that we all must be diligent in identifying and reporting any EWM outbreaks. Early identification will limit the spread of EWM and help us reduce the amount of chemicals used in its treatment.