

Phantom Lakes Boat and Ice Patrol 2018 Report

Members of the PLMD,

Thank You for another successful year of partnership between the PLMD and the Town of Mukwonago Police Department. We can truly see the difference our strong partnership is making in our community. We value the relationship we have been able to forge through our shared commitment to making Upper and Lower Phantom Lakes a safe and enjoyable recreational destination during all seasons. We appreciate your commitment and look forward to maintaining our valuable partnership into the future.



The 2017-2018 Ice Patrol season marked the 7th year in a row that the Town of Mukwonago Police Department has partnered with Rick Silkworth and Mukwonago Yamaha with the "Law Lease donation." Unfortunately, for the second year in a row, the warm weather didn't cooperate, and we were not able to utilize the provided equipment as fully expected. The snowmobile trails were only open a day or two throughout the time we had a snowmobile available to us through the program, so we weren't able to utilize it. However, we cannot thank Mr. Silkworth enough for this valued partnership. We look forward to continuing to work with him and his staff.



2017-2018 Ice Patrol Recap

During the 2017/2018 winter, the weather was yet again not kind to us. Due to unsafe ice conditions and lack of snow were unable to patrol the trails at all, and we only made it out onto the ice 4 times. During those 4 shifts, we spent 15.5 hours patrolling. During these patrols, we conducted a total of 3 traffic stops, which resulted in 3 citations and 2 warnings. We hope that the weather will cooperate more this coming season, and that we can put in more hours on the lake to maintain the safe environment we worked so hard to create out there.



2018 Boat Patrol Recap

The 2018 boating season was a bit of a challenge. Due to several factors we were not out as often as we usually are. For this season, we patrolled Upper and Lower Phantom Lakes for 119 hours, concentrating on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday hours. We made a total of 31 boat stops, resulting in 16 citations and 37 warnings. The most common violations this season were registration violations, slow no wake violations, battery violations, and fire extinguisher violations. In addition, we made 1 boating while intoxicated arrest.

As always, lake residents are encouraged to contact our boat patrol to have a free inspection of their boats conducted by lake patrol officers. The officers will do a complete safety check of the boat, in order to ensure that all boats have the proper safety equipment on board and in proper working condition.

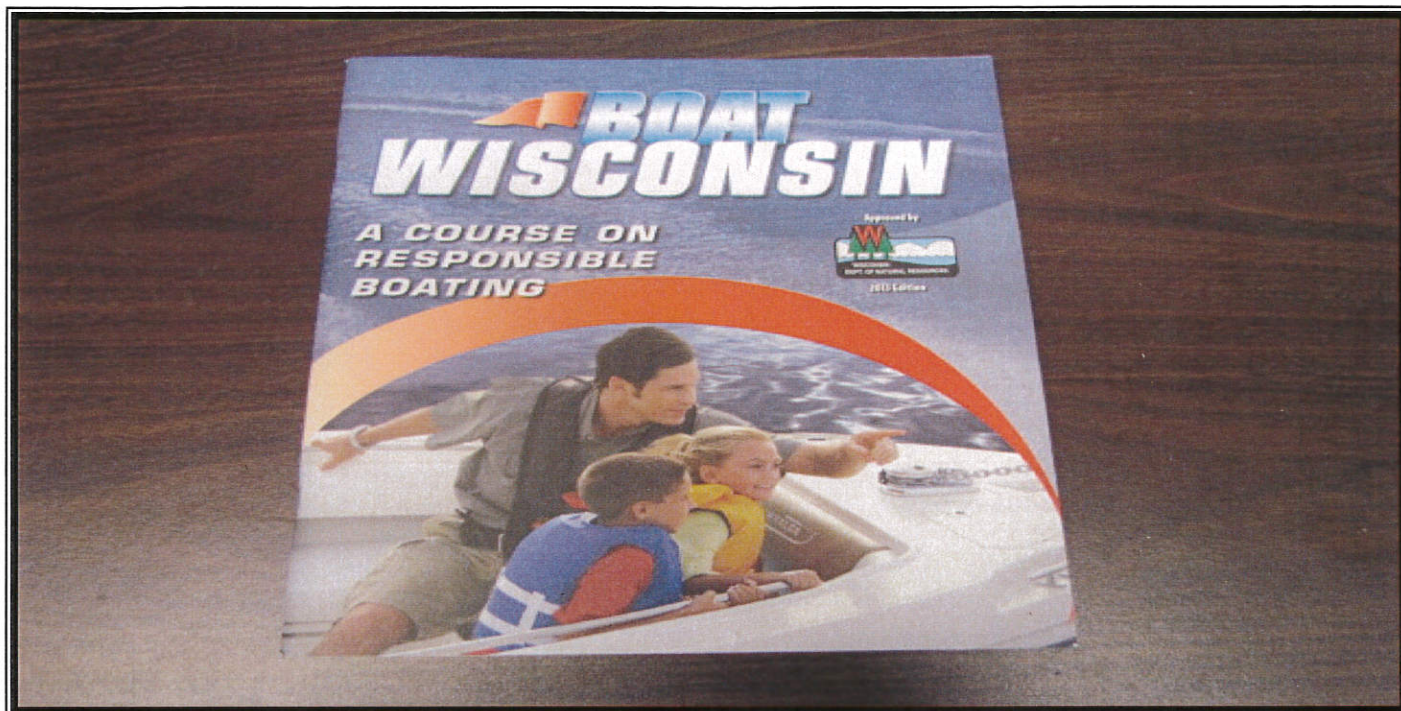


Personnel Changes

Prior to this boat season, Officer Pierzchala retired from law enforcement. He had been with our department for a number of years after retiring from the City of Milwaukee Police Department. In addition, one of our full time officers, Andy Douglass transitioned to part-time, after deciding to leave law enforcement full time to pursue a position in camp ministry. We also hired one new part time officer, George Petropoulos. George has been a good fit so far, and we look forward to him being able to put in more time for us in the future. Unfortunately, as I have shared with you previously, we have had a difficult time finding and hiring enough quality employees for part time positions. I am working with the chief to work with the town board to raise the pay we offer our part time officers, to hopefully attract more and better candidates to fill the staffing shortages we have suffered from for the past several years.

DNR Safety Classes

This past year, we conducted our usual one boat safety course and one combination snowmobile and ATV course. Again due to our staffing shortages and lack of instructors, we didn't conduct a hunter safety course. With the transition in staffing we have experienced, we currently have only 2 instructor son staff. We have offered the opportunity to our new officers to partner with us as DNR safety instructors, so hopefully in the future we will be able to offer this course again.



As always, I would like to take the opportunity to thank the members of the PLMD for being our partners in the continued effort to keep Upper and Lower Phantom Lakes safe throughout the years. I cannot tell you how much we appreciate the generous financial commitment of the PLMD each year to help us provide this vital service to our community. On behalf of Chief Czarnecki, I once again respectfully request that you consider maintaining your financial donation to the Town of Mukwonago Police Department so that we can maintain the safety of our lakes. We are committed to making our community as a whole as safe as possible. Keeping our lakes safe and fun for all to enjoy is one of the most important ways we can do that. I look forward to continuing our efforts together for years to come.

Respectfully,

Sgt. Eric Schmidt