

Phantom Lakes Boat and Ice Patrol 2019 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 2018-2019 Ice Patrol season marked the 8th year in a row that the Town of Mukwonago Police Department has partnered with Rick Silkworth and Mukwonago Yamaha with the “Law Lease” donation. Last season we were given a UTV to assist us with our patrol. We cannot thank Mr. Silkworth enough for this valued partnership. Unfortunately Yamaha discontinued the “Law Lease” program for snowmobiles, so we didn’t get any for last season. As a result, we approached the town board for permission to purchase snowmobiles, which we did, so weather permitting, we will continue to utilize them for both the trails and lake patrol.



2018-2019 Ice Patrol Recap

During the 2018/2019 winter we were not able to patrol the snowmobile trails because as I said earlier, Yamaha discontinued their "Law Lease" program for snowmobiles. As was the case for the past several years, the weather didn't cooperate anyhow, and the trails were not open very much throughout the season. During the course of the winter, we made it out onto the ice 3 times. During those 3 shifts, we spent 19 hours patrolling, and we conducted a total of 4 traffic stops, which resulted in 3 citations and 7 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 on the lakes.



2019 Boat Patrol Recap

The 2019 boating season was successful in many ways. Due to several factors we were not out as often as we usually are. This past season, we patrolled Upper and Lower Phantom Lakes for 153.75 hours, concentrating on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday hours. We made a total of 73 boat stops, resulting in 34 citations and 89 warnings. The most common violations this season were registration violations, slow no wake violations, battery violations, and fire extinguisher violations. In addition, we made 3 boating while intoxicated arrests. We also assisted 11 vessels throughout the season for various reasons.

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.

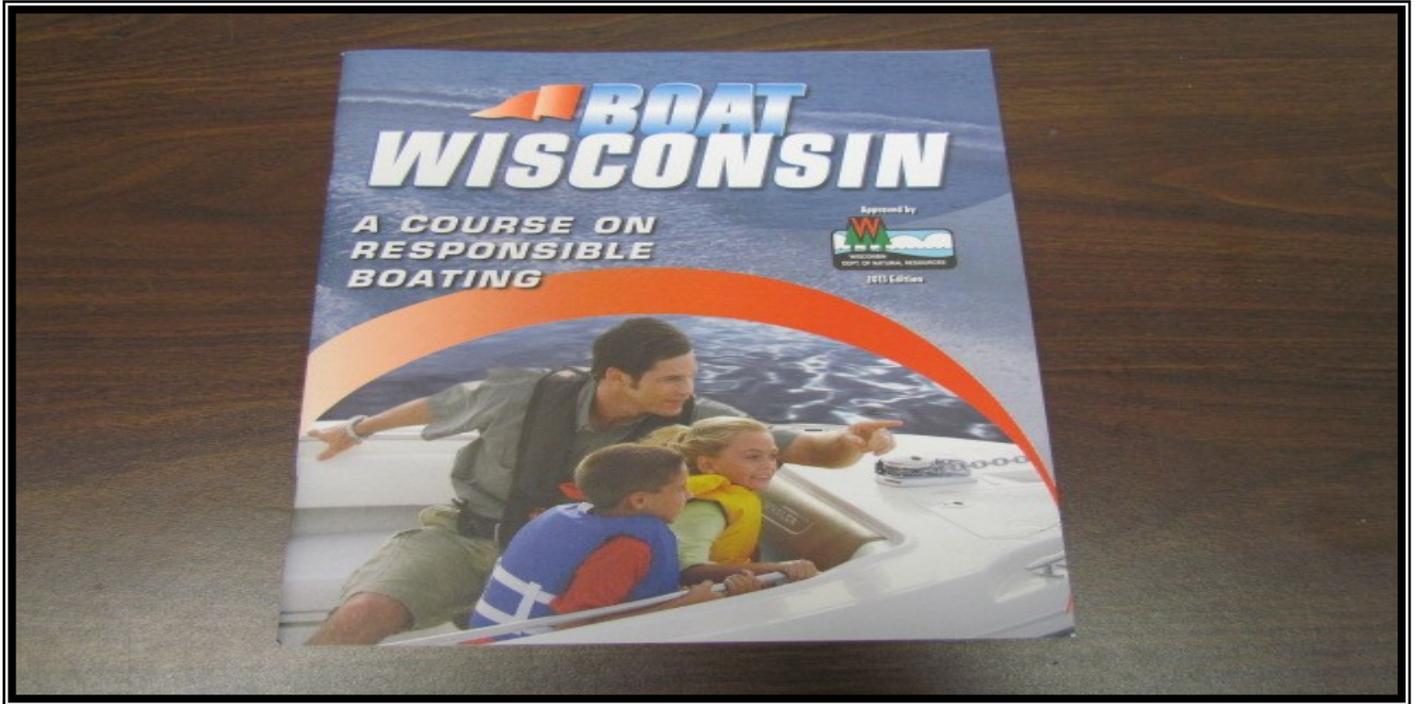


Personnel Changes

Unfortunately, as I have shared with you previously, we have had a difficult time finding and hiring enough quality employees for part time positions. Last year I reported that the chief was working to get the town board to increase our payrate for part time officers. We were successful in doing so, and I am hopeful that this will translate into us having a better time hiring and retaining part time officers to staff the lake patrol. We have not hired any new officers since last season, as of yet, so there are no personnel changes to report at this time.

DNR Safety Classes

This past year, we conducted our usual one boat safety course and one combination snowmobile and ATV course. More and more students are taking the DNR safety courses online so we typically have less than 20 students in our classes. However, we understand how valuable these classes are, and will continue to offer them as long as we get enough students signed up for each class.



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