



Boot Lake Association Newsletter - Spring 2022

News from Boot Lake

OUR WINTER IN REVIEW

Here it is late April and we're starting to wonder if the real spring is ever going to arrive as we kept getting late winter storms that were keeping the ground white and the ice on the lake.

October/November - The winter started out nice enough with mild temps and no snow on the ground through October. It wasn't until November 15 when we got our first measurable snow of 5.5 inches. We ended up getting a total of 12 inches of snow in November, and it would stay for the duration of the winter.

December - We didn't get our first below temp until December 6 when the gauge registered -10F below. December was our snowiest month with a total of 41.2 inches for the month. Our biggest storm of the winter was from December 27-29 when we got dumped on with 17.7 inches. But it made for a great holiday of snowmobiling and cross country skiing. But then the real frigid weather hit for good when we hit -21F below on December 28.

January - The start of our New Year was a brutal. On New Years morning we woke to -33F below followed by -34F below the next morning. We had a one day break from going below zero and then 7 days in row below zero at night with the lowest being -36F below on January 7. But it was only just beginning! Another one day break above zero and then 11 days in a row with lows below zero. In fact in January we had 10 days where the temperature went to -20F below or lower, and a total of 23 days in January below zero. But we did have a January thaw when the thermometer hit 34F ABOVE on January 18 - a one day "heat wave" !! With the bitter cold the atmosphere remained relatively dry and we only got 7 inches of snow for the month of January.

February - We thought maybe the temps would start moderating in February when we got four days in a row above freezing from February 8-11. But the cold weather returned and we ended up with 19 days below zero in February. And several days of short bursts of snow piled up for a total of 20.9 inches for the month.

March - When we hit March we always hope we are "over the hump". But not this year with the thermometer still going below zero six times in March. We had a beautiful First Day of Spring when the temp hit 50F above. But it was Mother Nature playing a joke on us as it was the only day in March that we hit 50 !! We ended up getting 7 more inches of snow in March also.

April - We are now into April, but winter isn't over. Just when we could start seeing patches of bare ground and thinking "Spring", we got hit with 9.4 inches of snow from April 5-7. Do you realize that in 2021 our ice left our Boot Lake on April 7. But this year on that date we still had 6 inches of snow on the lake and it was still covered by 2 feet of ice.

OPENING DAY OF FISHING ON BOOT LAKE ????



Getting ready for our
Memorial weekend
camping trip.

Yes, it has been a long winter on Boot Lake with 60 days the thermometer going below zero, and as of April 20 we have had 102.5 inches of snow. So please don't let us hear anyone complaining about the heat this summer !!

PONTOON DINNERS



Last summer we gathered several times on the lake in the late afternoon. We tied pontoons together and enjoyed a casual evening meal with Boot Lake neighbors. On one occasion we had about 8 pontoons anchored on the "sunken island" on the north end of the lake. We could walk from pontoon to pontoon and eat, drink and visit. When it was warm enough several folks even took an evening dip in the lake. We are looking forward to this summer and are organizing a "Pontoon Get-Together" at least once a month. See the Calendar of Events below and watch for email notices and plan to join the group.

WAKE BOARD BOATS - AN EXCITING NEW LAKE BASED SPORT

We have reported on this in previous newsletters and the concern that the sport might cause damage to shorelines and aquatic vegetation in shallow areas. We have even published photos provided by property owners of the erosion caused to shorelines, especially in the middle narrows area of the lake.

To summarize, the sport is possible due to a marvel of engineering, all designed to create bigger and more powerful wakes, some as large as six feet.

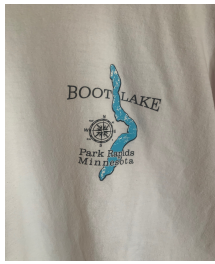
Below is an article from Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates (MLR) and the work they are doing to address these concerns. We should support their efforts in addressing the problems and finding solutions that will be acceptable to all stakeholders.

BACK YARD BIRD FEEDERS

Two things to be concerned about this spring. Avian Bird Flu is spreading in Minnesota. The U of M Raptor Center is recommending that bird lovers temporarily suspend feeding at your bird feeders. The reasoning is not to encourage birds to gather together at places such as bird feeders or bird baths where the flu could spread quickly. Another reason to pull in your feeders: Bears are exiting their winter dens and until the growing season starts and their natural food supply is available, you may find them checking out your bird feeders.

BOOT LAKE CLOTHING

We are again going to offer "Boot Lakers" an opportunity to purchase Boot Lake Logo clothing. Kathi Doroff has kindly volunteered to work on this project. She will be working with a local vendor, Camp 71. In order to determine if there is sufficient interest in purchasing clothing and what kind of volume we might anticipate, please let Kathi know by emailing her directly if you are interested: kathi.doroff@gmail.com



Have a good summer and see you on the Lake.

Fred Luckerth
Chairperson
Boot Lake Association

New Boot Lake Website

We are very happy to report that we have a "Webmaster", Jessica Willard, who has volunteered to maintain our website. Jessica's folks, Mickey and Mike have a cabin on the northeast shore of Boot Lake. Jessie has fond memories growing up on the beautiful lake and currently resides in Boston but will be able to handle this task remotely, and hopes to still visit once or twice a year. Thank you Jessie, we really appreciate you taking on this task.



Jessie has moved all the info from our old website to the new website and has made changes and enhancements. And Dan Simms, a former Past Chairperson of our Association, has provided 1993-2004 Secchi data from Minnesota PCA Reports of Data from the Citizen Lake Monitoring Program, as well as meeting minutes and other historical documents from 1998-2004 that were not already on the website. Jessie has also added on the homepage an instagram and facebook link, and also a gallery page for photos. If you want a photo posted to instagram and to the website gallery, you can email Jessie. (jessica.willard03@gmail.com). She would love to see images of the lake, the loons, other nature, etc. So check out the new website at: <http://bootlake.mnlakesandrivers.org/>

Wake Board Boats - Exciting New Lake Based Sport AND Water Quality Threat

By Jeff Forester, Executive Director, Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates

For a number of years Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates, MLR has heard concerns from our lake association members about boater behavior:

- Boaters are not taking Aquatic Invasive Species rules seriously. One mandatory roadside inspection effort in St. Louis County had a 33% violation rate,
- Basic safe watercraft operation was slipping. We heard of a lot of unsafe operators on the lakes, as well as those who are inconsiderate. The days of a 16 foot aluminum boat with a 25 hp outboard are long gone. New boats today are larger, more powerful and much, much faster. Some reach cruising speeds in excess of 70 mph.



MLR began discussions with a number of groups about a watercraft operator's certification. All of Minnesota's neighboring states have instituted watercraft operators permits. The training required for the permit can be done online, and would include rules of the road, safety, etiquette.

Then in 2019 MLR began hearing about a new type of boat and watersport - wakeboarding. In wakeboarding a surfer launches from a platform on the back of the boat while the boat is in motion, usually about 10 knots. They then surf the wake right behind the boat, so close they can talk to riders. No tow rope is required.

The sport is possible due to a marvel of engineering, a hull design, massive engine and adjusted drive train, ballast tanks that can be filled to create extra weight and hydraulic plates that can be extended from the hull to drive the boat deeper into the water - all designed to create bigger and more powerful wakes, some as large as six feet.

Wake surfing is emerging as a popular new water sport. Entire families can participate and the slow speeds mean that injuries are uncommon. Boat dealers and industry note that wakeboard boats are one of the fastest growing segments of new boat sales.

But there are problems with wakeboard boats as well:

- In 2018 a study by University of MN and MN DNR found that because the ballast tanks on wakeboard boats cannot be fully emptied and zebra mussel veligers can survive at high densities and for a long time, wakeboard boats are the highest risk watercraft for AIS transport.
- Lake Associations and shoreline property owners reported that the large, powerful wakes generated by these craft were causing significant erosion of shoreline.
- The large wakes were damaging docks, lifts, boats and other infrastructure,
- The large wakes have knocked down children in the water and washed people off of their docks.
- The prop thrust from these boats was churning up lake bottoms, destroying aquatic plants, reanimating sediments, silting in spawning beds and fueling algal blooms.
- The large wakes caused conflicts with other users, including other boaters, canoeists, kayakers, paddle boards and anglers.
- On some lakes the negative impacts were so extreme that groups began to call for a ban on these boats. These calls for a statewide ban were growing in volume and gaining traction. The national watersports industry hired lobbyists to fight any attempts to restrict the use of these boats. A big controversy was building in St. Paul, and controversy makes solutions much harder to reach.



Over the summer of 2019 Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Executive Director Jeff Forester met with angling and sportsmen’s groups, DNR, watersports industry representatives, and lake associations to define the problem. All agreed that if operated inappropriately, all of the negative impacts listed above were concerns.

At one meeting, a boating industry representative said, “It is not the boats that cause problems. It is the operators.”

In that statement MLR saw a solution. We began our work with three primary goals:

- Get the best science on the impacts of boat wakes and prop wash on lake ecology. Use reliable, peer reviewed data to develop best practices,
- Protect the ability of local governments to use regulations to protect local resources,
- Educate boaters in a watercraft operators certification course on these Best Practices so that operators understand, value and protect lake ecology and other user groups.

There are two key questions:

- What is the wake energy of various boats and how long does this energy take to dissipate?
- How deep can the prop thrust of different boats go?

In the summer of 2020 MLR and partner organizations partnered with the University of Minnesota to initiate a CrowdFunding effort to answer these questions. The first phase looked at different styles of enhanced wake watercraft and different runabouts and was estimated to cost \$93k. Many lake associations in Minnesota, a few marina owners, a local boat dealer, and lake associations across the country contributed. By September of 2020 the CrowdFunding effort passed the goal and the oldest fluid dynamics lab in the United States, the St. Anthony Falls Lab, began this important research.

A preliminary report of findings is expected this spring. This data will be used to generate best practices for all watercraft with regard to operating depths and distance from shore to avoid causing ecological damage to our lakes.

Over the summer of 2021 MLR will work with MN DNR to design a watercraft operator’s permit course that will include these best practices. We will also include more information on aquatic invasive species, dispel myths and teach boaters how to avoid spreading these species. Other segments of the training could focus more generally on lake ecology, and proper boating etiquette to avoid conflict among user groups.

To date MLR has been reaching out to other groups, including some that have opposed some previous AIS bills, to build a broad cross sector base in support of the research and education. MLR will continue working with our partners to increase the safety and enjoyment of all lake users.

- MN Lakes & Rivers Advocates ~ PO Box 22262 ~ St. Paul, MN 55122
- www.mnlakesandrivers.org ~ 952-854-1317 ~ judy@mnlakesandrivers.org

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Calendar of Events



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- Road Pickup / Potluck Thursday, May 12, 2022 hosted by Al and Sue Rost
- Pontoon Dinner Tuesday, June 14, 2022
- 4th of July Boat Parade Sunday, July 3, 2022
- Pontoon Dinner Tuesday, July 12, 2022
- Pontoon Dinner Tuesday, August 9, 2022
- Annual Meeting Sunday, August 14, 2022 hosted by Doroff's and Kvistad's
- Road Pickup / Potluck Thursday, October 6, 2022 hosted by Teri and Scott Erhardt

Boot Lake Association Board of Directors



L-R Fred Luckeroth, Russ Price, Teri Erhardt, Kathi Doroff, Craig Kulla, Craig Nieman

Association Dues

A reminder, annual dues are \$10. If you haven't already paid you can make check payable to:
Boot Lake Association.



Send your dues to our Treasurer: Craig Nieman 53199 Sunrise Lane Park Rapids, MN 56470.

