

Report of Boating Safety Committee

Saturday, May 28, 2022

Mike Casey

1. Last year, a broadly representative committee of nine Fallen Leaf residents proposed that this board approve a set of community standards intended to promote safe boating on Fallen Leaf Lake. This was as a direct result of a survey that was sent to residents in the fall of 2020. This Board unanimously approved the Committee's recommendations, and the measures went into effect immediately with the understanding that the topic would be revisited in a year after the community had had time to live with the changes.
2. At the time, the Committee intended to poll the community at the end of the summer of 2021; however, for various reasons that did not occur. Based on informal feedback the Committee believes the recommendations were generally well received, and it asks that the recommendations remain in effect for the 2022 boating season.
3. To recap, the Committee asks that the following community standards remain in place through the summer and fall of 2022:
 - a. Power boats should operate at a speed of no more than 5 MPH when they are within 200' of the shoreline or of docks jutting out from the shoreline.
 - b. Similarly, power boats should slow to a speed no greater than 5 MPH whenever and wherever on the lake they are within 200' of a person and/or a people powered vessel such as a paddleboard, kayak, canoe and the like.
 - c. Wakeboard and wake surf boats should limit their large wake towing activities to the middle of the lake in order to minimize the possibility of damage to persons or property from the size and energy of their wakes.
 - d. The waterski pattern at the southwest portion of the lake should be altered so that it stays west of the extension of Glen Alpine Creek and extends in more of a north/south direction.
 - e. In order to minimize the risk to swimmers and day users of small kayaks and flotation devices near the marina, boaters traveling to and from the marina should slow to 5 MPH within 300' of the south end breakwaters.
 - f. When skiing at the north end of the lake, and particularly when the slalom course is in use, boaters should stay out of the way of slalom users and should manage their own

wakes so as to minimize disturbance to the slalom users.

- g. Boaters should reduce the volume of output from their speakers so that it cannot be heard beyond the confines of their boat. Remember that sound travels much farther on water than on land, and please be respectful of the rights of others to the peaceful enjoyment of their time at the lake
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- 4. The Committee is aware that the State of California owns the water of the lake and that some people believe that its recommendations cannot or will not be enforced by peace officers. While we do not agree with that position, we do believe that better outcomes are achieved through courtesy, mutual respect, cooperation, etc. and not by heavy-handedness. The primary “messengers” of these recommendations will be the marina staff, especially at boat launchings, as well as other boaters who may want to remind new boaters to the area that they may want to comply with the local guidance.
- 5. At the end of this coming summer the promised survey will be conducted, and the Committee will then issue its final report which will include the results of that survey.