

Yvonne Short <goldentracks@gmail.com>

## Re: Wake Boats

Ryan Fox <president@7lakeswest.com> Tue, Aug 25, 2020 at 11:59 AM

To: Yvonne Short

Cc: SLWLA Board <Board@7lakeswest.com>, Chris Mace <chair-lake@7lakeswest.com>, Josh Davis

Thanks for your feedback Yvonne. I will forward this to our Lake Committee for their assessment and recommendations about the lake. Ryan Fox

On Mon, Aug 24, 2020, 12:47 PM Yvonne Short wrote:

I stand by my correspondence of November 3, 2019, a copy of which I have attached for those of you who are new to the Board and as a refresher for those previously involved. We; I, along with Steve Short (who wrote to you a very detailed research study that was not tainted by paid WSIA advocates) and other residents, submitted our information and concerns last year, but it was, for the most part disregarded by the AdHoc Committee and thus the Board, in part due to an onslaught of members of the community who were incorrectly, with hysteria laden misinformation, led to believe there was to be a ban on all use of wake boats existing and future ....so here we are, basically back where we started.

**Wake boats are the ONLY type of vessel currently allowed on Lake Auman that, when used properly for the purpose for which they were designed, negatively impact ALL other vessels on the lake as well as swimmers and homeowners.**

I do not think wake boats should be all out banned. They already own the boats and they are property owners but the % of wake boat operators vs % of all property owners is disproportionate to the impact those boats have on the use of the lake. I feel strongly that the number of wake boats on Lake Auman has already outgrown the load this lake can handle and needs to be limited. This was recommended and squashed a year ago and though I do not have the exact numbers, view and experience from our house between the #17 the #18 buoy indicates we have a number of new wake boats registered on Lake Auman this year. The Board needs to take prompt action to limit future registration of these boats. They are a minority in actual numbers of wake boats registered compared to all boats registered but they are represented in greater proportion on committees and the Board. The wake boat community does not make up a majority of the residents of SLW, but they are being allowed to bully their way into having their way. **Horsepower does not equal right of way**, for those who may be unfamiliar with the US Coast Guard Rules of Navigation on Inland Waters. They have not once offered to compromise their use of the vessels for the good of the community as a whole. They want it ALL their way....just use the boats however they choose and the remainder of the community be damned. While this is not the case with ALL wake boat operators, the ones who actually are courteous to other vessels are a minority that stand out in the crowd. I can count them on one hand and have fingers left.

A study of the impact of wake boats on the bulkheads will only give a one time glimpse at the situation. The cumulative impact they have already had would have to be used as a baseline for the study.....data we don't have. I can assure you, had I known 30 years ago when our house was built that had I known I would have a need for this data, I would have been collecting it on a regular basis. Going forward, unless a study is going to be a long term project, it won't help us....and it certainly won't provide the immediate solution we need.

Unlike ANY other place that their impact has been studied, this lake is entirely bulkheaded with wooden structures. Homeowners have paid dearly for their aesthetically pleasing bulkheads and their upkeep and maintenance. The community does not own the bulkheads nor pay for any maintenance or upkeep but the community is responsible for making the decisions that affect how other residents are allowed to damage their property; nor do the wake boat operators pay for it ; though legally, according to federal laws, they are liable for damage produced by their wakes. Homeowners would have to set up high resolution video cameras to record the impact of wakes to record specific boat operator's negligence because one cannot read boat numbers of any type from the house and by the time the wake hits, the boat is long gone from sight. Many are quite savvy to know when and where the lake patrol is at any given time and operate their boats negligently accordingly. I have observed it happening with fair regularity. While not solely responsible for damages to these structures, it is ludicrous for any individual, particularly one who uses wake boats and knows well the energy of the wakes they produce, to claim that wake boats are not responsible for much damage and wear and tear; particularly when they play an integral part on committees that play a role in this decision making process.. Other boats? perhaps; but their wake energy is nothing compared to the power of a surf wake. Storms may contribute to damage, but the direction of the prevailing storms is completely opposite the direction of the damage we are incurring at our house. We cannot control storms but we sure can control the impact

wake boats have on our lake IF and only IF our Board takes action before it is too late.

We are grateful that the buoys have been moved further off the shore, but the tow zone needs to be moved completely out of the North Cove between Owens Circle and the #12 and #18 buoys (near Butterfly Ct). The homeowners on that cove are no less deserving of action to remove towing from that cove than the residents of the other coves on the lake. The boat wake situation has improved due to the repositioning of the buoys but the wakes from wake boats continue to greatly and negatively impact our property and our ability to enjoy the water in front of our house. It is so bad, we have to keep our sailboat on it's lift ALL THE WAY TO THE TOP. Wakes from wake boats have moved our lift with the 2000 lb+ sailboat on it. Our dog, who loves to swim, hears a wake boat coming and gets out of the water until it passes. He has not been taught to do that by anything other than his experience of being thrown into the bulkhead. If I want to swim in front of my own house, I too must listen for the wake boats to avoid injury.

I urge our Board to take action now before more wake boats are registered here.

Thank you for your time.

See attached letter of Nov 2019.

Yvonne Short

Lots 3131 and 7745