

Safe Boating Tips from Fellow Members

In my most recent article for The Legend, I asked fellow boaters at Lake Lorelei to offer suggestions to improve boating safety. These are not new rules being added but merely suggestions from your fellow members. We will add more as they come in.

Woody wrote:

"We are thinking about getting a boat that can be used for skiing. When we do, we plan to use a "skier down in the water flag" (in California, this is a legal requirement) whenever someone falls. The boat spotter keeps the flag in the air while the skier is down. Obviously, the purpose is to advise oncoming boaters that someone is in the water. Even though it isn't a legal requirement in Ohio, I think Lake Lorelei should encourage its use."

Vicky wrote:

"I read "The Lake Report" in the Legend of Lorelei and you requested suggestions for boating safety. Here are a couple:

1. Install a mirror if you are towing a skier. The advantages are:
 - a. The reaction time of the driver who sees the downed skier in a mirror is faster than having this information relayed from an observer.
 - b. The driver can monitor boat traffic behind the skier while keeping his head forward. An observer is not effective in doing this for the driver.
 - c. In other states (Tennessee for example), an observer is not required if a mirror is used.
2. When picking up a downed skier, the driver should cut the throttle back to idle, THEN make a u-turn. The advantages are:
 - a. A boat will turn with a tighter radius at idle speed and is less likely to turn into the path of an oncoming boat.
 - b. The boat will tilt less during the turn and reduces the likelihood of throwing your passengers or capsizing.
 - c. With a tight u-turn the boat is in line with the skier. Another boat that is approaching the skier from behind will be more likely to steer out of the path of your oncoming boat!
 - d. The boat will not create a huge wake that goes down the length of the lake. These wakes make it miserable for other boaters and especially skiers who will hit this wake at a right angle.
 - e. If possible, continue back to the skier at idle speed. You are in better control and will be less likely to hit your downed skier or drown him with your wakes. You would be surprised how little time is lost. When I say idle, I mean idle. I see many drivers slow down to "maximum wake speed", about 10 miles per hour, which is the worst. "