

CLA Mission

To protect the interest of the members of this Association in the real property owned by them; to endeavor to maintain the natural level in said lake; to protect against water pollution and unhealthy conditions; to secure adequate protection against fire, theft and pilfering, to secure improved roads leading to and around the lake; to protect and promote good fishing condition in said lake; and for such other purposes as shall be beneficial to the interests of said members and the community.

**Reminders:
Go Green!**

You can now join or renew your membership online via credit card, Paypal or ACH. Save a stamp and a trip to the post office. Let us know if you would prefer to receive your Newsletter electronically via email as well as other correspondence from your CLA.

Crystal Lake Association General Membership meeting will be held July 9th at 10 a.m. at the Sailing Club on North Shore.

Log on the **CLA Forum**, an interactive discussion and information site, with topics of current events and local issues. Go to: <http://www.crystalonline.org/forum/>, and learn what is going on in your community!



Happy 4th of July



Crystal Lake Association

Established June 5, 1932

www.crystalonline.org

Good News for Strait Tow Blvd!

Do you live on, walk it, bike it, run on it, or drive on it? We know it's bumpy, lumpy and in really bad condition; so do our Township officials.

CLA has been informed that the Township Board has agreed to a complete rebuild of Strait-Tow Blvd. It is likely to happen after Labor Day this year...all of the road, extending from North Shore all the way to Pine Grove and Sidney Road



Walleye Stocking Resumes

We are scheduled to receive our first walleye stock since 2005! Walleye fingerlings will reach stocking size (around 2- 3") in June. Stocking is usually based on a ratio of 100 per acre. We expect around 74,000 transplants this summer. Now, how long does it take a walleye to grow?? If you've already turned your stove on for that Friday Night Fish Fry, you'd better turn it off! It will take the better part of 3+ years to reach legal length! Go to <http://www.michigandnr.com/fishstock/default.asp> to check out all the recent fish stocking and specific locations by DNR in Montcalm County.

Top Ten Reasons to Join or Renew Membership

1. CLA and the County jointly provide police patrol on the lake.
 2. CLA pays for 100% of the 4th of July fireworks.
 3. CLA reports to members on Township Actions effecting Crystal residents.
 4. CLA maintains the www.crystalonline.org website., an interactive forum where members can post everything from concerns and issues to items for sale.
 5. CLA conducts water quality testing annually.
 6. CLA sponsors the Goose Roundup annually.
 7. CLA works to protect and promote the wise use of Michigan's Water resources.
 8. CLA provides quarterly Newsletters with important News and Safety Coverage.
 9. CLA supports the Crystal Winter Fest with Warming Tent and Refreshments
 10. CLA serves as a forum where Crystal residents can present their concerns and issues.
- Membership Bonus!**
- Membership Directory of CLA members and local businesses published annually free to members..*

Board of Directors 2010/2011

Board President:

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steve@casair.net

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kanitzb@msn.com

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Directors:

John Beck

Mike Dyer

Roxy Eaton

Larry Fate

Mike Manning

Bill Tomlin

**Special thanks to
CLA VP Bonnie Kanitz
for staying on top of the
Walleye planting pro-
gram to ensure our lake
is at the top of the
DNR's list.**

Boating Safety is critical to all our lake friends. If you have anyone in your household born after Dec 31, 1978, they are required to have a boating license. Children, 12 and up, can also obtain a boating license and operate a boat with supervision. Go to: <http://www.boat-ed.com/mi/index.htm> to take the course and get certified!

Summer Survey Crystal Lake – Montcalm County, Michigan By Bill Tomlin

The 2010 annual analytical water survey of the waters of Crystal Lake was completed on August 24, 2010 by Steve Kasa of Applied Analytical of Grand Rapids . Kasa was assisted by Bill Tomlin of the C.L.A, and Mr. Larry Bogart a resident observer from Crystal lake. At the time of the sampling the weather conditions were mostly cloudy and calm with an air temperature of 74° and a relative humidity of 80%.

Tested were the following: Temperature, Dissolved Oxygen (at the central Basin), Transparency, Nitrate-Nitrogen, Fecal Coliform, Common Plankton, and Conductivity.

Conclusions/Notes:

The nutrient levels, conductivity, pH values and plankton identified can be considered normal for hard water inland lakes in Michigan. If something within the results might be considered a source of concern it would be the elevated phosphorus concentration. Otherwise the lake looked very healthy during the sampling event, and other analytical results confirm this.

The plankton observed in the plankton tow sample were dominated by phytoplankton, the plant population of the plankton group. The two species observed include Anacystis and Agmenellum.

A couple of shoreline areas, where submerged aquatic weed growth had been reported, were given a cursory visual examination. The dominant species observed were Chara, and Water Milfoil, and American Elodea. These are common aquatic plants in our geographical region. They are not considered a nuisance unless they grow to a size/depth to impede boat traffic. Chara is frequently seen growing in hard water and can be observed to have a crunchy bristly texture and a musky odor.

All analyses are in accordance with "Standard Methods for the Analysis of Water & Wastewater", 19th Edition, 1995 and EPA Approved Methodologies.

Submitted By: Stephan F. Kasa Lab Mgr/Prog Mgr Applied Analytical

To review the analytical report in it's entirety please visit the **Crystal Lake Association** web site at the following address www.crystalonline.org

Bike Path Funding Falls Short

Township Trustee Jerry Stone informed the CLA this week that the proposed bike path designed to provide safe passage for walkers, bicycles, baby carriages, skaters, etc, around the lake is in trouble. Just as the original cost estimate of \$25,000 was achieved the rising cost of oil and petroleum products (asphalt) boosted the cost to \$32,000 and that will only hold till the end of this year, when the road commission rebids their asphalt contract.

It looks like the community needs to come up with a plan to raise an additional \$7000 soon or the whole plan may have to be scrapped since escalating oil prices are sure to result in another cost hike next year.

Stone did not rule out the possibility of the township increasing their support of the project, but not the entire \$7,000. The CLA has already pledged \$5,000 to support the path pending member approved design details.

Ideas on how to fund the shortfall are welcome. Please contact the Township Board at 235-4800 if you would like to help.

The following information (pages 3-4-5) was drawn from the "Are You Observing the 100 Ft. Rule?" pamphlet prepared and distributed by the Paw Paw Lake Association and Michigan Lakes and Streams Association. CLA believes the information to be very important and would like to thank the PPLA and ML&SA for their exemplary work in promoting boating safety and etiquette and for permission to reprint this information..



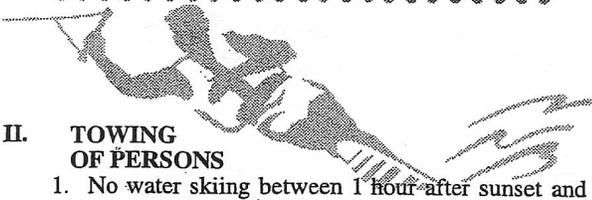
It is Your Responsibility to Know These Regulations...

IGNORANCE OF THE LAW IS NO EXCUSE

I. SPEED LIMITS

1. Slow - no wake* speed within 100 feet of the shoreline, any watercraft, pier, person, raft, swimming area, and swimmers.
2. Maximum speed 55 m.p.h. in all water unless otherwise regulated.
3. Michigan law states that a person operating a vessel shall operate it in a careful and prudent manner and at such a rate of speed so as not to endanger unreasonably the life or property of any person. A person shall not operate a vessel at a rate of speed greater than will permit him, in the exercise of reasonable care, to bring the vessel to stop within the assured clear distance ahead.
4. A person shall not operate a vessel in a manner so as to interfere unreasonably with the lawful use by others of the water.

*** SLOW - NO WAKE**
means a very slow speed whereby the wake or wash created by the vessel would be minimal.



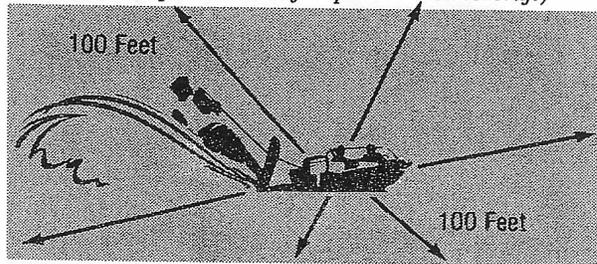
II. TOWING OF PERSONS

1. No water skiing between 1 hour after sunset and 1 hour prior to sunrise
2. At least 1 competent person, in addition to the driver, shall be in any boat towing persons on water skis, sleds, etc. This additional person shall be in a position to observe the progress of the person being towed.
3. Tow boat must be equipped with a 170 degree wide angle rear view mirror affixed to permit the driver to observe the progress of the person being towed.

III. DISTANCE BETWEEN PERSONS BEING TOWED AND OTHER OBJECTS

Vessels and persons being towed on water skis, water sleds, etc. shall maintain a distance of 100 foot from any dock, raft, buoyed or occupied bathing areas, or vessels moored or at anchor, except when the vessel is proceeding at a slow - no wake speed or when water skiers are being picked up or dropped off.

(See special rules for personal watercraft)



IV. NOISE LEVEL OF BOATS

Motorboats are required to have mufflers or an underwater exhaust system such that it does not produce sound levels in excess of 90 dB(A) when subjected to a stationary (neutral) sound level test of its engine(s) at no closer than one meter (3.3 feet).

V. COUNTER - CLOCKWISE OPERATIONS

Persons operating vessels shall operate in a counter-clockwise fashion insofar as it is reasonably possible.

VI. CHILDREN OPERATING MOTORBOATS

1. Persons under 12 years old operating motorboats:
 - Must be under the direct supervision of a person 16 years of age or older; and,
 - The boat must have no more than 35 HP.
2. A person who is 12 but less than 14 may operate a personal watercraft if he or she obtained a boating safety certificate before January 1, 1999.
3. Any person may operate a motorboat that is powered by no more than 6 HP.
4. Personal watercraft (Jet Ski) shall not be operated by anyone under 14 years of age.
5. A child under age 7 shall not ride on or be towed behind a PWC unless a parent or a designee of the parent is on board the PWC.



VII. LIQUOR AND/OR CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE

1. A person who is intoxicated (as defined in the same way as for driving a car) may not operate or be in control of any vessel. The Michigan implied consent law applies for boat operator intoxication testing.

The penalty for conviction of driving a vessel while intoxicated shall include impoundment of the vessel and suspension of the privilege to operate a vessel for a period of time designated by a court of law.

2. The same goes for controlled substances (drugs).

VIII. OPERATION OF VESSELS

1. Sailboats have the right-of-way to motorboats while they are under sail power.
2. Motorboats shall give way to non-motorized vessels
3. When 2 vessels are approaching each other head-on, or nearly so, the operator of each shall cause his vessel to pass on the port (left) side of the other (i.e. keep the approaching boat to your left).
4. When overtaking a vessel proceeding in the same direction, the operator of the overtaking vessel, unless it is not feasible to do so, shall pass on the port (left) side of the vessel ahead (i.e. keep the overtaken boat to your right).

All vessels are required to provide AT LEAST one Coast Guard approved PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICE per passenger (including watersters). Each child under the age of 6 years, and in an open deck area is REQUIRED to wear a PFD AT ALL TIMES.

5. When 2 vessels are approaching each other at right angles or obliquely so as to involve risk of collision, the operator of the vessel which has the other on his own port (left) side shall hold his course and speed, and the operator of the vessel which has the other on his own starboard (right) side shall give way to the other by directing his course to starboard so as to cross the stern of the other vessel or, if necessary to do so, shall slacken his speed, stop or reverse.

IX. RESPONSIBILITY FOR VESSEL WAKE

The owner of any vessel is personally responsible for any damage to life or property resulting from a wake or swell created by the negligent operation



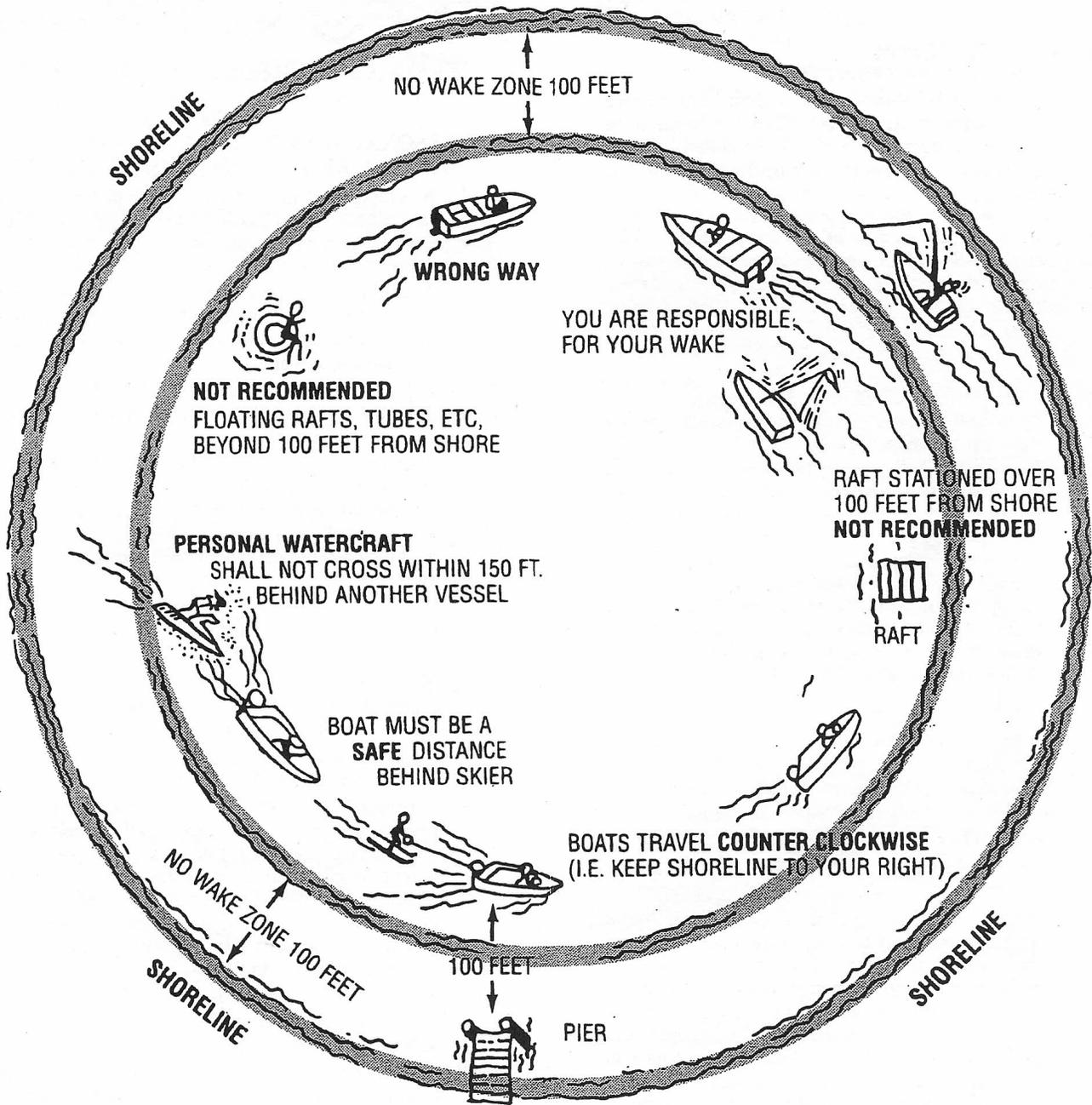
of the vessel, where the vessel is being operated with his consent.

X. PERSONAL WATERCRAFT (JET SKI) SPECIAL REGULATIONS (April 1, 1999)

1. A person shall maintain a distance of 100 ft. from any dock, boat, raft, buoyed or occupied bathing area while driving at other than slow - no wake speed
2. A person operating a personal watercraft shall not cross within 150 feet behind another vessel, other than a personal watercraft, except when traveling at a slow-no wake speed.
3. A person shall not operate a personal watercraft between one hour before sunset and 8:00 o'clock a.m. the following day.
4. Maneuvers that endanger life, limb, or property, including weaving through congested traffic, jumping the wake of another vessel unreasonably or unnecessarily close to the other vessel or when visibility around the other vessel is obstructed, and swerving at the last possible moment to avoid a collision constitute reckless operation of a vessel.
5. Carrying more persons than the vessel is designed to carry is prima facie evidence of reckless operation.
6. Lanyards must be attached to the operator on vessels that are equipped with lanyards.
7. Personal watercraft *shall not* be operated by anyone under 14 years of age.
8. A person who is 12 or more and less than 14 may operate a personal watercraft if all the following circumstances exist, (1) when accompanied by a parent or guardian (2) both the operator and the parent or guardian have obtained a boating safety certificate (3) the PWC is designed to carry not less than 2 persons, and (4) the lanyard cut-off switch is attached to the parent or legal guardian.
9. Persons born after December 31, 1978 shall not operate a personal watercraft unless they obtain a boating safety certificate.
10. Persons operating or riding on or being towed behind a personal watercraft must wear an approved personal flotation device. (Type I, Type II or Type III).
11. Persons operating vessels on the waters of this state, shall operate vessels on a counter-clockwise fashion to the extent that is reasonably possible. (Section 80149)

The maximum speed for vessels on Michigan waters, unless established otherwise, is 55 miles per hour (Section 80146(2))





Please be advised that this summary of Michigan boating regulations is provided as a general guide only. You are ultimately responsible for knowing and understanding the provisions of the NR&EPA - Public Act 451, Sub-Chapter 5, Part 801 - Marine Safety and Part 802 - Personal Watercraft regulations. An on-line Michigan boater safety course may be accessed on-line at www.boat-ed.com/mi/

In 2008, Act 451, Part 802 - Personal Watercraft regulations was amended to facilitate increased PWC operational safety on Michigan waters. Effective October 1, 2011, persons under the age of 16, but no less than 14, may not operate Personal Watercraft on the waters of this state unless several conditions have been met. As of this date, all persons less than 14 years old are prohibited under any circumstances from operating a PWC.

CLA Membership Application and Donation Form

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Mailing City, State & Zip _____

Crystal Address _____

Contact Phone _____ Email _____

GO PAPERLESS!

CHECK HERE IF YOU WOULD LIKE FUTURE CORRESPONDENCE VIA EMAIL _____

2011 ANNUAL DUES (\$35.00) \$ _____

FIREWORKS DONATION \$ _____

LEGAL FUND DONATION \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

WE NOW ACCEPT PAYPAL, CREDIT CARDS or ACH. Pay to: Crystal Lake Association

Mail To: Crystal Lake Association (CLA)

PO Box 307, Crystal MI 48818

Crystal Lake Association

P.O. Box 307

Crystal, MI 48818