

Eyes on the Lake Program

Lake: Grayson Lake

Corps POC: Wayne Rigor

Partnership Type: Volunteer

Story:

The premise behind this Volunteer effort was:

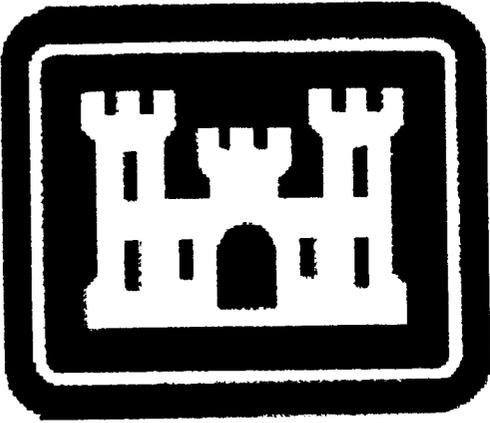
- a. Our FTE's at field project kept getting cut (fewer Rangers and for those we have less time to devote to water safety boat patrols)
- b. We kept getting people calling or coming in office on a Monday complaining about boater(s) who were operating their boats in dangerous manner the past weekend. Obviously we cannot do much on Monday about this situation (since most complaints also did not include any type of boat registration or descriptions that we could trace).
- c. We needed more people actually on the lake looking for serious life threatening type violations, so the "Eyes on the Lake" Volunteer program was created.

Eyes on the Lake Program consists of volunteers who are willing to report in real time to a Corps Ranger (or other law officials) boating violations at the time they are occurring.

The Steps were:

1. Sent an abbreviated electronic "feeler" for volunteers to all District Employees (our District office is only 35 miles away so had potential pool of 400 there, some of whom boated at our lake)
2. Scheduled an Orientation Session and Training our with interested parties
3. Discussed the details of Volunteer program as outlined in attachment with potential volunteers
4. If they were still interested, we issued extra hand held Corps radios (hand receipted) to each Volunteer and then proceeded to train them on use of radios, violation observations, etc. as outlined in attachment. NOTE: In our mountains, cell phones are virtually worthless on our lake, but in areas of cell phone coverage, cell phones could be substituted for Corps Radios.
5. When serious violations occur, Volunteers are generally able to reach a Ranger and report exact location, description of vessel, occupants etc. (and Rangers respond). Our lake is 20 miles long so it's like pin-pointing radiation treatment at a very specific cancer cell spot -- VERY efficient use of Ranger patrol time.
6. The program has been very successful and was credited with actually saving a life with timely call.

NOTE: We received adequate number of Corps employee volunteers so we did not need to go out to Community. Obviously, the Volunteers need to be screened VERY CAREFULLY to keep from getting "Cowboys" or numerous minor violation nuisance calls (not to mention they have a Corps Radio in their possession). The average number of volunteer hours counted in good years was 400-500 hrs per summer, and the value to the project has ranged from \$6,000 to \$8,000 a year.



**WATER SAFETY VOLUNTEER
OBSERVER PROGRAM**

**Grayson Lake
U.S. Army Corps Of Engineers**



Grayson Lake



WATER SAFETY VOLUNTEER OBSERVER PROGRAM

How to report your observation

Grayson Office Phone

606-474-5815

606-474-5107

Radio Call Signs

Grayson Office WUE 473

Ranger Staff WUE 4732 and WUE 4734

Volunteer WUE 4738

Office Hours

Monday thru Friday 7:30 to 4:00

Saturday and Sunday 9:30 to 6:00

RADIO USAGE

DO NOT TOUCH RADIO ANTENNAS WHEN TRANSMITTING! THIS CAN CAUSE ELECTRIC BURNS AND INJURIES.

Your radios are only set up to transmit and receive on two Corp frequencies. They are not CB's or marina radios.

You must keep them charged.

Any SCANNER can pick up radio traffic- so be careful what you say - you will attract a crowd of onlookers!!

DON'T say you have a **DROWNING**. Simply tell the Ranger you need them there ASAP or IMMEDIATELY. It's ok to tell of **personal injury** i.e cliff diving accident.

FREQUENCIES

1. Frequency # 1:

This is LOCAL frequency and normally does not carry far (1/2 to one mile).

2. Frequency # 2:

This goes through a REPEATER and can be heard clear to Huntington WV AND all local scanners.

NOTE: On this frequency, you **MUST** hold the mike key down for **2-3 seconds BEFORE YOU START TALKING**. Anything you say before that goes unheard.

3. Cliff lines:

Cliff lines block radio transmissions. Go to open water to transmit better.

TRANSMISSIONS

1. Always use **WUE ####**.

2. When you call someone else:

Use office or person you are calling **first**, then **your** call sign.

a. To call Grayson office: "WUE 473, this is WUE 478___"

b. To call Grayson Ranger: "WUE 473___, this is WUE 478___"

3. When someone calls you:

Use your call sign **first**, then say "go ahead" i.e.

"This is WUE 473___, go ahead".

4. To END transmission say "WUE 473___ OUT" (Do NOT say over and out - that's from old movies).

When can I reach someone by cell phone?

During regular office hours you will be able to contact a Corps employee who will relay your report of observation to a Ranger.

Office hours:

Monday thru Friday 7:30am to 4:00pm
Saturday and Sunday 9:30am to 6:00pm

Office phone:

(606) 474-5107
(606) 474-5815

Who will respond to your call?

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

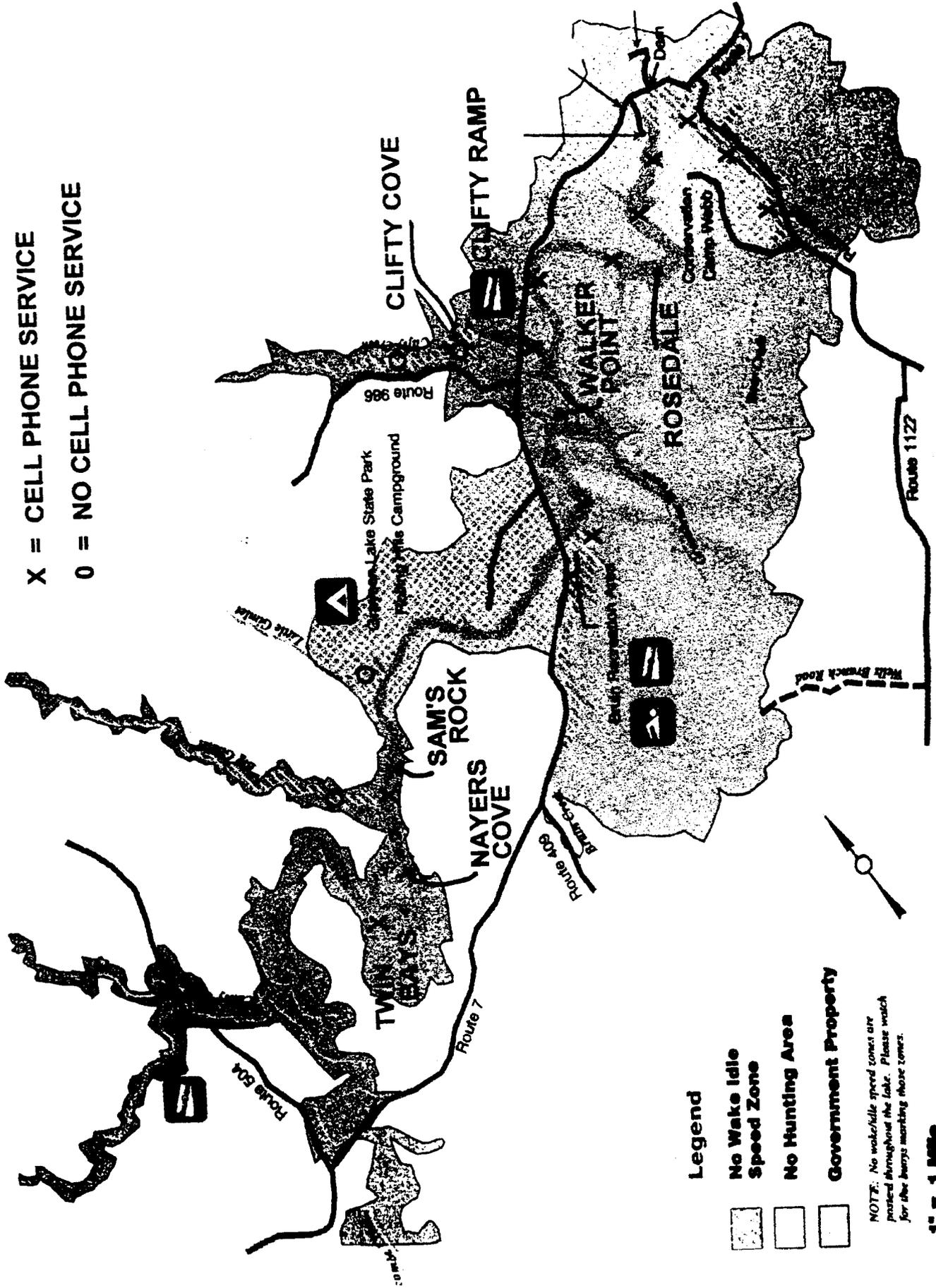
Wayne Rigor	Resource Manager (Fatality emergency ONLY 474-8243)
Bernita McCloud	Park Ranger
David Scragg	Park Ranger

If the need arises, a Corps Ranger could dispatch one of the following officers to the scene of the reported observation.

Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife

Barry Blair	Law Enforcement Officer
Kenny Skaggs	Conservation Officer
Buddy Grayson	Conservation Officer

X = CELL PHONE SERVICE
 O = NO CELL PHONE SERVICE



Legend

-  No Wake Idle Speed Zone
-  No Hunting Area
-  Government Property

NOTE: No wake/idle speed zones are posted throughout the lake. Please watch for the buoys marking those zones.

1" = 1 MILE

WHAT TO REPORT

1. ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION or OPERATING UNDER THE INFLUENCE:

a. We are NOT out to nail the responsible, casual, recreational drinker i.e. sitting at a table on a houseboat slowly traveling up the lake, and you see a Budweiser can - DO NOT report it.

b. We DO WANT to know about reckless operation of boats if "caused" by drinking - i.e. operating on wrong side of lake; driving erratic all over the lake; boat full of young people throwing empty beer cans over board etc.

c. Also see CLIFF DIVING this section

2. OVERLOADED BOATS:

a. Use your best judgement - does it LOOK over loaded and is water about to splash over the sides. Are people wearing PFD's?

3. PERSONAL WATERCRAFT:

a. The list is endless here. Again is the operation a nuisance or is it REALLY dangerous to life and limb i.e. are they jumping the wakes of houseboats 50 feet behind the boat or 5 feet behind the boat? Are they entering swimming zones with lots of people or kids?

4. SWIMMERS OR CHEAP AIR MATTRESSES:

a. Neither of these need to be in the middle of busy boating channels. They should be close to shore. Late afternoon is especially dangerous as sun angles can blind on coming traffic.

5. PROHIBITED RIDING:

a. Riding on decks or gunwales with feet dangling over the side (unless encased by a railing), or in a high rise bass seat (while under full power and not fishing) is especially dangerous.

6. CLIFF DIVING:

a. Cliff diving IS PERMITTED BY LAW. We only need to know about it if you see alcohol involved.

7. BUOYS:

a. If a boat is tied off to a buoy, we want to know. This is not life threatening, but it is EXPENSIVE to correct when pulled off line, and it could be a safety issue if a hazard is not marked because the buoy has been pulled 500' away. Our buoys are not designed as mooring anchors.

8. IDLE SPEED ZONE:

a. This is the toughest judgement call of all. We could spend all day chasing down these reports, therefore, we will only respond to cases where safety is involved, or SEVERE property damage is almost certain.

WHAT TO REPORT (Cont.)

9. LITTERING:

a. This will not be tolerated. It is an offense that effects everyone and detracts from the beauty of a lake. Everyone knows better.

OBSERVATIONS NECESSARY FOR REPORTING and WITNESS STATEMENTS

1. There are a host of observations you need to make before reporting an incident to a Ranger. **NOTE: IT IS IMPERATIVE YOU IDENTIFY THE OPERATOR OF THE VESSEL OR PERSON WHO COMMITTED THE VIOLATION!** Observations fall into two categories:

1. **IDENTIFICATIONS NECESSARY FOR RANGER TO BE ASSURED THEY HAVE STOPPED THE RIGHT BOAT, TALKING TO THE VIOLATOR(S) and MAY ISSUE A CITATION TO THE CORRECT PERSON:**

BOAT IDENTIFICATION:

- a. Runabout, houseboat, pontoon, jet ski, other
- b. Inboard or outboard (one/two outboard motors)
- c. Color(s) of boat (over/under colors)
- d. Registration numbers
- e. Brand name
- f. Approx size
- g. Other distinguishing characteristics: i.e. double decker house boat, open top pontoon, BBQ grill on front, ski tow bar, etc.
- h. How many people in boat
- i. Ages, sexes of people in boat.
- j. Color of clothes driver wearing. Often times, people will switch drivers after a violation.

PEOPLE IDENTIFICATION:

- a. Male or Female (how many of each in vessel or group)
- b. Clothing of person committing most serious violation.
type and color i.e. yellow bikini, or blue T shirt with white cut-offs.
- c. Caps, hair length

2. **IDENTIFICATION OF CIRCUMSTANCES THAT MADE THIS SUCH A SERIOUS VIOLATION:** These are observations we (you) might have to use to convince a U.S. Magistrate that the wake caused by a boat was so serious that this person should pay \$ or appear in court! Pick the one's that apply to your incident. They may include but are not limited to:

- a. Date, time, exact location of incident.
- b. Weather Visibility
- c. Wind/Sea conditions (raining, storm brewing, high winds)
- d. Proximity of swimmers other boats to violator or visa vera?
- e. How high were waves and how much did a boat or boat(s) rock

**OBSERVATIONS NECESSARY FOR REPORTING and WITNESS STATEMENTS
(Cont.)**

because of no wake violations.

f. A brief, clear description of pertinent facts relative to the manner in which the vessel was being negligently or recklessly operated, or facts pertinent to other violations.

g. How many beer cans did they throw out of boat?

h. How are you SURE of your identification i.e. did you see them with binoculars or video tape them?

i. What makes you think they KNEW they were doing something wrong? i.e. did they stop when the water patrol went by?

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CORPS WATER SAFETY OBSERVER VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

PURPOSE:

Place more responsible persons on Grayson lake to observe and immediately report select, or severe, water safety violations or acts which could lead to injury or death.

WHO:

Volunteers from the active Corps of Engineers employment ranks. (Corps retirees may be considered at later date).

WHERE:

Lake waters or shoreline of Grayson Lake.

WHEN:

Effective upon completion of two hour training session and continuing until volunteer notifies Corps of withdrawal from the program, or until the trial program is terminated.

HOW:

a. Volunteers will receive a two hour training session by citation officers from the Grayson staff, and a packet of training, procedural, and reference materials relating to this program. Only those violations or situations listed by Grayson staff should be reported unless you observe a situation which in your best judgement could result in serious injury or death to anyone.

b. Volunteers use two methods to report incidents to Ranger:

1) Cell Phone = Phones are owned by Volunteer and any use charges paid by volunteer.

2) Corps Radio = Radios tuned to Corps frequency only will be hand receipted to Volunteer who is then responsible for their safeguarding and authorized use. NOTE: Radios are official government property on people's property accounts and therefore must be accountable for.

c. Phone calls will be to the Grayson Office and on duty staff will relay your message to Rangers on patrol via Corps radio.

At best, office staffed 7:30 a.m - 6:00 p.m. Sat/Sun/Hol and 7:30 to 4:00 Mon-Fri.

d. Radio transmissions can be direct to Ranger units. NOTE: Rangers will have to make their own judgement calls and may NOT be able to immediately respond to every report. IT IS IMPERATIVE you understand Rangers have a 15 mile long lake to cover and they may be 8-10 miles from you and on another mission. If they respond to your call, they may not be able to patrol some areas of the lake even once that day.

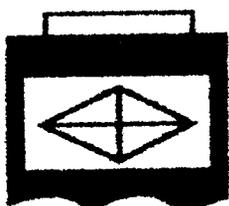
e. Corps Rangers may relay your report to other State water patrol units..

VOLUNTEER RESPONSIBILITIES AND AGREEMENTS:

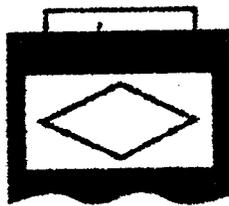
- a. Sign a volunteer agreement (does not obligate you set number of hours, weeks or months).
- b. Security and authorized use of government equipment.
(Sign a property loan receipt).
(Untrained family or friends are NOT to use radios)
- c. Safeguard all volunteer papers, call signs, hours of operations by staff etc.
- d. All cell phone costs are at expense of volunteer.
- e. Only report select or serious violations.
- f. Serve as witness for court proceedings (may be written witness statement or court appearance).
- g. Be discrete in your observations and reporting procedures. (One desired result of this program is violators will never know who might report them).
- h. DO NOT TAKE ANY ACTIONS AGAINST VIOLATORS.
 - i. DO NOT identify yourself as a volunteer observer.
 - j DO NOT leave Corps radio turned up and conversations (traffic) can be heard by every anchored boat in your cove.
- k. Follow radio protocol.
- l. Video taping violations is permissible and encouraged (Corps will replace your tape).

Violations

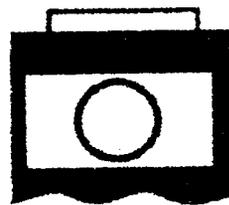
Uniform State Waterway Marking System



Boats Keep Out!
Nature of danger may be placed outside crossed diamond, e.g., waterfalls, swim areas, or rapids.



Danger!
Nature of danger may be indicated inside the diamond shape, e.g., rocks, reefs, dams, construction, or snags.

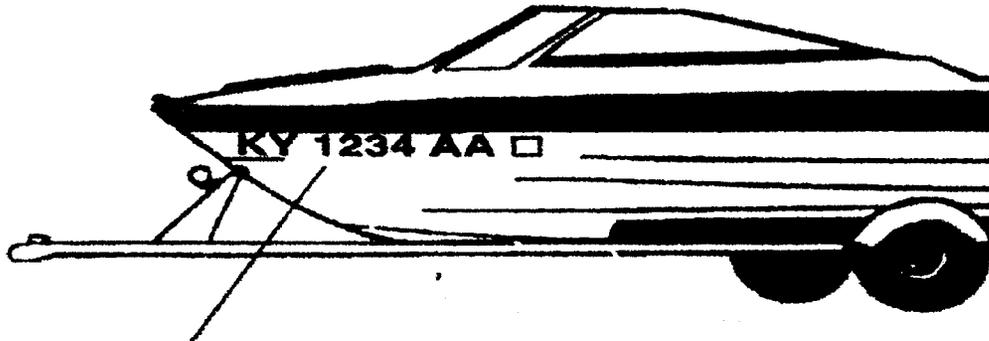


Caution!
Controlled Area as indicated in circle, e.g. speed limit, no fishing, no anchoring, ski only, slow-no wake, no ski, or no prop boats.

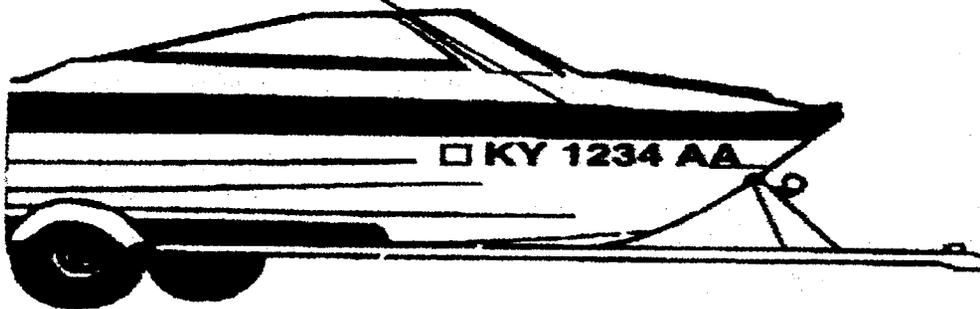
Buoys

Buoys are the most common type of navigational aid, and they serve the same purpose as traffic signs on the highway. Failure to obey buoys can result in enforcement action, or worse, a loss of property or lives. When boating in unfamiliar waters, slow down and look for any regulatory or channel marking buoys, and remember, it is possible for these buoys to drift out of position. Kentucky law prohibits from tying up to any buoy except designated mooring buoys.

Correct Display of Numbers and Decal



Registration Decal



Idle Speed

Kentucky law defines idle speed as the "slowest speed possible to maintain maneuverability" of a boat. Generally speaking for a properly adjusted boat, this is the speed when a boat is put into gear without advancing the throttle. All but the very smallest boats when operated above idle speed will create a hazardous wash or wake. Wakes can capsize small boats or cause damage to boats moored at marinas and docks. It is extremely important that boat operators be aware of their speed and the resulting wake. Operators are liable for any injuries or damage caused by their boat's wake.

Operating Under the Influence

In the state of Kentucky, it is against the law to operate a boat while intoxicated or under the influence of any narcotic drug, barbiturate or marijuana. Those persons who are detected by law enforcement officers to be in violation will be subject to sobriety testing and arrest.

Alcohol Intoxication

Public Intoxication

Drinking in Public

Kentucky law (KRS 222.202) specifically prohibits the drinking of alcoholic beverages in public places (this excludes establishments licensed to sell such beverages) and the waterways of this state are considered public places.

Further, this law states that persons in a public place "manifestly" under the influence of alcoholic beverages to the extent that they may "unreasonably annoy" or "endanger themselves or others" shall be guilty of Alcohol Intoxication and subject to arrest.

Persons under the influence of intoxicating substances other than alcoholic beverages or in addition to alcoholic beverages and meeting the above criteria will also be subject to arrest.