



Marine Patrol Lifeguards Water Safety Instructors

TO: Mark Musilli, General Manager
FROM: Richard D. Carlson, Jr. , Waterfront Director
DATE: December 30, 2016
RE: MARINE PATROL REPORT FOR 2016

The following report is a synopsis of the activities of the Lake Mohawk Marine Patrol from Memorial Day weekend to October 1, 2016. Attached is a statistical report.

MISSION:

The primary mission of the Lake Mohawk Marine Patrol is to provide safety and security for all boaters, members and guests on Lake Mohawk. The Marine Patrol enforces and stresses boating safety regulations for both state and club regulations in order to ensure a safe boating environment to reduce or eliminate potential injuries and hazards. The Marine Patrol provides services inclusive of assisting disabled vessels, towing disabled boats, rescue of capsized or sinking boats, deep water rescue with assistance of Lifeguard staff, reporting and marking of navigation hazards, safety and security protective lines for ski shows, fireworks and Yacht Club races.

In addition, the Marine Patrol provides security functions in protecting club assets, primarily in the form of checking boat registrations and club tags on all boats, canoes, kayaks, and other vessels on Lake Mohawk. Monitoring of the Beach 5 boat ramp gate and reporting trespassing vessels is also essential to protecting the lake.

The Marine Patrol works in cooperation with the office staff, Lifeguards and maintenance staff of the club. They enjoy a positive working relationship with the Lake Mohawk Ski Hawks, Yacht Club, Power Boat Club, Marina and both the Sparta Police Department and the New Jersey State Police Marine Bureau.

PERSONNEL:

Nine Marine Safety Officers were employed and assigned for this 2016 season.

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| 1) Richard D. Carlson - | MP1 |
| 2) Ken Thompson - | MP2 |
| 3) John Hayowyk - | MP8 |
| 4) Driscoll Bowlby | MP-11 |
| 5) Michael Radeloff | MP-12 |
| 6) Spencer Davis | MP-14 |
| 7) Craig Brown | MP-16 |
| 8) Will McHugh | MP-17 |
| 9) James Cosmano | MP-18 |

SHIFTS:

Each Marine Safety Officer was assigned an average of 28 shifts consisting of six (6) hours per shift. The scheduled shifts were primarily divided between 11:00 AM and 11:00 PM with an extra overlapping and early shift on weekends. This overlapping shift provided double coverage during the heavy boat traffic hours on weekends. Rich Carlson filled in when needed for special events, emergencies and vacations.

MSO's were present at the Beach 5 Boat Ramp on weekends during May and June to ensure that boats were properly registered and displayed valid state and club tags.

A total of 220 regular shifts were assigned for the summer. Additional patrols were added for three Ski Hawks shows, the Dragon Boat Races, Fireworks, the Triathlon, Spartan Challenge and FloatFest.

TRAINING:

Marine Safety Officers undertook training during the off season to be better prepared for service during the boating season. Meetings were also conducted as needed for pre and post season preparation, special events and operations. This was done on their own time.

All Marine Safety Officers are trained and certified in CPR/AED for the Professional Rescuer, First Aid, Emergency Oxygen Administration, Bloodborne Pathogens, and Basic Water Rescue. In addition, they have received specialized training in Hazardous Materials, Marine Firefighting, Towing, Incident Command Systems, Marine Accident Investigation and report writing.

On June 26th, all MSO's and Lifeguards participated in training exercises off the Yacht Club docks. Lifeguards were assigned to one of two training sessions, either 8:00-10:00 AM or 10:00 AM to 12 noon. All participants completed training in deep water backboarding, capsized rescue, and throwing assists.

Continued In-service training was conducted during the season and included:

- Deep-water spinal injury management with the Lifeguard staff.
- Increased boat rescue training with the Lifeguard staff during non-busy hours.
- Proper and safe towing techniques of boats.
- Proper and safe methods of assisting capsized sailboats by the Lake Mohawk Yacht Club.
- Search and Rescue drills with Lifeguard staff inclusive of directing and assisting in dive rescues.
- Man Overboard buoy drills with Lifeguard staff.
- Environmental and HAZMAT spills.
- Federal, New Jersey state and L.M.C.C. boating regulations.
- Boating Accident Investigation Reports

ACTIVITIES:

The following incidents and activities were reported:

- The Marine Patrol and Lifeguards provided safety and security services for the 2nd Annual Dragon Boat Races from May 11th to 15th. Approximately 50 teams of 22 people each participated in this year's event. Practice for the teams was scheduled from May 11th to 14th with at least one Marine Patrol unit and two Lifeguards present for each practice session. The race itself was conducted on Sunday, May 15th with no incidents reported nor observed. Six MP units and 12 Lifeguards were assigned to this event.
- From mid May until July 2nd, a M.S.O. was assigned on weekends to the Boat Ramp at Beach 5. This M.S.O. checked boats launching into the lake for proper registration and LMCC tags. Written and verbal advisories regarding penalties for non compliance with boat registration were provided. The M.S.O. also assisted members with launching boats and directing traffic at the ramp when it got busy. This activity proved successful and was received well by members.
- On May 18th, R. Carlson met with the N.J. State Police Marine Bureau regarding the upcoming boating season and reviewed administrative and legal requirements.
- On May 19th, R. Carlson attended the Boating Safety Instructor recert course at the N.J. State Police Marine Bureau headquarters in Trenton.
- On May 22nd, the Marine Patrol and Road Department removed a dead deer from the lake.
- On May 26th, regular patrols began for the season with the Memorial Day weekend.
- On May 30th, a minor boat collision occurred at the Boardwalk docks. No injuries were reported nor observed. A Boat Collision report was completed and forwarded to the N.J. State Police Marine Bureau in Lake Hopatcong. Subsequent investigation led to a summons issued by the NJSP to one operator for no boating safety certificate.
- On June 9th, attended a meeting with Sparta Police regarding water safety and rescue training. Also, on June 9th, a meeting of the Dock Chairmen was conducted.
- On June 24th, attended the Sparta Office of Emergency Management meeting regarding July 4th events on the lake.
- On July 1st, the Marine Patrol was called out after midnight for a boat speeding up and down the lake. MSO R.D. Carlson responded with two Sparta Police Officers and located a boat in the south end matching the description of the boat. Subsequent investigation led to a written complaint to the LMCC Marine Services Board of Adjudication where the boat operator admitted speeding after dark. The boat operator had boating privileges suspended for thirty days and administered the written examination on LMCC Marine Rules and Regulations.
- On July 4th, the Marine Patrol set up a safety picket line for the annual Ski Hawks show. Seven Marine Patrol units were deployed for the Fireworks show. M-1 and the Lake Mohawk Marina towed the fireworks barge out and back in for the show. Buoy

were borrowed from the Lake Mohawk Yacht Club also. Due to inclement weather and technical difficulties the fireworks show was repeated on July 15th.

- On July 15th, a member reported a large powerboat attempting to launch at Twin Hickory docks. MSOs responded and stopped a non-member from launching a 21 ft. inboard cabin cruiser. No damage reported nor observed to LMCC property. The non-member was advised, information recorded and escorted off the reservation.
- On July 17th, the Marine Patrol assisted Lifeguards at Beach 1 on a multiple water rescue.
- The 7th Annual Lake Mohawk Triathlon was conducted on July 23rd. Six Marine Safety Officers and 22 Lifeguards comprised the water safety team to provide safety and rescue when needed for the 234 swimming contestants. Both M.S.O.s and Lifeguards planned and trained together to prepare for any number of rescues needed. The Jefferson Twp Fire Department Dive Team again assisted this year on site in case of any missing swimmers. The Lake Mohawk Marina loaned us their pontoon boat for this event. Five swimmers were rescued or assisted during this event.
- On July 23rd, MSO D.Bowlby and Lifeguards from Beach 3 responded and rescued four people from a capsized sailboat in the middle of the lake. No one on board had lifejackets available and two reported that they could not swim. A passing member boat assisted as well.
- On July 26th, a sailboat capsized in a storm and was abandoned at the south end of Manitou Island. The operator was able to swim to the island. The boat was partially sunk and declared a navigation hazard by the NJSP Marine Bureau. It was removed within 24 hours.
- On August 20th, MP units were assigned to the FloatFest. No reportable incidents occurred. The NJ State Police also assigned a unit to this event.
- On August 28th, MSO Ken Thompson rescued two adult males who attempted to swim from Beach 1 to the Ski Hawks ski ramp after lifeguards had gone off duty. Two young adult males began to swim out to the ramp and started to struggle. A third adult male relative went to rescue them and it became an active double drowning. M.S.O. Thompson was on Marine Patrol and saw them and quickly brought his boat in close to them and grabbed both and got them aboard. He then went for the third victim and was just about to throw his rescue tube to him when the third victim had somehow managed to get closer to shore and was able to stand up.
- Debris in the form of loose docks, wood, and other flotsam were recovered and removed as needed.
- There was an increase in the number of kayaks and non-powered watercraft.
- With each beach equipped with a Marine band portable radio, Lifeguards were able to report directly to the Marine Patrol on duty when needed. Lifeguards reported

unescorted swimmers, disabled boats, boats in distress and other dangerous conditions. Lifeguards at different beaches were able to communicate cross bearings to the Marine Patrol on duty to provide accurate locations and thus expedited response.

- M.S.O.s made frequent contacts with small craft to ensure that PFDs were either worn when required or readily available. PFDs were loaned out by M.S.O.s when needed. By educating this segment of the boating community, a safer and more positive boating experience seemed to occur.
- The Marine Patrol continued warning small craft of fast approaching storms and either escorting them or towing them to safety. This was a result of using the portable marine radios to scan the local NOAA weather channel and alert system. This resulted in positive results with the boaters. Some small craft paddlers would be taken aboard a Marine Patrol unit and transported along with their crafts to shore for safety.
- Approximately 30 letters were sent to members regarding violations of either no LMCC boat tags or unregistered boats.
- Safety briefings along with handout material inclusive of L.M.C.C. and New Jersey Boating regulations were given to new boaters when encountered at both the Boardwalk docks and the Marina. Proper fitting and sizing of PFDs was also offered during the course of the summer to boaters and skiers.
- The Marine Patrol continued its active campaign to educate our boaters in the requirements for use in small craft.
- The Marine Patrol continued its presence during Ski Hawk practice, Yacht Club sailing classes and sailing races.
- Increased cooperation and communication with New Jersey State Police Marine Bureau in Lake Hopatcong and the Sparta Police Department.
- The Marine Patrol has met with the Marine Services Committee several times during the year.
- 667 power boats and 990 non powered boats were registered this season with the club.
- All navigation aides, buoys and lights were deployed and checked for proper position and working order. In October, these navigation aides were removed and stored in the basement garage at the Guardhouse for inventory and winter storage.

NEW PROGRAMS/ACTIVITIES:

- Rescue Flotation Devices (RFD) were distributed and placed at beach Docks 4, 5, 6, Twin Hickory, Alpine, Manitou and Tamarack. These RFDs were stenciled with the individual Dock name on one side and emergency rescue instructions on the other. These were placed at the entrance to each dock. These RFDs were donated by Suspended Aquatics in Garwood, NJ. The RFDs are visible and provide our members with a lifesaving rescue device if needed. This enhances our water safety program and initiative here at Lake Mohawk.

- A Lost and Found program was initiated this year where found items such as water recreational tubes, skis, paddleboards, fenders, paddles and kayaks were recovered, inventoried and stored for pick up. These items were reported to the office. The office also forwarded members' requests for lost items. Most items were returned to their owners. Remaining items were brought to the Road Department garage at the end of the season to either be donated or discarded.
- The Marine Patrol assisted several beach associations with placement and removal of their swim docks during the pre and post season.
- The Marine Patrol took over responsibility for the club work boat/pontoon. This boat was used for the placement and removal of navigational buoys and towing of the fireworks barge as well as other assignments such as underwater salvage of items lost by the boardwalk. It was primarily docked at the Beach 5 boat ramp. By docking here, the boat was protected from the waves and environment by Beach 1 and sustained little damage.
- The Marine Patrol is grateful to the following for their assistance and cooperation this summer: The Lake Mohawk Yacht Club, the Lake Mohawk Marina, the Lake Mohawk Lifeguards, and the Lake Mohawk Country Club office, Boardwalk and maintenance staff.
- The Sparta Police Department has requested and received training and certification in Basic Water Rescue from the Marine Patrol. Currently 27 of their police officers have been certified by R. Carlson and J. Hayowyk. This program will be extended to the Sparta Fire Department as well.

MARINE SERVICES BOARD OF ADJUDICATION HEARINGS:

The Marine Services and Lake Safety Committee convened four Boards of Adjudication to conduct hearings on serious safety violations this season. This committee is appointed by the Board of Trustees and upon completing a hearing, reports their findings and recommendations to the Board of Trustees who affirms, disagrees or remands the findings and recommendations. The following remedial actions were approved and documented.

- On the July 13th hearing, an operator had boating privileges revoked for 12 months and successfully complete a remedial boating safety course. The hearing involved violations of speeding after dark, operating without navigation lights, reckless operation, and leaving the scene of a boating accident with injuries.
- On the July 20th hearing, an operator had boating privileges suspended for one month and required to successfully complete a remedial written examination on LMCC Marine Rules and Regulations. The hearing involved speeding after dark.
- On the July 26th hearing, an owner/operator had all boating privileges revoked, inclusive of removal of any and all watercraft owned from the lake until successful completion of an approved N.J. State Boating Safety course. written examination of the LMCC Marine Rules and Regulations and inspection and approval of any watercraft to be operated on Lake Mohawk. The hearing involved unsafe operation of vessel, no PFDs on board, endangering the lives of others, no Boating Safety Certificate, and causing a navigation hazard.

- On the September 3rd hearing, an operator was suspended for one month (July 2017) and required to successfully complete a remedial written examination on LMCC Marine Rules and Regulations. This hearing involved speeding after dark.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The following are recommendations developed by all members of the Marine Patrol to better serve and safeguard Lake Mohawk and the boating community. These recommendations are based on observations, activities, training, incidents, legal and safety concerns.

1. In order to better enforce safety and club violations, it is recommended that the club implement a reporting system where the MSO can issue a preprinted form with a copy to both the boater and the club office. This will provide for an improved and timely tracking system. There would be no monetary penalties imposed except for expired LMCC tags. However, after several violations by a boat or boater, the Marine Services Committee should be advised. The cost for this program would be nominal.
2. It is recommended that when members register their powerboats, that in addition to showing proof of current registration and insurance, they provide proof of a Boating Safety Certificate. Email addresses should also be provided in order to contact boaters directly when needed. Boat members should sign an acknowledgement that they have received and/or reviewed a copy of the LMCC Marine Rules and Regulations.
3. It is recommended that the navigation light system on the Manitou Bridge be replaced or upgraded. The current system is proving unreliable and needs frequent maintenance. It is recommended that a more cost effective and efficient solar powered system be installed.
4. It is recommended that an addition be put on the Beach 5 Boat Ramp dock alongside the ramp. This 10-12 foot addition will provide extra room for the club maintenance boat and member boats using the ramp. The addition would not interfere with the Beach 5 boat docks. The estimated cost for this addition would be
5. It is recommended that to ensure a more timely and fair enforcement of violations of boats without proper club tags and registration, that a system of form letters be mailed out to violators within five (5) days of the violation. This should increase compliance with club rules. All Marine Patrol reports will be required to be submitted within 24 hours of completion of assignment. One MSO in charge of records will then forward any violation reports to the office for member contact information and confirm information. Once information is confirmed, a form letter should be mailed to the violator requesting that the vessel in question be properly registered with the club and/or state within five (5) days or the penalty prescribed in the Marine Rules and Regulations will incur.

6. The navigation chart for the main lake should be updated to reflect changing hazards from previous charts. Navigation buoys can then be properly deployed to reflect these changes.
7. Because the Marine Patrol has to respond to emergencies and assignments in all types of weather, it is recommended that at least two more float coats be purchased and made available for any LMCC MSO or employee using the club boat during cold water boating season.
8. During the boating off season, it sometimes becomes necessary to access the lake. It is recommended that the club purchase or acquire a small flat bottom aluminum row boat that can easily be deployed for the Upper Lake, Alpine and the Main Lake as needed.
9. Since there has been a change in personnel in the Road Department and Maintenance Department, it is recommended that these new employees be trained in basic water rescue. Mr. Curt Ross, Road Dept. Supervisor, was instrumental in having some of his crew trained since the Road Department is usually operating around the lake all year round and before lifeguards are on duty. Club building maintenance staff were trained as well under Tom Conway's supervision since they were usually working around on the boardwalk all year round and during the off hours of lifeguards.
10. An increase in complaints and calls for service have generated related to open water swimmers and young children unaccompanied at Beach 1 especially when the Tiki Bar is open. Despite No Swimming/Closed signs posted, several incidents have occurred involving potential non swimmers and trespassers. It is recommended that no swimming be permitted at Beach 1 when Lifeguards are not present. It is also recommended that no one under the age of 18 be permitted on the beach or in the water whenever the Tiki Bar is open. A security guard should be dedicated to Beach 1 during hours when the Tiki Bar is open.
11. Keep Off warning signs should be posted on the Ski Hawks' ski ramp.
12. Cooperation and coordination between the Marine Patrol and the security company should be instituted especially in calls for bridge jumpers, open water swimmers and beach trespassers after 10 PM.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you need any further information or assistance pertaining to the Lake Mohawk Marine Patrol.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard D. Carlson, Jr.

Attach: 2016 Statistical Report

