

VILLAGE OF TWIN LAKES

ORDINANCE NO. 2003-8-3

An Ordinance to Amend Section 8.36.050 of the Twin Lakes Code of Ordinances Pertaining to Boating and Water Code and Additional Traffic Rules

The President and the Trustees of the VILLAGE OF TWIN LAKES, Kenosha County, Wisconsin, do herewith ordain as follows, to wit:

SECTION I

Section 8.36.050 (E) of the Twin Lakes Code of Ordinances pertaining to Additional Traffic Rules is hereby amended to read as follows:

8.36.050 Additional traffic rules.

E. No person shall operate a motor boat at a speed in excess of slow-no-wake between the hours of sunset or eight p.m., whichever occurs earliest, and nine a.m. unless the operator of such boat has obtained a permit for a special activity as provided in Section 8.36.100.

SECTION II

All ordinance or parts of ordinances contravening the terms and conditions of this ordinance are hereby to that extent repealed.

SECTION III

This ordinance shall take effect on January 1, 2004 upon passage as provided by law, and the Village Clerk shall so amend the Village of Twin Lakes Code of Ordinances, and shall indicate the date and number of this creating ordinance herein.

Dated this 18th day of August, 2003.

ATTEST:

VILLAGE OF TWIN LAKES

Dorothy E. Sandona, Village Clerk

Cathleen Zamazal, Village President

Members Voting:

 7 Aye
 - Nay
 - Absent
 - Abstained

Village of Twin Lakes
Condition Report
Revisions to the Slow-No Wake Hours
November 19, 2003

General Information

The Village of Twin Lakes has a Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District for its two inland lakes, Elizabeth and Mary. At the 2002 Annual meeting of the Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District, resident/elector initiated discussion focused on a desire to limit jet skis/wave runners (PWC) by establishing a tighter Slow-No Wake period for these types of craft. The concerns expressed by those in attendance were that these particular craft are noisy and capable of very erratic movements and, in some cases, their drivers are discourteous. The desire of those persons present was to reduce the Slow-No Wake time for these craft to allow time for other users of the lakes to enjoy calm waters for other activities.

In the following months, the Village Board met in its capacity as the Lake District Commissioners and the Village Board to discuss the issue and to receive in put from the public on the matter. In addition, some of the Trustees represented that they had private individual conversations with residents as to the issue. During the course of this review, it was determined that a restriction applying only to PWC would not be appropriate and that any regulation adopted would need to apply equally to all craft. As such, the Village Board began to focus on a modification to the restrictions which would apply universally.

Condition to be Addressed

During the initial discussion at the 2002 Annual meeting of the Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District, a majority of those present favored some level of restriction for PWC in order to mitigate their impact on the other users of the lake. The recurring theme in the comments made by those who favored a restriction was displeasure with the noise generated by an active PWC and the erratic nature of the movements and thus the noise associated with it. In addition, other recreational users of the lakes indicated that with boat traffic continuing at high speeds into the twilight hours, peaceful enjoyment of the lake waters and environs was difficult if not impossible. It was further pointed out that many casual boaters do not know exactly when sunset is on a given day and that sunset and the loss of adequate light do not coincide. In order to provide a balance in the interests of users of PWC and other wake-creating craft and the interests of other lower speed or non-water users of the lakes it was determined that an 8:00p.m. or sunset start of Slow-No Wake clause in the regulations would be a superior compromise. In addition, a specific time for the implementation of the restriction simplifies the compliance efforts of our boaters and the enforcement efforts of our Police Department Water Patrol.

Proposed Regulation

In order to make the Slow-No Wake time as clear as possible during the highest use period of the year, the Village adopted an ordinance, with a January 2004 effective date, which implements the Slow-No Wake restriction at 8:00p.m. or sunset, whichever is earliest. As indicated during one of the public discussions, the regulation would have a practical impact between May 4 and August 13, which are the first and last dates on which the local hour of sunset occurs later than 8:00p.m. The greatest impact is during the week of June 23 to June 30 when sunset occurs at 8:41p.m. On average, the extension of Slow-No Wake time is slightly more than 20 minutes per day for the 102 days of the season. The creation of the specific time for Slow-No Wake