



## PERSONAL WATERCRAFT (PWCs)

### Jet Drive Basics

- ◆ A personal watercraft is propelled by water being pulled through a jet pump and forced out through a nozzle. The jet pump is driven by a gas powered engine.
- ◆ The nozzle is mechanically connected to the handlebars of the vessel. By turning the handlebars the nozzle is turned, directing the water that is forced through the nozzle, which makes the vessel turn.
- ◆ If the engine is not running or is at idle, the PWC will have reduced steering. (There is no water being forced through the nozzle.)

### Personal Watercraft Are Class A Motorboats

- ◆ All personal watercraft must carry all equipment required of a Class A motorboat. (Anchor and line and paddle or oar not required.)
- ◆ Must have a U.S.C.G. approved for marine use, fire extinguisher (B-1) on board.
- ◆ Must have a sound producing device readily accessible.
- ◆ Must have a copy of the current registration on board.
- ◆ The vessel registration numbers must be properly displayed on the front half of the hull and on both sides of the hull. The registration decal must be displayed within 6" (six inches), in front or back, of the registration number on the port side (left).
- ◆ The operator and all passengers must wear a U.S.C.G. approved personal flotation device. (Type I, II, or III)
- ◆ If the vessel is equipped with a lanyard it must be attached to the operator.

- ◆ The operator must be at least 14 years of age - 18 years of age if rented.
- ◆ An operator 21 years of age or younger must have a Boaters Safety card. The card and a picture I.D. must be carried while operating the PWC or any other vessel with horsepower greater than 10 HP.
- ◆ Allowing someone under the age of 14 to operate a PWC is against the law.
- ◆ Operation from one half hour after sunset to one half before sunrise is prohibited.
- ◆ Children under 6 years of age MUST wear a type I, type II or Type III Coast Guard approved personal flotation device.

## RULES OF THE "ROAD"

### Right of Way

- ◆ When two vessels are approaching at right angles to each other, the vessel on the right has the right of way.
- ◆ When two vessels are approaching each other head to head, neither vessel has the right of way. Both vessels must yield by changing course to the right (starboard).
- ◆ When two vessels are traveling in the same direction the vessel that is overtaking, from the rear, must stay clear and yield to the vessel it is overtaking. The vessel that is being overtaken must maintain course and speed.
- ◆ If it is unsafe to pass, the vessel that is being overtaken shall give the danger signal (five or more short blasts on the horn).
- ◆ At no time should a vessel make a sudden change of course unless it is to avoid a collision.

### Vessel Crashes

#### *A reportable crash is...*

- ...when a person dies.
- ...when an injury requires medical attention beyond basic first aid.
- ...when a person disappears under circumstances which indicate the possibility of injury or death.
- ...when total property damage exceeds \$2000.00.

### *Reportable crash requirements*

- ◆ Must be reported to local law enforcement agency.
- ◆ Must render aid if it does not jeopardize life or property on board your vessel.
- ◆ Must give information to operator or other vessel or property owner.

### *Crash information*

- ◆ Most boating fatalities are the result of a capsizing or fall overboard.
- ◆ Most nonfatal boating crashes are the result of a collision with another boat or an object in the water such as rocks, pilings, docks or debris.
- ◆ Approximately 90% of vessel fatalities are the result of drowning. Nearly 80% of those who die in boat crashes do not use a PFD.
- ◆ Most crashes, capsizings, and falls overboard are sudden unexpected occurrences.

### PREVENTING VESSEL THEFT

- \* Lock your vessel!
- \* Take your keys with you.
- \* Attach a trailer hitch lock to your trailer.
- \* Attach the boat and trailer to a tree or pole with a heavy chain or cable and a strong lock.
- \* Ask your neighbors to keep an eye on your vessel when you are not at home.
- \* Lock your vessel in your garage.
- \* Use locks to secure your lower unit and propeller. (Sold at local marine dealers.)
- \* Don't park your vessel on a street corner with a "for sale" sign on it.
- \* Make an inventory list of your vessel serial number, motor serial number, trailer serial number, and the serial numbers of any electronic equipment you may have on board.
- \* Don't leave the registration papers or the vessel title on board when the vessel is not attended.
- \* Insure your vessel properly to protect yourself against loss(es).

In the event of an emergency, dial 911.

To report a complaint or information, contact the Orange County Marine Unit at 407-667-6206.

After hours/weekends, call the Orange County Sheriff's Office complaint line at 407-836-HELP (or 407-836-4357)



# ORANGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Kevin Beary, Sheriff



## Orange County Boating Regulations

10-1167 (1/06)



No matter how many years you've been around boats, please take a few minutes to read and become familiar with the information contained in this brochure. The safest bet is to learn how to properly operate your vessel BEFORE you have an accident or receive a citation. You can obtain information on boating safety courses offered by the U.S.C.G. Auxiliary, the U.S. Power Squadrons, and other facilities by calling 1-800-336-BOAT. This is a national toll free number provided by BOAT/US. Also, you might want to visit the following website for more information:

[www.floridaconservation.org](http://www.floridaconservation.org)

Do your part to make boating safer and more enjoyable. Become an educated boat operator.

## SPEED LIMITS

Conway chain of lakes and Lake Fairview: 36 m.p.h. (day), 20 m.p.h. (night). All other Orange County lakes, with public boat ramps, and Lake Waunatta: 40 m.p.h. (day), 20 m.p.h. (night).

When there is no posted speed limit, a vessel operator shall operate the vessel in such a manner that will not endanger persons or property.

A vessel shall operate at idle speed when within 100' (one hundred feet) of shore, docks, and other vessels.

*Idle Speed or No Wake* - The slowest speed at which it is still possible to maintain steerage and headway. The vessel should not produce a wake at this speed.

*Slow Speed or Minimum Wake* - The speed at which a vessel is completely settled in the water. The vessel wake must not be excessive nor create a hazard to other vessels.

*Maximum MPH Speed Zone* - A controlled area within which a vessel must not exceed the posted speed limit.

## REGISTRATION

All powered vessels, including electrical, operated in the State of Florida must be registered. The registration must be carried on board at all times while the vessel is being operated.

The vessel registration numbers must be displayed on both sides of the hull. They must be on the forward half of the hull. The registration decal must be displayed within 6" (six inches), in front or back, of the registration number on the port side (left).

The registration numbers must be in bold, block letters at least 3" (three inches) tall. They must be of a contrasting color to the hull. A space or hyphen must separate the letters from the numbers. No number other than the assigned number will be displayed on the forward half of the hull.

## THINGS TO KNOW...

*Gunwale/Bow Riding are Prohibited.*

- ◆ Do not ride on the bow, sides, or transom of the vessel. About 80% of vessel fatalities are the result of falls overboard or vessels capsizing.

*Water Skiing*

- ◆ You must ski in a counterclockwise direction.
- ◆ Water skiing is prohibited from one half hour after sunset to one half hour before sunrise.
- ◆ The towing vessel must have a wide angle rear view mirror or an observer.
- ◆ The water skier must wear a U.S.C.G. approved Type I, II, or III personal flotation device.

- ◆ The towing vessel and skier must stay at least 100' from shore, docks, or any other vessels. (Except when picking up or dropping off the water skier.)

*Underwater Operations*

- ◆ When SCUBA diving or snorkeling the person underwater must display the Diver Down or Alpha flag.
- ◆ Vessels must stay at least 300' from a Diver Down or Alpha flag.

*Boating/Skiing Under the Influence*

- ◆ It is prohibited to operate a vessel or ski with a Blood Alcohol Content of 0.08% or higher or while under the influence of drugs.
- ◆ The penalties could be a fine of up to \$2500 and/or one year in jail.
- ◆ If the operator kills someone, the fine is up to

# MINIMUM REQUIRED SAFETY EQUIPMENT

## CLASS A MOTORBOATS (under 16')

### Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs)

a) One type I, II, or III for every person on board.

b) Must be of proper size. (Adult size for adults, child size for children.)

c) Must be in serviceable condition. (Not torn or worn.)

d) Must be readily available. (Not in plastic bag.)

### Sound producing devices (SPDs)

a) Must have a horn, bell, or whistle.

### Fire extinguisher

a) Must have a B-1 if the vessel has an enclosed fuel tank.

b) Must be U.S.C.G. approved for marine use.

c) Must be in serviceable condition.

### Backfire flame arrester

a) Required on all inboard engine vessels. (Includes inboard/outboard vessels.)

b) Must be U.S.C.G. approved.

### Ventilation

a) Must have power operated exhaust blowers in all closed engine compartments.

b) Must be controlled from the instrument panel.

c) Personal watercraft are exempt.

### Oar or paddle

a) It is recommended that you have at least one of either on board your vessel.

### Anchor and line

a) It is recommended that you have one anchor and line of appropriate size and length.

## CLASS I MOTORBOATS (16' to less than 26')

### Personal Flotation Devices (PFD's)

a) One type I, II, or III for every person on board. Also one type IV must be on board and readily accessible. (Out where it can be quickly used if needed.)

b) Must be of proper size. (Adult size for adults, child size for children.)

c) Must be in serviceable condition. (Not torn or worn.)

d) Must be readily available. (Not in plastic bag.)

### Sound producing devices (SPD's)

a) Must have a horn, bell, or whistle.

### Fire extinguisher

a) Must have a B-1 if the vessel has an enclosed fuel tank.

b) Must be U.S.C.G. approved for marine use.

c) Must be in serviceable condition.

### Backfire flame arrester

a) Required on all inboard engine vessels.

b) Must be U.S.C.G. approved.

### Ventilation

a) Must have power operated exhaust blowers in all closed engine compartments.

b) Must be controlled from the instrument panel.

*The materials listed are just a sampling of safety equipment and operation regulations. You must contact your local authorities for complete requirements.*