

From The Helm

Summer is here and it's going to be a great one! The water and weather at Canyon Lake have been very inviting this year. I suspect that we can be sure that there will be a lot of activity on and around the lake throughout the summer season.

Because of the favorable conditions many boaters, both experienced and inexperienced will take to the water. Even this early in the year numerous serious incidents and even some fatalities have occurred on our lake. Both veteran and novice boaters and been involved.

In response to these injuries and deaths I would like to *kindle your thoughts* with regard to how you can reduce the possibility of a life threatening incident taking place on or around your boat.

Remember, that at least two of the boaters who drowned this year were avid boaters with many years of boating experience. Both were on their own boats, alone, and not wearing PFD's (personal floatation devices or "life jackets"). As far as I know, no one who drowned on Canyon Lake in 2010 was wearing a PFD. In several incidents involving PWC (personal watercraft or "jet ski") crashes, people were injured, but were rescued because they were wearing PFD's. Wearing a PFD can, and very likely will, keep you from drowning.

In some of the incidents where people were seriously injured, prompt response from law enforcement and medical personnel allowed for timely and adequate treatment and life saving measures; but what happened prior to the arrival of the first responders? In most cases, the injured people received rescue and first aid from other boaters; **people just like you and I.**

Here's where you and I should really conduct a self-analysis; do we have the knowledge and are we (that's you or I) prepared to save a life? I really want to **inspire each and every one of us to learn and prepare** for our response to an emergency on the water.

What can or should we do?

- ✓ Always remember common sense and good judgment should dominate our time on and near the water.
- ✓ Anticipate - think about the likelihood of being involved in a water emergency as a victim or as a rescuer.
- ✓ Be mentally prepared - think about and/or discuss with your family and friends some time before your next boating trip:
- ✓ What should we expect the weather to be, and how should we react to a change in the weather,
- ✓ Be sure to discuss basic emergency procedures prior to departure,
- ✓ Leave a float-plan – just a word to another club member or a nearby boater is probably all we have to do here at the lake if we are not planning to be out for an extended period of time,
- ✓ Have and use a departure checklist,
- ✓ Avoid alcohol while operating our watercraft,
- ✓ Designate an assistant skipper (in case you are injured),
- ✓ Take a boater safety course - LEARN, PREPARE, PRACTICE and THINK ABOUT SAFETY.

Have a **safe and enjoyable** summer and remember,

LIFE'S II SHORT

***Larry Price,
Commodore***