

## **BASIC HISTORY OF THE LAKE**

Lake Tulloch lies on the Stanislaus River. The lake is in both Tuolumne and Calaveras Counties. The sheriff's departments of both counties have jurisdiction on the lake and engage in enforcement of boating laws.

The Oakdale Irrigation District (O.I.D.) was organized November 1, 1909, under the Wright Act. The O.I.D. and its sister district, South San Joaquin Irrigation District, (S.S.J.I.D.) purchased an old established system known as the Tulloch System. (In the 1880's, Mr. Charles H. Tulloch had purchased a ditch, a small diversion dam built by early miners for use in placer gravel workings in the Knights Ferry vicinity, and water rights.) The farmers extended the ditch, known as the "Old Tulloch Ditch" down into the valley area to services some 6,000 acres of farm land which included parts of S.S.J.I.D. and a small area around Oakdale. This was the beginning of the O.I.D. and S.S.J.I.D.

The districts abandoned the old miners' diversion dam and in 1912 began construction of Goodwin Diversion Dam which was named for Benjamin Goodwin, then president of the S.S.J.I.D. board. The dam was constructed at a cost of \$325,000 and was a double concrete arch dam, 80 feet in height above the river bed and 500 feet long on the crest. Goodwin Dam was completed in 1913 when water was first delivered.

Unfortunately, Lake Tulloch has a history of tragic boating accidents. The use of alcoholic beverage and boater inexperience has been a factor in MANY of these accidents. This lake therefore, receives enforcement emphasis by both counties. Operating a boat while under the influence of alcoholic beverage is prohibited and rigidly enforced.

## **SOME RULES TO REMEMBER**

 Speed limit – 45 MPH

 Speed limit in marked areas – 5 MPH

 Speed limit within 200 feet of a marina, mooring, docking or launching area – 5 MPH

 Speed limit within 100 feet of a swimmer – 5 MPH

 Speed limit: Sunset to Sunrise – 5 MPH

 Traffic pattern is COUNTER CLOCKWISE-  
THE SHORE SHOULD BE TO YOUR RIGHT  
WHEN BOATING AROUND THE LAKE.

 Camping along the shoreline is prohibited, except in designated camping areas.

 Night Skiing and wake boarding is prohibited between sunset and sunrise.



## **ALCOHOL & DRUGS**

Alcohol is the primary factor in over 39% of fatal boating accidents.

### **SECTION 655 OF THE HARBORS & NAVIGATION CODE STATES:**

No person shall operate any vessel, water skies or similar device while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or drugs, or who is addicted to any drug.

No person shall operate any vessel, water skies or similar device who has .08% or more, by weight, of alcohol in their blood.

A person who has been arrested for operating a mechanically propelled vessel "under the influence" may be requested to submit to a chemical test to determine blood alcohol content. Refusal may result in increased penalties upon conviction.

A person convicted of intoxicated boat operation may receive up to a \$1,000 fine and six months in jail.

### **WATER SKIING AND WAKE BOARDING**

Boat travel is required to be in the counter-clockwise direction. This *Keep To The Right* rule is specifically to enhance water ski safety.

Have an observer 12 years or older in a position to see your water skier at all times.

When your skier is in the water, display a red flag to warn other boaters.

Do not cross in front of other boats or operate in a manner that endangers your skier or any other person.

## REQUIRED BOATING EQUIPMENT

⇒ Personal Floatation devices:

One Coast Guard approved device for each person on board. Wearable devices must be of suitable size for intended wearer and be readily accessible. In addition, a type IV throwable device should be immediately available. Children under the age of 12 are required to wear personal floatation devices at all times.

⇒ Fire Extinguisher:

One type B-1 Coast Guard approved fire extinguisher must be carried, except on outboard motor boats of less than 26 feet.

⇒ Muffling System:

An effective muffling system is required for the exhaust of each engine.

⇒ Sound Signaling Device:

Must be able to make an efficient sound signal.

⇒ Navigational Lights:

Navigational lights must be kept in serviceable condition and displayed between sunset and sunrise, or during restricted visibility.

### **Harbors & Navigation Code 668.1 (a), (b) & (c)**

Any person convicted of any violation in the Harbors & Navigation Code, the Federal Rules of the Road and regulations adopted by the Dept. of Boating & Waterways while operating a vessel, shall be ordered by the court to **complete & pass** a boating safety course approved by the Dept. of Boating and Waterways.

## PERSONAL WATERCRAFT OPERATION

Personal watercraft (PWC) are subject to the same laws governing the operation of motorboats of the same size.

Everyone on board a personal watercraft and every person towed behind the vessel must wear a Coast Guard-approved life jacket.

The law requires a sound signaling device—whistle attached to your PFD and/or a stored signal horn.

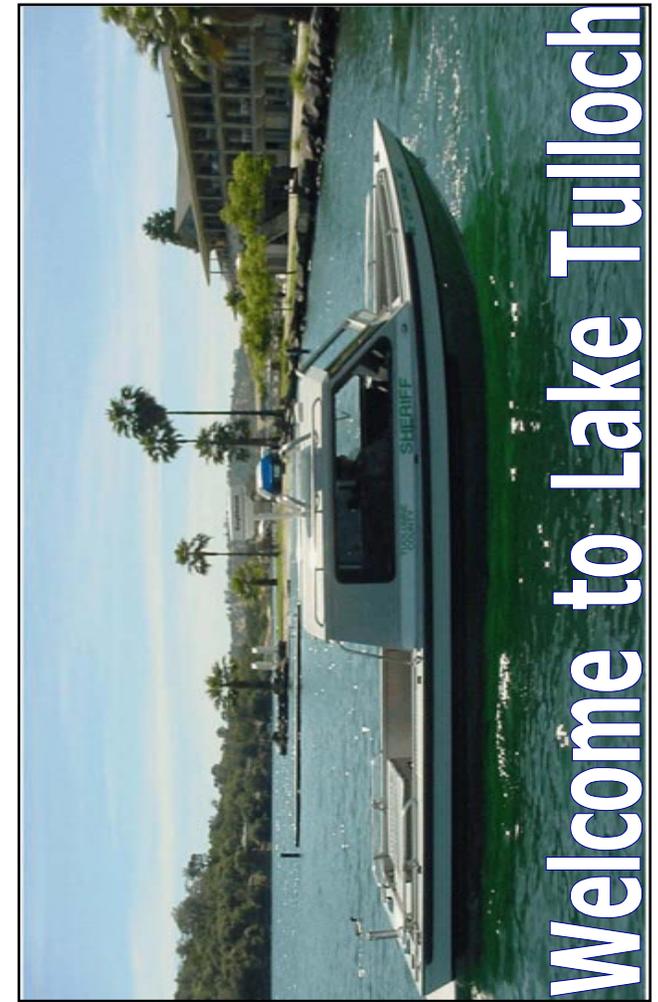
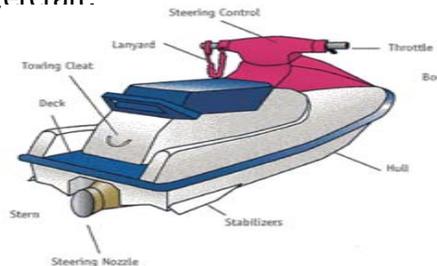
The law requires a Coast Guard-approved type B fire extinguisher, good for gas and oil fires.

The law requires a person operating a personal watercraft equipped with a lanyard cutoff switch to attach the lanyard to his or her self.

Personal watercraft and waterskiing are prohibited between the hours from sunset to sunrise.

No one under the age of 16 may operate a motorboat or personal watercraft of more than 15 HP by themselves. A person 12 - 15 years old may operate a motorboat or personal watercraft if they are supervised by a person on board who is at least 18 years of age.

Jumping or attempting to jump the wake of another vessel within 100' of the other vessel is prohibited. It is also prohibited to "spray" another vessel or person with a personal watercraft.



**Tuolumne  
County  
Sheriff's  
Department  
Boating  
Safety  
Unit**